

NORTH ISLAND ADVENTURE

ITINERARY





The North Island of New Zealand is packed to the brim with incredible, diverse landscapes, and there's no better way to experience its contrasts than on our North Island Volcanic Adventure. Discover for yourself as you hike the renowned Tongariro Alpine Crossing, bike along river trails, and walk through otherworldly caves lit by the mysterious glowworm.

With two local guides and every detail taken care of, you'll learn about the intimate Māori culture and the geothermal wonderlands of the Central Plateau without a worry in the world.

LENGTH	5 days	
GRADE	B (some alpine hiking and uneven terrain)	
START	Auckland - Sudima City Hotel, 63-67 Nelson Street at 8:15am, or Auckland Airport at 9.00am	
FINISH	Auckland 6:00pm (approx.)	
DEPARTURES	**2026** July: 27 September: 7, 28 October: 12, 26 November: 9, 23, 30 December: 7, 14, 21, 28 **2027** January: 4, 11, 18, 25 February: 1, 15, 22 March: 1, 8, 15, 29 April: 12, 26 May: 3, 17	**2027** July: 26 September: 6, 27 October: 11, 25 November: 8, 22, 29 December: 6, 13, 20, 27 **2028** January: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 February: 14, 21, 28 March: 6, 13, 27 April: 10, 24 May: 1, 15
PRICE	**1 Jul 2026 - 30 Jun 2027** Adult NZD $7599.00 Single Supplment NZD $1800.00 *Tour prices are dynamic and will be confirmed upon your booking request.	**1 Jul 2027 - 30 Jun 2028** Adult NZD $7899.00 Single Supplment NZD $2200.00 *Tour prices are dynamic and will be confirmed upon your booking request.

"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

"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











ITINERARY

DAY 1 AUCKLAND - ROTORUA

9.4km (5.8 miles), 2 hours hiking, +/- 14m elevation

Leaving the city of Auckland behind us, we head south to where you can stretch your legs on a peaceful walk alongside the crystal clear waters of the Putāruru Blue Springs, one of New Zealand's purest water sources. The trail winds through lush farmland and native bush leading to vivid turquoise pools and bubbling springs.

Afterwards, we'll drive to Rotorua, considered the heartland of New Zealand's Māori culture and the spiritual home of New Zealand's tangata whenua (original people of the land) and visit Te Puia, home to the dramatic Te Whakarewarewa Geothermal Valley where steaming vents, bubbling mud pools, and powerful geysers bring the landscape to life. As evening falls, you'll enjoy a cultural performance by members of the local Te Arawa tribe before sharing a traditional hāngī feast. Cooked slowly beneath the earth over heated stones, this time honored Māori cooking method creates beautifully tender food infused with rich, smoky flavor. *Accommodation: Sudima Hotel, Rotorua. Includes lunch and dinner.*

DAY 2 ROTORUA - HUKA FALLS

5.5km (3.4mi), 1 -2 hours hiking, +/- 196m (643ft) elevation

This morning we'll follow a winding trail through one of the North Island's most peaceful pockets of native forest as we make our way to the Blue Lakes. The hike is gentle and rewarding and the well formed tracks weaves alongside streams so clear you can see every stone beneath the surface. Beneath towering trees and native birdsong overhead, discover calm blue lakes tucked deep in the forest, their colours shifting with the light.

After lunch, we change gears for an exhilarating jet boat ride along the Waikato River to the spectacular Huka Falls. Feel the spray on your face as the boat powers through narrow river canyons and across crystal clear water before arriving at the falls, where more than 58,000 gallons of water thunder through a dramatic volcanic gorge every second. It's a highlight of this trip, a loved New Zealand activity, and a whole lot of fun! Tonight, our accommodation is on the peaceful banks of the Tongariro River, with the sound of flowing water right outside your door. *Accommodation: Creel Lodge, Tūrangi. Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

DAY 3 TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK

Up to 20km (12mi), up to 8 hours hiking, +/- 1100m elevation

Just south of Tūrangi rise the three great volcanoes of Tongariro National Park: Tongariro, Ngāuruhoe, and Ruapehu. New Zealand's oldest national park, and the fifth oldest in the world, this remarkable landscape is shaped by fire, ice, and time.

Today, we'll explore the lower slopes of Mount Ruapehu on hikes to Taranaki Falls and the Silica Rapids. Wander through native beech forest and open alpine shrublands before arriving at two very different volcanic wonders: the 65 foot (20 meter) Taranaki Falls plunging over an ancient lava flow, and the Silica Rapids, where mineral rich water tumbles over creamy white terraces.

For experienced hikers, there's the option to tackle the legendary Tongariro Alpine Crossing. This challenging full day hike traverses dramatic volcanic terrain dotted with emerald lakes, steaming vents, lava fields, and active craters. It's raw, rugged, and unlike anywhere else in New Zealand. This option must be confirmed at the time of booking.

Tonight, ease tired legs in natural thermal springs before gathering for a celebratory dinner together! *Accommodation: Creel Lodge, Tūrangi. Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

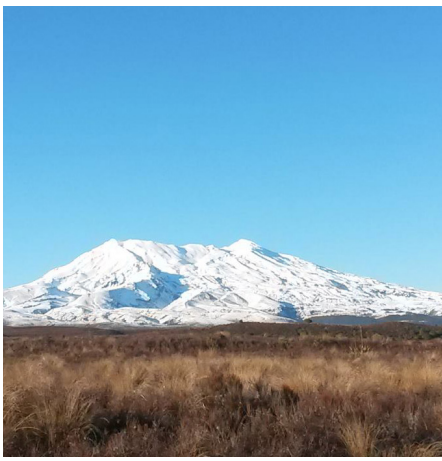
Alternative options to the Tongariro Alpine Crossing:
Taranaki Falls Hiking: 6km (3.7 mi), 2 hours hiking +/- 120m (393ft) elevation
Silica Rapids Hiking: 7 km (4.3 mi), 2-3 hours hiking, +/- 220m (721ft) elevation





DAY 4 WAITOMO CAVES

Today, we'll make our way to the world-famous Waitomo Caves, a natural limestone formation known for its magical glowworms. You have a choice of two ways to experience the caves alongside specialist guides: a walk (dry option), or a high adrenaline black water rafting experience (wet option).



Whichever experience you opt for, you'll have the chance to see thousands of glowworms sparkling like stars above you. The walking option takes you through Ruakuri Cave where you'll learn about the geological significance of the area. On the rafting option, you'll be fitted with a wetsuit, boots, and helmet, then given an inflatable tube to float through the cave system and jump down underground waterfalls. The glow worm viewing part of the experience for both options is majestic, peaceful, and is sure to be an experience you'll never forget.

You'll have some free time to freshen up before we come together for dinner and reflect on the magic of our caving experience. It is important to let our team know if you have any medical conditions or fears of dark or enclosed spaces. *Accommodation: Hidden Lake Hotel Cambridge. Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*



DAY 5 SANCTUARY MOUNTAIN - DEPART FOR HOME

Our final day together ends on a high with a visit to Sanctuary Mountain, an ancient eco-sanctuary alive with towering native trees, lush ferns, birdsong, and regenerating forest.



We'll take a guided walk, learning about the land's history, native flora, and wildlife while keeping watch for kākā, tūī, and fantail birds around us. You can also climb the 16-metre high viewing tower for sweeping views of the forest canopy.

We'll enjoy a picnic lunch together and then continue to Auckland for hotel or airport drop-off. *Includes breakfast and lunch.*

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. Pay in full - non-refundable rates (10% off). You may choose to pay your full tour price at the time of booking. Non-refundable rate discounts require full payment at the time of booking, and your booking is non-refundable. This discount only applies to bookings that are scheduled to depart no later than 180 days from the date of payment and the 'cancellation and Refund (By You) and Change of Trip or Departure' terms and conditions do not apply, If you change or cancel your trip, no refunds will apply. This discount cannot be combines with any other offers. We highly recommend that you purchase Cancel For Any Reason (CFAR) insurance.

Deposits

For bookings, 4 or more months in advance of the departure a 25% deposit can be paid with the remainder due 130 days prior to your trip. For bookings within 4 months of the departure, full payment is required.
This deposit is non-transferable and non-refundable. However, provided you cancel your booking 121 days or more prior to your scheduled departure date, your deposit (less any applicable cancellation fee) will be held as a credit for you for up to 24 months.

Cancellations

121 days or more: 100% of payments already made by you, less your deposit will be refunded. A cancellation fee of 10% of the full booking value will be deducted from your deposit and the balance of your deposit will be held as a credit for you.
120-91 days: 50% of tour price forfeited.
90-0 days: 100% of tour price forfeited.

On booking request, you will be sent the full terms and conditions which you must review and acknowledge that you have reviewed the booking conditions associated with this and understand and accept this agreement.

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.