



## PETER Pass

### North Island Hop-On Hop-Off Pass Itinerary

**Start:** Auckland

**Finish:** Wellington

**Minimum Days:** 7

**Recommended Days:** 9

#### **Travel Day: Auckland to Raglan**

We depart Auckland from 7.30am and head south, travelling towards the mighty Waikato. We'll take a walk to the majestic Bridal Veil Falls on the way to our destination, the world-renowned surf beach Raglan. Enjoy a free afternoon to relax, take a walk on the beach or a mountain walk. Chill out or go hard in this funky surf and arts town.

**Accommodation:** An eco-lodge surrounded by native bush near the beach.

**Optional paid activities:** Learn to surf \$79 (save \$10)

**Free activities:** Walk to the waterfall, bush walk around Mt Karioi, relax on the beach, glow-worms in the bush, West Coast sunset, Inspiration Point.

#### **Travel Day: Raglan (via Waitomo) to Mourea**

Departing Raglan we head for Mourea in the Bay of Plenty, home to our unique cultural overnight stay. We stop in the rural town of Waitomo to explore the spectacular glow-worm caves, before continuing on to Mourea for a very special experience where you'll get the opportunity to immerse yourself in New Zealand indigenous Maori culture. This is much more than just a show; you'll learn about Maori traditions and history, spend time with real locals and become fully interactive with Kapa Haka (Maori song and dance). An unforgettable, genuine and educational night!

\* Cultural night is an all-inclusive price of \$80 including afternoon tea, dinner, interactive performance, storytelling, bed and breakfast. If there are less than 12 people we will stay in Rotorua with an alternative cultural option

**Accommodation:** Unique Stray stay in the Wharenui (Maori meeting house).

**Optional paid activities:** Waitomo must-do caving options: Haggas Honking Holes, Lost World, Tumu Tumu TOObing, or a glow-worm tour.

**Free activities:** Walk around Ruakuri Reserve, Waitomo Valley Caves walk.

#### **Travel Day: Mourea (via Rotorua) to Lake Aniwhenua**

We wave goodbye to Richard, Ruth and the whanau and head for Rotorua for a free morning to discover its distinctive smell (geothermal areas), culture and adventure. Around midday we do hostel pick-ups in Rotorua before heading onto Rainbow Mountain to meet our local Maori guide and venture deep into the Kaingaroa Forest in the foothills of the Te Urewera National Park. Today you will experience stories, history and a culture not yet touched by the hand of commercialism that dates back to the first known person to discover NZ (Kupe).

\* Lake Aniwhenua night is \$75 including accommodation; guided tour and bush walk to see Maori rock art, dinner and breakfast.

**Accommodation:** Lakefront lodge.

**Optional paid activities:** Rotorua: rafting, zorbing, Agroventures, visit Hobbiton. Lake Aniwhenua: traditional fishing, eeling, weaving lessons, cooking classes and kayaking. 1 activity costs \$10, 2 activities \$15 and 3 activities \$20.

**Free activities:** Kuirau Park Rotorua, relax by Lake Aniwhenua, walks.

## **Travel Day: Lake Aniwhenua to Whakahoro**

After breakfast we'll depart for a local school to drop lunch off to some needy school kids, before heading to Taupo to visit Huka Falls and experience skydiving for the brave! Our destination today is one of the most remote parts of the North Island. Located in Whakahoro, Blue Duck Station is a 5,200 acre high country farm that is both a working station and an environmental conservation leader. Once you arrive, settle in, relax and chill out around an evening fire.

**Accommodation:** Country station lodge.

**Optional paid activities:** Skydiving, bungee, river jet Taupo.

**Free activities:** Huka falls, Spa Road walk.

## **Non-Travel Day: Whakahoro**

Today is yours to explore and discover this remote destination! Jump on a 4WD and travel up farm roads, over hilly peaks and through New Zealand native bush to learn about the station's history and conservation efforts. Don your cowboy hat and explore the farm by horseback or kayak through bush clad valleys and lush green hills. Visit the 'bridge to nowhere' and Kaiwhakauka waterfall or learn about the farm's pest control and bring back tonight's dinner.

**Accommodation:** Country station lodge.

**Optional paid activities:** An eco-warrior 4WD tour, a one day horse trek (like a real cowboy), clay bird shooting, kayaking, jet boating, pest control.

**Free activities:** Walk around the truly amazing property at Whakahoro and just take in the lush scenery, walk to the Kaiwhakauka waterfall, enjoy your host Dan's fantastic hospitality and stories on the local wildlife and history.

## **Travel Day: Whakahoro to National Park**

We'll be up at the crack of dawn for an early departure to make our way to the UNESCO World Heritage Site, 'Tongariro National Park'. Today you get the chance to do what is rated one of the world's best one day walks: the Tongariro Alpine Crossing. Trek through dramatic natural scenery, past volcanic peaks, vast craters and stunning turquoise lakes on one of the most spectacular treks in New Zealand. In winter (June 1 to 15 October) the Alpine Crossing has something that summer doesn't, SNOW! Beautiful white, often shimmering snow sometimes stretched as far as the eye can see. Wander the snow laden craters and imagine you are walking an expedition to the South Pole. Other options include carving it up at NZ's largest ski area, Mt Ruapehu.

**Accommodation:** Beautiful alpine lodge.

**Optional paid activities:** The Tongariro Alpine Crossing (there is a \$125 transport, guiding and concession fee to do this hike in winter), skiing a real volcano!

**Free activities:** Taranaki Falls walk, visit the Volcanic Centre, Tawhai Falls (Gollums pool).

## **Travel Day: National Park to Wellington**

After breakfast we head around the mountains via the rural towns of Ohakune, Taihape and Bulls to

New Zealand's capital city Wellington. Today is mostly an express day to get to Wellington, and the afternoon is yours to cruise and explore the sites of the capital. We recommend wandering down Oriental Parade or visiting Te Papa national museum. Wellington is a cool place to just hang out and check out the arts, shopping and café culture scene and is home to NZ's parliament.

**Optional paid activities:** Check out some of the great cafes and bars.

**Free activities:** Walk 'Oriental Parade', head up Mt Victoria for fantastic views, and visit 'Te Papa' - our national museum, gumboot (welly) throwing.

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