



Christmas Pohutukawa

# Tranzscript

New Zealand's Best Senior Travel Club

Join New Zealand's Senior Travel Club and travel with like-minded people on our tours.

Book your seat today  
0800 471 227

NOVEMBER 2024 | BAY OF PLENTY

**tranzit**  
tours

► Part of The Tranzit Group

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# Welcome

Welcome to the final edition of TranzScript for 2024.

As we mentioned in our last issue, Christmas is fast approaching and if you'd like to partake in the festivities join us in the Garden City of Christchurch and surrounding Canterbury region by turning to page 8, and phone for an itinerary today for our special departure to the Wonderful Wairarapa coming up in March next year. We have dug deep in our quest to showcase the real Wairarapa, and found many attractions that you'd never get the opportunity to otherwise visit.

There is still time to book your spot for our latest day tour aboard the Rotoiti Explorer – but don't delay, you'll need to get in touch as soon as possible. Turn to page 6 for full details and give us a bell today.



Our Taranaki Garden Festival tour recently returned home, amazed by the variety of gardens on display ranging from tropical bromeliads through to wistful wildflowers. Meanwhile, our Top of the South tour group experienced stunning weather in “sunny Nelson” and gorgeous Golden Bay, exploring Farewell Spit and taking a boat cruise in the Abel Tasman among other gems in the northern corner of the South Island.

## YOUR TOURS TEAM 2024

Please note that our Tour office will be closed for two weeks over the Christmas period, from 20 December through to 6 January.

Warm wishes and special season's greetings from all of us in the Tranzit Tour team, as we look forward to another year of travelling adventures in 2025.



Stunning views at Cape Farewell

## Touring Icons

A quick visual guide for what you're in for.



### Heritage

NZ's home and gardens on show



### Culture

Shows, history and the arts



### Wine and Food

Enjoy local delights on tour



### Flight/s included

Get to your destination quicker



### Walking

A good level of fitness is required



### Travel by Train

Train enthusiasts a must!



### Boat trip offered

Enjoy a cruise on the water



### Escape to nature

Nature and natural history

## Your Tranzit touring family...

Ali



Robin



Anil



Fleur



Sam

## Quick tour guide

### December

- » Chatham Island
- » Christmas in Canterbury

### Moving into 2025

### February

- » Great Barrier Island

### March

- » Wairarapa off the Beaten Track
- » Up the Whanganui River
- » Southern Lakes High Country

### April

- » The Greenstone Trail
- » Gentle Annie Road Trip

### May

- » Melbourne

### June

- » Mid Winter in Napier

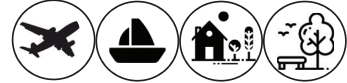
### July

- » Tropical North

# Featured Tours

## Southern Lakes High Country

11-18 March 2025 - Phone NOW for an itinerary - you don't want to miss out!



This is a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in rural splendour on the big sheep stations of the south. We visit Mt Nicholas on Lake Wakatipu, two iconic stations at Lake Wanaka, a traditional property in the heart of the Mackenzie Basin and spend a fabulous day exploring the coastal hill country on beautiful Banks Peninsula. Historic Mesopotamia Station in the Canterbury high country is a special highlight.

### Read a sample of the itinerary:

***Criffel and West Wanaka Stations***  
*We travel to Wanaka this morning, where we visit Criffel Station. A tour of this historic 2000-hectare deer farm provides expansive views of the Wanaka Basin, surrounding mountain ranges, and an insight into the management of the property. Our hosts provide lunch, catered in their wool shed which has been converted into a rustic venue. This afternoon we join Ridgeline Adventures for a 4WD tour through West Wanaka Station. As we travel through this spectacular property, increasingly gaining altitude, we will be rewarded with stunning lake views, hear yarns about farming life, conservation projects and fascinating local history.*

*"Discover the big sheep stations of the South"*

# Greenstone Trail

10-18 April 2025 - Phone NOW for an itinerary!



Explore the wild West Coast of the South Island from top to bottom. This is one of New Zealand's most unspoilt regions and our tour is full of attractions that cover many of the 'must see and do's' of Westland. Have you ever walked among the treetops in a South Westland Rainforest or been wowed by the reflections at Lake Matheson? Visited the glaciers or explored the secret waterways of Okarito? Then what are you waiting for?

**Read a sample of the itinerary:**

## **West Coast Rainforest**

*Heading south to Whataroa today we join a rainforest tour within the remote Waitangiroto Nature Reserve – only accessible on a guided tour. Driving across lush South Westland farmland, we then walk on a flat, purpose-built track among the pristine stands of 1000 year old kahikatea. This type of forest literally drips with lichens and epiphytes, while in autumn bursts with wonderful fungi, orchids and ferns which our local guide will point out to us. We will also see the nesting site of the kotuku (white heron), located on a secret waterway. At this time of year, the birds have dispersed widely, but we will learn about this special chosen location – the only breeding site of the kotuku in New Zealand.*



*“Explore one of New Zealand's most unspoilt regions ”*

# Day Tours

## Rotoiti Explorer Boat Cruise

Wednesday 27 November

**BOOK TODAY - last seats left!**

Our morning starts with a scenic drive through Okawa Bay on Lake Rotoiti. We'll then board the Rotoiti Explorer for a 3-hour cruise, visiting the geothermal beach, exploring charming bays with baches, and seeing Māori food storage caves carved into cliffs. Along the way, we'll share history and point out native birdlife. Lunch is included onboard, with a cash bar, complimentary hot drinks, and iced water. After the cruise, we'll visit Trevelyan's Kiwifruit and Avocado Packhouse for a guided tour before returning to Tauranga.

### Depart:

**9.00am:** Bus Stop, Carmichael Rd, opposite BCC

**9.10am:** Bus Stop, 11th Ave, corner Edgecumbe Rd

**9.15am:** Bus Stop, 36 Dive Cr.

**9.25am:** Mount RSA, Macville Rd

**9.35am:** Pacific Coast Village reception

**9.45am:** Papamoa Plaza, Bus Stop Gravett Rd

### Return:

**4.00pm:** Papamoa Plaza, Bus Stop Gravett Rd

**4.10pm:** Pacific Coast Village reception

**4.20pm:** Mount RSA, Maceville Rd

**4.30pm:** Bus Stop, 36 Dive Cr.

**4.40pm:** Bus Stop, 11th Ave, corner Edgecumbe Rd

**5.00pm:** Bus Stop, Carmichael Rd, opposite BCC

**Price:** \$150 – due today

**Includes:** coach, entry fees for cruise and packhouse, lunch on the boat, hot drinks and water.

**Banking reference:** Rotoiti24



**Rotoiti Explorer Boat Cruise**



**Wairarapa Tour - Brancepeth Homestead**

# The Wairarapa is calling you!

Tranzit Tours are now operating out of the Bay of Plenty region. Join us on our first tour from Tauranga heading south to the Wairarapa.



On this five day tour we showcase Wairarapa's wild coast, iconic stations, gardens and homesteads. We'll learn about the history, get a good dose of nature, and enjoy great food and local wines. There is much to see in this scenic region with its rolling hills, vineyards, olive groves and village charm.

This tour has something for everyone.

## Special highlights include:

- Te Parae Homestead
- Brancepeth Homestead
- Castlepoint Station
- Longbush Cottage Gardens
- Palliser Ridge Station
- Tirohana Estate Winery
- Rotowatai Homestead including private art gallery and garden tour
- plus much more!



Call today  
for a full itinerary  
**0800 471 227**

**Tour dates:**  
**24 - 28 March 2025**

We will arrange home  
"pick ups"

# Spend a few days away with us.

## Current Tours

Give us a call to request an itinerary or register your interest if something takes your fancy. We look forward to arranging your next holiday!

## Chatham Island

12-17 December - last chance to book!



We return to this remote part of NZ to discover the unique landscapes and natural history, learn about the lifestyle of the Chatham Islanders and enjoy fabulous meals featuring abundant seafood. Every day is an adventure as our travels uncover unusual geological formations, remote fishing villages and a rich flora and fauna - all interwoven with the unique Chathams history of the Moriori.



Chatham Island - Waitangi Wharf

## Christmas in Canterbury

21-27 December - last chance to book!



Yes, this year we head to the "Garden City" for our festive break. Christchurch has much to offer with its unique blend of heritage and new buildings as the city has risen from the ruins of its devastating earthquakes. But we uncover gems throughout the Canterbury region, from Banks Peninsula and Akaroa exploring, to a Christmas Day adventure in the Canterbury High Country. From the great Canterbury Rivers to the sea with everything in between. This tour is guaranteed to be fun, fabulous and festive!



Christmas in Canterbury - Castlehill

## Tours for 2025

### Great Barrier Island

18-22 February - Full. Waitlisting



An all-round stunning destination, and a smaller group offering, we discover this hidden gem of the Hauraki Gulf. Staying



four nights on the Great Barrier, you will stay in a comfortable beach front lodge and enjoy great meals. Experience its rugged natural beauty, encounter unique and endangered wildlife, admire the talents of local artisans, covet the relaxed lifestyle of the Barrier residents, and enjoy the endless walking opportunities. This is a tour for adventurers!

## Up the Whanganui River

3-6 March - phone now for an itinerary



Offering many ways to experience the mystical Whanganui River, from a jet boat ride with a walk to the Bridge to Nowhere. Enjoy gentle excursions on two of the river's famous historic steamers, and a road trip down the valley through many historic settlements. One of our favourite tours, so don't miss out!



Up the Whanganui River - MV Wairua

## Gentle Annie

28-30 April - phone now for itinerary



Explore the Central North Island's lesser travelled interior and the dramatic landscapes of the Rangitikei region. We travel up the historic Moawhango Valley and follow the Inland Patea Heritage Trail (better known as the "Gentle Annie"), from Taihape to Napier. A visit to a vast sheep station is a special highlight!



Gentle Annie - Moawhango Valley

## Mid Winter in Napier

24-26 June - phone now for an itinerary



A popular tour that offers many options to enjoy Hawkes Bay. Enjoy a tour and lunch at the historic Ashcott Homestead and get hands on at Faraday Museum of Technology. Dine out at a local icon - The Thirsty Whale, and sample wines at Craggy Range with its awe-inspiring back drop views of Te Mata Peak.

## Northern Explorer Short Break

20-22 August - phone now for an itinerary



Featuring a train journey on the Northern Explorer through the dramatic landscapes and towering viaducts of the Rangitikei and Tongariro Districts, as well as the engineering marvel of the Raurimu Spiral. We stay in the alpine village of Ohakune and uncover other attractions of this scenic region including a unique and charming garden in the Taumarunui area, one of NZ's largest Alpaca



Ohakune - Northern Explorer

## Mountains to Sea

15-19 September - new dates confirmed, register your interest now



From a stay in Ohakune under the shadow of Mt Ruapehu, to relaxing by the sea at Raglan. Discover the silica terraces and geysers of Orakei Korako, cruise on the Waikato River,

step into the enchanting world of Hobbiton and enjoy the delicious "fayre" at the Green Dragon Inn.



Mountains to Sea - Hobbiton

## The Forgotten Highway

29 September - 3 October - phone now for an itinerary

Experience this remote and mysterious journey, as we wind our way over saddles, through gorges, tunnels and dense forest. The "republic" of Whangamomona, the hand-hewn Moki tunnel, and the remarkable Tangarakau Gorge are highlights on this scenic route that follows an old heritage trail.



Forgotten World - Whangamomona Hotel

## The Far North

6-13 October - phone NOW to register your interest



The Far North returns as we plot the history of the unique Northland kauri industry and connect with ancient



**Far North - Cape Reinga Lighthouse**

kauri. We've packed in all of the Far North's favourites along with some great new temptations. Drive along the endless sands of 90 Mile Beach, cruise to the Hole in the Rock, visit the amazing sculpture park at Matakana, discover the Kumara Capital of Dargaville, and uncover an amazing whaling

## Ride the Rails

23-29 October - phone NOW to register your interest



This is one of our most popular tours, so don't miss out; register your interest now and rediscover the joy of train travel.



**Ride the Rails - Ferrymead Heritage Park**

The world renowned TranzAlpine (Christchurch to Greymouth) and the scenic Coastal Pacific (Blenheim to Christchurch) excursions are special highlights, but we also discover vintage and branch lines, talk to genuine railway enthusiasts, and learn about the unique history of NZ rail.

## Hurunui & Marlborough Gardens

Early November (dates TBC) - phone NOW to register your interest



Hurunui Garden Festival is gaining a reputation as a first-class garden event. Gorgeous gardens from all over this region open their gates so festival goers can visit gardens of national significance and elegant rural properties borrowing mountain vistas. View art and sculpture and find inspiration in the gardens of others. We will also be visiting some of our favourite Marlborough Gardens.



**Hurunui Gardens**

## Molesworth Station

12-16 November - phone NOW to register your interest



This is one of our most popular tours and we've made it even better, introducing you to more remote areas. We use specially designed vehicles that take you comfortably through the soaring back country terrain of Molesworth Station (NZ's largest). BUT THAT'S NOT ALL... we also tour through the stunning and constantly changing landscapes of Rainbow Station and visit a hill country property in the Leader Valley with unique geological features. We use a local guide whose knowledge is extensive, so you will learn the area's history through an informative and entertaining commentary.



**Molesworth Station - Lake Tennyson**

## The Deep South

17-26 November - phone NOW to register your interest



Returning in 2025 by popular demand. Join us on our southern-most sojourn as we travel the full Southern Scenic Route from Dunedin via the ruggedly dramatic Catlins Coast to Invercargill, and on to stunning Fiordland. A cruise in tranquil Doubtful Sound and an overnight stay on Stewart Island are special highlights.



**Deep South - Nugget Point**

## East Cape Escape

24-30 November - phone NOW to register your interest



Explore the scenically and culturally rich East Cape, viewing beautiful churches, discovering isolated bays and taking roads less travelled. We ride the rails at Awakeri, stay at stunningly isolated Hicks Bay, stroll on the Tolaga Bay Wharf, and dine at

the local at Waihau and Tokomaru Bays. Take the opportunity to soak in the mineral pools at Morere Hot Springs, and much more.



East Cape - Raukokore Church

## Chatham Island

4-9 December - phone now to register your interest



We return to this remote part of NZ to discover the unique landscapes and natural history, learn about the lifestyle of the Chatham Islanders and enjoy fabulous meals featuring abundant seafood. Every day is an adventure as our travels uncover unusual geological formations, remote fishing villages and a rich flora and fauna - all interwoven with the unique Chathams history of the Moriori.



Chatham Island - Basalt Rocks

## Christmas in Rotorua

23-27 December - phone now to register your interest

Our festive season commences as we head to Rotorua, the geothermal capital of New Zealand. A place where the Earth breathes and nature paints it's masterpiece. There are spouting geysers to view, effervescent mud pools and wonderous naturally formed terraces. The sulphur flats are an attraction alongside the well maintained Government Gardens. Celebrate with us this Christmas!

## Also planned for 2025

Phone now to register your interest in these other great options for 2025, but keep your eye on the ball, as more tours may be added:

- **May:** Melbourne
- **July:** Port Douglas/Cairns
- **November:** Kaimanawa Horses

## Overseas Experiences

Our overseas calendar for 2025 and 2026 is taking shape. Register your interest now for these great destinations.

### Melbourne Short Break

May 2025

From our base in the heart of Melbourne, we'll explore this vibrant city, with the languid Yarra River running through its heart. From its parks and gardens to its gracious buildings, sporting venues, and lively arts scene, Melbourne is the city that has it all.

### Port Douglas/Cairns

July 2025

What better place to go on a winter escape than to tropical North Queensland. On the doorstep of the Great Barrier Reef, we visit this world heritage listed attraction, explore Daintree Rainforest in the wet tropics, take a rail excursion on an historic railway, discover the Atherton Tablelands and a host of other unique and exciting attractions in our travels around the region.

We'd love expressions of interest in the following destinations for 2026:

- Western Australia
- India



Cairns - Skyrail

**Give a Gift Voucher this Christmas!**



Stuck for an idea for a gift for friends or family this Christmas? Or maybe the kids don't know what to get you! May we suggest one of our Transit Tour gift vouchers. They can be made out for any nominated amount, and best of all, there's no tiresome expiry date. Give us a call or drop in and see us and your gift buying troubles will be over.



Kaimanawa Horses

## Do you need a Guest Speaker?

Our promotional team Robin and Stella recently visited several members' villages in the Bay of Plenty to talk about our tours and travel club and thoroughly enjoyed their time meeting folk. They are planning another series of visits around the lower North Island later this year, so if you think it may be something your club or village might be interested in, do give us a call, we'd love to visit!



**Speaking to Bay of Plenty residents**

## Keep us In the Loop

Have you recently moved, got a cell phone, got rid of your landline or changed your email address? Do let us know, as we don't want you to miss out on receiving all the latest news about our exciting tours. If you don't want to receive our newsletters any longer we won't be hurt, we would far rather know than keep annoying you with unwanted mail.

## The important stuff:

**Our promise:** Tranzit Tours is a fun and adventurous team, where you always come first.

## Joining a tour from the Bay of Plenty

### Joining a tour

Bay of Plenty's tour departures are currently being determined. If joining a current Tranzit tour we will work with you on the best possible joining solution to suit both your budget and convenience.

### All inclusive

From the moment you jump aboard, your journey with us is convenient, relaxing and stress free. All your costs are paid for up front - accommodation, dinners, attractions and transfers. There are no hidden extras.

Stretch those legs and spread your wings - book a tour with us today!



Split Apple Rock - Tasman Bay



# Christmas Closure



Our tour office will be closed from  
Friday 20 December at 1.00pm through to  
Monday 6 January at 9.30am

## Book now

For enquiries and reservations call:

**06 370 6600 ext 2**

**0800 471 227**

9:30am - 4:00pm, Monday - Friday

Email: [tours@tranzit.co.nz](mailto:tours@tranzit.co.nz)

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