



7 DAY NORTHERN EXPLORER TOUR

STARTS/FINISHES: Auckland / Wellington

TOUR CODE: 7DNE

DURATION: 7 Days & 6 Nights



Day 1 – Arrival Day to Auckland

Haere Mai and Welcome to Aotearoa/New Zealand. The first stop on your adventure is Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland, the largest city in New Zealand. Often referred to as the ‘City of Sails’ by locals, Auckland is home to 2 harbours and over 44 volcanoes! On arrival in the city, make your way to the Nesuto Stadium Hotel where you can check in and drop your bags. At the hotel reception, you’ll receive a welcome letter with some tour information, and this evening you’ll meet your group and welcome host at 6:15pm and head for a delicious welcome dinner at 6:30pm.

Stay: Nesuto Stadium Hotel & Apartment (40 Beach Road, Auckland CBD 1010)

Meals: Dinner



Day 2 – Auckland to Rotorua

This morning we'll be leaving Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland) and making our way to Waitomo, famous for its enchanting glowworm caves. We'll be visiting the brightest glowworm cave in Waitomo, which was even visited by Sir David Attenborough! You'll take a spectacular boat ride through a cave lit entirely by glowworms and experience the magical sight of hundreds of glowworms shining just for you. We'll follow this with a walking tour of another amazing limestone cave shaped over millions of years.

Afterwards, we'll continue down to Rotorua, the geothermal wonderland of New Zealand. This evening we'll enjoy a delicious dinner together and then settle in for a luxurious night's sleep in Rotorua.

Visit: Waitomo, Rotorua

Stay: Distinction Rotorua or similar

Activity: Waitomo Glowworm Caves

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 – Free Day in Rotorua

This morning we'll skirt round the edge of Lake Rotorua to a lookout point where we'll have a view of the infamous Mount Tarawera, once the home of the renowned pink and white terraces before a violent eruption destroyed them. We'll end with a visit to the Buried Village, New Zealand's most visited Archaeological Site, where we'll learn about the famous 1886 eruption and visit the site of the now buried Te Wairoa village.

This afternoon we'll go for a walk in the Whakarewarewa forest where we'll see towering Redwoods, magnificent Douglas firs and New Zealand's native silver fern and then you have some free time to explore Rotorua on your own. If you'd like to see some geothermal activity for free, we recommend taking a walk around Kuirau Park to see boiling mud pools and steaming lakes. Go for a walk to the lakes edge and through the government gardens, spend some time relaxing at the Polynesian Spa or take the Gondola up to see the amazing Rotorua Skyline.

Visit: Rotorua

Activity: Visit the Buried Village and take the Waitawa Walk in Whakarewarewa Forest

Stay: Distinction Rotorua or similar

Meals: Breakfast



Day 4 – Rotorua to Lake Aniwhenua to Taupo

This morning we'll travel to the shores of Lake Aniwhenua in Murupara, where you'll get to experience a slice of the real New Zealand. Owned by a passionate local Maori family who have dedicated their lives to making a difference in their local community, Kohutapu Lodge is situated on the lake, and has been helping to transform the local town of Murupara through community-driven initiatives for years.

Your experience will begin with a guided tour of the sacred Maori rock carvings and then you'll travel to the Lodge to witness the preparation of a traditional ground cooked hangi. Once the food is ready, you'll dine at the lodge on arguably the best meal you'll have in New Zealand! After lunch, we'll depart for Taupo where you'll get to see the fiercely blue Huka Falls and explore the charming lakeside town.

Visit: Murupara, Taupo

Stay: Anchorage Taupo

Activity: Kohutapu Lodge Tribal Tour

Meals: Breakfast, Hangi Lunch + Dessert

Day 5 – Taupo to Napier

After breakfast, this morning we'll head to the stunning Hawke's Bay region. Napier boasts some of the best wineries in New Zealand/Aotearoa and a visit here would not be complete without a trip to Mission Estate Winery. After a wine tasting, you'll sit down for lunch to enjoy an afternoon of delicious food and exceptional wines, while soaking up sunshine and the ambience of this stunning estate.

Later, it's an easy drive into the beautiful coastal town of Napier, known for its perfectly preserved Art Deco facades. Go for a stroll along the tree-lined promenade this evening and sample some fresh seafood at one of the many restaurants overlooking the beach.

Visit: Mission Estate Winery

Stay: Scenic Hotel Te Pania

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 6 – Napier to Wellington

This morning we'll depart Napier and journey down to Wellington, the capital city of New Zealand and the home of the best cup of coffee in the country! On the way down, we'll make a stop in Greytown, Wairarapa's oldest town, for a spot of lunch. A picturesque village with restored Victorian buildings,



Greytown is a charming place to stop, refuel and browse the boutiques before we continue down to Wellington.

With a population of less than 220,000 people, no city in NZ combines a relaxed atmosphere and a cultured, bohemian spirit better than Wellington. The afternoon is free for you to spend exploring the city - we highly recommend a visit to our national museum Te Papa which offers free entrance and boasts some incredible exhibits.

Visit: Wairarapa, Wellington

Stay: Novotel Wellington

Meals: Breakfast

Day 7 – Depart Wellington

Today is the final day of the tour, our trip has come to an end. Enjoy breakfast before saying a fond farewell to your tour leader and all your travel companions. Whether you're travelling home today or staying in Wellington for longer, we hope you leave this tour with some happy memories and friends for life.

Meals: Breakfast

What's Included:

- Tour Guide
- Small Group Tour - Max 28
- Luxury Coach
- 6 nights' accommodation
- 6 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 2 Dinners
- Waitomo Caves Experience
- Buried Village in Rotorua
- Lake Aniwhenua Cultural Experience
- See the Huka Falls
- Mission Estate Winery Lunch and Wine Tasting
- Te Papa National Museum of New Zealand



KIRRA TOURS

Notes:

- *If you require transfers or accommodation before your tour starts or after your tour finishes, please make a note of this when booking your tour.*
- *Pre or Post Accommodation is subject to availability.*