

# Northern Spotlight

## Highlights

### ✂ Flexible Holidays

Sometimes, the best meals are those you stumble upon. We can point you in the right direction in Auckland and Wellington – then go for it!

### 📍 Iconic Sites

Life becomes all the more radiant at Waitomo Glowworm Caves, a subterranean wonderland that replicates the night sky.

### 📷 Time For You

Explore at your own pace in Rotorua. Slow? Opt for a thermal soak at the Polynesian Spa. Fast? Zipline through the rainforest.

### 🏠 Sustainable Travel

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER EXPERIENCE | 🌱 Thousands of kids across NZ go hungry every year. The 'Eat My Lunch' programme that you support ensures this tide is turning.

### 🏞 Natural Wonders

Ancient volcanoes, thundering waterfalls and a yacht-studded harbour are your backdrop in Whangarei, New Zealand's northernmost city. What a wildlife wonderland.



## 1 Welcome to Auckland

Auckland is known as the 'City of Sails'. And you'll discover why when exploring its two harbours at your leisure. Pick a waterfront precinct and find a perch to while away the afternoon over a Marlborough savignon blanc tonight. Should you need a closer look, take a cruise out to the wineries of Waiheke Island. Meet fellow travel companions over a few local tipples tonight. **Hotel: Holiday Inn Express.**

## 2 Auckland – Bay of Islands

Your journey north to New Zealand's Bay of Islands is not short of drama – discover 140 droplets of land ringed by turquoise sea at the top of the country. It's undeniably beautiful, but it also holds a special historical secret: this is where the Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840, between Captain William Hobson and Māori chiefs. Your guide, likely an ancestor of one of the original signatories, will explain the significance of the site, while pointing out the world's largest ceremonial war canoe and a carved meeting house. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel & Resort (Garden View), 2 nights. B D**

## 3 Bay of Islands Free Time

If there's a travel destination that inspires wanderlust, the Bay of Islands is it. And today, you can do just that. At your leisure, venture up to Cape Reinga/Te Rerenga Wairua, the very top of New Zealand, via idyllic Ninety Mile Beach. Or glide around on an historic tall ship, enjoy local drops on a wine tour of the region, or join a tour of Russell and learn more about the settling of the Bay of Islands. The choice is yours. **B**

## 4 Bay of Islands – Auckland

Northern exposure is a thing today, when you journey toward the top of the country to visit Whangarei – NZ's northernmost city, and a place where waterfalls meet beaches, galleries meet museums. It's like the country in a tantalising snapshot – a union of nature and forward-thinking culture. Explore at your leisure before sinking back into your seat for the mesmerising commute back to Auckland. **Hotel: Holiday Inn Express. B**

## 5 Auckland – Rotorua

There's no bad day in Auckland – today, yours is filled with expeditions to the War Memorial Museum and Waitemata Harbour, before you set your GPS for the Waikato River and Waitomo Caves. This place is radiant – quite literally. While cruising cavernous waterways, your route is cast in a magical light by thousands of glowworms. It's a landscape almost as otherworldly as Rotorua, where mud pops and jettisons from bubbling geysers, and steam rushes skywards from cracks in the Earth. Tonight, Māori culture and traditions are in the spotlight at Te Puia. Your dinner, a hangi cooked underground, is served while you overlook the spectacular geothermal valley. Witness a pohiri (traditional welcome) and waiata (song) and a Māori cultural performance in the beautifully carved meeting house, Te Aronui a Rua. Your evening culminates with hot chocolate and steamed pudding while the geyser terrace is bathed in coloured light. **Hotel: Ibis, 2 nights. B HD**

## 6 Rotorua Free Time

Explore at your own pace today, but with plenty of tips from your Travel Director. Want a bit of down time? We wouldn't blame you for simply blissing out at in the steamy thermal springs at Rotorua's Polynesian Spa. Animal lover? Go behind the scenes on a working kiwi nursery and hatchery. Culture vulture? Hobbit fans will want to take advantage of the opportunity to tour the sights featured in The Lord of the Rings movies at Hobbiton. These beautiful landscapes are not only a bucket list tour for Hobbit fans, but a gorgeous countryside getaway. **B**

## 7 Rotorua – Wellington

You'll hear Huka Falls well before you see it – at this natural wonder, a staggering 220,000 litres of water thunder over an 11-metre-high waterfall every second. The road ahead unfolds in a broad panorama of Lake Taupo, its waters so vivid and blue you'll think someone has taken the glasses off your nose and cleaned them for the first time. Traverse the Kapiti Coast to New Zealand's cool little capital, Wellington, where there are so many restaurants and bars to choose from. Ask your Travel Director for tips on where to eat. **Hotel: Travelodge. B**





Waitomo Glowworm Grotto

## 16 Included Experiences

### Departure Dates

2022	2023	2024
Oct 08, 15	Jan 07, 14, 21, 28	Jan 06, 13, 20, 27
Nov 05, 12, 26	Feb 04, 11, 18, 25	Feb 03, 10, 17, 24
Dec 03, 10, 17	Mar 04, 11, 18, 25	Mar 02, 09, 16, 23
	Apr 15, 22	
	May 27	
	Jun 24	
	Jul 22	
	Aug 05	
	Sep 02, 09, 23, 30	
	Oct 07, 14, 21, 28	
	Nov 04, 11, 25	
	Dec 02, 09, 16, 23	

A limited number of single rooms are available. Ask your local travel agent at time of booking.

See available prices and departure dates from 01 Apr 2024 at [atkings.com](http://atkings.com). Or contact your local travel agent.

### Dining

7 Full buffet breakfasts **B**      1 Highlight Dinner **HD**  
 1 Lunch **L**                              1 Dinner **D**

### Flight Information

Day 1 – flights to arrive prior to 4.00pm into Auckland Airport  
 Day 8 – flights to depart after 2.00pm from Wellington Airport  
**Flights are not included in the holiday price**

### 8 Farewell from Wellington

The best way to begin a Wellington day? With a coffee. The city is known for its uber-cool cafés, designed to fuel you through a session at Te Papa, the Museum of New Zealand. After lunch – read: a lunch that changes lives – it’s time to bid farewell to your NZ crew. What a week. **B L**



Waitangi Treaty Grounds

