

Classic | Northern Highlights Tour

Auckland to Wellington – 6 Days

Northern Highlights is also offered as a Wellington to Auckland tour. See the end of this itinerary for details.

Day 1

Auckland

Welcome to Auckland

Kia Ora!

Welcome to Auckland, New Zealand's City of Sails! Auckland is known for its multicultural hub of food, music, arts, and culture.

After checking into your hotel and reading your welcome letter from your Tour Director, head out and explore all that Auckland has to offer. This is the perfect opportunity to visit the Sky Tower or go shopping along bustling Queen Street. You may even fancy a drink in one of the charming bars or eateries of Vulcan Lane.

Your tour officially begins this evening, as you join your fellow travellers and Tour Director this evening for a welcome reception.

Accommodation

3 - 4 Star Accommodation (1 night)

Meals Included

A welcome drink is included in tonight's reception

Activities

Welcome Reception

Day 2

Auckland to Tongariro National Park

The Northern Explorer Scenic Train

Today, you will marvel at rural New Zealand's lush landscapes from the comfort of your seat aboard the Northern Explorer scenic train. From the green pastures of the Waikato to the icy mountain streams of Ruapehu, you won't want to miss a moment. If you are interested in culture and history, be sure to listen to the audio

commentary as you cross historic viaducts and traverse up the Raurimu Spiral, an engineering marvel. This experience is one like no other.

At the base of this geological wonder is Ohakune, 'the carrot capital of New Zealand', where you'll stay the next two nights to experience your chosen adventure.

Accommodation

3 - 4 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Ohakune)

Meals Included

Breakfast

Activities

Northern Explorer Scenic Train Experience

Mini excursion to view expansive views across the volcanic landscape

Day 3

Tongariro National Park

Discover Tongariro National Park

Today is free for you to discover one of the region's many exciting excursions. Choose from the optional activities on offer and personalise your perfect holiday. Perhaps you will enjoy a hot tub soak, or a meander along the lazy river.

If you're after an active day, why not explore Ohakune's historical cycle trail? Rent e-bikes and discover old viaducts, tunnels, old settlers' camps and reclaimed native forests along the Old Coach Road!

Accommodation

3 - 4 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Ohakune)

Meals Included

Breakfast

Day 4

Tongariro National Park to Wellington

The Northern Explorer Scenic Train

After breakfast, we begin our day by travelling to Mt Ruapehu. You won't want to leave this mini excursion to Middle Earth without a panoramic photo in hand!

Joining the Northern Explorer train once again, you will wave goodbye to this UNESCO World Heritage Site as you settle into your uber-comfortable seat. Don't get too comfortable though; dramatic rivers, gorges, and ravines are just around the bend! Stretch your legs and explore the open-air carriage to acquire the best views from the train.

As you glide through rich green farmland and past a dramatic coastline, indulge in afternoon tea while drinking in the views. All too soon the train will arrive into Wellington leaving the picturesque Porirua Harbour behind you.

Arriving at Wellington Railway Station, you are just a stone's throw from downtown, the Beehive, and Parliament Buildings. Welcome to New Zealand's Capital City! You won't want to waste a moment of time after checking into the hotel - your evening is free to explore this award-winning cultural and culinary capital from Queen's Wharf to Cuba Street and beyond.

Accommodation

3 - 4 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Wellington)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Afternoon tea aboard the train

Activities

Mini excursion to view expansive volcanic views across the North Island
Northern Explorer Scenic Train Experience

Day 5

Wellington

Explore Wellington

The perfect day does exist – and it includes exploring Wellington!

Today is free for you to experience vibrant Wellington as you please. Start by joining an included tour at Te Papa Museum and then head

off to explore Cuba Street's cafés, bookstores, and eccentric shops. Surround yourself by native birdlife and regenerating forest at Zealandia Eco-Sanctuary. You won't get bored with the plethora of activities on offer. From coffee, culture, historic buildings to botanic gardens and much more...the list goes on! If you need any suggestions or recommendations, just reach out to your helpful Tour Director or our Travel Centre to pre-book an experience.

Enjoy a farewell dinner tonight with your fellow travellers and Tour Director.

Accommodation

3 - 4 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Wellington)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Dinner

Activities

Introduction Tour at Te Papa Museum
Farewell Dinner

Day 6

Wellington

Departing Wellington

Your journey will end after enjoying breakfast at your hotel.

Not ready to leave Wellington? Reach out to our Travel Centre to pre-organise your extended stay.

Meals Included

Breakfast

Activities

Transfer to airport

Classic | Northern Highlights Tour

Wellington to Auckland – 6 Days

Northern Highlights is also offered as an Auckland to Wellington tour. See the start of this itinerary for details.

Day 1

Wellington

Explore Wellington

Kia Ora!

Welcome to Wellington – New Zealand’s windy capital! Wellington is known for its world-class dining, great coffee, and eccentric shops.

After checking into your hotel and reading your welcome letter from your Tour Director, head out and explore all that Wellington has to offer. This is the perfect opportunity to get cultured at Te Papa Museum or grab a drink at one of the many quirky bars on Cuba Street. You may even fancy a ride on the cable car!

After an exciting day on the town, your tour will officially begin as you join your fellow travelers and Tour Director at this evening’s welcome reception.

Accommodation

3 - 4 Star Accommodation (1 night)

Meals Included

Dinner

Activities

Welcome Dinner

Day 2

Wellington to Tongariro National Park

The Northern Explorer Scenic Train

Today you’ll be heading north aboard the Northern Explorer Train to explore Tongariro National Park. Sit back and relax while the smooth train travels along the Kāpiti Coast. You won’t want to get too comfortable though; dramatic rivers, gorges and ravines are just around the bend! Stretch your legs and explore the open-air carriage to get the best view of the fantastic scenery.

Upon arrival into the national park, the afternoon is free for you to experience all the outdoor activities Ohakune has to offer.

Accommodation

3 – 4 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Ohakune)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Dinner

Activities

Northern Explorer Scenic Train Experience

Day 3

Tongariro National Park

Discover Tongariro National Park

Today is free for you to discover one of Ohakune's exciting excursions. Choose from the many optional activities on offer and personalise your perfect holiday. Perhaps you will hop aboard a historical rail cart journey or join a horse trekking experience that takes you along expansive hills, mountains, rivers and into the native bush.

If you're after an active day, why not explore Ohakune's historical cycle trail? Rent e-bikes and discover old viaducts, tunnels, old settlers' camps and reclaimed native forests along the Old Coach Road!

Accommodation

3 - 4 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Ohakune)

Meals Included

Breakfast

Day 4

Tongariro National Park to Auckland

The Northern Explorer Scenic Train

After a charming morning exploring the local shops and cafés of Ohakune, you will once again board the Northern Explorer train heading north to Auckland.

Along the way you'll wind down the historic Raurimu Spiral and traverse the Central Plateau with its three iconic volcanic mountains dominating the desert plains of Tongariro National Park. Soar over the icy mountain streams of Ruapehu and traverse into the Waikato, famous for its dairy farming and green pastures.

Accommodation

3 - 4 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Auckland)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Dinner

Activities

Northern Explorer Scenic Train Experience

Day 5

Auckland & Waiheke Island

Island and Winery Hopping

Begin your day with a delightful breakfast at the hotel before embarking on an indulgent day out on Waiheke Island.

Enjoy the freedom of hopping on and off as you please with your included ferry and bus tickets, departing hourly from the Downtown Ferry Terminal. Explore the picturesque Waiheke Island at your leisure, with buses ready to whisk you away to the next scenic spot half-hourly from the island's ferry terminal.

After a day of sipping and sightseeing, choose any return ferry back to Auckland, ensuring you're on time for a memorable farewell dinner with your guide at one of Auckland's renowned restaurants.

Accommodation

3 - 4 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Auckland)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Dinner

Activities

Waiheke Hop on Hop off Wine & Dine
Farewell Dinner

Day 6

Auckland

Departing Auckland

Your journey will end after enjoying a final breakfast with your fellow travellers.

Not ready to leave Auckland? Reach out to our Travel Centre to pre-organise your extended stay.

Meals Included

Breakfast

Activities

Transfer to airport