

# Kiwi Aviation Tour: North

Departing 23rd Nov 2020



While the world stands still, unable to enjoy what we know as home, we start our fully escorted 14 day journey to discover the best of New Zealand's North Island aviation history. It will take us through some incredible landscapes and let us explore some of what we treasure in our backyard. From the wonderful displays at the largest polished museums, to small flood affected private collections whose owners are struggling to keep them available for viewing, we will support them and savour every moment, taking pride in the fact that some of our restoration facilities are the best in the world. It's the best time to travel, without the crowds!

Monday 23rd November - Auckland

## Day 1: Auckland Arrival Day & RNZAF Whenuapai

Free flights will be included from Invercargill to Auckland if you are doing both North and South itineraries. Our coach will pick up from Auckland airport at 12.45pm which is just after the flight arrival time from the connecting South Island tour and then from the Cordis Hotel around 1.30pm. Our afternoon will be spent at RNZAF Whenuapai, we look forward to seeing what they have onsite on the day.

Tuesday 24th November - Auckland

## Day 2: MOTAT & the Subritzky Collection

The Museum of Transport and Technology is the largest museum of its kind in NZ, telling stories of the history and development of New Zealand transport, technology and Kiwi ingenuity. Visit the original Pumphouse, wander through the historic village or ride the heritage tram to the Aviation Display Hall which houses one of the largest aviation collections in the Southern Hemisphere.

Wednesday 25th November - Auckland to Tauranga

## Day 3: Classic Flyers & The Aviator Experience

Since inception, Classic Flyers has become an important part of the retention of aviation heritage of New Zealand and, amongst all the other exhibits, the collection of jet aircraft is one of the most important in the country. We will have lunch in the Avgas Cafe and explore the museum.

Later we'll head across the airport to The Aviator Experience. With six VR flight simulators and one F18 full motion sim, all with Military Flight Simulator software so realistic that a number of Air Forces use it, you will have a choice of aircraft and scenarios that will excite you beyond expectation.

Thursday 26th November - Tauranga to Gisborne

## Day 4: Gisborne Aviation Preservation Society

This afternoon we explore GAPS and see how they are progressing with their projects. There may be a chance for a flight in a Tiger Moth or Auster.

Friday 27th November - Gisborne to Napier

## Day 5: British Car Museum



Today we lose ourselves in the personal and eclectic collection of Ian Hope, believed to be the largest collection of British cars and commercial vehicles in the world, including an extensive array of memorabilia. We will find many rare cars, a collection of pianolas, three hearses, a 1923 Dennis Fire Engine with local history and so much more.

Saturday 28th November - Napier to Masterton

## Day 6: Napier at Leisure

We have most of the day at leisure in Napier, best known as the Art Deco capital of the world. You can do a walking tour to take in the architecture, check out the Museum to understand the history of this unique town, visit NZ's oldest prison or head up Bluff Hill for the best views. Top of your list should be a visit to Downunder Pilot Shop!

Late afternoon we will make our way to Masterton.

Sunday 29th November - Masterton to Wellington

## Day 7: Hood Aerodrome Flying Day

Today will be a flying day at Hood Aerodrome and we'll enjoy our morning here watching the flying and having a tour of The Vintage Aviator whose primary aim is to build WW1 aircraft, engines and propellers to the same exacting standards they were originally made over 90 years ago.



After lunch at the Kittyhawk Cafe we spend the afternoon with the Wairarapa Flying Tigers who provide flights to the public in their classic aircraft to support the restoration and reservation of vintage aircraft in flying condition. Do let us know if you'd like to be a part of the flying day and experience the pure, exhilarating joy of flying in an open cockpit aircraft!





Monday 30th November - Wellington

**Day 8: Wellington at Leisure**

You may be a regular visitor to the Capital or a first timer, either way you'll find plenty to do. A trip to the Weta Workshop, Te Papa Museum or a just a wander along the iconic Cuba Street? Enjoy your day, your way.

Tuesday 1st December - Wellington to Palmerston North

**Day 9: Kapiti Aviation Museum & Griffin Ag-Air**

Our morning visit is to Kapiti Aviation Museum, run by enthusiastic amateurs, in the old Meteorological Building next to the Paraparaumu Airport Control Tower overlooking the airfield runways. It was opened in January 1995 to preserve in photographic form, the aviation history of the Kapiti district. Whilst there are no aircraft on display, the collection of historic photographs of Paraparaumu Airport is probably second to none.

After lunch we spend time at Griffin Ag Air and find out the history of this business and hear a bit about Hallett Griffin's long aviation career.

Wednesday 2nd December - Palmerston North to New Plymouth

**Day 10: Biggin Hill Historic Aircraft Centre & RNZAF Ohakea**

Our first stop today is Ohakea, home of the Biggin Hill Historic Aircraft Centre and Spitfire PV270, and the RNZAF base. We will enjoy the aircraft in the Biggin Hill hangar which are a mixture of airworthy and static aircraft and intended to serve as a living memorial to all who have served their country in the air. The aircraft are flown for special occasions such as ANZAC Day and also appear at airshows around New Zealand.

Later we head up towards New Plymouth, stopping for a late lunch at Patea where we find Jim Baird's Star Garage, described as a mini MOTAT. This huge warehouse is filled with cars, parts, memorabilia and old cars out of movies, including the Kiwi Shell car from the NZ movie cult classic "Came a Hot Friday".

Thursday 3rd December - New Plymouth

**Day 11: Catalina Preservation Society & TATAM**

This morning we will be shown around the Catalina and we hope to be lucky enough to see her flying too. The New Zealand Catalina Preservation Society is focused on the preservation and operation of New Zealand's only PBY-5A "Catalina" twin-engine World War Two Canso amphibious flying boat, ZK-PBY. This is one of only a few operational Catalina's left in the world.

This afternoon we have a visit to the Taranaki Aviation Technology and Transport Museum. Items include Brewster Collection pieces, Cars & Trucks, Cinematographic, Domestic/household items, Farm Machinery, Fire Engine & Tender, Models of Motunui construction, Post Office, Printing Industry Machinery, Radios of all kinds, Telephones - Working Exchanges, and a Lamson Wire Carrier System.

Friday 4th December - New Plymouth to Auckland

**Day 12: Te Kowhai Airport & the DC3**

Today we travel back up to Auckland with a couple of stops on the way. Our lunch stop will be at Te Kowhai Airfield where DC3 ZK-AZL is now situated after the move from Mystery Creek. We will hear some history and find out what the plans are for the future.



Saturday 5th December - Ardmore, Auckland

**Day 13: Avspecs & Pioneer Aero**

We have a great line up for you today at Ardmore, the home of NZ Warbirds. Known throughout the world for their Mosquito and Spitfire restorations, Avspecs have a long history with Warbirds and a long list of awards. We look forward to seeing their current projects.

Pioneer Aero is a 100% dedicated facility specialising in the restoration and maintenance of ex-military and historical aircraft. Best known for work on the Curtiss P-40 family of aircraft, they have also worked on the rare Lavochkin La-9, Bell P39, Yak 3, Corsair, Strikemaster, P51 Mustang, Hawker Tempest MkII, and T6 Harvards. We look forward to our hangar tour and hearing about past and current projects.

Ardmore will be abuzz with pre open day activities and we will have exclusive access to the Warbirds hangars as they are closed to the public.

Sunday 6th December - Ardmore, Auckland

**Day 14: NZ Warbirds & Ardmore Open Day - Tour Ends**

Ardmore Open Day is pending confirmation but we should be able to go out on a high. Always a very enjoyable day! Typically there are several flying slots with resident and visiting Warbirds finishing with a mock attack, static aircraft and military vehicles, trade and education stands.

Fly DC3 will have their scenic flights operating throughout the day - prebooking is advisable for these.

At the close of the show we will head back to Auckland airport for your onward arrangements.

**Breakfast included every morning, plus welcome and farewell dinners. A list of optional flights is available on request.**

**For a more detailed itinerary visit**

**www.aviationtoursnz.com**

Or call Melanie on **021 076 8308**

**\$3595 per person, \$995 single supplement**

