

Hawkes Bay - Off the Beaten Track

Wednesday 28 October – Tuesday 3 November 2026 | 6 nights



TOUR OVERVIEW

We know Hawke's Bay is renowned for winery lunches and farm fresh produce, but we delve deeper. Unpack once and spend six nights in a boutique hotel in the heart of Havelock North.

On this tour, you will meet local characters such as Graiham Clark, who will show you his eclectic home converted from the old BNZ bank in Waipukarau. You will visit country gardens, the huge Maraekakaho historic woolshed, and a highlight will be a special visit to Clifton Station and Cape Sanctuary. A city tour like no other around Napier in the Hawke's Bay Express, which feels every bit like an old-fashioned steam engine.

We also have a delicious selection of cafes and restaurants to tempt your taste buds during your time in Hawke's Bay, and of course, some wine tasting!

We are excited to be able to offer the opportunity to meet the people who own the gardens, homesteads and stations, as this gives you a unique and personal experience.

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TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Tour will depart from Hamilton.
- The services of an experienced Calder & Lawson tour manager
- 6 nights accommodation
- Meals as specified in the itinerary
- Local guides
- All group transfers
- All admission & entrance fees as detailed in the itinerary
- Activities and sightseeing tours with local guides as detailed in the itinerary

TOUR EXCLUSIONS

- Domestic travel to Hamilton (flights can be booked for you at an additional cost)
- Travel Insurance
- Personal expenses
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Beverages during included meals
- Hotel portorage
- Credit card fees

TOUR MANAGER: PENNY PICKETT

Penny has worked for many years in travel, including at Calder & Lawson Tours. She is a fun and caring tour manager; she has taken our East Cape tour several times and this Hawke's Bay tour in 2024 and 2025. She is looking forward to discovering the delights of another off-the-beaten-track tour with you.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- A guided tour of Clifton Station
- Take a tour of Napier on the "Hawkes Bay Express" - a road train.
- Visit Maraekakaho Station Historic Woolshed
- Gwava's Homestead and Garden
- Private visit to the converted BNZ in Waipukarau, now the home of Graham Clark
- Visit two country gardens.
- Te Mata Figs and Birdwoods Café & Gallery
- Wine tasting at Smith & Sheth
- A guided tour of the Cape Sanctuary. New Zealand's largest privately owned 'mainland island' conservation project.

IS THIS TOUR FOR ME?

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. People really like the opportunity to unpack once and stay the whole tour in the really lovely accommodation in Havelock North.

TOUR PRICE

Twin share per person \$4,290

Upgrade to a premium room (per person) \$150 twin, \$300 single

Single supplement \$990

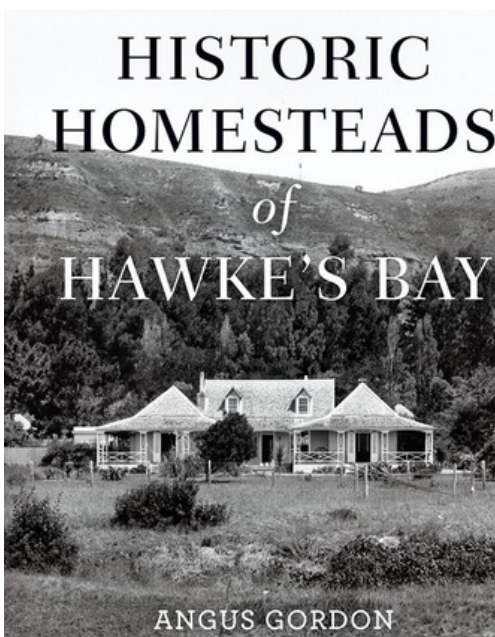
The above prices are in NZ dollars.

Please contact us if you are interested in a single occupancy place, so we can ensure there are single rooms available before you book. 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 your flights. Please contact us to discuss your requirements.

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK ONLINE](#)



DAILY ITINERARY

Wednesday 28 October, 2026 Hamilton - Havelock North

Meals: D

Coach: 5 hours plus stops

Overnight: Havelock North

Depart Hamilton in the morning and travel south. A stop in Taupo for lunch and a chance to stretch your legs with a visit to Lava Glass where you can wander an acre of manicured gardens with more than 600 glass art sculptures and also see the glass blowers in action in their studio (if operating on the day you visit)

Continue on to Havelock North and check into your home for the six nights, Porters Boutique hotel. A welcome dinner will be held this evening.

Thursday 29 October Waipukarau

Meals: B/L

Overnight: Havelock North

Head off for a day of exploring with your first stop for morning tea in Otane at Henry's Family Pie Shop, housed in a fabulous art deco building. Continuing south to Waipukarau you visit Graham Clark for a private visit to his eclectic and fascinating home in the old converted BNZ building in the centre of town. Ten minutes further up the road, we call into the Waipawa Central Hawkes Bay Museum. In 1986, the Historic Bank of New Zealand building in Waipawa was gifted to the people of Central Hawkes Bay by the District Council to house the museum. As you enter the museum, your eyes are drawn to Waipawa's main street depicted in the large mural on the wall, portraying the High Street businesses around the turn of the 19th Century. Wander through an early settler's cottage and then check out "Sam's Shed" full of old engines, saws and farming equipment.

Stop at Ashcott homestead for a guided tour of the grand 160-year-old homestead and gardens, followed by lunch. Round out the day with an afternoon wine tasting at Smith & Sheth Oenotheque, which is co-owned by Steve Smith MW (Master of Wine), who is well known for establishing Craggy Range.



DAILY ITINERARY

Friday 30 October

Clifton Station

Meals: B/D

Overnight: Havelock North

Today you will visit one of New Zealand's oldest working farms. Clifton Station stands as a testament to the perseverance of its pioneering farmers. Farmed today by fifth and sixth generation Gordons, the love and deep connection to the land is strong, with a collective family vision to hand the 800 hectares of land on to succeeding generations intact and thriving. Today, Tom Gordon runs the family farm. Tom was introduced to running the farm when he was a young boy, small enough to fit on the back of his father Angus's two-wheeler motorbike.

With a focus on innovation and diversification, the Gordons are transitioning from many traditional farming practices to a system of regenerative farming principles, raising Wiltshire (self-shedding) sheep, quality Angus cattle and growing certified organic pasture on the coastal flats.

In the afternoon, take a tour of Cape Sanctuary, New Zealand's largest privately funded and owned 'mainland island' conservation project which has been running since 2006. Travel through the Ocean Beach Wilderness area, on the lookout for endangered takahē and kākārīki. Venture to the pest-free enclosed site perched atop the ocean beach cliffs and learn of the work of their sea-bird restoration project. Finish a great day with a group dinner.

Saturday 31 October

Gwavas Garden and Maraekakaho Station

Meals: B/L

Overnight: Havelock North

This morning you head to Maraekakaho Station where you will have a guided tour of the historic woolshed and stables and then visit the local community hall.

Maraekakaho Station is located about 20 kilometres west of Hastings. From 1857 Donald McLean leased and bought land from the Maori owners. Donald McLean encouraged other members of his family to come to New Zealand from the Scottish Island of Tiree, and Maraekakaho Station was managed and staffed by his relatives and other family connections while Donald McLean himself was engaged in the process of land purchase for the Crown, ultimately holding the position of Chief Land Purchase Commissioner for the colonial government from 1853.

After Sir Donald McLean's death on 5 January 1877, Maraekakaho Station was inherited by his son, R D Douglas McLean. Under his management Maraekakaho became one of New Zealand's premier stations, renowned for its pure-breed Merino, Lincoln and Leicester sheep, shorthorn cattle, and horses - both draught horses and Welsh ponies.

Continue to Gwavas Garden and Homestead for a tour and lunch. The house and its wonderful collection of historical documents and memorabilia have so many tales to tell.

DAILY ITINERARY

Sunday 1 November Napier and Ongaonga

Meals: B/D

Overnight: Havelock North

Start your day at the Hawkes Bay farmers market where you can try and buy from some of the best local growers and food producers in the area. Head to Te Mata Figs, a family owned fig grower and creator of award winning fig products. The figs are grown without any fertiliser, sprays or irrigation and the products are manufactured using no preservatives and all packaging is recyclable where possible. Helen will show us around their property and introduce us to the delights of their fig products with time for a delicious coffee at their café.

In the afternoon visit Ongaonga historic village, which showcases the history and efforts of local settler families as well as the history of Onga Onga. The museum includes the recently restored Coles Joinery building, winner of the Hawke's Bay Heritage Tourism Award 2022.

Monday 2 November Gardens and train

Meals: B/D

Overnight: Havelock North

Round Pond Gardens, where we are hosted by Julie Russell, the owner and creator. Just 10 minutes from Havelock North, this truly exceptional 4ha garden created in 1994 from a bare paddock is the home of the biennial Wildflower Sculpture Exhibition and has been featured in national magazines and on gardening shows. The garden comprises of one hectare of intensively planted hedges, garden rooms, perennial borders and rose plantings. The balance encompasses specimen trees, olive trees, buxus and topiary features and a 250-metre expanse of poppies and wildflowers in spring and early summer.

Today's lunch stop will be at Birdwoods, a local cafe and gallery that has become a "must-see" destination and event venue. The gallery is full of treasures housed in a beautiful old church on an expansive rural property that incorporates an outdoor garden restaurant café, a sculpture garden and an old-fashioned sweet shop.

You will have some free time for lunch in Napier before boarding the delightful Hawkes Bay Express train for a 90-minute tour of Napier in all her custom-designed splendour, with velvet-covered cushioned seats and tasselled curtains, and travel in style. As the bell rings and the whistle blows, you'll feel your back in a time when all touring was first class. This modern road train feels every bit like an old-fashioned steam engine, with a romantic atmosphere straight out of the opulent 1930's.

Gather with the group for a farewell dinner tonight

Tuesday 3 November Homebound

Meals: B

Drive from Havelock North back to Hamilton with a lunch stop in Taupo.

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 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 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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