



NORTH ISLAND ADVENTURE

ITINERARY



The North Island of New Zealand is packed to the brim with incredible landscapes, and there's no better way to experience its vastness than on our North Island Adventure. Discover for yourself your favorite part of the island as you hike the renowned Tongariro Alpine Crossing, bike through redwood forests, and walk through otherworldly caves lit by the mysterious glowworm. With two local guides and every detail looked after, you'll learn about the intimate Maori culture and visit spiritual Kauri forests without a worry in the world. Starting and finishing in Auckland, all you'll need to do is walk off the plane, and you'll be off on a hiking tour of a lifetime!

LENGTH	5 days	
GRADE	B (some alpine hiking and uneven terrain)	
START	Auckland – Sudima Auckland City, 63-67 Nelson Street, 8.15 am, or Auckland Airport, 9am	
FINISH	Auckland 6:00pm	
DEPARTURES	2023 October 2023: 2, 30 November 2023: 13, 27 December 2023: 4, 18, 25 2024 January 2024: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 February 2024: 5, 12, 19, 26 March 2024: 4, 11, 18 April 2024: 1, 15, 29 May 2024: 6, 20	2024 July 2024: 29 September 2024: 9, 30 October 2024: 14, 28 November 2024: 11, 25 December 2024: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 2025 January 2025: 6, 13, 20, 27 February 2025: 3, 10, 17, 24 March 2025: 3, 10, 17, 31 April 2025: 14, 28 May 2025: 5, 19
PRICE	1st July 23 - 30th June 24 Adult NZ\$7,473.85 Single supplement NZ\$1,838.85 *Prices correct at time of publishing	

“AMAZING!”

This was an amazing trip. More than I ever thought it would be. Jackie and Maddie were fantastic and knowledgeable guides. They made the trip very enjoyable. Will recommend this trip to my friends. Loved every minute of it.

~ Mary W. - Indiana, United States, August 2018

“BEST TRIP EVER!”

On our trip we were surrounded by beauty. From our guides to the scenic countryside everything was relaxed and accommodating. We loved the variety of activities from hiking and biking to floating in the underground caves. Meals were healthy and delicious prepared by our lovely guide. I definitely want to visit again and get to know the South Island!

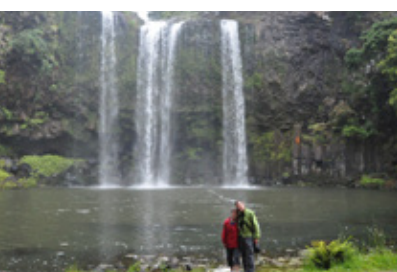
~ Tricia T. - Washington, United States, August 2018

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DAY 1 JOIN TOUR IN AUCKLAND - MT TE AROHA

5km/3-4 hours hiking

Meet your guide in the lobby of the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 128 Albert St, Auckland, at 8.15am and drive south to the township of Te Aroha. The town is one of the country's top tourist spots, celebrated for its naturally hot soda waters and Mokena geyser. Today's hike winds its way amongst tree roots and mossy rocks, and across several bridged river crossings to a lookout platform at the base of the Wairere Falls on the Okauia fault line. Afterwards, we'll drive to Rotorua, considered the heartland of New Zealand's Maori culture and the spiritual home of New Zealand's tangata whenua (original people of the land). *Accommodation: Sudima Hotel, Rotorua. Includes lunch and dinner.*



DAY 2 WHAKAREWAREWA FOREST - TE PUIA

3 hours mountain biking

This morning, we'll head out to cycle the trails of Whakarewarewa Forest. Cycling in the forest is a real highlight of the trip and we have options to suit all abilities. If you prefer not to cycle, you can stay and soak in the local mineral spas, or explore Rotorua. After a picnic lunch in the forest, we'll visit Te Puia which is famed for the Te Whakarewarewa geothermal valley – a place of gushing waters, steaming vents, boiling mud pools, and impressive geysers. Tonight you'll enjoy a cultural performance by members of the Te Arawa tribe and share a traditional feast. A hangi, as it's known, is prepared by wrapping food and burying it in the earth to cook over hot stones. This healthy cooking method is similar to steaming and imparts a wonderful flavor. *Accommodation: Sudima Hotel, Rotorua. Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

DAY 3 RAINBOW MOUNTAIN - HUKA FALLS

5km/3 hours hiking & 3km/1 hour hiking

We head south out of Rotorua today to hike Rainbow Mountain, aptly named due to the unusual color of the soil. We'll head up through the native forest past an impressive crater lake for panoramic views over the volcanic plateau. Then after lunch, we'll follow the track along New Zealand's longest river, the Waikato, for a spectacular view of Huka Falls and maybe a dip in some natural hot springs. Traveling further south, we follow the shores of Lake Taupo, an enormous volcanic caldera and the site of the world's largest eruption in the last 70,000 years. We'll stay on the banks of the Tongariro River, New Zealand's most famous trout fishing river. *Accommodation: Creel Lodge, Turangi. Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

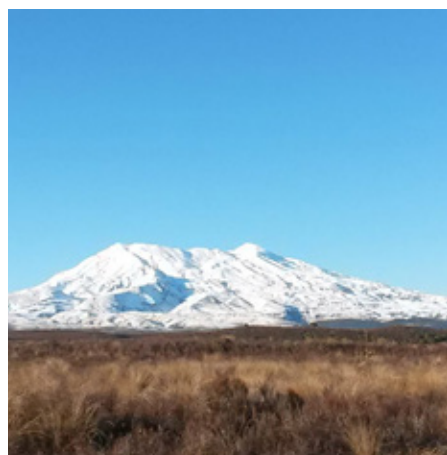
DAY 4 TONGARIRO CROSSING - HOT POOLS

20km/7-8 hours hiking

Just south of Turangi are three massive volcanoes (Tongariro, Ngauruhoe and Ruapehu) – located in Tongariro National Park, New Zealand's oldest national park and the fifth oldest in the world. Today we'll hike to the Taranaki Falls and Silica Rapids around the base of Mount Ruapehu, both of these hikes showcase a variety of flora from native beech forest to sub-alpine shrublands, each culminating with a spectacular view; Taranaki Falls is 20 meters (65 feet) high and Silica Rapids has water cascading down a series of creamy white terraces. For more experienced hikers, we have the option to complete the Tongariro Alpine Crossing and this full-day hike is challenging and unforgettable! The trail takes you through arid volcanic terrain that includes emerald lakes, cold mountain springs, lava flows, active craters, and steam vents – it's unlike anything else in New Zealand. The Tongariro Alpine Crossing is a more challenging hike in winter (from May until September) with alpine conditions such as snow and ice, and if the weather isn't suitable for the crossing, we'll all hike the Taranaki Falls and Silica Rapids. Your option must be confirmed at time of booking. Tonight, you can bathe in some natural thermal springs before having a celebratory dinner for our last night together. *Accommodation: Creel Lodge, Turangi. Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

The Tongariro Alpine Crossing in Winter (from May until September)

Whilst spectacular, the Tongariro Alpine Crossing is a more challenging hike in winter, with alpine conditions such as snow and ice. If the weather isn't suitable for the crossing, or you'd prefer to do a hike at lower elevation (away from the snow and ice!) we have a fantastic couple of hikes up our sleeve, to Taranaki Falls and Silica Rapids. Both of these hikes showcase a variety of flora from native beech forest to sub-alpine scrublands, each culminating with a spectacular view; Taranaki Falls is 20 metres (65 feet) high and Silica Rapids has water cascading down a series of creamy white terraces. For those that are keen, and if the weather is suitable, you can still choose to do the Tongariro Alpine Crossing with a local specialist guide. We will provide you with all the necessary gear such as crampons, ice axes and a helmet.



DAY 5 WAITOMO CAVES - DEPART FOR HOME

2 hours cave tubing

For our last day together, we'll head to the spectacular Waitomo Caves for a morning of caving. For those keen, you'll head down to explore an underground cave system. You'll be fitted with a wetsuit, helmet, headlamp and rubber tube in order to float down a subterranean stream, slide down waterfalls and at one point, switch off your headlamp to check out the incredible glowworms that live on the limestone ceiling of the cave. A shower and some hot soup complete the picture. Alternatively, take in the subterranean beauty on foot with a guided walk through Ruakuri cave system where you'll learn all about the geological significance of the area. Afterward, we'll head back to Auckland where your trip finishes. We'll have you at the airport in time to catch evening flights back home. *Includes breakfast and lunch.*

Cave Tubing at Waitomo (wet): Waitomo is renowned for its caves and what an awesome way to experience this region by really getting in it! We'll provide all the gear, such as a head-lamp, helmet, wet-suit and rubber tubes, along with and a specialist guide this day and head off on a subterranean adventure through the Ruakuri Caves. You'll take leaps of faith over cascading waterfalls, and float serenely down an underground river as you enjoy the glow-worms above you
Walking Ruakuri Caves (dry): A dry option today is wandering through the Ruakuri Cave at Waitomo. Journey down through the spectacular spiral entrance, and see shawl-like limestone formations, crystal tapestries, stalactites & stalagmites - as well as glow-worms.



LIFE ON THE TRAIL

GRADE B

- Average of 4-5 hrs physical activity per day.
- At times carrying small backpack of 4-5kgs.
- Tracks generally in good condition.
- Altitude gains of up to 600m on harder days.
- No hiking experience necessary.
- Reasonable standard of fitness required.

You don't have to have any outdoor experience to take this trip and you don't need to be a serious cyclist to enjoy the rides available. There are plenty of active options, but if you'd rather fish or just laze around one day, your guide can make this happen for you. You don't need to be young or really fit - but this trip has a lot of action at a reasonable pace, and is not designed for couch potatoes. Every one of the days on the trip will be unforgettable. Some physical preparation is recommended: brisk walking, jogging or cycling a couple of times a week during the month or so before you arrive to enable you to make the most of your trip.

GUIDES AND SAFETY

Experienced Kiwi guides are used who are well-versed in the local culture, flora and fauna, and history. They are trained in Outdoor First Aid. You will have two guides on this trip to take good care of you - a Lead Guide who is in charge of your trip and does the driving and a Second Guide to assist the Lead Guide and make sure you're well fed.

FOOD

Meals are provided as indicated in italics at the bottom of each day's itinerary above. On days where you start early, breakfast consists of cereal, yoghurt, fruit, toast, coffee and juice. When there is more time, your guide will make pancakes and full cooked breakfasts. Lunches are usually picnic style - sandwiches, salad and fruit, or maybe a barbecue - in some beautiful spot. Dinners are usually two- or three-course meals, covering a range of styles. Vegetarians and people with particular dietary needs or preferences are easily catered for.

TRANSPORT

New Zealand is a small country - about 1000 miles from top to bottom, and only about 150 miles wide. This trip focuses on spending as little time as possible sitting in vehicles so that you can spend your time on outdoors-oriented adventure. The average driving time over the period of this trip is just over two hours a day, and as much time as possible is spent in the outdoors. Modern, comfortable minibuses are used. Make no mistake - this trip is not a typical bus tour! Vehicles are fitted with good stereo systems, and you will hear plenty of New Zealand music.

ACCOMMODATION

Both of the places you'll be staying on the North Island Adventure are comfortable waterside lodges with modern facilities. Rooming is based on twin-share, although single rooms are available upon request. For the standard price of this tour you will get a shared room which means that if you don't have a travel partner you will be matched up with another person of the same gender to share a room. If there is not roommate for you, you will not be charged a single supplement.

If you are travelling on your own, and you would prefer not to twin-share, you can request your own private room, dependent on space availability. For this you will need to pay a single room supplement. Many of the rooms have ensuite facilities however there is also a good chance you will be asked to share a bathroom with others.



LIFE ON THE TRAIL

ADDITIONAL COSTS

- Some meals
- Personal spending including alcohol

Maximum 14 participants.

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Payment

You can pay in NZ dollars by credit card, or by direct transfer into our NZ dollar account.

Deposits

For bookings 4 or more months in advance of the departure a 25% deposit can be paid with the remainder due 95 days prior to your trip. For bookings within 4 months of the departure, full payment is required. NZ\$500 of the deposit is non-refundable, but it can be transferred to any other departure date or trip in the future providing you request a transfer at least 90 days before your trip departure. Within 90 days of departure, this NZ\$500 portion of the deposit will be forfeited.

Cancellations

In the event that it becomes necessary for you to cancel the trip, the following cancellation charges will apply: More than 90 days prior to departure: full refund less the NZ\$500 transferable deposit

Cancellations within 90 days of departure: cancellation fee is 100% of full ticket price (no refund)

Travel Insurance

It is suggested that clients take out comprehensive travel insurance.

Disclaimer

On occasion changes need to be made to the stated itinerary, for example, if the usual accommodation is not available or if the weather is unsuitable for an activity.

This trip is run in conjunction with another operator.

PACKING LIST

ESSENTIAL ITEMS

- ☐ day pack (large enough to carry raingear, fleece, camera and water.)
- ☐ hiking boots (sturdy boots with ankle support)
- ☐ trail runners/running shoes
- ☐ sports sandals
- ☐ waterproof jacket and trousers
- ☐ 2 x wool or fleece sweaters
- ☐ fleece/down jacket
- ☐ shirts/T-shirts, some cotton some quick-dry
- ☐ long sleeve shirts, some cotton some quick-dry
- ☐ lightweight trousers, 2-3 pairs
- ☐ hiking shorts
- ☐ warm wool or fleece hat
- ☐ warm gloves
- ☐ 5 pairs warm socks
- ☐ thermal underwear (polypropylene or similar, not cotton or silk)
- night wear

- ☐ underwear
- ☐ travel towel
- ☐ swimsuit
- ☐ sun hat, sunglasses
- ☐ sunblock
- ☐ water bottle (1 litre)
- ☐ camera
- ☐ toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothbrush etc.)
- ☐ personal first aid kit

This clothing will keep you warm and comfortable during outdoor activities - cotton clothing is not suitable. You will also need other clothing and shoes for between activities i.e. evenings, travel.

RECOMMENDED ITEMS

Hiking poles, insect repellent, ear plugs, alarm clock, cycling gear if you have it but not necessary, flashlight/headlamp, casual clothes, hiking gaiters, binoculars, reading materials.