

itinerary three

the best of both worlds

day one / Depart Auckland and travel south on the Pacific Coast Highway to the stunning Coromandel Peninsula. The mountainous peninsula is thickly covered with New Zealand rain forest and is home to a diverse range of crafts and rich history alongside icons such as Cathedral Cove and Hot Water Beach. **overnight coromandel.**

day two / Continuing down the Pacific Coast Highway, sapphire waters and white sandy beaches give way to lush farmland and orchards in the Bay of Plenty. Enjoy the beautiful harbour of Tauranga and the popular beaches of Mount Maunganui, which lure visitors from near and far for surfing and other water activities. Or hop on a boat for a dolphin watching excursion, a fishing trip or a scenic boat cruise to see the region's many picturesque outlying islands. **overnight bay of plenty.**

day three / Further down the Pacific Coast Highway is Whakatane, gateway to one of the most accessible active volcanoes in the world – White Island. Take a guided tour by launch or helicopter to see the splendour of the living, breathing island, with its bubbling crater lake and array of mud craters and vibrant colours. From here you will encounter even more breathtaking scenery as you travel your final leg on this highway to Hawke's Bay Wine Country. **overnight hawke's bay.**

day four / Enjoy Hawke's Bay Wine Country- a region where fresh local produce reigns supreme and award-winning wines are too numerous to count. Orchards and olive groves stand along side world famous Art Deco and Spanish Mission architecture, and beaches stretch as far as the eye can see. If you're not after a fine wine or culinary experience choose from a wealth of other activities such as visiting Cape Kidnappers or a marine reserve for a range of outdoor adventures. **overnight hawke's bay.**

day five / Join the Thermal Explorer Highway for your journey north, and travel along an historical heritage trail before arriving at Lake Taupo. Here you will be greeted by the impressive view of the great lake, Lake Taupo. From here make your way slightly south to the district of Ruapehu, home to some of the most popular ski runs in the country plus magnificent walks including the world renowned Tongariro Crossing. **overnight ruapehu.**

day six / Retrace your steps to Lake Taupo where the lake and adjoining streams are alive with rainbow and brown trout. Try your hand at catching a big one, or opt for one of the many adrenalin packed adventures. There are a number of spectacular views to enjoy, from the powerful Huka Falls to the active thermal areas chock-full of mud pools, craters and geysers. **overnight lake taupo.**

day seven / Continue your journey along the Thermal Explorer Highway to Rotorua, spiritual home to the Maori and home to some of the world's most incredible earth forces. You won't have trouble filling your days here with the area's endless geothermal attractions and fascinating cultural experiences. **overnight rotorua.**

day eight / This morning, head across to the famous Waitomo Caves where a sparkling universe opens up underground. The glowworm clad caves offer an activity for anyone. Plunge into the chilly waters on a tube for an exciting black-water rafting experience, go adventure caving or take a more relaxed guided tour of the spectacular caves. **overnight waitomo / king country.**

day nine / Your final day takes you up the last portion of the Thermal Explorer Highway and back to the Auckland International Airport.



itinerary four

thermal – river and coastal experience

day one / Depart Auckland International Airport and head down to the famous Waitomo Caves where a sparkling universe opens up underground. The glowworm clad caves offer an activity for anyone. Plunge into the chilly waters on a tube for an exciting black-water rafting experience, go adventure caving or take a more relaxed guided tour of the spectacular caves. **overnight waitomo.**

day two / Head down the Thermal Explorer Highway to Rotorua. Set amidst a myriad of crystal clear lakes and spiritual home of the Maori of Te Arawa, it is here you will experience nature's awesome earth forces, bubbling mud pools, spouting geysers and natural geothermal mineral pools, alongside the life and pastimes of the Maori. **overnight rotorua.**

day three / Depart Rotorua and travel north to the stunning Coromandel Peninsula. The mountainous peninsula is thickly covered with New Zealand rain forest and is home to a diverse range of crafts and rich history alongside icons such as Cathedral Cove and Hot Water beach. **overnight coromandel.**

day four / Your final day takes you around the Coromandel on the Pacific Coast Highway on the way back to the Auckland International Airport.



itinerary five

thermal - lake and wine country

day one / Depart Auckland International Airport and head down the Thermal Explorer Highway to Rotorua. Set amidst a myriad of crystal clear lakes and spiritual home of the Maori of Te Arawa, it is here you will experience nature's awesome earth forces, bubbling mud pools, spouting geysers and natural geothermal mineral pools, alongside the life and pastimes of the Maori. **overnight rotorua.**

day two / Continue on the Thermal Explorer Highway to Lake Taupo, home of nearly any high-end adventure activity you could possibly imagine, whether you fancy an air, land or water adventure. Skydives, bungy jumps and jetboat rides are just some of the adrenalin-pumping activities on offer. For the gentler of heart, Lake Taupo is an ideal place to take it easy, with a bustling café life and magical hot springs to relax in. **overnight lake taupo.**

day three / Head off down the Thermal Explorer Highway onto the extension of the Thermal Explorer Highway called the Volcanic Loop. From this route take in the views of the impressive Mount Ruapehu, where you can explore some of the many walks in the area or take a trip on the mighty Tongariro River. **overnight tongariro.**

day four / Track back to the Thermal Explorer Highway and go towards the Hawke's Bay Wine Country, a region where fresh local produce reigns supreme and award-winning wines are too numerous to count. Orchards and olive groves stand alongside world famous Art Deco and Spanish Mission architecture, and beaches stretch as far as the eye can see. If you're not after a fine wine or culinary experience choose from a wealth of other activities such as visiting Cape Kidnappers or marine reserves for a range of outdoor adventures. **overnight hawke's bay.**

day five / From the Hawke's Bay, head on to the Pacific Coast Highway and drive towards the Bay of Plenty where sapphire waters and white sandy beaches give way to lush farmland and orchards. Enjoy the beautiful harbour of Tauranga and the popular beaches of Mount Maunganui, which lure visitors from near and far for surfing and other water activities. Or hop on a boat for a dolphin watching excursion, a fishing trip or a scenic boat cruise to see the region's many picturesque outlying islands. **overnight bay of plenty.**

day six / Make your way back to the Auckland International Airport.

