



Hihi Adventure 2024/25

10 DAY NORTH ISLAND JOURNEY

Duration: 10 days, 9 nights

Starts/Finishes: Auckland/Wellington



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 go and explore the city, we recommend starting at the waterfront which is a downhill walk from your accommodation. Meet your Guide at 6pm for an introduction to your tour and a complimentary welcome drink before heading out together for some dinner (own cost).

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

Free activities: Walk the waterfront

Included activities: Welcome drink

Day 2: Auckland Island Experience

Auckland has one of the best harbours in the world and it's known locally as the "City of Sails". Today you'll get to experience Auckland from the water as we head out to Rangitoto Island for the day. This dormant volcano which is 1 of 44 in the region sits just out from the city in the Waitemata harbour, the views are simply stunning from the city scape and out to the gulf and surrounding islands. It's the perfect way to get you in the groove with this amazing country and clear your head to get you ready for the amazing experience over the next 23 days of non-stop adventure!

Accommodation: Haka House Auckland City

Meal inclusions: Breakfast, Lunch

Included activity: Water taxi to Rangitoto Island, hike a volcano

Day 3: 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?

Accommodation: Hahei Holiday Resort

Meal inclusions: Breakfast

Meal options: We'll stop at a supermarket to stock up on supplies en-route - Self-cater or join the optional group BBQ dinner

Optional activities: Kayaking or Hahei Explorer

Free activities: Dig a hot pool at Hot Water Beach

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, we'll head to Kuirau Park where we'll see some geothermal activity, boiling mud pools and steaming lakes!

After hanging out in a major tourist destination like Rotorua, you'll probably feel ready to experience a more authentic slice of New Zealand culture. Today we venture off the beaten track to the shores of Lake Aniwhenua. Kohutapu Lodge is owned by a local Maori family who are passionate about their Maori tribal heritage and their local community. You'll see sacred Maori rock carvings, play traditional stick games and watch the preparation of a ground cooked 'hangi', before tasting it for yourself! Prepare your tastebuds - this will probably be the best meal you eat in New Zealand, or maybe even in your lifetime!

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
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
Optional paid activities: Skydiving or bungy in Taupo
Meal inclusions: Breakfast
Meal options: We'll stop at a supermarket to stock up on supplies - Self-cater or join the optional group dinner
Free activities: Huka Falls, Spa Park walk Taupo

Day 7: Taupo to Tongariro National Park

This morning we'll head to the iconic Tongariro National Park for an adventurous couple of days. On arrival at the park, we'll receive a safety briefing for our whitewater rafting trip along the Tongariro River -

the perfect way to kick off our Tongariro experience! Along the 13-km stretch of river, we'll navigate grade-3 rapids (perfect for first time rafters) which will get the adrenaline pumping, but we'll also have time to admire the incredible native bush, pine forests and volcanic cliffs along the way, as well as some native NZ wildlife such as the elusive Whio, our endangered blue ducks, who love to nest along the river. Afterwards, we'll head back to base to dry off and check out some of the amazing photos of us all on the rapids before making our way to our accommodation for some well-earned rest!

Accommodation: Alpine Chalets

Included activity: Whitewater rafting in the Tongariro River

Meal inclusions: Breakfast, lunch

Day 8: 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 9: 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: Haka House Wellington

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, Gumboot (welly) throwing

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 Lunches, 1 Dinner
- Rangitoto Island visit and return ferries
- Karangahake Gorge visit
- Hot Water Beach
- Hobbiton Movie Set Tour
- Geysers and boiling mud pools
- Lake Aniwhenua Cultural Experience
- Huka Falls
- Whitewater rafting in the Tongariro River
- Tongariro Alpine Crossing

What to Bring:

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

This 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.