



Waiongana Gardens - Waitara

Taranaki Garden Festival

for New Zealand's Favourite Travel Club

Itinerary especially prepared for

Taranaki Garden Festival 2026

Travelling 2 November 2026 to 5 November 2026

Thank you for your enquiry into our Taranaki Garden Festival tour for 2026. On the following pages is our full itinerary.

Tour Overview

Discover the beauty of Taranaki's world-renowned gardens, where rich volcanic soils create spectacular spring displays. Travel with us at the peak of the season to experience vibrant rhododendrons, colourful blooms, and lush new growth in some of New Zealand's finest gardens.

Booking

To secure your place on this tour, please call us on 0800 471 227 or alternatively 06 370 6600, Extn 2.

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

Please note our pricing reflects current operating conditions. If there is a significant and sustained increase in fuel costs prior to your tour, we may need to make a fuel adjustment. Should this occur, we will work together via a fair and reasonable approach so there are no surprises closer to the time of travel.

Keeping you Healthy and Safe on a Transit 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, Transit 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 Transit 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 Transit Tours Team

Trip Details

Day 1 **Monday, 2 November 2026**

Tour **Gravetye Garden & New Plymouth**

We will pick you up from home this morning before departing on our Taranaki adventure, meeting in Palmerston North for a welcome morning tea at a local café. We will stop for lunch at a popular Whanganui café. Our first garden visit is Gravetye in Hawera, a stunning formal garden featuring a perennial border, pleached limes, roses and lavender, all accentuated by sculptures placed for dramatic effect. After our visit, we make our way to our New Plymouth hotel, where we have time to settle in before dining in the hotel restaurant this evening.



Staying at: Hotel Plymouth International
Meals incl: morning tea, lunch & dinner

Day 2 **Tuesday, 3 November 2026**

Tour **Northern Gardens**

Today we explore a wonderful selection of gardens featured North of New Plymouth. We begin at Villa Verde Garden, a thriving garden featuring cottage-style flower beds, productive vegetable gardens, a glasshouse, berry house, orchard, and a small collection of chickens and alpacas. Next, we visit Riverlea Garden, a beautiful property surrounding a restored 120-year-old villa, featuring woodland plantings, perennial borders and riverside walks. We continue on to Leppers Garden, a 100-year-old garden filled with treasures. Large mature English trees and native bush boundaries surround this one-hectare garden, while clivia, hostas, ligularia, roses and rhododendrons are some of the varieties found in this rural country garden. We then visit Waiongana Garden is a 4ha garden bound by the Waiongana River. It features many varied spaces including a sunken garden, rose garden, redwoods, a native river walk, log walls and herbaceous peonies that usually flower during the festival. Lunch is included here today.



This afternoon we visit Magnolia Grove Garden, a hidden mature garden that will wow you. A Mediterranean theme of succulents and cacti make a bold statement. Paths flow out naturally to unfold a myriad of magnolia species, a bamboo forest and a bee garden; just a few of the combinations creating this idyllic sanctuary. Our final stop is Mara Rangimare, packed with palms and brimming with bromeliads, this leafy paradise also adds perennials, rhododendrons, water features and garden art to the mix, and don't forget to look for the food forest. We return to our hotel to relax and unwind, dining in this evening.

Staying at: Hotel Plymouth International
Meals incl: breakfast, lunch & dinner

Tour**New Plymouth Gardens**

Today we focus on gardens predominantly within the city. We begin at Pukemara Garden, whose owner has created a garden of two halves – a flat courtyard and a hillside garden. In the courtyard, colourful annuals and perennials combine with vireyas, roses and maples, while the woodland hillside garden is a wonder of colourful rhododendrons, azaleas and hydrangeas under a canopy of mature trees. Next, we visit Te Rongohua Garden. Nestled among native woodlands, this thoughtfully designed garden combines natural beauty with artistic expression. Featuring handcrafted horseshoe sculptures by Brent, elevated valley viewpoints, abundant birdlife, and a tranquil stream, it offers a peaceful place to connect with nature. We then move on to Titoki Garden. Once home to a single titoki tree, this garden has been transformed over 35 years into a peaceful sanctuary. Meandering paths reveal camellias, rhododendrons, roses, and a terraced vegetable garden, all set against a stunning backdrop of native bush.



We then visit Pukeiti Garden; Pukeiti's 360 ha of gardens and rainforest are home to one of the world's largest rhododendron collections, creating spectacular seasonal colour. Enjoy scenic walking tracks, a modern visitor centre, the covered vireya houses, a treetop viewing platform, and the popular Rainforest Eatery. This is also our lunch venue. Afterward, we explore The Yews Garden, lovingly created by Lee and Roland, this formal country garden features abundant roses, rhododendrons, and classic English-style plantings surrounding a beautifully restored 1800s villa. Defined by yew hedges and expansive level lawns, it is easily accessible and has been featured in NZ House & Garden magazine.

Our final garden visit today is Pukekura Park. Located in the heart of New Plymouth, Pukekura Park is a Garden of National Significance featuring 52ha of stunning native and exotic gardens, tranquil lakes, and scenic walking paths. We then return to our hotel to freshen up before gathering this evening to enjoy our farewell dinner in-house and celebrate a wonderful Taranaki Garden Festival experience together.

Staying at: Hotel Plymouth International
Meals incl: breakfast, lunch & dinner

Tour**Beechwoods Garden - Portia's Place & Home Locations**

Packing our bags, today we are homeward bound, but with a couple more gardens to visit en route. Our first stop is Beechwoods Garden at Tariki. Named after two ancient New Zealand beech trees which are uncommon in Taranaki, this enchanting garden embraces the past and present. Several other large specimen trees remain from the original landscape plan for the garden, which form a backbone for the rejuvenated woodland and ornamental plantings. We then continue to Portia's Place, a creative and welcoming garden showcasing an eclectic mix of plants, garden art and unique design features. Enjoy exploring the many interesting corners and discovering the owners' passion for gardening. At King Edward Park in Hawera, we stop to enjoy our picnic lunch. There is also time for a wander of this nationally significant garden, its ancestry seen in its charmingly formal design.



The clipped hedges give shelter to abundant azalea, rhododendron and rose collections. Adding to the history are mature trees, a model boating pond and a 150 year old cannon. Finally we depart for Sanson where we meet connecting transfers for those travellers continuing to Wellington and Wairarapa.

Meals incl: breakfast & picnic lunch

Cost of this Tour Includes

- Accommodation
- All coach travel
- All breakfasts
- All lunches
- All dinners, 2-course or buffet
- Entry to the following gardens:
- Gravetye Garden, Hawera
- Villa Verde, Bell Block
- Riverlea Garden, Bell Block
- Leppers Garden, Waitara
- Waiongana Garden, Waitara – with lunch supplied by Theory Food
- Magnolia Grove Garden, Waitara
- Mara Rangimare (formerly Tropics on Mangati), Bell Block
- Pukemara Garden, New Plymouth
- Te Rongohua Garden, New Plymouth
- Titoki Garden, New Plymouth
- Pukeiti Garden, New Plymouth – with lunch supplied by a local cafe
- The Yews Garden, New Plymouth
- Pukekura Park, New Plymouth
- Beechwoods Garden, Tariki
- Portia's Place, Stratford
- King Edward Park, Hawera

Total Cost Per Person (Based on 1 person)

Double or twin share	NZ\$2710.00
Single Accommodation	NZ\$3090.00

Terms and Conditions

Please note our pricing reflects current operating conditions. If there is a significant and sustained increase in fuel costs prior to your tour, we may need to make a fuel adjustment. Should this occur, we will work together via a fair and reasonable approach so there are no surprises closer to the time of travel.

Deposit required to confirm your booking \$800.00 per person

Tour balance payable by: 17 September 2026

Please provide the following information when making a payment:

Your name: please provide your name
Our account name: Tranzit Coachlines Wairarapa Limited
Bank account details: BNZ 020688 0127658 00
Tour Reference: Taranaki26

To: Tranzit Coachlines Wairarapa Ltd
P O Box 116
MASTERTON 5840
Phone 0800 471 227 or (06) 370 6600

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 Tranzit 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 Tranzit 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 Tranzit 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 Tranzit Tour products. The information may be disclosed to our agents, service providers or other suppliers to enable Tranzit Tours to operate the tour. Tranzit 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.