



# 5 DAY HAWKE'S BAY STAY & VISIT

## March 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> 2010

Sadly missed by many international travellers, Napier is a wonderful place to visit - so great in fact that Napier draws throngs of Kiwi visitors to the city and it's surrounding area during holidays and special events. Bathing in a Mediterranean climate and nestled idyllically on a superb coastal position Napier is the heart of one of the country's premier wine-producing regions - the Hawkes Bay.

Napier and neighbouring towns were devastated by a major earthquake and fire in 1931 resulting in frantic reconstruction of the city in a period regarded as the peak of the Art Deco era. Internationally recognised as representing the most complete and significant group of Art Deco buildings in the world.

Reminiscent of an old English seaside resort, the Marine Parade is lined with large Norfolk pines and some exceptional wooden buildings that managed to survive the quake. Complete with pebble beach, (although too hazardous for swimming), the 'Parade' has a collection of amusements including mini-golf, swimming pools, roller blading rink, bumper boats and miniature racing cars. For less *action*, visit the famous statue 'Pania of the Reef' and the sunken gardens. Further down the Parade, the Hawkes Bay Aquarium has sharks, crocodiles, piranha, turtles and other animals including the native tuatara. A highlight would be daily feeding time when divers swim with the sharks in the main tank.

Cape Kidnappers in the Hawke's Bay, is renowned for its geological formations as well as for the world famous gannet sanctuary. Maori Legend tell us Cape Kidnappers is the fish hook of Maui -Te Mato a Maui - with which Maui, a mythical sea god pulled the North Island from the sea. In 1769 it was named Cape Kidnappers by Captain James Cook, the famous English explorer, when the local Maori attempted to kidnap his ship's interpreter, a young Tahitian boy.

### Day 1 Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010

#### HOME CITIES – NAPIER

(D)

We depart Auckland then Hamilton travelling south through Cambridge and Tirau to Taupo where we *visit the Huka Falls* to view this natural tourist attraction then continue on to Taupo and have time to purchase lunch. We continue our journey through to Napier the city by the sea, which was rebuilt in the early 1930's following a massive earthquake in February 1931. By the end of the decade, Napier was the newest city on the globe. Supported by a Mediterranean climate and over 2,200 hours of sunshine a year this popular year-round destination is set amongst the splendour of the Art Deco buildings. Nowhere else can you see such a variety of buildings in the styles of the 1930s in such a concentrated area. Napier is home to one of New Zealand's busiest ports, transporting timber, local fruit and meat products to worldwide destinations. Upon arrival we will have a *brief orientation tour* before being transferred to our accommodation.

### Day 2 Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010

#### NAPIER

(BD)

This morning we *enjoy a tour of the 'Art Deco City'*, including a *visit to the Hawkes Bay Museum* - "At 10.46 am, February 3rd 1931, the face of Napier and Hastings was changed forever. An earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale hit 15km north of the town with two devastating shocks. After the quake, one hundred fires raged for over 30 hours. 258 people lost their lives. Survivors Stories, a 35 minute movie documentary made by renowned filmmaker Gaylene Preston, traces the story of that momentous time through the recollections of four survivors. We will then continue to *visit a local winery* for some sampling and purchasing before returning to our hotel.

### Day 3 Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2010

#### NAPIER – CAPE KIDNAPPERS

(B)

Today we will drive along the scenic coast from Napier to Te Awanga and *join the Gannet Safaris Overland tour*, to view the worlds largest, most accessible gannet colony at Cape Kidnappers. The safaris are the only way to be driven right to within a few feet of these remarkable birds. There is absolutely no walking required. You will travel in comfort in air conditioned 4 x 4 wheeled vehicles, through Cape Kidnappers Station - traversing riverbeds, broad rolling pastures, through stands of native bush, steep gullies and breathtaking inclines. There is a stop on the way at a spectacular cliff top with panoramic views of Hawke Bay right across to Mahia peninsular. The amazing geology of the area can also be taken in. The 36km, three hour trip includes a commentary by your tour guide/driver on the farming operation on Cape Kidnappers Station and an introduction to the gannets. On arrival at the gannets you can stretch your legs and take in the mouth watering scenery from your position at the brink of the cliffs edge - 100 metres above the ocean. Here your driver / guide will serve you refreshments whilst you enjoy watching the gannets perform around you. We return to Napier via Hastings the fruit bowl of the Hawkes bay. Tonight we give you the opportunity to explore the local cafes and bars

### Day 4 Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010

#### NAPIER – TAIHAPE [via the Gentle Annie]

(BD)

"A story is told that at the end of the 19th Century a young family owned and lived on Ngamatea Station. Sadly the husband was drowned in the weir and left his young wife with small children to run the place. A descendent of the owner relates that Gentle Annie was aptly named after her mother. Access from the back country in those days was very difficult but Annie, who owned one of the first Studebaker cars in Hawke's Bay, was not daunted by the primitive road and often drove to Napier to do business. The local residents were full of admiration for the popular young lady and hence the treacherous track up the hill beyond Kuripapango came to be called "The Gentle Annie." Today we will view some of the beautiful country side where she farmed.

### Day 5 Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010

#### TAIHAPE – HOME CITY

(B)

Departing Taihape we make a stop at Waiouru to allow enough time for those of you who wish to visit the Army Museum [at own cost]. From here we will continue on to Taumarunui for our lunch stop. We will make a brief stop at the Rural Wool outlet just prior to Te Kuiti for those of you who want to stock up on some wool. Te Kuiti being the Shearing township that it is, is a prime location for excellent wool. Te Kuiti was also the area that the rebel Te Kooti fled in 1871, and in return for sanctuary left as a gift for the Maniapoto people, Te Tokanganui-a-noho, the carved meeting house which now stands at the south end of Te Kuiti's main street. We will drive along the main street to view the historic land marks. Our homeward bond journey is nearing it's end as we continue on to Hamilton. We will make our way via Otorohanga, Te Awamutu and Cambridge, allowing those who joined the tour in Cambridge to end their journey there before we make our way back to Hamilton then Auckland.

#### TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- 4 nights twin share/double accommodation – single rooms available with surcharge
- Tour admissions as per the itinerary
- Breakfasts (B), lunches (L) and dinners (D) where indicated on the daily itinerary
- Touring in modern air conditioned Coach
- Roadside Morning Teas – where possible

#### TOUR PAYMENTS PER PERSON:

- Share Twin Accommodation \$795.00
- Single Supplement Extra \$330.00
- Deposit due at time of booking \$100.00
- Balance of tour payment due 6 weeks prior to tour commencement