



far north explorer



trip highlights

- Camp on secluded beaches with ocean access at your tent door
- Enjoy the snorkelling and swimming in sheltered coves, or experience them from your kayak as you explore the coastline and mangrove swamps
- Drive the spectacular 90 Mile Beach to Cape Reinga, virtually as far north as it's possible to go
- Try sandboarding on the vast sand dunes that edge the coastline
- Hug New Zealand's largest Kauri trees in the beautiful Waipoua Forest
- Watch the meeting of the turbulent waters of two mighty oceans as they swirl and mix
- Explore the west coast and the forestry history of the region as you make your way to Auckland for the finish of the trip



Trip Duration	6 days
Grade	Introductory level
Activities	day hikes, kayaking, sandboarding
Accommodation	5 nights 6 days

Kia Ora from Adventure South

Thank you for your interest in our Far North Explorer adventure. It's a superb adventure and we hope you can join us. We have been operating guided tours for a long time! Thanks to our experience we're confident to say that we offer the very best cycling, trekking and adventure travel itineraries available in New Zealand today. There's simply no other collection of New Zealand itineraries that can match the geographic coverage, originality and overall quality of our active New Zealand adventure holidays. One of our holidays aims to take you beyond the more popular and busy trails to provide you with a truly unique New Zealand wilderness experience. We're here to show you that there are many, many more trails in our great country that are the new frontiers in adventure tourism - beautiful, scenic, and without the crowds. We aim to explore these delicate environments in a sustainable manner to ensure we leave as little impact as possible from our visit. We'd be honoured to introduce you to the wide variety of natural wonders that New Zealand is famous for. Go forth, go south - join us on this amazing small group, value packed adventure!

why travel with Adventure South?

As New Zealand's hiking and outdoor adventure holiday specialist we offer adventures to suit everyone. Established in 1993, we began running our unique hiking safaris. Since then we have expanded to offer what we believe are the best guided walks, hiking tours and adventure vacations in New Zealand and now some beyond New Zealand. Our customers share our passion for active travel, wild places and conservation. Our client feedback also confirms that what helps make our holidays different are the quality of our professional guides. They share their humour, compassion and wilderness experience to ensure that you have a great vacation and the right degree of personal challenge. We have been awarded the Qualmark Enviro-Gold Award as recognition for our commitment to supporting conservation and environmental projects.

On one of our tours you can expect the right, proven equipment is provided for your tour; the food is delicious, plentiful and can be catered to your dietary requests; your guides are all First Aid trained; that the itinerary you have chosen has been carefully crafted from decades of personal experience in the New Zealand wilderness, not from a guide book recommendation.



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trip dates

2011
20 Sep - 25 Sep
09 Oct - 14 Oct
25 Oct - 30 Oct
15 Nov - 20 Nov
29 Nov - 04 Dec
13 Dec - 18 Dec
27 Dec - 01 Jan

2012
10 Jan - 15 Jan
24 Jan - 29 Jan
07 Feb - 12 Feb
21 Feb - 26 Feb
06 Mar - 11 Mar
20 Mar - 25 Mar
03 Apr - 08 Apr
17 Apr - 22 Apr

trip cost

Joining Auckland: NZD\$995 / AUD\$795

options & supplements

fast facts

Countries Visited:
New Zealand

Singles:
A single supplement is not available for this trip

Leader:
Expert local leader

* Ask our staff for more information

the trip

Explore the very north of New Zealand in a manner that few will have experienced. Small groups and remote camping locations of the 'winterless north' provide an intimate hiking experience full of great memories. Sea kayaking remote coastal headlands, exploring vast sand dunes, or watching the meeting of the vast Tasman and Pacific Oceans, all provide an amazing memory to take home. This 6 day hiking holiday provides an insight into the Maori culture of Northland and combines with the physical landscapes and the amazing kauri forests it contains. Ample time is available for 'timeout' and with a very temperate climate, this trip provides a summertime to remember.

about your leader

It is common knowledge that a guide can make or break a trip – which is why we employ the best. Our guides are inspiring individuals, who enjoy sharing their beautiful country with you. It's amazing what you will learn from these superheroes – from bird calls to bad jokes, survival skills to brewing camp coffee, keeping dry to enjoying being wet and how to find your way through thousands of kilometres of wilderness. All guides are trained in Mountain Safety First Aid and have a wealth of outdoor and hiking experience. Other wonderful characters are used during peak times.

Please be gentle with your guide - good guides are hard to find!

at a glance

DAY 1	EAST COAST BEACHES
DAY 2	BAY OF ISLANDS
DAY 3	WHANGAROA KAYAKING
DAY 4	NINETY MILE BEACH, CAPE REINGA
DAY 5	CAPE MARIA VAN DIEMEN, KAURI FORESTS
DAY 6	KAURI FORESTS

what's included

- Professional guide and transport
- 5 nights camping
- All breakfasts, lunches and dinners (except dinner on night 3)
- Therm-a-rest sleeping mat
- Tents
- Cooking equipment, plates/cutlery
- Your vehicle has snorkelling gear, a BBQ and boogie boards for use
- First aid kit, safety equipment and maps
- NZ Goods and Services Tax (GST)

detailed itinerary

DAY 1 East Coast Beaches

Note: You will need to make your own way to Auckland – SkyCity Visitor Information Centre, corner Victoria and Federal Streets by 8am to meet your guide and the rest of your group.

Depart Auckland and follow the east coast northwards. A quick stop to supplement supplies for the next six days before following crazy coastal back roads to the Bay of Islands. Set up camp here just above the beach. Have a swim or explore this lovely coastline. Red-tinged pohutukawa trees (NZ Christmas tree) cover hidden coves and swimming beaches. If the sea conditions are calm there is excellent snorkelling here too. 1 km/1 hour hiking

meals: L,D

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DAY 2 Bay of Islands

Tumble out of sleeping bags and leap into the sea. Refreshed, break camp and hike northwards. Climb up through regenerating native bush to the ridge tops and look down on hidden sandy coves and rocky headlands. Catching your breath, gaze out across the bright blue Pacific Ocean. You will pass huge steel pots amid the ruins of the old whaling station. These stations are a sad reminder of the many humpback and southern right whales there were once hunted here. Many of New Zealand's first European settlers came for the sealing and whaling rather than our beautiful natural environment! Lunch at a cute cove of turquoise water, with secret beaches and funky palm trees. Descend from Pukehuia – at 345m, it is the highest hill and best viewpoint in the Bay of Islands. The track ends at a perfect bush-fringed bay of lapping water and moored yachts. Wash away the sweat from our exertion in the clear water. It is a short drive to the historic township of Russell, from where you can take the ferry across to Paihia while your guide drives around to meet you. Stop briefly in Paihia, the main tourist centre of the Bay of Islands, before driving north to the campsite at Tauranga Bay and its welcome hot showers. 9 km/6 hours hiking

meals: B,L,D

DAY 3 Whangaroa Kayaking

Highly recommended guided kayaking (optional - \$95*). Using a mix of single and double sea kayaks, launch off a private beach and kayak along this uncluttered coastline, past red volcanic headlands, island outcrops, and sandy beaches. After passing through sea caves you will reach the sheltered waters of Whangaroa Harbour with its mangrove forests. Lunch on a beautiful beach before returning. Stop to share watery stories over fish and chips at the famous Mangonui Fish Shop. Those not kayaking have free time at the Tauranga beach campsite until early afternoon. Ask your guide about other options. Later, head to the twin coves campsite of Matai Bay. 10 km/5 hours kayaking

meals: B,L

DAY 4 Ninety Mile Beach, Cape Reinga

More swimming and snorkelling, then off again. This time, take a fascinating drive up the endless hard-packed sands of 90 Mile Beach to Te Pahi's massive looming sand dunes, where you can jump out and impress each other with out of control fat-air-antics on your sandboard. Continue onwards, setting up camp at a beautiful sandy cove. Later you have the option of a cliff-top walk or a drive to the edge of the world at Cape Reinga, where the Pacific Ocean meets the Tasman Sea. Watch the sun setting in the western sky from this (almost) northernmost tip of New Zealand. 2 km/2 hours hiking

meals: B,L,D

DAY 5 Cape Maria Van Diemen, Kauri forests

Set off to explore a less visited part of the cape's coastline. Cross Te Pahi Station to the surreal iron-stained sand dunes of Cape Maria Van Diemen. Climbing high, you will get grand views of this incredible piece of New Zealand landscape. Wander along an expansive stretch of empty beach before returning for lunch. In the afternoon, leave the Far North and begin the journey southwards, passing through Kaitiaki, across the Hokianga on a car ferry, and on to the Waipoua Forest. Here, New Zealand's biggest kauri tree Tane Mahuta, makes us feel humble as we curl up in our tents. Often, you will hear the screeching call of the endangered North Island brown kiwi, whose numbers are sadly dwindling each year. 4-12 km/2- 4 hours hiking

meals: B,L,D

DAY 6 Kauri forests

This morning you will walk the Trounson Kauri Reserve to bask in the shadows of these huge trees. An intensively managed mainland conservation 'island' surrounded by a sea of farmland, Trounson

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is one of the healthiest forests in the country providing refuge for many threatened species. This reserve is also home to a well-nurtured and protected (from predators) population of kiwi. Arrive in Auckland at approximately 3pm. 2 km/1 hour hiking

meals: B,L

This itinerary is subject to change with any change in Community regulations as well as Governmental changes and natural circumstances beyond our control.

country information

Stretching North to South for over 2000 km, and split into two main islands - the North and the South Islands - New Zealand is a country of diverse landforms. From the Pacific Island beaches and rolling farmlands in the north, to the volcanic plateau and then onto the soaring mountains within view of the sea in the south, and the sub-Antarctic islands that dot the South Island coastline, the contrasts are many.

The South Island is the 12th largest island in the world. The west coast is dominated by the Southern Alps, which contain more mountains than the European Alps altogether, and home to New Zealand's highest peak, Aoraki Mount Cook (3754m / 12,316 ft). The Main Divide, the chain of peaks that forms the backbone of the Alps from Arthur's Pass to Fiordland, splits the South Island into east and west. Several ice ages, and the fact that two continental plates are sliding past each other forming the Southern Alps, means that the scenery is as rugged as the New Zealand fauna and flora is unique. The largest city in the South Island is Christchurch.

The North Island is the smaller of the two main islands of New Zealand. Its northern location means it enjoys a warmer, more temperate climate than much of the South Island, and is much more vastly populated. The centre of the island is primarily a volcanic landscape with vast forests, volcanic peaks, and picturesque lakes. The eastern side of the island is covered with vineyards. Auckland, also known as the 'City of Sails', is the largest city of New Zealand and found on the North Island.

With a population of 4.0 million people, the wilderness areas of New Zealand are many as most 'Kiwis' now live in an urban situation near the coast. The Maori are the indigenous people of the land and they named it Aotearoa 'Land of the Long White Cloud' upon their arrival 1000 years ago. Europeans settled in the early 1800s and the country is alive today with a market driven economy and a blend of European and Asia/Pacific influences to create a buoyant South Pacific culture.

climate

As a general rule, November to April are the most ideal months for travelling in New Zealand's stunning outdoors. One of the most important things travellers need to know about the New Zealand climate is that it's a maritime climate, as opposed to the continental climate typical of larger landmasses.

Thanks to its position in the path of the 'Roaring 40s' and mountainous terrain, New Zealand's weather can frequently change with amazing rapidity. Because the weather can change so unexpectedly you should be prepared for sudden changes in temperature and weather conditions. This basically means having a good waterproof jacket and some warm clothing. You don't need to bring your winter wardrobe but a good fleece/jumper and good thermals are a must.

The temperature during the South Island summers range from 10-30 °C, with a pleasant 40-50% humidity. Higher altitudes are always considerably cooler and snowfall is not uncommon even in summer. The Southern Alps act as a barrier to the moisture laden winds coming west across the Tasman Sea, creating a wet climate on the west side of the mountains and a drier climate on the east side. The geography also creates a wind pattern, which can in summer be very hot, dry and fierce. Maximum temperatures we may encounter range up to 30°C. Minimum temperatures expected in the Southern Alps in Summer time are around -5°C. Weather is



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an integral facet of any mountain range and getting to understand and work with this major environmental factor is what will make you more prepared for your tour – any questions about what to expect on your tour talk to one of our sales team.

non exclusive trips

Please note that this trip is not exclusive to Adventure South clients and is operated by our partners in Auckland. You will be joining a group of 4 – 12 adventurers from around the world.

what's not included

- Personal expenses
- Sleeping bag, backpack, thermal top and long-johns, rain jacket, fleece jacket, gaiters and walking poles - all can be hired if needed. Speak to our sales team pre tour
- Gratuities, tipping is not expected in NZ but gratefully received

responsible travel

Our whole business is based around our natural environment, our rivers, mountains, lakes, coastlines, forests and wildlife. These are our assets and our futures depend on them. No doubt you will have high expectations of what you are going to see and experience in New Zealand and we want to ensure that those expectations are met and exceeded, not just now but in the future too. Your children and grandchildren (and generations to come) should also be able to experience that raw and pristine beauty that New Zealand has to offer. To this end we have developed our own environmental plan and welcome your support for this initiative.

trip grading

Average of 4-5 hrs physical activity per day; up to 6 hours. At times carrying small backpack of 4-5kgs. Tracks generally in good condition. Altitude gains of up to 600m on harder days. No hiking experience necessary. Reasonable standard of fitness required
Some energetic sections and climbs, but includes lots of time for relaxation and other activities.

adventure travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. In remote areas and other countries do not expect the standards you are used to at home. Remote areas are sometimes unpredictable and itineraries may need to be altered as a result. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are mentally flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise. If you are uncertain about your suitability for this trip we recommend that you speak with your consultant or travel agent.

important note

These trip notes represent the most current information for this itinerary, and may supersede any information in the current brochure, including but not limited to the itinerary and price. The itinerary should be seen as a guide only. This itinerary may change at any time due to inclement weather, forces of nature and other circumstances beyond our control.

private groups

The adventures featured in our brochures, and on our website, are just a starting point. Adventure South can custom design an itinerary for groups of friends, clubs, charities, schools or even work colleagues. Our team can assist you with all aspects of your private group to ensure the trip is tailored just right for your group. Contact our team today.



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trip availability

If this trip seems right for you then we encourage you to call us now to check availability. A popular reason to travel with Adventure South is because of our small group sizes. These can fill quickly so it is important to check your availability well in advance. We always need to ensure other services, like train tickets or accommodations, are also available before we can confirm your place on our tours. To ensure we can assist you onto your New Zealand adventure of a lifetime we ask that you check your trip availability with our team at your earliest convenience.

how to book

To book an Adventure South holiday, you can book directly online (<http://www.advsouth.com/booking.aspx>) or you will need to complete a booking form (found at the back of our brochure). You can also download a copy from www.advsouth.com . On completion, please fax or post the form to Adventure South or your nearest World Expeditions office, along with your non-refundable deposit. If you're coming from outside New Zealand call your nearest World Expeditions office or travel agent for assistance with your travel arrangements including flights, travel insurance and additional accommodation. If you're unsure what would be the best option for you call us NZ free phone 0800 00 11 66, AUS free phone 1800 10 70 60, USA free phone 1866 479 9827 anywhere else +64 3 942 1222 or email us on guide@advsouth.co.nz