

# New Zealand

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# 9 Day Northern Escape

Auckland → Wellington



Napier

## Highlights

- + 2 night stopovers in Auckland, Rotorua, Napier & Wellington
- + Rotorua Geothermal Wonderland
- + Art Deco Napier
- + Wellington, the nation's capital

## Featured Experiences

- + Dine at some of New Zealand's leading wineries
- + Authentic Maori Hangi & Cultural Performance
- + Exclusive Lake Rotoiti cruise

## Iconic Sightseeing

- + Cruise & tour of Waiheke Island
- + Tour the famous Hobbiton Movie Set
- + Te Wairoa Buried Village
- + Wairakei Geothermal Project & mighty Huka Falls
- + Locally Guided Art Deco Walk
- + Te Papa National Museum

### Day 1 Arrive Auckland (D)

On arrival in Auckland, you will be met by a representative and transferred to your downtown city hotel. This evening, join your fellow travellers for a welcome dinner and drinks.

Stay: Pullman Hotel (2 nights)

### Day 2 Day trip to Waiheke Island (B,L)

After a leisurely start to the day, a brief ferry ride brings us to Waiheke Island, a haven for vineyards, olive groves, art galleries and sandy beaches. Enjoy a tour of the island before sitting down to a special lunch at the beautiful Mudbrick Winery, with its spectacular views over the Hauraki Gulf looking back to the city skyline.

### Day 3 Hobbiton, Rotorua (B,D)

Travel south this morning to Matamata. On arrival at Shire's Rest you embark on a guided walking tour of the Hobbiton Movie Set used in 'The Lord of the Rings' and 'Hobbit' films. This location is the largest "green set" in the world and the only part of the set remaining in New Zealand. You will see hobbit holes, the Mill and double arch bridge and the Party Tree. Be sure to take a photo at the gate to Bilbo Baggins house, "Bag End", looking out over the whole set to the hills in the distance. Later we continue our journey to the geothermal city of Rotorua.

Stay: Millennium Hotel (2 nights)

### Day 4 Exclusive Lake Rotoiti Cruise & Te Wairoa Buried Village (B,D)

Today's highlight is an exclusive cruise across the serene, clear waters of Lake Rotoiti. Explore native bays and coves of the lake under sail on our luxury catamaran and bathe in the thermal waters of the Manupirua hot springs, accessible only by boat. This afternoon, travel past the Blue & Green Lakes to the famous buried village of Te Wairoa. This evening, we visit Te Puia Thermal Reserve and are treated to a traditional Maori hangi (feast) and cultural performance.

*"This lovely catamaran sails on gorgeous Lake Rotoiti on New Zealand's North Island. The views are spectacular and the service on deck superb."*

### Day 5 Lake Taupo, Napier (B)

Stop to view the mighty Huka Falls & Wairakei Geothermal project and then take time to wander around the popular lakeside resort of Taupo. Continue on to Napier, one of the world's finest Art Deco cities. Here, your local guide will bring this fascinating architecture to life on your walk around the town this afternoon.

Stay: The Crown Hotel (2 nights)

### Day 6 At leisure in Hawke's Bay (B,D)

Widely regarded as the 'Tuscany of the South Pacific', this region boasts some of New Zealand's best wineries. Enjoy a free day to experience some of the many optional activities available or simply relax and enjoy your surroundings. This evening, we visit Mission Estate, New Zealand's oldest winery established by a group of French missionaries in 1851. Enjoy wine tastings followed by a fine dining experience in the elegantly restored seminary with its sweeping views over the vineyards, city and the coast beyond.

### Day 7 Wairarapa, Wellington (B)

Travel this morning through the rural heartland of the Wairarapa region en-route to Wellington, the nation's capital, where you enjoy a brief sightseeing and orientation tour before checking into your accommodation.

Stay: The Bolton Hotel (2 nights)

### Day 8 Explore the Nation's Capital (B)

Named the 'coolest little capital in the world' by Lonely Planet, Wellington is nestled between a sparkling harbour and rolling green hills and is renowned for its arts, heritage, culture and native beauty. A visit to Te Papa National Museum is highly recommended as is a ride on the famous Cable Car up the hill to Kelburn for amazing views over



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the city. If you like action-packed adventure activities, Wellington has it all along with beautiful walks around the harbour and surrounding hills.

### Day 9 Depart Wellington (B)

Sadly, your holiday ends today and you will be transferred to the airport to connect with your onward flight.