# FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL NEW ZEALAND

2024-2025 GUIDED HOLIDAYS

FIRST CHOICE 3-17 day Fully Curated Experiences From page 24

BEST BUYS 8-21 day Flexible Guided Holidays From page 34

# Northern Spotlight

# **Highlights**

# lpha Flexible Holidays

Sometimes, the best experiences in life (meals, spas, hikes) are those you stumble upon. We can point you in the right direction in Auckland, Rotorua 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.

# 🛍 Sustainable Travel

**EXAMPLE THE PO Experience at Te Puia contributes to the** success of the Māori Arts & Crafts Institute, committed to preserving, fostering, and promoting Māori arts and crafts.

# 🖄 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.



# 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 your fellow travel companions for a Welcome Reception 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, perhaps a descendant 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, 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, cruise to the famous Hole in the Rock or join a tour of Russell and learn more about the settling of the Bay of Islands. The choice is yours. **B** 

### 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 starts with a city sights tour before you set your GPS for the Waikato River and Waitomo Caves. This

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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. This evening, explore Te Puia's geothermal valley, and learn about Māori history and culture on this guided experience, which includes a dinner of hangi-inspired cuisine and a cultural performance in a finely carved meeting house, Te Aronui a Rua. It ends on a high at the Pohutu Geyser, where, armed with a hot chocolate you'll view one of New Zealand's geothermal wonderlands. **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. **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 Taupō, 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** 

# 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 your city sights tour. You may wish to linger in town, discovering Maori culture at Te Papa, the Museum of New Zealand. Afterwards, it's time to bid farewell to your NZ crew. What a week. **B** 





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# 8 DAYS 9 Included Experiences

# Departure Dates

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Nov 04, 11	
Dec 02, 09, 16	), <u>2</u>

2024	ļ.
Jan	06, 13, <b>20</b> , 27
Feb	03, <b>10</b> , <b>17</b> , 24
Mar	02, <b>09</b> , 16, 23
Apr	13, 20
May	25
Jun	22
Jul	20
Sep	07, <b>21</b> , 28
Oct	05, <b>12</b> , 19, <b>26</b>
Nov	02, <b>09</b> , 23, <b>30</b>
Dec	07, 14, 21

2025	5
Jan	04, <b>11</b> , 18, 25
Feb	01, <b>08</b> , 15, 22
Mar	01, <b>08</b> , 15, 22

## Definite Departures highlighted in red.

For prices, latest deals and year-round offers including past guest offers, group booking discounts for 9+ guests, multi-trip savings and additional definite departure dates visit **aatkings.com/labw** or contact your local travel agent.

A limited number of single rooms are also available.

# Dining

7 Full buffet breakfasts **B** 1 Dinner **D** 

1 Highlight Dinner HD

# **Flight Information**

Day 1 – flights to arrive prior to 4.00pm into Auckland Airport Day 8 – flights to depart after 12 noon from Wellington Airport Flights are not included in the holiday price

