

North Island Culture & Comfort

Explore the essential culture and breathtaking landscapes of Aotearoa on this refined 7-day North Island itinerary, crafted for the most discerning traveller. This journey features stays at elite accommodations, offering the option to reserve a suite at a world-renowned property like Huka Lodge New Zealand, a true icon among the luxury lodges of New Zealand and premier New Zealand resorts. From the vibrant City of Sails, Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, to the geothermal wonders of Rotorua and the serene shores of Lake Taupō, every experience is exclusive and deeply authentic. As a fully customizable itinerary, it ensures your escape is perfectly tailored, providing seamless travel, unparalleled comfort, and unforgettable New Zealand moments.

Starts in: Auckland
Finishes in: Auckland
Length: 7 days / 6 nights
Accommodation: Luxury Lodges
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: Late model rental cars
Includes: Fully inclusive rental car insurance (excess may apply)
Includes: Unlimited kms
Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring
Included activity: The Visitor Promise - Cultural Learning Course
Included activity: Private Transfer Auckland Airport to your Auckland Accommodation with Tourcorp
Included activity: Electronic Travel Guide and In-Country Support App
Included activity: Te Pā Tū Evening Māori Cultural Experience - Dinner Included
Included activity: Mount Tarawera & Orakei Korako Thermal Explorer by Floatplane with Volcanic Air
Included activity: Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland
Included activity: Harbour Sailing Dinner Cruise with Explore
6 breakfasts, 3 dinners, 2 special dinners

Day 1



Private Transfer Auckland Airport to your Auckland Accommodation with Tourcorp

You will be met at the Auckland airport by your private driver and be transferred to your Auckland accommodation.

Welcome to Auckland

Welcome to Auckland, known in Māori as Tāmaki Makaurau. Auckland is New Zealand's vibrant "City of Sails," and the country's largest metropolitan area. Nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the Tasman Sea. Surrounded by native bush, lush rainforests, and pristine beaches, Auckland is a haven for both adventurers and urban explorers. Wander through world-class museums and galleries in the city centre or enjoy a peaceful retreat at the Auckland Gardens, where stunning landscapes showcase New Zealand's diverse flora. Stroll along the lively waterfront to savour fresh seafood and international cuisine at Viaduct restaurants. For an unforgettable perspective, ascend the iconic SkyTower, New Zealand's tallest structure, and take in panoramic views of the city and its picturesque islands.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - All Blacks Experience

See what it takes to make, shape and be an All Black. Experience first-hand the excitement and emotion of game day. Discover the stories behind some of world rugby's most famous players, moments, and matches.

This guided experience introduces you to the game of rugby including state-of-the-art displays combining sound, images, interactive technology, and hands-on activities. Discover New Zealand's deep passion for our national sport, experience the full force of the All Blacks haka, and tackle interactive zones where you can try out your kicking, catching, line-out, and accuracy skills against legendary All Blacks.

Your accommodation: The Hotel Britomart Auckland

Set within a historic nine-block precinct near the waterfront, The Hotel Britomart brings calm to central Auckland. Rooms pair minimal timber detailing with rich natural textures, creating a peaceful space above the harbour district. Surrounded by restored brick warehouses, local design shops, and dining, it provides an effortless, comfortable anchor for any New Zealand journey.



Day 2



Collect Rental Car

This tour's from price includes an intermediate-sized vehicle, setting you up for comfortable travels. Yet, we understand every adventure is unique! Feel free to select the perfect wheels from our incredible collection of rental cars, spanning from economy hatchbacks to premium SUVs.

Auckland to Rotorua

Your drive south from Auckland begins by crossing the Bombay Hills, which mark the boundary of the greater Auckland area, before leading you into the rich, sprawling farmland of the Waikato region. The drive takes approximately 2.5 hours non-stop, but we recommend allowing 3 hours for a relaxed journey. For a fantastic leg-stretching stop, you may consider a slight detour into Hamilton to visit the renowned Hamilton Gardens (known for its amazing themed garden collection). Alternatively, the quirky small town of Tirau, famous for its buildings shaped like a giant sheep and sheepdog, is right on your main route and makes a quick and fun photo stop. As you continue south, the scenery transitions, and telltale signs of steam and other geothermal activity will signal your arrival into the fascinating thermal and cultural hub of Rotorua.

Rotorua

Discover the geothermal, adventure, and cultural wonderland of Rotorua. As you explore, you may see steam rising from cracks in the road, bubbling and hissing water in pools along the lake's edge, and the unmistakable smell of Sulfur. Rotorua is rich in Māori culture and history, with many Māori inhabitants recognising the great potential of the volcanic land. For an outdoor adventure, head to The Redwoods and experience the rainforest treetops from high up. There are a few accessible trails for disabled hikers and great biking trails as well. If you're lucky, you might spot some of New Zealand's native birds, such as the Piwakawaka (Fantail) and the Tūī. Alternatively, enjoy the Lake Tikitapu Blue Lake Walk or explore Kuirau Park, where you'll find bubbling mud pools and steaming lakes. Don't miss the private thermal reserves such as Te Puia and Wai-O-Tapu, where you can walk among bubbling mud pools, spouting geysers, and Sulfur ponds. Just a few minutes from the town centre, the Agrodome and National Kiwi Hatchery offer an insight into nature. Rotorua's rich Māori culture is a must-see. Spend an evening with Te Pā Tū, complete with a traditional-style dinner or stroll along the lake edge to reach one of the country's oldest Māori villages at Ohinemutu. When hunger strikes, visit Eat Street in Rotorua CBD, a vibrant street lined with delicious eateries and restaurants to satisfy any craving. No visit to Rotorua would be complete without experiencing Rotorua's original tourist attraction - a relaxing spa treatment. This town boasts an array of wellness experiences to unwind in. Whether you are seeking adventure, culture, or relaxation, Rotorua offers an unforgettable experience.

Te Pā Tū Evening Māori Cultural Experience - Dinner Included

New Zealand's Most Awarded Cultural Attraction, presenting Te Pā Tū. Feast on song, drama, tradition, and divine seasonal kai (cuisine) within the forest Pā (village) blanketed by towering Tawa trees, blazing bonfires, and a forest-formed amphitheatre. Te Pā Tū shares Māori history, traditions, and cultural aspirations across 4-hours of celebration and feasting. These events change with each season of the Maramataka, the Māori lunar calendar.

Your accommodation: On the Point

Positioned on the green contours of Kawaha Point, On the Point brings a quiet estate feel to Lake Rotorua's edge. Broad windows look out over open water, where days transition between fly fishing from the private beach, boating, or spa time. Supported by local seasonal dining and wines, it serves as a peaceful lakefront sanctuary just ten minutes from central Rotorua.

Meals included: Breakfast, Speciality Dinner



Day 3



Mount Tarawera & Orakei Korako Thermal Explorer by Floatplane with Volcanic Air

From above Mount Tarawera's impressive views include vast volcanic rifts, distant national parks, and our treasured lakes. Flying south on a floatplane, you will gain an appreciation of what local Maori refer to as the 'Sisters of Fire'. Here, volcanic activity has pierced the earth's surface across the fault line forming the reserves of Waimangu and Wai-O-Tapu which, when viewed from above, display a spectacular palette of nature's most vibrant colors. Landing at Orakei Korako, 'the Hidden Valley', is an amazing opportunity to experience hot springs, gushing geysers, and the natural beauty of this geothermal wonderland.

Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland

Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland is a spectacular showcase of New Zealand's colourful and unique geothermal elements sculpted by thousands of years of volcanic activity. You will be introduced to a diversely different natural landscape, extending over 18-sq. km. Enjoy viewing the volcanic features as you walk at your own pace along well-defined tracks. Relax in the first-class Visitor Centre, home to the Gift Shop and Caf  facilities. Visit the Mud Pool, the largest in New Zealand, it was originally the site of a large mud volcano which was destroyed through erosion in the 1920s. See the history and beauty of the Lady Knox Geyser at 10:15 am every day where a daily eruption happens of up to 20 metres.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - National Kiwi Hatchery Experience

The National Kiwi Hatchery Experience is a special opportunity to gain insight into and view this highly regarded conservation centre. Developed with the visitor experience in mind, the hatchery boasts special viewing opportunities and is hosted by kiwi expert guides who ensure guests leave fully informed and all questions answered. Learn all about New Zealand's intriguing national icon and the efforts of the kiwi husbandry team, see and discover what it takes to hatch and rare chicks, and if you're lucky see baby chicks in person!

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Hot Tub Session with Secret Spot Hot Tubs

Indulge in tranquillity with a soak in private cedar hot tubs nestled among ferns, overlooking the serene Whakarewarewa Forest and Puarenga Stream. Perfect for unwinding with family or friends, these 39.9°C non-geothermal tubs offer 45 minutes of pure relaxation, with drinks just a button away. By day, enjoy the natural beauty of ancient trees, and by night, marvel at the forest illuminated by colourful lights. After your soak, treat yourself to a complimentary "shinny dip" foot tub at the Basecamp café; while sipping a beverage or enjoying a delicious bite to eat.

Your accommodation: On the Point

Positioned on the green contours of Kawaha Point, On the Point brings a quiet estate feel to Lake Rotorua's edge. Broad windows look out over open water, where days transition between fly fishing from the private beach, boating, or spa time. Supported by local seasonal dining and wines, it serves as a peaceful lakefront sanctuary just ten minutes from central Rotorua.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 4



Rotorua to Taupo

Today drive through the heart of the Central North Island volcanic plateau. Visit the geothermal regions Wai O Tapu Thermal Wonderland and Waimangu Volcanic Valley, before arriving into the town of Taupo, which sits on New Zealand's largest lake - Lake Taupo. Just north of the town are the Huka Falls and a short detour to view is highly recommended, as is a visit to the nearby Craters of the Moon geothermal reserve.

Explore Taupo

Nestled on the shores of New Zealand's largest lake, Taupō is a vibrant town surrounded by stunning volcanic landscapes and the peaks of Tongariro National Park, including Mt Ruapehu. The town buzzes with cafes, shops, and bars, while outdoor enthusiasts can choose from bungy jumping, skydiving, fishing, kayaking, sailing, horse riding, or hiking. Don't miss the quirky 'Arte Cafe and Gallery with its mosaic outdoor living room and iconic 'Alice's Chair'. Just outside town, explore the geothermal wonders of Craters of the Moon, the power of Huka Falls, or take a jet boat ride for an unforgettable view. Taupō perfectly blends natural beauty, thrilling adventures, and unique cultural experiences.

Huka Lodge Dining

The dining experience at Huka Lodge is a defining element of its world-class luxury, centred on exceptional cuisine that champions the finest New Zealand produce. A stay is generously inclusive of a hearty country breakfast, pre-dinner drinks and canapés, and a gourmet daily-changing, multi-course dinner with professionally matched premium wines. Guests enjoy the elegant ambiance of the Dining Room or River Room, which offer mesmerizing views of the Waikato River. For an unforgettable occasion, the lodge provides over twenty different atmospheric dining venues, including the renowned subterranean Wine Cellar, secluded garden nooks, and the historic Library, ensuring a unique and intimate meal every night.

Your accommodation: Huka Lodge

Set within seven hectares of manicured grounds, Huka Lodge brings a quiet sense of permanence to the Waikato River. Positioned just 20 metres from the water, 20 spacious rooms draw in natural light framed by mature trees. Calm textures complement the steady rhythm of the rushing river outside, creating a grounded, effortless base for exploring the central North Island.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 5



Huka Lodge Activities

Huka Lodge offers a diverse range of activities that leverage its spectacular location along the Waikato River near Taupō. Guests can enjoy complimentary onsite activities like riverfront fly fishing from the manicured lawns, swimming in the heated pool, and classic lawn games such as tennis and croquet. For those seeking adventure, the lodge can arrange numerous exciting experiences in the surrounding region, including guided fly fishing excursions, luxury cruises on Lake Taupō to see the Māori rock carvings, and high-adrenaline thrill-seeking adventures like jet boating to the Huka Falls. More relaxed pursuits, such as private guided yoga, scenic bike rides, and hiking trails like the Spa Thermal Park walk, are also readily available, ensuring a memorable experience for all interests.

Your accommodation: Huka Lodge

Set within seven hectares of manicured grounds, Huka Lodge brings a quiet sense of permanence to the Waikato River. Positioned just 20 metres from the water, 20 spacious rooms draw in natural light framed by mature trees. Calm textures complement the steady rhythm of the rushing river outside, creating a grounded, effortless base for exploring the central North Island.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 6



Taupo to Auckland

The drive from Taupo to Auckland takes you through the heart of the Waikato and its rich agricultural land. New Zealand's longest river, the Waikato River, guides you through the art and craft stores of Tirau and the township of Cambridge.

Auckland City is New Zealand's largest, with a population of around 1.5 million people (about one third of the national population), spread over approximately 60 square kilometres. There is somewhere for every visitor to feel comfortable and right at home as each suburb has its own unique style and atmosphere, from the vibrant and trendy fashion and cuisine found on Ponsonby and Parnell Roads to the breathtaking native bush and beaches of the West Coast. One of the world's great cities Auckland is full of life and opportunities to explore are endless.

Harbour Sailing Dinner Cruise with Explore

This unique on-water sailing and dining experience is not to be missed while you're in Auckland. Enjoy smooth sailing on the Waitemata Harbour - then watch this photogenic city come alive with twinkling lights. Enjoy your meal as you sail around the beautiful Auckland Harbour taking in the view as the sun slowly sets. You'll be treated to canapes and a drink as you set off towards Westhaven Marina. To finish the evening off, savour your dessert course as you leisurely sail back to Auckland's vibrant Viaduct Harbour.

Your accommodation: The Hotel Britomart Auckland

Set within a historic nine-block precinct near the waterfront, The Hotel Britomart brings calm to central Auckland. Rooms pair minimal timber detailing with rich natural textures, creating a peaceful space above the harbour district. Surrounded by restored brick warehouses, local design shops, and dining, it provides an effortless, comfortable anchor for any New Zealand journey.

Meals included: Breakfast, Speciality Dinner



Day 7



Farewell from Aotearoa / New Zealand

Bid farewell to Aotearoa / New Zealand, taking with you unforgettable memories of its breathtaking landscapes and incredible adventures. In Māori, it is said mā te wā, which is not goodbye, it is see you soon!

Tour details

Departures:	Daily
Tour type:	Self Drive Touring
Starts:	Auckland
Finishes:	Auckland
Tour length:	7
Accommodation:	Luxury Lodges
Car/transport type:	

Accommodation summary

Day 1	The Hotel Britomart Auckland
Day 2	On the Point
Day 3	On the Point
Day 4	Huka Lodge
Day 5	Huka Lodge
Day 6	The Hotel Britomart Auckland