
Tokomaru Insights



Sunday 24th February to Saturday 2nd March 2019

Come and see New Zealand / Aotearoa from a different perspective on Tokomaru Insights – a journey by chartered 1930s railcar 'Tokomaru' and supporting coach as we take you to our favourite locations in the North Island, featuring private chartered railcar travel on all regional lines of the North Island – some of which have not seen this type of train since 1973.

All aboard!

Day 1

Sunday 24th February – Otahuhu to Rotorua

Depart Otahuhu (Auckland suburb) for Helensville, aboard our chartered railcar 'Tokomaru' where we will join our other tour guests for the journey south to Rotorua, travelling through Auckland and into lush Waikato country, with lunch served on board. Alight at Hamilton where we take a tour of the Hamilton Gardens on the banks of the Waikato River. Belying its humble origins, the impressive grounds feature several exquisite gardens representing major garden traditions from around the world, as well as a traditional English kitchen garden and Te Parapara, a traditional Maori productive garden showcasing Maori horticultural heritage and knowledge. Depart Hamilton by coach to Rotorua, at the heart of New Zealand's famed geothermal attractions.

Two nights' accommodation at Novotel, Rotorua.



Indian Char Bagh Garden (Hamilton Gardens)



Lake Rotomahana (Waimangu Volcanic Valley)

Day 2

Monday 25th February - Rotorua and Bay of Plenty

Today we enjoy a day trip by coach and train around Rotorua and the Bay of Plenty. Morning visit to Waimangu Volcanic Valley, an incredible landscape formed when Mt Tarawera erupted dramatically in 1886. A guided tour takes us past steaming lakes and craters to Lake Rotomahana for a discovery cruise on the volcanic lake. An awe-inspiring and memorable experience.

Driving through some of New Zealand's biggest forest plantations to the timber milling town of Kawerau, we join the train for scenic trip to Tauranga and enjoy a picnic lunch en route. The line runs right beside the Bay of Plenty for part of the journey, so be sure to pack your camera. We may even catch a glimpse of White Island, an active volcano 50 km offshore. Return by coach to Rotorua.

Day 3 Tuesday 26th February - Rotorua to New Plymouth

Depart by coach to Otorahanga where we rejoin the train for the trip through King Country to Tongariro National Park. The train climbs up to the spectacular Central Plateau via the engineering marvel of the Raurimu Spiral. Designed in the 1898 to allow trains to traverse the otherwise too-steep gradient, no feasible modern alternative has been found to the ingenious loops and tunnels of the Spiral. From Raurimu the line passes beneath the feet of the active volcanos of the Plateau – Tongariro, Ngauruhoe and Ruapehu – and weather permitting, you will have ample views of this stunning landscape. Alight at National Park station for lunch at The Station Cafe, National Park Village. After lunch, afternoon travel by coach to New Plymouth. Dinner at our hotel.

Overnight at the Waterfront Hotel, New Plymouth



Len Lye Wind Wand (Rob Tucker)



Mount Taranaki (Jeremy Beckers)

Day 4 Wednesday 27th February – New Plymouth to Whanganui

Morning tour of New Plymouth, a vibrant regional city in the shadow of Mt Taranaki, including the famous Wind Wand kinetic sculpture by the late Len Lye, an acclaimed and boundary-pushing artist born in the Taranaki region. Afterwards, a short trip on our private train to Inglewood and then transfer by coach to Waiwhakaiho in Taranaki / Egmont National Park which affords stunning views of picture-perfect Mt Taranaki, coastline and central North Island mountains. Optional short walks through the lush rainforest. Returning to the train, we journey to Whanganui, enjoying a packed lunch onboard before arrival mid-afternoon. Complete the day with a dinner cruise on the mighty and spiritually significant Whanganui River.

Overnight at the Kingsgate Hotel, Whanganui.

Day 5 Thursday 28th February – Whanganui to Napier

Depart Whanganui by train, journeying across the North Island to Hastings in the Hawkes Bay region. Lunch onboard as you sit back and enjoy the lush countryside. On arrival in Hastings in the afternoon, local touring by coach of Hastings and nearby Napier. Dinner tonight at the first winery in New Zealand, Mission Estate Winery, which was founded by the French Marists in 1838 to produce sacramental and table wine. The restaurant is located in the old timber seminary building with sweeping views over Napier and the Hawkes Bay coast.

Overnight at the Art Deco Masonic Hotel, Napier.

Day 6 Friday 1st March – Napier to Masterton

People from around the world are drawn to Napier, the Art Deco Capital of the world. After a devastating earthquake in 1931, the city was rebuilt in the reigning styles of the day. The city is unique in so comprehensively adopting the elegant Deco, Spanish Mission and Stripped Classic styles of the day and in restoring and maintaining these evocative epochal buildings. Step back to the '30s on a morning walking tour of the city centre with a local guide. Afterwards board the train for afternoon travel to the Wairarapa region, with lunch on board.

Overnight at the Copthorne Solway Park Hotel, Masterton.



Day 7 Saturday 2nd March – Masterton to Wellington

The Wairarapa is a landscape of sheep-dotted hills rolling down to the sea, rainforest-clad mountains and is a world-renowned wine producing region. From Masterton we travel down to Martinborough at the epicentre of the Wairarapa's gourmet delights and take a vineyard tour at Margrain Winery, with wine tasting and lunch. In nearby Featherstone we visit the Fell Locomotive Museum dedicated to H199, the only locomotive of its kind in the world, rescued from ruin in a local park and lovingly restored by volunteers. These unusual engines relied on a centre rail to navigate the very steep Rimutaka Incline through the Remutaka Range, between the Wairarapa and Wellington region, and operated from 1887 to 1955. Our own train journey onto the national capital, takes the modern replacement route through the Rimutaka Tunnel, one of the longest in New Zealand at 8.7 km (don't hold your breath!) and through the Hutt Valley to Wellington arriving in the late afternoon.



About Insights Tours

Insights Tours is a tour company operated by Paul, Brigitte and John Tuckerman. We arrange tours which utilise chartered trains, coaches and aeroplanes and provide passengers with spacious and ample accommodation. Our philosophy is to provide a tour with a spectrum of interesting visits, inspections and conveyances. Each tour is uniquely arranged to encompass the most interesting sights of the regions visited. Insights Tours engages our own guides to ensure that our passengers have the best insight into the location being visited.

Passenger numbers are limited to ensure a commodious travelling experience and to ensure that visits and guided tours are of maximum benefit. Each of our tours is personally escorted ensuring you can relax in the confidence that all of the pesky administrative details and arrangements are taken care of.

If you would like details or assistance with any booking, please contact us:

Telephone: (61) 02 4267 2535 Facsimile: (61) 02 4267 5530

Email: john@insightstours.com.au

Postal: PO Box 180

Thirroul NSW 2515

In person (by appointment): 14 Allenby Parade, Bulli, Australia

General Information & Booking Conditions

Cost

The tour cost is AUD 6,995 per person on a twin share basis.

Tour cost includes:

- exclusive chartered train travel on heritage railmotor no.31
- accommodation for 6 nights on a twin share basis in first class hotels
- all road transport by private chartered coach
- all sightseeing excursions, guided touring and entrance fees to all places as specified in the itinerary
- all meals
- all taxes, tips and gratuities
- Insights Tours escort throughout the tour
- drinking water at lunch and dinner daily
- complimentary Insights Tours refillable water bottle

Additional costs:

drinks, travel insurance and items of a personal nature

any other cost not included in tour cost

Single accommodation

As always, we negotiate the best possible tariff for our single guests and we pass on only the direct additional costs. The single supplement is AUD 485

Booking

This tour is for a maximum of 24 guests. To secure your place on the tour, please complete the enclosed booking form and return it to Insights Tours with your deposit. Deposit is AUD 1000 per person, payable at time of booking.

The balance is due no later than Friday 21st December 2018.

Payment may be made by direct transfer.

Cancellation Policy

For cancellations prior to or on Friday 21st December 2018 are subject to a cancellation fee of \$500 per person.

Cancellations after Friday 21st December 2018 forfeit the total tariff. That is, there is no refund.

Viability of Tour

In the event that the economic minimum number of guests is not reached, the tour will be cancelled by Insights Tours no later than Monday 24th December 2018 and we will refund in full any money paid.

In the event of the Australian dollar falling below our nominated exchange rate threshold before the due date of the final balance, we will write to you and advise of any required supplement.

Changes to Itinerary

There is always the chance that our itinerary could be delayed or curtailed in some way beyond our control. Except for prolonged or unexpected events, the tour will be conducted as closely as possible to the itinerary stated above. Every reasonable endeavour will be made to conduct the advertised itinerary however we reserve the right to alter the itinerary in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

Insurance

Insights Tours accepts your booking only on the proviso that you have comprehensive travel insurance. It should cover cancellation fees, costs incurred due to delays, medical assistance, repatriation and lost luggage. We are an accredited agent of Aussie Travel Cover insurance and can assist with arranging your insurance.

Health & Medical

Insights Tours recommends that to fully enjoy this tour you should be comfortable walking up to 1km. Most of the walking will be in national parks on well formed paths, in a vineyard and in cities and towns.

Visas

Australian passport holders do not require a visa for entry into New Zealand however, passports must be valid until at least 3rd September 2019. If you will be travelling on other than an Australian or New Zealand passport, please confer with us when you book.

Luggage

Please limit your luggage to one suitcase and one piece of hand luggage per person. Porterage of luggage is not provided.

Money

New Zealand dollars are the official currency. Credit cards are widely accepted.

Electricity

The same plug as used in Australia is also used in New Zealand.

Guides

Insights Tours has engaged licensed expert, English-speaking guides for all guided touring throughout the itinerary.

Train

Insights Tours has arranged the exclusive charter of Railmotor 31 Tokomaru from the Pahiatua Railmotor Society. The railcar entered service in 1938/1939 operating an express service between Wellington and New Plymouth. RM31 has a seating capacity of 48 but guest numbers are limited to 24 to ensure a spacious and enjoyable experience. For your comfort there is a toilet on board and opening windows.

Coach

Insights Tours has arranged the exclusive charter of a 50-seat coach which will provide all road travel and transfers throughout the tour and will also convey our luggage whenever we travel aboard the railmotor.

Tour Escort

As with all Insights Tours' itineraries, this tour is fully escorted. Your tour escorts will be John Tuckerman who is there to ensure that all of the pesky administrative and operational aspects of the tour are fulfilled and that the tour runs as smoothly as possible.

Booking Form**Tokomaru Insights**Sunday 24th February to Saturday 2nd March 2019

	Guest 1	Guest 2
Name (exactly as on passport)		
Address		
Email		
Passport Details		
Passport #		
Date of Birth		
Expiry Date		
Nationality		
Emergency Contact Person & Telephone		
Any special requirements or requests (especially dietary)		
Room type (please indicate)	<input type="checkbox"/> Twin (2 beds) <input type="checkbox"/> Double (1 large bed) <input type="checkbox"/> Single supplement (additional AUD 485)	
Deposit Electronic transfer/direct deposit Bank: Commonwealth Bank of Australia Account Name: Insights Tours Client Travel Account BIC/SWIFT Code: CTBAU2S BSB: 062607 Account Number: 1013 1313		

I/we acknowledge the terms and conditions of booking

Signature/s

 Guest 1

 Guest 2
Please return this form to us via either email: john@insightstours.com.au

or post: PO Box 180 Thirroul NSW 2515 Australia