

WAIKATO WANDERER & SPRING GARDENS

HOME – CAMBRIDGE – HOME

15 November 2023

6 Day Fully Hosted Tour



Waikato Wanderer & Spring Gardens 15th - 20th November 2023

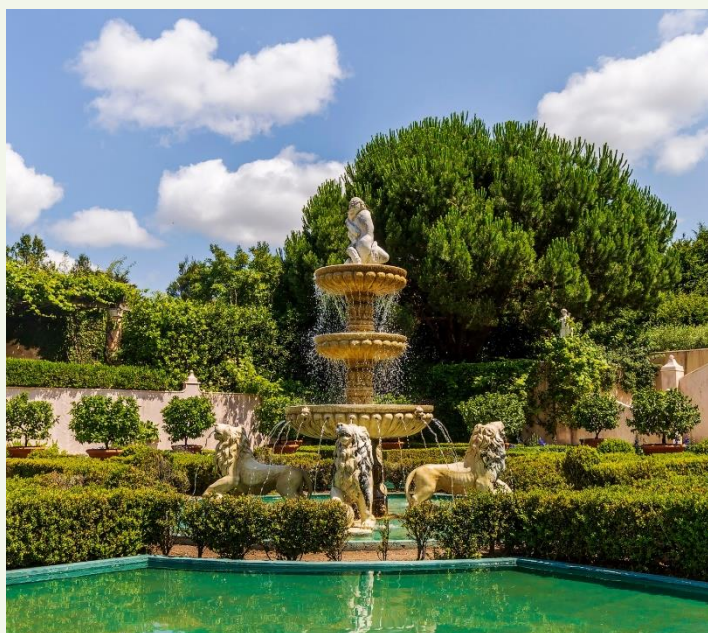
WED 15 Home - Cambridge

(D)

This morning we travel north up the Kapiti Coast across the fertile Manawatu Plains through the rugged Rangitikei and Mangaweka Hills to reach the Tongariro Volcanic Plateau, before heading of the Desert Road with spectacular views of the volcanoes of Ruapehu, Tongariro and Ngauruhoe.

We continue on around the shores of Lake Taupo and then travel through the rolling Waikato Farmland before arriving in Cambridge, our home for the next five nights.

Tonight, we have a Welcome Dinner together at our hotel.



THU 15 Local Sightseeing

(B)(D)

After breakfast today we travel a short distance to the city of Hamilton and upon arrival enjoy a **guided visit to the spectacular Hamilton Gardens**, set on the banks of the Waikato River. The unique theme of Hamilton Gardens is 'the story of gardens' which is explored through a series of five garden collections. The Paradise Garden Collection is a highlight of the gardens and features a Chinese Scholars Garden, English Flower Garden, Japanese Garden of Contemplation, American Modernist Garden, Italian Renaissance Garden and an Indian Char Bagh Garden. *Note: we will not visit all of the gardens today as we return on day 4.*

Before departing Hamilton Gardens, we enjoy a morning tea at the Lakeside Cafe before travelling to for a guided visit.

Our next stop today is a guided visit at the **The Sculpture Park at Waitakaruru Arboretum**. The Sculpture Park at Waitakaruru Arboretum provides an Art-in-Nature experience with over 100 sculptures and installations within one of New Zealand's largest outdoor galleries. Its 2km trail winds amongst a landscape of ponds, cliffs, rocks and thousands of trees created from a former derelict quarry.

Following our day out we travel back to Cambridge and enjoy dinner together tonight.

Meals included.

(B) Breakfast (L) Lunch (D) Dinner

Waikato Wanderer & Spring Gardens

This wonderful 6-day tour takes us on an adventure through magnificent gardens that are sure to educate, entertain and inspire you.

The Hamilton Gardens is a “must see” for those passionate about all things botanical. With a focus on having a story for each of the collections, enjoy themed gardens from Japan, Italy, America and more and we explore this over two half days to allow time to really stop and smell the roses so to speak. Our tour sees us enjoying a guided walk through the sprawling Sculpture Park at Waitakaruru Arboretum, providing us an Art-in-Nature experience with over 100 sculptures and installations within one of New Zealand's largest outdoor galleries.

Journeying through the Waikato region we visit The TreeChurch, a living chapel made of trees set in beautiful gardens before heading off in the afternoon to explore the movie magic at Hobbiton. Another charming garden is Villaleigh, nestled among the green pastures of the Waikato's rolling countryside, and is a gem where you can treat your senses while you stroll through the beautiful garden of surprises. Our journey would not be complete without taking time out to enjoy a Signature High Tea at Zealong Tea, with thoughtfully crafted savoury and sweet selections served amongst breath-taking views.

Another garden is the wonderful Woodlands Estate, full of history and timeless charm, nestled in the heart of Gordonton and is a unique and very beautiful homestead and Garden Estate with 5-star significance – we have plenty of time here to enjoy this wonderful destination including a group lunch together. Whether you are a keen gardener yourself or perhaps appreciate the botanical design of others, this lovely garden tour is sure to delight, and we are sure you will not leave disappointed.

Trip Highlights

- HAMILTON GARDENS GUIDED VISIT
- THE SCULPTURE PARK AT WAITAKARURU ARBORETUM
- TREECHURCH AND GARDENS.
- MIDDLE-EARTH WITH A VISIT TO THE HOBBITON MOVIE SET
- VILLALEIGH PRIVATE TOUR
- HIGH TEA AT ZEALONG TEA ESTATE
- WOODLANDS ESTATE



FRI 17 Local Sightseeing (B) (D)

This morning we head to Ohaupo and the **TreeChurch and Gardens**. The TreeChurch is a living chapel made of trees set in beautiful gardens. The Gardens also feature a labyrinth, perennial flower beds, ponds, doves, and many stunning trees.

Following our time at TreeChurch, we travel to Matamata where there will be time to purchase lunch before arriving at Hobbiton. Here we **Experience the real Middle-earth with a visit to the Hobbiton Movie Set**, the bucolic setting for The Shire that featured in the Peter Jackson directed films, The Lord of the Rings. Our tour starts with a drive by coach and guide travelling through the picturesque 1,250-acre sheep farm with spectacular views across to the Kaimai Ranges. Our guide will escort us walking through the ten-acre site recounting fascinating details of how the Hobbiton set was created. The Hobbit holes, Green Dragon Inn, Mill, and other structures created for The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit films can be viewed and you will see how this beautiful piece of Waikato farmland was transformed into The Shire from Middle earth. Upon completion of our tour enjoy a complimentary beverage in the Green Dragon Inn then return to The Shires Rest. Tonight, we dine together at a local Cambridge restaurant.

SAT 18 Local Sightseeing (B) (D)

This morning we depart Cambridge and travel to Huntly to meet Amy at **Villaleigh** for a guided tour of her 2.5 acre private garden. Amys' passion is perennial plants, but she also has a range of trees, shrubs, grasses, succulents, natives, annuals and herbs in her planting schemes and also has planted a large range of fruit trees and a vegetable garden.

Following our time with Amy, we then we travel back to Hamilton and arrive at the Hamilton Gardens where we depart on our 2nd guided tour to visit the remainder of these vast gardens that we were not shown on day 2 of our tour. Tonight, we dine together at our hotel.

SUN 19 Local Sightseeing (B) (L)

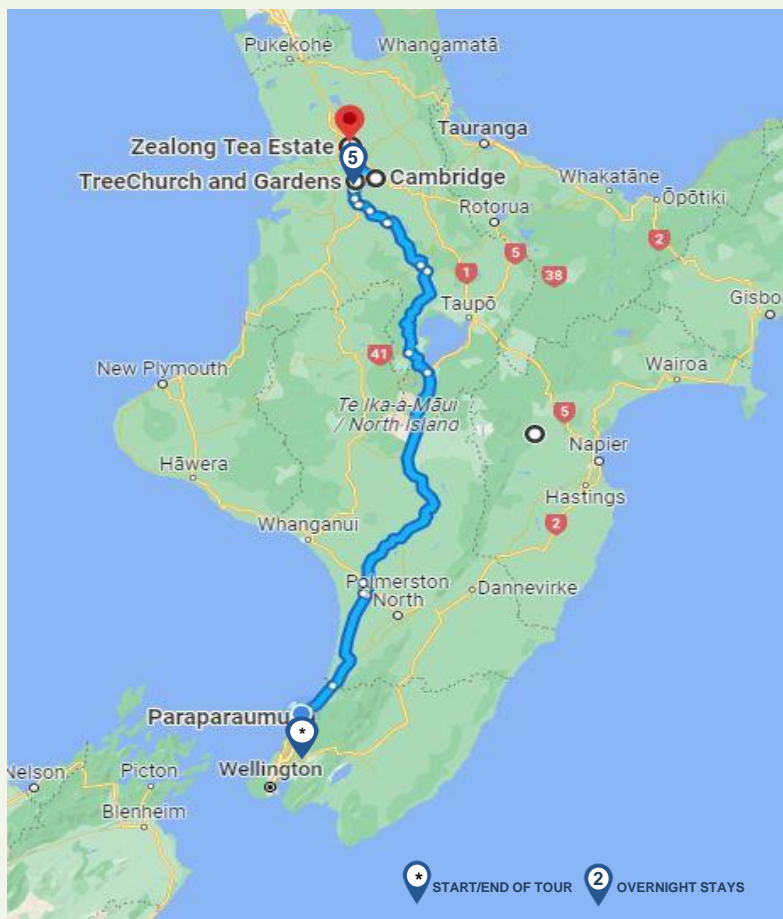
This morning we have a later and leisurely start to the day. Afterwards we arrive at Zealong Tea to **experience one of their famous High Teas**. A thoughtfully crafted savoury and sweet selection to compliment your Zealong tea served amidst breath-taking views of the Waikato region.

Following our time at Zealong we travel to **Woodlands Estate** where we will enjoy a guided garden visit. Woodland's Homestead is a category 1 Historic Place, Heritage New Zealand. The gardens are home to New Zealand's largest Eucalyptus, the finest Liriodendron in the Waikato, an American Ash and a Juniperus Chinensis. Afterwards we have lunch together in the Woodlands café. There will be some time here to wander around before departing and travelling back to Cambridge.

After our lunch together today, this evening is free time and dinner is own arrangements.

MON 20 Cambridge - Home (B)

Today we say goodbye to Cambridge and the Waikato as we head south, with plenty of stops for leg stretches, morning tea and lunch along the way, as we continue our way back home.



WAIKATO WANDERER & SPRING GARDENS

6 Day Tour Includes

Fully hosted by a YOURTours Host

Quality Accommodation & Coach

**Sightseeing and Entrance Fees as indicated
on itinerary**

Meals as per itinerary

Departs 15th November 2023

Price \$3,990 pp twin share

Single Price \$4,490 pp

You are invited to join us on one of our fully hosted small group tours, with a maximum of 18 guests.

We are based on the beautiful Kapiti Coast with our guests joining us from all corners of New Zealand. We believe you'll be pleasantly surprised by just how much we include in our tour price.


You can be reassured that your Tour Host will always be one of our friendly well-experienced YOURTours Team Members, ensuring you are looked after from start to finish.

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