

## 7 Day North Island Adventure Tour (Wellington to Auckland)

### Day 1: Wellington to Taupo

Kia Ora and welcome to New Zealand!

Today we meet at 8am at the reception of Wellington YHA where your guide will have set up continental breakfast. Over breakfast your guide will introduce everyone to the group and run through everything you need to know to maximise your time in New Zealand. Breakfast and the welcome meeting should take around an hour though can take a bit longer with larger groups.

Tucked away at the bottom of the North Island, New Zealand's capital is anything but boring. A fun young city with tons of green spaces and beaches, it feels more like a small town than an urban capital. Packed with quirky bars, quaint cafes, beautiful street art and heaps of things to do, it's impossible not to love Wellington.

In the morning your tour guide will give you a tour of Wellington city and the surrounding bays. This can include a trip to Weta Workshop, where films like Lord of the Rings have been made. We also may visit the parliament buildings, cable car and Mount Victoria.

On the way to Taupō we drive along the Desert Road that divides the Rangipo Desert (an area with poor vegetation because of bad soil conditions and drying winds). The climate is harsh and in winter it is not unusual to see snow. However, the biggest attractions on this road are that of Mount Ruapehu, Mount Tongariro and Mount Ngauruhoe, the volcano better known as Mount Doom in Lord of the Rings. On the other side of the road is the lesser noticed Kaimanawa Range, home to a breed of wild horses that can be spotted on rare occasions.

We arrive at the accommodation by evening. With a whole day to explore Taupo tomorrow, feel free to relax at the hostel or go out to experience some of the town's best nightlife!

#### INCLUDED

- Breakfast
- Mt Victoria Lookout
- Scenic drive through Tongariro National Park

### Day 2: Taupo

A full day in Taupo... are you in the mood for peaceful lakeside tranquility or unlimited adrenaline and adventure? Either way, Taupo'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 Maori 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.

#### INCLUDED

- Breakfast

### Day 3: Taupo to Murupara

After our morning in Taupō we head to Kohutapu Lodge in Murupara – a living Maori village – where you will be taken on 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.

#### INCLUDED

- Breakfast
- Find natural hot springs

### Day 4: Murupara to Rotorua

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.

On the way to Rotorua, we stop at what really makes the town famous, along with giving it its unique smell: one of several extraordinary geyserlands and thermal parks.

There's heaps of time to get amongst Rotorua's diverse attractions while you're here.

We'll get you started with an orientation tour, including a stroll through the flower-filled Government Gardens by the lakefront.

Lord of the Rings fans, channel your inner hobbit with an optional visit to picturesque Hobbiton – have a ginger beer at the Green Dragon pub for us!

If adrenalin's your thing, the highest commercial waterfall drop in the world, on the Kaituna River, is begging to be conquered on an exhilarating rafting trip. Or let your guide coax you into thundering down grassy hills in a giant air-cushioned inflatable ball (or OGO) – you won't regret it!

#### INCLUDED

- Breakfast
- Visit Te Puia Māori Village
- See kiwi birds
- See the Pohutu Geyser

### Day 5: Rotorua

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 – white water rafting, zip-lining, rolling down a hill in a giant inflatable ball, river sledging and more!

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 aircushioned 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!

#### INCLUDED

- Breakfast

### Day 6: Rotorua to Coromandel

It's no secret that many blockbuster hits have been filmed in New Zealand due to our incredible landscapes. Around lunchtime, we head off to the Coromandel to discover them first-hand.

We'll walk together out along the cliffs down to Cathedral Cove (which you might recognise from the Chronicles of Narnia films). Beautiful in its own right, with perfect beaches and massive rock arches and columns it's one of the most popular spots in the Coromandel and for good reason!

#### INCLUDED

- Breakfast

### Day 7: Coromandel to Auckland

Beautiful remote beaches, dense wooded forest and clear blue waters make the Coromandel one of New Zealand's favourite getaways. At low tide, we'll make our way out to the world-famous Hot Water Beach.

When the tide's out, you can dig a hole in the sand where natural hot springs bubble up to create your own personal hot tub!

Finally, we head to Auckland, New Zealand's biggest city. Auckland sits on the narrow sliver of land where the Northland peninsula tapers south to meet the rest of the North Island. So the sea is always nearby, and it isn't difficult to guess the origin of its nickname 'City of Sails'.

Your tour officially ends at 8pm today in Auckland, so feel free to party on with your new travel buddies for as long as you like – your accommodation tonight is included so you can treat yourself to a lie-in in the morning! Or if you have a few spare days, why not hop on our three day Bay of Islands tour?

## INCLUDED

- Breakfast
- Visit Hot Water Beach

**Teilnehmer:** max. 16 Personen (Mindestalter 18 Jahre)

**Transport:** kleiner Bus

**Includierte Mahlzeiten:** Frühstück

**Übernachtung:** 4-6 Bettzimmer in Lodges, Motels und Hostels

**Gepäck Limit:** 20 kg

**Rollstuhlgeeignet:** nein

**Geeignet für Menschen mit eingeschränkter Mobilität:** ja (genauere Informationen auf Anfrage)

**Die Sprache während der Tour ist englisch**