

Join Ellen and Greg Lee - Forgotten Highway Tour 2021



Sunday 26th September 2021

8:30 am –Coach departs from Waipukurau to The Chateau Tongariro.

Chateau Tongariro, also known as the Grand Chateau, is a New Zealand hotel and resort complex, located close to Whakapapa skifield on the slopes of Mount Ruapehu. It is close to the volcanic peaks of Mount Tongariro and Mount Ngauruhoe, within the boundaries of Tongariro National Park, New Zealand's oldest. The building was completed in 1929 and, despite extensive refurbishment, it still retains much of the style of the pre-Depression era.

Heritage Classic Room.

3 Course Dinner in the hotel dining room. Please note all drinks are at additional cost during your stay.

Monday 27th September 2021

7:00 – 9:00 Breakfast in the hotel dining room (full cooked breakfast).

We enjoy a leisurely drive to Pipiriki to do the Whanganui River Adventure Tour.

The fascinating story of the Bridge to Nowhere. In 1917, the Government opened up the valley for settlement by servicemen returning from the great war. About 35 holdings were developed. The first job was to clear virgin bush.

Bridging the Mangapurua stream was always a problem, a swing bridge was the early access, but a better bridge was promised, the replacement bridge, now known as THE BRIDGE TO NOWHERE was eventually started in 1935, opened in June 1936. After a major flood in January 1942 funds were declined for maintenance, eventually the valley was officially closed in May 1942.

It's past history has so many stories to tell and all that remains is it's beauty of abandoned farmland regenerating back to it's natural podocarp forest and a bridge built in the middle of nowhere with reminders of past memories of those families who once lived there and decaying remnants of once was treasures and old home sites of the Returned Soldiers in that era of the Riverboats.

This tour is one of the most memorable experiences that brings you so close to an era of the past and present time, a tour that will surprise you with special thoughts of what might have been?

The tour departs from Pipiriki with a 55 minute jet boat journey upriver 32 kms to the Mangapurua Landing, through an area of spectacular natural features with deep river gorges covered with green tree ferns and lush native vegetation. With your guide we will take you on an easy grade 40 minute walk from the Mangapurua landing following in the footsteps of the early pioneers along the old roadway to the "BRIDGE TO NOWHERE" where you will stop for lunch on this historical monument of a bygone era and learn the history from your local guide.

WHAT TO BRING:

Lunch

Warm jacket

Suitable walking footwear

Sunglasses

THEY PROVIDE:

Tea, coffee, hot chocolate and Biscuits

DEPARTURE TIME:

(All year round) 10.00 am

Check-in 30 minutes before is recommended. All our tours depart from Pipiriki.

NOTE:

Age restrictions apply.

After our river adventure, we proceed to Taumaranui where we spend the night at the Forgotten World Motel. Dinner is included.

Tuesday 28th September 2021

7:00 – 9:00 Breakfast in the hotel dining room (full continental breakfast).

Today we take a shuttle bus to the start of the line at Okahukura. Here you will board your Rail Cart and set off on your journey through the Forgotten World. Immerse yourself in the changing views of rolling hills, remote farmland and native bush. Experience wildlife close to the tracks.

Stop along the way to hear stories, from your guide, of the land, its people and history. Travel over bridges and through hand-built brick tunnels, including the line's longest tunnel at 1.5km, and journey through the Tangarakau Gorge.

Enjoy morning and afternoon tea stops at historic settlements of Matiere and Tangarakau, and a Ploughman's lunch at Tokirima.

Tonight we stay at the Whangamomona Hotel take time to stroll around the Republic of Whangamomona, explore the town and its charismatic pub.

Dinner at the Pub is included.

Wednesday 29th September 2021

After breakfast, we return to Waipukurau via Stratford.

Tour Price is \$1499.00 per person and includes return coach to Waipukurau.

Single supplement will apply. (Once numbers confirmed)

Deposit to secure spot: \$300.00 Per Person

helloworld Travel Waipukurau
49B Ruataniwha St
Waipukurau
4200
New Zealand

06 8588140

Mob 021 118 2739

ellen.lee@helloworld.co.nz