Australian Escapes Holiday & Travel Club
1800 669 579
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North Island Luxury

Immerse yourself in New Zealand's finest North Island sanctuaries. From the coastal cliffs of Matauri Bay to Rotorua's lakefront sanctuaries and Hawke's Bay's premier wine estates, this journey showcases scenic helicopter flights over Cape Reinga, private yachting in the Bay of Islands, and rich cultural traditions.

Starts in:	Auckland
Finishes in:	Wellington
Length:	11days / 10nights
Accommodation:	Luxury Lodges
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: The Visitor Promise - Cultural Learning Course

Included activity: Electronic Travel Guide and In-Country Support App

Included activity: Private Transfer Auckland Airport to your Auckland Accommodation with Tourcorp

Included activity: Cape Reinga Scenic Flight & Guided Tour with Salt Air

Included activity: Waitangi Treaty Grounds Guided Tour and Cultural Performance

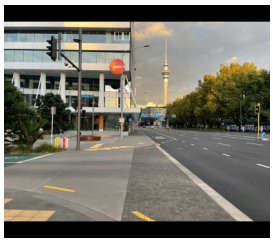
Included activity: 2 Hour Charter with Silver Wave Yacht Charters

plus much more...

Day 1







Welcome to Auckland

Welcome to Auckland, known in Māori as Tāmaki Makaurau. Auckland is New Zealand's vibrant "City of Sails," and the country's largest metropolitan area. Nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the Tasman Sea. Surrounded by native bush, lush rainforests, and pristine beaches, Auckland is a haven for both adventurers and urban explorers. Wander through world-class museums and galleries in the city centre or enjoy a peaceful retreat at the Auckland Gardens, where stunning landscapes showcase New Zealand's diverse flora. Stroll along the lively waterfront to savour fresh seafood and international cuisine at Viaduct restaurants. For an unforgettable perspective, ascend the iconic SkyTower, New Zealand's tallest structure, and take in panoramic views of the city and its picturesque islands.

Private Transfer Auckland Airport to your Auckland Accommodation with Tourcorp

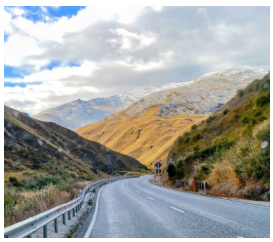
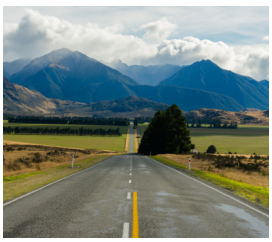
You will be met at the Auckland airport by your private driver and be transferred to your Auckland accommodation.

Your accommodation: The Hotel Britomart Auckland

Set within a historic nine-block precinct near the waterfront, The Hotel Britomart brings calm to central Auckland. Rooms pair minimal timber detailing with rich natural textures, creating a peaceful space above the harbour district. Surrounded by restored brick warehouses, local design shops, and dining, it provides an effortless, comfortable anchor for any New Zealand journey.



Day 2




Collect Rental Car

This tour's from price includes an intermediate-sized vehicle, setting you up for comfortable travels. Yet, we understand every adventure is unique! Feel free to select the perfect wheels from our incredible collection of rental cars, spanning from economy hatchbacks to premium SUVs.

Auckland to Whangaroa and Matauri Bay

The trip from Auckland to the Bay of Islands takes around 3.5 hours but give yourself some leeway for stops and sightseeing. As you go through Puhoi, take in the bohemian atmosphere of this historical township. Stop for a breath of fresh salty air in Whangarei and take another break at Kawakawa - home to the world famous Hundertwasser toilets. Enjoy the native bush surrounds and marvel at the endless golden beaches as you arrive into the subtropical Bay of Islands region. Continuing north its just a short drive to Whangaroa Harbour and Matauri Bay, your destination for the night.

Rosewood Kauri Cliffs Lodge Experience

Located on 6,000 spectacular acres near Matauri Bay, Northland, Rosewood Kauri Cliffs is a secluded oasis. With panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean, Cape Brett and the Cavalli Islands, guests stay in one of 22 cottage suites, each with their own private porch and open fireplace. While best known for its world-class golf course, Rosewood Kauri Cliffs has many other activities on offer including horseback riding, cycling, swimming, sailing, a guided farm tour, and access to its day spa - nestled within native Totara forest. Discover New Zealand's pristine shores on one of three private beaches or fish and dive in the clear blue waters. Ranked the number one hotel in the world in 2014 by Conde Nast, Rosewood Kauri Cliffs is also home to two astroturf tennis courts, an infinity swimming pool, spa and fully equipped fitness centre. Five-star gourmet a la carte dining is available both indoors and on the veranda outside, as well as informal barbecues and lunch hampers.

Your accommodation: Rosewood Kauri Cliffs

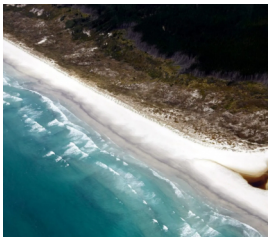


Above the clear waters of Matauri Bay, 6,000 acres of Northland coastline fall away to the Pacific. Wide verandas and dining spaces look out toward Cape Brett and the Cavalli Islands. Days move comfortably between coastal calm and championship oceanfront golf, anchored by generous hospitality and an immense sense of space.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3




Enjoy Rosewood Kauri Cliffs Lodge

Continue to enjoy the experiences on offer at Rosewood Kauri Cliffs Lodge, where every moment is crafted to delight. Discover the region’s rich history on a guided heritage tour, or cast a line on a signature Northland fishing excursion. Indulge in private dining on the breathtaking Pink Beach, or explore the rugged landscapes with an exhilarating ATV tour. For equestrian enthusiasts, guided horseback adventures offer a unique way to experience the scenery, while golfers can challenge themselves on world-class fairways with stunning coastal views. Unwind and rejuvenate at the luxurious spa, take in the beauty of the surroundings on scenic walking tracks, or soar above it all on a helicopter flight. For the adventurous, surfing and sailing provide the perfect dose of thrill. At Kauri Cliffs, every experience is designed to create unforgettable memories.

Cape Reinga Scenic Flight & Guided Tour with Salt Air

Experience the ultimate journey to the northernmost tip of New Zealand with a spectacular scenic flight that showcases the dramatic contrast between the rugged West Coast and the white silica sands of the East Coast. Upon landing, join a comfortable vehicle tour to the iconic Cape Reinga lighthouse, where you can witness the powerful meeting of the Tasman Sea and the Pacific Ocean. This seamless half-day adventure combines breathtaking aerial views of Ninety Mile Beach with ground exploration of sacred Māori sites and giant sand dunes, offering a perspective of the Far North that few ever see.

Your accommodation: Rosewood Kauri Cliffs



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Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4







Explore Bay of Islands

Commonly known as the ‘winterless north’ New Zealand’s Bay of Islands is made up of over 140 subtropical atolls. Renowned for its untouched beaches, abundant marine life, and idyllic climate, this tropical paradise ticks all the boxes. Spend some time on a remote stretch of beach, or see the dolphins on an ocean safari. If diving is your thing, take the morning to descend the Rainbow Warrior - The Greenpeace flagship sunk by French saboteurs in 1985. Wander around Russell, a whaling port founded in 1843. Learn about our culture in historic Waitangi, the site where The Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840 between the Māori and Europeans. Alternatively, you may like to take a day tour to Cape Reinga, the very top of the North Island.

Waitangi Treaty Grounds Guided Tour and Cultural Performance

Waitangi is one of New Zealand's most historic sites where the Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840 between the Māori and the British Government. This two day pass allows you access to the Treaty of Waitangi Grounds and includes admission to the Te Kōngahu Museum and Te Rau Aroha Museum and a Maori Cultural performance. During your guided tour, learn about the history of the treaty and discover the stories and events that shaped New Zealand. The cultural performance inside the carved meeting house includes waiata (singing), poi and the haka - a war dance Aotearoa-New Zealand is well known for.

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2 Hour Charter with Silver Wave Yacht Charters

Set sails on the beautiful catamaran named "Serenity" clearing the harbor the sail will be hoisted and your adventure begins! sit back and relax with your complimentary tea or coffee as you sail around some of the stunning 144 islands that create the 'Bay of Islands. As lunch time approaches, your skipper will select a picturesque bay to drop anchor and enjoy a beautiful kiwi BBQ styled lunch and refreshing drink. While on the island, take the chance to explore , hike up to a beautiful view point or hop in the ocean and go for a snorkel or paddle board! Weighing the anchor your skipper will head back to the harbor, enjoy the cruise back with a complimentary beverage to end the day! It is important you understand the risks associated with this activity. For more information please see here.

Your accommodation: Rosewood Kauri Cliffs



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Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 5







Bay of Islands to Waipoua Forest

Heading west from the Bay of Islands you leave the Pacific Ocean and soon and arrive into the Hokianga and the wilder seas of the Tasman. The small townships of Omapere and Opononi have a great seaside feel and the perfect place to stop for an ice cream. The route now heads south and into the Waipoua Forest, home to the massive Kauri trees. Make sure you allow time to take one of the short walks that are signposted as you pass through the forest. Not to be missed is the 5 minute loop to view the largest of all the trees Tane Mahuta.

Manea Footprints of Kupe Guided Tour

Enter Te Hokianga-nui-a-Kupe, our sacred cradle of tribal histories. Walk in the footprints of the Maori ancestor – Kupe the intrepid, Kupe the voyager, Kupe the discoverer. Experience a Pōwhiri (welcome ceremony) and other rituals and customs experienced through interaction with the descendants of Kupe. Explore the contemporary cultural centre with carvings and artefacts holding the stories of the past, giving you incredible insight into the history of Aotearoa.

Waipoua to Mangawhai

Continue down the Kauri Coast and across country towards the Matakohe Kauri Museum. This award winning museum has extensive displays of the regions logging, farming and social history. As you leave the Kaipara Harbour behind you'll head east to the seaside destination Mangawhai, home to beautiful beaches, vineyards and olive groves.

Your accommodation: Te Arai Links Suites

Set at the heart of the estate, the Suites sit directly alongside the South Course, with select rooms looking across the greens to the Pacific and offshore islands. Their position puts practice facilities, the South Clubhouse, and the Pizza Barn a short walk away. Combining course-side living with quiet retreat, they offer an effortless base for days on the coastal links.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 6





Te Arai to Matauri Bay

Leave the tranquil coastal dunes of Te Arai behind as you head south toward the geothermal wonderland of Rotorua. Your route winds through the lush rolling farmlands of the Waikato region, offering plenty of freedom to customize your trip with iconic North Island pitstops. Bypass the Auckland bustle, pause for lunch in charming regional towns, or stretch your legs at the famous Hamilton Gardens along the way. Arrive in Rotorua by afternoon, ready to experience bubbling mud pools, natural hot springs, and vibrant Maori culture.

Rotorua

Discover the geothermal, adventure, and cultural wonderland of Rotorua. As you explore, you may see steam rising from cracks in the road, bubbling and hissing water in pools along the lake's edge, and the unmistakable smell of Sulfur. Rotorua is rich in Māori culture and history, with many Māori inhabitants recognising the great potential of the volcanic land. For an outdoor adventure, head to The Redwoods and experience the rainforest treetops from high up. There are a few accessible trails for disabled hikers and great biking trails as well. If you’re lucky, you might spot some of New Zealand's native birds, such as the Pīwakawaka (Fantail) and the Tūī. Alternatively, enjoy the Lake Tikitapu Blue Lake Walk or explore Kuirau Park, where you'll find bubbling mud pools and steaming lakes. Don't miss the private thermal reserves such as Te Puia and Wai-O-Tapu, where you can walk among bubbling mud pools, spouting geysers, and Sulfur ponds. Just a few minutes from the town centre, the Agrodome and National Kiwi Hatchery offer an insight into nature. Rotorua's rich Māori culture is a must-see. Spend an evening with Te Pā Tū, complete with a traditional-style dinner or stroll along the lake edge to reach one of the country's oldest Māori villages at Ohinemutu. When hunger strikes, visit Eat Street in Rotorua CBD, a vibrant street lined with delicious eateries and restaurants to satisfy any craving. No visit to Rotorua would be complete without experiencing Rotorua's original tourist attraction - a relaxing spa treatment. This town boasts an array of wellness experiences to unwind in. Whether you are seeking adventure, culture, or relaxation, Rotorua offers an unforgettable experience.

Solitaire Lodge

Nestled on the shores of Lake Tarawera, Solitaire Lodge offers guests the ideal blend of indulgence and adventure from a picture-perfect setting. Luxurious and elegantly appointed with floor-to-ceiling windows and stunning panoramic views across the lake, guests can choose to relax in front of an open fire with a book from the library, enjoy the bar facilities or take a stroll in the expansive herb garden. Nearby is the Lodge’s private jetty with complimentary use of the lodge’s kayaks, motorised dinghies and trout fishing gear.
Each of the suites is styled for comfort and features panoramic views of the lake and volcano. Bringing the outdoors in, you are invited to unwind and soak up the peace and quiet of this tranquil setting.

Your accommodation: Solitaire Lodge

Set on a tree-lined peninsula on Lake Tarawera, Solitaire Lodge pairs light timber interiors with wide views of Mount Tarawera. Suite balconies look directly over the bay, drawing in native forest and lake air. Serving as a launch point for private boat charters, thermal springs, and trout fishing, it provides a calm, grounded base in Rotorua's volcanic country.

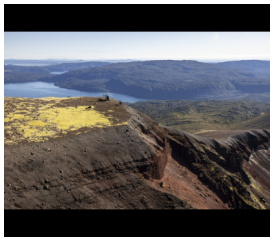
Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 7







Mount Tarawera & Orakei Korako Thermal Explorer with Volcanic Air

Combine the thrill of landing on Mount Tarawera with a flight that includes spectacular aerial views of Rotorua's stunning crater lakes, the renowned Tarawera Falls and the vibrant Waimangu and Wai-O-Tapu geothermal reserves. Leaving Wai-O-Tapu, descend to follow the Waikato River to the hidden valley of Orakei Korako. Once landed, you will ferry across the river and begin your land-based tour. Experience hot springs, gushing geysers and the natural beauty of this geothermal wonderland. The return flight takes in views of farmland and the Paeroa mountain range before flying over Rotorua City and returning to the lakefront pier.

Te Pā Tū Evening Māori Cultural Experience - Dinner Included

New Zealand’s Most Awarded Cultural Attraction, presenting Te Pā Tū. Feast on song, drama, tradition, and divine seasonal kai (cuisine) within the forest Pā (village) blanketed by towering Tawa trees, blazing bonfires, and a forest-formed amphitheatre. Te Pā Tū shares Māori history, traditions, and cultural aspirations across 4-hours of celebration and feasting. These events change with each season of the Maramataka, the Māori lunar calendar.

Your accommodation: Solitaire Lodge

Set on a tree-lined peninsula on Lake Tarawera, Solitaire Lodge pairs light timber interiors with wide views of Mount Tarawera. Suite balconies look directly over the bay, drawing in native forest and lake air. Serving as a launch point for private boat charters, thermal springs, and trout fishing, it provides a calm, grounded base in Rotorua's volcanic country.

Meals included: Breakfast, Speciality Dinner



Day 8




Rotorua to Napier via Taupō

This drive will take you through the thermal region just south of Rotorua. Home to a plethora of unique geothermal attractions including boiling mud pits, natural hot springs and steaming geysers, this area is a must do before you move on to Napier. Notable attractions are Wai-O-Tapu, Waimangu and Craters of the Moon. Continue on to Taupō and marvel at the lake, a giant crater formed following a volcanic eruption in the year 180 CE. As you approach the town, be sure to stop at Huka Falls to view the spectacular sight of hundreds of cubic metres of water spilling every second down the narrow 11 metre drop. For an extra thrill take a jet-boat ride at the base of the falls. Leaving Taupō, follow the road as it climbs the rugged Ahimanawa Range before descending back down the Pacific Coast to art deco coastal township of Napier.

Rosewood Cape Kidnappers

With spectacular panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean, nestled among 6,000 acres of rugged coastal farmland, The Farm at Cape Kidnappers offers a multitude of activities within a five-star luxury setting. Offering many comfortable spaces to relax and unwind, including intimate snug, stylish lounges, and outdoor conservatory areas - there is no better way to take in this picturesque landscape.
Choose from a range of leisure facilities such as a heated infinity pool and jacuzzi, spa treatments with beautiful forest and ocean views, a world-class golf course and clubhouse and a fully equipped gym, offering yoga, pilates, golf-specific fitness and personal training.
The Farm is also home to some of the best trails on the North Island, from independent forest walks to ocean strolls or guided farm tours - pack a picnic and set off on an afternoon of outdoor fun. Also on offer are mountain, bikes, quad bikes and horse treks for the more adventurous traveller.

Your accommodation: Rosewood Cape Kidnappers

Set across 6,000 acres of working station country, The Farm at Cape Kidnappers sits where rolling pastures meet 200-metre sea cliffs. Rustic timber, local stone, and open hearths give the lodge a warm, grounded composure. Days move between the championship golf course, guided sanctuary walks, and wine tastings, providing an expansive anchor on the coast of Hawke's Bay.

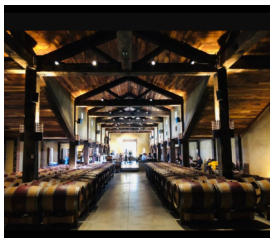
Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 9







Private Luxury Wine Tour with Grape Escape

A tour designed for those who are looking for a more intimate experience of renowned Hawke's Bay wineries. Learn about the local yield and the region's long viticultural history, and indulge in a two course gourmet lunch. Taste classic varieties such as Shiraz, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Gris Viognier, Semillon and Riesling. There will also be an opportunity to taste sherry, port and dessert reds.

Your accommodation: Rosewood Cape Kidnappers

Set across 6,000 acres of working station country, The Farm at Cape Kidnappers sits where rolling pastures meet 200-metre sea cliffs. Rustic timber, local stone, and open hearths give the lodge a warm, grounded composure. Days move between the championship golf course, guided sanctuary walks, and wine tastings, providing an expansive anchor on the coast of Hawke's Bay.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 10




Napier to Wellington City via Masterton

The rolling countryside of the Hawke's Bay leads you into some of New Zealand’s richest farmland, located around the Manawatu region. Passing along the Manawatu Gorge the Wairarapa welcomes you. Masterton is home to the golden shears sheep shearing competition while just further south Greytown boasts the largest concentration of historic wooden buildings in the country.
Nearby Martinborough is home to dozens of boutique wineries. The route takes you over the Remutaka Range and along the magnificent natural harbour that the capital city of Wellington sits upon.

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.

Your accommodation: InterContinental Wellington



Set between Wellington’s active waterfront and central precinct, this hotel pairs tailored city hospitality with harbour views. Contemporary, light-filled rooms offer a calm, composed sanctuary within the urban core. Home to three dining venues, including Chameleon, it sits steps from Te Papa and waterfront promenades, serving as an effortless urban anchor.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 11




Depart Wellington today

Choose to explore more of Wellington's sights 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!

Tour details

Departures:	Daily
Tour type:	North Island Self Drive
Starts:	Auckland
Finishes:	Wellington
Tour length:	11
Accomodation:	Luxury Lodges
Car/transport type:	

Accommodation summary

Day 1	The Hotel Britomart Auckland
Day 2	Rosewood Kauri Cliffs
Day 3	Rosewood Kauri Cliffs
Day 4	Rosewood Kauri Cliffs
Day 5	Te Arai Links Suites
Day 6	Solitaire Lodge
Day 7	Solitaire Lodge
Day 8	Rosewood Cape Kidnappers
Day 9	Rosewood Cape Kidnappers
Day 10	InterContinental Wellington