



WEIR TOURS
NEW ZEALAND



High Country Stations, Gardens & Homesteads

20th – 31st October 2024

Our High Country Stations tour also focuses on the gardens and homesteads as we travel through the best southern scenery, visiting amazing High Country locations. Travel well off the beaten track meeting the farmers and being welcomed into their homes. Guided through beautiful properties while learning the different farming techniques of their challenging environments, this tour has something for everyone.

DAY 1: Sunday 20th October (MT, D)

Home - Picton

We depart from New Plymouth nice and early making our way south through Hawera collecting fellow travelers and stopping in Whanganui for a home baked morning tea. We head to Wellington to catch our early afternoon ferry to the South Island. Upon arrival in Picton we check in to our hotel with spectacular vistas over Marlborough Sounds. It's just a short stroll to the Waikawa Bay Marina and the picturesque Picton township. We meet at a designated time for our first group dinner at the on-site restaurant, getting to know the travelers who you will be sharing this great tour with.

➤ Accommodation: **Picton Yacht Club (03 573 7002)**

DAY 2: Monday 21st October (B, MT, L, D)

Picton - Kaikoura

After breakfast we head to the Picton harbour to board our boat which will transfer us to the amazing Arapawa Seafarms, for the unique **Paua Pearl Farm Tour**.

While cruising through the Queen Charlotte Sound we are entertained by the expert commentary from the skipper and guide. Our destination, approximately one hour by boat, is Whakenui Bay on Arapawa Island. On arrival you will be greeted by the owners of Arapawa Seafarms where the unique Blue Pearl or Paua Pearls are grown. We are welcomed into their home and treated to a delicious morning tea while learning their fascinating story firsthand.

They will then personally guide you on a tour of the Paua farm, where you discover how the Blue Pearl came to be and see how they are produced; with the opportunity to purchase beautiful jewelry. We then enjoy a picnic style lunch on the return journey taking in the magnificent views.

Back on the coach we head south through the Marlborough wine country to the coast. We stop along the way for photo opportunities and to view seals. As we travel down the stunning coastline you will observe firsthand the major changes and great engineering feats after the damage caused by the 7.8-magnitude earthquake in November 2016.

Arriving in Kaikoura you will be given free time to wander the township and the beach before we drive around the peninsula viewing more of the famous wildlife. We then head out to our countryside accommodation with Irish flair to enjoy a drink before dinner.

➤ Accommodation: **Donegal House (03 319 5083)**

DAY 3: Tuesday 22nd October (B, MT, L, AT, D)

Kaikoura - Christchurch

Today we travel to Christchurch via the inland road which was the first route in and out of Kaikoura opened after the 2016 Earthquake. We stop in historic Waiau for morning tea where we are met by members of historical society who will show us through the **Cob Cottage Museum**.

It is then onto **Hurunui Hills**, which is a hill country farm in North Canterbury. We will be greeted by the family farming here who have been guardians of the land since 1884. Over lunch in the woolshed the farmer will give an in-depth explanation on producing premium Merino sheep and the farming practices for their Angus cattle.

From here it's just a short drive to the new **Hurunui Shearing Museum**, a shearing, farming, and local history museum in Waikari. We will be guided through the displays, then shown both a machine and blade shearing demonstration.

Our next stop is at the beautiful **Amberley House** which sits in a 6-hectare garden variously planted over the past 150 years with over 2500 specimen trees. In addition to the house and gardens, Amberley House has one of New Zealand's largest sport horse stud and stables (breeding sport horses for the Olympic events). There is also a grass-fed Angus cattle raising farm at another hill country station further back in North Canterbury's mountains.

On arrival we will be treated to a light afternoon tea while being given a background talk on the property followed by a tour of the house. We are then led through the wonderful gardens, stables, and an overview of the cattle farm operation that is run from Amberley House. From here it's just a short drive through to Christchurch and our great accommodation for the next two nights.

➤ Accommodation: **Scenic Hotel Cotswold (03 355 3535)**



DAY 4: Wednesday 23rd October (B, MT, D)

Christchurch – Akaroa - Christchurch

A relaxed start to the day then we head out to **Banks Peninsula**, one of New Zealand's most unique landforms with endless hills, bays, and hidden bush.

Our first stop is at the stunning property of **Manderley Farm**, where the owners Ross & Mary Millar farm 300 hectares of hill country stocked with 1600 sheep and 100 beef cattle. We watch a sheep dog demonstration then relax in the fully restored 1876 historic homestead and sample some sumptuous homemade morning tea, while you gaze upon the bush clad vista looking over Lake Forsyth.

You will have time to meander down through the extensive gardens before making our way over to Akaroa. This scenic drive sees us arrive in the historic French and British settlement nestled in the heart of an ancient volcano just in time for lunch. You will be given free time to wander the town on the edge of the harbour at your leisure.

We are then off to one of the more unique attractions which has become a part of Akaroa's folklore, **The Giant's House**. An historic Akaroa house with original artworks, terraced gardens with sculptures and mosaics. A creative feast and a wonderful experience.

We then start making our way back to Christchurch but on the way, we detour off the main road and head around to French Farm where the final visit of the day is at **Shamarra Alpacas**. On the farm tour we enjoy an unparalleled opportunity to get up close and personal with alpacas and learn about this loving animal.

Back at the hotel we enjoy another great meal before resting our head for the night.

➤ Accommodation: **Scenic Hotel Cotswold (03 355 3535)**

DAY 5: Thursday 24th October (B, MT, L, AT, D)

Christchurch - Methven

Departing Christchurch, we head inland through the Selwyn District towards the Southern Alps until reaching Windwhistle, for the first farm tour of the day. **Point Station** is one of the early Canterbury runs where we enjoy a lovely morning tea while being given the history of the property from the owners. This is followed by a leisurely stroll of the large garden featuring established plantings of Rhododendrons and English trees. The visit concludes with a glimpse into the historic homestead.

We then follow the Rakaia River to **Middle Rock** where we are warmly welcomed by the hosts who will give the history of the property while a light lunch is being served in the garden. There is time to wander through the large Middle Rock Garden before concluding our visit with a farm coach tour with in-depth commentary from the owners.

The final visit today is to **Ben Lea** where we start with a short farm tour including a visit to the golfing resort at Terrace Downs. Returning to the homestead there is time to wander and enjoy the large homestead garden before afternoon tea is served.

We then make our way through the scenic Rakaia Gorge to Methven where we spend the next two nights. Once checked into the accommodation you will have the opportunity to visit the luxury hot Pools & Spa Retreat at Ōpuke Thermal Pools & Spa. Sourced from the mountains and powered by the sun Ōpuke Thermal Pools is a unique experience where you can relax while soaking in the Southern alpine views.

We then meet back for dinner and rest up for another great day of exploring tomorrow.

➤ Accommodation: ***Ski Time Methven (03 302 8398)***



DAY 6: Friday 25th October (B, MT, L, D)

Methven – Erewhon – Methven

This morning, we are collected from our accommodation for a real High Country experience in purpose-built 4x4 vehicles. We head through Mt Somers to Lake Clearwater where we stop to take in the great views at this hidden gem. We carry on the scenic drive into the mountains past high country rivers and lakes to **Erewhon Station**, home to the working horses. Erewhon Station is a picturesque 35000-acre sheep and beef property nestled amongst the Southern Alps.

The Station includes a large Clydesdale Horse Stud, and they endeavour to use horses instead of vehicles. We tour some of the farm on a **Wagon Tour** behind these amazing horses taking in the magic high country views. We are also treated to a working horse demonstration before we travel to a station hut where we set up a picnic lunch while learning the history of the area from our local guides.

After lunch we start making our way back out stopping at the remote **Mt Potts High Country station**, home of Mt Sunday. This part of the country provided the magnificent backdrop for the Lord of the Rings movies, which helped put New Zealand on the world map as one of the most stunning filming locations.

After immersing ourselves in the natural, unspoilt beauty of this breathtaking area, with its sparkling clear lakes, glistening blue rivers, and fresh crisp mountain air, it's back into Methven to our hotel for a chance to relax in the lovely surroundings before dinner.

➤ Accommodation: ***Ski Time Methven (03 302 8398)***

DAY 7: Saturday 26th October (B, D)

Methven - Tekapo

A relaxed start to the day before heading into South Canterbury to the beautiful **Orari Gorge Station**, which is set in the foothills just north of Geraldine. It consists of river flats at 750ft above sea level, rolling clay downs at 1000-1500ft and tussock country rising to 3,500ft. As well as the Orari Gorge Romneys and Orari Gorge Herefords they also run 7000 commercial ewes, 400 commercial cows and 1500 hinds.

After being guided through the historic buildings and meandering around the gardens and bush track, we head into the charming boutique village of Geraldine. Here you have free time to wander the town and get yourself some lunch.

First visit of the afternoon is the **Geraldine Vintage Car & Machinery Museum**, which is home to one of the finest collections of Vintage and Veteran Cars, Tractors and Machinery in the Southern Hemisphere.

We then cruise out onto the Starlight Highway over Burkes Pass and into the heart of the Mackenzie Basin, which offers landscapes unique to New Zealand. Arriving at Tekapo we first stop to view one of the region's most famous and photographed icons that is the **Church of the Good Shepherd** on the stunning lakefront of Lake Tekapo.

We drive around the lake's edge to get familiar with the surroundings before getting settled into our fabulous accommodation. For those who choose to, you can arrange a visit to the famous hot pools (at your own expense).

➤ Accommodation: **Peppers Bluewater Resort (03 680 7000)**



DAY 8: Sunday 27th October (B, L, D)

Tekapo – Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park

After a scrumptious breakfast we head out well off the beaten track to make our way to one of New Zealand's ultimate high country farms, **Mt Cook Station**, situated on the northeast side of Lake Pukaki. Throughout the 2619-hectare property that stretches approximately 20km up through the Tasman Valley, there are spectacular views of Aoraki/Mt Cook, the Southern Alps, Lake Pukaki, and the Jollie and Tasman Rivers. We are joined by the farmer for a coach tour through some of the farm learning about life on High Country Stations of the magnificent Makenzie country.

From here we make our way around to the other side of the lake to Glentanner Park where we have lunch .

The final leg of the day is a short drive down into the Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park to tonight's outstanding accommodation, the iconic **Hermitage Hotel** in the Aoraki Mount Cook Alpine Village. The National Park is a breath-taking environment of glaciers, terminal lakes, turbulent rivers and Australasia's tallest peak, the mighty Aoraki Mt Cook soaring above to 3724m. Tonight, we dine in the world class restaurant surrounded with breathtaking views.

➤ Accommodation: **HERMITAGE HOTEL (03 435 1809)**

DAY 9: Monday 28th October (B, L, D)
Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park - Cromwell

This morning is a relaxed morning with the chance for you to partake in some amazing optional activities (own expense).

There is the option to book an incredible *scenic flight* in either a Ski Plane or Helicopter flying over and/or landing on the largest glacier in NZ, the Tasman Glacier, with amazing up-close views of the Southern Alps.

Another option is the unique *Glacier Explorers tour*, (limited numbers) which is the only tour of its kind in New Zealand and one of the only accessible glacial lakes containing icebergs in the world. Explore and learn about the ever-changing glacial landscape as you journey across the terminal lake in custom-built MAC Boats with experienced guides. – *Please note: there is a certain level of fitness required for this activity.*

Please register your interest for the above activities at the time of booking.

Those preferring a relaxed indoor option can visit the *Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre*. A tribute to Sir Edmund Hillary, humanitarian, ambassador and one of the world's greatest explorers, the centre showcases the Aoraki Mount Cook region, its people, and its place in the universe. Otherwise, you can simply have a relaxed morning at your own leisure in the spectacular surrounds with great short walks for those who are keen.

Back on the coach it's time to leave this special part of the country as we head to Omarama for lunch before carrying on over the Lindis Pass. We have a quick stop in Tarras, the northern gate to Central Otago, where you can view the one and only **Sherk Museum** and have a chance to browse through the Merino Shop.

We then arrive in the stone fruit capital of New Zealand and visit the family run business of **Jackson Orchards** on the outskirts of Cromwell. You will be taken through the different sectors of their 73-acre operation, from picking the ripened fruits, be they apples, pears, peaches, apricots, nectarines, plums, or cherries, to sorting and grading. The Fruit stall offers seasonal fresh fruits, nuts, dried fruits, honey, preserves, real fruit ice creams and smoothies. As part of the tour, you will be given your own box of produce from the fruit stall.

Next, it's just a short drive to our outstanding accommodation nestled amidst sparkling mountains and lake vistas of Pisa Moorings, Cromwell, which is also where we dine tonight.

➤ Accommodation: **Marsden Lake Resort (03 445 3417)**

DAY 10: Tuesday 29th October (B, L, D)
Cromwell – Queenstown

A relaxed start to the day before heading out to the **Wanaka Lavender Farm**, where you can experience 10 acres of beautiful lavender fields and display gardens. Enjoy a walk through the flowers, meet the friendly farm animals, then relax over a cup of tea and seasonal lavender treats.

We then make our way to one of New Zealand's most beautiful and historic deer farms, **Criffel Station**. We embark on a fully guided farm tour and enjoy an informative and hands-on introduction to deer farming, beekeeping, and authentic Kiwi farm life. There is a scrumptious lunch organized in the Woolshed while enjoying this authentic family-run working deer farm.

From here it is a scenic drive through the Kawarau gorge into the Gibbston Valley, also known as the 'Valley of the Vines', one of the most scenic wine growing areas you will ever encounter. Here we have a wine tasting in New Zealand's largest wine cave and catch a glimpse of the winemakers in action.

It is then onto New Zealand's premier tourist destination where you have a few hours to yourself to settle into our fantastic central accommodation which allows exploring the small resort town easy and is just a stone's throw from the beautiful botanical gardens and Lake Wakatipu.

➤ Accommodation: **Novotel Queenstown Lakeside (03 442 7750)**

DAY 11: Wednesday 30th October (B, D)

Queenstown

After a restful night's sleep and a hearty breakfast, you can choose to join the group and take the scenic drive down Lake Wakatipu to Glenorchy, a true slice of New Zealand paradise. Or you can choose to stay and wander about Queenstown or maybe partake in its famous activities.

We all meet back late afternoon and prepare for the final evening of the tour. Tonight, we are in for a real treat as we board the iconic century old coal-fired steamship, the **TSS Earnslaw**. We cruise across Lake Wakatipu to **Walter Peak High Country Farm** where we will be treated to farm demonstrations and enjoy a gourmet barbecue dinner at the Colonel's Homestead. After this fantastic meal we then cruise back to Queenstown enjoying the breath-taking views while singing the classic songs of old.

➤ Accommodation: **Novotel Queenstown Lakeside (03 442 7750)**



DAY 12: Thursday 31st October (B)

Queenstown - Home

All good things must come to an end but before we catch our flight home, we head out through Arthurs Point and onto the delightful gold rush village of **Arrowtown**. You will be given free time to explore this charming and quirky village nestled beside the sparkling Arrow River, before the final journey out to Queenstown airport to catch the early afternoon flight.

If you are staying on to do the West Coast section of the Grand Traverse, then you will be dropped back at the hotel where the rest of the day is yours to do as you please (dinner provided).

Total cost of the High Country Tour 2024:

Tour payments per person

- Twin/Double share: **\$5995pp** ex New Plymouth/Hawera/Wanganui
- Single Supplement: **\$7845pp**
- Deposit due at time of booking **\$1000pp**

Please note your seat is not secure until deposit has been paid!!

Balance of tour payment due 60 days prior to departure – 21st August 2024

Tour cost covers:

- All amazing farm visits as stated in itinerary.
- All other activities/attractions stated in **bold**.
- Queenstown – Wellington flight (except Grand Traverse)
- All coach travel as stated in the itinerary.
- Interislander Ferry travel.
- Two course or buffet dinners every night.
- Breakfast every morning (continental and/or cooked on occasions).
- Lunch on day 2,3,5,6,8,9,10.
- Morning & afternoon teas as stated in itinerary.
- Twin share accommodation (single supplement available – contact office)
- Experienced Tour Leader.
- 5-star quality tour coach.
- Tour photos.

GRAND TRAVERSE: Should you wish to do both the High Country and West Coast Tours the total cost would be \$10,300.00 twin share or \$13,600 for single – see also West Coast Tour Itinerary.

To book: **06 278-5858** or weirbros@xtra.co.nz



WEIR TOURS

NEW ZEALAND

TERMS & CONDITIONS....

(Applicable for New Zealand Tours 01 July 2023 – 30 June 2024)

Acceptance Of Terms & Conditions

If you have booked a tour with us and pay your deposit, you are deemed to have accepted these terms. We may ask you to sign a copy of these terms when you join a tour to provide a record that you have accepted these terms.

Itineraries

The Itinerary for your tour package was correct at the time of date and printing, however it is subject to change without notice. Your itinerary could change due to road or weather conditions, changes imposed by other tour operators or a range of other factors beyond our control. You agree that we have no liability to you for changes to your itinerary.

Price Amendments

Prices were correct at the time and date of printing; however, Weir Bros Tours reserves the right to amend the price subject to any changes in price imposed by other tour operators and carriers included in the itinerary or increases in government or other levies.

Health & Fitness

All passengers are required to acknowledge they are in reasonable health and are considered fit to travel and are not traveling contrary to any medical advice. By acknowledging their health and fitness to participate passengers are indemnifying us from all actions, claims and demands arising out of any lack of health and fitness.

Health & Safety Information including COVID-19

At Weir Bros our first priority is your safety and enjoyment while you are travelling with us. While we have always maintained a high standard of cleaning on our coaches. We have increased the frequency of cleaning when we are traveling on tours to help ensure your safety. Hand sanitiser will be provided, and we ask that you maintain government standards in terms of hygiene practices, this includes washing or sanitising hands frequently. For the health and safety of all passengers and staff on tour, any passengers showing symptoms of illness (such as fever, coughing or difficulty breathing) will not be accepted onboard the coach unless they can provide a negative

Covid-19 test result received within the past 24 hours.

Should any passenger start to feel unwell on arrival or while on tour, they must immediately advise their Tour Manager and may be required to visit a medical practitioner/medical centre/hospital. To continue the tour the passenger must provide a negative Covid-19 test and be deemed fit and well to participate fully on a coach tour. Any costs incurred will be at the passenger's own expense.

Payments, cancellations & Amendments

A deposit of 20% is required to Weir Tours at the time of booking to confirm your reservation and acknowledges your agreement to our terms and conditions. All balance payments must be received by Weir Bros prior to or on the date specified for final payment. Final payment is due 60 days prior to departure. If the full tour price is not received by this date, we reserve the right to cancel your booking. Payments can be made with Cash, Eftpos / Credit or Direct Debit via the account number supplied on the payment form. Please note if paying via credit card you will incur a fee of 2.5% on top of the original price. Weir Bros reserves the right to amend or reschedule the tour due to the result of circumstances outside the company's control. Weir Bros also reserves the right to cancel the tour due to insufficient numbers and in this instance a substitute date may be offered, or a full refund will be made available. Tour Prices exclude drinks, travel insurance or items of personal nature.

Weir Tours is not liable for any cancellation or change cost or penalties incurred via third party travel arrangements, including air travel, that may be affected thereby. All additional costs incurred are not liable by Weir Tours and will be passed onto you. Please ensure you have sufficient insurance to cover any costs incurred for unforeseen disruptions. Weir Tours is not responsible for other travel arrangements that you or your party have made outside of those made by Weir Tours and which are affected by our cancellations or amendments.

Force Majeure

Force Majeure Event means any event or circumstance beyond the control of Weir Tours, which has the effect of preventing,

restricting or changing the nature of the products and services sold to you including but not limited to: (a) an act of god (such as earthquake, flood, fire, explosion, landslide, lightning, action of the elements, force of nature, washout, typhoon, hurricane cyclone, tsunami, storm or storm warning of natural disaster); (b) industrial disputes, work ban or other labour dispute or difficulty; (c) acts of terrorism, political unrest, war or threat of war, riots or civil strife; (d) failure or delays to scheduled transportation and the closure of airports or ports; (e) Pandemic, epidemic or health risk including Covid-19; (f) all governmental and administrative actions, guidance and measures in any territory (including closure of borders and travel warnings and restrictions) Weir Tours have the right to cancel amend or reschedule your packaged tour during or following any force Majeure and if we do so you agree that we have no liability to you for any direct or indirect consequences of the cancelation, amendment or rescheduling.

Travel Insurance

Weir Bros strongly advises all passengers to purchase travel insurance when booking a tour. A comprehensive travel insurance policy gives peace of mind for unexpected issues or emergencies that may arise prior to or during a tour. Weir Tours cannot be held responsible for your failure to obtain Insurance which is appropriate, and we recommend you purchase your insurance at the time of, or soon after, booking your trip. Weir Tours will not be held liable for any costs incurred resulting from your failure to obtain adequate travel insurance.

Luggage

Although every effort will be made to will be made to handle guests' luggage carefully, we cannot be responsible, assume liability or accept claims for loss or damage to luggage and personal effects due to breakage, theft or fair wear and tear through hotel, airline, and group carrier handling. Therefore, it is important for protection that passengers make certain that they have adequate travel insurance to cover such eventualities.

Our Responsibilities

Weir Tours are responsible for booking and packaging goods and service provided by other operators such as hotels, attractions, and transportation companies to create your packaged tour. We take all practicable steps to ensure the safety and comfort for all involved in this packaged tour.

Your Responsibilities

You agree to behave reasonably throughout the tour and not to be a nuisance to other passengers. You agree to comply with our reasonable requests and the requests of other operators. You indemnify Weir Tours for any liability, costs, damages or other expenses we suffer or incur as a direct or indirect consequence of your behaviour while part of your package tour.

Removal From Your Package Tour

For the Well being of all passengers on your packaged tour, Weir Tours reserve the right to remove you from the tour and cancel your booking with us if you breach any of your obligations under the terms provided that, except in the case of a serious breach (as determined by Weir Tours) we will give you notice of your breach and a reasonable opportunity (which will be no more than 2 days) to remedy the breach before exercising our cancellation right. In the case of a serious breach, we can exclude you from the tour and cancel your booking by immediate, verbal, or written notice to you. In the event of such cancellation, you will be responsible at your cost for arranging any accommodation or travel costs and other matters as required as a direct or indirect consequence of the cancellation. In the event of removal form a tour no refund will be given.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation fees depend on when Weir Tours receives notification of a cancellation.

Bookings cancelled more than 60 days before departure incur 20% of tour cost.

Bookings cancelled between 59 and 45 days before tour commencement will forfeit 50%

31-44 Days Prior to tour commencement you will forfeit 75%

0-30 Days prior to tour commencement you will forfeit 100% of your tour price (No Refund)