

THE ULTIMATE KIWI ADVENTURE



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




MTB




SNOW




ADVENTURE




PREMIUM




PRIVATE



10-DAY NORTHERN TRAIL TOUR



ROUTE: AUCKLAND TO WELLINGTON

Welcome to the 10 Day Northern Trail Tour!

From New Zealand's biggest city to the nation's lively capital, you'll take in a whole host of North Island gems, enjoying cinematographic landscapes, spectacular coastal walks and geothermal wonders. We'll fill your days with highlights of the North Island and also give you a great insight into New Zealand life and culture.

Created for travellers in their mid-thirties and upwards, this North Island tour includes special activities such as walking to the spectacular and photogenic Cathedral Cove, a traditional Māori meal, and a walk amidst towering – and magically lit – treetops. You can also choose to select some tour add-ons such as hiking the Tongariro Alpine Crossing – otherwise known as Mordor, kayaking to a natural hot pool, visiting an off-shore eco-sanctuary, visiting Hobbiton, or flying above an active volcano!

You'll have the chance to swim, kayak, skydive, hike, see kiwis, relax in hot pools, roll down a hill in a giant ball, eat and drink like a local, and more! This is your trip, and it's designed to be flexible. The choice is yours – pick the activities that appeal to you.

At the end of the day, you can relax in comfortable 3-4 star accommodation to ensure you have a great night's sleep ready for the following day's activities.

On this tour between Wellington and Auckland, you'll encounter an array of landscapes: lush, green rolling hills; beautiful golden sand beaches, tumbling waterfalls, geothermal valleys filled with bubbling mud and sulphuric lakes, magnificent mountains, cosy laid-back surf towns and vibrant cities. Prepare your camera and get ready to make some magical memories!

FLEXIBLE DEPARTURE DATES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.



TOUR INCLUSIONS

All the things on this page are included as part of your tour at no extra cost.

WHAT'S INCLUDED ON THIS TOUR

- ▶ Stay 9 nights in twin-share 3-4 star accommodation: a mix of hotels, motels, and lodges.
- ▶ Feast on 5 continental breakfasts and 2 dinners, including a traditional Māori hāngī cooked in an underground oven.
- ▶ Walk a stunning coastal track to Cathedral Cove (as seen in the Chronicles of Narnia movies).
- ▶ Watch a Māori cultural performance and check out a geothermal valley of bubbling mud pools including the famous Pōhutu Geyser in Rotorua.
- ▶ See endangered kiwi birds up close and personal.
- ▶ Soak up a sunset boat cruise in the West Coast surf town of Raglan - the fish and chips are on us!
- ▶ Brave the Redwoods Treewalk, crossing 23 raised suspension bridges.
- ▶ Hike through the forested gorge of Ruakuri (45 minutes) - bring your camera for this one.
- ▶ Stay in Tongariro National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Area.
- ▶ Plus, many more surprise stops along the way!

ALL TOURS INCLUDE

- ▶ **PASSIONATE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE LOCAL KIWI GUIDE**
- ▶ **COMFORTABLE AND AIR-CONDITIONED BUS TRANSPORT**
- ▶ **SMALL GROUPS OF MAXIMUM 16 PEOPLE**
- ▶ **ORIENTATION TOUR OF EACH AND EVERY LOCATION**
- ▶ **EXPERIENCES TO TEACH YOU ABOUT OUR UNIQUE MĀORI CULTURE**



ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAY 1 - AUCKLAND

Welcome to Auckland / Tāmaki Makaurau! Settle into your accommodation, meet your new travel buddies and get an early night before your adventures start tomorrow.

DAY 2 - AUCKLAND TO COROMANDEL

This morning's drive takes us to the famed beauty of Coromandel Peninsula. Explore the magnificent coastline and crystal-clear waters by kayak or enjoy a hot pool soak.

DAY 3 - COROMANDEL TO RAGLAN

We head west to relaxed Raglan where beginners and experienced surfers can sample the surf breaks before we enjoy a meal of fish & chips on a sunset cruise.

DAY 4 - RAGLAN TO ROTORUA (VIA WAITOMO)

En-route to the geothermal wonderland of Rotorua, we'll visit Waitomo's world-famous glow worms. This evening we'll take a magical walk amongst giants!

DAY 5 - ROTORUA

Opt to take a flight over an active marine volcano, visit Hobbiton, hike a volcanic crater, or kayak to hot pools. Tonight we'll visit a living Māori village.

DAY 6- ROTORUA TO NATIONAL PARK (VIA TAUPŌ)

We'll visit the thundering Huka Falls, which you'll hear before you see, then stop in Taupō where you can try bungy jumping, or the ultimate adrenaline rush: skydiving.

DAY 7 - NATIONAL PARK

Spend all day in this UNESCO World Heritage Area with an option to hike the Tongariro Crossing - considered one of the world's top 10 best one-day walks.

DAY 8 - NATIONAL PARK TO WELLINGTON

We'll leave the mountains through landscapes familiar to Lord of the Rings fans and head south towards the world's coolest little capital city - Wellington.

Continued...



ITINERARY SUMMARY

CONT...

DAY 9 - WELLINGTON

See rare and endangered birds found nowhere else on earth at an offshore nature reserve, admire exhibits at our national museum, or get a film geek fix at Weta Workshop.

DAY 10 - WELLINGTON

All good things must come to an end, so share contact details, photos and tour memories over breakfast then bid farewell to your new friends and wonderful guide.





DAY 1 - AUCKLAND

Kia ora (hello!) and welcome to Aotearoa (New Zealand).

Settle into your accommodation and be ready for the 6pm pre-tour meeting. Here you will get to know your Tour Manager and be introduced to your new roadtrip friends.

Afterwards, the evening is yours to enjoy. We recommend a good night's sleep to be ready for tomorrow's early start, but you may want to experience Auckland's exciting nightlife - the choice is yours!



DAY 2 - AUCKLAND TO COROMANDEL

INCLUDED

- ▶ Breakfast
- ▶ Visit Hot Water Beach
- ▶ Visit Cathedral Cove

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ▶ The Lost Spring
- ▶ Cathedral Cove Kayaking
- ▶ Bone Carving

Rise and shine! After a continental breakfast this morning, it's time to board our comfortable air-conditioned vehicle and leave the big city behind.

The Coromandel Peninsula is a paradise of beautiful beaches and misty rainforests. The drive here is truly spectacular - 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 famous Hot Water Beach - thousands visit each year to dig their own personal hot tub. If the tide times allow, we'll 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, take a surf lesson with the locals, or simply enjoy the vibes.



DAY 3 - COROMANDEL TO RAGLAN

INCLUDED

- ▶ Raglan Sunset Boat Cruise
- ▶ Fish & Chips Dinner

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Surf Lessons
- ▶ Paddleboarding
- ▶ Kayaking
- ▶ Caving/Rock Climbing

Today's road trip to the arty surf mecca of Raglan will give you a first glimpse of the North Island's rolling tree-lined hills and valleys. Your guide has some great sights to show you en route, including the 55-metre high Bridal Veil Falls.

If you have always wanted to try surfing, or if you're dying to get back on your board, Raglan is the perfect destination both for beginners and experienced surfers.

Not keen on surfing? There's plenty to enjoy in this laid-back township. With an awesome blend of cafes, bars, surf shops and galleries, the streets here ooze character and creativity. Relax on the beach and leave any lingering jet-lag behind, or enjoy a variety of bush and coastal scenery on Raglan's walking trails.

For dinner tonight, tuck into New Zealand's unofficial dish - fish and chips (or fush and chups, as it tends to sound in a Kiwi accent). And what better way to enjoy a tasty meal than on a sunset boat cruise of Raglan Harbour?



DAY 4 - RAGLAN TO ROTORUA (VIA WAITOMO)

INCLUDED

- ▶ Redwood Forest Canopy Walk
- ▶ Ruakuri Bush Walk

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Footwhistle Cave Tour

Our first stop of the day is the Waitomo Caves famous for its glow worms. There are fantastic and informative walking tours of the caves where you can learn more about the history, geology and Māori mythology of this unique area of New Zealand.

For those who prefer to stay above ground, we highly recommend exploring the tree-studded gorges and limestone arches of the nearby Ruakuri Forest Walk; definitely a favourite amongst the guides.

This afternoon we'll make our way to Rotorua, famous for its geothermal activity and Māori culture.

We start our time in Rotorua with The Redwoods Treewalk. This amazing included activity allows you to experience the majestic Redwood Forest from a series of suspension bridges and living decks (platforms), elevated from 9-metres to 12-metres at the highest point.



DAY 5 - ROTORUA

INCLUDED

- ▶ Breakfast
- ▶ Dinner (a hangi cooked in an underground oven)
- ▶ See the world famous haka dance
- ▶ See the Pohutu Geyser
- ▶ See kiwi birds

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Hobbiton Movie Set Tour
- ▶ Forest Ziplining
- ▶ White Water Rafting
- ▶ Mount Tarawera Crater Hike
- ▶ OGO
- ▶ White Island Scenic Flight
- ▶ Guided Kayak to Hot Pools
- ▶ Skyline Gondola Rotorua

Rotorua has it all: natural beauty, unique geothermal landscapes, and iconic *Lord of The Rings* destinations. We stay here a full day to make the very most of it.

This area is world-renowned for its geothermal activity, with neon blue and red lakes, steaming rivers, violent geysers, and bubbling mud pools galore.

A visit to the picturesque Hobbiton movie set is a must-do activity for many. Even if you haven't seen the films, it's impossible not to be charmed by this gorgeous hobbit village set amongst the lush green hills of Matamata.

For a truly epic brush with nature, fly high through the lush ancient forest canopy on a zipline tour complete with swing bridges crossings and treetop platforms. What better way to get to know the native plants and birds - many of which unique to New Zealand.

This evening we are welcomed to a Māori village for an unmissable cultural experience featuring combat demonstrations and - of course - the breathtaking haka. This experience extends beyond the performance - you'll have the chance to see magnificent geothermal activity and get to spot kiwi birds.



DAY 6 – ROTORUA TO NATIONAL PARK (VIA TAUPŌ)

INCLUDED

- ▶ Breakfast
- ▶ See Huka Falls

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Skydiving
- ▶ Bungy Jumping
- ▶ Sail Fearless
- ▶ White Water Rafting

Rotorua is a spectacular whitewater rafting destination, and with expert guidance it can be experienced by first timers and pro-paddlers alike. For the ultimate thrill this morning you can raft the highest commercial waterfall drop in the world – the 7-metre Tutea Falls, on the Kaituna River.

If that's not your cup of tea, spend the morning exploring Rotorua's many attractions such as the ultra-relaxing Polynesian Spa, or perhaps the naturally-impressive Kuirau Park full of steaming, hissing and boiling geothermal pools.

There are also some fantastic cafes and bakeries in the area. Why not grab a sweet treat for the road – a ginger slice is as Kiwi as it gets!

From Rotorua it's a quick drive to Taupō; a beautiful lakeside town with a stunning mountain backdrop. It's a short drive but we'll take our time, checking out bubbling mud pools and thundering waterfalls en route.

We finish our day nestled in Tongariro National Park, where we'll spend the next 2 nights, home to one of the 10 best one-day walks in the world – the Tongariro Crossing.



DAY 7 - NATIONAL PARK

INCLUDED

- ▶ Breakfast

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ▶ The Tongariro Crossing - Full Day / Guided
- ▶ The Tongariro Crossing - Half Day Guided
- ▶ The Tongariro Crossing - Full Day / Unguided
- ▶ Forgotten World Adventures

Decision time - is today the day you brave the Tongariro Crossing?

Considered one of the world's top 10 best one-day walks, this 19.4km mountain trek boasts emerald green lakes, venting steam, lava flows, craters and rich green bush.

Not for the faint-hearted - it's a challenging day! But every step of the way the views are spectacular. Our guides highly recommend this activity, it's definitely a highlight.

If 19.4km is a little too far for you, there are plenty of shorter walks and hikes to enjoy. However you choose to spend today in this UNESCO World Heritage Area, we guarantee you won't forget it.



DAY 8 - NATIONAL PARK TO WELLINGTON

INCLUDED

- ▶ Breakfast
- ▶ Mount Victoria Lookout

Today we head to the coolest little capital city in the world, the hip and happening Wellington.

Perched on the edge of a spectacular harbour, encircled by green, towering hills, Wellington is a stunning and compact city. Vibrant, exciting and cultured, the nation's capital combines the stimulation and sophistication of a big city with the quirkiness and personality of a much smaller town.

After a quick afternoon orientation from your guide, head up Mount Victoria for some of the best views in town.

This evening, the city lights are yours to enjoy. Discover why Wellington is celebrated for its foodie culture - you are truly spoilt for dining choices tonight.

Wellington is also widely regarded as the craft beer capital of New Zealand. Want to test this for yourself? Talk to your guide to find the hidden gems.



DAY 9 - WELLINGTON

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Te Papa Museum Tour
- ▶ Weta Workshop
- ▶ Kapiti Island
- ▶ Zealandia

Soak up the atmosphere of vibrant Wellington. Famous for being a bit on the windy side, be prepared to ditch the hairspray and go with the flow.

As always, your guide will introduce you to the city with an orientation tour - including a drive around the bays through central Wellington to the Botanic Gardens and Parliament Buildings.

You will also stop by Weta Studios, most famous for its creative contribution to all things *Lord of the Rings*. Take an optional tour to see prop-makers in action and learn about the immersive world of filmmaking.

Wellington has a feast of cultural attractions and its crowning glory is Te Papa, the national museum of New Zealand. Situated on Wellington's magnificent waterfront, this internationally acclaimed museum combines leading edge technology with traditional exhibits to tell the stories of New Zealand's land and people. The museum is free for all.

If being outdoors is more your thing, head off to Kapiti Island for an optional nature tour. Here you can see endangered birds up close and learn more about New Zealand's unique flora and fauna.

DAY 10 - WELLINGTON

Today is the final day of tour - so prepare to bid farewell to all your new friends before you head in your own directions. You'll all have some incredible shared memories to take with you on your next adventure!



FAQ

WHERE DOES THE TOUR START AND END?

This tour starts with a 6pm pre-tour meeting at your Auckland accommodation on Day 1 and ends in Wellington at 10am on Day 10.

DO YOU VISIT MILFORD SOUND ON THIS TOUR?

This tour doesn't go to Queenstown - if you've got more time up your sleeve, why not check out the 20 Day Auckland to Christchurch Tour? It includes everything that the 12 day tour does, plus 9 more days of magic on the South Island. And that tour can include an optional trip to the wonderful Milford Sound while in Queenstown. There are a few different options for the excursion, which you can view online.

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:

- ▶ Kayaking - Coromandel
 - ▶ Hobbiton & Rafting - Rotorua
 - ▶ Footwhistle Glowworm Cave Tour - Waitomo
- 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 unless you want to have your own private room - in this case, upgrades are available.

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

Included in this tour are 5 continental breakfasts and 2 dinners - including a traditional Māori hāngī, cooked in an underground oven.

Our guides know the best places in each town and city for different budgets and tastes, and they will point these out on the way into each location.

The tour group, along with your guide, will often head out to a local pub for a beer and a meal. Meals can range from NZ\$15 upwards.

DO YOU CATER FOR VEGETARIANS AND VEGANS?

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



FAQ

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 NZ\$99 deposit, with the full balance 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?

This tour was designed for travellers in their mid thirties and upwards, however anyone over the age of 18 is welcome to join. 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 for any optional activities - we can talk you through any concerns you may have.

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