

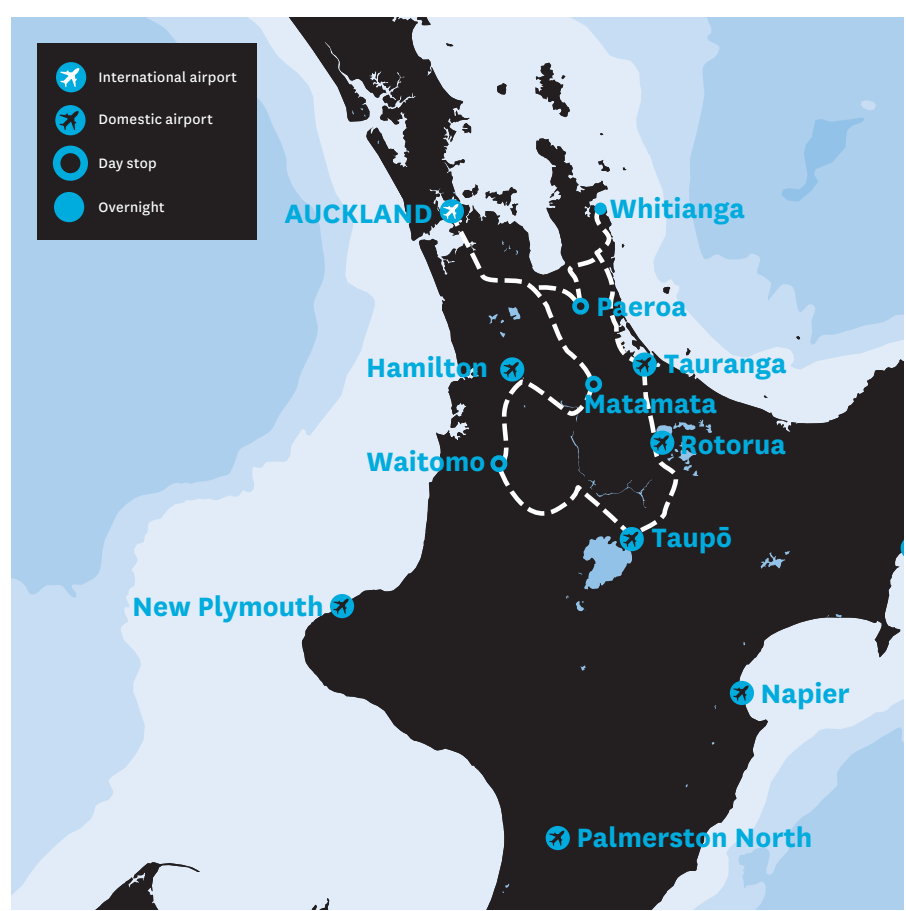


Rotorua  
**100% PURE  
 NEW ZEALAND**  
 newzealand.com

# ACTIVE OUTDOORS

AUCKLAND, COROMANDEL,  
 BAY OF PLENTY, ROTORUA, WAIKATO

From sparkling city harbours to rolling hills and pastures – bike, boat and even zipline your way through the great outdoors of the North Island.



Active



Scenery

## AT A GLANCE

- 8 days/7 nights (self-drive)
- Cycle along a historic railway and under redwood giants
- See geothermal wonders and dig your own hot pools
- Go marine wildlife spotting
- Fly over an active marine volcano



Auckland

## DAY 1 | AUCKLAND

Enjoy a relaxed day in the “city of sails” with a cruisey cycle around the bays and a tour of Mount Eden (Maungawhau). Hear stories of this ancient fortress and see the city’s sights from its highest geographical point. Alternatively, blow away the cobwebs with a sail on an America’s Cup yacht and take a look (or a leap) from the iconic Sky Tower or Auckland’s Harbour Bridge.

**Top Tip:** Want an even better view of the city? Take to the skies in a seaplane, before landing at a white sand beach on one of the many islands in Auckland harbour.



Hauraki Rail Trail

## DAY 2 | AUCKLAND – COROMANDEL

**Auckland – Paeroa** 🚗 119km / 74mi / 1 hour 25 min

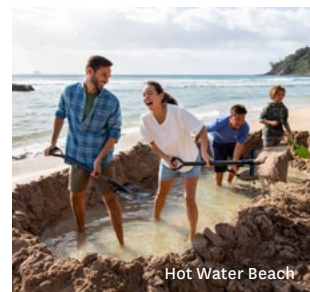
**Paeroa – Whitianga** 🚗 108km / 67mi / 1 hour 35 min

Pick up your rental car and journey south, where you will join one of New Zealand’s most historic cycle trails. Following an old railway, the Hauraki Rail Trail is rich with gold mining history and stunning scenery. Heading back to the coast, discover the wonder of Cathedral Cove by kayak or glass-bottom boat. At nearby Hot Water Beach, dig your own private hot pool using the natural hot springs that bubble up through the sand.

**Top Tip:** Visit Hot Water Beach at low tide and bring a shovel (often available at your accommodation).



Cathedral Cove



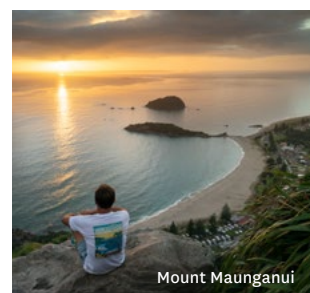
Hot Water Beach

## DAY 3 | COROMANDEL – TAURANGA

**Whitianga – Tauranga** 🚗 164km / 102 mi / 2 hours 28 mins

Your next stop is the sunny city of Tauranga. On a wildlife cruise you can see dolphins, whales, sharks and other marine life in the clear Bay of Plenty waters. Or learn more about this favourite Kiwi holiday spot with a guided tour of Mount Maunganui. Enjoy hearing local Māori legends as you wander from the mountain’s base to its summit. As night falls, kayak under the stars into an enchanting glow worm canyon on Lake McLaren.

**Top Tip:** Explore nearby White Island (Whakaari) by helicopter, an active marine volcano and a bubbling and steamy must-see.



Mount Maunganui



Redwoods, Rotorua

## DAYS 4 & 5 | ROTORUA

**Tauranga – Rotorua** 🚗 59km / 36mi / 1 hour

**Day 4:** Rotorua sits squarely on the Pacific Ring of Fire and pulses and bubbles with geothermal activity. It's also a hub for adrenaline junkies – zip through the native forest before experiencing what lies beneath on a walk through a volcanic valley, home to bubbling mud pools and spouting geysers. Spend the evening soaking in a geothermal hot pool.

**Day 5:** Start your day by mountain biking through the majestic Redwood Forest. The loamy trails suit all abilities. Then plunge down the highest commercially rafted waterfall in the world or bounce down a hillside in a giant inflatable ball. Zorbing was invented here and is guaranteed to put a smile on your face!

**Top Tip:** Take in one of Rotorua's many Māori cultural performances.



Rotorua



Rotorua

## DAY 6 | ROTORUA – TAUPŌ

**Tauranga – Rotorua** 🚗 83km / 51mi / 1 hour

Further south on the edge of the southern hemisphere's largest lake, Taupō is an all-seasons holiday hot spot for trout fishing, water sports and numerous outdoor pursuits. Look into the past with a cruise around Lake Taupō's bays, viewing the impressive Māori rock carvings. Fly high above the lake with views of snow-capped volcanoes and sky dive from up to 18,500ft.

**Top Tip:** You won't find trout on a menu but you can catch your own with a local fishing guide.



Taupō

## DAY 7 | TAUPŌ – WAITOMO – HAMILTON

**Taupō – Waitomo** 🚗 151km / 92mi / 2 hours

**Waitomo – Hamilton** 🚗 73km / 45mi / 1 hour

Drive through farmland and forests before entering the ancient limestone region of Waitomo, where you will discover vast cave systems decorated with glowworms. For a real thrill try blackwater rafting or abseil into the abyss. Stretch your legs in Hamilton Gardens – named 2014 International Garden of the Year, the 58 hectares of themed green spaces are a must-see for nature lovers.

**Top Tip:** Guided tours, mobility scooters and bike hire make exploration of Hamilton Gardens easy.



Waitomo

## DAY 8 | HAMILTON – MATAMATA – AUCKLAND

**Hamilton – Matamata** 🚗 62km / 38mi / 50 min

**Matamata – Auckland** 🚗 158km / 98mi / 1 hour 50 min

Take a trip to Hobbiton, where rolling green hills and movie magic surround you. Finish off your tour of The Shire with lunch in the Party Marquee or a refreshing ginger beer at the Green Dragon Inn. Carry on to Auckland at the end of the day to catch your flight or spend a night in the city.



Hobbiton™ Movie Set