

Wellington on the Train, Martinborough and Hawkes Bay 2026 - itinerary

30% Deposit Required on Booking.

DAY ONE

D

This morning, we'll depart Tauranga and travel to the charming town of Otorohanga to board the Northern Explorer Train bound for Wellington. This scenic rail journey across New Zealand's North Island showcases stunning landscapes, from rolling hills and majestic mountains to shimmering rivers. Relax as the train glides through the captivating countryside and enjoy the delicious food from the onboard café while admiring the breathtaking views. Upon arrival in Wellington, we'll transfer to the Copthorne Hotel Wellington Oriental Bay, perfectly situated with stunning bay views. The hotel offers a relaxing retreat, where we'll enjoy a light dinner before settling into our rooms for the night. Prepare to explore Wellington's vibrant culture and create lasting memories in the days ahead.

DAY TWO

B, D

Today we'll embark on a sensory journey in Wellington with our breakfast, setting the stage for a day of exploration. Let's traverse the Mount Victoria Tunnel and then revel in panoramic views at the Mount Victoria Lookout. From here we make our way into the CBD and catch the iconic Cable Car, with an entry on Lambton Quay, offering breathtaking cityscapes. For those seeking spontaneity, you can take the cable car back into town and reunite with the group at the Beehive by 2 pm. Otherwise lunch becomes a personal affair at Picnic Cafe, within the enchanting Begonia House in the Rose Garden. The day unfolds with a guided tour of Parliament House, visiting notable locations such as the Banquet Hall, Beehive theatre, and the Legislative Council Chamber. To conclude our day, we'll dine onsite at the hotel's restaurant, capping off a day filled with the wonders of Wellington.

DAY THREE

B, MT,D

As dawn breaks over Wellington, we begin with a leisurely breakfast before diving into a day of cultural discovery. Our first stop is Katherine Mansfield House & Garden for morning tea and a tour celebrating the famous New Zealand author's legacy. Next, we explore Old St Paul's, an architectural gem, followed by a visit to Te Papa Museum, where history, art, and nature come alive. Enjoy lunch at the café or continue exploring. The afternoon brings an extraordinary Wētā Workshop Tour, guided by skilled crew members who reveal the magic behind movies like The Lord of the Rings and Avatar. A private screening of a behind-the-scenes documentary enhances the experience. Returning to our hotel, there's time to relax or enjoy a happy hour at the bar before a delightful dinner at the hotel's restaurant, capping off a day filled with inspiration and unforgettable moments.

DAY FOUR

B, L ,D

Begin the day with breakfast in Wellington, then drive to Featherston, where you can visit Funky Loco Coffee & Book Store or C'est Cheese Artisan Cheese & Deli. Next, join a guided tour at Fell Museum to learn about New Zealand's locomotive history. Head to Martinborough for shopping, scenery, or visit C'est Cheese Deli. Enjoy wine-tasting and lunch at Palliser Estate Winery. In Greytown, choose from boutique shopping, Cobblestones Museum, Schoc Chocolates, or relaxation. Finish the day at Copthorne Hotel Masterton with dinner at the hotel's restaurant.

DAY FIVE

B, L, D

We begin the day with a guided tour at Stonehenge Aotearoa in Ahiaruhe, where Kay Leather shares fascinating insights about this celestial observatory. Next, we head to Ngawi and Palliser Bay Lighthouse, pausing for a comfort stop at The Land Girl Café and country store to enjoy tea, coffee, and delicious baked treats. Continuing to the rugged coast, we'll marvel at stunning landscapes, the charming lighthouse, and playful seals along the shore. We'll relax at the Lake Ferry Hotel for lunch and enjoy hearty fare and warm hospitality with beautiful coastal views. Afterward, we'll return to the hotel for rest, relaxation, or exploration of its amenities. In the evening, we'll gather for dinner on site, with the option of a social

hour beforehand.

DAY Six

B, L, D

After breakfast at our hotel, we set off for a day of discovery. Our first stop is Dannevirke, followed by a leg-stretching visit to charming Norsewood. Next, we explore the historic Gwavas Garden Homestead in Southern Hawke's Bay, a captivating estate with beautiful gardens. A light-catered lunch provides a chance to relax and enjoy the serene surroundings. Continuing, we visit Havelock for free time to explore its delightful shops and soak in the village's atmosphere. In the afternoon, we head to Church Road Winery in Taradale, Napier, for a memorable wine-tasting experience, allowing you to appreciate the region's finest wines amid a tranquil setting. We conclude the day at Te Pania Hotel, where comfort and warm hospitality and dinner awaits.

DAY SEVEN

B, L, D

This morning, we'll drive along the coast to Clifton Bay, enjoying the scenic mix of countryside and coastline. We'll then pass beneath the majestic Te Mata Peaks, traveling through a beautiful valley of vineyards. Next, we stop at the charming Birdwoods Gallery in Havelock North, where artisanal treasures and stunning sculptures await. Afterward, we head to Mission Estate, one of Hawke's Bay's premier vineyards, for a delicious lunch in an elegant setting with breathtaking views. Following lunch, we return to our hotel in Napier. You can relax or explore Napier Township at your leisure. In the evening, we'll enjoy our final dinner at the hotel's onsite restaurant.

DAY EIGHT

B, L

Today is the last day of our tour, we'll enjoy a lovely breakfast at the hotel in Napier before departing for Taupo. After a scenic drive, we will stop for a catered lunch in Taupo, where you take in the picturesque surroundings, enjoying our last meal together. You may want to stretch your legs after lunch and take a walk along the lakefront to town where we will commence our journey homeward. Continuing, we will reach Rotorua and then arrive in Tauranga, where the tour

concludes with drop-offs. As we bid farewell to fellow traveller's we will carry cherished memories of the diverse landscapes, cultural experiences, and delightful flavours encountered throughout this unforgettable journey.