



Intrepid Travel: Premium New Zealand North Island

This is natural beauty on the biggest scale - huge volcanoes, vast lakes, rolling farmlands and deep caves. On this premium trip, you'll spend a week exploring the best of New Zealand's North Island with the guidance of a passionate local leader. On a journey from Auckland to Wellington, sip local wine on Waiheke Island, explore the mythical world of Hobbiton, marvel at the geothermal delights of Rotorua, relax on the shores of Lake Taupo, explore the volcanic landscapes of Tongariro and sail across Wellington Harbour.



Starts in: Auckland
Finishes in: Wellington
Length: 8days / 7nights
Accommodation: Hotel 4 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: Afterhours emergency support while touring
Included: Drink at The Green Dragon (Hobbiton)
Included: Return Ferry to Waiheke Island
Included: Te Pa Tu - Māori cultural & culinary experience
Included: Waiheke Island winery visits with tasting & lunch
Included: Wellington Harbour Evening Cruise

Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations

Included activity: Intrepid Travel

Included: Hobbiton Movie Set Tour

Included: Taranaki Falls, Tongariro National Park

Included: Wai O Tapu thermal reserve

Included: Waitomo GlowWorm Caves

: 7 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners



Day 1



Welcome to New Zealand! Your adventure of the volcanic North Island begins in Auckland – New Zealand's most populated city, fringed with beaches, harbours, volcanoes and farmland. You'll be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel, where you'll have a welcome meeting at 6 pm. If you arrive early, you might like to uncover the story of New Zealand rugby during an interactive All Blacks experience where you'll learn about the heritage of the sport and find out what it takes to wear the famous black jersey. After your meeting, get to know your group over dinner at a local bistro in the heart of the city, championing New Zealand producers.

It's very important that you attend the welcome meeting as we will be collecting insurance details and next of kin information 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.

Activities:

- Auckland - Welcome Dinner
- Complimentary Arrival Transfer

Staying in:

- M Social or similar (1 night)
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Day 2

Leave the bustle of the big city behind and head offshore to Waiheke Island, famed for its sandy beaches and local wine. Board a ferry from Auckland – if you're lucky, you may even see dolphins or orcas along the way. The day will be spent sipping your way around the island, stopping off at two unique wineries to learn about their production methods, and of course tasting the goods yourself. You'll also enjoy an included lunch on the island, not to mention a few scenic drives with plenty of opportunities for photos. Return to Auckland in the late afternoon with an evening free for your own discoveries of the city.

Activities:

- Waiheke Island - Day Trip by Ferry
- Waiheke Island - Winery Visits with Wine Tasting & Lunch

Staying in:

- M Social or similar (1 night)
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Day 3

After breakfast this morning, hit the road and drive to the Waitomo Glow Worm Caves – an extensive underground network of tunnels and caverns decorated with stalactites, stalagmites and luminous glow worms. Join a local expert for an in-depth tour of the Ruakuri Cave, descending a spiral entrance to the world below. See the limestone formations, hear the roar of subterranean waterfalls and learn about the glow worms that light up the caves. Continue to Hobbiton, where the epic Lord of the Rings movies were shot. Take a tour around the set with a local guide, hear stories about the production of these iconic films, explore Hobbit holes and enjoy a drink (and maybe a delicious pie) at the mythical Green Dragon Inn. Finally, travel to Rotorua, where you'll spend the evening.

Activities:

- Hobbiton - Visit to the Lord of the Rings Movie Set
- Hobbiton - Drink at the Green Dragon
- Waitomo - Glowworm Cave Tour

Staying in:

- Millennium Rotorua or similar (1 night)
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Day 4

Spend this morning at your leisure, perhaps relax at the Polynesian Spa or head for adrenaline at the Redwoods Treetop Walkway. This evening, you will pay a visit to Te Pā Tū and be hosted by the people of Tamaki Māori Village. A local expert will guide you in celebrating the abundant harvest of this season, and you will explore concepts, rituals, and stories of ancient Māori warfare and peace in a feast of culture and cuisine. Within the forest-formed amphitheatre you will hear stories relayed through haka, song and drama, before torch light guides you to an al fresco dining space with three-course feast.

Your trip leader has a rest day today, as per NZ legal requirements. Your trip leader will ensure you're ready to enjoy your time in Rotorua, before taking a 24 hour break. They will be available in case of emergencies.

Activities:

- Rotorua - Visit Te Pa Tu Maori Village with Local Guide and Hangi Dinner

Staying in:

- Millennium Rotorua or similar (1 night)
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Day 5

Say goodbye to Rotorua and drive on to Taupō – sitting on the shores of Lake Taupō, the largest lake in New Zealand, this is a popular and scenic town. On the way, visit Waiotapu Thermal Wonderland, where you'll walk through thousands of years of geothermal history and volcanic features, including New Zealand's largest mud pool and bubbling basins bursting with vibrant colours. The rest of the day is yours to discover all that this picturesque part of the country has to offer. One of the best ways to enjoy the lake is to get on its waters – speak to your leader to find out about the sustainable sailing and cruising options available this afternoon.

Activities:

- Rotorua - Waiotapu Thermal Wonderland

Staying in:

- Millenium Taupo or similar (1 night)
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Day 6

Today, uncover the natural wonders of Tongariro National Park, as spiritually significant as it is naturally beautiful. Your leader will guide you on a scenic two-hour walk to the Taranaki Falls – an impressive 20 m cascade tumbling over volcanic cliffs. Later in the day, head to your Feature Stay accommodation at the Powderhorn Hotel which is nestled in the mountain village at the base of Mt Ruapehu.

Activities:

- Tongariro National Park - Taranaki Falls

Staying in:

- Powderhorn Hotel (Feature Stay) or similar (1 night)
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Day 7

This morning, make tracks for Wellington – New Zealand's trendy capital city. After settling in, hop aboard a private catamaran and get to know the city on an evening cruise around Wellington Harbour. Return to land after an hour and join your group for dinner at a waterfront restaurant – the perfect chance to reminisce about your North Island adventure.

Activities:

- Wellington - Evening Cruise on Wellington Harbour

Staying in:

- Naumi Hotel or similar (1 night)
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Day 8

Your adventure comes to an end after breakfast this morning. If you'd like to spend more time exploring Wellington, just get in touch with your booking agent in advance to arrange additional accommodation. Alternatively, combine this trip with Premium New Zealand South Island for the

ultimate trip.

Tour details

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| Departures: | Daily |
| Tour type: | Small Group Escorted Tour |
| Starts: | Auckland |
| Finishes: | Wellington |
| Tour length: | 8 |
| Accommodation: | Hotel 4 star |
| Car/transport type: | |

Accommodation summary