



## New Zealand North Island Tour

### **Tour Inclusions**

#### **Accommodation**

- Twin Rooms with ensuite facilities

#### **Transport**

- Luxury Coach with air conditioning and Seatbelts
- Professional Driver throughout
- Experienced NZET Tour Manager
- All transfers and sightseeing

#### **Food**

- Breakfast daily.
- 2 dinners
- Hangi (traditionally cooked food in earth oven)

#### **Activities**

- Waitomo Caves visit
- Visit to Department of Conservation visitor centre Tongariro
- Lord of The Rings sites
- Huka Jet Boat Ride
- Polynesian Pools
- Tamaki Maori Village experience
- Te Puia Cultural Centre
- Gondola and 2 Luge Rides
- Group Photo
- Rainbow Springs and Kiwi Encounter
- Tour of Hobbiton
- White Island visit.

#### **Extra**

- NZET Maps
- NZET booklet with information and quizzes

## Itinerary

### **Day One Auckland to Waitomo**

Welcome to Auckland. We are met by our NZET Tour Manager and driver in the arrivals hall. We travel through the rich farmland and on to Waitomo (Wai= water Tomo=large opening or hole). We visit the WAITOMO DISCOVERY CENTRE to learn about the unusual geological features of the area and the life cycle of the glow worm. We enter the WAITOMO CAVES via a grand entrance, and then follow the narrow paths down deep into the earth, finishing with a boat trip in the dark under a canopy of sparking glow worms. We arrive at our accommodation in time for our home cooked dinner. Later get to know our Tour manager and discuss our next 8 days in New Zealand. (D)

*Overnight: Kiwi Paka Waitomo (in chalets twin rooms 4 to a chalet)*



### **Day Two Waitomo – Tongariro National Park**

We travel south to TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK and into 'Volcano' territory with a visit to the DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION VISITOR CENTRE. We take time to view the special audio visual show where we experience the violent and unpredictable nature of Tongariro National Park's volcanoes with special effects bringing to life the earth's inner core, plate tectonics and volcanic eruptions. From here to the Top of the Bruce where we can inspect lava flows from previous eruptions on Ruapehu. Plus keep an eye out for scenes from the first Lord of the Rings movie. Tonight we learn the haka and some Maori songs. (B,D)

*Overnight: Park Hotel 2/6 Millar Street National Park Phone: 07 892 2748*

### **Day three Tongariro National Park - Taupo – Rotorua**

This morning we visit GOLLUM'S POOL another great scene from the Lord of the Rings and perfect to practice photography. As we drive along the Desert Road we get fantastic photos of the three mountains Ruapehu (Mordor) Tongariro and Ngauruhoe (Mt Doom) weather permitting of course. Taupo is our lunch stop today before we continue north where we have an exhilarating JETBOAT RIDE on the Huka Jet. Our ride takes us skimming past rocks, cliffs and up to the base of the beautiful Huka falls. We travel onto the geothermal capital of New Zealand Rotorua stopping enroute to view some boiling mudpools before arriving at our centrally located accommodation. Tonight we enjoy a HOT MINERAL SWIM AT THE



FAMOUS POLYNESIAN SPA.(B) *Overnight: Ibis hotel Rotorua Lake End, Rangiuru Street, Rotorua 3010*

### **Day Four Rotorua**

This morning we visit TE PUIA Maori Cultural AND GEOTHERMAL PARK. Here we can see steaming hot pools, spouting geysers, silica terraces and boiling mud. We learn about Maori carving and weaving and afterwards have time to try for ourselves. We arrive at government gardens where we have a GROUP PHOTO and later we visit the ROTORUA MUSEUM where students gain an understanding of environments that have been changed by extreme natural events in this case the eruption at Mount Tarawera. Tonight WE VISIT A LOCAL MAORI VILLAGE where we experience a Powhiri (Maori Welcome) before learning about life in New Zealand prior to Captain Cook's first visit. After an entertaining concert we enjoy a Hangi (food cooked in an earth oven). We finish the night with some singing before taking the 'Tamaki Waka' back to our accommodation. (B,D)



*Overnight: Ibis hotel Rotorua*

**Day Five Rotorua – Whakatane**

This morning we visit RAINBOW SPRINGS including a highlight, the KIWI ENCOUNTER, where we visit the kiwi breeding programme--a unique conservation centre where we have an opportunity to see kiwi conservation in action. There is a working hatchery and nursery where kiwi are hatched and nurtured, this been set up with large windows so we can see clearly the work being done to save the kiwi. The whole experience is part of the New Zealand kiwi conservation program called "Operation Nest Egg." This afternoon we experience a scenic ride up the SKYLINE GONDOLA with fantastic views of the area and 2 fast rides down the LUGE. We say goodbye to Rotorua and take the scenic drive to Whakatane on the Pacific Coast (B)



*Overnight: White Island Rendezvous*

**Day Six Visit White Island – Tauranga**

This morning we take a GUIDED BOAT TRIP TO AN ACTIVE VOLCANO WHITE ISLAND. Our boat journey takes 80 minutes and once we arrive on the island our guide take us through this moon like landscape. We spend 2 hours on the Island where we see the remains of the old sulphur factory, take a walk to the edge of the main crater and feel the awesome power emitting from the earth. (B)

*Overnight: Hotel Armitage*

**Day Seven Tauranga - Auckland – via Hobbiton**

We leave Whakatane and travel back inland to 'HOBBITON' and take A TOUR OF THE MOVIE SITE of both the Lord of the Rings and the Hobbit. We walk through 'middle earth', explore the hobbit holes and have time for a juice at the Green Dragon (and maybe dance under the 'Party Tree').home with you. We have some time for some souvenir shopping before departing for Auckland. We say a fond farewell to our Tour Manager and Driver as we head through security to connect with our flight home.

