

- parent travel
- international student tours
- educational group tours

In cooperation with Study Nelson Ltd trading as NZdirect.

North Island Experience Tour: Auckland - Wellington

Duration: 5 days

Start: Auckland, **Finish:** Wellington

Tour Description: Big cities, fun, Maori culture, lakes and great landscapes – this tour includes the best of what the main part of the North Island has to offer.

Day 1 (Saturday): Auckland – Rotorua

In the morning, we pick you up from your accommodation and you meet your tour guide and coach driver. Leaving the biggest city in New Zealand behind, you start your journey heading towards the south today. As you drive through the suburbs of Auckland, the landscape changes to evergreen, extensive farmland. The Waikato River accompanies you on your way, where you cross the wine region Te Kauwhata and the old coal mining town Huntly. After a coffee break in one of the cosy cafes in Hamilton, your journey continues. An optional stop on the way is Matamata where the “Lord of the Rings” film set is located and “Hobbiton” can be discovered. The landscape starts to get rougher as you drive further south. This is because the North Island was actually created on volcanoes that are still active. Once we arrive in Rotorua - our first overnight stop - we check in to the accommodation and have a group dinner.

Extra activity option in Matamata:

Hobbiton Movie Set & Farm Tour - \$75

Day 2 (Sunday): Rotorua

We spend the whole second day in Rotorua, known as the thermal wonderland of New Zealand. We start the day with a guided walking tour around the city after breakfast. Rotorua’s hot springs and geysers have attracted people for over a hundred years. The town lies on the shores of Lake Rotorua and is built on a geothermal hot spot. There are numerous natural vents, hot pools and other geothermal features in and around the city. But Rotorua is also known as the adventure capital of the North Island: White Water Rafting, Skydiving, ZORBING and more. Rotorua offers something for every taste. In the afternoon, you have some free time which you can use to take part in one of the optional activities or visit the hot pools. In the evening we have the opportunity to find out more about New Zealand’s indigenous people, the Maori, while visiting a traditional Pa (Maori village) and learning about their history and culture. Traditions such as the Powhiri (formal welcome), the Haka (war dance) and a delicious Hangi (traditionally earth-cooked Maori feast) turns this evening into an unforgettable experience.

Extra activity options in Rotorua:

White Water Rafting - NZ\$105 (14+ yrs)

Wai – O – Tapu Valley - NZ\$69 (15yrs & over), NZ\$35 (up to 14yrs)

ZORB Rotorua – NZ\$45

Day 3 (Monday): Rotorua – Taupo – Wellington

After having a nice breakfast we continue our journey towards the south, where New Zealand’s capital awaits us! After a spectacular drive along Lake Taupo we arrive at the town of Taupo, where adventures in or on the water, on land or in the air, a welcoming hospitality with lots of restaurants, bars and cafes await you. We stop at the famous Huka-waterfalls where you can take pictures or participate in an optional jet boat tour before the journey continues. Soon you are going to spot the volcanoes Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and Tongariro. If the weather conditions allow it, the State Highway 1 leads you straight through the Tongariro National Park. After passing the town "Bulls", you drive along the west coast and can start to get used to the wind and waves which Wellington is know for. Nestled in between a beautiful harbour and forested hills, Wellington is home to galleries, museums, great shopping districts, a superb café and restaurant culture - and great nightlife. It is compact and easy to get round on foot and combines the sophistication of an international city with stunning wildlife and nature attractions on its doorstep. After our arrival, we check in to our hostel and then meet again to have a group dinner.

Day 4 (Tuesday): Wellington

Today, we spend the day in Wellington and you can experience many attractions and activities the city has to offer.

Wellington is often referred to as the “coolest little capital in the world” - rated as such by Lonely Planet Travel Guides. We start the day with a guided tour through the city centre, the waterfront. We also take the famous red cable car up to the Botanical Gardens from where you can enjoy beautiful views over the city. After you grabbed lunch in one of the numerous cafes or restaurants that serve yummy food from all over the world, you visit Te Papa museum in the afternoon. Te Papa is New Zealand's bold and innovative national museum and a recognized world leader in interactive and visitor-focused museum experiences. New Zealand's geology and natural environment and the stories of New Zealand's indigenous people, the Māori, are celebrated in Te Papa's permanent exhibitions. An exciting range of exhibitions display New Zealand's diverse art and visual culture. After the visit of the Museum, you have some free time to go souvenir shopping, take a stroll along the harbour, visit the Weta Caves or discover interesting little boutiques and cafes in Cuba Street, or great fashion shops on Lampton Quay. Moreover, you can choose to participate in one of the optional activities. In the evening, we get together again and enjoy a farewell dinner as, sadly, this is our last night of the tour.

Extra activity options in Wellington:

Wellington Movie Tour incl. Lord of the Rings – (half day) – NZ\$45

Harbour sailing trip – NZ\$40

Inline Skating – NZ\$20

Day 5 (Wednesday): Wellington – Home

Sadly, today is your last day. After breakfast, the tour guide takes you to the airport from where you fly out to your home destination.

Tour costs:

The following prices are dependent on group size and are subject to availability at the time of the booking.

NZ\$ 895 per student with a group size of **20-28 students** + 1 teacher

NZ\$1,090 per student with a group size of **13-19 students** + 1 teacher

NZ\$1,495 per student with a group size of **8-12 students** + 1 teacher

What's included in tour cost?

- Experienced tour guide (English speaking)
- All transport during the tour
- Comfortable accommodation at hostels/backpackers (students in 4- or 6-bed dorms, teacher in private room)
- Tour costs for the 1st teacher/chaperone
- 4x breakfast and 4 x dinner
- Visit Huka Falls in Taupo
- City tour Rotorua
- Unique Tamaki Maori Cultural evening, incl. Hangi
- City tour Wellington incl. cable car ride
- Visit Te Papa, New Zealand's national museum
- Airport transfer in Wellington

Additional costs:

The following costs are not included in the tour costs:

- Costs for optional activities
- Lunch
- Pocket money
- Costs for transport to/from tour start

Additional teacher/chaperone:

If the group wants to bring along a 2nd teacher/chaperone, the additional cost will amount to NZ\$795.