



27th April - 1st May 2026

# Molesworth & Rainbow stations

The experience of driving through New Zealand's largest farm – nearly 450,000 acres spanning a major part of the upper South Island – is a kiwi rite of passage. The stunning scale and rugged beauty of **Molesworth Station** together with another neighbouring giant, **Rainbow Station** with its latticework of pristine lakes, is contrasted by the alpine tranquillity of the village of **Hanmer Springs** where we'll be based.

Join us on this magical adventure into our most iconic stations.

DAY 1

Monday 27th April

## Home - Christchurch



Today we simply fly from Palmerston North to Christchurch. We'll be met by our local guide, Ross Carter. Ross has been guiding visitors to this area for decades and his company, Molesworth Tours, has 40 years experience introducing people to the **Molesworth** and **Rainbow** back country and has been leading our trips through the area for more than a decade.

### Departing from another destination

For those departing from another destination we will arrange for you to meet the group in Auckland depending on your location.

Ross will collect us from the airport and we'll drive north towards **Woodchester Station**, east of **Hanmer Springs** and nestled in the shadow of the St James Range. We enter the station along the 6km driveway.

Here the Kelly family will host us for **lunch** and show us some astonishing evidence of natures' power which has transformed their lives forever.

Later in the afternoon we make our way to **Hanmer Springs** and our superb centrally located base, the **cozy Drifter's Inn** where hosts Adele and Andy MacLeod will look after us for the next four nights.

**Dinner** will be inhouse at Drifters In.

**Accommodation:** Drifters Inn



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## DAY 2

Tuesday 28th April

# Molesworth Station



**Breakfast** from 7.00am in the dining room.

Today we're collected by Ross in a **special 4WD mini-coach** and we head over **Jack's Pass** and into the **Clarence Valley** and **Molesworth Station**. We'll visit iconic points on the massive station such at the 150yo **Acheron Accommodation House**, Isolated Flat with its hundreds of acres of rippling clover and tussock grass, and the main central homestead complex with its century old cob buildings. Cattle share the sides of the sparkling rivers with Canada Geese and Paradise Ducks. It's difficult to prepare yourself for the sheer vastness and beauty of the place.

**Passing through sections of the Muller and Tarndale Stations** on the way back, we descend back into Hanmer Springs again via the rugged **Jollies Pass**. A day heavy with memorable moments.

**Dinner** at Monteiths Brewery Bar

**Accommodation:** Drifters Inn



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DAY 3

Wednesday 29th April

## Hanmer Springs



**Breakfast** from 7.00am in the dining room.

There's time to relax and reflect on yesterday as you have a FREE DAY in Hanmer Springs today. Explore this beautiful alpine village with its many bush walks, wander the tranquil grounds of the old Queen Mary Hospital with its historic buildings or enjoy a soak in the pristine thermal Hot Pools of the spa which gives the town its name.

Here's a few suggestions:

- Hanmer Springs shopping
- Hot pools
- Forest walks
- Jet boating
- Cafes etc.
- A Maze-n-Golf
- Conical Hill

Tonight, we'll **dine** together at the hotel.

**Accommodation:** Drifters Inn



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DAY 4

Thursday 30th April

## Rainbow Station



**Breakfast** from 7.00am in the dining room.

Today we're back with Ross as we again climb **rainbow station** but, this time, we head west up through the former **St James Station** and into the **Spenser Range** to **Lake Tennyson**. We'll drive over **Island Pass**, the highest in the country at 1300 metres, before descending into **Rainbow Station** itself.

Craggy beech-covered mountains sweep down to the boulder-strewn rivers that bisect the valleys. Remarkable for its transitioning landscapes, Rainbow Station is much smaller than Molesworth in area at a 'mere' 20,500 acres. Usually carrying around 14,000 head of stock – a mix of sheep and cattle this time - its diversity of terrain and climates has made its productivity legendary. What a contrast.

Tonight, we'll **dine** together at MK's restaurant.

**Accommodation:** Drifters Inn



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DAY 5

Friday 1st May

## Hanmer Springs - Home



**Breakfast** from 7.00am in the dining room.

We depart **Hanmer Springs** this morning and make our way back to Christchurch Airport but not before a visit to **Iron Ridge Sculpture Park** on the banks of the **Waipara River**. Here sculptor Raymond Herber has, over 20 years, transformed a former limestone quarry into a huge, stunning, exhibition space like no other. Then it is on to the airport where, after a late **lunch**, we catch our flight back home.

**Molesworth** and **Rainbow Stations** make up a land truly alive with the evocative atmosphere of stockmen and shepherds, dogs and drovers, slough hats and well-worn saddles. It's a landscape of extremes and of the real cowboy, even today, and what an adventure it is to get a glimpse of their way of life and to meet some of the people continuing the legacy.



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## Total cost

Departing from Whanganui:  
**\$3,675 (twin share)**

\$800 deposit due 2 weeks after booking.

Final payment due by 1st April 2026.

## Payment methods

- Cheque
- Cash
- Eftpos
- Online

Send online bank deposits to:  
BNZ 02-0792-0090015-00

Please use your name and trip name as code and reference.

## What's included?



### Transport

- All coach travel and transfers from airport
- Flights



### Accommodation

- Great twin share accommodation  
(*single supplement available*)



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### Food and drink

- Many wonderful meals as stated in **bold** in itinerary



### Activities

- All activities as stated in **bold** in the itinerary

## How to book

Be in quick to secure your seats



Call us

**06 3447465**

**Freephone: 0508 482269**



Email us

[info@takeiteasytours.nz](mailto:info@takeiteasytours.nz)

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Thank you,

The Take It Easy Team



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## Terms and Conditions

### Cancellation policy

If after your booking has been confirmed and you wish to cancel, the following cancellation fees will apply:

- For cancellations after 2nd March 2026 - loss of deposit.
- For cancellations after 1st April 2026 - total fare will apply.

### Disclaimer

Take it easy tours will make every effort to provide on time service. It does not guarantee its departure and arrival times, which may be delayed by various factors including weather, traffic, road conditions, mechanical problems and any other conditions Take it easy tours can't control. Take it easy tours are not liable for any inconvenience or expense caused as a result of such delay. Take it easy tours assumes no liability or responsibility for property, delay or expense arising from or caused by weather conditions, acts of God, accident, government restrictions or regulations, from an act or omission of any individual, traffic, road conditions, mechanical problems, or any other cause or condition beyond its control. Take it easy tours reserves its right to cancel or change any tour, advertised schedule, or route without notice and assumes no liability or responsibility for any conditions beyond its control that may interrupt or cancel any tour.

