



Leisure Time Travel: Taranaki Garden Festival

Explore gardens in New Plymouth with like-minded garden enthusiasts, starting with a visit to the stunning Pukekura Park, a beloved gem of the region. Delight in festival highlights with visits to the renowned Tūpare and Pukeiti Gardens, showcasing incredible horticulture and design. You'll also explore a selection of private gardens, providing a rare opportunity to see hidden gems not usually open to the public. This small group guided tour offers the perfect blend of sightseeing, horticultural exploration, and festival charm. Whether you're a gardening enthusiast or simply love exploring lush landscapes, this garden getaway is packed with inspiration and natural beauty.



Starts in: Hamilton
 Finishes in: Hamilton
 Length: 5days / 4nights
 Accommodation: Hotel 4 star
 Can be customised: Yes

This itinerary can be customised to suit you perfectly. We can add more days, remove days, change accommodations, mix it up, add activities to suit your interests or simply design and create something from scratch. Call us today to get your custom New Zealand itinerary underway.



Inclusions:

Includes: All coach transport
 Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations
 Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring
 Included: Visit gardens of Pukekura Park
 Included: Taranaki Garden Festival
 Included: Guided tour of Pukeiti Gardens
 Included: Visit Tūpare Gardens
 4 breakfasts, 2 dinners



Day 1



Taranaki Garden Festival - Journey to New Plymouth

Your tour starts today as you travel to New Plymouth along State Highway 3 via Te Kūti, and the scenic Awakino Gorge Road to Mōkau. After enjoying lunch here (own cost), continue to New Plymouth where you'll visit your first garden; Pukekura Park. Located in the heart of New Plymouth City, this 52-hectare park has an amazing range of both native and exotic plants, all displayed in a natural setting with many wonderful views and vistas of the two lakes. Tonight, enjoy a group dinner at the hotel.

Your accommodation: Auto Lodge Motor Inn New Plymouth

Auto Lodge is New Plymouth's most surprising accommodation. Located just a two minute stroll from the fabulous seafront walkway, you will be welcomed and made to feel at home. With its own unique artistic style throughout the hotel, you will find hidden gems of architectural design and flashes of the hotel's growing art collection.

Meals included: Dinner



Day 2



Taranaki Gardens

During the festival, a selection of private gardens become open to the public. You'll visit a selection of these gardens, depending on which ones are participating in the festival. As you stroll through these enchanting spaces, you'll have the opportunity to gather fresh inspiration for your own garden and learn the unique stories that make each one special. On arrival back in New Plymouth, you are free to explore the city and enjoy dinner at leisure at a local restaurant (own cost).

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Meals included: Breakfast



Day 3



Taranaki Gardens Continued

Your first garden visit for the day is the historical Tūpare Gardens. Developed in 1932, Tūpare is a premier landscaped garden with a unique homestead, originally developed by Sir Russell Matthews and his family. Walking through the winding path sculpted on the hillside overlooking the Waiwhakaiho River, you'll find stately trees, deciduous maples, rhododendrons, hydrangeas, and much more, that were all carefully planted by Sir Russell. After, visit Pukeiti Gardens, a 360-hectare rainforest property located between Mount Taranaki and the coast. Established in 1951, Pukeiti is an internationally recognised garden known for its impressive collection of rhododendrons. Pukeiti also features sub-tropical vireyas, magnolia, pieris, and a diverse array of other plants, ensuring year-round beauty and interest. If time allows, you'll stop at a local garden or two on your way back to the hotel. Tonight, dinner is at leisure to allow you to experience more local culinary delights.

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Meals included: Breakfast



Day 4



Taranaki Garden Festival Continues

Your garden adventure continues today as you visit even more private gardens in the surrounding towns of Stratford, Eltham, Hāwera and Manaia. As you travel around this area of Taranaki, enjoy a range of unique and different gardens, with many garden owners on hand to answer questions and talk to visitors about their gardens. After a day immersed in nature's beauty, you'll return to the hotel for a special farewell dinner, celebrating the wonderful experiences of our Taranaki getaway.

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Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 5



Journey from New Plymouth to Hamilton

Before departing New Plymouth this morning, visit the stunning Te Rewa Rewa Bridge for a photo stop. The Te Rewa Rewa Bridge is reminiscent of a breaking wave or a whale skeleton. On a clear day, the arches of the bridge frame Mount Taranaki spectacularly in the distance. Departing New Plymouth, you'll retrace your journey back through the towns of Mōkau, Piopio and Te Kūiti, where you will stop for lunch (own cost). Following lunch, you'll travel through the King Country into Hamilton and onwards to your destination.

Tour details

Departures: Daily
Tour type: Small Group Escorted Tour
Starts: Hamilton
Finishes: Hamilton
Tour length: 5
Accommodation: Hotel 4 star
Car/transport type:

Accommodation summary

Day 1 Auto Lodge Motor Inn New Plymouth
Day 2 Auto Lodge Motor Inn New Plymouth
Day 3 Auto Lodge Motor Inn New Plymouth
Day 4 Auto Lodge Motor Inn New Plymouth
