

Taranaki Rhododendron Garden Tour

Small group escapes for mature travellers ***4 nights/5 days***
Tour Dates: 16 – 20 October, 2020 21 – 25 October, 2020



Pukeiti is nestled in the rainforest on Mt Taranaki

Auckland - New Plymouth - Whanganui - The Chateau Tongariro - Auckland

This tour makes the most of New Plymouth while the rhododendrons bloom. Meet private gardeners, wander magnificent Pukeiti and visit the exhibits in the unique Tawhiti Museum. Other highlights include visits to Hawera, Whanganui, Cross Hills garden and the Chateau Tongariro.

Tour Highlights

- ♦ *Lunch at Carmel Farm with Rachel Anselmi*
 - ♦ *Meet John Wilmshurst and Diana Montgomery at beautiful Waiongana Gardens*
 - ♦ *Meet Judi Gopperth at Hirst Cottage and garden*
 - ♦ *Te Kainga Marire, a native garden of Global Significance*
 - ♦ *Visit Tupare House and garden now restored to its former glory*
 - ♦ *At Pukeiti see one of the world's great rhododendron collections*
 - ♦ *Visit Jenny and John Pease's formal Gravetye Garden*
 - ♦ *Explore Nigel Ogle's unique creation, Tawhiti Museum*
 - ♦ *Wander the Horner's country garden, Puketarata*
 - ♦ *The Wilson family's Cross Hills garden*
 - ♦ *Visit Jill Mouat's five acre Aramatai Gardens and ponds*
 - ♦ *Enjoy a private lunch hosted by Debbie Robertson*
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**TOURS
DIRECT**

0800 868 748

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Day 1 – Auckland – Piopio – Awakino Gorge – New Plymouth

We depart Auckland for Piopio where we have lunch with Rachel and Denzil Anselmi on their family farm. After lunch we travel through the Awakino Gorge and on to Waitara to visit Diana Montgomery and John Wilmshurst's Waiongana Gardens, a beautiful four hectare riverside garden well known for its herbaceous peonies. Dine in and stay two nights at the Waterfront Hotel in New Plymouth.

Waterfront Hotel, 1 Egmont Street, New Plymouth, Phone 06 769 5301

Day 2 – Hirst Cottage – Te Kainga Marire – Tupare – Len Lye Centre – Pukeiti

We visit Judi Gopperth at Hirst Cottage, Valda Poletti at Te Kainga Marire then Tupare House and garden. We see kinetic sculptures at the Len Lye Centre and visit Pukeiti, one of the world's greatest collections of rhododendrons.

Day 3 – Pukekura Park – Cairnhill Garden – Tawhiti Museum - Whanganui

We visit Pukekura Park and Cairnhill Garden at the start of the Forgotten World Highway and Gravetye Garden. We explore Tawhiti museum before visiting Puketarata Garden and touring the landmarks of Whanganui. Dine and stay at Quality Inn Collegiate Hotel.

Aotea Motor Lodge, 390 Victoria Avenue, Whanganui Phone 06-345 0303

Day 4 – Whanganui – Cross Hills Garden – Taihape – Chateau Tongariro

We visit family-owned Cross Hills garden in time for lunch. This large garden is renowned for its collection of over 2000 rhododendrons and azaleas. We dine and stay this evening at the classic landmark hotel The Chateau Tongariro at the foot of Mt Ruapehu.

Chateau Tongariro, State Highway 48, Mt Ruapehu Phone:07-892 3809

Day 5 – Chateau Tongariro – Aramatai Gardens – Crosshills Garden –Auckland

We are bound for Taumarunui and Jill and Leo Mouat's Aramatai Gardens. North of Otorohanga we enjoy a private lunch hosted by Debbie Robertson. We drive north through the Waikato to reach Auckland in the late afternoon.

There are many pathways to wander at Cross Hills Garden in the Manawatu.

General Inclusions

- All transport by comfortable, air conditioned coach (maximum of 18 travellers).
 - Services of your knowledgeable MoaTours guide.
 - Quality accommodation chosen for a "sense of place".
 - All meals
 - All Activities & Entrance Fees
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Special Activities Included

- Meet Judi Gopperth at Hirst Cottage, where the garden features a green and white theme.
- Meet Valda Poletti at Te Kainga Marire, a native garden of Global Significance.
- Visit Tupare House and Garden.
- At Pukeiti one of the world's greatest collections of rhododendrons.
- Meet June and Colin Lees at Cairnhill Garden.
- Jenny and John Pease's Gravetye Garden, a formal garden with hedges and topiary.
- Explore Nigel Ogle's unique creation Tawhiti Museum.
- Jennifer and Ken Horner's large country garden, Puketarata.
- Wilson family's Cross Hills garden, 7 hectares of park like grounds.
- Enjoy the stunning views from The Chateau Tongariro.
- Visit Jill Mouat's five acre Aramatai Gardens and ponds.
- Crosshills farm garden just north of Otorohanga.

Included Sightseeing & Exploring

- Travel through the heart of the Waikato dairy farmlands.
- Drive through the limestone country of the Awakino Gorge.
- Len Lye's Wind Wand kinetic sculpture on the New Plymouth waterfront.
- See lush rainforest on the lower slopes of Mt Taranaki.
- Tour the city landmarks and heritage buildings of Whanganui.
- The dramatic landscape of the Central Plateau.
- Take the mountain road to the Top of the Bruce to enjoy a snowy panorama.





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HOW TO BOOK

You can book on-line by [clicking here](#)

Or you can ring us on **0800 868 748**.

The \$750 deposit is fully refundable if circumstance change before the full tour invoice is paid.

BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS (Tours Direct in collaboration with MoaTours.)

Tour price & confirmation

New Zealand GST (Goods & Services Tax) of 15% is included in tour costs.

The deposit payment of \$750 confirms your booking and acknowledges your agreement to our terms and conditions.

Balance of tour price

The balance of the tour price is due to Tours Direct 70 days before the tour starts. If the full tour price is not received by this date we reserve the right to cancel your tour. Tour reservations can be made within 70 days provided full payment is made at time of booking.

Cancellation policy

Cancellation fees depend on when Tours Direct receives notification of a cancellation:

Bookings cancelled more than 70 days before departure: \$750 deposit refund

Bookings cancelled between 69 days and 45 days: cancellation fee of 50% of tour cost.

Bookings cancelled between 44 days and 31 days: cancellation fee of 75% of tour cost.

Bookings cancelled within 30 days or less of tour departure: cancellation fee of 100% of tour cost.

No refunds will be made after travel has commenced.

Tour payment

Direct bank transfer:

Please make your payment to Tours Direct Limited:

Account No. 12 3209 0179201 00

ASB Bank Limited

Credit card:

We accept payment by Visa or Mastercard. Please note, payment of balance of tour price made by Visa or Mastercard will incur additional fees.

Prices

All holiday prices are based on schedules, fares and tariffs current at the time of quotation. We reserve the right to vary the cost of tours if necessary, by reason of component cost increase. Tour costing will be guaranteed at the price prevailing at the date of final payment.

Luggage Limits

Travelling light: Please limit your luggage to one medium-sized suitcase weighing no more than 23kg. This will be stored in the luggage compartment and will not be accessible during the day. Bring a soft bag or small day pack that can be easily stowed on the coach for your rain jacket, sunhat, camera and other items.

Room & Dietary Requests

Special room and dietary requests will be accepted and passed on to the hotels and included meal suppliers but cannot be guaranteed.

Seat Rotation

For the enjoyment of all passengers we operate a daily seat rotation system which all passengers must participate in as a condition of booking.

Travel Insurance

To safeguard your tour payment in the event of your having to cancel your reservation or curtail your tour we highly recommend you take out domestic travel insurance before making final payment as any cancellations received will be charged according to our terms and conditions above.

Health, Fitness and Behaviour

Payment of the deposit by the client(s) acts as a warranty that the client(s) is/are reasonably healthy and/or fit to participate in the tour and the client(s) indemnifies us from all actions, claims and demands arising out of any want of health and fitness. We reserve the right to remove a client from a tour if their health, fitness or behaviour interferes with the tour or other client(s) tour experience in any way.

Responsibilities

We advise that the service provided is for the booking and packaging of goods and services provided by other operators such as hotels, attractions and transportation companies. Travellers are advised to familiarise themselves with the terms and conditions on which

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these services are supplied. Accordingly we will not be responsible and will be excluded from liability for any loss, damage, omission or acts being negligent or otherwise, committed by the operators of airlines, coach lines, cruise vessels, hotels or attractions used in connection with the tours.

Optional Tours

We do not operate these excursions. As such, no person employed or associated with us has any connection with the operators of these excursions. Accordingly, we cannot and do not take any responsibility for any injury, action, loss or damage of any type, arising in any manner from these excursions.

Accommodation and activities

Occasionally we may need to make a variation to the listed accommodation. This accommodation will be of the same standard or best available alternative. If an included activity is unavailable, we will provide an alternative activity of a similar standard. We reserve the right to amend/alter an itinerary where necessary.

Refund

Please note that no refund shall be made for any unused portion of any itinerary. Any alteration to the holiday, made by a client(s), shall be wholly at the expense of that client(s).

Transfers

Airport transfers in New Zealand are not included if travellers have pre or post tour accommodation booked outside the Tour Hotels.

Holiday Duration

The first and last day of most structured holidays is considered a travelling day and therefore depending on flight times may not necessarily be a whole day.

Force Majeure

Except where otherwise expressly stated in these booking conditions we regret that we cannot accept liability or pay any compensation where the performance of our contractual obligations is

prevented or affected by reason of circumstances amounting to "force majeure". In these booking conditions, 'force majeure' means any event which we or the supplier of the service(s) in question could not, even with all due care, foresee or avoid. Such events may include war or threat of war, riots, civil strife, terrorist activity, industrial dispute, natural or nuclear disaster, pandemic, adverse weather conditions, fire and all similar events outside our control.

Use of Imagery

We reserve the right to use photographs or videos taken during tours for promotional purposes. This may include, but is not limited to, use online, in printed material or at public events.