

10 Day Northern Trail ex Auckland



EXPLORE THE BEST OF THE NORTH ISLAND HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome to the 10 Day Northern Trail.

From New Zealand's biggest city to the nation's lively capital, you'll take in a whole host of North Island gems, enjoying cinemagraphic 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!

Itinerary

Day 1: Auckland

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

Auckland is New Zealand's biggest city and is known in Maori as Tamaki Makaurau – the place of many lovers.

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

Rise and shine! After a continental breakfast 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.

INCLUDED

- Breakfast
- Visit Hot Water Beach
- Visit Cathedral Cove

Day 3: Coromandel to Raglan

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?

INCLUDED

- Raglan Sunset Boat Cruise
- Fish & Chips Dinner

Day 4: Raglan to Rotorua (via Waitomo)

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 Maori 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 Haka guides.

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

INCLUDED

- Redwood Forest Canopy Walk
- Ruakuri Bush Walk

Day 5: 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 Maori 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.

INCLUDED

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

Day 6: Rotorua to Tongariro National Park (via Taupo)

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 Taupo; 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.

INCLUDED

- Breakfast
- See Huka Falls

Day 7: Tongariro National Park

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.

INCLUDED

- Breakfast

Day 8: Tongariro National Park to Wellington

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.

INCLUDED

- Breakfast
- Mount Victoria Lookout

Day 9: Wellington

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!

Teilnehmer: max. 16 Personen

Transport: Reisebus

Includierte Mahlzeiten: 5x Frühstück, 2x Mittagessen

Übernachtung: 9 Nächte in 3-4 Sterne Unterkunft - ein Mix aus Motel, Hotel und Lodges und Rainforest Retreats

Gepäck Limit: keine Angabe

Rollstuhlgeeignet: nein

Geeignet für Menschen eingeschränkter Mobilität: nein
(genauere Informationen auf Anfrage)

Die Sprache während der Tour ist englisch