

PERUSING THE PACIFIC COAST

November 21 – 29, 2010



This tour will give you a unique opportunity to view many many miles of coastal vistas around the Coromandel, Bay of Plenty and East Coast areas. Other highlights are the Driving Creek Railway, Matakana Island, the Arboretum at Eastwoodhill and some lovely gardens.

Day 1 Sunday November 21 **D**

We depart Founders Theatre at 8.00am and head north to our morning tea stop in historic Clevedon. From here we meet the sea at the Firth of Thames to begin our coastal exploration. We have a visit to the DOC bird centre at Miranda before making our way to Thames for lunch and a local tour. Later we travel up the very scenic eastern side of the Firth to Coromandel where a full day is completed with a ride on the unique Driving Creek Railway. We overnight at Coromandel.

Day 2 Monday November 22 **BD**

This morning we continue up the coast through rustic Colville and on to the tip of the peninsular at Fletcher's Bay. Returning to Coromandel for lunch, we then cross the ranges and head down the eastern side visiting Whangapoua, Matarangi, Kuaotunu, and over the Blackjack Hill to Whitianga for the night.

Day 3 Tuesday November 23 **BD**

Those who wish will take the ferry across the inlet this morning and we will collect you on the other side. We then continue the journey down the eastern coast visiting Cook's Beach, Hahei, Hot Water Beach and on to Tairua and Pauanui. Following lunch we continue on to Whangamata for a local tour and overnight stop.

Day 4 Wednesday November 24 **BD**

This morning we head up over the hill to Waihi where we will take a trip on the train through the Karangahake Gorge. From there we cruise around Waihi Beach and Bowentown and stop for lunch in the mural town of Katikati. We visit Te Puna Quarry on the way to Tauranga where we will stop for the next two nights.

Day 5 Thursday November 25 **BLD**

We put the coach on the ferry this morning and travel across to Matakana Island for a guided tour. This is a fabulous day out and includes a ride down the beach on a horse and wagon followed by a full tour of the island and lunch. Our day ends with another ferry ride across to Sulphur Point and a quick look around the Mount before we return to our overnight accommodation in Tauranga.



Day 6 Friday November 26 **BD**

We head on down the coast through the rapidly growing area of Papamoa to Whakatane where we have an informative local tour and a lunch break. On through Opotiki we then start our journey around the East Cape with some of the most fabulous coastal views anywhere in New Zealand. Our over-night stop is at Hicks Bay Motel perched high on a hill with a breathtaking panorama over the Pacific Ocean.

Day 7 Saturday November 27 **BD**

This morning we travel on around the East Cape and visit the beautifully carved Church at Tikitiki and on through Ruatoria and Tokomaru Bay to our lunch stop in Tolaga Bay. From here we venture off the main highway to visit a lovely station homestead and garden. The day is completed at our hotel in Gisborne.

Day 8 Sunday November 28**BD**

An interesting day as we are taken on a guided tour of the district and then after lunch we travel to the "Jewel of Eastland", the Eastwoodhill Arboretum which contains the largest collection of Northern Hemisphere temperate-zone trees in New Zealand on its 65 Hectares. We will have a guided tour through this attraction. Our last stop is at the Corbans winery, where you can sample some of their fine products. We spend another night in Gisborne.

Day 9 Monday November 29**BD**

Today starts with a trip up Kaiti Hill with its 360o views and some of the other local sights of Gisborne and districts. After lunch in Gisborne, we set off for Wairoa, stopping at Nuhaka to visit Bremdale, a romantic rustic cottage garden with its attached organic horticultural area. This garden features Anne-Marie's Flower Barn with dried flowers, crafts and handmade rustic furniture also in abundance. We take a quick run down the Mahia Peninsular to visit one of my favourite little corners and finish our day at our motel in Wairoa.

Day 10 Tuesday November 30**BL**

An 8.00 start this morning sees us on our way to a morning tea stop at Forestry Headquarters on the beautiful slopes of Lake Waikaremoana. We then journey on through the awesome majesty of the Urewera National Park to a lunch break at Murapara. Our last visit on the way home is to the Garden Art Gallery in Rotorua where the husband and wife team of Graeme and Jeanette Blackburn maintain a lovely and interesting garden and Jeanette also produces original wildlife, landscape and floral paintings which are well sought after by collectors world-wide. We complete our journey on arrival back in Hamilton around 5.00pm.

**We have planned this tour to give you 3 options****Option A:**

Days 1-5, 5 day / 5 night tour of the Coromandel and Western BOP with return transport to Hamilton and Whangamata provided on the morning of Day 5.

Cost \$895, Single Supplement \$225.00

Option B:

Days 6 -10, 5 day / 4 night tour of the rest of the BOP coast and East Cape with our usual pickup service from Hamilton and Whangamata on the morning of Day 6.

Cost \$995, Single Supplement \$225.00

Option C :

(Recommended) The whole jolly thing. Obviously the best option!!.

Cost \$1890, Single Supplement \$4505.00

Our usual all inclusive fully escorted package

\$20 Deposit on booking - Balance by October 21, 2010

Late bookings welcome subject to availability

PLEASE SPECIFY WHICH OPTION WHEN BOOKING