



## Intrepid Travel: New Zealand Northern Trail (Southbound)

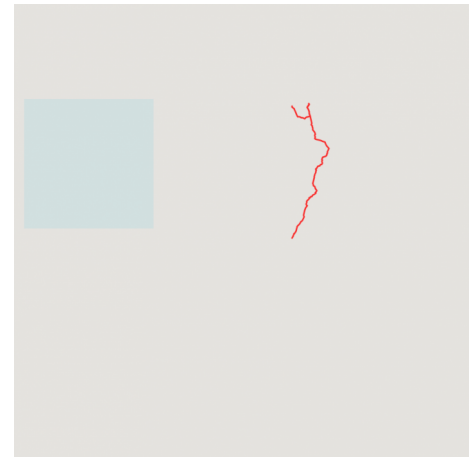
The legendary landscapes and natural beauty of New Zealand's North Island are simply unbeatable, but there's so much more to the region than its showstopping scenery. This Intrepid Comfort adventure takes you from the bright lights of Auckland to creative and contemporary Wellington. Along the way, your local leader will introduce you to the beaches and forests of the Coromandel Peninsula, the geothermal wonders of Rotorua and otherworldly landscapes of Tongariro National Park. Add a hangi dinner with a Maori community and kiwi spotting and you're in for a classic Kiwi adventure.



\*This itinerary is valid for departures from 01 October 2026 to 30 September 2027. Please consult your Travel Specialist for details on itinerary variations outside these dates.\*



Starts in: Auckland  
 Finishes in: Wellington  
 Length: 10days / 9nights  
 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 activity: Intrepid Travel
- Included: Cathedral Cove & Hot Water Beach on the Coromandel Peninsula
- Included: Free time in Rotorua
- Included: Free time in Wellington
- Included: Hobbiton Movie Set Tour
- Included: Huka Falls
- Included: Redwoods Treewalk, Pohutu Geyser, hangi dinner & haka experience at Rotorua
- Included: Visit a local marae (Maori meeting house) with a traditional powhiri (welcoming ceremony).
- Included: Zealandia Wildlife Sanctuary
- 9 breakfasts, 1 dinner



## Day 1



Welcome to Aotearoa (New Zealand) – the land of the long white cloud! Your adventure begins in Auckland, New Zealand's biggest city on the North Island. Meet your local leader and new travel friends at your accommodation at 6 pm for a welcome meeting tonight. If you arrive with time to spare, maybe check out the beach down at Mission Bay or take a stroll along the restaurant-lined waterfront. After the meeting, maybe dip into Auckland's nightlife with your fellow travellers.

It's very important that you attend the welcome meeting as we will be collecting insurance and emergency contact details at this time. If you are going to be late, please let your travel agent or hotel reception know. Ask reception or look for a note in the lobby for more information on where the meeting will take place.

Staying in:

- Hotel (1 night)
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## Day 2

This morning, leave the city in the rear-view mirror as you drive to the Coromandel Peninsula, following the coastline. A land of white-sand beaches and rainforests, the Coromandel Peninsula feels a world away from where your journey began. Make a stop at Hot Water Beach, named after the famous warm water that's found beneath its golden sand. If the tide allows, you can dig a hole on the beach and enjoy your own natural hot tub! After a visit to Cathedral Cove, you'll arrive at your accommodation in the afternoon.

Activities:

- Coromandel Peninsula - Cathedral Cove
- Coromandel Peninsula - Hot Water Beach

Staying in:

- Hotel or Motel (1 night)
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## Day 3

Hit the road and make the scenic drive along the Coromandel Peninsula. Join your local leader as they show you some of the most beautiful beaches in the area. This afternoon, maybe stop into Kuaotunu to try their famous ice cream and check out Coromandel Township. Tonight, maybe find a local restaurant for dinner – your leader will have the best recommendations!

Staying in:

- Hotel or Motel (1 night)
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## Day 4

This morning, watch the landscape change from beach to farmland as you drive to Waikato. Stop at Karangahake Gorge to see the remains of gold mining tunnels and railway tracks. Then, continue to Hobbiton – the living set where part of the Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit films were shot. After wandering through Middle Earth, continue your journey to Rotorua, known for its Maori heritage and hotbed of geothermal activity with its distinctive sulphur smell (you'll get used to it!). When you arrive, take a treetop walk through an ancient redwood forest over a network of suspension bridges, reaching 12 m at the highest point.

Activities:

- Rotorua - Redwood Forest Canopy Walk
- Rotorua - Hobbiton Movie Set Tour

Staying in:

- Hotel or Motel (1 night)
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## Day 5

Spend the day discovering the natural and cultural wonders of Rotorua – home to simmering mud pools, dramatic geysers and fluorescent lakes. If you've got a head for heights, ziplining through Rotorua's ancient forests is an unbeatable way to take it all in. This evening, you'll get a true taste of Maori culture during a visit to a cultural and geothermal wonderland. Here, you'll enjoy a hangi dinner alongside a soul-stirring haka performance.

Activities:

- Rotorua - Pohutu Geyser
- Rotorua - Hangi Dinner & Haka Dance

Staying in:

- Hotel or Motel (1 night)
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## Day 6

Rotorua's Polynesian Spa is the perfect place to unwind with your free morning. Or, maybe head to Kuirau Park to walk through a landscape of hissing natural hot pools. This afternoon, say goodbye to Rotorua and hit the road for Taupo, stopping at the thundering Huka Falls along the way. Set on the shores of the mighty Lake Taupo – New Zealand's largest lake – this town is one of the most scenic spots in the North Island. You'll spend two nights here, as it's the perfect base to explore the area and the nearby Tongariro National Park.

Activities:

- Taupo - Huka Falls

Staying in:

- Hotel or Motel (1 night)
- 

## Day 7

A volcanic eruption 70,000 years ago created the magnificent Lake Taupo, which now hosts visitors from around New Zealand and the world. With a free day here, you'll have plenty of activities to choose from – maybe go sailing on Lake Taupo, or if you're a keen hiker, you may want to consider the Tongariro Crossing – New Zealand's most famous day hike. The path takes you around a volcano, past lakes, craters and through bushland.

Today's hike on the Tongariro Alpine Crossing is optional, and you can book a transfer to and from the trail head at an additional cost. The transfer service is available from November to April, and the cost does not include a guide. Please note that this is a demanding 19.4 km alpine and volcanic hike with significant risks. It requires a high level of fitness, preparation and personal responsibility. Expect steep, uneven terrain, loose volcanic scree and a high elevation – all of which can lead to fatigue, dehydration or health issues. Alpine weather changes rapidly and may cause hypothermia or heat-related illness. Volcanic activity, while unlikely, is a natural hazard in this area. You must be fully self-sufficient, carrying all required gear, food and water. After the Red Crater summit, there are no safe exits until the end of the track. All participants should be fully prepared and are encouraged to disclose any medical conditions. Your leader will assess readiness and has the final say on participation for safety reasons.

Staying in:

- Hotel or Motel (1 night)
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## Day 8

Wellington is calling – leave Taupo behind and drive on to New Zealand's trendy capital city. Strung between green hills and the harbour, Wellington holds onto its small-town charm despite its capital status. Along the way, you'll stop in the small town of Taumaranui, where you'll visit a local marae (Maori meeting house). You'll be welcomed onto Morero marae with a traditional Powhiri. Once at the marae, you can sit down for a korero (conversation) with members of the local iwi about their way of life in this special region. After, share some kai (food) before continuing to Wellington. When you arrive, your leader will give you a brief introduction to the city. Then, you have free time to explore at your own pace.

Maybe head up Mt Victoria for a the views or explore the city's booming food scene.

Your travel time today will be approximately 5.5 hours.

Staying in:

- Hotel (1 night)
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## Day 9

Kick the day off with a visit to Zealandia – a conservation project that has successfully reintroduced over 20 species of native wildlife into this area, some previously absent from mainland New Zealand for over 100 years. Then, visit the Weta Workshop – this special effects studio was used by Peter Jackson for the Lord of the Rings trilogy! While here, you'll have the chance to take an optional tour around the studio to find out how the team created movie magic. This afternoon, maybe check out the Te Papa Museum. Displaying a combination of history and cultural heritage, the exhibits feature interactive displays and there's something here for everyone.

Activities:

- Wellington - Zealandia Wildlife Sanctuary

Staying in:

- Hotel (1 night)
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## Day 10

It's time to say a fond farewell to your newfound friends as your adventure comes to an end this morning. If you'd like to spend some more time exploring Wellington, get in touch with your booking agent ahead of time.

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## Tour details

Departures: Daily  
Tour type: Small Group Escorted Tour  
Starts: Auckland  
Finishes: Wellington  
Tour length: 10  
Accommodation: Hotel 3 star  
Car/transport type:

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## Accommodation summary