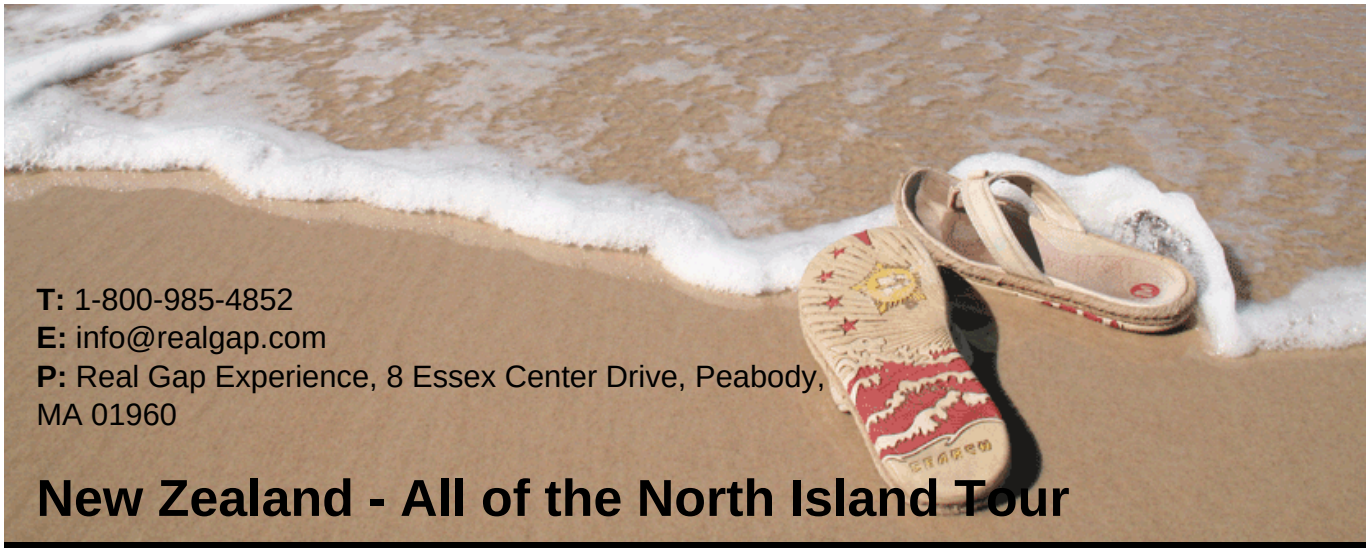

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New Zealand - All of the North Island Tour

Adventure Relaxation Culture

Trip Name: New Zealand - All of the North Island Tour **Trip Code:** NZNI **Duration:**

Trip Highlights

- Going dolphin spotting in Bay of Islands
- Experiencing both the diverse landscapes of rural North Island and the bustling cities of Wellington and Auckland
- Touring with like-minded other travellers and making new friends
- Viewing the majestic Huka Falls
- Enjoy a traditional Maori meal and learn about their culture

Overview

Experience the best of this New Zealand adventure tour on a 9 day round trip of the North Island. This tour gives you the chance to see all the best the North Island has to offer and provides stunning scenery for all those budding photographers!

Visit a historic, geothermal Maori village and try a traditional hangi meal, stay on a remote island and see dolphins in the Bay of Islands, go kayaking to your eco-wilderness stop, and see breathtaking views while hiking on New Zealand's best day walk - the Tongariro Crossing.

Destination Info

New Zealand is extremely popular in terms of tourism, especially with backpackers due to its diverse range of geographical features, extreme sports and cosmopolitan cities. It is one of the most recently populated major landmasses, settled by the Maoris in the year 1000. The Maori call New Zealand 'Aotearoa', Land of the Long White Cloud.

New Zealand - All of the North Island Tour

The North Island, home to the major cities: the capital Wellington and 'The city of sails' Auckland is mainly volcanic in origin boasting many seismic features such as geysers and hot springs. Rotorua and Taupo are on the centre of this wonderful geothermal field. Immerse yourself in the hot pool on the river just next the entrance of Wai-O-Tapu complex and wander around Kuirau Thermal Park in Rotorua.

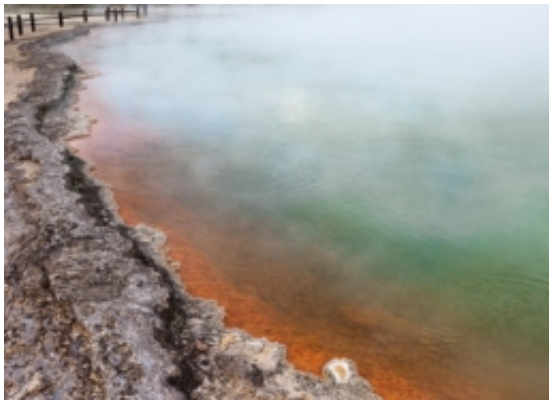
Itinerary

Day 1: Auckland to Paihia

We depart Auckland at 7am and head north to Paihia with stops on the way to see giant kauri trees, and snorkel at Goat Island marine reserve. We arrive into the Bay of Islands in the afternoon where we visit the historic Waitangi Treaty grounds and the famous Hundertwasser toilets before settling into our accommodation for the night. We have the evening free for you to relax, enjoy the optional BBQ at our lodge and get to know your fellow travellers.

Day 2: Urupukapuka Island to Paihia

Tonight we uniquely stay on Urupukapuka Island - 20 minutes by boat from the mainland and the largest island in the Bay. On the way to the island we enjoy a wildlife cruise to explore the Bay of Islands taking in many of the other 144 islands, which gave the place its name. We almost always see dolphins and other marine life on this trip! The boat then drops us at the island in the late afternoon for us to have time settle in for the night! (D).



Day 3: Paihia to Auckland

Wake up to the sounds of native birds on this amazing, historic island. Urupukapuka is covered in bushland and is

surrounded by stunning beaches. You have the morning free to do one of the great walks and explore the island, go swimming, kayaking, fishing or just relax on one of the golden sand beaches! There are also historic Maori Pa sites on the island to check out. At midday we leave the island via boat and head back to the mainland. We then head back to Auckland making a stop at the Native Bird Recovery Centre (to see more native birds up close), arriving back into Auckland around 7.00pm (B).

Day 4 - Auckland to Hahei (Coromandel)

We head south east to the 'Coromandel region' via views of Waikato farmland. We head to our remote beach area to hike to the stunning Cathedral Cove (famous for use in NZ tourism posters worldwide), and have a chance to bathe in the natural hot pools of Hot Water Beach (tide dependent). We stay in our exclusive campsite at the beach and enjoy a BBQ. Quad share cabins only (D).

Day 5: Hahei to Rotorua

Travelling along the stunning Coromandel Coast we stop for some great walks then head to our uniquely developed Maori cultural stop at Whakarewarewa. Set amidst a landscape of erupting geothermal activity, hot thermal springs and bubbling mud pools is the living Maori village. We have tailored an experience for our groups to provide insight into the culture and history, which includes a down-to-earth cultural show and a hangi lunch traditionally cooked in the steam from the natural hot pools! From here we have the afternoon to explore Rotorua with optional activities for everyone from free walks to white water rafting. (B,L).

Day 6: Rotorua to Whakahoro

We leave early this morning, stopping for a swim in a natural hot river, then onto the impressive Huka Falls. We drive around Lake Taupo towards the Central Plateau. We go deep into the wilderness to our exclusive environmental award-winning stop at Blue Duck Lodge. You can kayak the last 8kms, take a historical walk, or if you want you can take part in a hunt for dinner! The lodge is an old homestead nestled right on the edge of Whanganui National Park surrounded by breath-taking views, amazing walks, and natural beauty. We cook a traditional bush dinner over an outdoor wood-fire using local produce, while learning about the rich early-settlement history and the owner's huge efforts to restore the local plants and birdlife to their former glory (D)

Day 7: Whakahoro to National Park

This morning we head back towards the volcanoes of Tongariro National Park with the chance to hike the Tongariro Crossing, rated as NZ's best one-day walk. For those less active there will be shorter walks and a visit to the Volcanic Centre Museum. Tonight we stay at our exclusive alpine lodge 'The Park' (B, D).

Day 8: National Park to Wellington

Following the great day we have had in National Park we head to Wellington, New Zealand's capital city. We have the afternoon to explore 'Te Papa', NZ's national museum and strongly recommend the walk along Oriental Parade and/or up Mt Victoria to get the best view of the city. We stay in central Wellington accommodation tonight (B).

Day 9: Wellington to Auckland

Today is an express journey from Wellington to Auckland. We stop along the way for photos and to have lunch in Taupo with the chance for you to check out New Zealand's largest lake (B).

Please note: Itineraries and activities are subject to change.

Accommodation

Accommodation varies and may include wilderness lodges, upmarket backpacker resorts, cabins/tented camps and small motels in breathtaking locations such as Coromandel, Abel Tasman, Makarora and Doubtful Sound, which are available exclusively to us due to the small group size or preferential arrangements.

Programme Services and Facilities

Internet

Many of New Zealand's towns and cities will have Internet facilities available for travellers. It is possible that there will be Internet facilities in your accommodation, but if there are not (unless you are in the middle of nowhere) there will be facilities close- by. Ask your tour leader for the location of the closest Internet café when you want to send some e-mails etc. You should expect to pay between NZ$3 - $10 per hour.

Telephone

The international telephone access code for New Zealand is +64.

To place an outgoing, direct dialled international call, dial +44 for the UK, +49 for Germany, followed by the telephone number. For example to call Real Gap Experience dial +44 1892 516164 / +49 69 222226 475.

As with the net, all towns and cities will have pay phones, so you will need to get yourself an international phone card. You can buy one when you arrive, or get one before you go, such as the one Real Gap Experience offers.

Another good option would be to take your mobile and purchase a pay-as-you-go SIM in New Zealand, or get a Real Gap Experience SIM before you depart, to allow you to text and call cheaply, and keep track of your spending. Before you depart, please ensure that your mobile is set up with international roaming and unlocked, so you may use a pay-as-you-go SIM while you are away.

Laundry

You will be able to do any laundry you need during the tour. If there are not laundry facilities in your accommodation, you should be able to get it done in a nearby town. Talk to your tour leader when you need to do your laundry about where you can go.

Electricity

Most of your accommodation will have electricity outlets where you will be able to charge and use your electrical equipment.

Meals

Meals are included as stated on the trip itinerary.

What's Included

- Itinerary as detailed
- Accommodation
- Meals as indicated
- Traditional Maori hangi meal and cultural experience
- Wildlife boat cruise
- Whanganui National Park kayaking / 4WD eco-wilderness tour
- Experienced guide
- Full staff support and access to 24 hour emergency assistance

What's Not Included

- All flights
- Personal travel insurance
- Visas
- Extra activities, excursions and transport during free time
- Some meals as indicated
- Some National Park entry fees

What to Pack

Please note that this kit list is intended to help you plan what you may need to take with you and therefore, you may not need all of the listed items on your travels nor is it exhaustive.

Personal Admin

- Documents
- Passport
- Driving licence
- NHS card or a National Insurance card or proof of entitlement to your National Health Service, or the German Krankenversicherungskarte
- Insurance policy document or card
- Credit card, for emergencies and booking internal flights

General

- Journal or diary
- Towel
- Toiletries
- Alarm clock
- Hand wash for clothes (just in case!)
- A sleeping bag
- Torch

- Towel

Clothing

- Casual clothes
- Waterproof jacket
- Warm jumper
- Hiking boots
- Flip flops/sandals
- Sun hat/ glasses or hat/gloves
- Shorts
- T-shirts
- Swim wear
- Something warm (especially if you are in NZ for the winter)

Medical Kit

- Medication
- First Aid Kit
- Suntan lotion
- Insect repellent

Minimum Age

18 years

Flights

Your flight to New Zealand should arrive at Auckland Airport the day before your programme start date, and your return flight should be arranged for the day after your programme end date.

To book your flights, please contact your travel advisor who will do their best to get you the best deal on the day. Please provide them with your full name as it is stated in your passport. Before you make the call please make sure you have your required departure dates, return dates and other details you may require.

Please note: If you are flying to New Zealand via the USA you will need to obtain Travel Authorisation by registering online through the Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA) no later than 72 hours before departure. This is compulsory and will cost USD$14 to register. To register, please visit: www.esta.cbp.dhs.gov

It is important that once you have booked your flights you add these details to your Online account, or alternatively you can contact us with your departure date, the flight number and arrival time at your destination.

FAQs

1. **What ages are people who join the tour?**
   Anyone from the age of 18 upwards can join the tour and there is often a really good mix of ages.

2. **Is accommodation included in the price?**

Yes! All your accommodation is included for the duration of the tour.

3. **Can I upgrade to a single room?**
   Of course you can, there is the option to do this at an extra cost for the majority of the tour.

4. **Are meals included?**
   Meals are included as indicated in the itinerary.

5. **When can I go?**
   There are departures all year round!

Support & Advice

Your safety is paramount which is why all our programs have been visited and assessments have been conducted to ensure any major risks have been minimized.

In addition, you will have access to a 24 hour emergency contact number so you can contact one of our staff at any time should you need to. In addition our overseas partners and coordinators are on hand in-country to assist you.

Financial Security

We know that the last thing you want to worry about when you're planning your trip of a lifetime is whether your money is in safe hands. As a leading global gap year provider it's our job to make sure your finances are secure, so when you book with us you can be confident that we do just that.

Real Gap Experience is part of TUI Travel Plc, one of the largest travel organisations in the world, and these days in the travel industry, large means secure.

Insurance

Whether you're traveling for two weeks or two years, trekking the Amazon in Ecuador or on safari in Africa, insurance is an essential part of your adventure and will help you enjoy your travels, secure in the knowledge that you have the protection you need. In fact, everyone traveling with us must have adequate cover before their trip begins.

Of course you are free to buy insurance from any provider, however at Real Gap Experience, we have partnered with World Nomads to offer policies that have been specifically designed to meet the needs of global travel. If you think you're already covered by an existing policy, such as those offered by credit card providers, check the policy wording very carefully to ensure it covers you for your Real Gap Experience.

For more information on travel insurance please contact us to speak to one of our travel advisors.

Money Matters

The unit of currency is the New Zealand Dollar. Changing foreign currency or travellers cheques is usually no problem at banks throughout New Zealand or at licensed moneychangers.

New Zealand is affordable by Western European and American standards, but if you are travelling on from Southeast Asia you'll notice a big increase in costs!

Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant 13.21 $

Domestic Beer (0.5 litre draught) 4.19 $
Coke/Pepsi (0.33 litre bottle) 1.76 $
Water (0.33 litre bottle) 1.68 $

(Prices quoted in US Dollar)

Passports and Visas

You should ensure that you have a full passport that is valid for 6 months beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, if one is necessary, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information provided below is to help you with that process. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects.

For stays up to 6 months, the following nationals DO NOT need a visa before you leave, you will receive a 6-month tourist visa on arrival into New Zealand: holders of passports endorsed British Citizen & other British passport holders who produce evidence of the right to reside permanently in the United Kingdom, holders of Australian passport. For all other nationals, please visit the following website for the most up to date information on visa requirements: http://www.immigration.govt.nz

Working Holiday Visa

If you intend to get paid work in New Zealand then you must apply for a working holiday visa instead and this must be granted before you enter New Zealand. To be eligible for a work visa under this scheme you must:

- Be a British citizen resident in the United Kingdom at the time of applying, and
- Aged between 18 and 30 years, and
- Not accompanied by children on your visit.

You can apply online for the working holiday visa at: http://www.immigration.govt.nz

Vaccinations & Health

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad. The risks to your health whilst travelling will vary depending on your general health and the type of activities you are going to be partaking in and the length of your stay.

Since we are not medically qualified, it is recommended that you consult with your Doctor or a recognised Travel Medical Advisory Service who will assess your particular health risks before recommending vaccines and/or anti-malarial tablets and advising you on what precautions you should take.

Safety

As in most counties there are people who try to take advantage of tourists. The following advice is intended to help you stay safe:

- Always keep your personal items such as passport, money and camera with you and in a safe place. You can buy mini padlocks to prevent people from going into your bag without your permission.
- Don’t carry excess amounts of cash

- Wherever possible, walk around in groups, especially after dark, and avoid taking short cuts.
- Do not pick up hitch hikers if you are driving and do not hitch hike yourself.
- When you are out do not leave your drinks unattended, as there have been reports of drinks being spiked

We advise that you check your government's advice before travelling abroad. For UK, American and Australian customers please see the relevant links below;

UK: www.fco.gov.uk
USA: www.travel.state.gov
Australia: www.smartraveller.gov.au

ATM Theft

It is very likely that you will need to withdraw cash at some point during your travels. Please be cautious when withdrawing money from an ATM and ensure that you are vigilant of other people near the ATM, especially those that offer unsolicited assistance if your card is detained. It has been recognised that individuals are operating unlawful withdrawals by placing 'traps' in ATMs whereby personal bank cards are being detained, causing the victim to believe their card transaction has not been completed, and leaving their bank card in the ATM which is then later retrieved by the thief.

If your card is confiscated or you are concerned that your card has been tampered with, please report immediately to the bank or cancel your card.

Food & Drink

You will find a range of cuisine in New Zealand to suit all taste buds. But quintessential New Zealand cuisine takes inspiration from Europe, Asia and Polynesia. Meat and fish feature majorly in native dishes, and keep an eye out for kumara (sweet potato). Those with a sweet tooth will be pleased to know that Pavlova is the National dessert along with the kiwi fruit.

It is really important that you let Real Gap know before you depart if you are a vegetarian or have any other dietary requirements.

Public Holidays

When planning your trip, you should be aware of the major national holidays celebrated throughout the country.

To view a list of the public holidays for New Zealand, please see the link below:
www.timeanddate.com/holidays/new-zealand/

Weather

The climate differs from the North Island to the South Island. On the North Island, the far North boasts warm summers and mild winters, with the rest of the island being slightly cooler. On the South Island, you'll find much lower temperatures throughout the year. The New Zealand Alps are covered in snow throughout the year.

Time

New Zealand is 12 hours ahead of GMT.

Electricity

Electricity in New Zealand is 230 Volts, alternating at 50 cycles per second.

Sockets in New Zealand are V-shaped flat prongs.

Trip Note Disclaimer

The information contained in this trip note has been compiled with great care and is provided in good faith. Any itinerary featured is correct at time of release. However, our itineraries may change as make improvements that result from travellers' comments, our own research or from time to time as a result of reommended travel advice.

You can rest assured that it is always our goal to provide you with the most rewarding trip and experience ever!

Our Details

If you have any questions about this trip please do not hesitate to contact us and we'll be happy to answer them.

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