

AAT Kings: Northern Wonders 26/27

While you could spend months exploring the North Island of New Zealand on a tour, if you're travelling in the right company, you can immerse yourself in the highlights in a week. Discover Wellington's coolest wine bars, drop in on Rotorua's hot springs, find a pretty perch on a Bay of Islands tour, get your glow on during a Waitomo Caves tour, then ease into Auckland's harbour-side lifestyle.

Starts in: Wellington
 Finishes in: Auckland
 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: Explore the Bay of Islands
- Included: Free time in Rotorua
- Included: Te Puia geothermal valley
- Included: Te Puia traditional Maori hangi & concert
- Included: Waitangi Treaty Grounds
- Included: Waitomo GlowWorm Caves
- Included: Wellington City Tour
- 7 breakfasts, 3 dinners

Day 1

New Zealand's cool little capital, Wellington is the kind of place you could easily lose yourself in for a day. Good thing you arrived early. Meet your Travel Director and fellow travel companions this afternoon for an orientation tour of Wellington where you will visit the peak of Mount Victoria, and short stroll will reward you with 360-degree views of the surrounding harbour and city. After the tour you may like to visit Te Papa, the Museum of New Zealand, home to an extraordinary collection of artefacts, including an eye-opening exhibit dedicated to Māori history (entrance fee applies). Later, meet up with your fellow adventure-seekers for a drink before your tour of the North Island of New Zealand.

Staying in:

- James Cook Grand Chancellor (1 night)
-

Day 2

The Kapiti Coast is the summer playground of Wellingtonians – for good reason. You'll follow in local footsteps as you make your way along a road that unfolds in a broad panorama of Lake Taupo, the largest (and perhaps bluest) of its kind in the country. 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. This evening explore Te Puia's geothermal valley, and learn about Māori history and culture on this guided experience. It includes a cultural performance in a finely 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 hangi-inspired cuisine.

Staying in:

- Ibis Rotorua Hotel (1 night)
-

Day 3

If there's a New Zealand city where you want free time, Rotorua is it. Go your own way today, perhaps blissing out at Wai Ariki Hot Springs & Spa. Who knew nature was this relaxing? Hobbit fans will want to take advantage of the opportunity to tour the sights featured in The Lord of the Rings movies at Hobbiton Movie Set. These beautiful landscapes are not only a bucket list tour for Hobbit fans, but a gorgeous countryside getaway (both own expense).

Staying in:

- Ibis Rotorua Hotel (1 night)
-

Day 4

The Waitomo Caves are radiant – quite literally. While cruising cavernous underground waterways, your route is cast in a magical light by thousands of glowworms. It's a fairytale start to your day. One that only gets better as you descend on Auckland, the 'City of Sails'. You'll discover how it got its moniker while gazing over its two yacht-studded harbours from the lookout at the Auckland War Memorial Museum. What a city, as your tour of Auckland reveals.

Staying in:

- Holiday Inn Express Auckland City Centre (1 night)
-

Day 5

Your journey north to New Zealand's Bay of Islands is not short of drama – discover 140 islands 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 in 1840, between Captain William Hobson and Māori chiefs. Take a tour of the Treaty Grounds, your local specialist, perhaps a descendant of original signatories, will explain the significance to New Zealanders.

Staying in:

- Copthorne Hotel and Resort (1 night)
-

Day 6

Go as fast or as slow as you like today – there's no rush, and no agenda. Talk to your Travel Director to organise a day trip up to Cape Reinga, the very top of New Zealand, via idyllic Ninety Mile Beach, or a trip to the iconic Hole in the Rock. If you're a history buff, you may want to 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)
-

Day 7

Head to Whangarei – the county's northern-most city. This is a place where, galleries like the Hundertwasser Arts Centre, meet museums. 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 coach seat for the mesmerising commute back to Auckland. Tonight, join your Travel Director and companions to toast your adventure with drinks and dinner.

Staying in:

- Holiday Inn Express Auckland City Centre (1 night)
-

Day 8

It's not farewell, it's ka kite/see you later! On your journey home, just remember how much pleasure you have packed into this last week.

Tour details

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

Accommodation summary