

New Tours in our backyard!

DEAR FRIENDS,

Spring is here, and we are just a few weeks away from our first departure of the year, a sold-out tour to Tongariro, Taranaki and the Forgotten World. The team are so excited that after a winter of hard work and planning we can see that work come to fruition and have you out there enjoying New Zealand. We are still busy coming up with new ideas too and we are pleased to present two new tours, an exploration of the mighty Whanganui river and a very special short mid-week break to see the incomparable sculpture installations at Gibbs Farm on the Kaipara Harbour. Although the mini outbreak and Covid cluster in Auckland has been a disappointing setback for the country, it looks like alert level one is not far away. The relaxation of physical distancing requirements on flights and public transport is also a positive development and has resulted in Air NZ selling 110,000 tickets yesterday when the new rules were announced which certainly suggests we are all keen to get out and about. All of our tours can operate at alert level one or two, and we are looking forward to seeing many of you in the coming months.

We are always very happy to help you with any other holidays you are looking to book. Please feel free to get in touch with Penny in the office and she can assist you



TOURS WITH SPACES AVAILABLE

We have had a couple of spaces come available on our South Island by E-bike tour departing 16 November with Leen and Di Van Duin. This tour sold out immediately upon release so if you missed out, now's your chance. **Click here for more details**

Our two walking in Chatham and Pitt Islands tours in March sold out almost immediately so we have added a new departure of 20 November 2021. This is also almost full so please get in touch if you would like to book your spot. **Click here for more details.**

NEWLY CONFIRMED TOURS

East Cape – 10 February

On this tour we will take our time travelling around the East Cape including visits to the rarely visited back country stations of Waikura, Puketoro and Puketiti and a special visit to a commercial hemp plantation. The East Cape may be on your list of spots in New Zealand that you have not yet got to...this is your chance to come explore with us.

Southland, Stewart Island, The Catlins and Doubtful Sound – 23 March

The deep south is an area many New Zealanders have on their bucket lists but have not yet seen. Join us on a tour of the best of Southland including the Catlins and two nights on Stewart Island. A special element of this tour is an overnight stay on a ship on Doubtful Sound. The tour finishes in Queenstown and you can easily extend your stay to spend more time in the area.





CREDIT: WHANGANUI I-SITE

TOUR SPOTLIGHT

Whanganui history and heritage

Come with us to explore the mighty Whanganui river and surrounds. Once known as the “Rhine of New Zealand” the river holds a special place in the locals hearts and in 2017 in a world first, was granted the same legal rights as a human being. We take our time and spend two nights in a unique eco-lodge accessed by aerial cable car, visit the bridge to nowhere, see historic Jerusalem and enjoy a special half day charter on a vintage riverboat travelling downriver. Five more nights in Whanganui will include a back of house tour of Sarjeant Art Gallery and tours with a local historian who will bring the stories of the city and river to life. You will have a full day to enjoy the activities of “Whanganui Vintage Weekend” with classic cars, music, traditional glassblowing, scenic flights and rail car trips and much more. This tour will give you an in-depth look at one of the most interesting yet lesser visited parts of New Zealand.

TOUR SPOTLIGHT

Gibbs Farm and Matakana – short break

Join us on a short break this spring to visit Matakana, a small village just an hour north of Auckland. This tour is perfect for both dedicated and casual lovers of sculpture and art as we visit three distinct sculpture parks, the absolute highlight of which is Gibbs Farm which is only open to the public a few times a year. The sculpture installations on Gibbs Farm have been commissioned especially for the farm which is bordered by the Kaipara Harbour. You will also have the opportunity to visit one of the lesser known islands of the Hauraki Gulf, Kawau Island, on the daily royal mail ship enjoying time on the gulf and visiting the historic mansion house.

Click **HERE** to see a short video of the wonders to expect to see at Gibbs Farm



CREDIT: TOURISM NZ



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ALERT LEVEL UPDATES

At the time of writing it is looking promising that the country will return to alert level one in the next couple of weeks, we are able to run all our tours at alert level one or two. We will be following Ministry of Health rules and guidance about wearing masks on the coach. Passengers on a private charter service like ours, where all passengers can be traced, are currently not required to wear masks. For air travel, the government has removed the requirement for physical distancing on public transport although masks are still required on public transport such as airplane, train and public buses. We will update our advice if the rules change.

PEOPLE LOOKING TO SHARE

Woman to share with another woman **Walking Pelorus Sound & Golden Bay** January 25



Contact us for itinerary and details
Forward this newsletter to family and friends for them to receive our travel inspirations straight to their mailbox.



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