



HIHI ADVENTURE

10 Day Auckland to Wellington Tour

North Island Adventure Tour

STARTS: Auckland
FINISHES: Wellington
DURATION: 10 Days / 9 Nights
START DAY: Tuesday
FINISH DAY: Thursday
MIN. / MAX. NUMBERS: 6 / 24 passengers



Overview

The 10 Day Hihi Adventure tour takes you through the North Island showing you the highlights and those off-the-beaten-track locations in style. Travel from Auckland to Wellington on our small group tour, meeting the friendly locals and ticking off those bucket list highlights as you go. Our fully guided Adventure tours include some meals and activities but we leave plenty of room for optional extras so you can make the adventure your own!

Day 1: Arrival Auckland

Kia Ora (hello) and welcome to Aotearoa (New Zealand) the land of the long white cloud. Make your way to your hostel and then head out to explore — start with a downhill walk to the waterfront to discover for yourself why Auckland is known as the City of Sails. Meet your Guide at 6pm for an introduction to your tour before heading out together for some dinner (own cost).

Accommodation: Haka House Auckland City (5 Turner St, Auckland CBD)

Free activities: Walk the waterfront

Day 2: Auckland to Hahei

Today's the day we say 'haere rā' (goodbye) to Auckland and 'kia ora!' (hello) to the trip of a lifetime! First stop, Hahei Beach on the Coromandel Peninsula. This gorgeous little place will capture your heart (and have you calculating how much it would cost to move to NZ's coast eternally). When the tides are right, we'll drive over to the nearby Hot Water Beach and dig ourselves an all-natural hot pool in the sand. Who said backpackers can't do luxury? This evening we'll enjoy a classic Kiwi BBQ group dinner together at the resort.

Accommodation: Hahei Holiday Resort

Meal inclusions: Breakfast, Dinner

Optional activities: Kayaking or Hahei Explorer

Free activities: Dig a hot pool at Hot Water Beach

Day 3: Hahei

Today you have a full free day to explore Hahei. Take a sunrise kayak to Cathedral Cove, board a boat and cruise around exploring the sea caves, chill out on the beach or enjoy a beer in the local pub. This is your time to relax in paradise so get your R&R on!

Accommodation: Hahei Holiday Resort

Meal inclusions: Breakfast

Optional activities: Cathedral cove kayaking, Hahei explorer boat

Day 4: Hahei to Rotorua

Rise and shine for an early start this morning as you walk to Hahei Beach to watch the sunrise. Then it's straight back into the bus for our journey to the geothermal wonderland of Rotorua.

Before we get to Rotorua, we'll stop for an incredibly scenic walk through the Karangahake Gorge and then we'll head to the home of the Hobbit and enjoy a tour of the real movie set, which was created right here in Middle Earth! When we arrive in Rotorua, head for a walk through the Whakarewarewa Redwood Forest and then explore the township. There are so many activities available in Rotorua - ask your guide for options!

Accommodation: Haka House Rotorua

Meal inclusions: Breakfast

Included activity: Hobbiton Movie Set

Free activities: Whakarewarewa Redwood Forest walk

Day 5: Rotorua to Lake Aniwhenua

This morning, take your pick of epic Rotorua experiences: go ziplining, plunge over a 7m waterfall, soak in the Polynesian Spa's hot pools, or wander through Kuirau Park with its bubbling mud pools. Whether you're chasing thrills or chill time, Rotorua delivers.

In the afternoon, we head off the beaten path to Lake Aniwhenua. Here you'll be welcomed by the local Māori whānau at Kohutapu Lodge. Discover sacred rock carvings, try traditional stick games, and watch a ground-cooked *hangi* come to life—before digging in. Trust us, it might just be the best meal you'll have in New Zealand (or ever).

Exclusive experience includes:

- 1 night's accommodation at the serene lakeside Kohutapu Lodge
- Full traditional hangi buffet dinner & dessert
- Continental breakfast
- Guided tour to sacred Maori rock carvings
- Introduction to the Murupara area, its people, history and challenges

Accommodation: Kohutapu Lodge

Included activity: Learn the Haka, Maori flax weaving

Meal inclusions: Breakfast, traditional hangi dinner and dessert included

Optional activities: Rotorua Canopy tours, Rotorua Rafting, Polynesian Spa

Free activities: Maori rock carvings, volleyball, Maori cultural games

Day 6: Lake Aniwhenua to Lake Taupo

Rise and shine! Enjoy your buffet breakfast and get ready for a day of jam-packed adventure. Keep your togs (swimwear) handy, because our first stop is Kerosene Creek – a naturally hot river and the perfect place for a morning soak. Then it's on to Taupo to see Australasia's largest lake and the mighty Huka Falls, grab lunch and take a walk to explore or simply relax at your accommodation.

Accommodation: Haka House Taupo or similar

Meal inclusions: Breakfast

Optional paid activities: Skydiving or bungy in Taupo

Free activities: Huka Falls, Spa Park walk Taupo

Day 7: Taupo to Tongariro National Park

Limber up! Today you get the chance to tick off one of the most popular hikes in New Zealand, the epic Tongariro Alpine Crossing. Considered one of the world's top one-day walks, this 19 km hike takes you across a rocky plateau with dramatic volcanic peaks, craters and turquoise lakes that you (and your Instagram feed) will remember for a lifetime. The Crossing is open to walk year-round (alpine gear and guide are required in winter for an additional cost), but it is subject to the weather conditions. If the weather prevents you from doing the Crossing, there are other awesome short walks in the area. Tonight, unwind after a big day in your chalet.

Accommodation: Alpine Chalets

Included activities: Tongariro Alpine Crossing transfers

Meal inclusions: Breakfast

Meal options: Pack a lunch & plenty of snacks and water.

Free activities: Taranaki Falls walk, visit the Volcanic Centre, Tawhai Falls (Gollum's pool)

Day 8: Tongariro National Park to Wellington

Onwards to Wellington, the 'coolest little capital in the world'! Wellington packs a lot of character into its downtown district, with great restaurants and bars along Cuba Street and Courtenay Place. Fill your afternoon by browsing through the exhibits at Te Papa National Museum (at your own cost), grab a craft beer at a brewery, climb to the top of Mt Victoria for panoramic views or take a stroll along the waterfront and Oriental Parade. Oh and, most importantly for the coffee lovers, you'll be glad to know that Wellington's coffee culture and cafe scene is considered one of the best in NZ.

Accommodation: Cambridge Hotel Wellington or similar

Meal inclusions: Breakfast

Optional paid activities: Te Papa National Museum, Wellington Cable Car

Meal options: Local restaurants or self-cater in the hostel kitchen

Free activities: Walk Oriental Parade, head up Mt Victoria for fantastic views, visit Te Papa National Museum, Gumboot (welly) throwing

Day 9: Wellington

Today is a free day to spend exploring Wellington, our capital city and home to New Zealand's parliament and the iconic Beehive government building. Also known as the 'coolest little capital in the world' thanks to Lonely Planet, Wellington is a great place to check out the lively arts, craft beer and café culture scenes or do some shopping. The afternoon is yours to explore the sights - we recommend wandering down Oriental Parade or viewing the excellent exhibits on display at Te Papa National Museum.

Accommodation: Cambridge Hotel Wellington or similar

Meal inclusions: Breakfast

Optional paid activities: Te Papa National Museum, Wellington Cable Car, Weta Workshop

Meal options: Local restaurants or self-cater in the hostel kitchen

Free activities: Walk Oriental Parade, head up Mt Victoria for fantastic views

Day 10: Depart Wellington

Today your adventure comes to an end. Say goodbye to your guide and your new Stray mates, we hope you had a great time and we look forward to adventuring with you again in the future!

Meal inclusions: Breakfast

What's Included:

- Experienced tour guide
- Private coach transport
- 10 days of once in a lifetime experience
- 9 nights' accommodation (dorm-style)
- 9 Breakfasts, 2 Dinners
- See Hot Water Beach & Cathedral Cove
- Karangahake Gorge visit

- Hobbiton Movie Set Tour
- Experience geothermal activity and boiling mud pools
- Lake Aniwhenua Cultural Experience
- See the mighty Huka Falls
- Transfers for the Tongariro Alpine Crossing
- Free day to explore Wellington

What to Bring:

- Camera
- Sturdy walking shoes/boots
- Warm clothing
- Waterproof jacket
- Hat & sunscreen
- Bathers/towel
- Water bottle
- Motion sickness tablets
- Insect repellent

Highlights:

- Dig yourselves an all-natural hot pool in the sand at Hot Water Beach
- Relax at the beach, explore the world-famous Cathedral Cove and stay beachside in the classic kiwi cabins at Hahei Beach
- Explore Middle Earth as you visit the Hobbiton Movie set and see bubbling mud pools and geysers in Rotorua.
- Take a scenic walk through the Karangahake Gorge and the Whakarewarewa Redwood Forest.
- Explore Kuirau Park in Rotorua where we'll see some geothermal activity, boiling mud pools and steaming lakes!
- Experience life with a modern Maori family in an idyllic lakeside location as you feast on a traditional Hangi meal and play traditional games
- Have a soak in the naturally hot Kerosene Creek and visit the mighty Huka Falls
- Hike the incredible, other-worldly Tongariro Alpine Crossing, one of the most famous one-day walks in the world
- Free time in Hahei & Wellington.

Important Notes:

- Tours start on a Tuesday and ends on a Thursday (10 days later)
- Pick up: As Day 1 is an Arrival Day, please make your way to Haka House Auckland City (5 Turner St, Auckland CBD) to check in from 2pm. The Welcome Meeting begins at 6pm.
- Luggage is limited to one piece per person with a maximum weight of 23kg plus a day pack
- A basic level of fitness is required for medium length walks

- Our itinerary is a guide. Given the spontaneous nature of our trips and lack of control over New Zealand's weather(!), what we do each day might occasionally vary.