

# Northern Wonders

## Highlights

### ✂ Flexible Holidays

Auckland and Wellington are a bit like foodie paradise for gourmands. Ask your Travel Director to point you in the direction of top bars and restaurants.

### 📍 Iconic Sites

The Waitomo Caves are the stuff fairytales are made of. Illuminate your day cruising this limestone network, cast in the magical light of glowworms.

### 📷 Time For You

Ziplining through the forest, soaking in thermal springs, meeting endangered wildlife – how you spend your free time in Rotorua is up to you.

### 🏠 Sustainable Travel



**MAKE TRAVEL MATTER EXPERIENCE** | The 'Eat My Lunch' program that you support helps ensure that kids across New Zealand go to school with a packed lunch. Because no child deserves to be hungry.

### 🌿 Natural Wonders

Rotorua is hot, in more ways than one. Steaming geysers, bubbling mud pools and mineral-rich springs are the beating heart of this geothermal valley.



## 1 Welcome to Wellington

New Zealand's cool little capital, Wellington is the kind of place you could easily lose yourself in for a day. Good thing you arrived early. Check out one of the city's oh-so-hip cafés before exploring Te Papa, the Museum of New Zealand, home to an extraordinary collection of artefacts, including an eye-opening exhibit dedicated to Māori history. Time to meet your fellow adventure-seekers. **Hotel: Travelodge.**

## 2 Wellington – Rotorua

The Kapiti Coast is the summer playground of Wellingtonians – for good reason. You'll follow in local footsteps as you make your way along a road that unfolds in a broad panorama of Lake Taupo, the largest (and perhaps bluest) of its kind in the country. 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, delve deep into Māori culture and traditions 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. **Hotel: Ibis, 2 nights. B L HD**

## 3 Rotorua Free Time

If there's a New Zealand city where you want free time, Rotorua is it. Go your own way today, perhaps blissing out in the Polynesian Spa's thermal springs (we recommend a mud wrap). Who knew nature was this relaxing? Or discovering endangered birds on a working kiwi nursery and hatchery. Hobbit fans will want to take advantage of today's 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**

## 4 Rotorua – Auckland

The Waitomo Caves are radiant – quite literally. While cruising cavernous underground waterways, your route is cast in a magical light by thousands of glowworms. It's a fairytale start to your day. One that only gets better as you descend on Auckland, the 'City of Sails'. You'll discover how it got its moniker while gazing over its two yacht-studded harbours from the lookout at the Auckland War Memorial Museum. **Hotel: Holiday Inn Express. B D**

## 5 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**

## 6 Bay of Islands Free Time

Go as fast or as slow as you like today – there's no rush, and no agenda. Talk to your Travel Director to organise leisurely jaunts 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. If you're a history buff, you may want to join a tour of Russell and learn more about the settling of the Bay of Islands. The choice is yours. **B**

## 7 Bay of Islands – Auckland

You're about to reach the very tip of New Zealand, as your travels take you to Whangarei – the country's northernmost city. This is 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 coach seat for the mesmerising commute back to Auckland. Ask your Travel Director for tips on where to dine; Auckland is a bit of a culinary hotspot. **Hotel: Holiday Inn Express. B**



Hobbiton (Optional Experience)

## 7 Included Experiences

### Departure Dates

2022	2023	2024
Nov 02, 09, 30	Jan 11, 18, 25	Jan 03, 10, 17, 24, 31
Dec 07	Feb 01, 08, 15, 22	Feb 07, 14, 21, 28
	Mar 01, 08, 15, 22, 29	Mar 06, 13, 20, 27
	Apr 12, 19	Apr 03
	May 10	
	Sep 13	
	Oct 11, 25	
	Nov 01, 08, 15, 29	
	Dec 06, 13, 20, 27	

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 [aatkings.com](http://aatkings.com). Or contact your local travel agent.

### Dining

7 Full buffet breakfasts B      1 Highlight Dinner HD  
 1 Lunch L                              2 Dinners D

### Flight Information

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

### 8 Farewell from Auckland

The only bad day in Auckland is the one where you have to bid farewell. On your journey home, just remember how much pleasure you have packed into this last week. **B**



Cape Reinga/Te Rerenga Wairua Lighthouse

- **START**
- **END**
- ① Number of night stays
- Sightseeing stop

