

9 Day Northern Escape

Platinum Tour Itinerary

STARTS: Auckland
FINISHES: Wellington
DURATION: 9 days & 8 nights

2020-2021 DEPARTURE DATES:

2020: 8 Sep, 6 Oct, 10 Nov, 1 Dec

2021: 5 Jan, 26 Jan, 23 Feb, 23 Mar, 13 Apr

DAY 1 Arrive Auckland (D)

'Haere Mai' Welcome to New Zealand. On arrival, you will be met by a Kirra Tours representative and transferred to your downtown city hotel. This evening join your fellow travellers for a three course welcome dinner at the opulent Cooke's Restaurant at the Hotel Grand Windsor.

TRANSFER: Auckland Airport to the Hotel Grand Windsor

STAY: Hotel Grand Windsor (1 night)

DAY 2 Waiheke Island, Waiuku (B,D)

After breakfast, a brief ferry ride into the Hauraki Gulf brings us to Waiheke Island, an internationally renowned haven for vineyards, olive groves, art galleries and sandy beaches. Enjoy a locally guided tour that includes sightseeing, visits to a couple of the island's top vineyards and sampling Waiheke's gourmet culinary delights. Returning to the mainland in the early afternoon, we leave the big city behind and drive south to our peaceful coastal retreat, where you can walk on the black sand beach, spoil yourself at the day spa or enjoy a cold drink whilst taking in stunning panoramic views of the Tasman Sea.

STAY: Castaways Resort (1 night)

ACTIVITY: Tour of Waiheke Island

DAY 3 Rotorua (B)

We continue our journey south to the heart of the North Island, the geothermal city of Rotorua. You have the afternoon free to explore this fascinating city known for its rich Maori culture, natural hot springs, bubbling mud pools and beautiful forests and lakes. Your Coach Captain can assist with booking any optional activities you would like to do. For dinner tonight we highly recommend checking out Eat Street, a collection of top-notch restaurants and bars with an all-weather al fresco dining area.

STAY: Regent of Rotorua / Prince's Gate Hotel (2 nights)

DAY 4 Lake Rotoiti Cruise (B,D)

Today's highlight is an exclusive cruise across the serene, clear waters of Lake Rotoiti. Explore native bays and coves of the lake under sail on our luxury catamaran and bathe in the thermal waters of the Manupirua hot springs, accessible only by boat. This afternoon we visit the Blue and Green Lakes before returning to Rotorua. This evening, we are treated to a traditional Maori hangi (feast) and cultural performance at our featured Maori cultural experience.

ACTIVITIES: Lake Rotoiti cruise, see the Blue & Green Lakes, authentic Maori hangi & cultural experience

DAY 5 Lake Taupo, Napier (B)

This morning takes us first to the Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland to see some of New Zealand's most unique geothermal and volcanic features. Next, we stop near Taupo to view the mighty Huka Falls on our way through the popular lakeside town. Continue on to Napier, one of the world's finest Art Deco cities. This afternoon your local guide will bring the fascinating history and architecture to life as you take a guided walk of the town.

STAY: The Crown Hotel / Scenic Hotel Te Pania (2 nights)

ACTIVITIES: Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland, view Huka Falls, Guided Art Deco Walk

DAY 6 At leisure in Hawke's Bay (B,D)

Widely regarded as the 'Tuscany of the South Pacific', this region boasts some of New Zealand's best wineries. Enjoy a free day to experience some of the many optional activities available or simply relax and enjoy your surroundings. This evening, we visit Mission Estate, New Zealand's oldest winery established by a group of French missionaries in 1851. Enjoy wine tastings followed by a fine dining experience in the elegantly restored seminary with its sweeping views over the vineyards, city and the coast beyond.

ACTIVITY: Wine tasting and fine dining at Mission Estate vineyard

DAY 7 Pukaha Mt Bruce, Wellington (B)

Travel this morning to the Mount Bruce Wildlife Centre, a captive-breeding sanctuary for the country's most endangered birds and home to the only white kiwi in captivity. We carry on to Wellington, the nation's capital, where you enjoy a brief sightseeing and orientation tour before checking into your accommodation.

STAY: The Bolton Hotel (2 nights)

ACTIVITIES: Pukaha Mount Bruce Wildlife Centre, Wellington Orientation Tour

DAY 8 Explore the Nation's Capital (B)

Named the 'coolest little capital in the world' by Lonely Planet, Wellington is nestled between a sparkling harbour and rolling green hills and is renowned for its arts, heritage, culture and native beauty. A visit to Te Papa National Museum is highly recommended as is a ride on the famous Cable Car up the hill to Kelburn for amazing views over the city. If you like to stay active, take a walk around the harbour front to Oriental Bay and visit one of the many cafes before returning to the city.

DAY 9 Depart Wellington (B)

Sadly, your holiday ends after breakfast this morning. Here we bid you farewell and hope you leave with many happy memories of your stay. You will be transferred to Wellington Airport to connect with your onward flight.

TRANSFER: The Bolton Hotel to the Wellington Airport

TOUR INCLUSIONS

Accommodation:

- + 8 nights luxury hotel and boutique accommodation

Meals:

- + Full breakfast daily (B) & 4 dinners (D)
- + Welcome dinner and farewell dinner & drinks included

Transport & Touring:

- + Guided by a professional Coach Captain
- + All sightseeing, excursions and entrance fees as shown
- + Travel by purpose built, luxury Platinum Touring coach
- + Complimentary airport transfers on arrival and departure
- + Hotel portorage

Activities & Sightseeing:

- + Tour of Waiheke Island
- + Lake Rotoiti cruise
- + See the Blue & Green Lakes
- + Authentic Maori hangi & cultural experience
- + Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland
- + View Huka Falls
- + Guided Art Deco Walk in Napier
- + Wine tasting and fine dining at Mission Estate vineyard
- + Pukaha Mount Bruce Wildlife Centre
- + Wellington Orientation Tour

Valid: September 2020 – April 2021