



big adventure small prices

HOT ROCKS

9 or 10 Days

(with options to take extended breaks)

Tour price – NZ \$1,995

includes transport, most meals
shared tent accommodation,
Wai-o-Tapu Thermal Wonderland,
& much more...

Enjoy the heat of the thermal North

on this amazing loop of the North Island from Auckland or Wellington

© all photos taken by Flying Kiwi passengers



"The only NZ operator top rated in National Geographic's Best Adventure Travel Companies on Earth and the World Travel Awards."

This itinerary shows a 10-day trip starting from Auckland and heading south first. You can also start your loop in Auckland heading north first (9 days – starting day 7) or Wellington (10 days – starting day 5).

DAY 1: AUCKLAND – HOT WATER BEACH

Leaving Auckland at 10am we travel to the Coromandel, renowned for its natural beauty, misty rainforests and pristine white, sandy beaches. Marvel at the views on a beautiful coastal walk or take in the coastline from the water by kayak. Visit the unique and famous Hot Water Beach to dig, then relax, in your own thermal pool! Soak up the breath-taking scenery and cameras ready for spectacular sunsets at our beachside camp.

- walks: stunning coastal walk with views over the Pacific
- bike rides: scenic road cycling options
- activities (own cost): sea kayaking around hidden bays
- cabin upgrades: basic single from \$72, basic double from \$27pp
- meals: dinner

DAY 2: HOT WATER BEACH - ROTORUA

The morning is filled with activity as we make our way south into the thermal wonderland of Rotorua. On the way, those visiting Hobbiton leave us in Matamata as we continue to the cultural and geological heart of the North Island and the perfect place to experience and learn about Maori culture and the dramatic natural thermals, Rotorua. There is plenty of action to choose from such as Zip Lining, OGO and the Luge or go biking in the Whakarewarewa forest. We recommend finishing your day with a Maori cultural experience at the Tamaki Maori Village, there really is something for everyone!

- walks: stroll through towering, ancient forests & unique thermal landscapes
- bike rides: great off-road trail rides
- activities (own cost): Hobbiton, Tamaki Maori Village, OGO, Luge, hot pools, Zipline canopy tour
- cabin upgrades: basic single from \$50, basic double from \$18pp
- meals: breakfast & lunch

DAY 3: ROTORUA - TURANGI

Enjoy a relaxed start to the day before we check out the geysers & mud pools at Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland. First, we visit the Lady Knox Geyser before exploring one of New Zealand's most extensive geothermal networks, a unique landscape with colourful sulphur lakes and diverse volcanic vistas. We then take time to explore the impressive Huka Falls before arriving into Taupo, considered the North Island's adrenalin capital. Test your fear of heights on the giant swing, bungy or go skydiving, the scenery is well worth it! We finish the day with a beautiful drive around the edge of Lake Taupo on our way into camp at Turangi.

- walks: walks of various distances past dramatic waterfalls and around Lake Taupo
- bike rides: ride through the Redwood Forest, take the Lion's Track cycle path around the lake
- activities (own cost): skydive, bungy, giant swing, Wai-O-Tapu (free – this one is on us ☺)
- cabin upgrades: basic single from \$38, basic double from \$11pp
- meals: breakfast & dinner

DAY 4: TURANGI - PAEKAKARIKI

Today you have the chance to experience the Tongariro Alpine Crossing - considered NZ's best day hike, offering a remarkable journey across volcanic landscapes. Lava flows, emerald-coloured lakes, magnificent views and steaming vents combine to make this an unforgettable hike. For those who aren't keen on hiking you can enjoy short local walks or cycle the Tongariro river track. After the hike, we make our way south and stay on the Kapiti coast in a quiet little place called Paekakariki.

- walks: Tongariro Alpine Crossing, Tongariro river track
- bike rides: Tongariro river track
- activities (own cost): Tongariro Alpine Crossing, white water rafting (grade 3 rapids)
- cabin upgrades: basic single from \$60, basic double from \$25pp
- meals: breakfast, lunch & dinner

Departs:

From anywhere on the loop + you can take extended breaks anywhere along the way. Trips lasts 10 days if starting from Auckland heading south first (day 1) & Wellington (day 5) or 9 days if starting north from Auckland first (day 7).

Finishes:

Wherever you started the loop but contact us if it doesn't quite fit - we are flexible!

Groups:

Average around 18 per trip, max group size 26. You will be well looked after with 2 great guides on every trip

Fitness Level:

Suitable for all levels

Accommodation:

Camping in a carefully chosen selection of commercial sites. You can upgrade to a cabin or private room for a small fee (subject to availability)

If starting your tour from Wellington (day 5) there is one night spent in an Auckland hostel (day 6 of this itinerary) that is at an additional cost. Payment is made direct to the hostel on check-in.

Food:

We enjoy good food and supply tasty & healthy meals suitable for all diets + hot drinks - details on itinerary

Included:

All travel, shared tent accommodation (2 people per tent), Wai-O-Tapu geothermal wonderland, Tongariro Crossing (transfer payable), side trips to remote areas & walking tracks, use of sports equipment on board, 8 x breakfasts, 3 x lunches, 7 x dinners more (see website for details)

Activities:

Bikes are available to hire by the section or for the entire trip. We enjoy great, free walks most days (the only payable one is transfer fee to the start of the Tongariro Crossing). Optional activities listed are not included but we do get some great group discounts + there are always free alternatives.

Tour price & optional upgrades:

Hot Rocks tour 2018.19	\$1995
Cycle hire for entire trip	\$210
Bring your own bike	\$65
Single tent upgrade	\$90
Sleeping bag hire	\$50

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Due to the nature of our trips itinerary details are subject to change to meet the needs of an individual group, adapt for weather etc. Full terms and conditions can be found at <https://flyingkiwi.com/other-bits-and-pieces/terms-and-conditions.html>

DAY 5: PAEKAKARIKI - WELLINGTON – NEW PLYMOUTH

After a short journey to Wellington arriving there by 9am you will have a couple of hours to check out the sights of New Zealand's beautiful capital city. Departing at 11am, travel up the scenic Kapiti Coast towards the Taranaki region – home to wonderful beaches, crashing waves and the spectacular Mount Taranaki, one of the most symmetrical volcanic cones in the world. Our campsite is beside the Taranaki coastline offering a short scenic walk or cycle to camp at the end of the day.

walks: the coastal walkway to camp
bike rides: the coastal walkway, easy path cycling to camp
cabin upgrades: basic single from \$63, basic double from \$23pp - (limited rooms available!)
meals: breakfast & dinner



DAY 6: NEW PLYMOUTH - AUCKLAND

We depart early towards the limestone wonderland of Waitomo Caves, home to an endemic species of glow-worms that inhabit the vast cave systems. Black water rafting (optional) is a unique way to experience the caves as you float through the underground maze with the radiant light of the glow-worms to lead the way. We take time to enjoy a picnic lunch before heading to "the city of sails", New Zealand's largest city for a taste of big city life "kiwi style" and a great chance to join your group for a taste of the harbour bars and restaurants. Camping isn't feasible in the heart of the country's largest city so we will be staying in a great hostel giving you the best access to explore the city. This is payable locally and we have dorm beds reserved for everyone on board.

walks: farmland walk or cave walk through limestone formations
bike rides: 7km – 22km road options
activities (own cost): blackwater rafting, glow-worm cave tour
hostel (own cost): dorm bed (shared room) from \$39pp, basic single from \$72, basic double room from \$85
meals: breakfast & lunch



DAY 7: AUCKLAND – PAIHIA

Leaving Auckland at 10am we head to the "winterless north" and the pristine beaches of the Bay of Islands. We stop at the incredible Uretiti beach for a swim and a walk along the sand. Grab a rugby ball and frisbee off the bus and brush up on your passing skills at this picturesque beach spot. On arrival into Paihia, the gateway town to the Bay of Islands, choose from the Mangrove walk or a beautiful cycle to the thundering Haruru waterfall.

walks: mangrove walk to Haruru Falls - highly recommended
bike rides: Twin Coast Trail – 16km trail ride
activities (own cost): Waitangi Treaty House (Maori culture), twilight kayak
cabin upgrades: basic single from \$45, basic double from \$20pp - (limited rooms available!)
meals: dinner



DAY 8: PAIHIA

Experience a full day exploring the Bay of Islands and its turquoise waters. This subtropical region is the perfect playground for water lovers and a great place to soak up the sunshine. With a staggering 144 islands, the Bay of Islands offers diving, sailing, swimming and fishing along with some excellent walks in the native forests leading to quiet beaches and special views. This region is also home to some of the oldest European settlement in New Zealand and many historic buildings.

walks: scenic viewpoint or coastal walkway
bike rides: road cycling or Waitangi forest trail of varying lengths
activities (own cost): sailing, fishing, diving, dolphin swimming, kayaking, parasailing, Maori Culture
cabin upgrades: basic single from \$50, basic double from \$20pp - (limited rooms available!)
meals: breakfast & dinner



DAY 9: PAIHIA - OREWA

There is a day full of adventure ahead as we travel to the rugged and soulful West Coast. Our first stop comes with a chance to try your skills sand boarding or if you don't fancy heading down the sandy slopes there's a nice coastal walk. Then it's back on board as we head south towards the Waipoua Forest, travelling through the largest remaining tract of native kauri forests in northland. We leave the West Coast and cross back over to the East towards our final destination and camp for tonight, Orewa. Home to one of the Auckland regions longest and safest beaches it's a great place for a stroll and a swim, or relax at the local hot pools.

hikes: coastal walk to Omapere, walk amongst the Kauri trees of the Waipoua forest
bike rides: 32km road cycling, Twin Coast Cycle Way, Te Ara Tahuna Estuary Cycleway
activities (own cost): sand boarding, hot pools & slides
cabin upgrades: basic single from \$50, basic double from \$25pp - (limited rooms available!)
meals: breakfast & dinner



DAY 10: OREWA - AUCKLAND

Orewa is often blessed with a beautiful sunrise over the sea which is well worth the early start to check it out. Leaving early from camp we travel the short distance to Auckland arriving there by 9:30am where it's time to say our final farewells.

bike rides: 8km – Te Ara Tahuna Estuary Cycleway
meals: breakfast



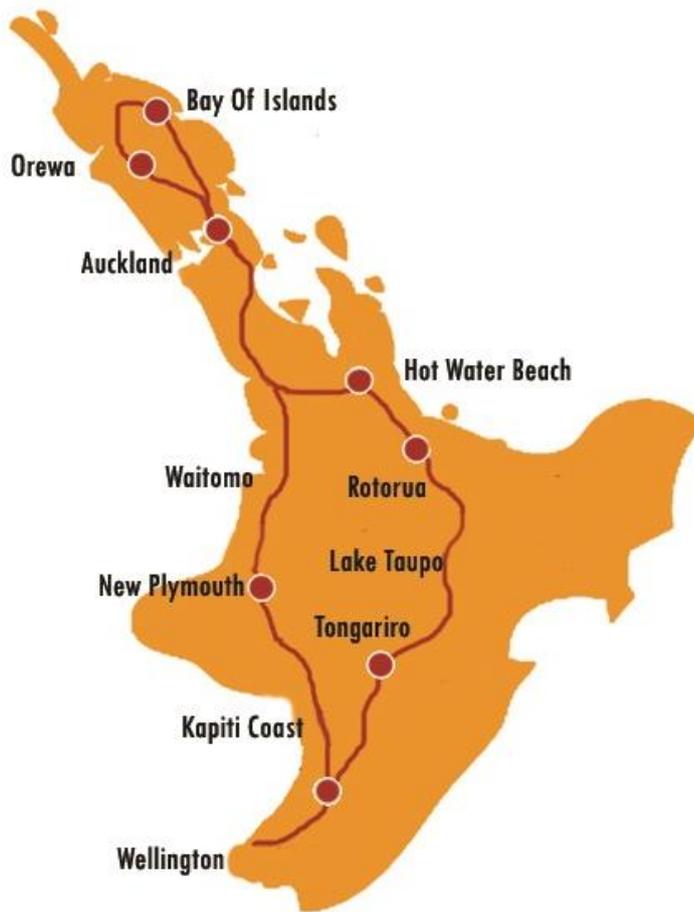
Have more time?

Extend your trip by connecting with one of our South Island tours, the Southern Light or Summer Blast.
- contact one of our friendly team with any questions

All images we use are taken by passengers (no staged professional photographers or stock photography here) – so what you see is what you get!

Photos by: Tim Parkinson (main image), Jazz Mastner, Megan Simpson, Randy Law, Alan Lepofsky, Chris Reynolds, Lindsey Keith, Matthias Gudath, theplanetd bloggers, Tine Busshardt, Rob Chandler, Derek Craddock, Chrys Tremphanmor, Anita Jerajaj

Hot Rocks Route Map



our trips give you.....

- More national parks**
- More activities, hikes & bike rides**
- More value for money**
- More time in the best locations**
- More chances to get off the beaten track**
- Guaranteed departures**

Do I need to book my own accommodation?

No, all of the camp sites are pre- booked and reserved for your trip. If starting in Auckland (heading south) or Wellington, there is one overnight stop (as detailed on the itinerary) where it's not practical to set up tents/use cabins. On this night we use a great hostel perfectly located for exploring the city. We have dorm beds booked for everyone on board (payable on check-in) – if you would prefer a private room (subject to availability) please let us know in advance. We can also help with booking accommodation pre and post tour if needed.

How do I upgrade to cabins?

Cabin upgrades can be pre-booked prior to your trip or each day on arrival into camp. If travelling during Dec, Jan, Feb we recommend pre-booking with us prior to travel as all cabin upgrades are subject to availability. To pre-book cabin upgrades there is an administration fee which is 10% of the total upgrade cost. There are 3 types of upgrades and approximate costs are:

Dorm bed / shared room

\$10 - \$20 per night (can only be booked on tour)

Private room with shared bathroom

\$45 per night (average cost for single room)

Private room with en-suite

\$95 per night (average cost for single room)

Can I hop-on and off the bus?

It is possible to take extended breaks at any point – buses go past every 9 days in the summer season so you can hop off for any increment of 9 days (9, 18, 27 days etc).

What is the average age of travellers on Flying Kiwi?

Flying Kiwi appeals to people of all ages. Most importantly it appeals to travellers who want to experience more off the beaten track locations, enjoy small group travel and are keen to try activities such as hiking, cycling, dolphin swimming and much more. Most people are between the age of 20 and 40 but we happily welcome travellers of all ages over the age of 10yrs.

How fit do I have to be?

You don't have to be super-fit to travel with Flying Kiwi – all walks, bike rides and activities are optional and they range from light strolls to full day hikes in Alpine terrain. Your driver or guide will discuss the level of fitness required.

Is it ok to travel alone on Flying Kiwi?

Flying Kiwi is perfect for people travelling by themselves.

I'm a vegetarian or have other dietary requirements – is that a problem?

No problem at all, we are used to catering for all kinds of dietary requirements. As we cook for ourselves we can easily accommodate your needs. Just let us know when you book.

Where can I charge my camera, phone, batteries, i-pod or MP3 player?

Charging facilities are available at the commercial campgrounds and some buses are also able to charge appliances.

Is there mobile phone / wi-fi coverage?

Most North Island camps have network coverage available. For many people a highlight of our trips is the remote overnight locations and escaping connectivity!