



## ***ANZ Nature Tours Ltd.***

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### **Selfdrive Itinerary-11 days "Fascinating New Zealand B&B "**

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#### **Day 1 Auckland - Dargaville - Waipoua Kauri Forest - Bay of Islands (B) (240 km, 4¼ hrs)**

Early in the morning you leave the metropolis of Auckland and drive over the Harbour Bridge and along the Hibiscus Coast to Matakoho, where you can visit the popular Kauri and Paper Museum (*optional*). In the afternoon you arrive at the Waipoua Kauri Forest where you find the typical Fern trees next to 1500 years old mighty Kauri trees. The tour continues via Opononi and along the Bay of Hokianga to the Bay of Islands.

**Accommodation: Appledore Lodge, Paihia**

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#### **Day 2 Boat trip - Russell - Paihia (B)**

Today you can make a trip along the "ninety-mile-beach" up to the top of north island, "Cape Reinga". Or take a boat trip through the island world of the Bay of Islands, New Zealand's subtropical paradise that will even bring you to the famous "Hole in the rock" (*optional*). You can make a stop in Russell, New Zealand's oldest city and former capital. You can visit Waitangi (*optional*), where in 1840 a fundamental treaty between the English and the Maori was signed. Still today this Treaty of Waitangi has a great impact on the living together of the two cultures.



**Accommodation: Appledore Lodge, Paihia**

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#### **Day 3 Paihia - Auckland - Thames (B) (350 km, 5 hrs)**

Early in the morning you drive via Whangarei and Auckland to Thames, door to the Coromandel Peninsula. You have the opportunity to stroll through the township and explore a bit of the history of the Coromandel.

**Accommodation: The Heights, Thames**

**Day 4 Coromandel - Rotorua (B) (230 km, 3 1/2 hrs)**

Today you can spend the day along the east coast and various beaches. Highlights are Cathedral Cove, Hahei Marine Reserve and Hot Water Beach, where we have the chance to dig our own hot pool straight at the beach (depending on tides). We suggest a boat ride along the coastline to discover the Marine Reserve (*optional*).

In the afternoon you arrive at Rotorua, the main attraction of the North Island. This thermal city is built around many hot mineral springs. Rotorua is also a centre of Maori culture. At night you can participate in a "Hangi", a traditional Maori meal cooked in a hole in the ground (*optional*). After the feast, the Maoris sing, play and dance, including all in their lively musical culture. Experience the Maori Challenge and the Haka. See the swinging of the poi symbolising the flight of the bird. All actions, games and dances are accompanied by harmonious singing (*optional*).

**Accommodation: Springwaters Lodge, Rotorua**

**Day 5 Geyser land - Rainbow Springs & Kiwi Education (B)**

You can spend the whole day in the "Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve" or at "Te Puia" known for their boiling mud puddles and geysers (*optional*).

It will make you sense the "Pulse of the Earth". In the most irregular intervals the water and vapour jets rise into the air. In Rainbow Springs (*optional*) you could see New Zealand's National animal, the flightless Kiwi bird, in its night house. At the Kiwi Encounter (*optional*) you experience and hear much of interest about New Zealand's popular bird.

**Accommodation: Springwaters Lodge, Rotorua**

**Day 6 Rotorua - Tongariro National Park (B) (215 km, 3 hrs)**

Travel through an important forestry area reaching the picturesque, fast-flowing Huka Falls. The Thermal Energy Plant at Wairakei is of great technical interest. Lake Taupo is the largest lake in NZ and of volcanic origin. State Highway 1 runs along the lake's edge.

You then drive to the heart of the Tongariro National Park. This oldest

of the New Zealand national parks consists of a grand volcanic mountain landscape. You have the opportunity to make a stroll in the National Park that is marked by the three partially active volcanoes with an altitude up to 2700 meters.

**Accommodation: Skotel, Whakapapa Village**

**Day 7 Tongariro National Park (B)**

Today we would suggest to start in the early morning, you will set off on the last nature trek of this tour, the Tongariro Crossing, one of New Zealand's most popular treks, owing to the diverse, at times moon-like landscapes encountered, with spectacular views (*optional*). A climb up Mt. Tongariro (1,968 m) offers breathtaking views over to the neighbouring volcanoes Mt. Ngauruhoe (2,291 m) and Mt. Ruapehu (2,797 m). The track crosses several craters, passing by fumaroles and hot springs, and also the luminous-turquoise Emerald Lakes. It is possible to undertake an easier walk in the closer vicinity.

**Accommodation: Skotel, Whakapapa Village**

**Day 8     Tongariro National Park - Mt. Taranaki/Egmont National Park (B)**  
**(250 km, 4 ½ hrs)**

Your tour continues via Taumarunui and Stratford to Mt. Taranaki. On the "Forgotten Highway" 43 you will experience a beautiful landscape and understand why this highway was declared as the "Heritage Trail".

You will reach Dawson Falls and stay there. From there you can do some hiking through the impressive nature or visit the Visitors Centre.

**Accommodation: Dawson Falls Mountain Lodge, Egmont National Park**

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**Day 9     Mt. Taranaki/Egmont National Park - Wellington (B)**  
**(360 km, 6 hrs)**

Today you are driving to Wellington. New Zealand's capital lies partially on reclaimed land at the harbour and the steep hillsides adjacent to the Cook Strait. Wellington has been the capital city since 1865 and such is also the country's political centre.

**Accommodation: Top O'Till Homestay, Wellington**

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**Day 10    Wellington (B)**

The day is at your own leisure. You can visit the Parliament's Buildings, including the "Beehive". The top of the cable car, a Wellington icon running from Lambton Quay, gives a fine close-up view of the city. From here, you can visit the Observatory and stroll back through the 26 ha Botanic Gardens, extending all the way down to the parliamentary complex. The Old St Paul's Cathedral features a striking interior made from native timber and magnificent stained-glass windows. Apart from its importance as the political centre, the city offers a large cultural choice of museums and art galleries. Check out the modern National Museum "Te Papa", which gives good insight into NZ history and Pacific culture. In the evening, enjoy a leisurely stroll along the harbour side and the city's numerous cafés and restaurants.



**Accommodation: Top O'Till Homestay, Wellington**

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**Day 11    Wellington - Departure (B)**

Drop off your rental car at the Wellington rental car depot and depart NZ for your next destination.