

EAST COAST AUTUMN ESCAPE TOUR May 5 – May 12 2021



HOSTED BY BEV ELLICE

WEDNESDAY 5th MAY 2021

Coach departs New Plymouth at 8:15am and heads to Napier with a stop at The Herb Garden in Ashurst for lunch.

On arrival into Napier you are taken to our accommodation for the next three nights.

ART DECO MASONIC HOTEL

3 x nights in a Superior Room.

Located in Napier, Art Deco Masonic Hotel is in the city centre and on the waterfront. Napier Beach and Nelson Park reflect the area's natural beauty and area attractions include Splash Planet and Marine Parade.



Facilities at Art Deco Masonic Hotel include a restaurant, a bar/lounge, and a rooftop terrace are available at this smoke-free hotel. WiFi in public areas is free. All 43 rooms provide conveniences like refrigerators and coffee makers, plus free WiFi and flat-screen TVs. Guests will also find room service, hair dryers, and safes.

The evening is at your leisure or you can meet us for a pre-dinner drink at the Rose Irish Pub located downstairs at the hotel.

THURSDAY 6th MAY 2021

This morning at 10am we head off on the **Art Deco Guided Walking Tour**.

This fascinating walk takes in the heart of Napier's Art Deco quarter, revealing to you the story of the 1931 earthquake and introducing you to the Art Deco style that the city is recognized for world wide.

You will be met by your guide at the Art Deco Centre and your tour will end at 11.30 am where you will be invited to view a free short movie 'The Day that Changed the Bay'.

You have an hour and a half of leisure time before we are picked up at 1pm for our **Afternoon Wine Tour**.

Our guide has expert knowledge of the wine making process having worked in some of the Hawkes Bay's leading wineries. There is an optional beer tasting option included and a wine, cheese, and biscuit platter amongst the vines.

On your return back to the hotel you have the evening at leisure.

FRIDAY 7th MAY 2021

Today we indulge the tastebuds with a morning visit to the **Silky Oak Chocolate Factory**.

In addition to enjoying a selection of delicious chocolates and hearing all about how chocolate is made, this experience also includes admission into the "Chocolate Thru' the Ages" museum. Covering 3,000 years of chocolate history, the museum tells the story of a food whose past is as rich as its flavour. Being the only comprehensive chocolate museum in the Asia Pacific region.

We then take some time for lunch at the Silky Oak Chocolate café which offers an array of sweet and savoury food.

After lunch we head to the **Arataki Honey Centre**.

Our guide will greet us before personally taking us through the Centre and on a more in-depth discovery of the honeybee's world and the impact they have on our environment. At the end of the tour you will receive a free 250gm pot of Arataki Classic Clover, MultiFlora, Rewarewa or MultiFlora with Manuka Honey.

On arrival back to the hotel we have three hours at your own leisure to either relax, shop or sightsee before we are taken by coach out to the **Craggy Range Winery** for dinner.

Craggy Range Winery Restaurant was the winner of two hats at the 2018 Cuisine Good Food Awards, Craggy Range Restaurant offers an intimate, comfortable, and relaxed space to enjoy Head Chef Casey McDonald's signature seasonal Hawke's Bay produce alongside Craggy Range wines. We will enjoy the shared menu which showcases the best produce from the local area & their very own kitchen garden.



SATURDAY 8th MAY 2021

This morning you have at leisure in Napier before we head to Gisborne on our coach at 1pm.

We arrive at our accommodation for the next three nights.

SENATOR MOTOR INN

3x nights in a 1 bedroom apartment.



Stylish and comfortable motel accommodation in the heart of Gisborne. Each of our spacious self-contained suites has its own balcony with views over the bustling inner harbour marina. From here you can take a relaxing riverside stroll along the riverside walkway to the spectacular Waikanae and Midway beaches in one direction or along the riverside walkway alongside the rivers in the other direction

Tonight we head for dinner at **The Marina Restaurant**

Situated on the banks of 3 rivers, the Marina provides more than just an amazing view. Come and try our modern European cuisine paired with local

wines.

SUNDAY 9th MAY 2021

This morning we head to **Dive Tatapouri** for their interactive Reef Ecology tour which is famous for its interaction with Wild Stingrays and is one of the most popular and unique things to do in New Zealand. The knowledgeable guides will walk you across the reef to meet the Tamariki (Children) of Tangaroa the Maori God of the sea. Whilst meeting the residents of the reef the guides will provide insightful information about the different species you may encounter.

On our return to Gisborne you have the option of leisure time or you can join Bev on a relaxed rail bike ride. This is a relaxed one-hour return journey that takes you out through rural plains, past vineyards and across the picturesque Waipaoa bridge. Suitable for all fitness levels, 12 km, one-hour excursion of flat contour with no hills – suitable for most levels of fitness with views of Nicks Head cliffs, vineyards and stunning countryside, standard bikes only.



The coach will return us back to the Senator Motor Inn and the rest of the evening is at your leisure.

MONDAY 10th MAY 2021

This morning we depart at 7am to Ruatoria for **Maunga Hikurangi** for a memorable cultural experience.

Immerse yourself in the world of Maori, back to when the demigod Maui fished up the North Island and Maunga Hikurangi was the first point to emerge from the sea.



Come face to face with nine larger than life carved pou (free standing sculptures) stand guard atop Maunga Hikurangi and watch the stories and legends of the local Ngati Porou people come to life. This experience includes an inspiring 4WD adventure to and from Maunga Hikurangi, panoramic photo opportunities at the highest non-volcanic peak of the North Island, native seedling to plant as part of eco-project, gift from the Ngati Porou tribe and light lunch atop Maunga Hikurangi all locally sourced.

We return to our hotel mid-afternoon for leisure time and a visit to the Gisborne Wine Centre is always a good idea.

TUESDAY 11th MAY 2021

This morning we farewell Gisborne and head to the golden sands of Mount Maunganui with a stop off at the **Eastwoodhill Arboretum**. The Arboretum is renowned for its stunning colours in autumn and is nothing short of spectacular.



The hundreds of maples, liquidambars, and both the red and scarlet oaks provide a beautiful range of colours. From the deep butter yellows of the Persian Ironwood and Yunnan Poplar through to the orange, reds and purple of the Liquidambar and scarlet oaks tree-lovers are spoilt for choice.

We have a couple of hours here to wander the gardens and have a bite to eat at the café before we hop back on the coach and head to Mount Maunganui. We will have a rest stop at Whakatane before we travel on our accommodation for the night.

The Pacific Apartments 1x night Standard Studio

The Pacific Apartments is situated in the heart of Mt Maunganui. The Main street is only a short walk away and there are plenty of restaurants and coffee shops for you to enjoy. Relax on your private balcony and from the higher levels admire the sea views or take a refreshing dip in the pool. The Pacific is located a short stroll from both Pilot Bay and the Mount's Main Beach, and 60m from the base of the Mount and the world-renowned hot salt-water pools.

Tonight we dine together for the last time before we head home at **No.8** which is described as a fusion of balanced flavours. Head chef Shane Kearns aims to delight customers with a menu full of choice that offers modern asian cooking unlike anything else in the Bay of Plenty. He and his team use fresh ingredients and a combination of bold cooking techniques to ensure you walk away knowing 'you can't get this at home'. The whole experience of dining at No. 8 has been designed specifically so our customers enjoy the chance to share each plate with friends, which enhances the experience rather than giving food envy.

Our staff are handpicked to make sure every meal you have here is unforgettable. The soft shell crab already has a reputation along with an array of choices which include a wide range of gluten and dairy free options.

WEDNESDAY 12th MAY 2021

This morning is yours to have at leisure before we board the coach at 11am to head to the **Hobbiton Village**. Here we experience the real Middle-earth™ at the Hobbiton™ Movie Set. Step into the lush pastures of the Shire™, as seen in *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* trilogies.

Fall in love with the Alexander family sheep farm, just as acclaimed director Sir Peter Jackson did, as you journey through the unequivocal beauty of the land, with the mighty Kaimai Ranges towering in the distance. Your guide will then escort you around the set, showing the intricate detailing, pointing out the most famous locations and explaining how the movie magic was made.

On conclusion of the tour we will stop for lunch at The Shires Rest Café before we head home to New Plymouth.



EAST COAST PACKAGE INCLUSIONS

- Return coach New Plymouth – Napier -Gisborne – Mt Maunganui- New Plymouth.
- Accommodation for 7x nights
- Tour admissions for Wine Tour, Art Deco Walking Tour, Rail Bike, Dive Tatapouri Stingray ecology tour, Silky Oak chocolate museum, Arataki Honey tour, Maunga Hikurangi, Eastwood Hill and Hobbiton.
- 3x Dinners at 1x Craggy Range Winery, 1x The Marina Restaurant, 1x No.8. Beverages not included.
- 1x lunch at The Herb Garden

8 Day/7 Night Hosted Tour ex New Plymouth \$2780.00 per person Double/Twin Share
Single Supplement \$950.00

This is a small group tour and we are working on maximum numbers of 14. Please register your interest with Bev.