

Wairarapa Rail, Historic Homes & Luxury Lodges - itinerary

30% Deposit Required on Booking.

DAY ONE

D

Pickups are complete, our bus points the dial towards the southeast, and we will make our way through to Palmerston North for a one-night stopover. This wonderfully scenic route covers the complete spectrum of classic New Zealand scenery. There will be refreshment stops along the way. Late afternoon sees us arriving at the Palmerston North time to put the bags away, maybe go for a stroll, then meet for a social get-together before dinner on-site.

DAY TWO

B, MT, L, D

Today we travel to the beautiful historic 1856 home of Brancepeth Station; where we will meet with Ed Beetham and enjoy a Garden Tour and talk about this grand homestead. After morning tea in the gardens, we then move on to another historic and equally prestigious residence of Te Parae. Designed and built in 1905 the Te Parae homestead is still owned and operated by fourth-generation family members. Extensive park-like gardens surround the 600sqm two-storey home with a ten-acre lake forming a picturesque vista. Angela Irving (nee Williams) will be our host, as we take in a garden tour and talk finishing with a home-cooked lunch. We then set sail back to our hotel.

DAY THREE

B, MT, L, D

We start the day with a full buffet breakfast before embarking on a scenic drive to Castlepoint Beach. For adventurers, a walk to the iconic Castlepoint Lighthouse awaits. Follow the wooden boardwalk for breathtaking views on a 30-minute round trip. From here, we continue to Gladstone and onward to Martinborough for a delightful experience at The Runholder, nestled within Te Kairanga Winery. Immerse yourself in the charm of wine country with guided wine tasting and a glimpse into the distillery's rich traditions. Enjoy a shared family-style lunch in a

rustic yet elegant setting, complete with a glass of wine to toast the day's pleasures. In the afternoon, we take a leisurely drive around Martinborough, soaking in its scenic charm before returning to our accommodation. This day promises stunning vistas, delicious flavours, and the perfect blend of relaxation and exploration.

DAY FOUR

B, L, D

After breakfast, we'll board the bus to the Fell Engine Museum in Featherston to explore the fascinating history of this unique railway icon. From there, we travel along Lake Wairarapa's western shores to the grand Wharekauhau Lodge, one of the world's most exclusive retreats. Set on a 5000-acre sheep station overlooking Palliser Bay, this Edwardian-style country mansion exudes warmth, elegance, and timeless charm. We'll enjoy a guided tour of the lodge and a sumptuous three-course lunch in the breathtaking Grand Hall, where massive fireplaces and mullioned windows frame stunning views. In the afternoon, we head to Greytown, a delightful town filled with boutique shops and rich heritage. Explore the charming streets, visit the Cobblestones Museum for a glimpse into the past, or indulge your sweet tooth at Schoc Chocolates, renowned for its handcrafted treats. A day of luxury, history, and discovery awaits before we return to our accommodation.

DAY FIVE

B, D

Today, we journey to South Wairarapa, beginning with morning tea at "The Land Girl" in Pirinoa Village. This charming café, known for its cosy ambiance, provides a perfect setting for relaxed conversations amid the beauty of rural New Zealand. Next, we visit the dramatic coastline of Ngawi and Palliser Bay Lighthouse, where playful seals can be seen in their natural habitat. Adventurous spirits may climb the historic lighthouse for breathtaking panoramic views of the rugged shoreline. Lunch follows at the Lake Ferry Hotel, offering a leisurely meal with serene lakeside views and delicious local flavours. Our day continues with a visit to Longbush Cottage for a tranquil garden tour showcasing seasonal blooms and the newly added French glasshouses. As twilight approaches, we gather for a delightful buffet dinner, concluding a day filled with stunning landscapes, serene moments,

and shared experiences.

DAY SIX

B

We begin our journey home with a scenic drive through the beautiful New Zealand countryside. Our first stop is The Herb Farm in Ashhurst, where you'll have the chance to enjoy morning tea and take a leisurely stroll through the charming gardens. The shop offers a variety of herbs, products, and unique gifts, perfect for browsing at your own pace. Next, we head to Oreti Lodge & Restaurant, located on the shores of Lake Taupo, for a delicious lunch. Set in a peaceful lakeside environment, the restaurant offers a range of fresh, local dishes in a welcoming atmosphere, ideal for enjoying a relaxing midday meal. We arrive home in the early evening with full tummies and great memories of our holiday.