

# 7-day North Island Experience



**Tuesday 12 January**

**Auckland - Rotorua**

We meet in Auckland at noon and travel to Rotorua - the geothermal capital of New Zealand. Tonight, we visit the Polynesian Mineral Pools for a soak. Tonight, we travel to the Tamaki Maori Village for a cultural evening, experience a Maori concert, learn Maori games and help make your dinner for tonight finishing with dessert around the bonfire.

***(Dinner)***



**Wednesday 13 January**

**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, Maori carvers at work and women weaving flax. Get lunch in town, hang out by the lake and some free time to enjoy the city.

***(Breakfast/Dinner)***



**Thursday 14 January**

**Rotorua - Taupo**

We say goodbye to Rotorua and travel south first to visit the opening of the Aratiatia Dam from here to Huka Falls, New Zealand's largest waterfall by volume. We then stop at Spa Park Taupo before arriving in Taupo where you'll have time for lunch, explore the town and beautiful lakefront. After checking into our accommodation, we'll head out on a scenic lake cruise to see the beautiful Maori Carvings on the rock wall. This afternoon we soak in the mineral waters at De Brett's Spa.

***(Breakfast)***



**Friday 15 January**

**Taupo - Tongariro National Park**

This morning there is an opportunity to go Skydiving or taking a bungy jump over the magnificent Waikato River ( at your own cost) we travel around the shores of Lake Taupo and arrive at the 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 before enjoying a hearty dinner.

***(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)***



**Saturday 16 January**

**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 enter the Caves via a grand entrance, and then follow the narrow paths down deep into the earth, and enjoy a boat trip in the dark under a canopy of sparkling glow worms. Later we check out the Discovery Centre to find out more about this fascinating region. **(Breakfast / Dinner)**



**Sunday 17th January**

**Waitomo – Raglan**

Today we head out to the beautiful black sand beaches of the West Coast of the North Island. First up we check out 'Manu Bay' and watch the surfers in action before walking on the black sand at Ocean beach. We will then have some free time in the town to grab some lunch and pictures on the wharf before checking into our accommodation. Tonight, is our final night together where we'll enjoy 'fish n chips' on the black sand beach next to our accommodation and get some photos of the magnificent west coast sunset over the water. We finish our tour with some group activities and presentations 😊  
**(Breakfast/Dinner)**



**Monday 18th January**

**Depart for Home**

We say goodbye to Raglan and travel to Matamata 'Hobbiton' and 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'). If time we will 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 3 pm. **(Breakfast)**



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