



# AUCKLAND AND SURROUNDS

Bay of Islands, Waitomo, Hobbiton & the Northern Explorer

WEDNESDAY 31 MARCH – SATURDAY 10 APRIL 2027



11 Days



New Zealand - North Island



\$7,500 pp Twin/Double Share  
\$9,350 Sole Occupancy

## Ancient kauri forest, Māori heritage, glow-worm caves, Middle-earth and one of the world's great train journeys.

New Zealand's North Island packs an extraordinary amount into a short flight from home. We begin in Auckland, the "City of Sails", then travel north through kauri country to the Bay of Islands, where the nation was founded at Waitangi and the coastline breaks open at the Hole in the Rock. Back in Auckland, our comfortable waterfront hotel becomes the base for day trips underground to Ruakuri Cave and out to the Shire at Hobbiton — no repacking, no hotel-hopping.

We finish with the Northern Explorer, a full day aboard one of the world's great scenic railways, crossing the volcanic heart of the island to the capital, Wellington. In Wellington, refresh with a 2-night stay before our flight home. Visit Zealandia, the most biodiversity-rich square mile of mainland New Zealand.

We fly from Canberra, connecting in Sydney, and travel throughout New Zealand by private air-conditioned coach with your own driver-guide. Just three hotels in ten nights, and dinner included almost every evening.

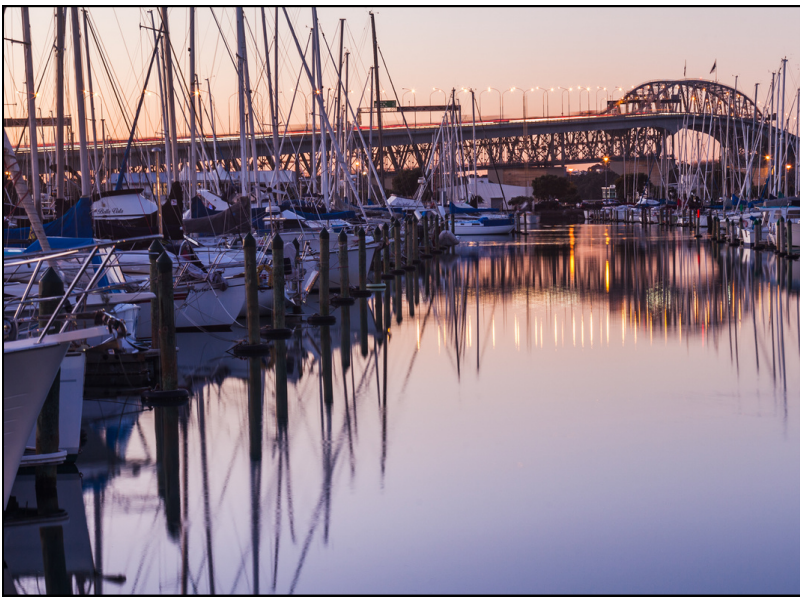
### YOUR FLIGHTS

DAY 1 Canberra – Sydney / Sydney – Auckland

DAY 11 Wellington - Sydney - Coach Transfer to Canberra

### INCLUSIONS

- Return flights Canberra–Sydney–Auckland and Wellington–Sydney–Coach Transfer to Canberra
- 10 nights quality hotel accommodation — M Social Auckland (Social View rooms), Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands, Copthorne Hotel Wellington Oriental Bay (harbour view rooms)
- 10 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 9 dinners, including welcome and farewell dinners
- Private air-conditioned coach touring in New Zealand with your own experienced driver-guide
- Northern Explorer scenic rail journey, Auckland to Wellington
- Airport meet-and-greet on arrival in Auckland, and all group airport transfers in New Zealand
- Auckland city sightseeing, Auckland Museum and Devonport ferry
- The Kauri Museum, Matakoho, and Tāne Mahuta in the Waipoua Forest
- Waitangi Treaty Grounds guided tour
- Bay of Islands cruise to the Hole in the Rock
- Hundertwasser Art Centre and Wairau Māori Art Gallery, Kawakawa
- Guided small-group tour of Ruakuri Cave, Waitomo
- Hobbiton Movie Set guided tour, Green Dragon™ Inn beverage and buffet lunch in the Party Marquee
- Wellington city sightseeing, Zealandia ecosanctuary and Te Papa Tongarewa
- All coach touring, entry fees and GST



## CANBERRA / SYDNEY / AUCKLAND

**DAY 1 | Wednesday 31 March 2027 (D)**

An early start from Canberra Airport for the short flight to Sydney, where we connect to our Air New Zealand service across the Tasman. Kia ora — welcome to New Zealand. Met on arrival at Auckland Airport by your coach driver and transferred to the M Social Auckland on Princes Wharf, an easy stroll from Viaduct Harbour, the waterfront and a good choice of cafés and bars. Welcome drinks are provided in the Hotel's Terrace - Cabana before dinner this evening at a restaurant overlooking the water.

**MSocial Hotel Auckland - 2 Nights**



## CITY OF SAILS

**DAY 2 | Thursday 1 April 2027 (BD)**

A sightseeing tour of Auckland taking in panoramic harbour views from Bastion Point, trendy Parnell Village and the vibrant Viaduct Harbour precinct, with a visit to the Auckland Museum for an introduction to Māori history and New Zealand's cultural heritage. Cross the Harbour Bridge to the summit of Mt Victoria in Devonport, then browse the seaside village at leisure before the short ferry ride back across the Waitematā to the city. Dinner at the hotel.



## KAURI COUNTRY & THE BAY OF ISLANDS

**DAY 3 | Friday 2 April 2027 (BD)**

Travel north past the Pacific Coast beaches of Orewa and Waiwera and through rolling farmland to Matakōhe, where the award-winning Kauri Museum records the timber-milling and gum-digging days of Northland. Continue to the Waipoua Forest to stand before Tāne Mahuta, New Zealand's largest kauri tree, then around the Hokianga Harbour and across the peninsula to Paihia in the Bay of Islands. Dinner at the hotel.

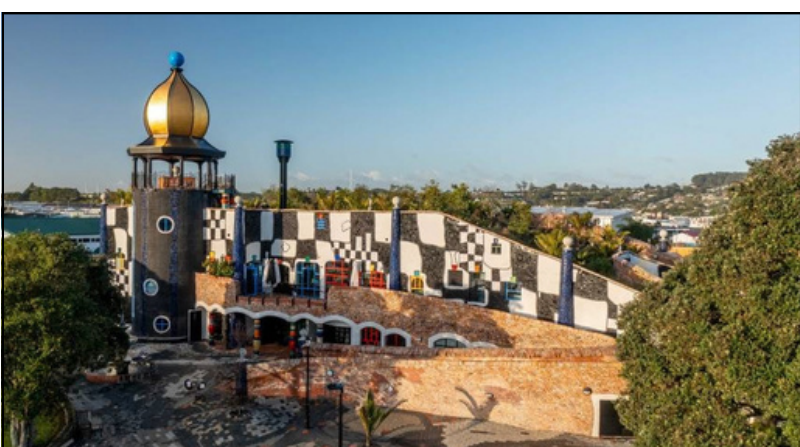
**Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands - 2 Nights**



## WAITANGI & THE HOLE IN THE ROCK

**DAY 4 | Saturday 3 April 2027 (BD)**

This morning, a guided tour of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, where Māori and British settlers signed the agreement that gave birth to the nation in 1840. The carved Māori meeting house in the grounds is a superb example of the work of Māori wood carvers and flax weavers. This afternoon, cruise out through the islands, past secluded bays and beaches, to the famous Hole in the Rock at Cape Brett — keep watch for dolphins along the way. Dinner at the hotel.



## NORTHLAND TO AUCKLAND

**DAY 5 | Sunday 4 April 2027 (BD)**

Travel south to Kawakawa to view the extraordinary Hundertwasser Art Centre and Wairau Māori Art Gallery, a colourful architectural landmark inspired by the Austrian artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser. Continue through Whangārei, Warkworth and Wellsford, and past the beaches of the Hibiscus Coast, returning to Auckland and our waterfront hotel for the next four nights. Dinner at the hotel.

**MSocial Hotel Auckland - 4 Nights**



## THE GLOW-WORM CAVES OF WAITOMO

**DAY 6 | Monday 5 April 2027 (BD)**

Travel over the Bombay Hills and through the lush dairy country of the Waikato to Waitomo, a landscape of limestone and hidden rivers. A small-group guided tour leads you down a remarkable spiral entranceway deep into Ruakuri Cave, past softly folded limestone shawls and crystal tapestries, with the distant thunder of underground waterfalls and glow-worms close enough to touch. Suspended walkways cross high above the Huhunui River below. Return to Auckland; dinner at the hotel.



## AUCKLAND AT LEISURE

**DAY 7 | Tuesday 6 April 2027 (B)**

A free day to enjoy Auckland at your own pace. Stroll the lively Viaduct Harbour and Wynyard Quarter, browse the shops and cafés of Commercial Bay, or simply enjoy the waterfront. For those wanting to go further, the Sky Tower's panoramic views come highly recommended, and the ferry across to Waiheke Island makes a lovely half-day (both at own expense). Dinner at leisure.

### Optional Tours

#### Waiheke Island

Discover Waiheke's eastern side with this curated wine and food tour. Combining return ferry travel, a guided bus tour, tastings at Waiheke Distilling Co and Jasper Ridge, plus lunch at Man O' War. **AUD 250 per person**

#### Coromandel- Coromandel Peninsula Day Tour

Travel from Auckland to the beautiful Coromandel Peninsula, one of New Zealand's favourite holiday destinations. Journey through the historic town of Thames before visiting the renowned Driving Creek Railway, where a scenic train ride winds through regenerating native forest and offers spectacular views over the Coromandel Harbour. Continue across the peninsula to the stunning east coast beaches, including Hot Water Beach, where naturally heated mineral water bubbles up through the sand. Visit the iconic Cathedral Cove, a picturesque coastal formation featuring a natural rock archway, white sand beach and crystal-clear waters. On the return journey to Auckland, stop to view some of the region's impressive ancient kauri trees.

*There is a half-hour downhill walk to the beach, which means the walk back is uphill, including stairs. A moderate walking ability is required.*

**AUD 390 per person - based on a minimum of 5 paying guests.**



## HOBBITON MOVIE SET

**DAY 8 | Wednesday 7 April 2027 (BLD)**

Journey south through the green Waikato countryside to Matamata and step into the real Middle-earth™. A guide escorts you through the Shire™ as seen in The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit trilogies, past the colourful Hobbit Holes™ scattered across the hillsides — including Bag End, home of Bilbo and Frodo Baggins — with a glimpse inside one of the hobbit homes at Bagshot Row™. Cross the double-arch stone bridge to the world-famous Green Dragon™ Inn for a complimentary Southfarthing™ beverage, then on to the Party Marquee for a hobbit buffet lunch at shared banquet tables. Return to Auckland; dinner at the hotel.



## THE NORTHERN EXPLORER

**DAY 9 | Thursday 8 April 2027 (BD)**

Farewell your Auckland driver at the railway station and board the Northern Explorer for a full day of scenic rail through the heart of the North Island. Some twelve hours of changing landscape unfolds from your window — Waikato farmland, native forest, the dramatic volcanic scenery of Tongariro National Park, the celebrated Raurimu Spiral, the rural Rangitikei, and finally the coastline of the Kāpiti Coast as the train runs down into Wellington. Transfer to our harbourside hotel at Oriental Bay; dinner at the hotel.

**Copthorne Hotel Oriental Bay - 2 Nights**



## WELLINGTON

**DAY 10 | Friday 9 April 2027 (BD)**

A half-day tour of the capital: a drive along picturesque Oriental Bay, the magnificent Parliament Buildings and the iconic Beehive, Lambton Quay in the heart of the city, and Old St Paul's, one of the country's finest colonial Gothic churches. Continue to Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne, an award-winning predator-free ecosanctuary where some of New Zealand's rarest birds and reptiles live wild. The tour finishes at Te Papa Tongarewa, the national museum, with time to explore at your own pace. Afternoon at leisure. Farewell dinner this evening at a local restaurant.



## WELLINGTON / SYDNEY / CANBERRA

**DAY 11 | Saturday 10 April 2027 (B)**

A relaxed morning in Wellington before transferring to the airport for the afternoon flight to Sydney, connecting on to Canberra and home this evening — with photographs, a few new friends and the sound of a hobbit's front door still closing behind you.

\* Additional itinerary notes

Meals are shown as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner.

New Zealand is 2 hours ahead of Canberra. Both New Zealand and NSW/ACT end daylight saving on Sunday 4 April 2027, so the time difference does not change during the tour.

Just three hotels in ten nights: M Social Auckland (2 nights, then 4 nights), Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands (2 nights), and Copthorne Hotel Wellington Oriental Bay (2 nights).

### Activity Level: Easy to Moderate (Level 2)

This tour is comfortably paced, with a full day at leisure in Auckland and only three hotel changes. You will need to manage coach steps unaided and your own luggage at airports, and be able to walk on uneven ground and stand for periods of up to thirty minutes.

Two days ask a little more. The guided tour of Ruakuri Cave runs about ninety minutes and involves a long spiral ramp, steps and suspended walkways underground. The Hobbiton walking tour covers roughly a kilometre and a half on unsealed farm paths with gentle hills, and takes around two hours. Both are outdoors or underground in early-autumn weather, so comfortable walking shoes and a light rain jacket are essentials.

Days 1 and 11 are long travel days with a connection in Sydney at each end, and both involve international check-in and border formalities. Day 9 is a full day aboard the Northern Explorer.

## DEPOSIT

**\$900** per person  
Due within 14 days  
from booking.

## FINAL PAYMENT

Due by  
**Fri 15 January 2027**  
75 days prior to departure.

**It is important that you read these conditions carefully to ensure that You understand Your rights and obligations. Payment of deposit or other charges constitutes acceptance of these terms. This applies equally to all persons included in the reservation.**

Online Direct Debit transactions must include your Booking Reference noted on your Booking Confirmation. There is a 1.99% service fee on all credit/debit card transactions, this covers the cost of using Stripe's reliable payment processing services. The charges will apply for partial or full payments by credit card and debit card. \*Subject to change, in accordance with Stripe Gateway payment conditions.

**Cancellation:** You may cancel your booking by giving written notice to Potter Travel or calling our reservation team. Cancellation fees and charges will be levied as follows:

- Any amounts we have paid or have contractually committed to pay to third parties to deliver your travel arrangements that we cannot reasonably recover (for example payments made or due to hotels, airlines, cruise companies, tour wholesalers).
- Where we operate any of the services included in your travel arrangements (for example, coach travel), a reasonable amount attributable to such services which we determine we cannot resell.
- A fee which is the greater of the deposit and 20% of the booking value to compensate us for work performed up until the time of cancellation.
- A fee not greater than 5% of the booking value to compensate us for processing the cancellation and any associated refund.
- Cancellations received within **75 days** before departure will incur a 100% cancellation fee.

**We recommend that you obtain an appropriate level of travel insurance at the time you pay your deposit to cover any applicable non-refundable or cancellation fees.**

**Itinerary:** Potter Travel reserves the right to alter itineraries without notice due to weather, road conditions or any other reason which is seen to be in the best interest of passengers travelling. The operation and provision of services from other tour operators and carriers included in the itinerary is the responsibility of these operators and no responsibility is taken by Potter Travel for the failure of such operators to provide the nominated service. No guarantees will be given as to the exact arrival and departure times for carriers and operators used by Potter Travel. Drop-offs may be in the opposite direction to the pickups depending on the touring route taken.

**Tour Inclusions:** Meals and accommodation at the hotels as mentioned in the Itinerary, some lunches and morning or afternoon tea supplied from the coach, entry fees and/or guided tours to attractions as mentioned in the itinerary, tickets to shows (if applicable), luxury coach travel and GST. Meals are stated in the itinerary as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch and D = Dinner.

**Not Included:** Passports and any New Zealand entry requirements (Australian permanent residents, and passport holders other than Australian citizens, require an NZeTA and pay the International Visitor Levy), travel insurance, airline seat selection or excess baggage, lunches other than at Hobbiton, drinks, optional sightseeing, and items of a personal nature.

**Travel Insurance:** Potter Travel recommends purchasing Travel Insurance to protect against unforeseen circumstances. Potter Travel is accredited to provide you with insurance through CoverMore. Please contact us for a quote.

**Special Dietary Requirements:** Special meal requests/food allergies must be advised at the time of booking. All efforts are made to accommodate special dietary requirements, like vegetarian and coeliac meals however in some locations this cannot be guaranteed. If You have food allergies, Potter Travel is not responsible for ensuring that the special meals requested meet the needs of Your circumstances. It is the responsibility of You, the passenger, in this circumstance, to make it known at the time the meals are served.

**Media Consent:** Participation or inclusion in a photo taken by a Potter Travel staff member whilst on any of our tours indicates that you are giving us the right to publish any such photos on our website or Facebook page for promotional purposes

**Accommodation:** The accommodation listed in the package should be viewed as a guide only and, where not available, accommodation of a similar standard will be provided. Passengers travelling together on the same package may be accommodated in different hotels, and no compensation will be provided for staying in accommodations that differ from those of other travellers. All accommodation is on a twin share basis unless stated otherwise. Twin share prices are per person. Single rooms may be available for an additional fee. However, Potter Travel makes no guarantee that sufficient single rooms will be available on any given tour. While all care is taken in selecting hotels of an appropriate standard, the day-to-day operations of each hotel remain beyond the control of Potter Travel. Any injury, illness, or loss of enjoyment resulting from a fault on the part of the hotel will not be the responsibility of Potter Travel. Requests for specific room types or showers are subject to availability, and Potter Travel accepts no responsibility if these requests are not met.

**Minimum Numbers:** This tour requires a min of 15 Guests. Potter Travel reserves the right to cancel or postpone the tour due to insufficient numbers or as a result of circumstances outside the company's control.

*\*Continued over page.*

**Health and Fitness:** Our tours are designed for active retirees and, whilst we have passengers every day with varied mobility levels, it is an essential requirement that each passenger be able to negotiate coach steps without the aid of the coach driver or other non-related passengers. No passenger will be permitted to continue the tour while their mental or physical condition is such as to render them incapable of caring for themselves. As part of our ongoing commitment to delivering safe and enjoyable travel experiences, we encourage passengers to ensure they are fit to undertake the activities and travel outlined in our tour itineraries.

It is important that all passengers are reasonably healthy and able to participate fully in our tours. Our tours are designed so that you, the passenger, in most cases, can be as active or inactive as you prefer. However, some tours do require a higher level of fitness and the ability to walk on uneven ground unassisted; the ability to walk upstairs or up hills may also be required to participate in the tour fully. There may be times when you will be standing for up to 30 minutes during a tour of an attraction. You may have to walk over uneven ground with no paving. You should be able to get in and out of transportation, including but not limited to Potter Travel coaches, unassisted and be able to manage your own luggage where necessary, i.e. at airports.

Passengers must advise Potter Travel of pre-existing medical conditions at the time of booking that may affect their ability/mobility/health, or well-being whilst on tour. Passengers must provide Us with emergency contact information for a third party before embarking on a tour.

**Limitation of Liability:** Potter Travel products include and depend on the services provided by our suppliers, such as hoteliers, airlines, coach companies and other third-party operators who are not agents or employees of Potter Travel. Although we take care in selecting these suppliers, we cannot and do not take responsibility for the conduct of our suppliers, their employees, agents or subcontractors. Potter Travel reserves the right to alter or change the itinerary, accommodation or carriers at any time for any reason. We reserve the right to substitute coaches at any time when circumstances may require so, without prior notice.

We shall not be liable to any person taking our tour for, loss (including loss of enjoyment), injury or damage to such persons or their belongings or otherwise in connection with any accommodation, transportation or other services or resulting directly or indirectly for any occurrences.

## AIR TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

**Passenger names and identification:** All international air travel is subject to the terms and conditions of Air New Zealand. Every passenger must hold a current passport. Passenger names must be provided exactly as they appear in the passport — including all given names and any hyphens — as airline tickets cannot be issued in nicknames, shortened names, married or maiden names that differ from the passport. Full passenger details (name as per passport, passport number, nationality, date and place of issue, and expiry date) are required with your final payment by 15 January 2027. Passport details cannot be accepted after 17 March 2027 under any circumstances; passengers who have not supplied them by that date will be unable to travel and cancellation charges will apply in full.

Once tickets are issued, name corrections are permitted free of charge up to five business days before departure. Inside five business days a fee of AUD 50 per change applies, and within 48 business hours of departure no name changes are possible — a new ticket must be purchased at the fare then available. Passengers are responsible for ensuring the name on their booking matches their passport; Potter Travel accepts no liability for denied boarding arising from a name discrepancy.

**Passport validity and entry requirements:** Passengers are responsible for ensuring their passport is valid for the full duration of travel. We recommend a validity of at least six months beyond the return date. Australian citizens travelling on an Australian passport do not require a visa or NZeTA to enter New Zealand. Australian permanent residents and all other passport holders must obtain an NZeTA and pay the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy before travel, and must advise us of their nationality at the time of booking.

**Baggage:** The group airfare includes one checked bag to a maximum of 23 kg and one carry-on bag to a maximum of 7 kg per passenger. Checked bags must not exceed 76 × 51 × 30 cm; carry-on bags must not exceed 118 cm total linear dimensions. Excess or oversized baggage will incur charges payable by the passenger directly to the airline at the airport. Coach luggage capacity is limited to one suitcase and one carry-on per person for the duration of the tour.

Wheeled carry-on cases with telescopic handles cannot be stowed as under-seat luggage on coach services. Baggage handling at hotels is included where available; passengers remain responsible for their own carry-on each day.

**General:** Airfares, taxes and surcharges are subject to change until final payment is received. This tour operates on a group airfare requiring a minimum of 10 passengers on the same itinerary; tickets are non-refundable once issued, and changes after ticketing incur a fee of AUD 125 per person plus any fare or tax difference.

For more information on our travel terms and conditions, please visit  
[www.pottertravel.com.au/terms-conditions](http://www.pottertravel.com.au/terms-conditions),  
or speak to one of our friendly team members by calling **02 6297 8585**.

## BOOK YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE TODAY



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