



TOUR NEW ZEALAND WITH TAURANGA TASTING TOURS

DAY 1: Auckland – Coromandel

Travel from Auckland (airport) to Thames, an old gold-mining town. From Thames follow the coastal road, overhung by native pohutukawa trees, to historic Coromandel Township. Savour a large range of local seafood*, then take a ride on the world-famous Driving Creek Railway – designed and built by one man - taking you through native bush to a viewing platform that overlooks superb scenery. Spend the night in Coromandel.

DAY 2: Coromandel – Pauanui

Leave Coromandel, and travel over the hills and alongside the sandy beaches of Whitianga and Buffalo Beach. We will stop for lunch at Hahei. Discover Cathedral Cove, a bay where the wind, rain and sea have slowly pierced the rocks to create vast caves. Dig holes in the sand (- we provide the spades), and enjoy bathing in the hot water as it emerges from the underground springs at Hot Water Beach. Stay in the town of Pauanui for the night.

DAY 3: Pauanui – Tauranga

Travel over hilly countryside, covered with native bush and commercial pine forests, to get to Waihi, and visit an open-cast gold mine. Stop in Katikati, a town famous for its mural art. Taste the award-winning wines at Morton Estate*, before arriving in Tauranga, where we will stay two nights.

DAY 4: Tauranga and Mount Maunganui

Experience a local tour of Tauranga and Mount Maunganui, with fabulous beaches. Walk around the base track of Mauao, an extinct volcano on the edge of a superb surf beach. Visit a boutique brewery to taste their range of beer*, and taste the wines at prestigious Mills Reef Winery*. Enjoy free time in the afternoon to do some shopping.





DAY 5: Tauranga – Rotorua

Travel to Rotorua. On the way, visit:

1. Kiwi 360 where you can see a real kiwifruit orchard at work*, and taste kiwifruit products.
2. ComVita: a local business that makes honey and other bee products such as make up, ointments and health supplements.
3. Okeri Falls. A series of beautiful waterfalls that are very popular with white-water rafters.

On arrival at Rotorua, visit Te Puia where you can experience aspects of Maori culture, such as dance, singing, the haka, wood carving and flax weaving. You can also take a walk through the thermal park and experience the wonderful geysers and boiling mud. Spend 2 nights in Rotorua.

DAY 6: Rotorua

Visit the local forests and lakes of Rotorua. Try the numerous activities made famous in New Zealand for getting the heart pounding such as: the Zorb*, the Bungy*, the Luge*, the Swoop*, the Shweeb*- or watch sheep being shorn at the Agrodome*.

DAY 7: Rotorua – Auckland Airport

Travel back to Auckland through dairy farming country. Before drop off at the airport, do some last-minute shopping at Manukau City.





If you would like to extend your stay, here are some possible options:

DAY 7: Rotorua – Taupo

Leave Rotorua and stop at Aratiatia spillway which opens its gates every day at 10am; its waters then cover the entire valley below. Visit the geothermal and earthquake centres* close to Taupo. Have lunch at the Taupo Prawn Farm*. For a thrill, ride the speedy jet boat* while visiting Huka Falls – the most powerful waterfall in New Zealand. Stay the night in Taupo, on the edge of New Zealand's largest lake.

DAY 8: Taupo – Hamilton

Visit the world-famous Waitomo Caves, with their underground cathedral and glow worms. If you like excitement, try black-water rafting*. Travel on to spend the night in the City of Hamilton.

DAY 9: Hamilton – Auckland

Visit the Hamilton Botanical Gardens, before journeying on to Auckland City, where we will stay the night.

DAY 10: Auckland

Keeping your departure time from Auckland Airport in mind, choose from the numerous attractions to visit in Auckland, such as the Sky Tower*, the history museum*, the art gallery*, the Auckland Zoo*, Kelly Tarlton's Aquarium* - or just have a day of shopping – this day is of your choice!!

Flight home from Auckland Airport.



*Optional activity at additional cost.