



10 DAY NORTH AND SOUTH TOUR

STARTS/FINISHES: Auckland / Christchurch

DURATION: 10 Days & 9 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 Oaks Auckland 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.

Below we have listed some transportation options and indicative pricing from Auckland Airport to the City:

- SkyDrive Bus – An Express Bus service from Airport to SkyCity, runs every 30 minutes from 5.00am to 10.30pm / \$20 per person. W: www.skydrive.co.nz
- Shuttle – Door to door share ride service / \$35 for 1 person, \$8 each extra in the same group. W: www.supershuttle.co.nz
- Taxi – various companies operate from the airport. Some have fixed fares available to the city, but may cost around \$100 or more, depending on traffic. W: www.cooptaxi.co.nz
- Uber – approximately \$45. For specific fare pricing, contact the taxi and shuttle companies directly.

Stay: Oaks Auckland Hotel (40 Beach Road, Auckland CBD 1010)

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 – Auckland to Rotorua

This morning, we leave Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland) for a day of stunning sights. First, we'll visit Waitomo, famous for its glowworm caves where we'll enjoy a peaceful boat ride through a cavern lit by thousands of glowworms and explore a limestone cave shaped over millions of years. This tour is a magical experience, and was even filmed by Sir David Attenborough when he visited Aotearoa.

Next, we'll head to Rotorua, a geothermal wonderland and cultural hub. Experience bubbling mud pools, steaming geysers, and rich Māori traditions. This evening, we'll enjoy a group dinner and a relaxing night in Rotorua, ready for tomorrow's adventures.

Visit: Waitomo, Rotorua

Stay: Distinction Rotorua

Experience: Spellbound Caves Waitomo

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 – Visit Rotorua Local Sites

This morning, we'll journey past the stunning Blue and Green Lakes to Lake Tarawera, a place of historical and natural significance. Once home to the world-famous Pink and White Terraces, the area was forever changed by the 1886 eruption of Mount Tarawera.



We'll then visit Te Wairoa, the Buried Village, where a self-guided tour uncovers New Zealand's most visited archaeological site. Next, we return to the tranquil Whakarewarewa Forest to walk among the majestic redwoods, first planted here in 1901.

Once we've checked in at the hotel, the afternoon is yours to enjoy at your own pace. Consider visiting Kuirau Park, where you can witness geothermal wonders like boiling mud pools for free, or simply relax and soak in the unique atmosphere of Rotorua.

Visit: Rotorua

Experience: Lake Tarawera, Buried Village and Whakarewarewa Forest

Stay: Distinction Rotorua

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.

Our experience will begin with a guided tour of the sacred Maori rock carvings and then we'll travel to the Lodge to witness the preparation of a traditional ground cooked hangi.

After lunch, we'll depart for Taupo where we'll get to see the fiercely blue Huka Falls and explore the charming lakeside town.

Visit: Murupara, Taupo, Wai O'Tapu Mud Pools, Huka Falls

Stay: Anchorage Taupo

Experience: Kohutapu Lodge Tribal Tour, Huka Falls

Meals: Breakfast, Hangi Lunch + Dessert

Day 5 – Taupo to Napier

After breakfast, we'll make our way into the picturesque Hawke's Bay Region. Napier is renowned for its world-class wineries and no visit would be complete without a stop at Mission Estate Winery. Established in 1851 by French missionaries, it is New Zealand's oldest winery and steeped in history. Here, we'll enjoy a wine tasting followed by a leisurely lunch, savoring exquisite dishes paired with exceptional wines, all while soaking in the estate's stunning ambiance.



Later, we'll take a short drive to Napier, a coastal city celebrated for its beautifully preserved Art Deco architecture. Spend the evening strolling along the tree-lined promenade and perhaps indulge in fresh seafood at one of the many beachside restaurants.

Visit: Mission Estate Winery

Experience: Wine Tasting

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. We highly recommend a visit to our national museum Te Papa which boasts some incredible exhibits.

Visit: Wairarapa, Wellington

Stay: Naumi Wellington

Meals: Breakfast

Day 7 – Wellington to Nelson

This morning, we'll start our journey with breakfast aboard the Interislander Ferry in the brand-new Pohutukawa Lounge. Designed like a premium airport lounge, it offers a relaxing atmosphere and a delicious spread of food to enjoy as we cross the Cook Strait. If the weather is fine, head up to the deck to take in stunning views of the Marlborough Sounds and keep an eye out for local wildlife.

Upon arriving in Picton, we'll travel to a Marlborough vineyard amidst the vines at one of New Zealand's top Sauvignon Blanc producers for a tasting, we'll continue to Nelson, where we'll have time to unwind, explore the area, and sample some of the region's fantastic local food and beverages.

Visit: Picton, Blenheim, Nelson



Stay: Rutherford Nelson

Experience: Cook Straight Ferry, Marlborough Cellar Door Tasting

Meals: Breakfast

Day 8 – Free Day in Nelson

Today is a free day in the sunshine capital of New Zealand, Nelson is a small city full of creative spaces, craft beer establishments and arts & crafts. Use the day to take a stroll around the area or take a wine or beer tour - you can even do this by bike if you'd like to get in some exercise. For those wanting to visit Abel Tasman National Park you can take a day tour from Nelson to visit the golden sands and idyllic bays. If you'd like to go for a hike closer to Nelson, we'd recommend the hike to the centre of New Zealand, it's a short but steep walk and you'll be rewarded with amazing panoramic views of the region at the summit!

Visit: Nelson

Stay: Rutherford Nelson

Meals: Breakfast

Optional Activities: Abel Tasman Cruise, Wine Tour, Craft Beer Tour, Queens Gardens, Centre of NZ walk

Day 9 – Nelson to Christchurch

This morning we'll return to Blenheim, and then take a leisurely drive down the eastern coast, soaking up the gorgeous scenery as we go, expect to see some marine life too! From Kaikoura's rugged coastline and beautiful mountains to the rolling farmland of Canterbury, the views are wonderful today. We'll arrive late afternoon in Christchurch and this evening we'll enjoy a group dinner at our hotel.

Visit: Kaikoura, Canterbury, Christchurch

Stay: Distinction Christchurch or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 10 – Depart Christchurch

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 Christchurch for longer, we hope you leave this tour with some happy memories and friends for life.



Meals: Breakfast

What's Included:

- Experienced Driver/Guide
- Small Group Tour - Max 28
- Luxury Touring Vehicle
- 9 nights' accommodation
- 9 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 3 Dinners
- Waitomo Caves Experience
- Lake Tarawera Visit
- Buried Village in Rotorua
- Lake Aniwhenua Cultural Experience
- Huka Falls
- Mission Estate Winery Lunch and Wine Tasting
- Inter-Island Ferry
- Wither Hills Wine Tasting Marlborough