Northern Discovery, September 2026

30 - 10 October

Your Itinerary

DAY 1 WELLINGTON

Kia ora and welcome to ‘Te Ika-a-Maui’ New Zealand’s North Island!

We meet you at Wellington Airport then head to our accommodation to check in before heading off to visit Te Papa, New Zealand's bold and innovative national museum. As well as the Art Gallery, you can learn how to DJ, see a colossal Squid, visit the Marae and learn about the Treaty of Waitangi.

Our first night kicks off with a fun evening as we get to know our fellow travelling crew and friendly Tour Manager and Tour Assistants.

We enjoy our first home cooked meal tonight then we will discuss the exciting days ahead.

Includes: Discuss the exciting days ahead | Te Papa National Museum | Meet your crew | Dinner

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DAY 2 WELLINGTON - TAUPO - ROTORUA

We're up bright and early for a good breakie then we jump onboard the coach and if time allows we take the road to the top of Mount Victoria for fantastic views over the city. From here our tour takes us through the centre of the city passing the Beehive and Parliament buildings before taking the road north.

Our route takes us along the Kapiti coast before travelling inland to the Tongariro National Park. We have fantastic views of Mount Ruapehu, Tongariro and Ngauruhoe better known as Mount Doom and Mordor from Lord of the Rings.

Once we arrive in Taupo, we visit the Bungy Jump site over the beautiful Waikato River where you have an opportunity to try a bungy or the swing (for this who have their parents permission of course).

After everyone has finished their adrenaline pumping activities, we continue on to Rotorua, known as the place that captures the best of New Zealand in one spot. Famously known as an 'active volcanic zone', it is just as famous for its Maori history and culture and you get to experience it all.

On our way to Rotorua, we stop off to visit the spectacular Huka Falls, situated on the beautiful Waikato River and then stop to see the boiling mud pools.

We check in to our accommodation before enjoying a homecooked dinner.

Includes: Breakfast | Huka Falls | Dinner

DAY 3 ROTORUA

Today we get to explore Rotorua.

Our first stop of the day is Te Puia; the premier Maori cultural centre in New Zealand and a place of gushing waters, steaming vents, boiling mud pools and spectacular geysers.

After Te Puia, we have free time so you might like to try White Water Rafting, Zorb, Swoop Swing or just soak in the hot mineral waters of the Polynesian Spa.

This afternoon it's time to hit the Skyline Gondola and Luge! We get three rides down the luge so throw on your helmet and choose your course from beginner to advanced.

Tonight we are in for a very special night as we enter the world of Mitai where we discover Maori art forms, ancient rituals and traditions, experience thrilling song and dance and then eat a delicious and authentic Maori Hangi.

Includes: Breakfast | Huka Falls | Gondola and 3 Luge Rides | Traditional Maori Hangi Dinner

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DAY 4 ROTORUA - RAGLAN

We farewell Rotorua and head off to discover the real Middle-Earth. Located on the most picturesque private farmland near Matamata, we visit the Hobbiton Movie Set from The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit film trilogy.

We have a fascinating guided tour where we see the hobbit holes, the famous Party Tree and Bag End; home to Bilbo and Frodo.

From here we head over the hillls to the beachside town, Raglan.

Tonight dinner is your choice.

Includes: Breakfast | Hobbiton Movie Set

DAY 5 RAGLAN

After a hearty breakfast, it’s straight to the beach!

First up is an important lesson about the fundamentals of ocean awareness, etiquette, and water safety, then it's time to jump on our boards for a professional surf lesson.

Tonight we enjoy an evening cruise and dinner then go through highlights of the day.

Includes: Breakfast | Surf Lesson | Lunch | Sunset Cruise | Dinner

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DAY 6 RAGLAN - PAIHIA

We say goodbye to Raglan and travel north for a three night stay in Paihia.

We visit Whangarei where there is time to visit the Huntertwasser Museum if you are keen. We then stop at the famous Kawa Kawa toilets before arriving in Paihia. After checking into our beach side lodge we have time for a walk along the beach.

Another delicious home cooked dinner is on the menu tonight and then enjoy some free time before it's lights out.

Includes: Breakfast | Kawakawa | Beach walk | Dinner

DAY 7 PAIHIA

This morning we're up bright and early. After a good breakfast we're off to Cape Reinga, right at the top of the North Island where we drive along the famous 90 Mile Beach (actually only 61 miles!). You will stop at various points of interest and will have time to try sand boarding.

Tonight dinner is your choice.

Includes: Breakfast | Cape Reinga Day Trip | Lunch

DAY 8 PAIHIA

Today is a free day and there are lots of options! Maybe parasailing if you're feeling adventurous, or you may like to go kayaking or take the local ferry to Russell on the other side of the inlet.

Alternatively enjoy a free day at the beach or visit the famous Treaty of Waitangi grounds, a place of major significance to NZ history. Gain an insight to some of New Zealand's most outstanding and deeply symbolic carvings that have been gifted to the Treaty Grounds.

Tonight we enjoy a group dinner.

Includes: Breakfast | Dinner

DAY 9 PAIHIA - AUCKLAND

After breakfast we travel to the diving beach resort of Tutukaka and join "A Perfect Day Ocean Cruise" where we cruise to the Poor Knights Islands.

We don our wetsuits and enjoy the wonders of the deep sea; snorkelling through caves, kayaking, swimming, sea mammal-spotting and learn snippets of fascinating history and island facts.

This afternoon we make our way to Auckland - The City of Sails!

Includes: Poor Knights Island Day Cruise| *Snorkelling*| *Kayaking* | *Breakfast* | *Lunch* | *Dinner*

DAY 10 AUCKLAND

Today we get to explore New Zealand's largest city; If you dare, try bungy jumping off the harbour bridge...

This morning we visit the Skytower for fantastic views of the city and some of you may wish to experience the 192m Sky Jump from the top!

This afternoon, you have free time to explore the city, catch up on any last minute shopping, visit the famous Auckland Museum or take a walk to the Viaduct and check out the yachts moored alongside.

Tonight we enjoy our last night together with a fun farewell and awards presentation.

Includes: Breakfast | *Skytower* | *Shopping*| *Final night party* | *Dinner*

DAY 11 AUCKLAND - HOME

This morning we drop you off at Auckland Airport at 10.00am with an amazing bunch of new friends and ‘ferntastic’ memories.

Includes: Breakfast | *Airport transfer* | *New memories* | *New friends*