

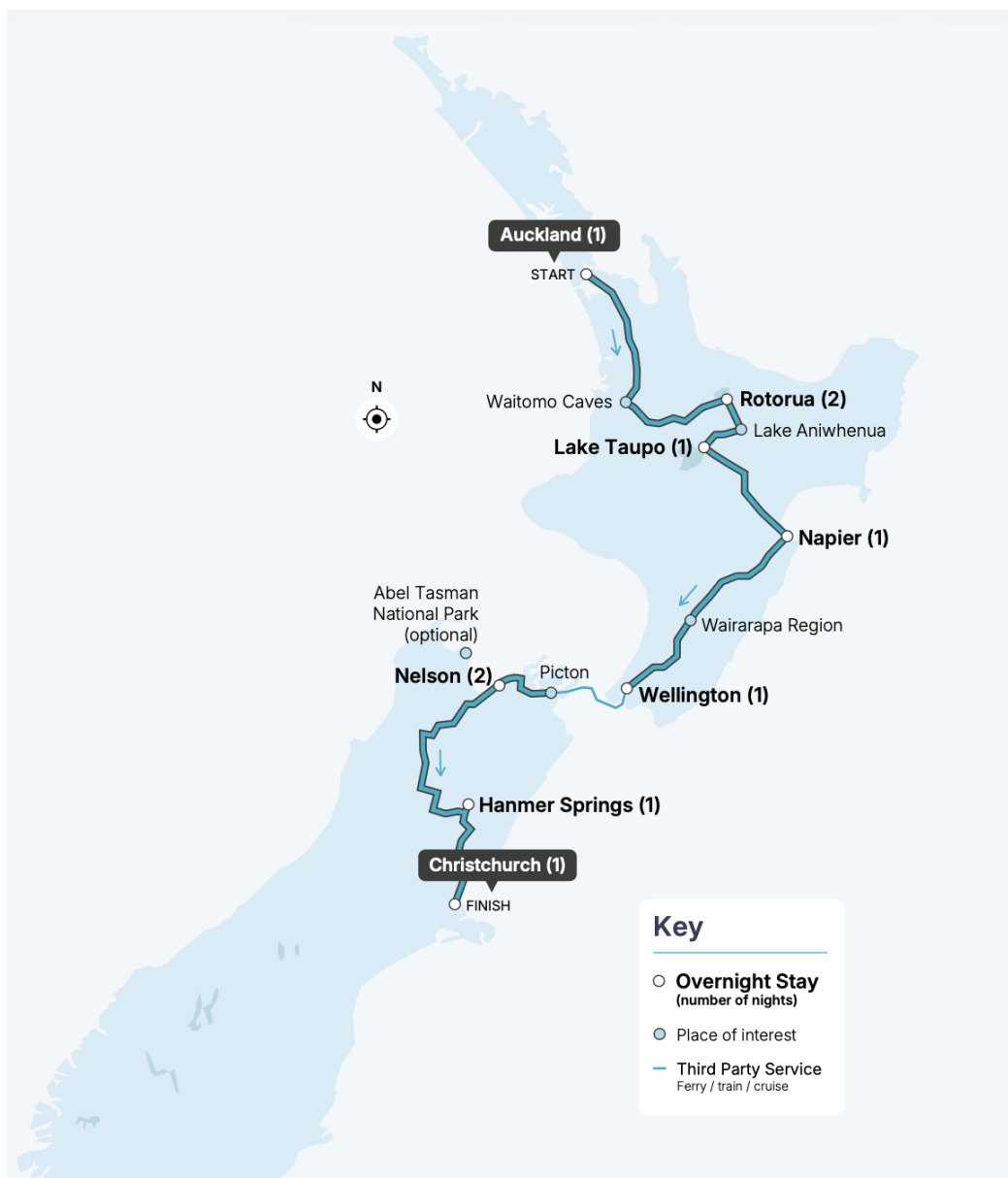


# KIRRA TOURS

## 11 DAY NORTH AND SOUTH TOUR

**STARTS/FINISHES:** Auckland / Christchurch

**DURATION:** 11 Days & 10 Nights





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## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

**Stay:** Distinction Rotorua or similar



# KIRRA TOURS

**Visit:** Waitomo, 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.

Before checking in at the hotel, we'll stop at the National Kiwi Hatchery, where you can get up close to New Zealand's most iconic and elusive bird. Learn about the conservation work being done to protect this taonga species and, depending on the season, you may even spot chicks in the nursery.

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.

**Stay:** Distinction Rotorua or similar

**Visit:** Rotorua, National Kiwi Hatchery

**Experience:** Lake Tarawera, Buried Village, Whakarewarewa Forest, National Kiwi Hatchery

**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.



# KIRRA TOURS

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

**Stay:** Anchorage Taupo or similar

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

**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.

**Stay:** Scenic Hotel Te Pania or similar

**Visit:** Mission Estate Winery

**Experience:** Wine Tasting

**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.



# KIRRA TOURS

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.

This evening, join your group for dinner, a great chance to sample the capital's renowned food scene before we cross the strait tomorrow.

**Stay:** Novotel Wellington or similar

**Visit:** Wairarapa, Wellington

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

## Day 7 – Wellington to Nelson

This morning, we'll start our journey with breakfast aboard the 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.

On arrival in Picton, we'll travel to Blenheim, stopping first at the Omaka Aviation Heritage Museum. Home to an extraordinary collection of WWI and WWII aircraft, many displayed in dioramas created by Sir Peter Jackson's Wingnut Films, this is a must for history and aviation buffs alike. Then we'll stop for a wine tasting amidst the vines at one of New Zealand's top Sauvignon Blanc producers, before continuing on to Nelson, where we'll have time to unwind, explore the area, and sample some of the region's fantastic local food and beverages.

**Stay:** Rutherford Nelson or similar

**Visit:** Picton, Blenheim, Nelson

**Experience:** Omaka Heritage Aviation Museum, Premium Lounge Ferry journey across the Cook Strait

**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



# KIRRA TOURS

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!

**Stay:** Rutherford Nelson or similar

**Visit:** Nelson

**Meals:** Breakfast

## Day 9 – Nelson to Hanmer Springs

This morning we'll travel inland, crossing through the Buller Gorge and Lewis Pass as we make our way to Hanmer Springs, a charming alpine village nestled in the Southern Alps. Once we arrive, the rest of the day is yours to explore. Many choose to soak in the famous Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools, a network of natural hot pools surrounded by native bush, the perfect way to unwind. This evening we'll gather for a group dinner in the village.

**Stay:** Heritage Hanmer Springs or similar

**Visit:** Hanmer Springs

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

## Day 10 – Hanmer Springs to Christchurch

After breakfast, we'll depart Hanmer Springs and make our way toward Christchurch, stopping en route in the Waipara Valley, one of Canterbury's premier wine regions. Enjoy a tasting at a local winery before continuing on to Christchurch, arriving in the afternoon. This evening we'll enjoy a group dinner at our hotel.

**Stay:** Distinction Christchurch or similar

**Visit:** Waipara Valley, Christchurch

**Experience:** Waipara Valley Wine Tasting

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner



## Day 11 – 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 24
- Luxury Touring Vehicle
- 10 nights' accommodation
- 10 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 5 Dinners
- Waitomo Caves Experience
- Lake Tarawera Visit
- Buried Village in Rotorua
- National Kiwi Hatchery Visit
- Lake Aniwhenua Cultural Experience
- Huka Falls
- Mission Estate Winery Lunch and Wine Tasting
- Premium Lounge Ferry journey across the Cook Strait
- Omaka Aviation Heritage Museum
- Waipara Valley Wine Tasting