



WEIR TOURS
NEW ZEALAND



West Coast Explorer

1st – 9th November 2024

This West Coast tour adds the second half to the Grand Traverse Tour travelling the entire length of the West Coast from Jackson Bay to Karamea. Enjoy welcoming hospitality and rugged scenery as we travel north experiencing the unique attractions only found on this coast.

DAY 1: Friday 1st November (D)
New Plymouth — Wanaka

This morning we head to the New Plymouth airport in plenty of time to catch our flight to Queenstown. During the stopover in Wellington, there will be time to get yourself some lunch.

If departing from another location, you will be given your travel details at the time of booking.

Upon landing you will collect your luggage and board the waiting coach which will take us through to Wanaka. Our hotel is conveniently located within easy walking distance of town and the lake, which you can enjoy before meeting for our first group dinner of the tour.

➤ Accommodation: **Wanaka Hotel (03 443 7826)**

DAY 2: Saturday 2nd November (B, L, D)

Wanaka - Haast

A relaxed start to the day before testing your brain while being amazed and amused at Wanaka's world of weirdness, **Puzzling World**.

It is then time to start the scenic drive over to the stunning West Coast. There will be plenty of stops to take in the scenery, with great photo opportunities of Lake Hawea and Lake Wanaka, before arriving at Makarora on the eastern side of the Haast Pass.

Here you will be treated to a scrumptious lunch before we hit the road to tackle the Haast Pass. After we pass through the Gates of Haast we stop to view **Thunder Creek Falls** before continuing along the Haast River to the coast.

When we arrive in Haast we visit the great DOC office to view the informative displays on the Te Wāhipounamu World Heritage Area. We arrive at our hotel with plenty of time to unwind and settle in for the night and enjoy another lovely group dinner.

➤ Accommodation: **Heartland Hotel (03 750 0828)**

DAY 3: Sunday 3rd November (B, L, D)

Haast

After breakfast we take a short drive south to the Waiatoto River, to prepare ourselves for a morning of discovery. We will embark on the only jet boat tour in New Zealand that takes you from the Ocean to the Alps within a UNESCO World Heritage Area (suitable for all ages).

Aboard the **Waiatoto River Safari** you will learn about the pioneering spirit of days gone by, early Maori history and later, the harshness of the wilderness that faced the European settlers. You also have the opportunity to step ashore and learn more about the flora and fauna of this fascinating area accompanied by the friendly, passionate, and knowledgeable guides. Lunch today is a true West Coast style BBQ loaded with local delicacies, the perfect way to finish off the morning.

Back on the coach we continue south, keeping an eye out for Dolphins, as we travel to the end of the road to the fishing village of **Jackson Bay**. This bay is incredibly isolate - there are more resident seals and penguins than people. A short bush walk to an isolated beach or the other option you may choose is to just take in the scenery while wandering around the village. A leisurely drive back to our hotel for some RnR before meeting for a pre-dinner tippie reflecting on a great day of exploring.

➤ Accommodation: **Heartland Hotel (03 750 0828)**

DAY 4: Monday 4th November (B, L, D)

Haast – Franz Josef

We start the day with a short drive north where an opportunity to stretch your legs at **Ship Creek** presents itself. There is a choice of a short swamp forest walk or a windswept sand dune boardwalk. Or, if you prefer, you can relax and enjoy the beach and search for your own Pounamu (Greenstone).

Continuing north we stop at Knights Point Lookout for amazing coastal views before arriving at **South Westland Salmon farm** for a light morning tea.

Our destination is the most photographed lake in New Zealand - **Lake Matheson**, offering unparalleled views of Fox Glacier, Mt Tasman, and Aoraki/Mt Cook. Lunch is at the café before we have a chance to stroll through ancient native rainforest to the Jetty viewpoint of the lake. Or you may choose to visit Reflection Gifts and Gallery, the perfect destination for NZ made memorabilia and gifts.

For those who wish to see Fox Glacier up close you have the chance to book yourself on a scenic flight (own expense – please ask for details when booking the tour).

When we are all back together, we head over the ranges to Franz Josef which is where we spend the night. You will have some time to wander the town and visit the fabulous West Coast Wildlife Centre, before meeting back at the on-site restaurant for dinner.

➤ Accommodation: **Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier (03 752 0729)**

DAY 5: Tuesday 5th November (B, L, D)

Franz Josef – Hokitika

After a scrumptious breakfast we head to Whataroa to experience NZ's only **White Heron Sanctuary Tour**. The tour consists of an informative minibus ride through private farmland into the Waitangiroto Nature Reserve. In the reserve, a short walk takes visitors through ancient Kahikatea rainforest to a purpose-built viewing hideaway to observe the magnificent Kotuku (White Heron) in their natural nesting environment. The White Heron use this area for breeding so can be seen in the nature reserve during the spring and summer months, usually mid-September until early March.

After lunch we continue up SH6, taking in the magnificent scenery to another great West Coast attraction, the **West Coast Treetop Walkway**. A great treetop adventure among temperate rainforest giants. Experience life with the birds, high in the ancient Rimu and Kamahi tree canopy. Easy access for all to enjoy along a steel platform 20 metres high and over 450 metres long.

For those not wishing to experience the area in the tree tops you can enjoy it with both feet on the ground and relax in the on-site café. It is then just a short drive into Hokitika where we will do a quick tour of the town and give you a chance to visit one of the Pounamu factories.

Tonight's hotel is right on the beach front where we dine while watching the sun set on another great day.

- Accommodation: **Beachfront Hotel Hokitika (03 755 8344)**

DAY 6: Wednesday 6th November (B, L, D)

Hokitika - Punakaiki

A relaxed start to the day and a chance for a morning beach walk before the short drive to one of New Zealand's premier cultural and heritage attractions, **Shantytown Heritage Park**. A faithfully recreated 1900s pioneer town, born out of, and stimulated by, the great West Coast gold rushes of the 1860s. You have time to explore the village, enjoy a **Steam Train Ride**, try your luck at gold panning, visit the Museum, and much more!

We then head into Greymouth to **Monteith's Brewery**, the original home of craft brewing in New Zealand. Here we have a brewery experience tour and learn about all the wonders of craft beer as we are guided through the state of the art brewing facility, bottling line, kegging area and museum. You can also choose to taste some of the products while learning the fascinating history.

We also have a delicious lunch organised here before we travel the Great Coast Road to Punakaiki. This section of highway has been named, by Lonely Planet, one of the Top 10 Coastal Drives in the world.

We stop at the famous **Pancake Rocks** with time to explore along the short, paved walk to the pancake-shaped rock formations, blowholes, and surge pools. You can also visit the new Experience Centre which celebrates the area's people, striking geology, unique wildlife, and cultural heritage.

We stay tonight at an ocean view retreat located right on the beach which is where we will also dine.

- Accommodation: **Scenic Hotel Punakaiki (03 731 1168)**

DAY 7: Thursday 7th November (B, L, D)

Punakaiki - Karamea

Waking to the sound of the waves we enjoy a leisurely breakfast before heading into the Buller District. Just north of Westport we meet our local guides and board 4WD vehicles for an historic guided tour exploring the coalmining towns on the **Denniston Plateau**.

We climb to the coal plateau, high above the coastal flats, where the underground miners toiled extracting high-quality coal. This area is rich in history, unusual landforms, and

outstanding scenery. A must see while visiting this coast. The Friends of the Hill Museum is our lunch spot today as we discover more about life at Denniston in its heyday.

Back on the coach we continue north passing through the lesser known townships to Karamea, the gateway to Kahurangi National Park. This area has an even more relaxed 'off the beaten track' feel, a true natural wonderland.

➤ Accommodation: **Last Resort (03 782 6617)**

DAY 8: Friday 8th November (B, L, D)

Karamea – St Arnaud

We start today with a scenic drive north as far as SH67 to the start of the Heaphy Track. After a short walk on the famous track, we start making our way back down the coast with a beach side morning tea spot lined up.

Once we pass back through Westport, we will follow the mighty Buller River through the beautiful Buller Gorge. We enjoy lunch today taking in the magnificent scenery before arriving at the **Buller Gorge Swingbridge Adventure and Heritage Park**. You will be given time to cross New Zealand's longest Swingbridge suspended 17 metres above the mighty river.

We then make our way to the small alpine village of St Arnaud, which is perched on the edge of Lake Rotoiti. We visit the lake before heading to our final accommodation of the tour nestled amongst the impressive St Arnaud Range.

We meet for a pre-dinner toast to a magnificent tour exploring some of the best locations and scenery in the country before enjoying our last group dinner.

➤ Accommodation: **St Arnaud Lodge (03 521 1869)**

DAY 9 – Saturday 9th November (B)

St Arnaud - Home

We load the coach for the final time and head over to Picton to catch our 11am **ferry** back to Wellington. You have time to get your own lunch while enjoying the crossing over the Cook Strait. We will make our way up SH1 dropping off fellow passengers on the way to New Plymouth.

Total cost West Coast Tour 2024:

Tour payments per person

- Twin/Double share: **\$4625 pp** ex New Plymouth/Hawera/Wanganui
- Single Supplement: **\$6075 pp**

- Deposit due at time of booking **\$1000 pp**

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

Balance of tour payment due 60 days prior to departure – 2nd September 2024

Tour cost covers:

- All activities/attractions stated in **bold**.
- New Plymouth - Queenstown 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 2,3,4,5,6,7,8.
- 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.

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 cancellation, 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 Wellbeing 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 from 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)