

Signature | Inspiring North Island Tour

Auckland to Wellington – 8 Days

Day 1

Auckland

Kia Ora!

Welcome to Auckland, New Zealand’s City of Sails! Auckland is known for its multi-cultural hub of food, music, arts, and culture.

After checking into your hotel and reading your welcome letter from your Tour Director, head out and explore all that Auckland has to offer. This is the perfect opportunity to visit the Sky Tower or shop along bustling Queen Street. You may even fancy a drink in one of the charming bars or eateries of Vulcan Lane.

Your tour officially begins this evening, as you join your fellow travellers and Tour Director this evening for a welcome reception.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (1 night in Auckland)

Meals Included

Dinner with Welcome Drink

Activities

Welcome Dinner

Day 2

Auckland to Hamilton

The Northern Explorer Scenic Train

Marvel at rural New Zealand’s lush landscapes from the comfort of your Scenic Plus carriage. From the sparkling waters of the Waitematā Harbour to the green pastures of the Waikato – you won’t want to miss a moment.

Arriving in Hamilton, your coach awaits you to bring you to the enchanting Zealong Tea Estate, where an immersive 1.5-hour tour and tea ceremony await, followed by the renowned Signature

High Tea experience. Discover the art of tea-making amidst breathtaking surroundings.

In the early afternoon, enjoy some free time in the heart of Hamilton before departing for an evening visit to Raglan – a seaside surfer town. It's here that you'll enjoy a Sunset Dinner Cruise on the pristine harbour.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Hamilton)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Activities

Northern Explorer Scenic Plus
Zealong Tea Estate Tour, Tea Ceremony and High Tea
Raglan Sunset Dinner Cruise

Day 3

Hamilton

Discover Endangered and Bioluminescent Species

Immerse yourself in the wonders of Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari on a bespoke two-hour tour through its ancient forests. Discover the indigenous flora and fauna, their traditional uses, and gain fascinating insights into Māori herbal medicinal practices, the unique Rongoā Rākau. This unforgettable journey will take you deep into the heart of New Zealand's natural beauty and cultural heritage.

Your expedition continues after a lunch stop in New Zealand's "Kiwiana Capital", Otorohanga. Make sure you capture a photo of the giant Kiwi birds! Next, discover the famous Waitomo Glow worm Caves and be dazzled by the seemingly star-filled sky as you glide by boat through this impressive cave formation.

Tonight, explore Hamilton's riverside walks and shops on this free evening. Enjoy one of the many nearby restaurants as the sun sets over the Waikato River.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Hamilton)

Meals Included

Breakfast

Activities

Sanctuary Mountain: Custom Tour

Waitomo Glowworm Caves

Day 4

Hamilton to Tongariro National Park

Explore Tongariro National Park

Joining the Northern Explorer train once again, today you'll soar over icy mountain streams as you travel to Tongariro National Park, the home of three volcanic mountains.

Tongariro National Park has a diverse range of ecosystems and spectacular landscapes. In 1993, it was recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site and was the first property to be inscribed with the criteria describing the cultural values it holds for Māori.

Enjoy a mini excursion up to Tūroa ski field. Here you'll want to capture a panoramic photo of Middle Earth before descending into Ohakune. Tonight, enjoy a special dinner with your fellow travellers.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Ohakune)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Dinner

Activities

Northern Explorer Scenic Plus

Afternoon excursion to view volcanic landscapes

Day 5

Tongariro National Park

Explore Tongariro National Park

Enjoy the morning with breakfast at your accommodation, then set off on a journey of discovery to Taumarunui.

Enjoy the ambiance as you spend a few hours in Taumarunui, exploring a local garden before your lunchtime feast at Lauren's Lavender Farm. Indulge in a hot meat dish accompanied by an array of refreshing salads, followed by a walk amidst the fragrant lavender fields and a visit to the lavender shop.

After your garden escapades, you'll return to Ohakune, where the evening is yours to spend how you like. Opt for relaxation in the inviting hot tubs or immerse yourself in the vibrant energy of Ohakune at your leisure.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Ohakune)

Meals Included

Breakfast

Activities

Lauren's Lavender Farm

Day 6

Tongariro National Park to Wellington

The Northern Explorer Scenic Train

Your day begins with an elevated experience up the northern face of Mt Ruapehu for panoramic views of the volcanic landscape. Drink in the views of Mt Ngāuruhoe, Mt Tongariro, and beyond across the central North Island.

Joining the Northern Explorer train once again, waving goodbye to Tongariro National Park, as you settle into your uber-comfortable seat. Don't get too comfortable though; dramatic rivers, gorges, and ravines are just around the bend! Stretch your legs and explore the open-air carriage to get the best view from the train.

A little later, why not indulge in a treat from our onboard licensed café? As you glide through rich green farmland and past dramatic coastlines, enjoy the picturesque Porirua Harbour as you arrive into Wellington.

Welcome to Wellington – New Zealand's windy capital! You've arrived at Wellington Railway Station which is just a stone's throw

from downtown, the Beehive and Parliament Buildings. You won't want to waste a moment of time after checking into the hotel - your evening is free to explore this culinary capital from Queen's Wharf to Cuba street and beyond.

Wellington.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Wellington)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Dinner

Activities

Northern Explorer Scenic Plus

Morning excursion to view volcanic landscapes

Day 7

Wellington

Explore Wellington

The perfect day does exist – and it includes exploring Wellington!

Today is free for you to experience vibrant Wellington as you please. Start by joining our Wellington City introduction tour and then head off to explore Cuba Street's cafés, bookstores, and eccentric shops. Get cultured at Te Papa, New Zealand's National Museum, or visit Zealandia Eco-Sanctuary to surround yourself by native birdlife and regenerating forest.

You won't get bored with the plethora of activities on offer. From coffee, culture, historic buildings to botanic gardens and much more... the list goes on! If you need any suggestions or recommendations, just reach out to your helpful Tour Director or our Travel Centre to pre-book an experience.

Enjoy dinner tonight with your fellow travellers.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Wellington)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Dinner

Activities

Wellington City Introduction Tour
Group Dinner

Day 8

Wellington

Departing Wellington

Your journey will end after enjoying a final breakfast with your fellow travellers.

Not ready to leave Wellington? Reach out to our Travel Centre to pre-organise your extended stay.

Meals Included

Breakfast

Activities

Transfer to airport

Signature | Inspiring North Island Tour

Auckland to Wellington *via Rotorua* – 8 Days

Day 1

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Welcome Dinner

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Activities

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Raglan Sunset Dinner Cruise

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4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Hamilton)

Meals Included

Breakfast

Activities

Sanctuary Mountain: Custom Tour

Waitomo Glowworm Caves

Day 4

Hamilton to Rotorua

Explore Rotorua

Today you will travel to Rotorua, one of the unique destinations in the country on comfortable coach bus.

You will have a stop to explore Government Gardens, a beautiful park situated just minutes from the city centre.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Rotorua)

Meals Included

Breakfast

Activities

Scenic drive to Rotorua

Visit to the Government Gardens

Day 5

Rotorua

Explore Rotorua

Start your day surrounded by the soaring giants of the Whakarewarewa Forest with the Redwoods Treewalk Treetops Experience. Suspended high above the forest floor, this tranquil daytime walk offers breathtaking views, fresh forest air, and a unique perspective of Rotorua's natural beauty.

In the evening, immerse yourself in a rich cultural and culinary journey with the Summer Harvest Experience at Te Pā Tū. This

intimate event weaves Māori traditions, storytelling, seasonal cuisine, and captivating performances into an unforgettable night under the stars. Tonight, enjoy a special dinner with your fellow travellers.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Rotorua)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Dinner

Activities

Lauren's Lavender Farm

Day 6

Rotorua to Wellington

The Northern Explorer Scenic Train

Today you will travel to Taumaranui to board the Northern Explorer for your Scenic Plus experience down to Wellington.

Joining the Northern Explorer train once again, waving goodbye to Taumaranui, as you settle into your comfortable seat. Don't get too comfortable though; dramatic rivers, gorges, and ravines are just around the bend! Stretch your legs and explore the open-air carriage to get the best view from the train. As you glide through rich green farmland and past dramatic coastlines, enjoy the picturesque Porirua Harbour as you arrive into Wellington.

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Breakfast, Dinner

Activities

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Morning excursion to view volcanic landscapes

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Meals Included

Breakfast

Activities

Transfer to airport