Australian Escapes Holiday & Travel Club
1800 669 579
australianescapes.com.au

Accessible Aotearoa: Wellington to Hawkes Bay Explorer

Discover the charm of New Zealand's lower North Island on a fully accessible tour designed for wheelchair users and travellers with limited mobility. Begin in Wellington, exploring the capital's scenic waterfront, world-class museums, and vibrant cultural scene at a comfortable pace. Then take a leisurely drive to Napier, the Art Deco capital of New Zealand, where you'll spend two nights soaking in coastal views and the unique local history. With step-free accommodation and an accessible vehicle included, this journey offers ease, flexibility, and a rich taste of Aotearoa – all designed with your comfort in mind.

Starts in:	Wellington
Finishes in:	Wellington
Length:	5days / 4nights
Accommodation:	Hotel 4 star
Can be customised:	Yes

This itinerary can be customised to suit you perfectly. We can add more days, remove days, change accommodations, mix it up, add activities to suit your interests or simply design and create something from scratch. Call us today to get your custom New Zealand itinerary underway.



Inclusions:

Includes: Late model rental cars
Includes: Fully inclusive rental car insurance (excess may apply)
Includes: Unlimited kms
Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring
Included activity: Electronic Travel Guide and In-Country Support App
Included activity: Private Transfer Wellington Airport to your Accommodation with In Style Executive
Included activity: The Visitor Promise - Cultural Learning Course
Included activity: Wellington Scenic Half Day Private Tour with Kaewa Tours
Included activity: Entry to Te Papa The Museum of New Zealand
Included activity: Europcar Rental Car Delivery
Included activity: Art Deco Trust Vintage Car Tour
Included activity: General Admission to National Aquarium of New Zealand
4 breakfasts

Day 1





Wellington

Wellington known in Māori as Te Whanganui-a-Tara is home to New Zealand’s centre of government. Often referred to as ‘mini Melbourne', this windy city is a melting pot of art, culture, food, and fashion. Quirky laneway bars, underground art shows, and hipster eateries make up its inner-city vibe, while a host of sandy beaches outside the urban bustle bring a cheerful holiday feel. Head to Te Papa Museum for a history lesson and a ticket to one of its many international exhibitions or jump aboard the Wellington Cable Car - the only running funicular railway in the country. For those with an eye for boutique, fashion wander through Cuba St to sample some of the city's best vintage stores. Break for coffee at a hipster cafe and be sure to snap a pic outside the ‘Beehive,’ New Zealand’s parliamentary debate chamber. Go behind the scenes at Weta Workshop Experience, the Oscar Award Winning design studio behind Lord Of The Rings, The Hobbit, and Avatar. If you're a foodie at heart, a two-hour round trip to Martinborough is a must-do. Take your time as you wind through spectacular wine country. For an educational day out, learn about New Zealand's native species at Zealandia, the world's first fully-fenced eco-sanctuary and home to over 40 types of endangered and native birds.

Private Transfer Wellington Airport to your Accommodation with In Style Executive

You will be met on arrival at Wellington airport and transferred to your accommodation.

Your accommodation: Bolton Hotel Wellington

The Bolton Hotel offers contemporary apartment-style accommodation in the heart of Wellington. Just steps from the Parliament buildings and central business district, Bolton Hotel is conveniently close to the best of the city's shops, cafes and restaurants and is within walking distance of Wellington's vibrant waterfront.



Day 2







Wellington Scenic Half Day Private Tour with Kaewa Tours

Discover Wellington's highlights on a private 3-hour scenic tour of New Zealand's vibrant capital. Begin with panoramic views from the iconic Mt Victoria and the Brooklyn Hill Wind Turbine, offering breathtaking vistas of the city and beyond. Relax as you enjoy a scenic drive along the picturesque Eastern and Southern Bays. Step into the world of film at the Weta Cave, where you can explore the magic behind movie-making. Savor a cup of Wellington's famous coffee, ride the historic Wellington Cable Car, and experience even more of what makes this city so special.

Entry to Te Papa The Museum of New Zealand

Te Papa Tongarewa, meaning "Container of Treasures," is New Zealand’s national museum, located on Wellington’s stunning waterfront. Renowned for its bold and innovative approach, Te Papa seamlessly blends science, art, history, and Māori culture into interactive and thought-provoking exhibitions. Visitors can explore everything from colossal squid and geological wonders to contemporary art and powerful stories of Aotearoa’s people. A visit to Te Papa is more than a museum experience, it’s an inspiring journey through the heart of New Zealand’s identity.

Your accommodation: Bolton Hotel Wellington

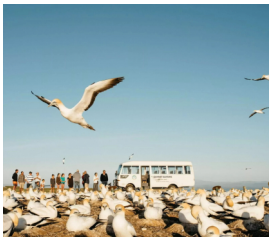
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Meals included: Breakfast



Day 3





Your Europcar Rental Car will be delivered to you



4 door SUV
Air Conditioning, Bluetooth and Apple CarPlay
Engine: 1.5 litre
Automatic
Passengers: 5 passengers
Luggage Space: 3 large bags
Maximum Excess/ Liability: NZD$0

Wellington to Napier

Leaving Wellington today you will first pass the Wairarapa on the eastern side of the Remutaka Ranges. A significant contrast to the hills of Wellington, it's rich pastures and boutique vineyards of Martinborough give way to grassy plains and rugged coastal shores. Go through Greytown, home to the largest number of wooden buildings in the country then stop in Masterton, a small farming town known for its Golden Shears competition - where shearers compete for the title of fastest shearer. Continue on to Hawkes Bay and Havelock North before arriving in Napier, the art deco capital of New Zealand.

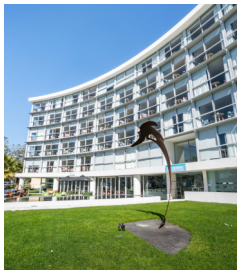
Explore Hawkes Bay

Discover Hawke’s Bay, known in Māori as Te Matau-a-Māui or the fish hook of Māui. This is a region renowned for its Mediterranean charm, iconic Art Deco architecture, and award-winning wineries. Explore Mission Estate, the birthplace of New Zealand wine, or tour vineyards for a deeper dive into its winemaking legacy. Fans of the 1930s can enjoy a Vintage Car Tour, showcasing Napier’s architectural gems. Outdoor enthusiasts can cycle over 200km of scenic trails or unwind at pristine beaches like Ocean and Waimarama. Indulge your taste buds with local delights, from honey and chocolate to fresh orchard produce. The Hawkes Bay is also home to an abundance of wildlife, head out on a Gannet Safari or educate yourself at the National Aquarium of New Zealand.

Your accommodation: Scenic Hotel Te Pania

Scenic Hotel Te Pania offers 4-star accommodation of a truly international standard. The hotel's slender, curved form echoes the shape of the bay. Enjoy sweeping views out over the water from a premium waterfront location on Marine Parade.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 4





Napier City

Napier, a coastal gem, is famed for its 1930s Art Deco architecture, the annual Art Deco Weekend, stately Norfolk pines, nearby wineries, and fresh local produce. With a Mediterranean climate and over 2,200 hours of sunshine annually, it boasts a thriving café culture set against stunning heritage buildings. The city center has around 30 cafés within walking distance, while Ahuriri, just beyond Bluff Hill, offers more upscale dining. Marine Parade overlooks the Pacific Ocean and Cape Kidnappers, home to the world’s largest mainland gannet colony. Visitors can explore Ocean Spa, the Hawke's Bay Museum, and the National Aquarium of New Zealand
Bluff Hill, a key landmark, provides sweeping views of Napier, Perfume Point, Westshore Beach, and the busy Port of Napier, which exports timber, fruit, and meat worldwide.
In 1931, Napier was devastated by a 7.8-magnitude earthquake, New Zealand’s worst natural disaster. Fires ravaged the city. Rebuilding efforts transformed Napier and Hastings into modern cities, while the uplifted Ahuriri Lagoon created much-needed land for expansion.

Art Deco Trust Vintage Car Tour

Discover Napier's Art Deco heritage in style in a luxurious 1930s vintage car. Your journey will take in Napier's famous Art Deco Quarter, historic Port Ahuriri and a delightfully quaint Art Deco residential suburb.

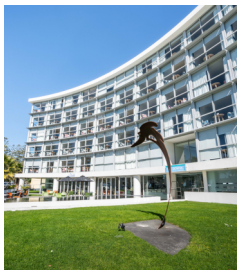
General Admission to National Aquarium of New Zealand

The National Aquarium of New Zealand stretches along Napier’s Marine Parade. It's home to a wide range of saltwater, freshwater, and land animal exhibits from New Zealand and around the world. Experience, stingrays, living coral, a huge range of fish species, and native wildlife. Visit Penguin Cove and watch the little penguins swim, feed and play. Spot New Zealand native wildlife including the Kiwi and Tuatara.

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Meals included: Breakfast



Day 5




Napier to Wellington via Kapiti Coast

Journey from the charming Art Deco city of Napier through rolling vineyards and picturesque countryside as you head towards Wellington. Enjoy the scenic drive along the stunning Kapiti Coast, with views of the rugged shoreline and tranquil beaches. As you approach the capital, you’ll be greeted by Wellington’s vibrant culture, bustling waterfront, and renowned culinary scene. A perfect blend of natural beauty and urban excitement awaits on this unforgettable road trip.

Return your vehicle to Wellington Airport

Explore more of Wellington before dropping your rental car at the airport depot and continuing your onward journey.

Farewell from Aotearoa / New Zealand

Bid farewell to Aotearoa / New Zealand, taking with you unforgettable memories of its breathtaking landscapes and incredible adventures. In Māori, it is said mā te wā, which is not goodbye, it is see you soon!

Your accommodation: Bolton Hotel Wellington

The Bolton Hotel offers contemporary apartment-style accommodation in the heart of Wellington. Just steps from the Parliament buildings and central business district, Bolton Hotel is conveniently close to the best of the city's shops, cafes and restaurants and is within walking distance of Wellington's vibrant waterfront.

Meals included: Breakfast



Tour details

Departures:	Daily
Tour type:	North Island Self Drive
Starts:	Wellington
Finishes:	Wellington
Tour length:	5
Accomodation:	Hotel 4 star
Car/transport type:	

Accommodation summary

Day 1	Bolton Hotel Wellington
Day 2	Bolton Hotel Wellington
Day 3	Scenic Hotel Te Pania
Day 4	Scenic Hotel Te Pania
Day 5	Bolton Hotel Wellington