

11 Day North Island Discovery



Thursday 10 December

Auckland – Paihia



Meet your Tour Manager and driver and head off on your North Island Discovery tour. We cross the harbour bridge and travel north to the Waipoua forest where we walk amongst the Kauri giants finishing at the famous 'Tane Mahuta' - the largest Kauri standing today. We arrive in Paihia and enjoy a home-cooked dinner. Later on, we find out about the days ahead. **(D)**

Friday 11 December

Paihia

Paihia is one of the first towns settled by the European explorers. It sits on a bay amongst the beautiful Bay of Islands. Close by is Waitangi where the founding document of New Zealand, the Treaty of Waitangi, was signed in 1840. We enjoy a guided tour of these historic grounds and buildings and visit the museum to gain an understanding of the background to the signing of the treaty. This afternoon is free for you to enjoy this beautiful place. There are plenty of activities for you to choose from, take a boat ride to the outer islands, learn to paddle a Waka, visit historical Russell or just chill by the sea - the choice is yours. **(B,D)**



Saturday 12 December

Paihia Day trip to Cape Reinga



An early start this morning as we set off from Paihia and travel through spectacular scenery as your driver shares fascinating stories about Northland's history. This exhilarating tour will see you speeding down massive sand dunes, driving along sand and surf and meeting a 2,000 year-old kauri tree in an ancient kauri forest. According to Māori legend, the headland at Cape Reinga is where spirits leave New Zealand and return to the land of their ancestors, Hawaiki. Walk down to the iconic Cape Reinga lighthouse and see the Tasman Sea and Pacific Ocean crashing together below you. Soak up the amazing atmosphere and strikingly beautiful vistas, and don't forget to snap a selfie with the famous signpost! **(B, L)**

Sunday 13 December

Paihia - Rotorua

First stop this morning are the very unusual KawaKawa toilets, from there we travel through Auckland and down to Matamata 'Hobbiton'. Here we take a tour of the movie site of both the Lord of the Rings and the Hobbit. We walk through 'Middle Earth', explore the Hobbit holes and have time for a juice at the Green Dragon (and maybe dance under the 'Party Tree'). Travelling on, we arrive in Rotorua - the geothermal capital of New Zealand. Tonight, we visit the Polynesian Mineral Pools for a soak. **(B, L, D)**



Monday 14 December

Rotorua

We start the day with a visit to Te Puia Geothermal park. Here we can see steaming hot pools, spouting geysers, silica terraces and boiling mud where we see geysers erupting water. We also see kiwi, Master carvers at work and women weaving flax. After enjoying lunch in the city there is free time for optional activities such as White Water Rafting or Zorbing. Tonight, we travel to the Tamaki Māori Village for a cultural evening, experience a Māori concert, learn Māori games and enjoy a Hangi (food cooked in an earth oven). **(B,D)**



Tuesday 15 December

Rotorua - Taupo

First stop this morning we head to Skyline Gondola for a ride to the top of Mt Ngongotaha followed by 2 Luge rides through the forest track. We say goodbye to Rotorua and travel south from here to Huka Falls, New Zealand's largest waterfall by volume. We then stop at Spa Park Taupo where you can dip your feet or soak in the natural hot springs which meet the crystal clear Waikato river and onto Taupo where you'll have time for lunch, explore the town and beautiful lakefront. After checking into our accommodation, we head out on a scenic lake cruise to see the beautiful Māori Carvings on the rock wall. **(B,D)**



Wednesday 16 December

Taupo - Wellington

Our drive this morning takes us around the edges of Lake Taupo, keep an eye out for Trout Fishermen trying their luck!

We carry on south travelling over the Desert road, stopping in Taihape – the Gumboot Throwing Capital of the World, time to test your expertise before travelling onto Wellington! Our accommodation is close by to lots of cafes and restaurants, so dinner is your choice tonight. **(B)**



Thursday 17 December

Wellington



This morning we visit Te Papa Museum, from here we take the cable car to the top of Kelburn Hill for wonderful views over the city and harbour. This afternoon is free for you to enjoy this city, which has great shopping, museums, art galleries and much more. **(B,D)**

Friday 18 December

Wellington - Tongariro National Park

Our first stop is the famous Beehive and Parliament Buildings before retracing our steps north to picturesque Tongariro National Park. We take a ride on the 'Sky Waka' Gondola up the North Island's highest mountain, Mount Ruapehu for lunch up the top with stunning views all over the Central North Island. On the way down we take a short walk to view a beautiful waterfall before checking into our accommodation. Relax here in the afternoon with maybe a soak in the spa pools before enjoying a hearty dinner. **(B, L, D)**



Saturday 19 December

Tongariro – Waitomo



This morning we head North to Waitomo (Wai= water Tomo=large opening or hole) known throughout the world for the Glow-worm caves. We first enjoy a sheep shearing experience and a demonstration of how clever the sheep dogs are. We carry onto Waitomo Caves and enter via a grand entrance. We follow the narrow paths down deep into the earth, finishing with a boat trip in the dark under a canopy of sparking glow worms. **(B, L, D)**

Sunday 20 December

Waitomo – Auckland

We say goodbye to Waitomo and call into Hamilton to visit the world-famous Hamilton gardens, voted best gardens in the world in 2014. We stop in town to grab some lunch and some last-minute shopping before returning to Auckland about 4pm. **(B)**



11-Day North Island Tour

Price: \$1980 per person

Transport

- Luxury 5 Star Coach with air conditioning and seatbelts
- Professional driver throughout
- Experienced NZET Tour Manager and 2 Tour Assistants throughout
- All transfers and sightseeing as listed

Accommodation

- Students: Quad share with shared facilities

Sightseeing and Entrances

- All activities highlighted in the itinerary

Meals

- All meals as listed on the itinerary

Extra

- NZET Educational Sightseeing Map

Please note:

- We are happy to book your flights to and from tour and will always try to find the best priced flights available.
- The cost of these flights are NOT included in the tour price and are an additional cost along with the \$20.00 booking fee.
- *Please note, at our discretion, the itinerary is subject to change in the case of unforeseen circumstances.

**For more info or
to book:**

www.nzet.com

tours@nzet.com

0800 693 869

Simply Ferntastic!

