

## AAT Kings: Northern Spotlight 25/26

Follow the path of pioneer settlers as you travel the North Island of New Zealand, the birthplace of the country's European history. This journey takes you from the shores of the beautiful Bay of Islands to Rotorua, rich in Māori culture and traditions, and onto the spectacular scenery of Tongariro National Park the thriving modern capital, Wellington.

Starts in: Auckland  
 Finishes in: Wellington  
 Length: 8days / 7nights  
 Accommodation: Hotel 3 star  
 Can be customised: Yes

This itinerary can be customised to suit you perfectly. We can add more days, remove days, change accommodations, mix it up, add activities to suit your interests or simply design and create something from scratch. Call us today to get your custom New Zealand itinerary underway.



### Inclusions:

- Includes: All coach transport
- Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations
- Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring
- Included: Huka Falls
- Included: Maori Village Experience & Hangi (dinner), Rotorua
- Included: Te Puia Indigenous Experience
- Included: Waitangi Treaty Grounds
- Included: Waitomo GlowWorm Caves
- Included: Wellington City Tour
- Included: Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve
- 7 breakfasts, 2 dinners

## Day 1

Auckland is known as the 'City of Sails'. And you'll discover why when exploring its two harbours at your leisure. Pick a waterfront precinct and find a perch to while away the afternoon with a glass of robust red from Waiheke. Your Travel Director will welcome you and your fellow travelling companions tonight for a tour briefing and drinks.

Staying in:

- Holiday Inn Express Auckland City Centre (1 night)
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## Day 2

Your journey north to Bay of Islands from Auckland is not short of drama – discover 140 droplets of land ringed by turquoise sea at the top of the country. It's undeniably beautiful, but it also holds a special historical significance: this is where the Treaty of Waitangi was signed between Captain William Hobson and Māori Chiefs in 1840. Your local specialist, likely a descendant of one of the original signatories, will explain the significance of the site, while pointing out the world's largest ceremonial war canoe and a carved meeting house.

Staying in:

- Copthorne Hotel and Resort (1 night)
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## Day 3

If there's a travel destination that inspires wanderlust, the Bay of Islands is it. And today, you can do just that. Venture up to Cape Reinga/Te Rerenga Wairua, the very top of New Zealand, via idyllic Ninety Mile Beach or enjoy a scenic cruise among the 144 islands including lunch and a visit to the iconic hole in the rock. Or join a tour of Russell and learn more about the settling of the Bay of Islands (all own expense). The choice is yours.

Staying in:

- Copthorne Hotel and Resort (1 night)
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## Day 4

Northern exposure is a thing today, when you journey toward the top of the country to visit Whangarei – NZ's northern-most city, and a place where quirky galleries and museums wait to be explored. It's like the country in a tantalising snapshot – a union of nature and forward-thinking culture. Explore at your leisure before sinking back into your seat for the mesmerising commute back to Auckland.

Staying in:

- Holiday Inn Express Auckland City Centre (1 night)
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## Day 5

There's no bad day in Auckland – today, yours starts with a city sights tour before you set your GPS for the Waikato River and Waitomo Caves. This place is radiant – quite literally. While cruising cavernous waterways, your route is cast in a magical light by thousands of glowworms. It's a landscape almost as otherworldly as Rotorua, where mud pops and jettisons from bubbling geysers, and steam rushes skywards from cracks in the Earth. Tonight, delve deep into Māori culture with the Te Pō Indigenous Experience at Te Puia. It begins with an exhilarating cultural performance in a beautifully carved meeting house, Te Aronui a Rua, followed by views of the Pohutu Geyser, one of New Zealand's geothermal wonderlands, and ends with a delicious buffet dinner of hāngī-inspired cuisine - a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience.

Staying in:

- Ibis Rotorua Hotel (1 night)
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## Day 6

Explore at your own pace today, but with plenty of tips from your Travel Director. Want a bit of down time? We wouldn't blame you for simply blissing out at Wai Ariki Hot Springs & Spa. Hobbit fans will want to take advantage of the opportunity to tour the sights featured in The Lord of the Rings movies at Hobbiton. These beautiful landscapes are not only a bucket list tour for Hobbit fans, but a gorgeous countryside getaway

(all own expense).

Staying in:

- Ibis Rotorua Hotel (1 night)
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## Day 7

You'll hear Huka Falls well before you see it – at this natural wonder, a staggering 220,000 litres of water thunder over an 11-metre-high waterfall every second. The road ahead unfolds in a broad panorama of Lake Taupo, its waters so vivid and blue you'll think someone has taken the glasses off your nose and cleaned them for the first time. Traverse the Kapiti Coast to New Zealand's cool little capital, Wellington. Ask your Travel Director for tips on where to eat.

Staying in:

- Travelodge Wellington (1 night)
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## Day 8

Wellington is known for its uber-cool cafes, so grab a coffee before you head out on your city sights tour. After the tour, bid farewell to your NZ crew. You may wish to depart directly, or if you have time, linger in town, discovering Māori culture at Te Papa, the Museum of New Zealand (entrance fee applies).

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## Tour details

Departures: Daily  
Tour type: Guided Coach Tour  
Starts: Auckland  
Finishes: Wellington  
Tour length: 8  
Accommodation: Hotel 3 star  
Car/transport type:

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## Accommodation summary