
Leisure Time Travel: New Plymouth Festival of Lights

Immerse yourself in a captivating fusion of arts, community and nature at New Zealand's favourite light festival. Experience the magic of the TSB Festival of Lights set against the lush greenery of Pukekura Park in New Plymouth on this fully guided tour. Stroll through a dazzling wonderland where illuminated trees, shimmering lakes, and glowing waterfalls transform the park into a nighttime spectacle. The festival showcases breathtaking lighting installations from around the globe, a stellar lineup of local and national musical acts, and a vibrant schedule of entertainment. As part of this Taranaki getaway, you'll also enjoy sightseeing throughout Taranaki and New Plymouth. Visit the Stratford Glockenspiel and explore the acclaimed Tawhiti Museum for an immersive look at the region's history. Enjoy a guided tour of the Pukeiti Gardens, featuring breathtaking rhododendrons and lush native flora. Capture stunning photos at the iconic Te Rewa Rewa Bridge and enjoy some free time in New Plymouth.

Starts in: Hamilton
Finishes in: Hamilton
Length: 4days / 3nights
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: Admission to Tawhiti Museum
Included: Guided tour of Pukeiti Gardens
Included: Festival of Lights in Pukekura Park
3 breakfasts, 3 dinners

Day 1



New Plymouth Festival of Lights - Journey to New Plymouth

Today you will journey to New Plymouth along State Highway 3 via Te Kuiti. Travel the Awakino Gorge Road to Mōkau and then traverse Mount Messenger to Urutū. On arrival in New Plymouth, visit the stunning Te Rewa Rewa Bridge for a photo stop, before arriving at your hotel to settle in for the next three nights. New Plymouth is the major city of the Taranaki region. The region is renowned for its consistent surf and black sand beaches and of course, Mount Taranaki, which is shaped like a perfect cone. Dinner tonight will be in the hotel restaurant.

Your accommodation: Plymouth International

Plymouth International is a 4-star hotel with great facilities, including a heated saltwater lap pool and spa, relaxing courtyard, gym facilities, in-house bar and award-winning 'The Orangery' restaurant. The beloved Coastal Walkway is a short stroll from the front desk and great swimming at East End Beach is less than five minutes from there.

Meals included: Dinner



Day 2



New Plymouth Sightseeing

After breakfast this morning, begin your day by travelling south to Stratford. Stratford is located in the heart of Taranaki and is the gateway to Mount Taranaki and Egmont National Park. It is known for its Shakespearean theme and stunning parks and gardens. View Stratford's glockenspiel which is unique in New Zealand. The glockenspiel plays a scene from Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet four times daily (at 10am, 1pm, 3pm and 7pm) with figures made by the curator of the Tawhiti Museum, Nigel Ogle. The glockenspiel performs for approximately five minutes after the hour chimes are finished. After viewing the glockenspiel, travel to Hāwera to visit the Tawhiti Museum - an impressive visual history of South Taranaki. Tawhiti Museum is a truly unique enterprise and the creation of artist Nigel Ogle; its attention to detail is simply stunning. Widely acclaimed as the best private museum in the country, the museum uses life-size exhibits and scale models to present our heritage in a series of super realistic and engaging displays. All of these displays are designed and built on the premises in the 'Body Shop' and accompanying studio. Then travel back to New Plymouth via Surf Highway 45. Dine in the hotel restaurant tonight.

Your accommodation: Plymouth International

Plymouth International is a 4-star hotel with great facilities, including a heated saltwater lap pool and spa, relaxing courtyard, gym facilities, in-house bar and award-winning 'The Orangery' restaurant. The beloved Coastal Walkway is a short stroll from the front desk and great swimming at East End Beach is less than five minutes from there.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 3



New Plymouth Sightseeing

Enjoy a leisurely start to the day as it will be a late night tonight. There will be time in the morning for those who wish to visit the local shops. Puke Ariki, with its museum, heritage site and Information Centre is also worthwhile visiting or just enjoy a walk along the coastal boardwalk to admire the Wind Wand sculpture. Reconvene with the group in the early afternoon to visit Pukeiti Gardens. Boasting more than 10,000 rhododendrons and azaleas amongst lush native bush, ferns, mountain streams and a lively bird life, Pukeiti features drifts of primulas, hostas, bluebells and the world-renowned vireya collection, to provide year-round interest. Here, enjoy a guided tour of the garden to learn Pukeiti's stories and secrets and see it through the eyes of a gardener during the one-hour tour. After dinner tonight, venture out to see the TSB Bank Festival of Lights, where New Plymouth's gem, Pukekura Park will be transformed into a wonderland of lights! Fluorescent pebble paths sparkle beneath excited feet, majestic trees and plants glow, and waterfalls and lakes shimmer and shine beneath thousands of lights. There will be plenty of time to explore the lights at your own pace as you make your way through Pukekura Park.

Your accommodation: Plymouth International

Plymouth International is a 4-star hotel with great facilities, including a heated saltwater lap pool and spa, relaxing courtyard, gym facilities, in-house bar and award-winning 'The Orangery' restaurant. The beloved Coastal Walkway is a short stroll from the front desk and great swimming at East End Beach is less than five minutes from there.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 4



Journey from New Plymouth to Hamilton

This morning, depart New Plymouth for your return journey following State Highway 3, travelling through lush forest and over Mount Messenger and through the Awakino Gorge. Head inland and pass through the King Country towns of Piopio, Te Kūiti and Ōtorohanga before arriving back in Hamilton.

Tour details

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

Accommodation summary

Day 1 Plymouth International
Day 2 Plymouth International
Day 3 Plymouth International