

CONFIRMED ITINERARY
Post Symposium Tour – Orchard Systems 2025
25 - 29 January 2025
Especially prepared for ESP Ventures Limited

Day 1: Saturday 25th January 2025
NAPIER - ROTORUA (D)

Depart Napier after breakfast.

Travel north through the Eskdale Valley and over the ranges to Taupo on the shores of Lake Taupo, New Zealand's largest lake – time for lunch – own cost.

Depart for Rotorua after lunch and make a stop at Huka Falls where the clear waters of the Waikato River rush through the narrow gap in the rocks or perhaps visit one of the thermal areas.

Enroute into Rotorua, visit Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland - approximately 30 mins from the city of Rotorua. Walk through this unique geothermal area take visitors through awesome thermal activity. Photo opportunities abound at the wide range of features including the Champagne Pool, coloured hot and cold springs, steaming ground, expansive vistas, huge volcanic craters and the largest mineral terrace formation in the Southern Hemisphere. The nearby ever active "Boiling Mud Pool" adds other dimension to the experience. The first-class visitor Centre incorporates café and retail facilities.

On arrival to Rotorua, check in to your accommodation and freshen up before dinner at a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Sudima Hotel Lake Rotorua – 2 nights
Superior Plus Rooms

Day 2: Sunday 26th January 2025
ROTORUA (BD)

Breakfast at the hotel.

Depart the hotel by coach to visit the Redwoods Forest; A daytime discovery experience like no other, walk high amongst giant 120-year-old redwood trees and open your eyes to the natural beauty of our forest. A peaceful haven for you to discover above the forest floor, surround yourself with gentle giants, native fauna and sweeping silver ferns. The Treewalk takes an average 40 minutes to complete.

This afternoon, transfer into the city for some time at leisure.

In the late afternoon visit Te Puia for a guided tour followed by the Te Po (the night) experience – an immersive feast of indigenous cultural storytelling, entertainment and food. Your guided tour provides a premier Maori culture experience combined with an introduction to the magnificent geothermal activity in the Whakarewarewa Thermal Valley. Whilst in the valley see the boiling mud pools, steaming silica terraces, hot springs and geysers including the famous Pohutu Geyser which can erupt up to 30 metres high, depending on its mood. Visit the New Zealand Maori Arts and Crafts Institute where young Maori are learning the traditional carving and weaving skills of their ancestors.

Your evening experience will commence with a sumptuous buffet dinner including food from the hangi

(traditional Maori method of cooking) served in the Pātaka Kai Restaurant.

After dinner enjoy a cultural performance in the fully carved Te Aronui-a-Rua meeting house where highlights include waiata (song), mōteatea (traditional chant) poi and haka.

Following the concert, the evening culminates with hot chocolate served in the geothermal valley bathed in coloured light.

Day 3: Monday 27th January 2025
ROTORUA - TAURANGA (BD)

Breakfast at the hotel.

Depart Rotorua to Matamata. 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. Your 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. Your guide will escort you 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 your tour enjoy a complimentary beverage in the Green Dragon Inn then return to The Shires Rest. Lunch at Hobbiton

After lunch, transfer to an Avocado Orchard in Te Puna for a technical visit. The grower has avocados growing on a trellis system under tunnels, which is resulting in approximately double the yield of the New Zealand industry average. He says that he requires less inputs than outdoor growing systems and is seeing less biennial bearing than other growers.

Transfer into Tauranga and check into your accommodation on the waterfront.

Dinner is included in the hotel restaurant.

Accommodation: Trinity Wharf Hotel, Tauranga – 1 night
Urban King/Twin Guest Room

Day 4: Tuesday 28th January 2025
TAURANGA - AUCKLAND (BLD)

Breakfast at the hotel.

After breakfast, travel to Plant and Food Research (PFR) and the Kiwifruit Breeding Centre (KBC), Te Puke, for a technical visit. Learn about PFR's kiwifruit physiology research and KBC's breeding research.

Travel next door for a visit to Trevelyan's kiwifruit orchard & packhouse. Trevelyan's has the largest single-site kiwifruit and avocado packhouse in New Zealand. The company has grown since it started in 1965 to a 30 hectare site with 43 coolstores, one local market packhouse, and four export packhouses. We will visit a packhouse (although it will not be operating) and see one of their commercial kiwifruit blocks.

Time to purchase lunch in Te Puke – own cost.

Depart for Auckland and check into your accommodation and freshen up for dinner.

Dinner is at Harbourside Restaurant. Located in the historic Ferry Building on Quay Street, the décor of the Harbourside Ocean Bar & Grill is designed to showcase the beauty of the unique harbour

surrounds and has a refined, paired back elegance with an emphasis on natural materials that showcase the grand architectural features of the 1912 heritage building. The classically inspired yet creative menu includes the best of New Zealand seafood.

Accommodation: **MSocial Hotel, Auckland City – 1 night**
 Social View Room

Day 5: Wednesday 29th January 2025

DEPART

(B)

Breakfast at the hotel.

Own arrangements after check out.