

WANGANUI HISTORIC HOMES AND GARDENS

May 26 – 30, 2010



This is an interesting ramble around the Taranaki and Wanganui districts and will appeal particularly to those who enjoy New Zealand's early heritage buildings and homes.

Day 1. Wednesday May 26

BLD

We leave the Founders Theatre and travel south to TeKuiti for a garden visit and morning tea. Joining the little travelled road between Stratford and Taumararua our journey takes us through the picturesque splendour of the rugged heart of the King Country. On the right day the views from this road are breathtaking and all four of the North Islands major mountains can be seen. Our lunch break is at the historic Whangamomona Hotel and it is then on through the hills to civilization at Stratford. A stop is made to visit the wonderful Fun Ho museum in Inglewood on our way to our overnight stop in New Plymouth.

Day 2. Thursday May 27

BD

Time to see the local sights of New Plymouth this morning before we set off around the mountain with a stop at the Oaonui Gas Centre. Following lunch in Hawera we visit the Tawhiti Museum. This place can only be described as extraordinary. Believe me. Later for something completely different we will explore the Elvis Presley Memorial Room. Continuing on we arrive at our home for the next 3 nights in Wanganui.

Day 3. Friday May 28

BD

This morning we join John Vickers on his Tourism Award winning tour of four of the magnificent old homesteads and gardens of the Rangatikei area. This tour is recognised as one of the North Island's top attractions and includes a delicious lunch. We return to Wanganui for our last night there.

Day 4. Saturday May 29

BLD

We spend the morning visiting the lovely Wanganui Botanical Gardens and Busby Park with its magnificent old home surrounded by a 100 acres of gardens and trees before travelling back into Wanganui for a local tour. Following lunch we board the beautifully restored riverboat Waimarie for a journey up the Wanganui River. After the return journey down the river we visit a couple more of Wanganui's attractions - The Tower Hill Elevator and Moutua Gardens.

Day 5. Sunday May 30

BD

Our last day of exploring as we travel down the road beside the old paddlesteamer route of the Wanganui River visiting Pipiriki and the lovely old Church at Jerusalem. Our lunch stop is in Oakune before boarding the train for a ride down the scenic and historic Raurimu Spiral. Re-boarding the coach at Taumararua we travel homeward on the final leg of our journey.

Highlights include:

Colleen Coleman's garden &
Limestone soaps
Fun Ho Toy Museum
New Plymouth sights
Oaonui Gas Centre
Tawhiti Museum
Bushy Park Homestead
Waimarie Paddlesteamer
John Vickers Heritage Home Tour
Whanganui River Road
Forgotten Highway
Overlander train ride down the spiral.

5 days – 4 nights

All inclusive escorted package

TOTAL COST \$995

\$20 deposit on booking

Balance of \$975 by April 24, 2010

Single Supplement \$250

Late bookings welcome subject to availability