

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL 

Your South Pacific Travel Specialists

Luxury Small Group Journeys



2019 / 2020

Australia • New Zealand

The Endless Shores

Embrace the Hongi touch of your Māori hosts, whose relationship with this unspoilt land is revealed on this Inspiring Journey. Experience mesmerising natural wonders, from the luminous glowworms of the Footwhistle Cave and the native forests' redwood giants, to the fantasy-land of The Lord of The Rings' 'Shire'.



At the top of Huka falls a series of small waterfalls drop around 8 metres, before the main event: an 11-metre drop that's sure to impress. Water flows over the falls at a rate of 220,000 litres per second. At this rate it would take just 11 seconds to fill an entire Olympic sized swimming pool!



📍 Waipoua Forest



📍 Rainbow Springs Nature Park



📍 Redwood Treetop Walk



📍 Wellington Harbour



📍 Footwhistle Cave

11 DAYS Wellington • Hawke's Bay • Taupo • Huka Falls • Rotorua • Auckland • Waipoua Forest • Bay of Islands

Discover

Napier's art deco charm
The magical Glowworm Grotto of the Footwhistle Cave

Explore

The native gardens of Rainbow Springs Nature Park
The giant Redwood Trees on a series of 23 suspension bridges

Immerse

Enjoy a traditional Māori experience in Rotorua 🏠
Take a guided walk through the sacred Waipoua Forest 🏠

Relax

Cruise the beautiful Bay of Islands 🚢
In Rotorua's healing mineral springs
Wine and Dine at Napier's top winery



📍 Napier



📍 Rotorua Redwood Forest



📍 Tamaki Māori Village

Day 1: Welcome to Wellington

On arrival in the culinary capital of New Zealand you'll have time to relax. Perhaps enjoy a literary encounter with New Zealand's great writers on the famed Wellington Writers' Walk. Meet your Journey Director for a Welcome Reception and dinner this evening at your hotel.

- 🏠 Sofitel, Wellington, 2 nights
- 🍷 Dinner with wine

Day 2: Wellington Journey Select

- ✔ Today, **select your choice of sightseeing**: you may wish to experience Weta Cave, home of the creative wizards behind The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit trilogies. Take a walking tour around Wellington with a local guide or join a guide who will reveal the stories behind the exhibitions at Te Papa Museum of New Zealand.

- 🍷 Full buffet breakfast

Day 3: Wellington – Hawke's Bay

Travel through the dairy farming land of Manawatu to Napier in Hawke's Bay. Enjoy time to relax after the day's adventures before joining your Journey Director for dinner at your hotel.

- 🏠 Porters Boutique Hotel, Hawke's Bay, 2 nights
- 🍷 Full buffet breakfast, dinner with wine

Day 4: Hawke's Bay

- ✂ Join a local guide for a city tour. You'll see several types of Art Deco architecture, the style in which Napier was rebuilt after a devastating earthquake in 1931. This evening, **enjoy wine-tasting and dinner at one of the renowned wineries in Hawke's Bay.**

- 🍷 Full buffet breakfast, Local Dining Experience

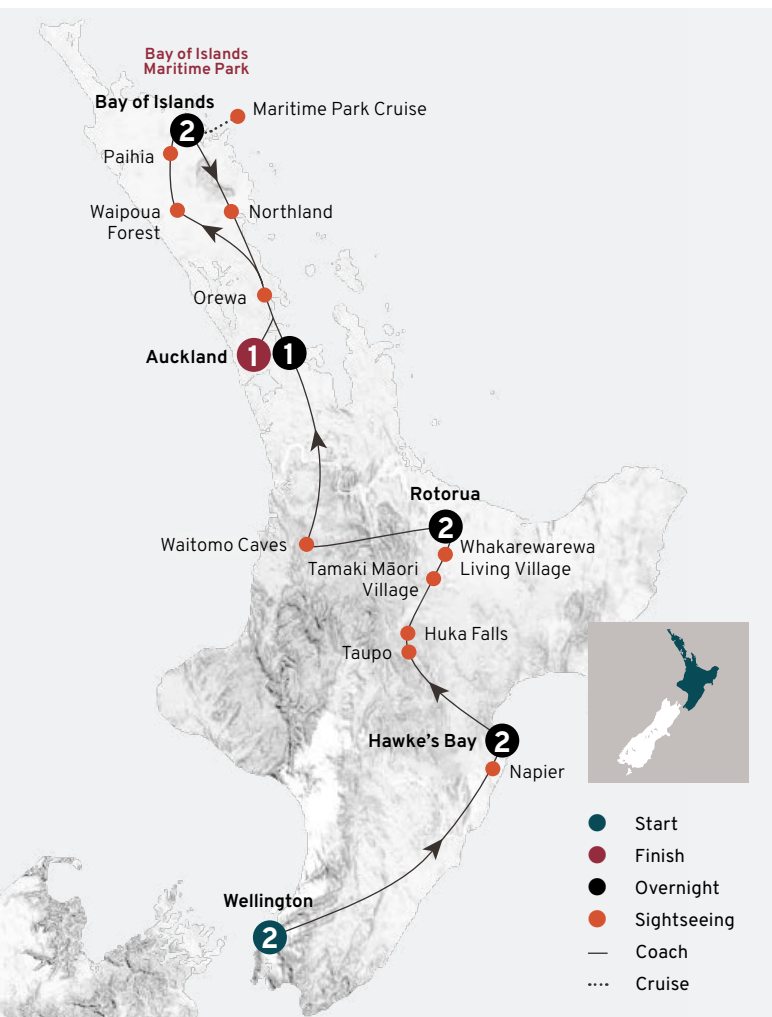
Day 5: Hawke's Bay – Rotorua

- 📍 You'll travel past Lake Taupo and visit spectacular Huka Falls before you arrive in Rotorua, the cultural capital, for a sightseeing tour. **Visit Whakarewarewa Living Village, where you'll be introduced to members of the Māori community** and learn about their special bond with this ancient land. This evening, **indulge in the mouthwatering flavours of a traditional Hangi feast cooked underground using geothermal steam at the Tamaki Māori Marae.**

- 🏠 Pullman, Rotorua, 2 nights
- 🍷 Full buffet breakfast, Local Dining Experience

"We are Tamaki Māori Village, our village is built both in honour of our ancestors and in celebration of our beautiful culture. Deep in lush Rotorua forest, our location is not only visually beautiful, but rooted upon sacred Māori grounds. We offer an awe-inspiring journey back in time to ancient Māori lands. We share the story of our ancestors; not only the way they lived, but their spiritual beliefs, myths and Gods. Both the story's hidden in their intrinsic carvings, art works and tattoos and the stories passed down through generations."

– Casey Rameka, Tamaki Māori Village



At a glance:

TOP 3 HIGHLIGHTS

1. Redwoods Treewalk
2. Dining experience in Napier
3. Caves and Cliffs tour

DINING

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 10 Full buffet breakfasts | 2 Local Dining Experiences |
| 3 Dinners with wine | 1 Celebration Dinner |



Day 6: Rotorua



Rotorua's natural splendour is revealed in the crystal-clear mineral springs and native flora of Rainbow Springs Nature Park. You're sure to catch a glimpse of the shy, iconic national bird in the park's nocturnal kiwi enclosure, on a 'behind the scenes tour'. Next up, ascending to the Redwoods Treewalk, enjoy an elevated view of these redwood giants from a series of 23 suspension bridges linking the majestic trees, a completely unique perspective.

Full buffet breakfast

Day 7: Rotorua – Auckland



Begin your day by exploring the iridescent Waitomo Caves on an exclusive five-star Eco Glowworm experience with a Local Expert. Admire the magical subterranean world of Footwhistle Cave before you continue your journey to Auckland, the 'City of Sails'. Get your bearings during a sightseeing city tour, then spend the rest of the day discovering why Auckland is deemed one of the world's most liveable cities.

Sofitel, Auckland

Full buffet breakfast

Day 8: Auckland – Bay of Islands

The golden sands of Orewa seem to stretch endlessly heading north to the native forest of Waipoua. **Join a local Māori guide and head deep into the forest of Waipoua**, a sanctuary that is home to many native trees including the largest Kauri tree in existence, Tane Mahuta (over 2,000 years old). Finally, journey to your waterfront resort in the Bay of Islands.

Copthorne Resort, Bay of Islands, 2 nights

Full buffet breakfast, dinner with wine

Day 9: Bay of Islands Free Time

Make the most of your extended stay in the Bay of Islands with a choice of optional experiences. Why not sail aboard a historic tall ship, enjoy wine tasting around Kerikeri, or discover Russell on a highlights tour of this small township? Your Journey Director can assist you in booking your choice of activity.

Full buffet breakfast

Day 10: Bay of Islands Cruise – Auckland

This morning **cruise through the Bay of Islands Maritime Park and explore some of the 144 islands in the bay**. Later, head through the small towns of Northland, over the Harbour Bridge and into Auckland city. This evening toast your inspiring journey at a memorable Celebration Dinner.

Sofitel, Auckland

Full buffet breakfast, Celebration Dinner

Day 11: Farewell from Auckland

Bid a fond farewell to your travel companions this morning as your North Island Inspiring Journey comes to an end.

Full buffet breakfast

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