



# Taranaki Garden Festival

3 nights – Oct 2022

## Fri 28 Oct

Depart Cambridge/Hamilton this morning and drive south to **Te Kuiti**. Time to say giddyay to Kiwi legend, Pinetree Meads, who is immortalised in bronze right next to our morning tea stop. We journey on through the picturesque rolling countryside of the King Country. Lunch (own cost) at **Mokau**, renowned for their whitebait fritters.

In the afternoon we arrive in to **Waitara** and depending on time, will visit 2 or 3 gardens:

- **Winlea Acre**
- **Tikorangi The Jury Garden**
- **Waiongana**

Arrive in New Plymouth late afternoon and check in to our hotel. This evening we dine at the hotel's award-winning **Orangery Restaurant** – 2-course meal included.

### PLYMOUTH HOTEL (3 nights)

*4-star Qualmark hotel centrally located in New Plymouth. Heated saltwater pool and spa. Spacious executive rooms which have recently been refurbished.*

## Sat 29 Oct

This morning we take a short stroll along the award-winning Coastal Walkway to the **Te Rewa Rewa Bridge**. Fingers crossed for a clear day as the way this Bridge frames **Mt Taranaki** is an incredible sight.

Enjoy a ramble through the sculpted gardens and Chapman-Taylor house at **Tupare**. Today we also plan to visit:

- **Hirst Cottage**
- **Korito Gardens**
- **Somewhere Over The Rainbow Gardens**

There will also be some free time. Your choice to return to hotel to relax, or perhaps visit the contemporary **Len Lye art museum**, or **Puke Ariki** with its heritage and art collections.

We will be dining out this evening (own cost), and after dinner you will have the choice of visiting **Sequoia Steps Garden** or returning to hotel for an early night.

## Sun 30 Oct

Prepare for a big day out as we tiki-tour around the mountain exploring Taranaki's renowned gardens. You will have plenty of time to explore **Pukeiti** – this is one of the world's biggest and most diverse collections of rhododendrons and other exotics and at this time of year the gardens will be bursting with colour.

We then journey on around the base of Mt Taranaki to a property established by renowned plantsman Bernie Hollard in the 1920s. The **Hollard Gardens** boast a plant collection of national importance.

Free time in **Eltham** for lunch and a look around the shops, including the quirky Bank full of treasures and visit **La Vie en Rose** garden.

In the afternoon we explore **Oakley Garden** before heading to the surf town of **Opunake**. Take a stroll along the picturesque coastal walkway featuring colourful mosaic seats with fabulous views and a cute garden lovingly tended by locals.

Dinner at **The Orangery** – 2-course meal included.

## Mon 31 Oct

After breakfast we bid farewell to New Plymouth and head to **Inglewood** to visit either **Green Hills** or **Cairnhill** Garden.

By lunch time we'll be pulling into quirky **Republic of Whangamomona**. Time to roam around this wee village and learn about the controversial history. "Wet your whistle" in NZ's remotest country pub and grab a bite to eat (own cost).

In the afternoon, sit back and relax as we wind our way home via the **Forgotten Highway**. Our last garden stop is **Lauren's Lavender Farm** on the outskirts of Taumarunui where we'll have afternoon tea.

Tour ends back in Cambridge around 6pm.

### Cost:

\$1245 per person twin share (option to twin share, subject to availability)

\$330 single supplement

### Includes:

- 3 nights accommodation
- 3 buffet breakfasts, 2 dinners
- Tour leader / Driver
- Transportation in modern air-conditioned mini-coach
- Entry to gardens
- Pick up and drop off in Cambridge/Hamilton central

### Excludes

- Meals and refreshments (unless specified in inclusions)
- Items of a personal nature + optional tours/gardens

*Itinerary & gardens subject to change depending on local conditions.*

---