

# SHIP n SHORE

## Tours and Cruises

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## Taranaki Rhododendron Tour

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – 6 Days

*This has to be the supreme garden tour of the year! But it's not only magnificent gardens that this region offers. This year, we have extended the Rhodo Tour to 6 Days to include a night in Taumarunui, so we can travel the full length of The Forgotten World Highway, make a stop in Ohura and have an overnight at the historic Whangamomona Pub! We've also replaced all of our private gardens (except Korito – everyone loves Dee!) to make an impressive total of eight Private Gardens, along with Guided Walks in the showcase gardens of Pukekura Park and Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust. But it's not all about gardens - Cruise, by scenic lifeboat (launched on Rails!) to a seal colony, walk the fabulous Coastal Walkway, visit Tawhiti Museum (with indoor cruise). Also see Puke Ariki Museum and Govett Brewster Art Gallery PLUS catch the Northern Explorer train home!*



Meals: B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner

### Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November

D

We make our way south towards The King Country (monument pic above) and have a lunch stop at Otorohanga, before we arrive at our overnight destination, Taumarunui.

*Central Park Motel  
Phone 07 895 7132*

### Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November

BLD

After a drive to the top of Te Peka Lookout, for the best views over Taumarunui, we are guests at *Bradleys Gardens*. We can meander through 9 different rooms featuring, the cottage garden, gazebo lawn, lavender lane, Italian garden, olive grove cathedral, and signature -



amphitheatre.

Then we visit Ohura, a ghost town, in the midst of rejuvenating itself with the growing cycle tourism market. The main street will amaze you!

Hungry? Lorraine and Kasey will have lunch ready for us at *Lauren's Lavender Farm*. Walk amongst the flowering lavender and peek over the edge of the garden down to



the Whanganui River. We're on the *Forgotten World Highway* already and we drive the full length of it till we reach the Republic of

Whangamomona to overnight at the historic – *Whangamomona Hotel*  
Phone 06 762 5823



**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November**

BD

Today we go south to Hawera to visit Alf and Bernie at *Gabot's Garden* full of maples, magnolias and fruit trees. Their large town garden has lots of colour, quirky garden art and even has a scale traction engine on display. Alf and Bernie will be providing morning tea.

A short distance away is, what we believe, the best museum in the country. *Tawhiti Museum* is described as



'the museum for those who don't normally visit museums!' Spectacular displays (some bizarre) using models and life-sized figures, this museum has scooped many tourism awards.

This afternoon we meet Linda at *Tairoa Lodge* who will take us on a house and garden tour of her graceful old villa surrounded by sweeping lawns and towering giant trees. To complete the day Linda offers us a Champagne Cocktail to enjoy in this peaceful setting.

Early evening we arrive at our home for the next 3 nights -

*The Plymouth International Hotel*  
Phone (06) 759 9128



**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November**

BD

After breakfast we arrive at *Pukekura* and *Brooklands Park* where informative guides take us on a Guided Walk in some of the 49 acres of native bush, walkways, lush fern gullies, formal flowerbeds, hidden dells, unique fernery, lakes, streams and waterfalls.



Then we are *launched on rails* in an old English life boat .... *straight out of the shed and into the harbour!* We cruise out to the Sugar Loaf Islands to get close up views of the local seal colony.

After all that excitement the pace slows as we enjoy free time in the centre of town; *Centre Mall* (shopping and food hall for lunch), *Puke Ariki Museum* and/or the *Govett-Brewster Art Gallery*.

This afternoon we drive past the serene Lake Rotomanu on our way to *Te Rewa Rewa Bridge*. This marks the beginning of our



optional coastal boardwalk stroll from the bridge to the famous *Len Lye Wind Wand* in the centre of town (either a 30minute or one hour walk).

Dinner tonight is the popular *Marbles Restaurant* Buffet at the nearby Devon Hotel. .

## Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November

BD

This morning we meet Noel and Rose at *Windsor View* in their one acre garden featuring clean lines and open space with rhodos, azaleas, hostas, irises and hydrangeas in a relaxed friendly atmosphere. Check out the rustic garden cottage and man shed while enjoying morning tea.

Our next garden, *Hillsborough Hideaway Haven*, is sure to have something for everyone as it boasts being a landscape project on a grand scale. Take a ride on the train to see NZ natives and exotics.



Then we are off to the lower slopes of Mt Egmont for the hidden 'jewel in the crown', *Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust*, with a guided tour of thousands of rhododendrons on display in a native rain forest setting. There is a café on site where you can purchase lunch.

Early afternoon sees us coming down off the mountain and heading to our last stop of the day, to meet Dee at *Korito.*,

This one-acre urban permaculture garden showcases the many ways to grow food and is used to teach sustainability and self-sufficiency. *And she has chickens!* Dee will entertain us with her knowledge and 'can-do' attitude.



## Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November

B



Today we are homeward bound, but before we leave New Plymouth we have one more private garden to visit. *Chapman Garden* is a small town garden, very compact with a great use of space. Judy's garden has interesting landscaping creating formal areas and a water feature set amongst a variety of showcase trees. Judy also has a very productive produce area.

On our way out of town we call into *Jim's Garden Centre* (a must do in New Plymouth!) to check out the wide variety of plants and garden art .... *and remember there is always room in the trailer for garden treasures!*

After leaving the Taranaki district our lunch stop is at *Mokau Whitebait Café* (a chance to enjoy some in-season whitebait or more conventional café food).

Further north, we arrive in Otorohanga to catch the

3.45pm *Northern Explorer* train to Auckland Railway Station. *You are welcome to purchase Dinner on the train.* Ron will be waiting for our 7pm arrival.



**\$1,943 Per Person** Includes Door to Door Coach Transport with Five nights Twin Share Accommodation with 5x Breakfasts, 1x Lunch and 5x Dinners. Entry to Eight Private Gardens with 2x morning teas and 1x champagne cocktail. Guided Tours at Pukeiti and Pukekura Park (buggy available in both places). Tawhiti Museum with Traders and Whalers Cruise and Chaddy's Harbour Cruise (weather permitting). Single Room Supplement is \$586. A deposit of \$400 Per Person is required to confirm booking, with balance payable four weeks prior to travel, by Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023.

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**TARANAKI RHODODENDRON TOUR – 6 Days**

Name/s.....

Address..... Phone No.....

Email Address .....

**Twin Bed Room** or **Double Bed Room** or **Single Room** (circle one)

Any Special/Dietary Requests:

Payment Enclosed: \$..... Balance Due: Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023 \$ .....

Bank Details: BNZ Orewa 02 0390 0028737 00 SHIP N SHORE TOURS

Scan/Email To: [tours@shipnshore.co.nz](mailto:tours@shipnshore.co.nz)

Post To: SHIP n SHORE Tours and Cruises Ltd, PO Box 564, WHANGAPARAOA 0943

**THE FINE PRINT:**

Seats are not confirmed until tour payment has been received, and Boarding Pass issued.

Cancellations - incur a loss of \$200 per person plus any prepaid non-refundable services (Rail, Accommodation, etc). Tours cancelled within 4 weeks of departure only receive a refund if we are able to re-sell the seat/s.

NOTE: Door to Door Coach Transport is for North Shore and Hibiscus Coast residents, we can meet others by arrangement. Due to Health and Safety, we are unable to transport 'Walking Frames'. You must be able to negotiate stairs and walk independently or with the aid of a walking stick.

SHIP n SHORE tour content is subject to change due to circumstances arising beyond our control i.e. most cruises are weather dependent.

Covid-19: If you test positive for Covid-19 prior to or whilst on tour you will need to adhere to current Health Department rulings. SHIP n SHORE will assist you but accepts no liability for any additional travel costs that may be required.