



Deluxe Northern Explorer

Arrive in Auckland and take a private scenic flight to Waiheke Island, where you'll indulge in a bespoke food and wine experience, sampling the region's finest offerings. Journey north to the Bay of Islands, where a luxury lodge awaits, offering breathtaking 180-degree views of the Pacific Ocean. Relax in style or enjoy a round of golf on the lodge's exclusive course. Fly over the iconic Cape Reinga, New Zealand's northernmost point, to take in panoramic views of the lush tropical landscape. Return south, passing through rolling farmlands to Rotorua, the heart of Māori culture. Immerse yourself in the soothing thermal waters of Lake Tarawera before embarking on a guided 4WD tour through culturally significant landscapes. For a truly unique experience, take a scenic helicopter flight over the stunning Mount Tarawera, landing atop its volcanic terrain for a rare, up-close view of the spectacular scenery. This curated, bespoke journey offers an unparalleled combination of relaxation, adventure, and cultural immersion in some of New Zealand's most stunning locations. Tailored exclusively for you, this luxury experience will leave you with unforgettable memories.

Starts in: Auckland
Finishes in: Auckland
Length: 10days / 9nights
Accommodation: Luxury Lodges
Can be customised: Yes

This itinerary can be customised to suit you perfectly. We can add more days, remove days, change accommodations, mix it up, add activities to suit your interests or simply design and create something from scratch. Call us today to get your custom New Zealand itinerary underway.



Inclusions:

Includes: Late model rental cars
Includes: Fully inclusive rental car insurance (excess may apply)
Includes: Unlimited kms
Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring
Included activity: Private Transfer Auckland Airport to your Auckland Accommodation with Tourcorp
Included activity: Electronic Travel Guide and In-Country Support App
Included activity: Waiheke Island Luxury Private Tour with Auckland & Beyond Tours - Lunch Included
Included activity: Cape Reinga Scenic Flight and Guided Tour with Salt Air
Included activity: Solitaire Lodge Tarawera Thermal Springs
Included activity: Private 4WD Guided Cultural Tour with Kahukiwi Experiences
Included activity: Mount Tarawera & Orakei Korako Thermal Explorer with Volcanic Air
9 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 7 dinners

Day 1



Private Transfer Auckland Airport to your Auckland Accommodation with Tourcorp

You will be met at the Auckland airport by the driver and transferred to your Auckland accommodation.

Welcome to Auckland

Kia ora! Welcome to Auckland, known in Māori as Tāmaki Makaurau. Auckland is New Zealand's vibrant "City of Sails," and the country's largest metropolitan area. Nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the Tasman Sea, it offers something for everyone. Surrounded by native bush, lush rainforests, and pristine beaches, Auckland is a haven for both adventurers and urban explorers. Wander through world-class museums and galleries in the city centre or enjoy a peaceful retreat at the Auckland Gardens, where stunning landscapes showcase New Zealand's diverse flora. Stroll along the lively waterfront to savour fresh seafood and international cuisine at the Viaduct restaurants. For an unforgettable perspective, ascend the iconic SkyTower, New Zealand's tallest structure, and take in panoramic views of the city and its picturesque islands.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - All Blacks Experience

See what it takes to make, shape and be an All Black. Experience first-hand the excitement and emotion of game day. Discover the stories behind some of world rugby's most famous players, moments, and matches.

This guided experience introduces you to the game of rugby including state-of-the-art displays combining sound, images, interactive technology, and hands-on activities. Discover New Zealand's deep passion for our national sport, experience the full force of the All Blacks haka, and tackle interactive zones where you can try out your kicking, catching, line-out, and accuracy skills against legendary All Blacks.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Wētā Workshop Unleashed

Explore worlds of horror, sci-fi and fantasy in the making. An exciting, realistic, and authentic experience, with three fully developed and original film concepts: A nail-biting horror Fauna, a fantasy epic Age of the Ever-Clan, and the mind-bending sci-fi Origins.

A 90-minute guided experience through fully themed environments, including immersive horror, fantasy, and sci-fi story worlds. Be immersed by a specially-created unique sweeping cinematic soundtrack, animatronic creatures, physical and digital interactives, hyper-realistic sculpted giants and characters, a horror house experience, and much more.

Your accommodation: The Hotel Britomart Auckland

Soulful, smart and contemporary, The Hotel Britomart welcomes guests to Britomart, the vibrant centre of downtown waterfront Auckland. Still and calm, the rooms and suites at The Hotel Britomart pair simple elegance with the luxury of tactile materials. The Hotel Britomart is at the centre of a dynamic nine-block precinct of plant-lined streets, historic warehouses and the city's best shopping and eating.



Day 2



Waiheke Island Luxury Private Tour with Auckland & Beyond Tours - Lunch Included

Explore the famous Waiheke Island, known for its rolling vineyards, sandy beaches, rocky bays, and glorious wineries. Meet your guide in Auckland as you board the ferry to head out to the island, cruising along the Hauraki Gulf to reach the Matakaitia Bay terminal. On the Island, your guide will tour you around in a luxury vehicle, as you indulge in wine tasting and a vineyard tour from three premium wineries, before enjoying a picnic lunch at one of the gorgeous white sandy beaches. After lunch you will get to explore an award-winning Olive Oil estate, here you will get the chance to view the trees and the process of how the Oil is harvested and made. After your tour, you will board the ferry and head back to Auckland.

Your accommodation: The Hotel Britomart Auckland

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Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch



Day 3



Collect Rental Car

Choose a car to best suit your needs from our fantastic rental car range. From compact economy, hatchbacks to prestige SUVs.

Car Instructions

On collection of your rental car, you will be required to sign a rental agreement and provide a credit card for a security bond authorisation. Remember, the bond is only authorised, not charged, at this stage. While your rental rate may include coverage for mechanical breakdowns (please verify your specific car inclusions), you may also have the option to purchase roadside assistance for non-mechanical issues. All drivers must present a physical credit card, valid driving license and passport to be added to the agreement, with potential additional charges for extra drivers. Debit cards may be used on select vehicles. If you are presenting an international drivers license, this must be accompanied by the original domestic license. Drivers under 21 are not permitted, and those aged 21-24 may face a surcharge, both payable directly to the rental company. For detailed information, please refer to your rental car inclusions. See this important information if you are traveling between the North and South Islands on the ferry

Auckland to Whangaroa and Matauri Bay

The trip from Auckland to the Bay of Islands takes around 3.5 hours but give yourself some leeway for stops and sightseeing. As you go through Puhoi, take in the bohemian atmosphere of this historical township. Stop for a breath of fresh salty air in Whangarei and take another break at Kawakawa - home to the world famous Hundertwasser toilets. Enjoy the native bush surrounds and marvel at the endless golden beaches as you arrive into the subtropical Bay of Islands region. Continuing north its just a short drive to Whangaroa Harbour and Matauri Bay, your destination for the night.

Your accommodation: Rosewood Kauri Cliffs

Set on 6,000 acres near Matauri Bay, Northland, The Lodge at Kauri Cliffs affords spectacular 180-degree views of the Pacific Ocean. Cape Brett and the offshore Cavalli Islands are part of the panorama which can be viewed from the verandas, lounge, and dining rooms. A championship golf course also graces the lodge.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 4



Rosewood Kauri Cliffs Lodge Experience

Located on 6,000 spectacular acres near Matauri Bay, Northland, Rosewood Kauri Cliffs is a secluded oasis. With panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean, Cape Brett and the Cavalli Islands, guests stay in one of 22 cottage suites, each with their own private porch and open fireplace. While best known for its world-class golf course, Rosewood Kauri Cliffs has many other activities on offer including horseback riding, cycling, swimming, sailing, a guided farm tour, and access to its day spa - nestled within native Totara forest. Discover New Zealand's pristine shores on one of three private beaches or fish and dive in the clear blue waters.

Ranked the number one hotel in the world in 2014 by Conde Nast, Rosewood Kauri Cliffs is also home to two astroturf tennis courts, an infinity swimming pool, spa and fully equipped fitness centre. Five-star gourmet a la carte dining is available both indoors and on the veranda outside, as well as informal barbecues and lunch hampers.

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Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 5



Matauri Bay to Paihia, Bay of Islands

Today return south through Kerikeri known for its crafts studios, fruit orchards and artisan products. Home to two of the oldest buildings in the country Mission House and the Stone Store

(both of which encompass materials and artifacts from early European settlers) Kerikeri is a delightful place to learn about New Zealand's early history. Continue on to Paihia, your destination for the night and great a base from which to explore the Bay of Islands.

Cape Reinga Scenic Flight and Guided Tour with Salt Air

Experience the beauty of the North from both air and land. Take a spectacular scenic flight to Cape Reinga over Whangaroa Harbour and the Rangaunu Harbour as well as Coopers Beach, Doubtless Bay and Ninety Mile Beach.

Paihia, Bay of Islands to Matauri Bay

Leaving the Bay of Islands you first pass the turn off to Kerikeri, which was one of the first settled areas of New Zealand. The Stone Store and Kemp House, two of New Zealand's oldest buildings still stand and are open to visitors. Kerikeri is the fruit basket of the north and also home to crafts people and producers of artisan food produce, so the farmers market and craft markets are great places to explore. There are also numerous green spaces and forests to wander through, including two 'Gardens of National Significance': Palmco and Wharepuke Gardens which are open daily and fabulous examples of sub-tropical gardens. Continuing north it's just a short drive to Matauri Bay home to wonderful beaches and bays.

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Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 6



Matauri Bay to Auckland

Returning south through Kerikeri and its craft studios, cottage industries and fruit orchards, it's a delightful stop for lovers of artisan products. Kerikeri also has two of the oldest European buildings in New Zealand, Kemp House (1821) and the Stone Store (1832). Leaving Kerikeri you follow State Highway 1 through Northland farmland to the small township of Kawakawa. Continue south and you reach the city of Whangarei, where you can enjoy a stroll along the Town Basin and Hatea River with its fascinating heritage trail and sculpture trail. Before reaching Auckland you pass the turnoff to the small settlement of Puhoi, New Zealand's only Bohemian village. Your destination, Auckland city, is New Zealand's largest, home to one-third of New Zealand's population. Each suburb has its own unique style and atmosphere, from the vibrant and trendy fashion and cuisine found on Ponsonby and Parnell Roads to the breath-taking native bush and beaches of the West Coast. One of the world's great cities Auckland is full of life and opportunities to explore are endless.

Explore Auckland

Perched on the edge of a large natural harbour, New Zealand's 'City of Sails' offers the best of both worlds. Sandy beaches, native bush and lush rainforests give way to a vibrant urban culture, humming with life. Spend time in the Viaduct Harbour, try your hand at sailing an America's Cup yacht or take the ferry to nearby Waiheke Island for a gourmet food and wine experience. If you're looking for a lovely walk, venture to the top of Auckland's highest volcano, Mt Eden, and take in soaring views of the gulf or hop on the short ferry to Rangitoto Island and hike to the top of the volcanic island. Immerse yourself in nature's beauty at the expansive Auckland Botanical Garden's, sprawled across 156 acres of lush land and native forest on Hill Road. Pack a picnic, soak up the sunshine, and delight in the melodious birdsong during a peaceful lunch. Head up to the Sky Tower, standing at just over 300m tall (about 1,000 feet) and have a meal in the 360-degree revolving restaurant. Scale the outermost perimeter of the Harbour Bridge or test your stomach and bungee off both. To end your day, catch a cab to Ponsonby Road and sample some upmarket culinary delights.

Your accommodation: The Hotel Britomart Auckland

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Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 7



Auckland to Rotorua

The drive south from Auckland takes you past the the Bombay Hills which mark the outer boundary of greater Auckland area and it's here you turn inland to central Waikato. You'll soon go through the town of Matamata where you can visit the fully intact Hobbiton film set used in the shooting of the Lord of The Rings and Hobbit trilogies. Continuing on, you'll pass several small farming communities before telltale signs of steam and other geothermal activity signal your arrival into Rotorua.

Rotorua

Discover the geothermal, adventure, and cultural wonderland of Rotorua. As you explore, you may see steam rising from cracks in the road, bubbling and hissing water in pools along the lake's edge, and the unmistakable smell of Sulfur. Rotorua is rich in Māori culture and history, with many Māori inhabitants recognising the great potential of the volcanic land. For an outdoor adventure, head to The Redwoods and experience the rainforest treetops from high up. There are a few accessible trails for disabled hikers and great biking trails as well. If you're lucky, you might spot some of New Zealand's native birds, such as the Piwakawaka (Fantail) and the Tūī. Alternatively, enjoy the Lake Tikitapu Blue Lake Walk or explore Kuirau Park, where you'll find bubbling mud pools and steaming lakes. Don't miss the private thermal reserves such as Te Puia and Wai-O-Tapu, where you can walk among bubbling mud pools, spouting geysers, and Sulfur ponds. Just a few minutes from the town centre, the Agrodome and National Kiwi Hatchery offer an insight into nature. Rotorua's rich Māori culture is a must-see. Spend an evening with Te Pā Tū, complete with a traditional-style dinner or stroll along the lake edge to reach one of the country's oldest Māori villages at Ohinemutu. When hunger strikes, visit Eat Street in Rotorua CBD, a vibrant street lined with delicious eateries and restaurants to satisfy any craving. No visit to Rotorua would be complete without experiencing Rotorua's original tourist attraction - a relaxing spa treatment. This town boasts an array of wellness experiences to unwind in. Whether you are seeking adventure, culture, or relaxation, Rotorua offers an unforgettable experience.

Solitaire Lodge

Nestled on the shores of Lake Tarawera, Solitaire Lodge offers guests the ideal blend of indulgence and adventure from a picture-perfect setting. Luxurious and elegantly appointed with floor-to-ceiling windows and stunning panoramic views across the lake, guests can choose to relax in front of an open fire with a book from the library, enjoy the bar facilities or take a stroll in the expansive herb garden. Nearby is the Lodge's private jetty with complimentary use of the lodge's kayaks, motorised dinghies and trout fishing gear. Each of the suites is styled for comfort and features panoramic views of the lake and volcano. Bringing the outdoors in, you are invited to unwind and soak up the peace and quiet of this tranquil setting.

Your accommodation: Solitaire Lodge

Solitaire Lodge Rotorua, one of New Zealand's premier luxury lodges, enjoys breathtaking views over Lake Tarawera, with lush natural bush and volcanic landscape backdrop. The subtle design brings the outdoors in, inviting you to unwind and soak up the peace and quiet of this tranquil setting. Minutes from this iconic resort you will discover a multitude of activities.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 8



Solitaire Lodge Tarawera Thermal Springs

Moments from the Lodge you will discover the essence of unspoiled Lake Tarawera. Take a 15 minute private launch excursion to the natural hot springs of Lake Tarawera. Best accessed pre-breakfast, enjoy soaking in thermal waters rising gently through the lake bed as the morning sun filters through native bush.

Kahukiwi Experiences 4WD Guided Culture Tour

Based in the sacred Te Takinga Marae in Rotorua, Kahukiwi Experiences offers a never before seen window into the landscapes, ways of life and heritage of the Ngāti Pikiao tribe. Explore the untouched, sacred land of the Ngāti Pikiao tribe in this intimate 4WD experience. Guided by a local and highly knowledgeable Māori guide, you'll explore a stunning marae (a communal and social gathering place), landscapes and never-before-seen views that look over Rotorua's lake district. En route, you'll learn the myths and legends of local people, rich history and fascinating ways of life.

Your accommodation: Solitaire Lodge

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Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 9



Mount Tarawera & Orakei Korako Thermal Explorer with Volcanic Air

Combine the thrill of landing on Mount Tarawera with a flight that includes spectacular aerial views of Rotorua's stunning crater lakes, the renowned Tarawera Falls and the vibrant Waimangu and Wai-O-Tapu geothermal reserves. Leaving Wai-O-Tapu, descend to follow the Waikato River to the hidden valley of Orakei Korako. Once landed, you will ferry across the river and begin your land-based tour. Experience hot springs, gushing geysers and the natural beauty of this geothermal wonderland. The return flight takes in views of farmland and the Paeroa mountain range before flying over Rotorua City and returning to the lakefront pier.

Your accommodation: Solitaire Lodge

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Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 10



Rotorua to Auckland

The drive from Rotorua to Auckland takes you through the heart of the Waikato and its rich agricultural land. New Zealand's longest river, the Waikato guides you through the art and craft stores of Tirau and the township of Cambridge. Continue on a little further to arrive in Auckland City, your destination for the night.

Depart Auckland today

Explore more of vibrant Auckland city before dropping your rental car at the airport depot and continuing your onward journey.

Farewell from Aotearoa-New Zealand

Bid farewell to New Zealand, taking with you unforgettable memories of its breathtaking landscapes and incredible adventures. In Maori, it is said mā te wā, which is not goodbye, it is see you soon!

Tour details

Departures:	Daily
Tour type:	Self Drive Tour (FTNZ ONLY)
Starts:	Auckland
Finishes:	Auckland
Tour length:	10
Accommodation:	Luxury Lodges
Car/transport type:	

Included activities

Includes	All dinners
Includes	All breakfasts
Includes	Private airport transfers
Includes	Cape Reinga Fly and Drive Tour
Includes	Maori food trail Soda Springs tour

Accommodation summary

Day 1	The Hotel Britomart Auckland
Day 2	The Hotel Britomart Auckland
Day 3	Rosewood Kauri Cliffs
Day 4	Rosewood Kauri Cliffs
Day 5	Rosewood Kauri Cliffs
Day 6	The Hotel Britomart Auckland
Day 7	Solitaire Lodge
Day 8	Solitaire Lodge
Day 9	Solitaire Lodge