



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 Intrepid 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.

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: 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.

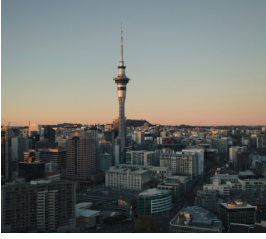


Inclusions:

- Includes: All coach transport
- Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring
- Included: Drink at The Green Dragon (Hobbiton)
- Included: Return Ferry to Waiheke Island
- plus much more...

- Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations
- Included activity: Intrepid Travel
- Included: Hobbiton Movie Set Tour
- Included: Taranaki Falls, Tongariro National Park

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 relaxing at the Polynesian Spa or opting for a dose of adrenaline at the Redwoods Treetop Walkway. This evening, you will pay a visit to Te Pa Tu and be hosted by the people of Tamaki Maori 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 Maori 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 alfresco dining space where you'll sit down to a 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 to Hawke's Bay – a region known for its abundance of wineries, acclaimed food scene, ideal weather and Art Deco architecture. 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. Then, continue to Hawke's Bay, where you'll check into your Feature Stay accommodation at Craggy Range Winery, beneath Te Mata Peak. You'll spend the next two nights in the heart of this acclaimed wine region, taking in the gorgeous landscapes and tasting local drops. Stay in a cosy cottage with ensuite bathrooms, a large, shared lounge and an outdoor area where you can enjoy the lush green vineyards and mountains surrounding you. Settle into your room, then join your group for a wine tasting and dinner.

Activities:

- Rotorua - Waiotapu Thermal Wonderland
- Hawkes Bay - Wine Tasting

Staying in:

- Craggy Range Winery (Feature Stay) or similar (1 night)
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Day 6



Consider heading out on an optional walk to the Te Mata Peak Lookout at sunrise – the views make the early start well worth it. This morning, you'll head to the town of Napier for an Art Deco walking tour. Napier is the self-proclaimed 'Art Deco capital of the world'. After the devastating Hawke's Bay earthquake of 1931, Napier town centre was destroyed and had to be rebuilt from the ground up. The result was a town that became a freezeframe of the popular architectural styles of the 1930s, including Stripped Classicism, Spanish Mission and Art Deco. After your walking tour, you'll have a free afternoon to do some exploring at your own pace. You might like to hire a bike to see Napier and its surrounds from a different perspective, or you could join a safari to see the largest colony of gannets in Hawke's Bay.

Activities:

- Napier - Art Deco Walking Tour

Staying in:

- Craggy Range Winery (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, you'll head to Te Papa, New Zealand's national museum, for a behind-the-scenes tour with a local Maori guide. Your guide will take you on a personal journey, sharing stories and connections from their iwi (tribe, nation or people) as they guide you through the museum's vast collection comprising more than 40,000 artworks including paintings, embroidery, ceramics, sculpture, jewellery, moving image and more. You'll end this special tour by sharing some traditional 'kai' (food). Tonight, join your group for a farewell dinner at a waterfront restaurant – the perfect chance to reminisce about your North Island adventure.

Activities:

- Wellington - Te Papa Behind the Scenes Tour

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.

If you have more time to explore New Zealand, consider combining this trip with Premium New Zealand South Island for the ultimate adventure.

Tour details

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

Accommodation summary