

Triumph Register National Weekend 2027 – Planning Suggestions

Prior preparation and planning prevents pi-poor performance...**

With just five months to go until NW27, now is the perfect time to start thinking about what you want from your trip to the glorious Manawatu. The register's website has accommodation details for the weekend and the After Tour.

Don't forget the last date for registrations and payment is 31 October 2026

Why Palmerston North?

After considering three potential venues, the Wellington team chose Palmerston North for several reasons:

- Its central location
- Strong reputation as a conference destination
- Exceptionally helpful council and business contacts
- Excellent touring roads
- The Register hasn't spent much time there in recent years
- All road signposts in the lower north island point to Palmerston North

The weekend programme is now largely complete. The only unstructured time is Friday afternoon, giving you the chance to explore Palmerston North and its surroundings at your leisure.

Travelling From the South

Palmerston North is around 2–3 hours from the Wellington ferry terminals. The most direct route is:

- SH1 via Transmission Gully
- SH57 through Shannon (stop at *The Horseman* café?)

Alternatively, you could take the coastal SH59 route past Porirua, Paremata, Plimmerton, Pukerua Bay, Paekakariki and Paraparaumu before rejoining SH1.

If you have extra time, consider heading through the Hutt Valley and over the Remutaka Hill into the Wairarapa. Greytown and Martinborough offer excellent wine and food. From there, the drive to Woodville takes you past Pukaha National Wildlife Centre (Mount Bruce) and the Tui Brewery in Mangatainoka. The new Manawatu Gorge replacement road from Woodville to Palmerston North is a great drive with wind turbines and gorge lookouts on both sides of the road.

Travelling From the North

If you're coming down from the north, you might enjoy detouring after Taupo to the Hawke's Bay for a vineyard visit—arguably more appealing than the Desert Road.

After-Tour Options

The after-tour itinerary is intentionally flexible, with an extra night in both Whanganui and New Plymouth to allow time for sightseeing. At present, the only scheduled activity is the farewell dinner at the Devon Hotel Smorgasbord on Wednesday evening, which must be pre-booked.

A full After-Tour pack will be provided, including attractions in each city. You may wish to plan Monday and Tuesday activities in advance—here are some ideas.

Whanganui and Surrounds

Whanganui offers plenty to see, including gardens, museums, and heritage attractions. The *Waimarie* riverboat is currently out of service but hopes to resume operations by January.

If you prefer a shorter visit, consider heading north to:

- **Tawhiti Museum (Hawera)** – Open Friday to Monday only, so this is a Monday option.
- **Eltham and Stratford** – Classic Southern Taranaki towns with rural charm.
- **Whangamomona** – The self-declared independent republic on the Forgotten World Highway. Rustic, remote, and memorable. The hotel is fully catered with rooms available.
- **Taumarunui** – Following the After Tour, those heading north who are feeling adventurous, could drive through the Forgotten World Highway to Taumarunui, where you can try the famous “golf carts on rails.”

Heading to New Plymouth

You can travel either the inland or coastal route around Mount Taranaki. The coastal road takes a little longer but rewards you with spectacular views.

Final Thoughts

More detailed information will be included in the After-Tour pack, but hopefully this gives your wanderlust a nudge and helps you start planning.

Happy planning!

The Wellington Team