



Erewhon Clydesdales

High Country Stations of Inland Canterbury

for New Zealand's Senior Travel Club

Itinerary especially prepared for

High Country Stations 2026

Travelling 6 March 2026 to 13 March 2026

Thank you for your enquiry into our High Country Stations Tour for 2026. On the following pages is our full itinerary.

Tour Overview

This tour provides a unique opportunity to explore some very special and remote areas of the South Island. We concentrate on one region - inland Canterbury, which also allows us to base ourselves in one place for several days and not have to pack our bags and move on every day, which is always more relaxing for our travellers.

We love this tour, and we hope you will too. We do stress though that this is a back-country adventure so expect to really get in touch with nature. We will be travelling over at times, uneven terrain in 4WD vehicles. A level of basic fitness and mobility, together with a flexible attitude, is strongly recommended.

Booking

To secure your place on this tour, please call us on 0800 471 227 or alternatively 370 6600, Extn 1.

Your place on this tour is confirmed by phoning us and acknowledging that you have read the terms and conditions. Secondly, we require your full payment immediately (amounts shown in the Terms and Conditions).

Keeping you Healthy and Safe on a Tranzit Tour

The health, safety and wellbeing of our passengers and team members is our highest priority and we are obligated to take all practicable risk measures to operate safely. As a company, Tranzit Group will always take advice from the Ministry of Health on best practice safety protocols for all contagious conditions, (colds, flu, Covid, shingles, measles, diarrhoea and vomiting etc.) along with accidents and other health concerns and feelings of unwellness.

We encourage our passengers to talk to us if you have any questions regarding mobility, fitness or health. If you have any queries, please call our team. We are happy to answer any questions.

Travel Insurance

We recommend all passengers take out comprehensive travel insurance with cover for contagious conditions (like colds, flu, Covid, shingles, measles, diarrhoea and vomiting etc) and that passengers familiarise themselves with any limitations the insurance may have around additional costs associated with the requirement to leave a tour or need to cancel.

Additionally, there are also often non-refundable portions included in the tour. You are welcome to use other providers, but we recommend Helloworld Travel, Masterton. They offer both cancellation and full cover for domestic and international travel. Please don't hesitate to call them direct on 06 378 2454, or email them at masterton@travel.helloworld.co.nz; they will be only too happy to answer your questions or provide you with a quote.

Should there be any part of the itinerary you wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to give us a call, direct at Tranzit Tours on 0800 471 227 or alternatively 06 370 6600, Extn 2, as we want your decision to join us to be as fully informed as possible.

Kind regards The Tranzit Tours Team

Day 1 Friday, 6 March 2026

Tour Travelling to Blenheim

A leisurely start from all destinations today as we are transferred to Wellington and meet at the ferry terminal for our mid-afternoon sailing across Cook Strait to Picton. Upon reaching Picton we transfer to our hotel in Blenheim, where we settle in before dining in this evening.

Day 2 Saturday, 7 March 2026

Tour Over the Lewis to Hanmer Springs

After a hearty breakfast, we leave Blenheim, making our way up the Wairau Valley, passing through the village of St Arnaud, in the Nelson Lakes area, and stopping for lunch (own choice and cost) in the country town of Murchison. Our journey continues this afternoon through the scenic Lewis Pass, with a stop near the summit to walk to a beautiful mountain tarn. Carrying on to our destination Hanmer Springs, there should be time before dinner for a soak in the natural mineral waters of the thermal pools for which this area is renowned, or alternatively a wander in the exotic forests of Hanmer. We dine in at our hotel this evening.

**Day 3 Sunday, 8 March 2026**

Tour Hanmer to Methven: Rockwood and Terrace Stations

We travel south through the Hurunui District this morning, before taking the inland scenic route across North Canterbury. Our first visit is Rockwood Station, one of the early Canterbury runs, where we learn the history of this property, enjoy a woodland walk to historic grave sites and enjoy lunch with our hosts Cheryl and Ben Richards.

This afternoon we visit Terrace Station at Hororata. Owned by the Foster family, Terrace Station is the one-time hub of an extensive property dating from the 1850s that was established by our host Kate Foster's descendants. Most of the farm buildings, including the smithy and woolshed still exist, and a delightful garden with many heritage trees surrounds the historic homestead. We will be able to view the front rooms of the homestead, which provide much information on the colonial period, as well as a swaggers hut, a 19th century ploughman's caravan and a Carriage House with original family horse-drawn vehicles. We then make our way into the lower Rakaia Gorge, crossing the Rakaia River at this spectacular spot and making our way to Methven. Checking in to our hotel, there will be time to relax and explore our new surroundings or mingle for a pre-dinner drink before we dine in tonight.

**Day 4 Monday, 9 March 2026**

We travel up the Ashburton Gorge today, stopping to enjoy a Transit cuppa at Lake Heron, one of the beautiful montane Ashburton Lakes, in Hakatere Conservation Park. We then make our way up into the vast headwaters of the Rangitata River to Erewhon Station, nestled amongst the Southern Alps. Erewhon is named in honour of Samuel Butler, who wrote the novel “Erewhon”, and farmed on Mesopotamia Station, across the river. The 14,000 hectare Erewhon today is owned by Erin Drummond who breeds Clydesdales and runs 5000 merino. We enjoy a very special experience today, taking a wagon ride pulled by a team of Clydesdales over the spectacular terrain of this remote property, and watching a ploughing demonstration with these hard-working animals. We will enjoy a picnic lunch in the Erewhon woolshed and listen to Erin as she talks to us about high country life.



There is much to see in this magnificent, glaciated valley, and time to explore as we travel back down the valley. Mt Sunday was the setting for Edoras, the fortified city of the Rohan people in the Lord of the Rings trilogy, and we pass several other scenic montane lakes. We stop to explore the historic station buildings of the original great Hakatere run, the oldest a stone cottage built in 1860. This evening, we dine out at Stronechrubie Country Restaurant, located at Mt Somers and featuring delicious cuisine from locally sourced produce.

Day 5

Tuesday, 10 March 2026

Today we visit two historic South Canterbury properties with a wonderful synchronicity, as the two stations were originally one, the pastoral lease taken up by friends Charles Tripp and John Acland in 1855. Our first visit is Orari Gorge Station, today owned by the Peacock family, descendants of Charles Tripp. Our hosts will talk to us about the station past and present and will take us on a tour of the historic station buildings, dating from the earliest period of the station's development. A wander of the homestead gardens completes our visit, before we depart for Mt Peel Station. Bringing our own picnic (supplied) we will enjoy lunch before a talk about the Acland family history, current farming practices and an opportunity to view the tiny Mt Peel Church built on the property out of greywacke stone from the Rangitata River. Returning to Methven, we dine in at our hotel again this evening.



Day 6

Wednesday, 11 March 2026

Today we visit properties on the other side of the Rakaia River. Our tour begins with a visit to The Point Station, a historic farming property at Windwhistle owned by Steve and Teena Richards. Over morning tea with our hosts, we will learn about the property and can take a tour of the large garden with a glimpse into the historic homestead.



We then move on to Middle Rock Station where we are welcomed for lunch by hosts the Nell family. We will have time for a leisurely wander of the large homestead garden framed by panoramic views of the Mt Hutt range, before reboarding the coach to take a tour of the farm. Middle Rock farms over 7,000 sheep producing fine wool and export lamb for international meat markets. We then travel to nearby Ben Lea

Station, owned by Sam and Cathie Bell. Cathie will share the history of Ben Lea and provide a farm tour of the station's diverse cropping river flats, including a peek at the magnificent Terrace Downs Resort, a luxury high country retreat and golf course. Afternoon tea back at Ben Lea Homestead ends our day. Returning to our hotel, we have time to relax and freshen up before dining out this evening at a popular restaurant in Methven Village.

Day 7 Thursday, 12 March 2026

Tour Gunyah Estate and Travelling to Kaikoura

Before departing Methven this morning, we visit the Methven Heritage Centre to experience the Alpine and Agriculture Encounter, an interactive collection that will summarise our stay in this region, telling the story of Mid Canterbury – from the mountains to the plains. We then visit Gunyah Country Estate at Hororata, where we will enjoy our last taste of rural hospitality. Gunyah is a grand homestead built in 1912, and which has a historic places listing. Here owner Simonetta Ferrari will share the history of this elegant Edwardian home and property and provide a finger food lunch with silver tea service to see us on our way. This afternoon we continue our travels north to Kaikoura, and settle into our hotel, pleasantly located on the Esplanade. We dine in this evening.



Day 8 Friday, 13 March 2026

Tour Travelling Home

Our travels north this morning take us via the Pacific Coast, a scenic and fascinating journey through this much changed landscape. Lunch today is in Picton (own expense) prior to departing on our afternoon ferry sailing returning us to Wellington. Finally, we bid our fellow travellers goodbye before being transferred to our home locations.



Cost of this tour includes

- Accommodation
- 2 course or buffet dinners
- Breakfasts
- Morning teas on most travelling days
- All coach travel
- Cook Strait ferry transfers
- Rockwood Station; farm talk, garden, bush walk, lunch
- Terrace Station; garden, homestead and farm building tour
- Erewhon Station; horse drawn wagon tour and talk
- Orari Gorge Station; talk and tour, station buildings, garden and homestead
- Mt Peel Station; talk, garden tour and church visit
- Point, Middle Rock, and Ben Lea Stations; station tours, and all refreshments
- Methven Heritage Centre; entry
- Gunyah Country Estate; lunch and talk
- Picnic lunch day 4 and 5

Total Cost Per Person

Double or twin share:	NZ\$4999.00
single accommodation:	NZ\$5786.00

Terms and Conditions

Full payment required to confirm your booking on this occasion
Due by: 15 January 2026

Tour balance payable by: 16 January 2026

Your name: please provide your name

Our account name: Tranzit Coachlines Wairarapa Limited

Bank account details: BNZ 020688 0127658 00

Tour Reference: Hicountry26

To: Tranzit Coachlines Wairarapa Ltd

P O Box 116

MASTERTON 5840

Phone 0800 471 227 or (06) 370 6600

OR: Book online at www.tranzittours.co.nz

Conditions and Important Booking Information

Tranzit Coachlines (Wairarapa) Ltd, trading as Tranzit Tours Terms and Conditions and Important Booking Information

Before you book a tour with Tranzit Tours, please take the time to read and understand these Terms and Conditions below.

Pricing Validity

- All costs associated with each tour are outlined in full within each tour itinerary. All pricing quoted is valid for the dates of tour when booked.

Reservations and Payments

- Bookings for all Tranzit tours can be made through any Tranzit Coachlines Reservations Centre or an approved Travel Agent.
- Any person making a booking for others shall be deemed to have accepted these Terms and Conditions on behalf of all individuals they are booking on a tour and it is the responsibility of the person making the booking to bring these Terms and Conditions to the attention of those individuals booked.
- A deposit as stated in the Tour Itinerary is payable to secure the booking.
- The balance must be paid in full by the date stated in the Tour Itinerary.
- Any reservation made within fourteen (14) days of the tour departure must be paid in full at the time of booking.

Cancellations, Postponements and Alterations

Cancellations by the Customer

- Cancellations 45+ days before tour departure date – a cancellation fee valued at 15% of your deposit, plus any other fees charged by other providers such as accommodation, ferry, activities etc.
- Cancellations 44 – 8 days before tour departure date – a cancellation fee valued at 15% of the total tour cost, plus any other fees charged by other providers such as accommodation, ferry, activities etc.
- Cancellations within 7 days before tour departure date – a cancellation fee valued at 25% of the total tour cost, plus any other fees charged by other providers such as accommodation, ferry, activities etc.
- No refunds will be made for cancellations made within one day of departure or once travel has commenced. Refunds will not be provided for unused portions of a tour, unless the Customer can provide genuine reason and documentary evidence that services were unable to be utilised (and a refund if applicable is available from the other provider) in which case the company will review each request and may provide a partial refund at the sole discretion of the company.
- Cancellations of one half of a twin share booking will result in the Customer cancelling being charged the cost of a single booking, if the Company is unable to match the twin share booking with another Customer.

Alterations by the Customer

- The Customer may transfer their booking to another person for the same tour and commencement date, but only if the other person satisfies all of Tranzit Tours requirements in relation to the tour and provides us a completed Booking Form. The Customer must notify Tranzit Tours in writing of the intended transfer at least 30 days prior to the commencement date of the tour. A \$60 transfer fee per person/per transfer will apply (in addition to any supplier change fees).

Cancellations or Postponements by the Company

- Tranzit Tours reserves the right to cancel, reschedule or postpone a tour. With the exception of the Force Majeure section below, Tranzit Tours will:
- In the event of a tour being cancelled by the company prior to departure and not postponed – refund the total amount paid in respect of that tour or provide a credit, but will have no further liability to the Customer.
- In the event of a tour being postponed – rebook the Customer for the new departure date or provide a credit, but will have no further liability to the Customer.
- In the event of a Force Majeure event that occurs prior to, or during, a tour such as but not limited to fire, flood, volcanic eruption, earthquake, avalanche, severe weather, power outages, labour disruptions, pandemic, government controls or other events outside Tranzit Tours control that interrupts the ability to operate the tour in full or in part, or if Tranzit Tours determines that the quality of the tour or the health and safety of the Customer would be compromised, Tranzit Tours reserves the right to cancel, postpone, or shorten the tour and will be excused and released from its obligations without liability of any kind. Customers will receive a credit for postponed tours. For cancelled or shortened tours, refunds in these circumstances will be in full less any unrecoverable costs (i.e. expenses already incurred or fees charged by other providers).
- The Customer will be advised of any increased tour costs as a result of the postponement. Credits will be equal to the value of the payment made and must be used within 12 months. Customers are strongly advised to take out travel insurance.
- In the event of cancellation or postponement by the company, Tranzit Tours is not responsible for any consequential loss incurred by the Customer. Customers are again advised to take out travel insurance.

Alterations by the Company

- Before Tour Commencement: If a major change to the tour needs to be made before departure, we will inform the Customer of the change as soon as practicable and will advise of any consequential price increase or decrease.
- Transit Tours reserves the right to alter a tour (including the itinerary) and substitute accommodation facilities should unforeseen circumstances beyond our control make changes necessary. Whilst every effort is made to adhere to the itinerary as provided, the company reserves the right to alter the touring and attractions as dictated by circumstances and conditions outside the company's control. Alterations may be made to ensure the smooth running of the tour. Every attempt will be made to ensure alterations do not adversely affect the operation of the tour. The company will not be held responsible for weather-based cancellations, or those closures made at the tour provider's discretion.
- Transit Tours will inform the customer as soon as practicable and will advise of any consequential price increase or decrease.

Insurance

- Transit Tours recommend that you purchase comprehensive travel insurance to cover against things like lost or damaged luggage, accident or sickness, loss or theft of personal belongings and documents, or the need to cancel or shorten your tour. Please note that special conditions will apply for pre-existing medical conditions with all travel insurance policies.

Health and Fitness

- Transit Tours are generally able to accommodate most fitness abilities; however, some tours may require a certain level of physical fitness for full enjoyment of tour activities. The Customer must inform Transit Tours, at the time of booking, of any health or fitness restrictions that may limit participation of tour activities or put the Customer, tour staff or other customers at risk. The Customer acknowledges that their suitability for a tour, or any activity within a tour, is wholly the Customer's responsibility.
- Payment of a deposit by the Customer to secure a Transit Tour acts as a warranty that:
 - the Customer is reasonably healthy and/or fit to participate in the tour, and
 - the Customer does not have a health, physical condition or disability that would create risk to themselves, tour staff or other customers, and
 - the Customer indemnifies Transit Tours from all actions, claims and demands arising out of any want of health or fitness.
- Transit Tours reserves the right to decline a booking on medical, health or fitness grounds at its sole discretion.
- Transit Tours reserves the right to remove a Customer from a tour, or quarantine a Customer on tour, if their health and/or fitness interferes with the tour or staff safety or other Customers safety or tour experience in any way. Any additional costs associated with a Customer's removal from tour or placement into quarantine, shall be borne by the Customer. Refunds will be made in accordance with these Terms and Conditions.

Authority on Tour

- Transit Tours are operated by staff with decision making authority while on tour. By travelling with Transit Tours, you agree to accept the authority of the driver/guide and their decisions are final in all matters likely to affect the wellbeing, safety or experience of any customer or staff member on board. Failure to adhere to reasonable requests or any inappropriate behaviour that is degrading the experience of other customers, may result in the Customer being removed from the tour. If a Customer is asked to leave a tour, any costs associated with returning home will be borne by the Customer and any unused portion of the tour will not be refunded.

Responsibilities

- Transit Tours include goods and services provided by other operators such as hotels, attractions and transportation companies. Customers are advised to familiarise themselves with the terms and conditions on which these services are supplied. Accordingly, Transit Tours will not be responsible and will be excluded from liability for any loss, damage, omission or acts being negligent or otherwise, committed by other goods and service providers used in connection with the tour.
- Transit Tours is not liable for any loss, damage, delay, or injury caused to the traveller or their baggage whilst under the care or control of a third-party provider. A Customer's baggage and personal effects shall be carried at the owner's risk as provided for under the Carriage of Goods Act.
- Transit Tours is not responsible for any losses or additional expenses to the Customer due to tours impacted by Force Majeure events that occur prior to, or during, a tour such as but not limited to fire, flood, volcanic eruption, earthquake, avalanche, severe weather, power outages, labour disruptions, pandemic, government controls or other events outside Transit Tours control that interrupts the ability to operate the tour in full or in part, or if Transit Tours determines that the quality of the tour or the health and safety of the Customer would be compromised.

Acceptance of Risk

- The Customer acknowledges that all Transit Tours may be subject to risks and dangers beyond that which might be experienced by the Customer at home. Except as provided in law, the Customer acknowledges that they assume all risk and Transit Tours is not liable for misadventure, death, injury, delay or loss which occurs during the tour.

Seat Rotation

- For the enjoyment of all travellers Transit Tours operates a seat rotation system which all travellers must participate in as a condition of booking.

Photographs

- Photographs used to market any Transit Tour depict typical scenes experienced, but the subject matter may not necessarily be seen or experienced whilst visiting a destination within a tour.
- Whilst on tour, the Customer may be included in photographs and/or film taken by the guide or driver. These photographs may be used for future promotional advertising purposes and by booking on a Transit Tour the Customer authorises the use of any images they are captured in to be used without further consent or any payment of any kind. If the Customer does not authorise the use of their image for promotional purposes, they must make this known at the time of booking.

Privacy Policy

- Any personal information that Transit Tours collects about the Customer may be used for any purpose associated with the operation of a tour or to send the Customer marketing material in relation to Transit Tour products. The information may be disclosed to our agents, service providers or other suppliers to enable Transit Tours to operate the tour. Transit Tours will otherwise treat your details in accordance with our privacy policy (available on our website).

Applicable Law

- The laws of New Zealand govern these Terms and Conditions to the fullest extent allowable.

Keeping you healthy and safe while aboard with Tranzit Tours

The health, safety and wellbeing of our passengers and team members is our highest priority and we are obliged to take all practicable risk measures to operate safely.

As a company, Tranzit Tours will always take advice from the Ministry of Health on best practice safety protocols for all contagious conditions, (colds, flu, Covid, shingles, measles, diarrhoea and vomiting etc.) along with accidents and other health concerns, and feelings of unwellness.

We always encourage our passengers to talk to us if they have any questions regarding their mobility, fitness or health.

Our health and safety measures include:

- Recommending all passengers take out comprehensive travel insurance with cover for contagious conditions (like colds, flu, Covid, shingles, measles, diarrhoea and vomiting etc) and that passengers familiarise themselves with any limitations the insurance may have around additional costs associated with the requirement to leave a tour or need to cancel.
- We encourage all passengers to stay home if you are experiencing symptoms of contagious conditions (like colds, flu, Covid, shingles, measles, diarrhoea and vomiting etc).
- Asking passengers and Tour Team to pro-actively undergo a self-administered RAT prior to departure for their safety (and the safety of all passengers on the tour) should they feel they could have been put at risk of contracting COVID-19 or feel unwell (including hay fever, cold and flu-like symptoms). If in doubt, we ask passengers to call the Tranzit Tours Team.
- Passengers who are at higher risk (ie immuno-compromised, suffer from chronic conditions such as COPD etc) are asked to voluntarily make the Tours Team aware of their condition at the time of booking. Also contact your Medical Practitioner to confirm you are well enough to join the tour. This will enable us to consider any additional precautions for you, before traveling, as well as having a plan for an appropriate response if a traveller becomes ill with an infectious illness on a tour.
- Encouraging passengers to wash hands regularly in warm soapy water and use provided hand sanitizer.
- Advising passengers to cough or sneeze into tissues and then immediately dispose of them followed by washing and drying or sanitising your hands. If caught short, we recommend using the inside corner of an elbow to cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Ensuring that prior to our tour's departure, the coach undergoes a deep clean (including the air-conditioning filters).
- All hard surfaces are cleaned daily with a disinfectant while on tour.
- Providing biodegradable disposable cups on tour to prevent cross contamination.
- Using tongs for food handling, and washing and drying hands before any food handling. Always wash and dry hands after using bathroom facilities.
- Disposable masks: we encourage passengers to bring their own masks. While it is not compulsory for passengers to wear masks on a coach tour, we do encourage it if you are showing any cold or flu-like symptoms.
- Ensuring our team is fully trained in first aid.

If you become unwell or have an accident while on tour, please contact your Tranzit Tours driver or guide immediately.

They can help support you and contact Healthline on 0800 611 116 or your doctor, immediately who will triage symptoms over the phone and advise next steps. This will be managed on a case-by-case basis. Our Tranzit team will support you and assist with logistics (at the cost of the Passenger – which may be covered by your travel insurance).

Thank you for understanding as we continue to work to keep you, our valued passengers, safe. Our team is always happy to answer any specific questions you have.