

# 8 DAY NORTHERN HIGHLIGHTS DELUXE ROAD TRIP

## DESTINATIONS

—  
AUCKLAND  
BAY OF ISLANDS  
ROTORUA  
WELLINGTON



# TOUR ITINERARY

## DAY 1

Destination	Auckland
Meals included	
Hotel	4 ★ Sudima Auckland City, or similar

Welcome to Auckland. If you fly into Auckland, please collect your vehicle from Hertz Airport depot before making your way to your hotel for check-in. Alternatively, make your way to Auckland Hertz Downtown depot to collect your car. The rest of the day is at leisure to get acquainted with this vibrant city.

Check in & arrival information.

Hotel check in is at 2pm. Should you arrive earlier than this, hotel staff will do all possible to check you in as soon as possible. If your room is not available before check-in time, you are welcome to leave your luggage in storage and explore the surrounding area.

## DAY 2

Destination	Auckland 🚗 Whangārei 🚗 Paihia (Bay of Islands)
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands, or similar

This morning you will begin the trip north to Paihia, the gateway to the Bay of Islands.

Driving along the Twin Coast Discovery Highway we recommend a visit to Whangārei. If you are up for it, take a detour to the Whangarei Heads scenic drive as it winds through Pohutakawa fringed bays with stunning views to the wild and beautiful Ocean Beach (approximately an additional 80 minute return trip).

Continuing north, travel the remaining distance to Paihia and on arrival check in to your hotel.

Approximate distance driven: 280km, approx 3.5hrs

## DAY 3

Destination	Paihia 🚢 Bay of Islands Cruise 🚢 Paihia
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands, or similar

At 9:00AM this morning, you will board your vessel from the Paihia Wharf and enjoy picturesque views as the boat winds its way through the islands.

According to Māori legend, local warriors used to paddle through the 'Hole in the Rock' in their canoes before departing for battle. Drops of water from the cave roof above were a good omen. If conditions permit, your skipper will expertly guide the ship through the narrow space... and if you get dripped on, consider yourself lucky!

Keep an eye out for dolphins, whales and other marine life during your cruise, and have your camera ready as we get you up close to the action. Please note that during our morning cruise we are permitted to interact with common dolphins only.

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Cruises include an island stopover at Otehei Bay on Urupukapuka Island. Stroll along the white sand beach, or walk to the top of the hill for scenic views over the entire Bay of Islands.

Your cruise concludes back at Paihia Wharf at 12:00PM. The rest of the day is at leisure.

### DAY 4

Destination	Paihia 🚗 Auckland
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Sudima Auckland City, or similar

Today is a long drive to Waitomo. Leaving early, make your way south back along the Twin Coast Discovery Highway. Approximate distance driven: 280km, 3.5hrs

### DAY 5

Destination	Auckland 🚗 Waitomo Glow Worm Cave & Ruakuri Cave 🚗 Rotorua
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Millennium Hotel Rotorua, or similar

Make your way to the starting point of the cave tour at 39 Waitomo Village Rd. Please ensure you bring a warm jacket as the cave temperature can be significantly lower than the outside temperature. Discover thousands of illuminating glow worms as you explore these glittering underground worlds on two walking tours. Glide silently by boat through the Glowworm Grotto in the Waitomo Glowworm Caves, then get up-close and personal for a photo opportunity.

Finally, continue driving east to Rotorua - your final destination for today.

Approximate distance driven: 330km, 4.5hrs

### DAY 6

Destination	Rotorua
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Millennium Hotel Rotorua, or similar

Spend the day exploring Rotorua at your own pace. Rotorua is a fascinating mix of geothermal activity, Māori culture and adventure. Rotorua is a region that offers a multitude of experiences.

Explore the bubbling mud pools and geysers of Whakarewarewa Thermal Valley, or get your adrenaline pumping with some of the great adventure activities on offer. Visit Te Puia or Tamaki Maori Village to experience Māori culture and learn about the historic events of New Zealand's history.

For those that love getting outdoors, try a walk or mountain bike along the network of trails that wind through the giant Redwood forests.

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### DAY 7

Destination	Rotorua 🚗 Wellington
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Citylife Hotel, or similar

Today continue driving south to Wellington, New Zealand's capital city.

Approximate distance driven: 450km, 5.5hrs

### DAY 8

Destination	Wellington
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Today your New Zealand Northern Highlights Deluxe Road Trip comes to an end. Please return your vehicle at either Hertz Downtown or Airport Depots. It's important you return your vehicle at same time you picked it up in Auckland (or earlier) to avoid Hertz additional fees.

Farewell Wellington as you make your own way to the airport for your onward flight or to continue the next part of your journey.

If you may wish to extend your stay in Wellington, we can assist you to book the below optional activities as well as additional accommodation.

Perhaps you want to fly to Christchurch and continue travelling on our [8 Day Southern Hightlight Deluxe Road Trip](#)

#### LORD OF THE RINGS FULL DAY TOUR

Starting on Mt Victoria with a visit to the lookout then onto locations used in the Trilogy like the Outer Shire, Hobbiton Woods & Dunharrow. Then out to the Hutt Valley to Kaitoke Regional park, the location of Rivendell. Along the way visiting Isengard, Fords of Isen, the River Anduin and past the quarry where Helms Deep & Minas Tirith were filmed. The Full day tour also includes an Orc sized picnic lunch or café lunch plus a visit to the famous Weta Cave and now including the Weta Workshop tour.

**Duration:** This tour starts at 08.30am and returns at 04.30pm

**Inclusions:** Hotel pick up and drop off and lunch.

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### LORD OF THE RINGS HALF DAY TOUR - AM

The Half Day Lord of the Rings Location Tour (allow 4 hours) is a 'best of' tour, showcasing the best locations around Wellington City. Including the Outer-Shire 'Get off the road' scene and the race to the Ferry. Also includes a stop at the Mt Victoria Lookout. Plus now including the Weta Cave & Weta Workshop Tour. This is the best way to see Wellington's Lord of the Rings locations in half a day with a knowledgeable Lord of the Rings specialist guide.

**Duration:** This tour departs at 08.30am and returns at 12.30pm

**Inclusions:** Hotel pick up and drop off

### HALF DAY CITY HIGHLIGHTS INSPIRATION TOUR

An intimate, small group tour looking at the unique aspects of the World's Coolest Little Capital. Drive through Courtenay Place and Oriental Parade and head up Mt Victoria for spectacular views of the City and Harbour. Then travel the stunning, rugged coastline, now a marine reserve, stopping along the way to taste some famous Wellington coffee.

Return to the central city for a drive through the quirky Cuba Street district and along Lambton Quay, the main shopping street, for a chance to ride the famous Wellington Cable Car. We finish the tour with stops at Parliament and Old St Paul's Cathedral.

**Duration:** This tour departs at 09.00am and returns at 1.30pm

**Inclusions:** Hotel pick up and drop off; entry fees and morning tea.

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### Inclusions

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Incredible sightseeing, Travel to Paihia and the Bay of Islands, cruise the serene waters and visit the 'Hole in the Rock', travel south and witness the Waitomo glowworm caves and visit the geothermal pools of Rotorua
- Enjoy the flexibility of independent travel
- 7 days Hertz Group D car rental including unlimited kilometers & Hertz Maximum Coverage (NIL damage excess including glass & tyres and waives liability for theft or loss to vehicle)
- 7 nights accommodation in 4 star hotels
- Daily breakfast
- Full day cruising the Bay of Islands enjoying picturesque views as the boat winds its way through the islands, making deliveries and visiting iconic landmarks like the Black Rocks, Marsden Cross, Cape Brett Lighthouse and the Hole in the Rock
- Guided Waitomo Caves tour. Marvel at thousands of glow worms as you glide gently downstream in an inflatable raft, and enjoy easy walks through stunning limestone caves and landscape.

#### SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

- Start off in Auckland. Auckland offers an urban environment where most people live within half an hour of beautiful beaches, hiking trails and a dozen enchanting holiday islands.
- Travel to the picturesque Bay of Island and cruise the Hole in the Rock
- Venture in to Waitomo Caves where the darkness comes alive with mesmerising glow worms
- Experience Rotorua. Sitting within the Pacific Rim of Fire, Rotorua is a geothermal wonderland with bubbling mud pools, clouds of steam, and natural hot springs perfect for bathing and relaxing in.

### Fine Print

#### BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE

Inspiring Vacations has been globally recognised and awarded for its handling of COVID-19 during the pandemic. The safety and wellbeing of our guests is our highest concern during this time of uncertainty, and we are continuously monitoring the evolving COVID-19 situation.

We have adopted the advice of the WHO to ensure all customers can travel with the knowledge of how to travel safely and with confidence.

**Australian owned and operated with 100% Australian Customer**

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### **Service support**

We are proudly 100% Australian owned and operated, with our head office located in Melbourne, Victoria. When you make your booking, you will receive dedicated and ongoing support from our team of travel professionals throughout your booking, up until you are due to depart.

### **Flexible Date Change Option**

Book now, change later with our Flexible Date Change option. You may select this \$99pp option at time of purchase, giving travellers the flexibility to change your date without penalty (subject to availability, less third party costs incurred, plus any applicable surcharges for the new date selected).

Date change must be requested prior to 65 days before your original selected departure date\*. Once inside 65 days of departure, date changes are not permitted.

\*some packages may have a varied period in which you can request a date change due to limitations with the third-party provider.

Please refer to our 'Book with Confidence' section for terms and conditions.

The Flexible Date Change option does not cover cost incurred for components not fulfilled by Inspiring Vacations or in the event extra services have been booked with Inspiring Vacations outside of the standard package, including but not limited to airfares, pre/post accommodation or insurance.

### **Cooling off period**

If you change your mind within 7 days of making your booking online, you can request a refund of your initial deposit payment as part of our cooling off period.

Once your purchase date falls outside of the 7 day period, our standard terms and conditions will apply. Please ensure that any request to cancel your booking is received via email to [support@inspiringvacations.com](mailto:support@inspiringvacations.com), including the reason for cancellation.

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### HOW TO BOOK & PAYMENTS

#### Deposit & Payments

- Book now and secure your package with a \$99 deposit per person.
- Pay a 2nd instalment of \$631 per person within 28 days.
- You will then be invoiced for final payment 90 days prior to departure.

#### Booking Process

- 'Sign Up' first by entering your email and creating a password
- Then select the red 'Book now' tab of the tour you have selected
- Select your Departure Date, Number of Passengers, Room Configuration, any Upgrade Options, and enter any Special Requests
- Click the red 'Proceed to Secure Checkout' tab
- Enter your credit card or PayPal details to secure your deposit/payment. You may also pay via BPAY (not available within 70 days of departure)
- Once your order is complete, you will be prompted to complete a Booking Form so that we can fulfil your booking
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- Your booking is on request and will be confirmed by Inspiring Vacations once all components of your package have been secured with our partners, please see below for further information

#### Booking On Request:

- Your Inspiring Vacations package is made up of multiple components and travel partners. Once your booking is made and passenger details form submitted, we will begin to confirm all of your arrangements. Please note, this process can take several business days to complete.
- Once all elements have been confirmed we will send you an email confirmation, if we are unable to confirm we will provide you with alternative dates or offer a full refund of your deposit or re-credit your account if a travel credit was used.
- Please DO NOT book any additional services, such as flights, until we have confirmed your Inspiring Vacations package in writing. Inspiring Vacations will not be liable for any fees or charges incurred to change or cancel components not booked by Inspiring Vacations should your selected package be unavailable.



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### EXCLUSIONS

- Flights
- Airport transfers
- Personal expenses
- Optional activities
- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Travel insurance (highly recommended)

### CAR HIRE INFORMATION

#### **Driver License Requirements**

All Renters and any additional drivers must present a full, valid national Drivers License that meets the following requirements:

1. The Drivers License for all drivers must be presented at the time of rental
2. Drivers License must be in English
3. If not in English, it must be accompanied by an International Drivers License or Permit by a certified English translation
4. Chinese Driver's Licenses are acceptable, but they must have a China Notarial Certificate (CNC):
  - a. Is valid for driving the vehicle;
  - b. Is not a learner's permit;
  - c. The driver has held for at least twelve consecutive months; and
  - d. Satisfies any other conditions on the Rental Agreement or in any additional terms

#### **Digital Drivers License**

A Digital Drivers License is not accepted. Drivers require a hard copy license until further notice.

#### **Deposit**

All rentals are subject to a deposit to cover additional costs. A min of NZ\$200 applies if using a credit card in the name of the renter. Cash deposits are NO longer accepted.

#### **Rates Include**

Maximum Cover (MAX) with NIL Damage Excess, Unlimited Kilometres, Airport/Ferry Concession Fee Recovery (ACFR), Loss Damage Waiver (LDW), Admin Fee Recovery (AFR), 24Hr Breakdown Roadside Assistance, Goods & Service Tax (GST)

#### **Rates Exclude**

Fuel, Optional Extras (baby seats, snow chains etc)

#### **Damage Excess for Cars**

NIL

#### **Young Renters Fee**

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A Young Renter Fee of \$20.00 including GST per day, per renter will apply to all renters aged between 18-20 years. This will be capped at 10 days in every 30-day rental. Standard Rental conditions will apply and only a full driver's licence will be accepted. This fee will apply to all main renters and additional drivers.

Hertz Standard Terms and Conditions can be found [here](#)

### CAR HIRE OPTIONS

#### **Upgrade to a Hertz Group V vehicle**

You may want to upgrade your car hire to a Hertz Group J, Intermediate 4WD, 5 Doors, Toyota Rav4 or Similar for an extra \$110 per person, or \$220 for solo travellers

#### **Bring Your Own Vehicle (No Car Rental Included)**

You can opt to drive your own vehicle. A total of \$300 per person (two people booking) or \$600 (one person booking) will be reduced from the total price.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

#### **COVID-19**

Due to COVID there maybe disruptions to standard operating schedules of particular components of this itinerary. Should a component be effected a substitute will be confirmed prior to departure.

#### **Fitness Requirements**

While the tour itinerary should give you some guidance and overview to the expected requirements, to determine if this tour is right for you we categorise each of our tours in terms of their intensity. These guidelines are to ensure that each tour group is conducted as expected and to ensure the overall satisfaction of all Inspiring Vacations customers.

As a general rule, portorage is not included, therefore at all times you are expected to handle your own luggage where help may not be available.

This particular tour is categorised as a "3".

3 – Moderate Tour: A good level of fitness and mobility is required, as this tour includes a moderate level of physical activity and is considered a medium-fast paced tour. You should be able to walk up and down stairs and able to walk reasonable distances of approximately 2

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kilometres per day or more with ease. Any physical ailments you may have must be disclosed at the time of booking to determine your suitability. If you have any form of walking aids, other than a walking stick or hiking poles, then this tour is not suitable.

### **Accommodation**

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard.

### **Pre and post-trip accommodation**

You can enhance your holiday by arriving or departing before or after the tour, to give you more time in New Zealand

- Pre-trip accommodation (Auckland): \$178 per room per night
- Post-trip accommodation (Wellington): \$172 per room per night

Please specify in the 'Special Request' field when making your purchase your preferred travel arrangements and if you would like our team to book additional nights' accommodation. The additional cost for these land arrangements will be added to your final payment invoice and are subject to availability.

### **Single Supplement**

Single supplement is \$1,286 per person in addition to the twin-share price.

### **Travel Insurance**

Travel insurance is required to protect yourself against the unexpected.

We have partnered with nib to offer our customers competitive rates for their travel insurance. You can book comprehensive or budget cover simply by clicking [HERE](#) to arrange your policy.

### **Tour Documentation**

Final documentation including e-tickets and hotel details, will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

### **Children**

Children must be 5 years or over and share a room with parents at all times. Children are charged the same price as adults.

### **Group Size**

This package is made up of multiple components which will be provided by different operators throughout your trip. As such, group size will differ between operators and can be as intimate as 2 people or

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as lively as up to 60 people, depending on the activity and advertised inclusions. There may be unique cases where your selected travel date exceeds the expected group size for special events or types of activities, particularly during popular times of travel. For packages that include a train or cruise, you will be travelling with other passengers up to the capacity of this component.

When travelling with a group, no matter the size, we ask you to be understanding of the various needs and preferences of your group - patience with your fellow travellers is sometimes required for the benefit of everyone's travel experience.

### **Bedding requests**

We do our best to meet your bedding preference, however, bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only and cannot be guaranteed. All efforts will be made to meet your preference, however, any changes are beyond our control and limited by the hotel facilities and availability.

**Tour Styles** - This package is an Independent style.

To meet the needs of various types of travellers, we choose to operate various types of tours and depending on your selected package will mean different services are provided throughout your trip. The following descriptions of each tour style we hope will ensure that each traveller has appropriate expectations before they start their travels:

- Independent - On these packages you will travel from city to city on your own, exploring at your own pace. We have arranged transportation in most cases and day tours for you to see the destination. Enjoy the time and flexibility to linger longer or pick up the pace and see as much as possible.
- Partially Escorted - A portion of these packages runs as a group tour where you will be escorted by an expert tour leader. Another portion is independent, whether conducted by rail, cruise or land, and you will travel between destinations on your own, with free time to explore at your own pace.
- Fully Escorted - This tour is fully escorted by an expert English-speaking guide who will accompany you throughout the tour.

### **Who is operating this package**

We have partnered with a wide range of third party operators who assist in fulfilling your booking and delivering an enjoyable on-tour experience. Each package will consist of multiple operators meaning both guides and fellow travellers may change day to day. But don't worry, regardless of the operator, you'll be in good hands to experience the most out of each destination.

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### EXCLUSIONS

- International Flights
- Hotel transfers not mentioned in the itinerary
- No meals, unless stated in the itinerary
- Personal expenses
- Optional activities
- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Travel insurance (highly recommended)