

## East Cape

Wednesday 11 – Wednesday 18 November 2026 | 7 nights



## TOUR OVERVIEW

The East Cape of the North Island has a rugged beauty inspired by its isolation and on this tour you will be traveling on one of New Zealand's greatest and lesser-known coastal road trips. This will be a leisurely journey because there is something new to see around every corner: stunning coastal scenery, white picture postcard bays and coves, remote settlements and farming communities, and the ornately carved gateways of the many Marae. Its rich bicultural history makes this a unique destination. You will have the opportunity to meet some of the local characters working on the out-of-the-way backcountry stations. This is an ideal opportunity to explore some of the local treasures in a part of New Zealand you may not have seen. You will enjoy two-night stays at most stops, meaning time to relax and less packing and unpacking.

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## TOUR INCLUSIONS

- The services of an experienced Calder & Lawson tour manager
- 7 nights accommodation
- Meals as specified in the itinerary
- Local guides
- All group transfers
- Admissions as detailed in the itinerary
- Activities and sightseeing tours with local guides as detailed in the itinerary
- Pre-tour material

## TOUR EXCLUSIONS

- Domestic travel to Hamilton (flights can be booked for you at an additional cost)
- Travel insurance
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Beverages during included meals, unless specified
- Personal expenses
- If you wish to pay by credit card, a surcharge of 1.5% will be charged

## IS THIS TOUR FOR ME?

This tour presents the opportunity to see an area of the country that is seldom visited. This tour will not be physically challenging, however the ability to stand and walk for 1-2 hours will enable you to fully participate in all activities.

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the 'living building' of Te Kura Whare - home of the the Ngāi Tūhoe people
- Explore the little-visited backcountry stations of Puketoro and Puketiti and hear the stories of pioneer settlers and modern-day farming
- Stop and explore the nooks and crannies of the East Cape: lighthouses, Maori churches, wharves, gorgeous beaches, and bays
- Explore the National Arboretum at Eastwoodhill
- Enjoy the slow pace of life around the coast
- Get to know some of the unforgettable characters of the East coast

## TOUR MANAGER: PENNY PICKETT



Penny Pickett has worked for many years in travel and is a fun and caring tour manager. She has previously lived in Gisborne and this will be her fourth tour of the East Cape. She famously was one of the first woman members of the Gisborne Gentleman's Club, and the only woman to win a snooker championship there!

# TOUR PRICE

**Twin share per person \$4,190**

**Single supplement \$890**

The above prices are in NZ dollars.

if you are a single traveller looking to share a room, please let us know and we may be able to find a suitable person willing to share.

**GROUP SIZE** Minimum 10, maximum 18

**VARIATIONS IN TRAVEL** We can make arrangements for any travel you would like to do before or after this tour, or book business class flights. Please contact us to discuss your requirements.

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK ONLINE](#)



# DAILY ITINERARY

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## Wednesday November 11, 2026

### Hamilton - Te Kaha

Meals: L/D

Coach: 4 hours, 30 minutes total

Overnight: Te Kaha

Travel from Hamilton via the picturesque Rotorua Lakes to Tāneatua where you will have lunch and experience a special guided tour of Te Kura Whare. Te Kura Whare is the centre of governance and home of the Ngāi Tūhoe people. This spectacular building is New Zealand's first certified Living Building and was designed in adherence with the most rigorous green building criteria in the world. Te Kura Whare meets the Living Building guidelines for net-zero energy and water consumption, zero waste generation and non-toxic materials. Every aspect of its design, construction and ongoing operation aims to minimise its ecological footprint while nurturing the natural ecosystem. We will learn of its importance to the Tūhoe people and how they came together to build it.

After lunch you will carry on to Ōpōtiki and a visit to the fascinating Opotiki Museum, this was a real treasure to explore on our last trip. From here it is a leisurely trip along the beautiful Pacific coastline as we approach the East Cape, to our accommodation for the night at Te Kaha.

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## Thursday November 12

### Te Kaha - Hicks Bay

Meals: B/D

Coach: 2 hours 15 minutes

Overnight: Hicks Bay

Begin your travel around the East Coast on the coastal road, stopping at Whanarua Bay to sample delicious Pacific Coast macadamias.

At Raukokore, visit the whitewashed Anglican church nestled beside the sea and check for penguins roosting under the floor. For movie fans, the next stop is Waihou Bay where 'Boy' was filmed. Stay the next two nights at Hicks Bay, known for its history and unmatched sunsets in the summer months.

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## Friday November 13

### Hicks Bay & Te Araroa

Meals: B/L/D

Coach: 1 hours 30 minutes

Overnight: Hicks Bay

Relax in Hicks Bay this morning before meeting Sue Pohuru, founder of Natural Solutions. A producer of East Cape manuka oil, honey, and bee products and recently featured on Country Calendar. Enjoy an informative and entertaining insight into the honey industry and life on the coast. Lunch today is at the Manuka Café. Continue on to Te Araroa to visit the iconic Te Waha-o-Rerekohu pohutukawa tree, the oldest in New Zealand. Travel out to the East Cape lighthouse and decide if you want to climb the 700 steps to the top!

Relax with a late afternoon drink and dinner with the group and enjoy the sunset views from the hotel.



# DAILY ITINERARY

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## **Saturday November 14** **Hicks Bay - Te Puia Springs**

Meals: B/D

Coach: 2 hours 15 minutes

Overnight: Te Puia Springs

Leaving Hicks Bay, continue to hug the coast road as you head to Tikitiki. You'll visit St Mary's church, one of the finest Maori churches in New Zealand. It was built in 1924 as a memorial to the Ngati Porou soldiers who died in WW1. Sir Apirana Ngata was the mastermind behind the spectacular interior design, featuring ornate carving and tukutuku panels.

On the way to Ruatoria, you will experience a special visit to a local Marae where you will be welcomed with a powhiri and share kai with the local kaumatua.

We pass through Ruatoria and later in the afternoon travel via Waipiro Bay to Te Puia Springs.

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## **Sunday November 15** **Puketoro Station**

Meals: B/PL/D

Coach: 3 hours

Overnight: Te Puia Springs

Travel inland today to Puketoro station, stop for morning tea and hear stories about the station's history and life working the land.

A picnic lunch will be at the station 'cookhouse'.

Head back to Te Puia Springs via Tokomaru Bay and take in the historic ruins of the old freezing works building from 1911. This is a reminder of a concluded but not forgotten chapter of the people of Tairawhiti and a reminder of the fluctuating fortunes of 20th century New Zealand economic development.

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## **Monday November 16** **Puketiti Station & Tolaga Bay**

Meals: B

Coach: 2 hours

Overnight: Gisborne

Spend the morning at the 7,000 acre Puketiti Station homestead where we have exclusive visiting access and learn its history. The station has been in the Williams family for 138 years, taken up by J N Williams, son of William Williams the first Bishop of Waiapu. With his brother Henry, he was involved in the translation and signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. Hear stories of life on an East Cape station, some of which have been published in the book 'Puketiti Station' by Bee Dawson.

Continue around the Cape for lunch at Tolaga Bay where you will be able to walk the rebuilt 660m long wharf. Locals love it for its history and also because it's an excellent place to fish!

Your final destination will be Gisborne and you will have a free evening.

# DAILY ITINERARY

## Tuesday November 17 Gisborne

Meals: B/L/D

Coach: 1 hour 15 minutes

Overnight: Gisborne

This morning visit one of the most innovative regional museums on offer, the Tairāwhiti Museum. This will be followed by a short coach tour of Gisborne, including the renovated wharf area and the spot where Captain Cook landed in 1769. Drive up the picturesque Ngatapa Valley and on to Eastwoodhill Arboretum.

Home to 25,000 species of exotic and native trees, shrubs and climbers spread over 135 hectares, this is the National Arboretum of New Zealand. Planting was done by Douglas Cook from 1910 onwards and the Arboretum is regarded as the largest and most comprehensive collection of northern hemisphere trees in the southern hemisphere. A naturalist, Cook gardened naked with only a gumboot on his spade foot!

Tonight you will have your farewell BBQ dinner at a locals home, a 1912 homestead that has been moved and restored over the past few years.

## Wednesday November 18 Gisborne

Meals: B

Coach: 6 hours

This morning you will begin your homeward journey, leaving Gisborne behind and winding your way through the Waioeka Gorge. Stop at the historic Tauranga bridge, one of only two harp-strung suspension bridges in the country before a lunch stop in Opotiki and the final leg back to Hamilton.



## HOW TO SECURE YOUR PLACE ON THIS TOUR

A deposit of \$1,000 is required to secure your place on the tour. This deposit becomes non-refundable once the tour has reached minimum numbers and becomes a confirmed departure.

Click below to complete the online registration form, pay the \$1,000 deposit, and your place on this tour is secured. Or you can complete a paper registration form. You can download one from our website [www.calderandlawsonstours.co.nz/forms](http://www.calderandlawsonstours.co.nz/forms) or give us a call and we will email or post one to you.

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

Can be found on our website [www.calderandlawsonstours.co.nz/forms](http://www.calderandlawsonstours.co.nz/forms), on the back of the paper registration form, or on the summary page when you complete an online registration. There is a 1.5% surcharge if you pay by Visa or MasterCard or 3% for American Express.

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