

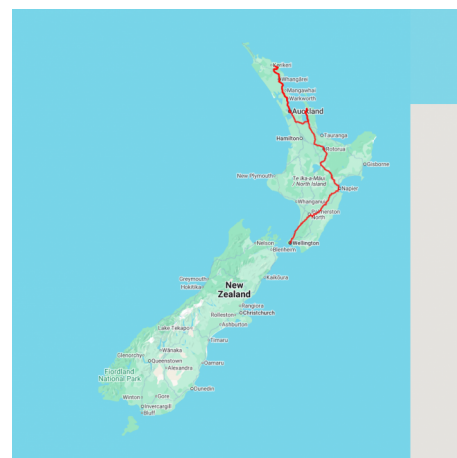


Pure Discoveries Koromiko Tour

This small group tour takes in the stunning sights of the North Island starting with a journey to the sparkling Pacific waters of the Bay of Islands. Further south you'll visit the Art Deco town of Napier and enjoy the wonderful wines of the Hawke's Bay region before arriving in Wellington, 'the coolest little capital in the world'. Get ready for close-ups of fascinating historic events, amazing geothermal activities, and authentic Māori culture and hospitality.

Starts in: Auckland
Finishes in: Wellington
Length: 11days / 10nights
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: Wellington Cable Car
Included: 'Your Choice' Bay of Islands - Tour the Far North to Cape Reinga OR Hole in the Rock Cruise & Tour of Russell
Included: Driving Creek Railway, Coromandel

plus much more...

Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations

Included: Introducing Te Papa Museum Tour

Included: Waitangi Treaty Grounds

Included: Auckland War Memorial Museum

Included: Cathedral Cove & Hot Water Beach on the Coromandel Peninsula

Day 1



Koromiko Tour with Pure Discoveries

Explore the essential beauty of New Zealand's North Island. This intimate small group journey begins with the sparkling Pacific waters of the Bay of Islands.

Koromiko, the name explained: Koromiko is a shrub that you will find widespread throughout New Zealand, with flowers in a number of different colours. It has glossy green leaves and grows best on lower levels in rich soil. Koromiko can be used by tohunga for both medicinal and spiritual purposes.

On your journey, head south to discover geothermal activity and authentic Māori culture. This tour is the perfect immersion into the history, culture, and coastal wonders of the North Island.

Arrive into Auckland

Haere mai – welcome! Arrive in Auckland where you will be met and transferred to your accommodation. Spend the afternoon and evening at your leisure exploring the ‘City of Sails’.

Your accommodation: M Social Hotel Auckland (or similar)

A contemporary hotel for the curious, the explorers and those who thrive on new experiences. Functionally chic, this contemporary hotel overlooks the vibrant Princes Wharf that is home to a good array of dining, entertainment and shopping experiences.



Day 2



Auckland to Bay of Islands

Travel north via Auckland’s iconic Harbour Bridge to visit Reed Memorial Park. Here, walk along an elevated canopy walkway through a remnant of the original kauri forests – some kauri trees are known to be at least 500 years old. Take in the picturesque Whangārei Falls, formed more than 2 million years ago, before continuing to the Bay of Islands – a stunning region of 144 subtropical islands scattered through warm shallow waters and bays abundant in natural wonders and marine life. Regarded as the birthplace of New Zealand, the Bay of Islands is rich in both Māori culture and early European history. You are welcomed to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds to learn the story of Waitangi, including the signing of the 1840 treaty between Māori tribes and British settlers; the magnificent meeting house; the interactive and contemporary museum; and the war canoe (waka). Next, take a ferry to the seaside village of Russell, spending the next two nights at the historic Duke of Marlborough Hotel.

Your accommodation: Duke of Marlborough Hotel, Russell (or similar)

The historic Duke of Marlborough Hotel is located on the waterfront in the charming village of Russell. Choose from a range of rooms including the Waterfront rooms with their spectacular views across to Paihia or the family rooms for those needing extra space. The onsite restaurant and bar is also a great place to relax and take in the views.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 3



Bay of Islands

'Your Choice' day! Today you have the choice of two excursions:

A) Discover the Far North of New Zealand.

This full-day coach tour will take you to Cape Reinga, the northernmost tip of New Zealand, where you can watch the Pacific Ocean collide with the Tasman Sea – and where according to Māori legend, spirits depart on their journey to the homeland of Hawaiki. In the morning, we will travel from Russell to Paihia on the Belle Bay Ferry, where we'll join a Great Sights coach (other passengers will be on board) for an unforgettable journey to the very tip of the North Island, travelling along the sand-swept shore of Ninety Mile Beach (Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe). During the trip you will have the opportunity to try sandboarding down sand dunes on boogie boards, take in magical views as you stand beneath the iconic Cape Reinga lighthouse, and enjoy the drive on the vast and empty Ninety Mile Beach. A knowledgeable local guide will share fascinating stories and insights throughout the day, bringing the region's rich history and culture vividly to life. At day's end, we'll return to Russell from Paihia aboard the Bay Belle Ferry. Depart Russell at 7.00am and return to Russell at approximately 7.00pm. Lunch is included.

B) Hole in the Rock cruise & tour of Russell.

This morning, enjoy a breathtaking cruise aboard a purpose-built catamaran through the pristine waters of the Bay of Islands and along the dramatic Cape Brett Peninsula. Take in views of the historic Cape Brett Lighthouse and the famous 'Hole in the Rock' – a highlight of the journey. Weather permitting, the boat will cruise slowly through the Hole and into the stunning Grand Cathedral Cave. Your skipper will provide engaging and informative commentary throughout the cruise. The Bay is rich with marine life and native bird species, so keep watch for dolphins, whales, and seabirds along the way. The cruise includes a stop at Otehei Bay on Urupukapuka Island, where you can purchase lunch (own cost), take a swim, or go for a leisurely walk. This afternoon, return to Russell and meet a local guide for an entertaining insight into this pretty little town's rip-roaring past, when drunken sailors earned it the name 'the hell hole of the Pacific'. Visit some of New Zealand's most historically significant buildings and enjoy sweeping views from Flagstaff Hill.

Your accommodation: Duke of Marlborough Hotel, Russell (or similar)

The historic Duke of Marlborough Hotel is located on the waterfront in the charming village of Russell. Choose from a range of rooms including the Waterfront rooms with their spectacular views across to Paihia or the family rooms for those needing extra space. The onsite restaurant and bar is also a great place to relax and take in the views.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 4



Bay of Islands to Auckland

Head south through rural towns and past delightful beaches before arriving in Auckland, New Zealand's largest and most cosmopolitan city, to enjoy a sightseeing tour of the 'City of Sails' including panoramic views from Bastion Point; trendy Parnell Village; the lovely bays of the waterfront drive; and the vibrant Viaduct Harbour area. We also enjoy a guided tour of the Auckland Museum, which gives an excellent introduction to the artistic legacy and cultures of the indigenous peoples of the Pacific.

Your accommodation: M Social Hotel Auckland (or similar)

A contemporary hotel for the curious, the explorers and those who thrive on new experiences. Functionally chic, this contemporary hotel overlooks the vibrant Princes Wharf that is home to a good array of dining, entertainment and shopping experiences.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 5



Auckland to Coromandel Peninsula

Travel across the fertile Hauraki Plains to Thames, then head up the western side of the Coromandel Peninsula. This coastal drive is quite spectacular, and on a clear day, keep an eye out for the SkyTower which can be seen across the Firth of Thames. Ride the nearby Driving Creek Railway, climbing 120 metres on a narrow-gauge line to the 'EyeFull' Tower for panoramic views of the surrounding countryside and back over the Hauraki Gulf. Next, drive east across the Peninsula through beautiful scenery to reach the resort of Whitianga on Mercury Bay.

Your accommodation: Oceans Resort (or similar)

Only a stone's throw from the golden sands of Buffalo Beach, you will find the relaxed luxury Whitianga Apartments of Oceans Resort. All apartments have a full kitchen including oven, cook top, microwave as well as their own personal laundry with washing machine and laundry necessities provided.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 6



Coromandel Peninsula

White cliffs, golden beaches, inviting turquoise waters, and green forests are the colours of the Coromandel, with scarlet highlights courtesy of the flowers of Pohutukawa trees in summer, making this one of our favourite regions. Rightly famous is Hot Water Beach, where warm springs bubble up through the sand, and when the tide is right you can dig out your very own 'spa' pool for a wallow in the warm waters. Afterwards, enjoy a scenic walk to Cathedral Cove, where you'll spend time soaking up the beauty of one of New Zealand's most photogenic beaches before returning the same way. Next, your driver will take you to Cooks Beach – named after Captain James Cook who sailed on the HMS Endeavour into Mercury Bay in 1769. Famous for its long golden sandy beach, it is now a popular retreat for Kiwis during summer months.

Your accommodation: Oceans Resort (or similar)

Only a stone's throw from the golden sands of Buffalo Beach, you will find the relaxed luxury Whitianga Apartments of Oceans Resort. All apartments have a full kitchen including oven, cook top, microwave as well as their own personal laundry with washing machine and laundry necessities provided.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 7



Coromandel Peninsula to Rotorua

Taking the Pacific Coast Highway through the beachside towns of Whangamatā and Tauranga in the beautiful Bay of Plenty before turning inland to visit a well-formed bushwalk with scenic lookouts over Okere Falls. From there, we continue on to Rotorua, the epicentre of New Zealand's geothermal activity and Māori heritage. No visit to Rotorua would be complete without a stop at Te Puia, where we explore its active geothermal sites, experience the nation's centre for indigenous arts and crafts, and learn about Kiwi conservation projects. At Te Puia it's part of their culture to welcome, guide, entertain, and treat you like part of the family and you are treated to a private guide throughout your time here.

Your accommodation: Millennium Hotel Rotorua (or similar)

Rotorua's largest 4 star deluxe hotel is perfectly situated in the heart of the city overlooking Lake Rotorua. Five levels of accommodation offer guests a wide variety of scenic views.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 8



Rotorua

'Your Choice' day! Today you have the choice of two excursions:

A) Visit the Waimangu Volcanic Valley.

Site of the eruption of Mt. Tarawera in 1886, the devastating eruption buried local Māori villages and destroyed the world-famous 'Pink and White' silica terraces, once considered to be the eighth wonder of the world. This catastrophic event changed the landscape forever and created the valley you can now walk through, past boiling craters and jewel-coloured steaming lakes. Take a cruise across Lake Rotomahana to the site of the old silica terraces, hear the story of Guide Sophia, and see the new terraces of silica slowly forming.

B) Experience the real Middle-earth with a visit to the Hobbiton Movie Set.

Visit the delightful setting for The Shire that featured in Peter Jackson's films, The Lord of the Rings trilogy and The Hobbit film series. Your Hobbiton guide will escort you through the ten-acre site, recounting fascinating details of how the movie set was created (other visitors will join this tour). The Hobbit Holes, Green Dragon Inn, The Millhouse and other structures created for the films can be viewed, and you will see how this beautiful piece of Waikato farmland was transformed into The Shire from Middle-earth. At Bagshot Row, you'll get an authentic glimpse into Hobbit life, including time to explore one of two beautifully detailed Hobbit Holes.

This evening visit Tamaki Māori Village for Te Pā Tū. The evening experience and feast is aligned to and changes with the maramataka (Māori lunar calendar). Feast on Māori song, tradition, and divine seasonal kai (cuisine) within the forest Pā (village) amidst towering Tawa trees, blazing bonfires, and forest-formed amphitheatre. Hākari (feasting) begins with forest horotai (canapes) and culminates in a lavish four-course fusion feast. Hāngī is featured in varied seasonal menus designed by Māori chefs served to table – al fresco when warm, or in the wharekai (dining room) if cooler. During summer months, Tū Te Rā celebrates harvest and concepts concerning ancient Māori warfare and peace. Over winter months, Tū Te Ihi celebrates the Matariki star cluster with mystical ritual, energy, and passion. Return hotel transfers included – other travellers will be on board.

Your accommodation: Millennium Hotel Rotorua (or similar)

Rotorua's largest 4 star deluxe hotel is perfectly situated in the heart of the city overlooking Lake Rotorua. Five levels of accommodation offer guests a wide variety of scenic views.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 9



Rotorua to Napier

Visit the powerful Huka Falls then view the vast Lake Taupō – more inland sea than lake, though its fresh waters teem with trout. Across the lake stands the mighty volcanic peaks of Ruapehu, Ngāuruhoe, and Tongariro, within the Tongariro National Park. Then continue on to Napier to view one of the world's most complete examples of Art Deco architecture, second (arguably) only to Miami Beach. This joyful seaside town had a tragic birth, being virtually levelled by fierce fires that followed the devastating 1931 earthquake. Napier was rebuilt in the most up-to-date style of the time, which today is referred to as Art Deco. This afternoon our local guide brings history and architecture alive with entertaining stories as we discover Napier on foot. Today's journey has brought us to the North Island's wine country, so this evening's treat is dinner at New Zealand's oldest winery, Mission Estate, where you enjoy dinner in the restored seminary buildings with sweeping views of Napier.

Your accommodation: Scenic Hotel Te Pania (or similar)

Scenic Hotel Te Pania offers 4-star accommodation of a truly international standard. The hotel's slender, curved form echoes the shape of the bay. Enjoy sweeping views out over the water from a premium waterfront location on Marine Parade.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 10



Napier to Wellington

Travel through the vineyards and orchards of Hawke's Bay and the bush-clad ranges of the Wairarapa into New Zealand's capital city, Wellington. On arrival, view New Zealand's magnificent Parliament Buildings including the iconic 'Beehive' building. From the Kelburn lookout take the Wellington Cable Car down into the central city precinct before visiting Te Papa – one of the most exciting museums in the world, featuring New Zealand insights; the shaping of its land, the spirit of its diverse peoples, its unique wildlife, landscapes and its distinctive popular culture.

Your accommodation: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Wellington (or similar)

Located less than five minutes away from the waterfront in Wellington, this modern hotel offers luxury and convenience.

Adjacent to Wellington Cable Car, leading to the Botanic Garden, offering panoramic views of the city and home to a variety of dining and waterside activities.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 11



Depart Wellington

Haere rā – farewell from New Zealand. After breakfast you are transferred to the Wellington Airport for your return home, taking with you your fond memories of your time in New Zealand. Alternatively, should you wish to extend your stay, we can assist you with additional travel arrangements.

Tour details

Departures:	Daily
Tour type:	Small Group Escorted Tour
Starts:	Auckland
Finishes:	Wellington
Tour length:	11
Accommodation:	Hotel 4 star
Car/transport type:	

Accommodation summary

Day 1	M Social Hotel Auckland (or similar)
Day 2	Duke of Marlborough Hotel, Russell (or similar)
Day 3	Duke of Marlborough Hotel, Russell (or similar)
Day 4	M Social Hotel Auckland (or similar)
Day 5	Oceans Resort (or similar)
Day 6	Oceans Resort (or similar)
Day 7	Millennium Hotel Rotorua (or similar)
Day 8	Millennium Hotel Rotorua (or similar)
Day 9	Scenic Hotel Te Pania (or similar)
Day 10	DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Wellington (or similar)