Away We Go Tours - DO NOT USE
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www.awaywegotours.com.au

Northern Family Fun Break

Create lifelong memories on a journey designed for the whole family. From the white sands of the Coromandel to the movie-set magic of Hobbiton, this loop balances high-energy adventure with relaxed coastal vibes. From digging your own spa at Hot Water Beach to meeting kiwi birds and exploring the real-life Middle-earth, we've packed in the icons that kids (and parents) love.

Starts in:	Auckland
Finishes in:	Auckland
Length:	12days / 11nights
Accommodation:	Motels
Can be customised:	Yes

This itinerary can be customised to suit you perfectly. We can add more days, remove days, change accommodations, mix it up, add activities to suit your interests or simply design and create something from scratch. Call us today to get your custom New Zealand itinerary underway.

Inclusions:

Includes: Late model rental cars

Includes: Fully inclusive rental car insurance (excess may apply)

Includes: Unlimited kms

Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring

Included activity: The Visitor Promise - Cultural Learning Course

Included activity: Electronic Travel Guide and In-Country Support App

Included activity: Private Transfer Auckland Airport to your Auckland Accommodation with Tourcorp

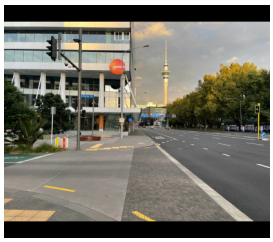
Included activity: Agrodome Farm Show and Farm Tour Combo

Included activity: Daytime Treewalk & Glowworm Combo with Redwoods

Included activity: Hobbiton Movie Set Signature Tour from Shires Rest

plus much more...

Day 1



Welcome to Auckland

Welcome to Auckland, known in Māori as Tāmaki Makaurau. Auckland is New Zealand's vibrant "City of Sails," and the country's largest metropolitan area. Nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the Tasman Sea. Surrounded by native bush, lush rainforests, and pristine beaches, Auckland is a haven for both adventurers and urban explorers. Wander through world-class museums and galleries in the city centre or enjoy a peaceful retreat at the Auckland Gardens, where stunning landscapes showcase New Zealand's diverse flora. Stroll along the lively waterfront to savour fresh seafood and international cuisine at Viaduct restaurants. For an unforgettable perspective, ascend the iconic SkyTower, New Zealand's tallest structure, and take in panoramic views of the city and its picturesque islands.

Private Transfer Auckland Airport to your Auckland Accommodation with Tourcorp

You will be met at the Auckland airport by your private driver and be transferred to your Auckland accommodation.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - All Blacks Experience

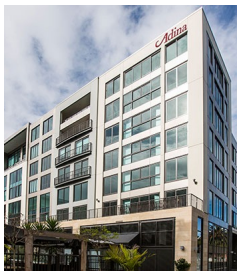
See what it takes to make, shape and be an All Black. Experience first-hand the excitement and emotion of game day. Discover the stories behind some of world rugby’s most famous players, moments, and matches.
This guided experience introduces you to the game of rugby including state-of-the-art displays combining sound, images, interactive technology, and hands-on activities. Discover New Zealand’s deep passion for our national sport, experience the full force of the All Blacks haka, and tackle interactive zones where you can try out your kicking, catching, line-out, and accuracy skills against legendary All Blacks.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Auckland Sky Tower Admission

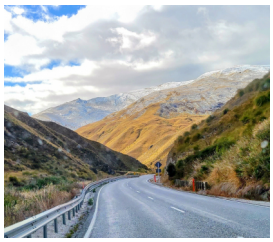
Standing at 328 meters (just over 1000 feet) - the Sky Tower is the tallest man-made structure in New Zealand and offers panoramic views of the Auckland landscape. Travel in the glass-fronted lift to one of three spectacular viewing platforms, or for a little more excitement do a SkyWalk - an outside loop around the pergola 192 meters (just over 600 feet) above ground. If you're really bold, Take the quick way down and SkyJump off the tower - a controlled free fall to the base.
Inside, the Sky Lounge offers coffee and light meals while the iconic Orbit Restaurant is Auckland's only 360-degree revolving dining experience.

Your accommodation: Adina Apartment Hotel Auckland Britomart

Adina Apartment Hotel Auckland, Britomart is only minutes away from Queen's Wharf harbour in the heart of Auckland's CBD. Offering stylish, modern studio rooms and apartments, ideal for families, modern explorers or business travellers.



Day 2



Collect Rental Car

This tour's from price includes an intermediate-sized vehicle, setting you up for comfortable travels. Yet, we understand every adventure is unique! Feel free to select the perfect wheels from our incredible collection of rental cars, spanning from economy hatchbacks to premium SUVs.

Auckland to Snells Beach

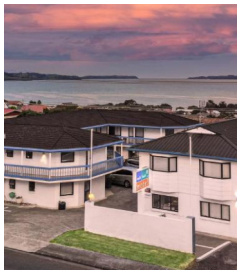
Heading north to Snells Beach normally takes around 1 hour but plan to take it slowly to make the most of this scenic drive. Leaving Auckland yoo head up Johnstones Hill and through the Puhoi Tunnel. The township of Puhoi is located on the north side of the Tunnel, and is New Zealand’s only Bohemian settlement is a perfect place to stop for lunch, the fascinating Puhoi Pub is worth a visit. Leaving State Highway 1 at Warkworth, you head through rolling countryside to the coast and Snells Beach.

Snells Beach

Tucked away on the stunning Matakana Coast, just an hour's drive north of Auckland, Snells Beach is the quintessential Kiwi seaside escape. This long, sandy beach offers a peaceful and family-friendly environment with gentle, clear waters perfect for swimming, paddleboarding, and kayaking
Start at the vibrant Matakana Village Farmers Market (Saturdays) for local treats before beach-hopping from the calm sands of Snells to the surf at Tāwharanui. Explore the underwater world at Goat Island Marine Reserve, wander the Brick Bay Vineyards and Sculpture Trail, and reward the family with a visit to Charlie’s Gelato. It’s the perfect blend of boutique vineyards, artisanal food, and pristine coastline.

Your accommodation: Snells Beach Motel

Snells Beach Motel is perfectly situated, on the Mahurangi East Peninsula, overlooking the beautiful Kawau Bay and in the heart of the wonderful Matakana Coast Wine Country area.



Day 3

Snells Beach to Paihia, Bay of Islands

Continue north through Whangarei making time for a detour to the basin and harbourside region. The township of Kawakawa is also worth a short detour to see the public toilets designed by the famous Austrian Artist Hundertwasser. Also for train buffs a ride on Gabriel, a restored steam locomotive, might be a possibility. Arriving into the sub tropical Bay of Islands you are greeted with bush clad hillsides dropping to golden sand beaches. Paihia is the main tourist centre in the bay and has a great beach side atmosphere.

Welcome to Paihia

Welcome to Paihia, the vibrant heart of the Bay of Islands. Nestled along a sparkling waterfront, this seaside village serves as your gateway to a maritime playground of 144 islands. Whether you are strolling along the golden sands of the main beach, exploring the boutique shops and local eateries, or simply soaking in the subtropical salt air, you’ll find Paihia to be the perfect blend of historic charm and coastal relaxation.

Your accommodation: Sea Spray Suites

Sea Spray Suites offers comfortable and relaxing accommodation close to Paihia’s best activities and attractions. Directly across the road is the beautiful Te Ti Beach, exploring Paihia’s beautiful waters and wildlife is only a short step away. If you are interested in experiencing New Zealand’s heritage, The Waitangi Treaty House is only 1km away.

Day 4

Explore Bay of Islands

Commonly known as the ‘winterless north’ New Zealand’s Bay of Islands is made up of over 140 subtropical atolls. Renowned for its untouched beaches, abundant marine life, and idyllic climate, this tropical paradise ticks all the boxes. Spend some time on a remote stretch of beach, or see the dolphins on an ocean safari. If diving is your thing, take the morning to descend the Rainbow Warrior - The Greenpeace flagship sunk by French saboteurs in 1985. Wander around Russell, a whaling port founded in 1843. Learn about our culture in historic Waitangi, the site where The Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840 between the Māori and Europeans. Alternatively, you may like to take a day tour to Cape Reinga, the very top of the North Island.

Hole in the Rock Cruise with Fullers

Board your cruise and take in the stunning views as you glide out through the islands and along the Rakaumangamanga Peninsula to Cape Brett, where a historic lighthouse keeps watch over and Piercy Island/Motukōkako, or as it is popularly known as the Hole in the Rock. 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. Keep an eye out for common and bottlenose dolphins, whales, and other marine life during your cruise, and have your camera ready as you get up close to the action. Stop off at Otehei Bay on Urupukapuka Island where you have time to relax, take a walk, have a swim, or enjoy a bite to eat and drink from the on-site fully licensed café.

Waitangi Treaty Grounds Guided Tour and Cultural Performance

Waitangi is one of New Zealand's most historic sites where the Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840 between the Māori and the British Government. This two day pass allows you access to the Treaty of Waitangi Grounds and includes admission to the Te Kōngahu Museum and Te Rau Aroha Museum and a Maori Cultural performance. During your guided tour, learn about the history of the treaty and discover the stories and events that shaped New Zealand. The cultural performance inside the carved meeting house includes waiata (singing), poi and the haka - a war dance Aotearoa-New Zealand is well known for.

Your accommodation: Sea Spray Suites

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Day 5

Paihia, Bay of Islands to Auckland

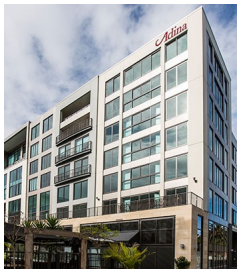
Today leave the Bay of Islands behind as you head south towards Auckland, City of Sails. You'll go through Kawakawa, famous for its unique Hundertwasser toilets, before passing the port-side town of Whangarei. Continue on through Warkworth and take a side trip to Matakana, renowned for its beaches and boutique vineyards. As you near the outskirts of Auckland, stop for a breather in Puhoi, New Zealand's only Bohemian settlement, before passing through the North Shore and into the heart of Auckland City.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Auckland War Memorial Museum - General Admission

The Auckland War Memorial Museum, perched atop the scenic Auckland Domain, is a must-visit for international tourists. This iconic neo-classical building houses a vast array of exhibits that tell the story of New Zealand’s history, culture, and natural heritage. Visitors can explore Maori and Pacific artifacts, including intricately carved meeting houses and traditional canoes. The immersive Volcanoes gallery offers a thrilling simulation of a volcanic eruption, while the natural history section showcases unique local wildlife, such as the kiwi bird. The museum also honors New Zealand’s military history with extensive exhibits and a poignant War Memorial. Interactive displays, regular events, and cultural performances, including a daily Maori cultural show, ensure an engaging and enriching experience for all ages. A visit to the Auckland War Memorial Museum offers a deep dive into New Zealand's past and present, making it an essential stop for any traveler.

Your accommodation: Adina Apartment Hotel Auckland Britomart

Adina Apartment Hotel Auckland, Britomart is only minutes away from Queen's Wharf harbour in the heart of Auckland's CBD. Offering stylish, modern studio rooms and apartments, ideal for families, modern explorers or business travellers.



Day 6

Auckland to Hahei

Head south along the Hibiscus Coast and through New Zealand's largest city on State Highway 1. Once you leave the Auckland City boundaries the landscape changes to rolling lush farmland. The fertile Hauraki Plains are one of New Zealand's largest dairy producing regions. The Thames Estuary is a haven for wildlife in particular shore birds and a short detour to Miranda (well sign posted) is worthwhile to see the large flocks of godwits and oyster catchers. Arriving into the old gold town of Thames you continue straight over the Coromandel Ranges on highway 25A and will be delivered to the glorious east coast and the township of Tairua in around 45 minutes. Continue a little further north to Hahei, Cathedral Cove and Hot Water Beach.

Hot Water Beach

Famous for its naturally heated geothermal springs, Hot Water Beach offers a unique experience where you can dig your own spa pool in the sand at low tide and relax in the warm waters with stunning coastal views. With its golden sands, powerful surf, and peaceful atmosphere, it's the perfect blend of relaxation and adventure.

Your accommodation: The Church Hahei

The Church is nestled in 1.5 acres of Native Bush and gardens with all cottages landscaped for their individual peace and privacy with a range of unique self-catering accommodation options.

Day 7

Glass Bottom Boat Cathedral Cove Cruise

Explore the spectacular coastline of Te Whanganui-a-hei Marine Reserve, including its most famous feature the hidden paradise of Cathedral Cove. On board you'll peer through the glass bottom of the boat enjoying amazing views of the diverse marine life that inhabit the reserve. You can also snorkel the reserve if you want an even closer encounter. The Te Whanganui-A-Hei is the only marine reserve in the Coromandel and is rich with marine life. There are many different species of fish to be seen including schools of snapper, blue moamoa, red moki, parore, blue cod, trigger fish, wrasses and more. Watch as the fish swim right past the glass as if you had your own personal aquarium. Keep your eyes peeled for other marine life such as sting rays, octopus, crayfish, moray eels, dolphins and other marine creatures you may find on the tour.

Your accommodation: The Church Hahei

The Church is nestled in 1.5 acres of Native Bush and gardens with all cottages landscaped for their individual peace and privacy with a range of unique self-catering accommodation options.

Day 8

Hahei to Rotorua

Heading south from the Coromandel Peninsula you pass through the seaside town of Whangamata. A popular location for Kiwi holidaymakers the town boasts one of the best beaches in the region. The old mining town of Waihi still has an operating open cast gold mine and you can view the workings of the Martha Mine from a vantage point signposted from the town centre. For rail enthusiasts the Goldfields Railway operates passenger trains along a scenic and historic section of track towards Waikino.
The route now takes you into the Bay of Plenty and the port town of Tauranga before you head along the scenic Pyes Pa Road to Rotorua. For Lord of the Rings fans a detour to Matamata is recommended as this is the location of Hobbiton. Arriving into Rotorua from the north you are welcomed with some great views of the lake.

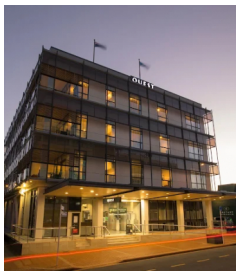
Rotorua

Discover the geothermal, adventure, and cultural wonderland of Rotorua. As you explore, you may see steam rising from cracks in the road, bubbling and hissing water in pools along the lake's edge, and the unmistakable smell of Sulfur. Rotorua is rich in Māori culture and history, with many Māori inhabitants recognising the great potential of the volcanic land. For an outdoor adventure, head to The Redwoods and experience the rainforest treetops from high up. There are a few accessible trails for disabled hikers and great biking trails as well. If you’re lucky, you might spot some of New Zealand's native birds, such as the Pīwakawaka (Fantail) and the Tūī. Alternatively, enjoy the Lake Tikitapu Blue Lake Walk or explore Kuirau Park, where you'll find bubbling mud pools and steaming lakes. Don't miss the private thermal reserves such as Te Puia and Wai-O-Tapu, where you can walk among bubbling mud pools, spouting geysers, and Sulfur ponds. Just a few minutes from the town centre, the Agrodome and National Kiwi Hatchery offer an insight into nature. Rotorua's rich Māori culture is a must-see. Spend an evening with Te Pā Tū, complete with a traditional-style dinner or stroll along the lake edge to reach one of the country's oldest Māori villages at Ohinemutu. When hunger strikes, visit Eat Street in Rotorua CBD, a vibrant street lined with delicious eateries and restaurants to satisfy any craving. No visit to Rotorua would be complete without experiencing Rotorua's original tourist attraction - a relaxing spa treatment. This town boasts an array of wellness experiences to unwind in. Whether you are seeking adventure, culture, or relaxation, Rotorua offers an unforgettable experience.

Te Pō - Indigenous Evening Experience

Indulge in Te Puia's world-famous hāngī buffet dinner, served in the inviting atmosphere of Pātaka Kai Restaurant, Bar & Café. The menu, crafted with the freshest ingredients, offers a delightful array of traditional Māori cuisine, This banquet combines contemporary cuisine with a traditional hāngī (earth-cooked oven meal). The evening's cultural performance will take place in an exquisitely carved meeting house, Te Aronui a Rua. Here, you'll experience a rich showcase of Māori traditions, beginning with a pōhiri (traditional welcome), followed by the melodious harmonies of waiata (song), the powerful rhythms of mōteatea (traditional chant), the graceful artistry of poi, and the intense energy of the haka. As the night draws to a close, savor hot chocolate heated in geothermal water and steamed pudding while basking in the enchanting ambiance of the geyser terrace. Bathed in colored light and surrounded by the mystical steam rising from the earth, this unforgettable evening at Te Puia is a feast for the senses and a celebration of Māori culture.

Your accommodation: Quest Rotorua Central



Located in the heart of Rotorua, just a stone’s throw from the restaurant and shopping precinct. Purpose built in 2012, all apartments are equipped with modern fixtures, full cooking and laundry facilities that make Quest Rotorua Central your perfect home away from home.

Meals included: Speciality Dinner

Day 9

National Kiwi Hatchery Experience

The National Kiwi Hatchery Experience is a special opportunity to gain insight into and view this highly regarded conservation centre. Developed with the visitor experience in mind, the hatchery boasts special viewing opportunities and is hosted by kiwi expert guides who ensure guests leave fully informed and all questions answered. Learn all about New Zealand’s intriguing national icon and the efforts of the kiwi husbandry team, see and discover what it takes to hatch and rare chicks, and if you’re lucky see baby chicks in person!

Skyline Gondola Rotorua and 3 Luge Rides

Take the Skyline Scenic Gondola ride up the side of the dormant volcano Mount Ngongotaha (487 metres above sea level) where you can experience spectacular views of the city and lake. At the top, you will find the INZPIRED Store, the Jelly Belly Store, and the Market Kitchen or Stratosfare Restaurant. As well as the famous Luge, here you can hurtle down a choice of 3 purpose built tracks.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Polynesian Spa Family Pools

The Family Pools at Polynesian Spa offers plenty of fun for the little ones as well as two hot mineral pools for the grownups to relax in. The large pool provides a toddler's section and a small hydro slide gently heated to 33˚C for kid-friendly fun. The deeper section of the pool allows space for the family to play and kids to swim off excess energy. The two hot mineral pools are set at a pleasant 37˚C and 40˚C and overlook the large family pool. The family spa is patrolled by lifeguards at all times for the safety of everyone.

Eat Street - suggested activity

Stroll through the vibrant, neon-lit atmosphere of Eat Streat to enjoy the geothermal warmth of the heated footpaths and frequent live music. Afterward, take a two-minute walk to the end of the street to explore the Rotorua Lakefront boardwalk, where you can enjoy stunning sunset views over the water and a massive modern playground for free.

Your accommodation: Quest Rotorua Central

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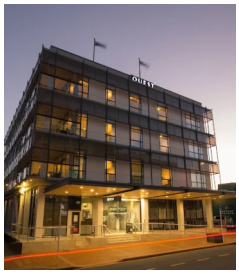

Day 10

Agrodome Farm Show and Farm Tour Combo

Set on a 350-acre working sheep and cattle farm with 1200 sheep and 120 beef cattle, the Agrodome gives its visitors a hands-on, live farming experience. The Farm Show stars a cast of talented animals – not just sheep! The remarkable farm dogs will amaze you, as they demonstrate their ability to respond to commands and keep those sheep (and ducks!) in line. Then pop across to the herding area to watch a free live dog trial after the show! Explore the farm and learn the history of New Zealand agriculture on custom designed farm trailers. Along the way, there are fascinating things to learn and a few laughs too! You’ll get to hand-feed and take photos with all sorts of friendly animals, including Romney sheep, cattle, deer, llamas, ostrich, pigs and alpacas. Explore the fruit orchard and olive grove and have the chance to taste natural kiwifruit juice and delicious sweet honey that comes from the farm.

Daytime Treewalk & Glowworm Combo with Redwoods

Redwoods Treewalk is one of New Zealand's top design-led tourism experiences, floating between 9 and 20 metres above the forest floor, this core eco-tourism walk is 700 metres long, spans across 28 suspension bridges and 27 platforms, and takes about 40 minutes to complete. Designed for use without harnesses or protective gear, it is suitable for all ages. The only pre-requisite is that all users must be able to walk the entire 553-metres.Then descend into a 70-metre eco-cave to witness the magic of over 2,500 native glowworms illuminating rock formations and a reflective water feature. The combined experience offers a total immersion into the forest's nocturnal beauty, both high in the canopy and deep within the earth.

Your accommodation: Quest Rotorua Central

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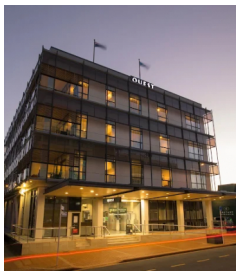

Day 11

Rotorua to Matamata

Leave the steaming vents and boiling pools of the geothermal region behind as you make your way through the lush dairy pastures of the Waikato. Take in the emerald green landscapes most famous for their role in the Lord of the Rings and Hobbit films. Arrive into the small town of Matamata, for a visit to the fully intact set of Hobbiton.

Hobbiton Movie Set Signature Tour from Shires Rest

In the heart of New Zealand, you can step into the lush pastures of the Shire with a guided tour of Hobbiton, as featured in The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit Trilogies. Hobbiton is located just outside of Matamata in the heart of the lush Waikato farming region. Here you can visit such iconic Hobbit locations as Hobbit Holes, the Green Dragon Inn, the Mill and the Party Tree with a guide sharing behind-the-scenes tales and insight into the making of the films. Spend time wandering through Bagshot Row before being led inside a Hobbit Hole to view the detailed interior, designed to provide an authentic glimpse into the dwelling of a Hobbit.

Matamata to Auckland

Your drive continues north west crossing the dairy country of the Hauraki Plains before arriving at State Highway 1. The Bombay Hills guide you to Auckland City.

Your accommodation: Adina Apartment Hotel Auckland Britomart

Adina Apartment Hotel Auckland, Britomart is only minutes away from Queen's Wharf harbour in the heart of Auckland's CBD. Offering stylish, modern studio rooms and apartments, ideal for families, modern explorers or business travellers.

Day 12

Depart Auckland today

Explore more of vibrant Auckland city before dropping your rental car at the airport depot and continuing your onward journey.

Farewell from Aotearoa / New Zealand

Bid farewell to Aotearoa / New Zealand, taking with you unforgettable memories of its breathtaking landscapes and incredible adventures. In Māori, it is said mā te wā, which is not goodbye, it is see you soon!

Tour details

Departures:	Daily
Tour type:	North Island Self Drive
Starts:	Auckland
Finishes:	Auckland
Tour length:	12
Accomodation:	Motels
Car/transport type:	

Accommodation summary

Day 1	Adina Apartment Hotel Auckland Britomart
Day 2	Snells Beach Motel
Day 3	Sea Spray Suites
Day 4	Sea Spray Suites
Day 5	Adina Apartment Hotel Auckland Britomart
Day 6	The Church Hahei
Day 7	The Church Hahei
Day 8	Quest Rotorua Central
Day 9	Quest Rotorua Central
Day 10	Quest Rotorua Central
Day 11	Adina Apartment Hotel Auckland Britomart