

# ULTIMATE EXPLORER

## 28 Days

(with options to take extended breaks)

Tour price - NZ \$4,499

includes transport, most meals  
shared tent accommodation, ferry crossings,  
Wai-o-Tapu Thermal Wonderland,  
gondola ride, wine tasting  
& much more...



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

## Explore the best of New Zealand

see and do it all on this fantastic loop taking in all our Kiwi favourites

This itinerary shows a 28-day trip starting from Auckland and heading south first. You can start/finish your loop at any point on the itinerary. Other popular starting points are Christchurch (starts on day 7 and lasts 28 days) or Auckland heading north first (starts on day 25 and lasts 27 days).

### 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, bungee 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 or take the Lion's Track cycle path around the lake  
activities (own cost): skydive, bungee, 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

small prices  
big adventure

© all photos taken by Flying Kiwi passengers

### Departs:

From anywhere on the loop + you can take extended breaks anywhere along the way. Trips lasts 27 days if heading north from Auckland first (day 25), 28 days if starting from Auckland heading south first (day 1) & Christchurch (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 and Department of Conservation sites by lakes, mountains & oceans. Most nights you can upgrade to a cabin or private room for a small fee (subject to availability).

On this 28-day itinerary, there are 3 nights spent in hostels that are at an additional cost, Picton (day 5), Wellington (day 22) and Auckland (day 24). 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), ferry crossings, Wai-O-Tapu, gondola ride, wine tasting, Tongariro crossing (transfer payable), side trips to remote areas & walking tracks, use of sports equipment on board, 25 x breakfasts, 9 x lunches, 18 x dinners & much more (see website for details)

### Activities:

Bikes are available to hire for sections or for your entire trip. We enjoy great, free walks most days (the only payable one is the 3-day Routeburn Track and a transfer fee to the start of the Tongariro Crossing). Optional activities listed are not included but we do get great some group discounts + there are always free alternatives

### Tour price & optional upgrades:

Ultimate Explorer tour 2018-19	\$4499
Cycle hire for entire trip	\$465
Bring your own bike	\$180
Single tent upgrade	\$225
Sleeping bag hire	\$60

Freephone: 0800 693 296 (NZ) or 1800 143 515 (AUS)  
UK & Europe: +44 1392 660 606 (UK)  
International: +64 3 547 0171  
[www.flyingkiwi.com](http://www.flyingkiwi.com)

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 - PICTON

Heading south to "the coolest little capital in the World" (as recently named by Lonely Planet), our early arrival by 9am gives you time to experience some of Wellington's attractions or simply soak up the culture and buzz of our capital city. There are plenty for all tastes including the highly recommend Te Papa museum. Check out some of New Zealand's rare birds at Zealandia or take a walk-up Mt Victoria for great views across the city and harbour. Later that day, it's time to say goodbye to the North Island as the South Island welcomes us with picturesque scenery of the Marlborough sounds as we cross the Cook Strait by ferry. Camping isn't feasible tonight so we stay at a great friendly hostel where we have dorm beds reserved for everyone on board.

activities (own cost): Te Papa museum (free), city & movie tour, Zealandia, cable car  
hostel (own cost): dorm bed \$30pp, private single/double room from \$72  
meals: breakfast

#### DAY 6: PICTON - KAIKOURA

Today we travel the scenic Pacific coast to Kaikoura where close encounters with seals and sea birds are common. Kaikoura translates to 'meal of crayfish' (Kai - food, koura - crayfish) a reference to the abundance of seafood and sea life in the area. The town has transformed from a sleepy fishing village into a hot spot for whale watching, dolphin swimming and seal spotting. This picturesque town sits right on the ocean at the foot of the mountains – a spectacular spot. Stretch your legs with a recommended afternoon peninsula walk and build up an appetite for a tasty feast of locally caught fresh seafood.

walks: Kaikoura peninsula walk with opportunity to spot seals, a variety of birdlife and the occasional dolphin!  
bike rides: Kowhai bike track and a short road ride  
optional activities: whale watching, sea kayaking, deep sea fishing  
cabin upgrades: basic single from \$50, basic double from \$18pp - (limited rooms available!)  
meals: breakfast & dinner

#### DAY 7: KAIKOURA – CHRISTCHURCH - RANGITATA

For those that are keen there is the chance to rise early for a wonderful sunrise and then enjoy one of our most highly rated optional activities – dolphin swimming. The resident dusky dolphins are amongst the most interactive and entertaining in the World and it's not unusual to swim with pods of 50 or more in their natural habitat, the ocean! We then have the chance to explore this quaint seaside town before heading south to Christchurch to collect and drop off those starting or ending their tour. You'll have time to explore Christchurch city and buy your lunch from one of the many quirky container cafes at the 'Restart Mall'. At 2:30pm we travel towards the Southern Alps with fantastic views across the Canterbury Plains – real Lord of the Rings country! Tonight's unique camp is at the Shearer's Headquarters (an actual operating farm) located at the foot of the Southern Alps.

walks: take an early walk around our coastal camp, evening walk in Peel Forest  
bike rides: 18km country road, 9km country road cycling around camp  
activities (own cost): highly recommended dolphin swim, dolphin viewing  
cabin upgrades: basic single or double room from \$15pp  
meals: breakfast & dinner

#### DAY 8: RANGITATA – LAKE PUKAKI

Wake up to mountain views and refresh yourself even more white water rafting on the mighty Rangitata River! If rafting isn't for you then no problem - soak it all in with a morning cycle or walk through the Peel Forest. We then continue through more jaw dropping landscapes (they don't stop in the South Island) to the picture postcard, Lake Tekapo. Here you will view the most spectacular turquoise waters which get their colour from the glacial flour brought down from the rivers flowing from glaciers high up in the mountains. Leaving Tekapo we head to one of our best wilderness camps – sitting on the shores of Lake Pukaki you can set up your tent and take in the views of the lake with New Zealand's highest peak Aoraki/Mt Cook visible in the distance.

walks: Peel Forest walks, lakeside walks around camp  
bike rides: Tekapo Canal Alps to Ocean 30km, edge of Lake Pukaki trail riding  
activities (own cost): white water rafting (grade 5 rapids!), horse riding  
cabin upgrades: no – wilderness camp no upgrade options  
meals: breakfast, lunch & dinner

#### DAY 9: LAKE PUKAKI – MOERAKI

Immerse yourself in the snow-capped mountain scenery that New Zealand is famous for and explore Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park. Hike to the base of NZ's highest mountain following a trail up the Hooker valley where you'll cross swing bridges and get stunning views of the mountains before finishing up at a glacial lake with views of the Hooker Valley glacier. We then travel back towards the Pacific coast for a quick stop in the historic town of Oamaru before continuing onwards to the small village of Moeraki. Walk to a great view point offering expansive views of the Pacific Ocean and try to spot a little Blue Penguin along the shore. If you have a bike it's possible to visit a colony of extremely rare Yellow-eyed Penguins near to camp.

walks: to the base of Mount Cook and Hooker Valley, the Moeraki heritage Trail and viewpoint  
bike rides: 15km road ride to Peter's lookout, Alps2Ocean Omarama trail ride 13km, Yellow-eyed Penguin colony  
cabin upgrades: basic single from \$58, basic double from \$23pp - (limited rooms available!)  
meals: breakfast, lunch & dinner

#### DAY 10: MOERAKI - DUNEDIN

Before travelling south, we make a stop at the nearby Moeraki Boulders and then it's onto the historic Scottish city of Dunedin, the South Island's second-largest city. This southern city is home to the world's steepest residential street and the coastline is home to some fantastic and rare wildlife. It's possible to take a tour onto the Otago Peninsula to view some of this diverse wildlife which includes Albatross and Fur Seals. For the adventurous why not try surfing at one of Dunedin's best breaks! Our camp is a short distance from the beach with a variety of restaurants close by to choose from.

walks: tide permitting - walk to the Moeraki Boulders, walk the World's steepest street  
bike rides: 6km downhill ride into Dunedin, explore Dunedin by bike, ride to camp or along the waterfront  
activities (own cost): surfing, Otago Peninsula wildlife tour  
cabin upgrades: basic single from \$40, basic double from \$12pp  
meals: breakfast



### DAY 11: DUNEDIN - HOLLYFORD

Today is one of our longer travel days as we drive through some of New Zealand's most dramatic natural scenery on our way to Fiordland. Large parts of the landscape have been carved out over thousands of years to leave stunning paths that weave through snow-capped mountains. We stop briefly in Te Anau, the hub and gateway town for Fiordland National Park and Milford Sound and your last chance to get supplies for those doing the Routeburn Track tomorrow.

From Te Anau we make our way into the gigantic Fiordland National Park, encompassing some 12,500km<sup>2</sup> it is New Zealand's largest National Park. Tonight's camp is a pretty special place in the heart of the Hollyford Valley, established in the 1930s. You can learn more about the history of the camp at the onsite museum. Cyclists have the chance to cycle to camp through some great native bush and walkers can do some nice short walks from camp (ask your guide about the secret glow worm trails).

walks: plenty of short walks from camp  
bike rides: 8km road cycle to camp  
cabin upgrades: basic single from \$45, basic double from \$15pp - (limited rooms available!)  
meals: breakfast & dinner

### DAY 12: HOLLYFORD – TE ANAU

Travel one of the world's most scenic routes into Milford Sound! Described as the 'eighth wonder of the world', Milford Sound was carved by glaciers during the ice ages. We highly recommend taking in the boat trip on Milford Sound with dramatic waterfalls, snow-capped peaks and possible wildlife spotting of dolphins, penguins and seals! As it's just the one road in and out, we head back along the same breath-taking route to our lakeside camp in Te Anau. Along the way, we drop off those doing the 3-day Routeburn Track, one of New Zealand's 9 Great Walks. This 3-day hike passes through two National Parks and is a haven for native birdlife. Charge up your camera as this hike offers everything from mountainous peaks and sheer rock faces to pristine lakes, cascading waterfalls and dense, luxuriant forest.

walks: 3-day Routeburn Track (re-join group in Queenstown on day 14) – pre-book with the Flying Kiwi office as soon as possible as this activity can book out months in advance!  
bike rides: 10.5km Te Anau loop, Ivan Wilson Park mountain bike trail  
activities (own cost): highly recommend Milford boat cruise, Routeburn Track, Te Anau glow worm caves & boat ride  
cabin upgrades: basic single from \$25, basic double from \$25pp  
meals: breakfast & lunch

### DAY 13: TE ANAU - QUEENSTOWN

Today we journey to Queenstown along the shores of the photogenic Lake Wakatipu. Once we arrive at the adventure capital of New Zealand you can enjoy spectacular views, a free Gondola ride and a huge selection of activities to choose from. There is everything here, from adrenalin pumping bungy, canyon swing and skydiving to a relaxing horse trek or boat cruise – this place has it all. There are great tracks around the lake ideal for bikers and hikers and all with wonderful views of this alpine region.

walks: Queenstown lakefront or hill walks  
bike rides: Lake Wakatipu trail 16km  
activities (own cost): too many to list – something for everyone (see our website or ask us for details)  
cabin upgrades: single en-suite from \$135, double en-suite from \$58pp - (limited rooms available!)  
meals: breakfast

### DAY 14: QUEENSTOWN

With so much to do we spend the full day in fantastic Queenstown with the opportunity to enjoy those once in a lifetime experiences (don't forget to try the legendary and very tasty Fergburger!). Routeburn Track walkers re-join the group here at midday with time to try some of the many exciting activities this vibrant city has to offer. Tonight, we dine out at one of Queenstown's many delicious eateries - a great chance for your group to enjoy a true kiwi feast (own cost).

walks: Queenstown walks, Ben Lomond  
bike rides: Lake Wakatipu trail, Queenstown trail 48km  
activities (own cost): too many to list – something for everyone (see our website or ask us for details)  
cabin upgrades: single en-suite from \$135, double en-suite from \$58pp - (limited rooms available!)  
meals: breakfast

### DAY 15: QUEENSTOWN - MAKARORA

Our final morning in Queenstown and your last chance to indulge in the Queenstown's action before we farewell those finishing their tour and welcome new travellers joining us here. Leaving at 2:30pm, after the thrills and spills of Queenstown we travel through more mountains and on towards more stunning glacial lakes. On the final stretch to camp we start getting views of Mt Aspiring National Park in the distance. Lake Wanaka is just over the next ridge and it's on the edge of this glacial lake that we find our next wilderness camp. Enjoy great views of Lake Wanaka and the mountains beyond as we absorb the beauty of the area.

walks: multiple walking options  
bike rides: road cycling around town. Lake Wanaka lookout to Boundary Creek  
activities (own cost): too many to list – something for everyone (see our website or ask us for details)  
cabin upgrades: no – wilderness camp no upgrade options  
meals: breakfast & dinner

### DAY 16: MAKAROA – FOX GLACIER

Enjoy a relaxed morning at our lakeside camp then it's northward bound through Mt Aspiring National Park. Just before we reach the West Coast we stop for a walk to the amazing Blue Pools, and then head over the dramatic Haast Pass. As we travel towards the wild West Coast, the road follows braided rivers and huge glacier carved valleys. There are two more great walk options along the way, one through lush and ancient forests and the other through swampy vegetation, ending on the beach where it is possible to spot Hector dolphins. Tonight, we will be staying in glacier country at the picturesque village of Fox Glacier.

walks: Blue Pools, Ship Creek  
bike rides: 13km long and winding scenic downhill cycle from Haast Pass, 22km Copland track to Fox Glacier  
cabin upgrades: basic single from \$53, basic double from \$18pp  
meals: breakfast, lunch & dinner



### DAY 17: FOX GLACIER - OKARITO

Today is your chance to explore one of NZ's most unique and spectacular natural wonders - Fox Glacier. This staggering beautiful work of nature is over 13 kilometres in length and plummets 2,600 metres from its peak in the Southern Alps. To get on the ice you must go up by helicopter but it's possible to view the glacier with a stunning walk through the main valley up to the terminal face. A walk around Lake Matheson is highly recommended where crystal clear reflections of Mount Cook and Mount Tasman make the perfect photo opportunity. In the afternoon, we have a short drive up the coast to our beautiful beachside campsite next to the Okarito lagoon – one of the very few places where there are still rare sightings of our native kiwi bird and the home to NZ's only colony of the White Heron (kotuku). Enjoy a fire down on the beach taking in the rugged coast and epic mountain views.

walks: wonderful hike around Lake Matheson, Te Weheka walkway to view the glacier  
bike rides: Te Weheka Cycleway, Okarito road ride 10km  
activities (own cost): Guided Heli-Hike, Terminal Face Walk  
cabin upgrades: dorm bed (shared room) \$15pp  
meals: breakfast, lunch & dinner



### DAY 18: OKARITO - PUNAKAIKI

Enjoy an early morning walk, with a view of the sunrise over the Southern Alps as a reward. We then continue up this spectacular coastal road to the quirky town of Hokitika, home to the Greenstone factories and a great place to pick up a traditional souvenir of your visit. Passing through Greymouth we keep following the coast to Punakaiki where you'll notice a change in the landscape and vegetation with huge limestone cliffs appearing and Nikau Palm trees become abundant. Our beach camp has great sunsets, a beautiful river and incredible views of Paparoa National Park. The pancake rocks and blowholes are the main attraction in Punakaiki where limestones rocks are stacked on top of each other and ocean swells are forced through gaps in the rock creating a whale's blowhole effect. In the evening, explore a cavern with some glow worms hanging out in the dark then relax at the local tavern.

walks: Okarito Trig Walk, Point Elizabeth walk  
bike rides: West Coast Wilderness Trail 14km, road ride to camp 37km  
activities (own cost): Punakaiki blow holes (free), river kayaking, paddle-boarding  
cabin upgrades: basic single from \$60, basic double from \$23pp - (limited rooms available!)  
meals: breakfast & dinner



### DAY 19: PUNAKAIKI – ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

Before leaving Punakaiki we take time to explore part of the Paparoa National Park with a walk along the Porarari river or cycle up Bullock creek road to visit a cave resurgence. Leaving mid-morning we travel inland through the majestic Buller gorge and onto our favourite National Park, Abel Tasman. In one of the sunniest areas of the country you will discover beautiful secluded bays and stunning golden sand beaches. On arrival, you have the option to skydive or hang glide and then we look forward to spending 3 nights at our perfectly located campground, close to the park entrance which makes it the idea place to explore all corners of the park. Tonight, we'll be eating at a local hang out, The Fat Tui (own cost)

walks: Porarari inland track, Truman track  
bike rides: Bullock Creek 16km, Cave Creek, coastal ride to camp, Kaiteriteri bike park  
activities (own cost): skydive, hang glide  
cabin upgrades: dorm bed (shared room) \$12pp, basic single from \$50, basic double from \$18pp  
meals: breakfast & dinner



### DAY 20: ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

Taking time to explore arguably the best beaches and clearest waters in New Zealand - there are excellent options for everyone here. You can walk, sail or kayak around the numerous golden bays and dive into the crystal-clear waters along the way. There will be plenty of chances for wildlife spotting (dolphins, seals and even Orcas!) Explore the heart of the park on one of our most highly rated optional activities - canyoning high flow waterfalls and rapids!

walks: Abel Tasman National Park track  
bike rides: Kaiteriteri bike park  
activities (own cost): Single & multi-day kayaking options, canyoning, sailing, horse-riding, water-taxi / walk, conservation tour, conservation projects (free)  
cabin upgrades: dorm bed (shared room) \$12pp, basic single from \$50, basic double from \$18pp  
meals: breakfast & lunch



### DAY 21: ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

We spend another full day at the doorstep to New Zealand's smallest, but most visited national park and our personal favourite, the Abel Tasman.

walks: Abel Tasman National Park track  
bike rides: Kaiteriteri bike park  
activities (own cost): kayaking, canyoning, water taxi / walk, sailing, horse-riding, conservation tour  
cabin upgrades: dorm bed (shared room) \$12pp, basic single from \$50, basic double from \$18pp  
meals: breakfast & dinner



### DAY 22: ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK – WELLINGTON

Leaving early, we make our way towards Wellington stopping for a brief visit in sunny Nelson, the home of Flying Kiwi. Before leaving Nelson be sure to farewell your Tour Assistant as a new Tour Assistant will join you here for the remainder of your tour. Your Tour Leader will say farewell in Picton. On route to Picton we'll make a stop at Pelorus bridge, a Hobbit film location and great place for a quick dip on a warm day. Finish this fantastic day with a scenic ferry (cost included) through the picturesque Marlborough sounds to Wellington - our base for the evening. Camping isn't feasible in the heart of the nation's capital so we will be staying at a great hostel giving you the best access to explore the city. We have dorm beds reserved for everyone on board.

walks: walk to the geographical centre of New Zealand  
bike rides: great option to cycle various lengths of the Tasman taste trail – part of the great New Zealand Cycle Trail  
activities: wine tasting (free - this one is on us ☺)  
hostel (own cost): dorm bed (shared room) from \$31pp, basic single from \$75, basic double room from \$89  
meals: breakfast

### DAY 23: WELLINGTON – NEW PLYMOUTH

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast (own cost) before checking out the sights of New Zealand's beautiful capital before we hit the road for our 11am departure. We 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: dinner



### DAY 24: 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 25: 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.

\*\* (You can start your tour here heading north first which results in a 27-day tour (as days 28 & 1 combine) ending on day 24).

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 26: 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 27: 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 28: 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



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: Nick Zivanovich (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 Jerayaj

# Ultimate Explorer 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. Depending on the option you choose there are up to 3 overnight stops (detailed in itinerary) where it's not practical to set up tents/use cabins. On these nights we use great hostels perfectly located for exploring the cities & towns. We have dorm beds booked for everyone on board (payable on check-in) – if you would prefer a private room please let us know in advance. We can also help with booking accommodation pre and post tour.

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 (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. The average age is 27years.

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 (most nights) and most buses are also able to charge appliances.

Is there mobile phone / wi-fi coverage?

Most of our north island camps have network coverage available. On approximately ½ of the camps in the south island there is no network coverage. We do get access to wifi every few days and cafes /restaurants often provide access. For many people a highlight of our trips is the remote overnight locations and escaping connectivity!

What is a bush camp?

A bush camp is a campsite usually in a remote or wilderness location with stunning views and basic facilities.