

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 - Turangi: 2 hours

Indicative Price from \$4,466

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 [Volcanic Air | White Island & Tawawera Flights](#)

Stay [Koura Lodge](#)

A scenic flight over the active White Island New Zealand's only permanently active volcano. Your pilot will guide 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 guysers. 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 - Turangi, Central Plateau

Stay [River Birches Lodge](#)

Drive south to Taupo and stop there for lunch and a walk along the lakefront.

Continue through Taupo to the small village of Turangi. River Birches is a calm and relaxed sanctuary for your stay here, right next to the Tongariro river, famous for trout fishing and rafting. Walk out the front of the lodge to the riverside walks and bike trails. Make dinner reservations in advance.

Day 7 - Turangi, Central Plateau

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

Stay [River Birches Lodge](#)

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 8 - Turangi, Central Plateau

Do [Rafting New Zealand | White Water Rafting](#)

Stay [River Birches Lodge](#)

This is a popular grade 3 adventure on a beautiful clear river with rapids, chutes, optional waterfall jumps, fast paced action, slow meanderings, and river wildlife.

More adventurous rafting options are also available for the adrenalin seekers.

Day 9 - Journey's End

Taupo airport is 45 minutes drive north with flight to most New Zealand destinations, Rotorua airport is a bit further but may have better connections. Alternatively you could drive to Wellington to connect with Green Journeys southern itineraries.