

## Great Journeys of New Zealand - Signature Inspiring North Island Tour

Get ready for a luxurious scenic experience through the North Island passing mountain peaks, icy rivers, and engineering marvels. This adventure is an enviable trip designed for those who want a stress-free, scenic journey like no other. Board the Northern Explorer, leaving the towering Auckland skyline behind you and setting out across the mighty Waikato plains. From Hamilton, your journey spirals up onto the volcanic plateau around the historic Raurimu Spiral. At the top, you will cruise beneath three mighty volcanic peaks before slowly descending across several soaring viaducts. Discover the natural wonders of Tongariro National Park, and be captivated by the storytelling of your local tour director along this great journey. Your final journey brings you along the sparkling Kapiti Coast on your way into our glittering capital city, Wellington.

Starts in: Auckland  
 Finishes in: Wellington  
 Length: 8days / 7 nights  
 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: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations  
 Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring  
 Included: Raglan Sunset Cruise  
 Included: Northern Explorer Train Auckland to Hamilton  
 Included: Zealong Estate Tour, Tea Ceremony & Signature High Tea  
 Included: Waitomo GlowWorm Caves  
 Included: Sanctuary Mountain  
 Included: Northern Explorer Train Hamilton to Tongariro National Park  
 Included: Lauren's Lavender Farm  
 Included: Northern Explorer Train Tongariro National Park to Wellington  
 Included: Wellington City Tour  
 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 5 dinners



## Day 1



### Explore Auckland

Kia ora! Welcome to Auckland, New Zealand's City of Sails! Auckland is known for its multicultural hub of food, music, arts, and culture. After checking into your hotel and reading your welcome letter from your Tour Director, head out and explore all that Auckland has to offer. This is the perfect opportunity to visit the Sky Tower or go shopping along bustling Queen Street. You may even fancy a drink in one of the charming bars or eateries of Vulcan Lane. Your tour officially begins this evening, as you join your fellow travellers and Tour Director this evening for a welcome reception.

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Your accommodation: 4-4.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Dinner

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## Day 2



### The Beginning of your Scenic Journey

Your journey awaits as you join the Northern Explorer Scenic train. Marvel at rural New Zealand's lush landscapes from the comfort of your scenic carriage. From the sparkling waters of the Waitematā Harbour to the green pastures of the Waikato - you won't want to miss a moment. Arriving in Hamilton, your coach awaits you to bring you to the enchanting Zealong Tea Estate, where an immersive 1.5-hour tour and tea ceremony await, followed by the renowned Signature High Tea experience. Discover the art of tea-making amidst breathtaking surroundings. In the early afternoon, enjoy some free time in the heart of Hamilton before departing for an evening visit to Raglan - a seaside surfer town. It's here that you'll enjoy a Sunset Dinner Cruise on the pristine harbour.

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Your accommodation: 4-4.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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## Day 3



### Discover Endangered and Bioluminescent Species

Immerse yourself in the wonders of Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari on a bespoke two-hour tour through its ancient forests. Discover the indigenous flora and fauna, their traditional uses, and gain fascinating insights into Māori herbal medicinal practices, the unique Rongoā Rākau. This unforgettable journey will take you deep into the heart of New Zealand's natural beauty and cultural heritage. Your expedition continues after a lunch stop in New Zealand's "Kiwiana Capital", Otorohanga. Make sure you capture a photo of the giant Kiwi birds! Next, discover the famous Waitomo Glow-worm Caves and be dazzled by the seemingly star-filled sky as you glide by boat through this impressive cave formation. Tonight, explore Hamilton's riverside walks and shops on this free evening. Enjoy one of the many nearby restaurants as the sun sets over the Waikato River.

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Your accommodation: 4-4.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

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## Day 4



### Explore Tongariro National Park

Joining the Northern Explorer train, today you'll soar over icy mountain streams as you travel to Tongariro National Park, the home of three volcanic mountains. Tongariro National Park has a diverse range of ecosystems and spectacular landscapes. In 1993, it was recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site and was the first property to be inscribed with the criteria describing the cultural values it holds for Māori. Enjoy a mini excursion up to Tūroa ski field. Here you'll want to capture a panoramic photo of Middle Earth before descending into Ohakune. Tonight, enjoy a special dinner with your fellow travellers.

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Your accommodation: 4-4.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

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## Day 5



### Another day to explore Tongariro National Park

Enjoy the morning with breakfast at your accommodation, then set off on a journey of discovery to Taumarunui. Enjoy the ambiance as you spend a few hours in Taumarunui, exploring a local garden before your lunchtime feast at Lauren's Lavender Farm. Indulge in a hot meat dish accompanied by an array of refreshing salads, followed by a walk amidst the fragrant lavender fields and a visit to the lavender shop. After your garden escapades, you'll return to Ohakune, where the evening is yours to spend how you like. Opt for relaxation in the inviting hot tubs or immerse yourself in the vibrant energy of Ohakune at your leisure.&nbsp;

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Your accommodation: 4-4.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

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## Day 6



## Tongariro National Park to Wellington on the Northern Explorer Train

Your day begins with an elevated experience up the northern face of Mt Ruapehu for panoramic views of the volcanic landscape. Drink in the views of Mt Ngāuruhoe, Mt Tongariro, and beyond across the central North Island. Joining the Northern Explorer train once again, waving goodbye to Tongariro National Park, as you settle into your uber-comfortable seat. Don't get too comfortable though; dramatic rivers, gorges, and ravines are just around the bend! Stretch your legs and explore the open-air carriage to get the best view from the train. A little later, why not indulge in a treat from our onboard licensed cafe? As you glide through rich green farmland and past dramatic coastlines, enjoy the picturesque Porirua Harbour as you arrive into Wellington.

Welcome to Wellington - New Zealand's windy capital! You've arrived at Wellington Railway Station which is just a stone's throw from downtown, the Beehive and Parliament Buildings. You won't want to waste a moment of time after checking into the hotel - your evening is free to explore this culinary capital from Queen's Wharf to Cuba street and beyond.

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Your accommodation: 4-4.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

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## Day 7



### Explore Wellington

The perfect day does exist - and it includes exploring Wellington! Today is free for you to experience vibrant Wellington as you please. Start by joining our Wellington City introduction tour and then head off to explore Cuba Street's cafes, bookstores, and eccentric shops. Get cultured at Te Papa, New Zealand's National Museum, or visit Zealandia Eco-Sanctuary to surround yourself by native birdlife and regenerating forest. You won't get bored with the plethora of activities on offer. From coffee, culture, historic buildings to botanic gardens and much more... the list goes on! If you need any suggestions or recommendations, just reach out to your helpful Tour Director or our Travel Centre to pre-book an experience. Enjoy dinner tonight with your fellow travellers.

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Your accommodation: 4-4.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

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## Day 8



### Depart Wellington

Your journey will end after enjoying a final breakfast with your fellow travellers. You will be transferred to Wellington Airport for your departing flight.

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## Tour details

Departures:	Daily
Tour type:	Guided Coach & Train Tours
Starts:	Auckland
Finishes:	Wellington
Tour length:	8
Accommodation:	Hotel 4 star
Car/transport type:	

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## Accommodation summary

Day 1	4-4.5 Star Hotel
Day 2	4-4.5 Star Hotel
Day 3	4-4.5 Star Hotel
Day 4	4-4.5 Star Hotel
Day 5	4-4.5 Star Hotel
Day 6	4-4.5 Star Hotel
Day 7	4-4.5 Star Hotel