

# Tranzscript

MARCH 2026 - MANAWATU

*New Zealand's favourite travel newsletter*

*Join our Tranzit Tours travel club and explore  
New Zealand and beyond with like-minded  
travellers on our hosted tours .*

Lake Dunstan - Central Otago

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# Welcome

We blinked and suddenly it was March - time to send out Tranzscript to our valued members.

We have had a great start to the year. Our Greenstone Trail tour recently returned from the South Island's wild West Coast and we got off the beaten track in our beloved Wairarapa (see page 16-17 for piccies from their adventures). The recent weather events provided an extra challenge with a road closure at Cape Palliser that opened at the eleventh hour allowing us to get to this special spot.

Ali and Les are back from the stunning Canterbury High Country, while Robin returned safely from an island escape to Great Barrier. With everyone back it's time to start preparing for the next exciting tours ahead.

For those of you who have expressed interest in concerts and shows, we have listened! You will find options on offer, with more to come as the year progresses.

Thank you to everyone who completed our recent online survey. Your feedback helps us shape improvements to our tours and communications. We're also excited to launch our refreshed Tranzit Tours Facebook page. Skip over to Page 18 to read more!

We look forward to travelling with you soon!  
Robin, Katie, Ali, and Anil



**YOUR TOURS  
TEAM**



**Te Parae Homestead - Wairarapa Off the Beaten Track**

**Our touring year ahead for 2026.**

**March**

» Taste of Nelson

**April**

» Central Otago Discovery

» Gentle Annie

**May**

» Cambridge Short Break

» The Southerner and TranzAlpine Rail Journeys

**June**

» Midwinter Christmas in New Plymouth

**July**

» Greytown Winter Wonder

» North Island Arts Tour

**August**

» Bay of Plenty Discovery

**September**

» Hawke's Bay Historic Homes

» Alpine Pacific Triangle

**October**

» Coromandel Getaway

**Tour icons.**



**Heritage**

NZ's home and gardens on show



**Wine and Food**

Enjoy local delights on tour



**Walking/Exercise**

A very good level of fitness is required



**Boat trip offered**

Enjoy a cruise on the water



**Culture**

Shows, history and the arts



**Escape to nature**

Nature and natural history



**Flights included**

Get to your destination quicker



**Travel by Train**

Train enthusiasts a must!

**Price guide.**



Under \$2000



\$2000 - \$5000



\$5000 +

**Your Tranzit touring family.**

Ali



Robin



Katie



Anil



Andre



Les



# Featured Tours

## Gentle Annie Explorer

28-30 April - *just a few seats left, phone now to book!*



Explore the Central North Island's lesser travelled interior and the dramatic landscapes of the Rangitikei region. This tour begins with a visit to the Coach House Museum in Fielding. Home to an outstanding collection of NZ heritage. We then travel over a the scenic back road to Mangaweka, and then through Moawhango Valley and follow the Inland Patea Heritage Trail (better known as the "Gentle Annie"), from Taihape to Napier. A visit to one of the historic sheep stations on the route is a special highlight!

### Read a sample of the itinerary:

*Onward to Springvale Suspension Bridge where we enjoy our morning tea and the chance to walk across this remarkable engineering feat. From here we pass by several large historic North Island sheep stations, including Oruamatua, Windy Point, Erewhon, and Kuripapango before making a stop at the active working farm Timahanga Station to learn about their farming operation and view their historic pocket wool press and shearing quarters.*

**"Explore the Central North Island's lesser travelled interior"**

# The Southerner and TranzAlpine Rail Journeys

22-26 May - *just a few seats left, phone now to book!*



This tour brings together scenic rail travel, cultural depth, and memorable city experiences into one seamless and rewarding journey. Travel in comfort aboard the Southerner Train from Dunedin to Christchurch, enjoy ever-changing coastal and rural scenery along the way, complemented by guided Dunedin city sightseeing. The journey continues with the world-famous TranzAlpine Train, crossing the Canterbury Plains and the dramatic Southern Alps to Greymouth, one of New Zealand's most spectacular rail experiences. Before departure, a visit to Quake City provides a moving insight into Christchurch's earthquake story and remarkable resilience.

## Read a sample of the itinerary:

*Travel along the South Island's dramatic east coast, where ever-changing views unfold - rugged coastline, rolling farmland, river mouths, and sweeping ocean vistas. Sit back and relax as we pass through charming towns and pastoral landscapes, while onboard commentary brings the region's rich history to life.*



***"A unique experience travelling on the Southerner Train from Dunedin to Christchurch"***

# Overseas Adventures

Tasmania

4 - 19 November - *phone to register your interest, on sale March 2026!*

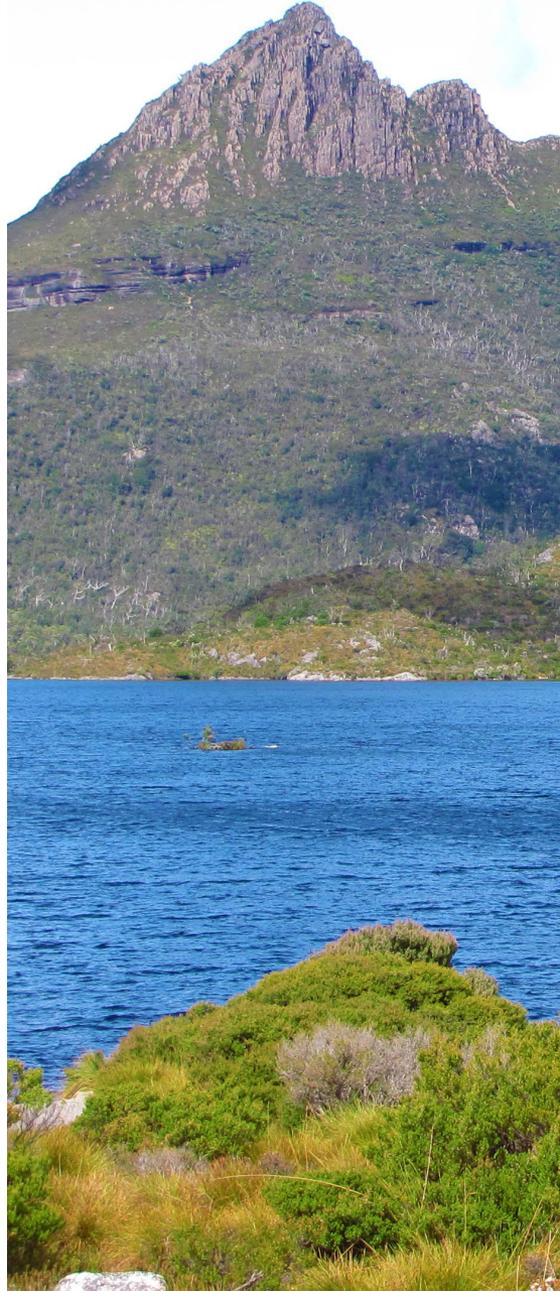


This will be our most comprehensive ever Tassie tour package, specially designed to suit our valued clients. Tasmania is Australia's smallest and most diverse state, which punches well above its weight in the wow stakes. A place of spectacular beauty, pristine waterways, unique wildlife, soaring mountains and a haunting history evoked by world famous convict ruins, we will leave no stone unturned. This is the ultimate Tasmanian experience.

## **Read a sample of the itinerary:**

*Today we journey through Tullah and Rosebery to Cradle Mountain, where we visit Devils @ Cradle, a conservation and breeding facility for the at-risk Tasmanian Devil. We'll be guaranteed a sighting of these unique animals while they sunbake, sleep in their dens or run around their enclosures.*

*“A place of spectacular beauty and a haunting history”*



*“A carefully curated journey through India’s most iconic sites”*



## Classical India

Nov - Dec - Dates to be confirmed - **register your interest now.**



Travel with our very own Anil to his home country. Step into a land where empires rose, poets dreamed, and legends still whisper through ancient stones. Our Classical India Tour is the perfect first encounter with one of the world’s most captivating destinations. A carefully curated journey through India’s most iconic cities, wildlife havens, and spiritual heartlands, all with your safety and comfort at the top of our list.

### **Read a sample of the itinerary:**

*We proceed to the Taj Mahal to witness the marble miracle light up with the first rays of the sun. The glistening white marble is bathed in the soft morning glow, and the twittering of the birds as they wake from slumber is the only sound that greets you in the midst of the tranquil gardens. It is as if the chaos of the city outside disappears and you are transported to an oasis of calm, away from the throngs of tourists and the frenzied rush of daily life!*

# Day Tours

## Space Place

Friday 24 April

Today we visit Space Place at Carter Observatory in Wellington to take you on a remarkable journey through the galaxy. We'll view an incredible live presentation of the night sky in the planetarium dome, create a black hole and experience a rocket blast off and what it feels like to be inside a spaceship among other interactive activities. We have also included a nostalgic ride on the Cable Car in our itinerary today. Lunch is at the delightfully located Picnic Café in the Botanic Gardens with time afterwards for a stroll in the gardens.

***Please advise any dietary requirements.***

**Depart:** 8.00am Central Energy Trust Arena, Waldegrave Street carpark

**Return:** 5.00pm Palmerston North

**Price:** \$153.00– due by 9 April

**Includes:** Coach, gallery admission and lunch

**Banking reference:**

Spaceplace26



**Space Place - Wellington**

## Science on a Plate

Thursday 11 June

Ever wondered how New Zealand keeps an eye on natural hazards? Now's your chance to find out as we enjoy an extremely rare opportunity to get behind the scenes today at Earth Science NZ. Our private tour includes an introduction to the following: the Fossil and Rock Archive – where you'll find geological treasures, the Hydro Lab – learn how they study water and environmental data, Geohazard Monitoring and Event Response – find out how they track and react to natural events, and the National Geohazards Monitoring Centre – where we discover how they turn data into rapid, lifesaving responses. Our lunch venue today - The Farm - comes highly recommended and appealingly overlooks the Boulcott Heritage Golf Course.

***Please advise any dietary requirements.***

**Depart:** 8.30am Central Energy Trust Arena, Waldegrave Street carpark

**Return:** 5.30pm Palmerston North

**Price:** \$148.00 – due by 28 May

**Includes:** Coach, Earth Science NZ tour and lunch

**Banking reference:**  
EarthScience26



**Science on a plate - Wellington**

## 2026 World of Wearable Art Show

Sunday 4 October

The World of WearableArt (WOW) Show is an internationally acclaimed celebration of creativity, where art, fashion, design, performance, and imagination collide. Often described as “Broadway meets Cirque du Soleil,” it’s a dazzling arena spectacle where dancers, live music, aerialists, cutting-edge visuals and atmospheric music bring each wearable masterpiece to life.

We have booked Gold category seats to a Sunday matinee and a beautiful keepsake programme is included in your ticket cost. We will depart in plenty of time to allow you to enjoy a bite of lunch in Wellington (own cost) before the show. Alternatively, you may wish to pack your own picnic to bring with you.

**Depart:** 8.30am Central Energy Trust Arena, Waldegrave Street carpark

**Return:** 6.30pm Palmerston North

**Price:** \$250.00 Full payment due ASAP

**Includes:** coach and Gold show ticket with programme

**Banking reference:**  
WOWPMR26



**WOW - Straw-ry Eyed, Bethany Cordwell, Australia**  
Credit: as above

## Terms and Conditions :

Final payment is required to Transit no later than two weeks prior to the trip unless otherwise stated. Concert and show bookings do require a **non-refundable deposit** to confirm your booking.

**Cancellations:** we endeavour to refund fully where possible, however cancellations made prior to departure may incur fees of non-refundable components.

**Photographs:** whilst away with Transit Tours Travel Club, you may be included in photographs and/or films taken by our guides and drivers that will be used for future promotional advertising purposes and by booking on to any of our day trips and tours, you authorise the use of any images you are captured in to be used without any further consent or payment.

## Paying by Internet for Travel Club Trips:

NZ Banks now require you to provide the following information when making a payment:

**Your name:** please provide your name

**Our account name:** Transit Coachlines Wairarapa Limited

**Transit Tours Account number:** 02-0688-0127658-00

**Reference:** please use the reference listed for each of our tours and day trips, which you will find in the pricing information for each tour or trip (eg Spaceplace26)

## Other ways to Pay:

For your convenience, you can still also make payment the following ways:

- Phone us with your Credit or Debit Card details
- Drop in to see us in our offices in Masterton or Palmerston North with card or cash



West Wanaka Station - 4x4 driving



Len Lye Museum - New Plymouth

# Tours for 2026

## Taste of Nelson

26-29 March - *subject to flight availability*



Join this small-group experience that immerses you in the rich flavours, artistry, and scenic beauty of the Nelson–Tasman region. It's not just a food and wine tour - it's a curated journey through the heart of New Zealand's artisan culture. Visit one of Nelson's Heritage houses, enjoy the beauty of the Abel Tasman National Park, take in the vibrant tapestry of the Nelson Market and taste the fine wines and boutique beers of the Top of the South.



**Taste of Nelson - Abel Tasman**

## Central Otago Discovery

11-18 April - *subject to flight availability*



Discover the magic of Central Otago on a journey rich in scenery, history, and unforgettable experiences. The legacy of the Otago gold rush lives on in quaint villages and dramatic slued landscapes that tell stories of early pioneers. Travel through the stunning Kawarau Gorge, the wide-open Maniatoto, and follow the mighty Clutha River. Venture into historic Skippers Canyon, cruise the wildlife-rich waters of Otago Harbour, and explore charming towns like Arrowtown and Clyde, all glowing in Central Otago's spectacular autumn colours.



**Central Otago - Clutha River**

## Cambridge Short Break

11-14 May – **phone now for an itinerary**



Enjoy an autumn break in the charming town of Cambridge. The famed trees will be alight with autumn colour and with plenty of great attractions to capture your attention, we are spoilt for choice. Visit Maungatautari Forest Sanctuary - an incredible conservation project. Visit the exceptional Hamilton Gardens, and heritage listed Woodlands Garden and Homestead.



**Cambridge - Hamilton Gardens**

## Midwinter Christmas in New Plymouth

24-26 June - **itinerary out soon, register your interest**

This tour offers a wonderful mix of activities and experiences to celebrate the season with flair and fun. Set on the west coast of the North Island, this vibrant coastal city sits beneath the majestic Mount Taranaki, creating the perfect setting for a refreshing midwinter escape.



**New Plymouth - Sugar Loaf Islands**

## Greytown Winter Festival

23-25 July - **phone now to register your interest**

Throw your woolly jumper and puffa jackets and launches into a month-long, award winning celebration of Christmas in Greytown, with amazing lighting, festive food, night markets and gorgeous displays.



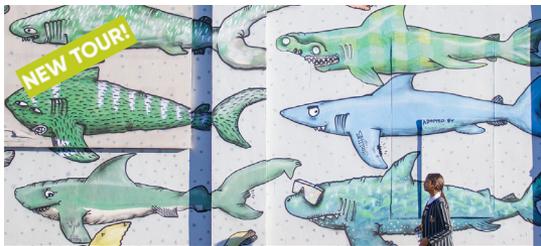
**Greytown - Winter Festival**

## North Island Arts Tour

July-August (dates to be confirmed) - **phone now to register your interest**

From Wellington to Taranaki, we discover and uncover the best from the region's art world. Take a fascinating behind the scenes tour at Te Papa, visit the private galleries of some of our eminent painters,

along with regional galleries featuring wonderful treasures.



**Shark Wall - Credit: Pivot Photography**

## Bay of Plenty Discovery

10-14 August - **phone now to register your interest**

A new tour in our calendar, the vibrant city of Tauranga will be our base for a tour packed with opportunities to discover what makes this region so appealing.



**Bay of Plenty Discovery - Credit BOP Tourism**

## Hawke's Bay Historic Homes

7 - 9 September - **phone now to register your interest**

Hawke's Bay has many historic homesteads that stand as grand reminders of an era of prosperity, when wool was king. Our travels will uncover some of these gems dotted throughout the countryside.

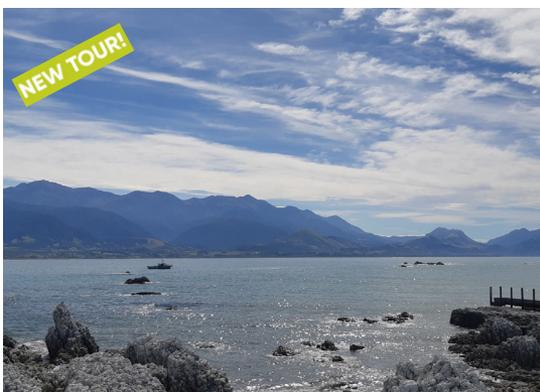


**Hawke's Bay - Ashcott Homestead**

## Alpine Pacific Triangle

28 September - 4 October - **phone now to register your interest**

Another new tour drops into our calendar, based around a well-known scenic South Island touring route, which takes in the Lewis, Hanmer and Kaikoura areas. We have been delving deep to uncover their hidden treasures. A Whale Watch Kaikoura tour promises to be a special highlight.



**Alpine Triangle - Kaikoura**

## Coromandel Getaway

12-18 October – **phone now to register your interest**

Discover the endless coastlines and sandy coves, the rugged volcanic landscapes and native forests of this scenic region, along with many unique and quirky attractions. With a mountainous interior cloaked in native rainforest and more than 400 kilometres of dazzling white sand beaches, the Coromandel is rustic, unspoiled and relaxed. You will love this tour.



Coromandel - Cathedral Cove

## Christchurch Spring Break

19-23 October - **phone now to register your interest**

Treat yourself to a spring escape to Christchurch, we've uncovered some amazing gems to visit. Visit Ohinetahi Garden, the garden of the late Sir Miles Warren. Learn about the Frozen Continent and pat the huskies

at the Antarctic Centre. Take a tour of Ravenscar Art Gallery – an amazing collection donated to the city by its philanthropic owners and sit back and enjoy an elegant evening dining experience on the Christchurch Tram.



Christchurch - Ohinetahi Gardens

## Taranaki Garden Festival

2-5 November - **phone now to register your interest**

The rich volcanic soils of Taranaki boast some of the best gardens in the country. Join us as we visit at the height of spring, amid the flush of new seasons' growth and the colourful flurry of rhododendron flowering. From large country gardens to compact town allotments, from formal to enchantingly casual, this tour will delight.



Taranaki - Waiongana Gardens

## Islands of the Hauraki Gulf

November (dates to be confirmed) - **phone now to register your interest**

Join us as we explore some of the myriad small islands that dot the Hauraki Gulf: rugged Rangitoto, Tiritiri Matangi (a haven for endangered NZ bird life), historic Kawau and wonderful Waiheke. And while we're at it we meander to Miranda, a world-renowned destination for migratory shore birds.



Islands of the gulf - Kokako

## Kaimanawa Heritage Horses

3-5 December - **phone now to register your interest**

Don't miss this rare opportunity to encounter the famous heritage horses of the Kaimanawa Ranges in their natural habitat. In spectacular back country normally closed to the public, we are very privileged to be able to enjoy this experience. We are joined by a Kaimanawa Heritage guide

who knows where to find the mares, foals and stallions roaming free in their family bands.



Kaimanawa Heritage Horses

## Christmas in Dunedin

22-27 December - **phone now to register your interest**

The southern charm of Dunedin beckons this year as our festive destination. This grand old city and its surrounds are a unique mix of natural wonders, rare wildlife and stunning heritage attractions. The iconic Taieri Gorge train journey promises to be a special highlight.



Dunedin - Taieri Gorge

# Home Safe & Sound.



**Greenstone Trail - Hokitika Sunset**



**Greenstone Trail - Happy Explorers**

## The Greenstone Trail - February

We're back home, safe and sound after an unforgettable 9-day adventure through the South Island's spectacular West Coast. From waking at Lake Rotoiti, to winding through the Buller Gorge, standing atop the incredible Denniston Incline, and reaching the very end of the road at the Heaphy Track, every day brought something new to discover. We soaked up wild coastal scenery, nikau forests, rugged beaches, glaciers, gorges and rainforest walks, shared many laughs over meals, and enjoyed special experiences like the kotuku at the White Heron Sanctuary and strolling high among the treetops near Hokitika. Add historic towns, powerful stories, stunning sunsets and plenty of "wow" moments, and you've got a tour to remember. A huge thank you to our wonderful travellers for the great company and curiosity.

## Wairarapa Off the Beaten Track - February

After a stormy start, the Wairarapa turned on the sunshine and delivered four beautiful days of history, coastlines and connection on our “Wairarapa - Off the Beaten Track” tour. We wandered the beautiful grounds of Te Parae and Brancepeth, climbed to the Castlepoint Lighthouse and travelled through Castlepoint Station with those breathtaking coastal views. We saw seal pups playing at Cape Palliser, art, gardens, boutique browsing in Greytown, and a final step back in time at Cobblestones Museum. A wonderful mix of stories, scenery, shared laughs, and country hospitality, from dining at Tirohana Estate to coastal fish-n-chips. Thank you for travelling with us.



**Wairarapa - Brancepeth Homestead**



**Wairarapa - intrepid travellers on the way to Cape Palliser**

## Online Tour Survey

We'd like to say a huge thank you to those who completed our online survey. This was sent out only to our email members for speed and ease of data analysis. We were absolutely thrilled with the response and truly appreciate you sharing your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions. Your feedback is incredibly valuable and plays an important role in helping us grow and improve. We have carefully reviewed every response, and your insights will help the way we shape our tours and communications moving forward. In fact you will notice a few subtle changes to Tranzscript this month, reflecting some of the helpful feedback you provided. We're excited about the improvements ahead and look forward to bringing you even better tours in the future.

Congratulations to Susan Andrews who won the prize draw of a \$300.00 travel voucher. Susan has been notified.

## Facebook

We're excited to share that our Tranzit Tours Facebook page has had a revamp! We'll be using Facebook and social

media platforms much more to showcase upcoming tours, exclusive offers such as **EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS**, behind-the-scenes moments and exciting announcements for 2026 and beyond. Make sure you're following our page to stay in the loop – there's plenty of inspiration, updates and special promotions coming your way!



## Give a Gift Voucher

Celebrate the moments that matter with our newly styled Tranzit Tours gift vouchers – the perfect present for Mother's Day, Father's Day and every special occasion in between. Beautifully refreshed our vouchers give the gift of experience, connection and unforgettable memories. It can be used towards a concert, a day tour or a travel club tour. You're not just giving a voucher – you're giving something to look forward to.

## Help us save a few pigeons!

If you have an email address, we'd love to send your Tranzit Tours Tranzscript straight to your inbox rather than by post. It helps us cut down on printing and postage (and gives our hardworking pigeon post a well-earned rest!)

While you're at it, please let us know if any of your contact details have changed. And if you'd prefer not to receive our newsletters anymore, that's okay too - we'd much rather know.

## Do you need a guest speaker?

Our tours team covered quite a lot of ground last year, visiting members' villages and clubs to talk about our tours and travel club and thoroughly enjoyed our time meeting folk.

We are planning another series of visits around the lower North Island 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.

## The important stuff:

Our promise - Tranzit Tours is made up of a fun and adventurous team where you, our guest, always come first.

The Tranzit Tours difference gives you:

### Door to Door Transfers

We never compromise on your comfort or safety – from the moment we pick you up from your front door, to the moment we drop you off at home.

### All inclusive

From the moment our driver collects you from the front door 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.

### Destinations & Attractions

Our tours offer a mix of big-ticket wow factor attractions and destinations such as Doubtful Sound, the Moeraki Boulders and Taupo to lesser-seen landscapes - all from the seat of a comfortable coach.

To discover more of our tours and for full itineraries visit [www.tranzittours.co.nz](http://www.tranzittours.co.nz)



Cathedral Cove - Coromandel Getaway

## Book now

For enquiries and reservations call:

**06 355 4955**

**0800 471 227 ext 2 (Tours Team)**

8:00am - 5:00pm, Monday - Friday

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

33 Matipo Street, Palmerston North



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