

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

Coromandel Peninsula - Rotorua: 2 1/2 hours

Rotorua - Ohakune: 2 1/2 hours

### Indicative Price from \$4,460

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 - Coromandel Peninsula

Stay [Accommodation near Coromandel](#)

From Auckland allow 3 hours to drive south east to the Coromandel Peninsula. This 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 - Coromandel Peninsula

Stay [Accommodation near Coromandel](#)

Explore the Peninsula stopping at beaches, riding the Driving Creek Railway, clifftop walks and many art galleries and cafes.

## 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

Stay [Koura Lodge](#)

There are many options today, mountain biking, thermal resorts, treetop canopy walk, a Maori cultural show or an adrenalin activity.

## Day 5 - Rotorua, Central Plateau

Do [Cruise & Fish | Cruise Lake Tarawera](#)

Stay [Koura Lodge](#)

Enjoy a relaxed day cruising or fishing on Lake Tarawera.

## Day 6 - near Ohakune

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

Do [Orakei Korako Cave & Thermal Park | Geothermal Park Tour](#)

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 the volcanoes, landing at Orakei Korako Thermal Park.

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.