

# FOREST & BIRD TOURS

## SUPPORTING CONSERVATION

**DEPARTING SEPTEMBER 2021 through to APRIL 2022**

Our ever-changing country is full of natural spectacles to be enjoyed, challenged, or held in awe. Travel off the beaten track, in small groups, and experience some less visited, but still spectacular treasures. Join us to explore New Zealand's natural heritage and feel good knowing your tour's profits will be supporting Forest & Bird's conservation work!

*It was a truly remarkable experience and we are very grateful for it. Thank you Mark and Forest & Bird!*

Inge Bremer and Rolf Mueller-Glodde  
Footsteps through Conservation Battlegrounds tour October 2020

**UNFORGETTABLE LANDSCAPES**

## **YOUR GUIDE**

Naturalist and Forest & Bird President Mark Hanger has been leading small-group nature tours throughout New Zealand and Australia for more than 30 years. He has put together this incredible fundraising journey for our supporters. Travel is by comfortable small coach equipped with an excellent nature reference library. Accommodation is in pleasant hotels and lodges with private facilities. A flexible tour itinerary offers multiple start and finish points and different journey lengths. All tour profits go to Forest & Bird's conservation work.





# Footsteps on Conservation Heritage

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Departs Dunedin

October 10 2021, March 20 2022

Travel through awe-inspiring landscapes at the heart of some of the greatest environmental campaigns of the past 100 years. Meet conservation legends such as Gerry McSweeney, who will share some of their “wins” and memories of hard-fought battles. Highlights of the 10-night South Island tour include Tautuku in the Catlins, Rakiura Stewart Island, Lake Manapouri, Te Wāipounamu World Heritage Area, West Coast rainforests, Punakaiki, and Nelson Lakes and Kahurangi national parks. Accommodation includes two nights at Gerry and Ann McSweeney’s iconic Lake Moeraki Wilderness Lodge.



Day 1

## **Dunedin, Royal Albatross and Otago Harbour cruise**

What better way to begin our journey than to view the Royal Albatross colony at Taiaroa Head. We take a one hour cruise to view the wildlife of this spectacular headland, gain an insight into the life of an albatross, and learn of the conservation challenges this colony has faced. Stay Dunedin.

Day 2

## **Catlins Coast and Forests, Tautuku Eco-restoration Project**

Travel south to focus on the Catlins region. We stop in the fascinating Tautuku Basin and Estuary. This is now the location for one of the Society's key conservation projects. Later, we'll board a ferry bound for Rakiura Stewart Island. This island contains New Zealand's most recent national park. Kākā are bold and inquisitive here, and will likely be waiting for us on the porch of our hotel. We'll end the day with an optional evening trip to view South Island brown kiwi. Two nights in Oban.



Day 3

### **Rakiura National Park, Ulva Island**

This morning land on predator-free Ulva Island for excellent viewing of South Island forest birds such as weka, kākā, yellow and red-crowned kākāriki, tiēke South Island saddleback, mohua, and pīpipi brown creeper. Afternoon for further walks around the village, and to coastal headlands.

Day 4

### **Lake Manapouri Campaign, Borland Saddle, Fiordland**

Cross back to Bluff early morning. South of Te Anau lies Lake Manapouri (birthplace of New Zealand's modern conservation movement) and beyond are Borland Saddle and the Hunter Mountains. Superb alpine vistas and local endemics characterise this little visited but dramatic and spectacular region of Fiordland. Stay Te Anau tonight.



DAY 5

## **A Six-Pack of Parks, Old Man Range**

The inland high country of the South Island was the focus of a major campaign in 2005 by Forest & Bird to establish a “six-pack” of parks. Today we’ll travel through the heartland of those proposals. Leaving Fiordland, we will cross into Central Otago with its rocky rugged landscapes. This area is a schist plateau, now appearing as a series of block mountain ranges. Lodged amid the silvery schist vegetation of the Old Man Range, are many species of cushion plants and snowbank vegetation unique to this type of extreme climate. The Lilliputian world of the plants atop this range stands in stark contrast to the grandeur and vastness of the surrounding mountains. Late afternoon continue to Wanaka.



DAY 6

## **South Westland World Heritage Area**

Leaving the drylands of Central Otago, we will head west, crossing Haast Pass, where we'll stop in mountain beech forest to see if we can find the declining mohua and other endemic forest birds. The scenery here will also capture our attention. Later the lush rain forests and sweeping tumultuous coast will enthral at Ship Creek. Arrive at the stunning Lake Moeraki Wilderness Lodge to stay two nights. Meet with an icon of conservation, Gerry McSweeney, Forest & Bird's former president, chief executive, and distinguished life member.

Day 7

## **Lake Moeraki, Munroe's Beach**

A day to absorb the atmosphere in this lush rain forested valley. Gentle walks abound, or walk down to Munroe's Beach through magnificent lowland forest. Optional guided excursions will take you to little visited spectacular coast with its own penguin colony.



DAY 8

## **Ōkārito and Waikūkūpa forests**

This morning we will travel up the humid forested West Coast. Just north of Franz lies the majestic podocarp rainforests of Ōkārito and Waikūkūpa. Concerted Forest & Bird campaigns in the late 1970s and early 1980s resulted in these tracts of forests being protected in 1982. We walk in two areas of Ōkārito for spectacular views over these magnificent untouched forest tracts that are home to the endangered rowi kiwi. Continue north to overnight by the ocean in Hokitika.

DAY 9

## **Paparoa National Park , Denniston Plateau**

The coastal Paparoa National Park, was established as a result of prolonged pressure from Forest & Bird, and the likes of Craig Potton and Andy Dennis in 1987. Visit the remarkable, bleak, yet spectacular Denniston Plateau late morning. Chat with local conservationist, Terry Sumner, before continuing up the Buller Gorge to Saint Arnaud for two nights at Alpine Lodge.



DAY 10

**Kahurangi National Park, Mt Arthur**  
**Day excursion to Kahurangi National Park.**

The track to Mount Arthur provides a great opportunity to gain an insight into this fascinating marble region with a wide diversity of upland and sub-alpine species. Discover the amazing conservation successes achieved by the Friends of Flora. Mid-afternoon return to Nelson Lakes.

DAY 11

**Trip completion in Nelson.**

There is time to walk in the sub-antarctic beech forests by Lake Rotoiti this morning before a late morning departure for Nelson and trip completion.



## Inclusions

Services of tour naturalist and Forest & Bird President, Mark Hanger

All tour travel departing Dunedin and terminating in Nelson

Accommodation in comfortable hotels and motels. Private facilities at all locations.

Meals as specified – Three meals daily with exception of lunch at Lake Moeraki and evening meal on 2<sup>nd</sup> night in Te Anau.

Ferry to and from Rakiura/Stewart Island

Ulva Island visit

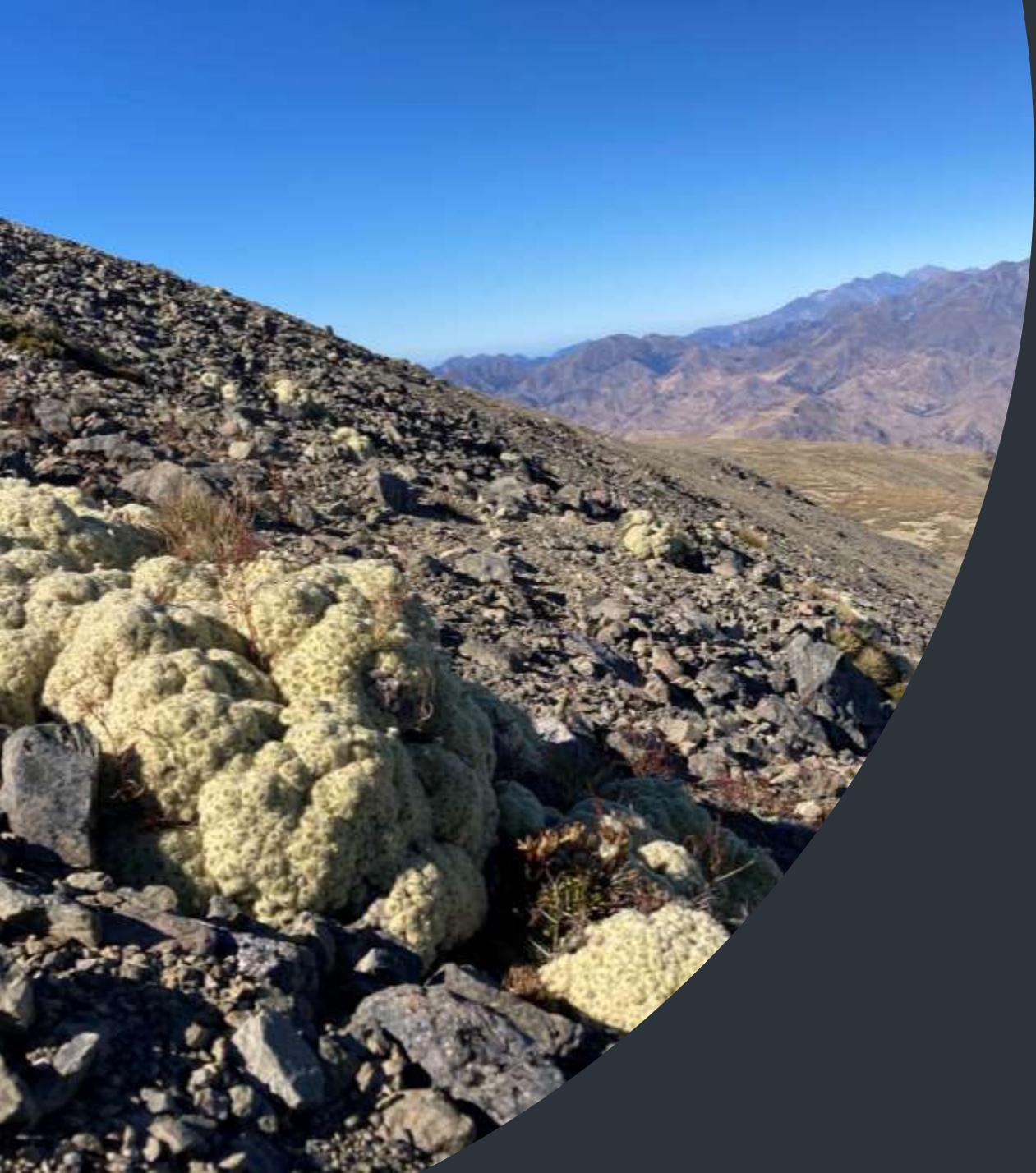
Permit fees where applicable.

Information folio including species lists for each area visited.

Goods and Services Tax at 15%

**Cost per Person    NZ\$4365.00**

**Add-ons** Single Room Supplement add  
NZ\$1055.00



# Latitude 42°S

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Departs Blenheim  
October 22 2021



Day 1

## **Blackbirch Peak**

Towering above the Awatere Valley stands little known Blackbirch. If the plants do not take your breath away the unrivalled panoramic views into the South island's heartland are sure to! There is no better place to study alpine scree and rock outcrop vegetation. Here giant vegetable sheep abound amidst a dry cushion flora. Scree plants, rock outcrop species, herb field daisies and cushion plants feature. Mid-afternoon return again to sea level to stay Picton two nights.

Day 2

## **Marlborough Sounds, Blumine Island**

The waters and inlets of the Marlborough Sounds are our focus this morning. A charter vessel will carry us through Queen Charlotte Sound to small rocky islets, where a small colony of the rare King Shag roost. We'll explore the outer sound and call in at predator-free Blumine Island. Here the endangered Orange-fronted Kakariki/Parakeet is finding a safe haven.



Day 3

## **Pelorus Sound, Maud Island Sanctuary**

Join a specially permitted trip to visit Maud Island in Pelorus Sound. Maud Island is a key site in managing and protecting threatened and endangered species in Aotearoa. Some are indigenous and other rarities have been introduced and require varying degrees of management. DoC staff will present to visitors a number of species which include: skinks, geckos, rare insect species, the Maud Is. frog, land snails, scarab beetles; flax weevils; the click beetle and the Giant Weta unique to Cook Strait. There is time to further explore the island by foot, before returning to our vessel. Continue to Nelson for the night. This evening learn of the Pelorus bat project from Debs Martin, our F&B Top of the South conservation advocate



Day 4

## **Rangitoto ki te Tonga/D'Urville Island, French Pass**

Travel to French Pass and ferry across to little visited, fascinating d'Urville Island. Stay one night.

Day 5

## **d'Urville Island, Takaka**

The morning will be spent further exploring the island, before ferrying back across French Pass. Drive around Tasman Bay and over Takaka Hill to stay in Takaka three nights.

Day 6

## **Kahurangi National Park – Cobb Valley**

The Cobb Valley is one of the floristically most diverse regions in Aotearoa. The region is full of stunning landscapes and ever-varying geology. Today we hike from the head of the lake through lush red beech forests towards Peel Ridge. A hugely diverse alpine flora awaits once we emerge from the fascinating beech forests that surround the lake.



Day 7

## **Kahurangi National Park, Wharariki Beach, Knuckle Peak**

The far western edge of Golden Bay holds hidden treasures that will enthral us today. From Cape Farewell you can walk along spectacular cliff tops to the magnificent seascapes of Wharariki Beach. Beyond lies the little-known Westhaven Inlet. Rising above the inlet is Knuckle Peak with its stunning diversity of lowland forest species, including giant northern rata, then stunted pakihi vegetation on the summit region.

Day 8

## **Abel Tasman National Park.**

Travel from Takaka to the northern edge of Abel Tasman National Park. Hop on board our water taxi and cruise the shore of this delightfully scenic park, with time for a 2 hour walk on one of the coastal trails, before arriving at the southern entrance to the park at Marahau. Complete trip to Nelson



Departs from Blenheim and terminates in Nelson.

Inclusions :

Services of tour naturalist leader  
All tour travel  
All accommodation in quality hotels and lodges  
Three meals daily excepting one night in Takaka  
Information booklet with background ecological information  
Contribution to Forest & Bird Goods and Services Tax of 15%  
Admission fees where applicable

**Cost per Person -NZ\$2745.00 twin-share**

Single room rate add \$NZ560.00 per person



# ALPINE AOTEAROA TOURS

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Departs Queenstown, December 30 2021,  
and Christchurch January 6 2022

Journey through the alpine wonderlands of the South Island and discover botanical treasures as spectacular as the scenery. Learn more about the flora you find under the guidance of an expert naturalist who is as passionate about plants as you are!



Visit stunning floral landscapes, including glaciated valleys, scree slopes, and sub-alpine lakes and tarns. Walk through boulder and herb fields and search for special alpine flora. From the treeline to the snowline, the changing pattern of life is as fascinating as it is diverse. Join us for a Southern Alps tour that takes in the fascinating flora of the Hollyford Valley, the Old Man Range, Mackenzie Country, Aoraki Mount Cook, Mount Hutt, and Arthur's Pass.

Continue your journey with a Top of the South Island tour to Clarence Valley, Hanmer Springs, Mount St Patrick, Nelson Lakes National Park, Mount Arthur, Blackbirch, and Kaikōura. The two tours can be booked separately or together. Travel is by comfortable small coach equipped with an excellent nature reference library. Accommodation is in pleasant hotels and lodges with private facilities.



# SOUTHERN ALPS TOUR

**DEPARTING QUEENSTOWN DECEMBER 30 2021  
(SEVEN NIGHTS)**

DAY 1: Arrive in Queenstown. Meet your naturalist guide in central Queenstown or Queenstown Airport. Short drive to Te Anau. Stay Te Anau three nights.

DAY 2: The upper Hollyford Valley, through which the famed Milford Road passes, contains superb alpine boulder fields and herb fields. The Gertrude Cirque has arguably the finest accessible alpine communities in the country. The day is devoted to discovering at your pace this botanical treasure trove in the Darran Mountains. Studying nature in such awesome surroundings is guaranteed to put all in perspective.



DAY 3 : South of Te Anau lies Lake Manapōuri and beyond is Borland Saddle and the Hunter Mountains. Superb alpine vistas and local endemics characterise this area. This truly memorable day will enable us to view the bizarre local wild Spaniards, hybrid giant buttercups, Buchanan's buttercup in profusion, plus several species of Celmisia (mountain daisy).

DAY 4 : Leave Fiordland and cross into Central Otago with its rocky rugged landscapes. This area is a schist plateau, now appearing as a series of block mountain ranges. Lodged amid the silvery schist vegetation of the Old Man Range are many species of cushion plants and snowbank vegetation unique to this type of extreme climate. The Lilliputian world of the plants on top of this range stands in stark contrast to the grandeur and vastness of the surrounding mountains. Late afternoon continue to Cromwell. Stay Cromwell tonight.

DAY 5 : Cross Lindis Pass to the arid intermontane basins of the Mackenzie Country and Lake Ōhau. The Ōhau range rises directly from Lake Ōhau. Little visited, the tarns, slopes and bluffs of this range hold a fascinating array of alpines. Cushion Spaniards, with their ball-like inflorescences are spectacular, not to mention the fields of the blue-leaved Celmisia, cushions of Donatia, and delicate mats of alpine Raoulia. Stay Lake Ōhau two nights.



DAY 6: A day to explore the renowned Aoraki Mount Cook National Park. At the foot of Mt Cook, lies the spectacular Hooker Valley. The walk along the trail enables us to study the changes in vegetation on successive moraines as the Hooker, then Mueller, glaciers are reached. Giant Mt Cook buttercups, golden Spaniards and sub-alpine shrubs abound amid unforgettable landscapes. An alternative for the more energetic is to walk up the Sealy Range to Sealy Tarns. Several alpine communities will be visited en-route with tussocklands, herb fields, and outcrop plants most conspicuous. Late examples of the famed Mt Cook 'lily' (actually a buttercup) may be found up here.

DAY 7: Morning drive to Mount Hutt, with afternoon to explore the screes, bluffs, and upper slopes. Stay Methven tonight.

DAY 8: Arthur's Pass National Park is renowned for its spectacular Southern Alps scenery and for a wide diversity of readily accessible alpine flora. There are easy walks with good viewing of sub-alpine wetlands and tarns, and sub-alpine herb fields. Those with more energy can climb into the Temple Basin where alpine vistas and a wonderful array of alpine plants await. For the Southern Alps tour only, your trip terminates at Christchurch Airport late afternoon. Those on the Top of the South tour continue through to Hanmer Springs.



## INCLUSIONS

Services of tour naturalist, Forest & Bird President, Mark Hanger.

All tour travel departing Queenstown and terminating in Christchurch.

Accommodation in comfortable hotels and motels. Private facilities at all locations.

Meals as specified – three meals daily except for one evening meal in Te Anau.

Permit fees where applicable.

Information folio, including species lists for each area visited.

Contribution to Forest & Bird.

Goods and Services Tax at 15%.

**Cost per Person    NZ\$2,790**

Add-on: Single Room Supplement, add NZ\$665.00.



## SOUTH ISLAND TOUR TOP OF THE SOUTH

DEPARTS CHRISTCHURCH 6-13 JANUARY 2022  
(SEVEN NIGHTS)

This tour can be booked as an extension to the Southern Alps trip or you can book this as a standalone seven-night tour starting and finishing in Christchurch.

DAY 8/DAY 1: After dropping some participants at Christchurch Airport, we continue through to Hanmer Springs for four nights.

DAY 9/DAY 2: Gentians abound en-route to Lake Tennyson in the upper Clarence Valley. Just above the valley floor, the fine shingle supports a grand scree flora including scree harebells, lobelias, forget-me-nots, and penwipers. Further on at Island Pass we further study the scree and rock outcrop endemics. Late afternoon return to Hanmer.



DAY 10/DAY 3: A day to relax on your own. Lunch and dinner not provided today.

DAY 11/DAY 4: Day excursion to Mt St Patrick. A widely diverse herbfield, and unique scree and rock outcrop species feature today as we explore the ridges above the Amuri Ski-field. Special plants include *Swainsonia novae zealandiae*.

DAY 12/DAY 5: Travel via sup-alpine tarns at Lewis Pass to Nelson Lakes National Park. The beautiful Lakes Rotoiti and Rotoroa nestle amongst the northern peaks of beech forest. This afternoon enjoy short walks in this enchanting forest. Stay St Arnaud two nights.

DAY 13/DAY 6: Day excursion to nearby Mount Arthur, a marble region with a wide diversity of upland and sub-alpine species. Mid-afternoon return to Nelson Lakes.



DAY 14/DAY 7: The journey today takes us back east. A study of New Zealand alpine scree and rock outcrop vegetation begins with a trip to the summit of Blackbirch. Here giant vegetable sheep abound amid a dry cushion flora. Scree plants, rock outcrop species, herb field daisies, and cushion plants will feature today. If the plants do not take your breath away the panoramic views are sure to! Mid-afternoon return again to sea level and continue to Kaikōura.

DAY 15/DAY 8: This morning an optional three-hour marine trip should enable viewing of sperm whales which inhabit the deep water just off the Kaikōura coast (approximate cost NZD\$155). Alternatively you may opt for the Oceanwings Albatross excursion (approximate cost NZD\$125). Early afternoon depart for Christchurch. Trip termination at Christchurch.



## Inclusions

Services of tour naturalist Forest & Bird President Mark Hanger.  
All tour travel departing and terminating in Christchurch.  
Accommodation in comfortable hotels and motels. Private facilities at all locations.  
Meals as specified – three meals daily except for one lunch and one evening meal in Hanmer Springs.  
Permit fees where applicable.  
Information folio including species lists for each area visited.  
Contribution to Forest & Bird.  
Goods and Services Tax at 15%.

**Cost per Person NZD\$2,610.00.**

Add-ons Single Room Supplement, add NZD\$665.00.



# Te Ao o Tane

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Departs Napier  
April 5 2022



The forests of Aotearoa are a reminder of a world now long gone, of ferns, of ancient conifers, flightless ground birds, prehistoric reptiles and insects, and virtually no mammals. We traverse the North Island from Napier to Whanganui in search of the finest forests amidst dramatic fascinating landscapes. From the sub-antarctic beech forests to the ever changing podocarp forests of the volcanic plateau, we study the intricacies of the forests saved from destruction by Forest & Bird and others in the 1980s-90s



Day 1

## **Te Urewera National Park, Lake Waikaremoana, Kohutapu Lodge**

Home of the Tūhoe, the rugged and remote Te Urewera region is full of stunning landscapes. As we travel through the hills surrounding Lake Waikaremoana, we'll stop to walk amidst the ancient native forests, visiting Lake Wakareiti, and gaining an insight into this region steeped in history and rich in biodiversity that is now administered by a Tūhoe/Crown Board. Stay Aniwheua.

Day 2

## **Whirinaki Forest, Minginui, Whirinaki Footsteps Cultural tour**

A guided cultural walking tour deep into the heart of the Whirinaki rain forest with members of the Ngāti Manawa. Discover the history of the forest, traditional medicinal uses of key plant species, and listen to and view a number of threatened forest bird species



Day 3

### **Bay of Plenty Marine Issues day with Te Atarangi Sayers from a Mōtifi hapū**

Join Te Atarangi Sayers, Forest & Bird Board member, as he takes us through the Bay of Plenty. He weaves an inspiring spiritual journey with his hapū as they strove to gain firstly awareness, then understanding, and protection for the unique waters surrounding Mōtifi waters that were all but destroyed when SS Rena ran aground.

Day 4

### **Aongatete Forest, Rotoehu Forest**

Meet with the Graeme family, founders of KCC and staunch supporters of greater protection for the Kaimai Mamaku forests. Walk in the Aongatete forest before continuing through to the central North Island. Mid afternoon take a gentle 2 km walk through the edge of Rotoehu Forest by Lake Rotoiti, before continuing to our overnight stay in Rotorua.



Day 5

## **Waihora Lagoon in Pureora Forest, Blue Duck Station**

Today we visit one of the finest tracts of podocarp rain forest in the country to study the intricacies and complexities of this, the predominant forest type in New Zealand. The so-called 'dinosaur forests' have changed little over 100 million years and are typical of the forest cover of Gondwana. The rimu-dominated forest here is perhaps the finest in the country. Pureora was a flashpoint in the late 1970s and the actions of conservation stalwarts here paved the way for other significant lowland forests in the North island to be protected. We study the podocarp forest communities in detail today as we walk into Waihora Lagoon, a gem within the forest. Later travel to Blue Duck Station for two nights.



Day 6

## **Blue Duck Station**

Situated on the banks of the Whanganui and Retaruke Rivers where their core values are protecting endangered wildlife and increasing the health of the surrounding forest and rivers, Blue Duck Station offers a wide range of activities. You may opt to partake in any, but we'll take a walk through native forest to Kaiwhakauka Waterfall, with very good opportunities for good views of Whio/Blue Duck.

Day 7

## **Trip termination in Wanganui.**

Travel south to Whanganui and trip termination late morning.



Departs : from Napier and terminates in Whanganui.

Inclusions :

Services of tour naturalist leader

All tour travel

All accommodation in quality hotels and lodges

Three meals daily excepting dinner in Tauranga

Information booklet with background ecological information.

Contribution to Forest & Bird

Goods and Services Tax of 15%

Admission fees where applicable

**Cost per Person NZ\$2365.00 per person twin-share**

Single room rate add \$NZ555.00 per person

**FOREST & BIRD  
TOURS  
SUPPORTING  
CONSERVATION**



**Forest  
& Bird**  
TE REO O TE TAIAO  
*Giving Nature a Voice*

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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Fundraising for Forest & Bird  
Profits from all of these tours will go to the Society.