

# Green Outdoors

## Volcanic Heartland



This trip includes one of the North Island's beach paradises, the Coromandel, with its Hot Water Beach and distinctive rock formations as well as the dramatic volcanic centre of the North Island that is Rotorua, Lake Taupo and Tongariro National Park. Both are regions where there are a plenitude of outdoor activities, hiking, biking, kayaking and rafting. However their volcanic landscapes are very different. In the Coromandel, White and Mayor Islands lie far out to sea, their activity a distant and occasional plume. In Rotorua sulphur is in the air and in the Tongariro National Park you get close to the active craters of Ngarahoe, Tongariro and Ruapehu.



### At a glance

**Duration:** 10 days, 9 nights

**Connection Points:**  
Auckland, Rotorua / Taupo airports or Wellington

**Activity Level:** Active

**Best Season:** November - April

### Driving times

Auckland - Tairua: 3 hours

Tairua - Rotorua: 2 1/2 hours

Rotorua - Ohakune: 2 1/2 hours

### Indicative Price from \$3,863

Price is for accommodation only and excludes meals, ground or air transport unless stated. [Contact one of our Travel Agents](#) or use [My Holiday](#) to contact the operators and book direct.



### VOLCANIC HEARTLAND

Steam, mud & hot water

NORTH ISLAND



### Day 1 - Tairua, Eastern Coromandel

Stay [Colleith Lodge](#)

From Auckland allow 3 hours to drive south east to the Coromandel Peninsula. Tairua is a beach destination with easy access to Hot Water Beach and Cathedral Cove.

Relax on the terrace and enjoy the view. There are 3 good dining options close by.

### Day 2 - Tairua, Eastern Coromandel

Do [Cathedral Cove Kayaks | Kayaking at Cathedral Cove](#)

Stay [Colleith Lodge](#)

Cathedral Cove is a sea kayaking paradise full of beaches, islands and rock gardens that are just waiting to be explored. Paddle through sea caves, interact with the local marine life and discover the thrill of kayak sailing. On your way home, stop at Hot Water Beach and soak in hot pools you dig in the sand at low tide.

### Day 3 - Rotorua, Central Plateau

Do [Polynesian Spa | Hot Pools & Spa Therapies](#)

Stay [Koura Lodge](#)

A short drive today brings you to Rotorua, New Zealand's thermal capital. Koura Lodge sits on the edge of the lake away from the crowds but just a short drive to the attractions. This afternoon relax or borrow the lodge's kayaks before an evening soak in the famous Polynesian Spa.

### Day 4 - Rotorua, Central Plateau

Do [White Island Tours | White Island & Moutohora Island](#)

Stay [Koura Lodge](#)

An early start is rewarded by a boat trip to the active White Island New Zealand's only permanently active volcano. Ashore, your guide will take you on a short walk on this unique landscape.

### Day 5 - Rotorua, Central Plateau

Do [Te Puia | Maori Arts & Thermal Valley](#)

Stay [Koura Lodge](#)

Explore Whakarewarewa Valley thermal park, with its majestic geysers. Visit artists at work in the Maori weaving and carving schools.

You can even cook your own dinner in the thermal waters for a traditional lunch.

Rotorua has some excellent mountain biking tracks and you can hire bikes in the forest close to Te Puia.

### Day 6 - near Ohakune

Do [Taupo's Floatplane | Floatplane Scenic Flights](#)

Stay [Tongariro Suites @ The Rocks](#)

Drive south to Taupo and stop there for lunch and a walk along the lakefront. Take the scenic float plane over thermal areas and the volcanos.

Continue through Taupo and on to Ohakune where you are among the big volcanoes in an outdoor paradise.

### Day 7 - near Ohakune

Stay [Tongariro Suites @ The Rocks](#)

Your choice today of mountain biking or jet boat or canoeing on the Whanganui River.

### Day 8 - near Ohakune

Do [Tongariro Guided Walks | Tongariro Crossing Guided Walks](#)

Stay [Tongariro Suites @ The Rocks](#)

The world famous Tongariro Crossing is a challenging one day alpine trek in an area of geological importance and cultural significance. The volcanic activity is so real that not only can you see it, but you can feel it and smell it too!

Your guide will help interpret the volcanic, flora and Lord of the Rings stories during this exhilarating day trip.

### Day 9 - Journey's End

Taupo airport is 1 1/2 hours north with connections to most New Zealand destinations, alternatively you could drive to Wellington (3 1/2 hours) to connect with Green Journeys southern itineraries.