



## Waikato Horse Racing Tour

6 nights | August 2021

*The Waikato's temperate climate, regular rainfall, rich soil and lush pastures provides the ideal environment for breeding thoroughbred racehorses. Join racing personality and Magic Millions auctioneer, Steve Davis, for an indepth view of the world of racing and learn why NZ bred horses consistently perform to the highest level.*

### Fri 27 Aug      Auckland

Depart from Auckland this morning. City pick up at 9.00am, airport pick up at 10am.

At **Karaka's New Zealand Bloodstock** see behind the scenes with NZB auctioneer, Steve Davis. Steve will lead us through the world-renowned sales centre and stable facilities and regale us with colourful accounts of buying and selling blueblood pedigrees.

Later, visit the exceptional facilities at **Westbury Stud Karaka**. Passion and dedication breeds winners and this Stud is no stranger to the breeding and rearing of elite horses. The property is designed for thoroughbred breeding and is renowned for being one of the most modern complexes in New Zealand with post & rail fencing throughout and room for up to 10 stallions at any one time.

This afternoon, we'll journey over the Bombay Hills into the mighty Waikato. Check in to the **Hidden Lake Hotel**, located in the heart of Cambridge.

**Good George** is an award-winning Waikato brewery with several excellent bars scattered around New Zealand. Just a short walk from your hotel is the **Good Union** where we will meet for dinner this evening. You might like to try a Flight of Ales pre-dinner.

### Sat 28 Aug      Cambridge - Te Rapa Races

Our base for the tour is the charming town of Cambridge, known for its trees and champions and recently voted NZ's "**Most Beautiful Large Town**". This morning we'll head out on an orientation walk of the town including a stroll down Cambridge's own walk of fame – it's not quite Hollywood but you never know which famous Kiwi you might spot!

This afternoon we go **racing!** The **Foxbridge Plate** is taking place at **Te Rapa Racecourse** and we will be hosted in one of the Lounges with enviable views of the racing. The Foxbridge Plate was first held in 1950 when Cambridge's mighty chesnut colt Mainbrace engaged in an epic race with Canterbury horse Beaumaris, with Mainbrace winning the duel.



## Sun 29 Aug      Hamilton - Cambridge

The morning will be spent roaming through the popular **Hamilton Gardens**. The Gardens tell the story of gardening through different civilisations and time, and showcase an amazing collection of plants and whimsical architecture. You will be astounded that Hamilton has such a fabulous internationally renowned treasure.

This afternoon is a much anticipated visit to **Cambridge Stud**. Originally established in 1976 by Sir Patrick and Lady Justine Hogan and now owned by Brendan and Jo Lindsay. Sir Patrick's selection of Sir Tristram as their foundation sire, followed by his equally prolific son Zabeel has changed the landscape of Australasian breeding.

## Mon 30 Aug      Matamata

For 35 years, David Ellis has been uncompromising in his development of **Te Akau** with the Stud being located near Ngaruawahia. The Stud is complimented by its **Racing Stables in Matamata** and Kranji Racecourse in Singapore. This morning we visit the Racing Stables for a tour of their exceptional facilities and see some of the horses on site. Te Akau lives by the philosophy that every horse is an individual to be understood and respected, and whose potential is in their hands. If you are interested in joining a syndicate, now is the time to ask questions and perhaps view any potential syndicate horses.

We continue our tour with a visit to the stunning facilities at **Waikato Stud**. Founded in 1967 by a billionaire oilman from Texas who purchased 188 hectares of dairy farm and promptly set about building the broodmare band and stallion roster whilst nurturing the land to become one of the world's leading producers of Group One winners.

Just down the road is another stunning farm made world-famous by Sir Peter Jackson when he found his perfect **Middle Earth** in a 500 hectare farm on the outskirts of Matamata. Even if you're not a 'Lord of the Rings' fan, a visit to **Hobbiton** is a truly amazing experience. Stroll through the lush pastures of "The Shire" on a guided movie-set tour, past Hobbit Holes, the Mill and on to the world-famous Green Dragon Inn for a well-earned beverage.

## Tue 31 Aug      Cambridge

An early start this morning for a visit to **Stephen Marsh Racing**. Stephen has firmly established himself as one of NZ's most successful young trainers with a steady stream of winners seeing him finish in the top 10 trainers on the premiership the past four seasons.

At the nearby **Cambridge Raceway** we'll have a tour of the new synthetic track – the first of its kind in New Zealand. With a history spanning over 100 years, this track has hosted Harness and more recently Greyhound racing in the Waikato. The new track will provide consistent winter racing – no more boggy tracks or cancelled meets due to wet weather!

We'll take lunch at the Bikery Café and then visit the **Velodrome** for an exclusive behind the scenes look at New Zealand's high performance cycling.

This afternoon will be a very interesting tour of the **Waikato Equine Veterinary Centre** with it's state-of-the-art facilities for taking care of equine athletes.

**Gloworm Kayak** (highly recommended optional activity) - this adventure takes us out to Arapuni where we board kayaks for an easy paddle along the southern edge of Lake Karapiro. Enjoy the twilight & silence of being on the water as the day draws to an end. As night arrives over the lake, paddle slowly up the Pokaiwhenua Stream and through the canyon carved out by water over many hundreds of years. Native ferns & trees drape over you, bird life is all around. When darkness falls we float silently back downstream, being guided by the glow worms on either side sparkling like Christmas lights. A magical experience.

## Wed 01 Sep King Country

Start the day with an easy drive to **Otorohanga** arriving at the **Kiwi House** in time for a talk from one of the keepers on the stars of their show – kiwi, kea and kaka. Time to wander around the native bird park, specialised kiwi nocturnal houses, the huge dome aviary and walk-through wildlife enclosures.

Murals, sculptures and beautiful flower baskets grace the main street, giving it the official name of NZ's **Kiwiana Town**. A visit to **Haddad's Menswear** store is an absolute must do whilst in Otorohanga.

A short drive south brings us to the world renowned **Waitomo Glowworm Caves**. The glowworm, *Arachnocampa luminosa*, is unique to New Zealand and as our Guide takes us deep in to the cave we will see thousands of these tiny creatures radiate their unmistakable luminescent light. An informative commentary on the Caves' historical and geological significance and a magical boat ride beneath the glow will surely enlighten you!

Our final stop of the day is in the small King Country town of **Te Kuiti** aka the **Shearing Capital of NZ**. Say giddyay to sporting legend Pinetree Meads before returning to Cambridge.

## Thu 02 Sep Tour Ends

The tour ends this morning in Cambridge. Complimentary transfer to Hamilton Airport (shuttle transfer to Auckland additional cost). You might like to stay a little longer and do one or both of these highly recommended Tours:

### Half Day Blacksmith Experience at Kowhai Forge near Te Awamutu

#### 1 pm, afternoon tea & transportation included

A great opportunity to get a taste of what blacksmithing is all about. Rob is one of the few time-served blacksmiths in New Zealand. He loves sharing his passion for blacksmithing and teaches with lots of enthusiasm and kiwi humour. You'll be introduced to some of the basics and will have time to make your own hand forged project, eg. fire poker, coat hook, herb/pizza knife, bottle opener or a small knife.

### Zealong Tea Estate near Hamilton

#### 9.30am, high tea & transportation included

Who would have thought in the middle of the Waikato you'd find an award-winning tea plantation. It all started with a camellia tree apparently. Your guide will lead you along the tea trail to learn how tea is picked and processed. You'll then learn the art of tea appreciation followed by a decadent high tea.

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### Price

NZ\$1875 per person twin share\*

NZ\$700 single supplement

\*if you would like to twin share, let us know and we'll endeavour to find you a same gender room-mate

### Tour Inclusions

- 6 nights accommodation 4\* hotel
- Daily breakfast, 1 lunch, 1 dinner
- Tour Guide
- Transportation in modern air-conditioned mini-coach
- Sightseeing & entry as specified
- Departure transfer from Cambridge to Hamilton Airport

### Excludes

- Meals and refreshments (unless specified in inclusions)
- Items of a personal nature
- Optional tours ( Gloworm Kayak - \$109, Blacksmith Forge \$199, Zealong High Tea & Tour \$89)
- Airport shuttle Cambridge to Auckland – approx. \$90 per person

*The itinerary may be revised at any time due to weather and availability of studs featured. Once the **Stallion Parade** schedule is out we will also include this in to the itinerary. There may also be a possibility of **Harness Racing** in Cambridge – dates to be advised.*

Terms & Conditions apply. See [www.roamtraveladventures.com/FAQ](http://www.roamtraveladventures.com/FAQ) for full details.



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