

THE ULTIMATE KIWI ADVENTURE



SMALL GROUP GUIDED TOURS. **RATED #1 IN NZ!**



MTB



SNOW



ADVENTURE



PREMIUM



PRIVATE



7-DAY NORTH ISLAND ADVENTURE TOUR

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL 
Your South Pacific Travel Specialists

The North Island is filled with surprising contrasts: from the idyllic Coromandel where you can soak in a hot pool dug in the sand, venture through a geothermal wonderland of geysers, take a side-trip to Middle Earth-esque countryside, and admire lush rainforests and even a volcanic desert – you’ll be amazed by it all.

This small-group guided tour of the North Island will visit Coromandel, Rotorua, Taupo, and Wellington, with the option to visit Hobbiton, and the Tongariro Crossing along the way.

As with all our tours, we do include a few ‘must-do’ events including a Māori cultural night and traditional Māori hāngī dinner cooked in an underground oven.

You’ll see a massive range of optional activities available to add to your tour, from bungy jumping and white water rafting to canopy forest zipline tours and scenic flights. None of these are compulsory; just add the ones you want.

Accommodation is included on the last night of your tour, but we can also book a few extra nights for you if you would like to extend your stay.

North Island Tour Tips:

- ▶ Activities can also be purchased on the road – just let your tour guide know. We can’t always guarantee availability when booking on the road, so we suggest pre-booking any activities you especially want to do.
- ▶ As the tour starts early in the morning, you can opt to book accommodation in Auckland with us the night before the tour – only having to walk downstairs on the day the tour starts makes for a stress-free morning!
- ▶ The tour price includes dorm share accommodation (4-6 share) but if you would prefer your own space you have the option to upgrade to a private room for the duration of your tour.

FLEXIBLE DEPARTURE DATES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.



TOUR INCLUSIONS

AWESOME INCLUSIONS

- ▶ Stunning walk to the spectacular arched cavern of Coromandel's Cathedral Cove
- ▶ Learn a haka and learn to weave flax with a local iwi (tribe)
- ▶ Visit Te Puia - a local cultural centre - to learn more about traditional Māori culture and discover Rotorua's geothermal wonders.
- ▶ See kiwi birds up close and personal
- ▶ Eat a traditional Māori hāngī meal cooked in an underground oven
- ▶ Follow your nose to Rotorua's bubbling mud pools
- ▶ Discover what makes Huka Falls the most visited natural attraction in NZ
- ▶ Check out the views from Matairangi/Mount Victoria, Wellington
- ▶ Fall in love with Wellington's cafe and craft beer culture
- ▶ Plus many surprise stops along the way

ALL ADVENTURE TOURS INCLUDE

ORIENTATION TOURS

We give you the low-down on every location.

COMFORTABLE TRANSPORT

With plenty of room to spread out.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST EVERY DAY

Heaps of options for everyone (you too, vegans!)

HIGH-END HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION

Dorm share, upgrades available.

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

To teach you about our unique Māori culture.

EXPERIENCED LOCAL GUIDE

Friendly, knowledgeable and passionate about NZ

SMALL GROUPS - MAXIMUM 16

Because you're more than just a number!



ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAY 1 - AUCKLAND TO COROMANDEL

DAY 2 - COROMANDEL TO ROTORUA

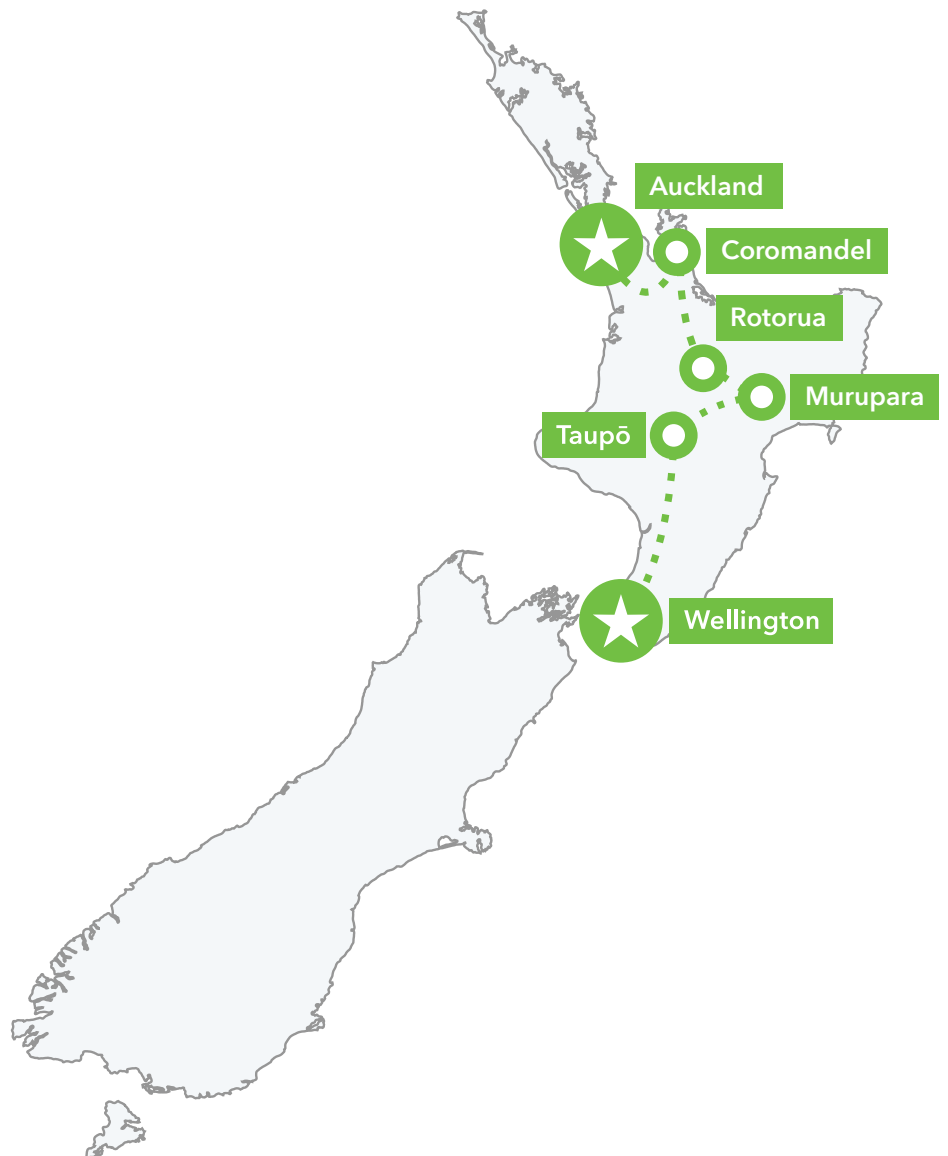
DAY 3 - ROTORUA

DAY 4 - ROTORUA TO MURUPARA

DAY 5 - MURUPARA TO TAUPŌ

DAY 6 - TAUPŌ

DAY 7 - TAUPŌ TO WELLINGTON





DAY 1 - AUCKLAND TO COROMANDEL

INCLUDED

- ▶ Breakfast
- ▶ Visit Hot Water Beach

Leaving the big smoke behind, we head to the Coromandel Peninsula, a veritable paradise of beautiful beaches and misty rainforests. The drive here is epic - the road twists and turns dramatically round the coastline and the ocean gets clearer and more pristine before your eyes. Cameras ready - the views are magnificent!

The Coromandel is home to the famous Hot Water Beach - thousands visit each year to dig their own personal hot tub. If the tide times allow, we'll definitely grab our buckets and spades and get busy!

We arrive in Whitianga with plenty of time for your guide to show you around. Sample the sandy beaches or simply enjoy the vibes.



DAY 2 - COROMANDEL TO ROTORUA

INCLUDED

- ▶ Breakfast

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Hobbiton Movie Set Tour
- ▶ Cathedral Cove Kayaking

This morning walk along the cliffs and down to Cathedral Cove (which you might recognize from the Chronicles of Narnia). With perfect beaches and massive rock arches and columns, it's one of the most popular spots in the Coromandel.

Alternatively, take an optional guided Cathedral Cove kayak trip and check out this stunning coastline from a different angle, accompanied by a local dolphin or two if you're lucky!

Later this afternoon we head towards Rotorua (or Rotovegas as it is locally known). En route, we'll visit Matamata - best known for being the home of Hobbiton.

For Lord of the Rings fans, a visit to Hobbiton Movie Set is an absolute must-do. On a fully guided tour of the 12 acre Middle-earth set you will see Hobbit Holes, the Mill, and even enjoy a drink at the Green Dragon Inn!

If hobbits aren't your thing there are plenty of scenic short walks to enjoy Matamata's lush green rolling hills.

While the majority of the North Island is volcanic in some way, Rotorua is exceptional for its geothermal activity. With neon blue and red lakes, steaming rivers, active volcanoes and geysers galore, there are more unique natural wonders to be found in Rotorua than many other places in the world.



DAY 3 - ROTORUA

INCLUDED

- ▶ Breakfast

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Black Water Rafting with transport from Rotorua (Full Day)
- ▶ Two Cave Combo with transport from Rotorua (Full Day)
- ▶ Forest Zipline
- ▶ White Water Rafting
- ▶ River Sledging
- ▶ ZORB
- ▶ Mt Tarawera Summit Hike

Today is a free day to explore Rotorua and its surrounding area. Talk to your guide for the best free things to see and do in the neighbourhood (Kuirau Park's steaming and hissing mud pools are a great option).

There are also a number of optional activities you can choose from:

If adrenaline is your thing, the highest commercial waterfall drop in the world, on the Kaituna River, is begging to be conquered on an exhilarating rafting trip.

Perhaps you'd like to try thundering down grassy hills in a giant air-cushioned inflatable ball (aka ZORB)?

A day trip to Waitomo is another option today. Famous for its glowworms there are a number of ways to experience these twinkling creatures up close.

Discover the magic of both the world-famous Waitomo Glowworm Caves, as well as the enchanting Ruakuri Cave on a '2 cave combo' walking/boat tour.

Or you can float along an underground river on a Black Water Rafting trip as the glow worms light your path.

However you spend today - be sure to get a good night's sleep as there are more Rotorua adventures tomorrow!



DAY 4 - ROTORUA TO MURUPARA

INCLUDED

- ▶ Breakfast
- ▶ Visit Te Puia Maori Village
- ▶ See kiwi birds
- ▶ See the Pohutu Geyser
- ▶ Learn the haka
- ▶ Learn to weave flax
- ▶ Dinner (a hangi cooked in an underground oven)

This morning we visit Te Puia Maori Village. Here you'll learn more about Maori history and culture, come face to face with the Pohutu Geyser, see jumping mud pools and get up close and personal with kiwi birds.

Later this afternoon we head to Kohutapu Lodge in Murupara - a living Māori village - where you will experience a tribal tour by a village elder.

Here you'll also have a chance to learn the world-famous haka dance, and weave your own dinner plate using flax (a type of plant).

Tonight's dinner is a traditional hāngi meal. Cooked in an underground earth oven you can expect tender meat and delicious vegetables infused with a smoky, earthy fragrance - it will fill your puku (belly) right up!

The best part about spending the evening at Kohutapu Lodge? The majority of proceeds from this activity go back to the local community.



DAY 5 - MURUPARA TO TAUPŌ

INCLUDED

- ▶ Breakfast
- ▶ Find natural hot springs

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Water Touch Bungy
- ▶ Skydive
- ▶ Sail Fearless - Lake Taupō Sailing

It's only a short drive to our next destination, Taupō, and there's plenty to discover along the way. From mesmerising mud pools to the thundering rapids of the Huka Falls and Aratiatia Dam, your trusty guide will make sure you don't miss a thing.

Taupō is a beautiful lakeside town with a stunning mountain backdrop. Lake Taupō is New Zealand's largest lake - believe it or not, it's roughly the same size as Singapore!

This place is all about the thrills and spills, and there are plenty of options in store this afternoon. Get your hair wet with a water touch bungy jump, take an unforgettable skydive or a sunset lake cruise for amazing lake and mountain views.



DAY 6 - TAUPŌ

INCLUDED

- ▶ Breakfast

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ▶ The Tongariro Crossing (guided and unguided tours available, depending on the season)
- ▶ Skydive
- ▶ Water Touch Bungy
- ▶ Sail Fearless - Lake Taupō Sailing

A full day in Taupō... are you in the mood for peaceful lakeside tranquillity or unlimited adrenaline and adventure? Either way, Taupō's got you covered. For many, the ultimate adventure on offer here is the hiking (or tramping, as we Kiwis know it).

The Tongariro Crossing is among the top 10 full-day walks in the world. This 19.4-kilometre mountain trek boasts emerald green lakes, venting steam, lava flows and craters. You'll come back grinning from ear to ear before falling into bed and sleeping like a baby.

If you'd prefer to relax, jump on a boat for a sailing trip to view Māori rock carvings. Or head to Spa Park and soak until your fingers are wrinkly. However you choose to spend today we guarantee you won't forget it.



DAY 7 - TAUPŌ TO WELLINGTON

INCLUDED

- ▶ Breakfast
- ▶ Scenic drive through Tongariro National Park

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Weta Workshop Tour

It's a big drive from Taupō to Wellington, but there's some unmissable scenery on offer. Lord of the Rings junkies, you're in for a treat!

Our journey takes us through Tongariro National Park via the Rangipo Desert (bet you didn't know New Zealand had one of those!). Some of your favourite Lord of the Rings battle scenes were filmed right here.

The Desert Road boasts incredible views of three active volcanic peaks - Mount Tongariro, Mount Ngauruhoe, and Mount Ruapehu. You may know Mount Ngauruhoe as Mount Doom, so be sure to snap a Mordor selfie!

We pass through two of the North Island's quirkier towns - as ever, your guide has a couple of surprises up their sleeve...

We pull into Wellington in the afternoon, with just enough time for film buffs make a trip to Weta Workshop, where the special effects of Lord of the Rings and Avatar were produced.

New Zealand's capital is famous for its bars and eateries, and is a paradise for lovers of craft beer - you'll be spoilt for choice tonight! The tour officially finishes at 8pm today in Wellington, but your accommodation tonight is included.



FAQ's

WHERE DOES THE TOUR START AND END?

This tour starts in Auckland at 8am on Day 1 and wraps up at 8pm on the evening of Day 7 in Wellington, but your final nights accommodation is included.

Most customers stay with us the night before the tour starts, which means a super relaxed start to your experience. You can choose to do this as you build your tour online.

CAN I BOOK EXTRA ACCOMMODATION?

Yes - you can book extra accommodation in Auckland before the tour or in Wellington/Auckland after the tour.

WHAT ARE THE MOST POPULAR ACTIVITIES ON THIS TOUR?

Everyone has their own favourites, but in general we find that these are the most popular:

- ▶ Skydiving - Taupō
- ▶ Kayaking - Coromandel
- ▶ Rafting - Rotorua
- ▶ Tongariro Crossing

Please be aware that your guide will fit your activities in the best way possible depending on what activities are selected - so they may take place on different days or times than those listed on this itinerary.

I AM TRAVELLING ALONE - CAN I JOIN THIS TOUR?

Yes! Around 70% of our guests are solo so you can absolutely join this, or any other of our tours. There are no single person supplements.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I BUDGET PER DAY FOR FOOD AND WHAT FOOD IS INCLUDED?

Your guide will supply a continental breakfast each morning of your tour. This will consist of cereal, toast, tea, coffee and juice. And we take any special requests also.

Lunches and dinners are at your own expense. Our guides know the best places in each town and city depending on your budget and what you are after, and they will point these out on the way into each location.

Some nights the tour group may choose to cook a meal together. You will head to a supermarket to get everything and then cook as a group at the hostel.

Whoever joins in splits the cost, and it usually works out to be about NZ\$10 per person. A fun, social and cheap dinner.

Likewise the tour group and guide often head out to a local pub for a beer and a meal. Meals can range from NZ\$15 upwards. In summer it's not uncommon to have a BBQ washed down with a few drinks.



FAQ's

DO YOU CATER FOR VEGETARIANS/VEGANS?

Yes - we often have vegetarian/vegan guests and all cafes and restaurants in New Zealand offer these options. If you can't see any on the menu just ask, as most places will happily prepare something for you.

HOW FAR IN ADVANCE SHOULD I MAKE A BOOKING?

We recommend booking as soon as you know you can travel, and have decided on which tour you would like to go on. Some of our tours can be quite popular so it's best to secure your spot as soon as possible. Your spot can be booked with just a \$99 deposit and full balance is due 45 days prior to departure. You can log into your account at any time up until 45 days prior to pay off part of your tour balance, add activities and customise your tour.

WHAT AGES IS THIS TOUR FOR?

We have guests that are in their late teens to their 60s but the average age is around 25-45. More important than age is attitude - we have found over the years that if you have a thirst for adventure then age is no barrier.

Please do keep in mind though that a reasonable level of fitness is required - we can talk you through any specifics. The minimum age of joining a tour is 18 years old.

Sometimes the group may head out to a bar where everyone needs to be 18 years old, and New Zealand has strict alcohol policies.

CAN I UPGRADE MY ACCOMMODATION?

If you would prefer to have your own room while on tour, it is a good idea to upgrade. Most private rooms will have an ensuite bathroom attached; however in some locations you will have a private room with shared bathroom facilities due to the hostel layout. You can read more information about our accommodation upgrades online.

CONTACT US TODAY FOR THE BEST PRICES AND SERVICES

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[OR PHONE US NOW](#)

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