
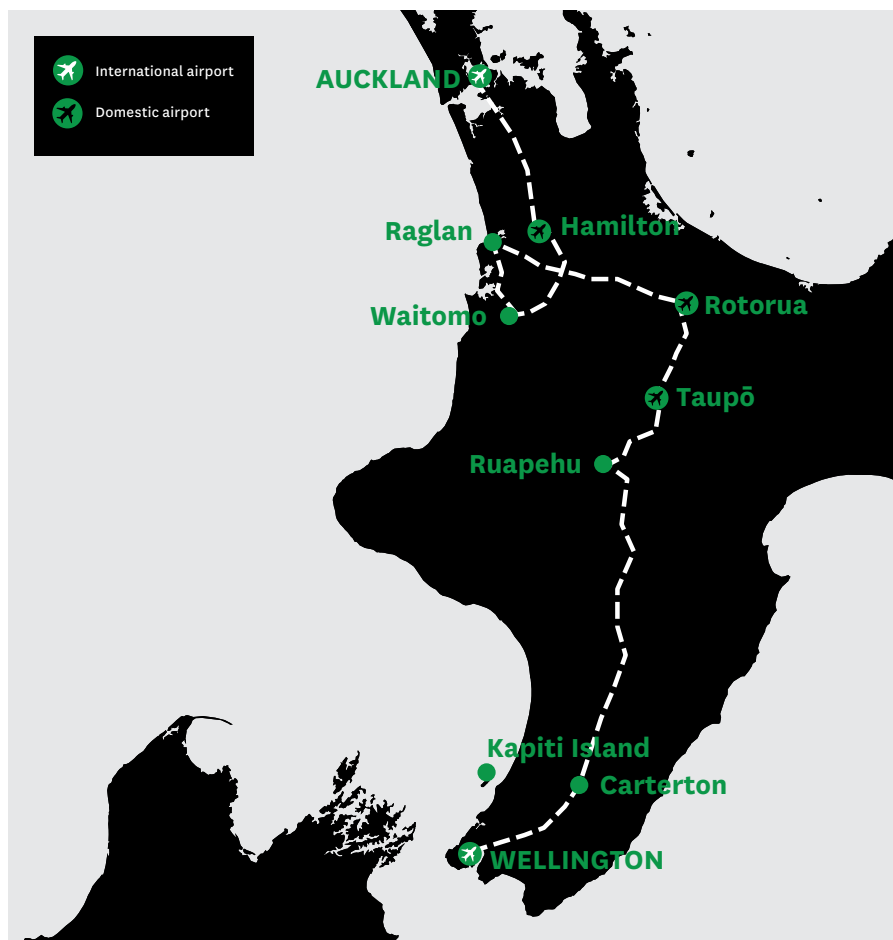


ACTIVE ADVENTURES AND UNEXPECTED THRILLS

Auckland to Wellington
8 days self-drive

 Auckland Bridge Bungy
Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland

Life is an adventure and the magic of Aotearoa New Zealand awaits. Explore the North Island on this 8-day itinerary through regions filled with extraordinary people, thrilling activities and alluring landscapes.



Walking



Active



Adrenaline



Food and Wine

HIGHLIGHTS

- Picnic on the shores of a dormant volcano
- Discover an underground glow-worm galaxy
- Experience dramatic waterfalls by jet boat
- Spend the night on an island bird sanctuary
- Explore backcountry on a bush safari

DAYS 1 & 2:

Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland & Waikato

Auckland to Waitomo 🚗 198km / 123mi | 2 hour 20 min

Touchdown in New Zealand's largest city, the vibrant and sprawling lands of Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. Wash away the jetlag with a dip in the Waitematā Harbour via the **Auckland Harbour Bridge Bungy**. With multiple coastlines to discover, cycle around the eastern bays and enjoy a quintessentially Kiwi lunch of fish and chips on the beach at Mission Bay. If you dare to stray from the land, hire a kayak and cross the harbour, to picnic on the shores of Auckland's most photographed dormant volcano – Rangitoto.

Heading south to the mighty Waikato region, don a wetsuit and discover the magical underground glow-worms at Waitomo or ramp up the thrills with a black water rafting adventure. To the west, in the quirky seaside town of Raglan, surf some waves at Ngarunui Ocean Beach. And discover marine wildlife and the charm of the Whaingaroa Harbour with a sunset boat cruise.

Expert Tip: Are your clients keen to flaunt the black jersey and get some hands-on learning about rugby, our national sport? Check out the **All Blacks Experience** at Auckland's Sky City.



Waitomo Caves, Waikato



Raglan, Waikato



Redwoods Forest, Rotorua



Te Puia, Taupō

DAYS 3 & 4:

Rotorua & Taupō

Raglan to Rotorua 🚗 147km / 91mi | 1 hour 50 min

Rotorua to Taupō 🚗 79km / 49mi | 55 min

Nau mai, haere mai and welcome to Rotorua, New Zealand's cultural mecca. Join a guided tour at **Te Puia** a geothermal wonderland and learn about the rich indigenous history of Rotorua. Have cameras at the ready to snap the largest geyser in the Southern Hemisphere, Pōhutu in all its glory. For an after-dinner treat, be wowed by ancient Californian redwood trees at **Redwoods Treewalk and Nightlights** in the Whakarewarewa Forest. Delve deeper into the forest on two wheels, and mountain bike some 200 kilometres of world-class trails. Soak tired legs in the neighbouring hot tubs, with a variety of local and international tipples available at the push of a button.

Meander south along the Thermal Explorer Highway to Taupō, an area full of unusual volcanic geography and native flora and fauna. At the centre of the region is the magnificent Lake Taupō, the great inland sea of Aotearoa. Experience the dramatic Huka Falls via jet boat, a must-visit natural wonder in the region. Visit the Ngatoroirangi Mine Bay Māori Rock Carvings to learn more indigenous Māori heritage in Aotearoa. Finish the day by relaxing in one of the many geothermal hot springs, said to have healing properties, aiding all kinds of ailments.

DAY 5:

Ruapehu

Taupō to Ruapehu 🚗 73km / 45mi | 1 hour

One hour's drive from Taupō lies Ruapehu, a region that offers a plethora of experiences which embody 'pure New Zealand'. Pull on a pair of hiking boots and partake in one of the many short walks in the Tongariro National Park. To get further off the beaten track, experience the magic of **Blue Duck Station** with a bush safari or discover a forgotten world via a **rail cart** tour. Explore back country ghost towns and hear the tales of tāngata whenua (local Māori). Prepare for a long drive the next day by getting a good night's sleep in Ohakune, a vibrant après-ski town with some lively bars and restaurants.

Expert Tip: Are your clients after chalet-style accommodation with an underground pool, and a bar where dancing on the tables is encouraged? Book Ohakune's **Powderhorn Chateau** for a luxe stay.



Forgotten World Adventures, Ruapehu



Cape Palliser Lighthouse, Wairarapa

DAYS 6, 7 & 8: Wairarapa & Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington

Ohakune to Carterton 🚗 259km / 161mi | 3 hour 10 min

Carterton to Wellington 🚗 85km / 53mi | 1 hour 15 min

Heading down towards the capital, Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington, spend a night or two in the Wairarapa. A boutique region in the lower North Island, full of small-town charm and hidden gems. Catch a glimpse of another galaxy and visit New Zealand's newest dark sky reserve in Carterton, or head up the lighthouse at Cape Palliser. If wining and dining is a high priority, jump on the Wine Trail and do some vineyard hopping on quirky 'quadri-cycles'. There are a number of notable winery restaurants and cellar doors within biking distance. For a more dedicated ride, cycle or walk the epic Remutaka Rail Trail – with tracks to suit all and tours with **Green Jersey Explorer** available.

Traversing the Remutaka Hill brings you to Wellington. Not just the parliamentary capital, but the country's capital of craft beer and coffee. Get the lay of the land with a craft beer tour, soak in the eclectic vibes of the city at some of the hippest breweries. The popular **Wētā Workshop** and Wētā Cave are a must-do for everyone, not just movie buffs and The Lord of the Rings enthusiasts. For culture and wildlife, spend the night in comfort on Kāpiti Island, a world-renowned bird sanctuary. With **Kāpiti Island Nature Tours**, explore the protected lands by night on a kiwi spotting adventure, while learning of the unique balance of conservation, ecology and local human history that Kāpiti Island offers.

This whirlwind tour of Te Ika-a-Māui (the North Island) provides just a glimpse of the spectacular scenery, thrilling adventures and vibrant cultures which make up Aotearoa New Zealand. But the biggest drawcard to this beautiful country is as the Māori proverb states; He tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata. It is the people, it is the people.



Martinborough, Wairarapa



ParrotDog, Wellington