

northern encounter



trip highlights

- Sail through Auckland's lovely Waitemata Harbour
- Experience an awesome caving trip together with the glow worms at the privately owned Nikau Caves
- Smell and explore the volcanic activity on White Island and the geothermal wonderland with geysers and boiling mud pools in the thermal parks around Rotorua
- Gain understanding in the indigenous Maori culture by visiting a Hangi (traditional Maori dinner) and the Maori Museum in Rotorua
- Raft the stunning Tongariro river in the Tongariro National Park
- Wine tasting in Hawkes Bay region and an evening in Napier, the famous Art Deco city
- Learn about the New Zealand history at Te Papa Museum in the capital city: Wellington
- Visit the Karori Wildlife Centre for a guided night walk to see or hear a kiwi!



| | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Trip Duration | 8 days |
| Grade | Introductory level |
| Activities | 8 day multi activity tour |
| Accommodation | 7 nights motel/hotel accommodation |

Kia Ora from Adventure South

Thank you for your interest in our Northern Encounter adventure. It's a superb adventure and we hope you can join us. Adventure South has been operating active holidays throughout New Zealand since 1992. 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. An Adventure South holiday 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 and cycling routes 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?

"Small Groups, Great Guides, Superb Holidays."

This comment encapsulates an Adventure South active holiday in New Zealand. The phrase was not born from a long and tortuous strategic planning process, it came from a client review! We could not have said it any better. 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.

On an Adventure South tour you can also 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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This 'active' 8 day – 7 nights holiday of New Zealand's spectacular North Island is aimed at those adventurers who seek a challenge, yet require a degree of comfort at the end of the day. The tour is designed for you to see and actively participate in a number of activities pitched at the beginner / intermediate level.



trip dates

2011 14 Nov - 21 Nov
19 Dec - 26 Dec **HS**

2012 23 Jan - 30 Jan
27 Feb - 05 Mar
02 Apr - 09 Apr **HS**

Adventure South does not require single travellers pay a surcharge for travelling alone. We will arrange for you to share accommodation with another traveller of the same gender and if we can not match you up we will provide a single room at no extra charge. If you prefer not to share a single supplement is payable to guarantee your own room. The cost of the single supplement is listed above.

the trip

Come with us while we take you on some awesome New Zealand activities on our Northern Encounter tour from Auckland to Wellington exploring the bubbly beauty and Maori culture of the North Island of New Zealand.

This is the 1st in a series of 3 interconnecting 8 day itineraries that provide a slightly slower pace and some more activities.

Small groups travelling in modern, comfortable 16 seater buses for maximum enjoyment. Over the 8 days we will take you on activities such as: sailing, caving, rafting, Maori culture, wine tasting and hiking. Stay the night at quality accommodation in great locations and private facilities. Our friendly, supportive and qualified guides will make this an experience never to forget.

about your leader

Our Guides are one of our biggest assets. We pride ourselves on the standard and quality of these great people who you will be spending your holiday with. They come from all walks of life but they all have a common desire to give you the best possible experience, heaps of fun and lots of fond memories to take home with you. We provide you with the services of two guides for many of our trips, (this may depend on the size of the group). All are certified in first aid and CPR and many are very experienced hiking guides. To check out more about our guides see our 'Who are we' page on our website (www.advsouth.com).

at a glance

| | |
|-------|-------------------------------|
| DAY 1 | AUCKLAND |
| DAY 2 | AUCKLAND TO ROTORUA |
| DAY 3 | ROTORUA |
| DAY 4 | ROTORUA TO MT RUAPEHU |
| DAY 5 | MT RUAPEHU |
| DAY 6 | MT RUAPEHU TO NAPIER |
| DAY 7 | NAPIER TO WELLINGTON |
| DAY 8 | TOUR FINISHES AFTER BREAKFAST |

what's included

- All breakfasts (excluding day 1), 7 lunches, and 1 evening meal
- Experienced Adventure South driver/guide
- Transport using comfortable modern vehicle
- 7 nights accommodation as detailed based on a twin share basis with private bathroom facilities
- All hikes as indicated including National Park fees
- Sailing on Waitemata harbour in Auckland
- Visits to Te Papa and Rotorua Museum
- White Island day-trip
- Maori Cultural experience & Hangi meal
- Visits to Huka Falls & Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Park
- Entrance to Karori wildlife Sanctuary
- Visit to NZ wine centre, Hawkes Bay
- Clifton Station and Wool World
- Specialist guides for non-walking activities
- Access and Concession fees paid to the Department of Conservation
- NZ Goods and Service Tax (GST)



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detailed itinerary

DAY 1 Auckland

Important: The night before your tour is to depart your guide will call your pre tour accommodation to advise what time they will collect you the following morning. (Please make sure you have given us information as to where you are staying). If you are not around when your guide calls they will leave a message at reception – its really important that you check with reception if you have not heard from your guide directly. If for any reason you have not heard from your guide by the morning of the tour please call us in the NZ office on 0800 00 11 66 (from within NZ).

We start the tour with a short drive to the waterfront where we board our yacht for a day's sailing on Auckland's sparkling Waitemata Harbour. The harbour is situated in the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park. Before long, you will discover why Auckland is known as the City of Sails. Try your hand on the helm, learn the elements of sailing, or just sit back, relax and enjoy the sea breeze. A little after midday we drop anchor at a sheltered bay and enjoy a buffet lunch. Time to enjoy a swim at Motuihe Island or go for a walk along its golden sands learning a little about the Island's history as you go. In the late afternoon we return to Auckland and make our way back to the comfort and quiet of the Sebel Suites on the Auckland waterfront.

meals: L

DAY 2 Auckland to Rotorua

Today we head southwards through the fertile Waikato farmlands and out to a private cave system close to the coast. Here we meet Phillip and Ann plus their delightful family. A chance to meet real New Zealanders on their home ground. Changing to boots and over pants we enter their private cave system with its glow worms and stalagmites providing a sense of wonder. After approximately an hour underground we exit and enjoy a luncheon spread amidst the beautiful gardens. Then it is back on board and the drive on to Rotorua. In Rotorua we take some time to explore the geothermal history before settling into our accommodation.

meals: B,L

DAY 3 Rotorua

After an early breakfast, we head down highway 30 for an hour and a half to Whakatane, a small seaside town, whose main industries are forestry and a distribution centre for the surrounding dairy and fat lamb farming. It is also the departure point for our 50km boat ride to the steaming, active volcano, White Island. The boat anchors a few metres from shore. Here you don your gas mask and helmet and board the small tender vessel which ferries you to the old wharf. What follows is a fascinating tour, where you learn about the forces that are twitching, belching and rumbling all around you. Also hear the history of mans attempts to extract the sulphur from the island. The climax has to be the hike to the crater rim. Here you look down into the steaming, boiling crater lake. Back on board we have a delicious lunch as the boat begins the journey back to Whakatane. And who knows, with a little bit of luck we may even get to watch some dolphins and whales along the way. We return to Rotorua where this evening we visit a marae, the traditional village centre of Maori life. Here you will experience a formal Maori welcome performed by your hosts. They will then entertain us with a Maori concert, followed by a hangi (food cooked in an earth oven).

meals: B,L,D

DAY 4 Rotorua to Mt Ruapehu

The day starts with a visit to the Rotorua Bathhouse museum where we explore aspects of the Maori culture and watch a short video presentation which explains the awesome forces that helped form this famous thermal wonderland. On the way to Taupo we stop at a fascinating thermal valley to explore boiling mud pools, mineral terraces and steaming volcanic lakes. Later in the day we visit the Wairaki geothermal area and then stop at the Huka Falls. Here New Zealand's longest river, the mighty Waikato, thunders through a narrow chasm, forming the Huka Falls. (oh yes, people kayak

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fast facts

Private Groups:

Private group options are available for this trip*

Singles:

A single supplement is available for this trip*

Leader:

Expert local leader

*Ask our staff for more information

this) If time permits we take a short walk along the banks of the river allowing a good look at the falls, before we continue our drive along the eastern shores of Lake Taupo. By 2.00pm we are wetsuited up and start our next white water adventure on the Tongariro River. The grade 3 rapids are bouncy but not scary and the guides will keep you well informed. The 2-3 hour trip will keep you well amused and add an appetite for tonight. Above Lake Taupo on the Volcanic Plateau, nestled at the base of Mt Ruapehu is Whakapapa Village, our home for the next two nights.

meals: B,L

DAY 5 Mt Ruapehu

From our hotel there are a wide range of activities available for today. Your guide will lead a trek out across the volcanic landscape heading to Tama lakes, a set of turquoise jewels hidden high on the slopes of Mt Ngaurahoe. For those seeking a longer trek, the nearby Tongariro Crossing provides a challenging unguided alternative. A shuttle carries you to the start of the track and returns you from the far end at an additional cost. Locally there are numerous shorter tracks to explore and understand the convoluted landscapes, before returning at the end of the day to relax on the deck outside the hotel.

meals: B,L

DAY 6 Mt Ruapehu to Napier

After breakfast we load up and head back into Taupo to catch the Gentle Annie roadway that crosses to the East coast and the new tourism Mecca that is the Hawkes Bay. This region is famous for its wine-making history and home of New Zealand's best reds. To show off our wines, this afternoon's activity is based around The New Zealand Wine Centre, which offers a unique way to present wine information to you. This visit will set you up for the dinner wine selection that evening in Napier, the Art Deco City. Nowhere else can you see such a variety of buildings in the style of the 1930s in such a concentrated area, all built after a 7.8 earthquake hit the area in 1931. This in combination with the palm trees, Norfolk Island pines and the Pacific Ocean views and breeze makes it a great place to stay the night.

meals: B,L

DAY 7 Napier to Wellington

On our final travel day we have a quick start with a visit planned to Clifton Station and the Wool World – because no visit to NZ would be complete without a chance to understand wool! This mid morning visit sets us up for the drive southward heading to Wellington via the Rimutaka range and an eventual arrival into Wellington. If time permits we get a chance to visit Te Papa, our national museum. Then in the evening after dinner, we have a finale which is a visit to the Karori Wildlife centre and explore this stunning environment which is capped with a guided night walk to possibly see or hear a kiwi. It is a late night but tomorrow is the end for those not continuing with us to the south island.

meals: B,L

DAY 8 Tour finishes after breakfast

The trip finishes after your breakfast and check out leaving you free to travel on to further destinations – or to join us with the start of Day 1 of the West Coast Encounter.

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.

suggested extensions

→ This tour works really well when followed with the West Coast Encounter (http://www.advsouth.co.nz/remarkable_adventures/West_Coast_Encounter.tour).



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responsible travel

We all have a responsibility to minimise the impact we have on the environment and communities we visit when we travel.

Since our beginnings this has been a cornerstone of our company. The New Zealand travel industry has become a world leader in developing an external audit process to identify quality, and that process has been extended to now include a 3 level Enviro Mark based on company processes. We're very proud that we've received a Gold rating, the highest category; each year since this initiative began.

Being responsible when we travel isn't about a single process or project but rather a way of thinking and then doing.

We started this journey many years ago, and acknowledge we still have a lot to learn. We invite you to join us!

trip grading

To determine the grade of a particular adventure we consider a number of factors.

These include the condition of the terrain, the altitude, the number of pass crossings and the length of the trip. The Northern Encounter is graded introductory. You will need a reasonable level of fitness and we suggest 30 minutes of aerobic type exercise, (either cycling or jogging) three times a week for the three months leading up to your trip. The tour is fully supported and if at any stage you feel like having a rest from cycling you will be able to ride in the support vehicle.

adventure travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. 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.

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.

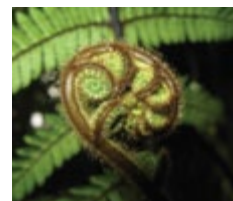
The temperature during the South Island summers range from 10-30 °C, with a pleasant 40-50% humidity. Higher altitudes are always considerably cooler and snowfall is not uncommon even in summer. The Southern Alps act as a barrier to the moisture laden winds coming west across the Tasman Sea, creating 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 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.

accommodation on the trip

The accommodation for this trip has been carefully selected to provide comfort and value in the best locations possible. The accommodation is on a twin share or double room basis

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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.

with private facilities. If you wish to reserve a room to yourself a single supplement is available at extra cost. Please note: although every endeavour is made to stay at the accommodation detailed in the itinerary, occasionally, due to seasonal shortages, we need to use other accommodation of a similar standard.

pre and post tour accommodation

If you would like some help booking pre/post tour accommodation speak to our staff as they can help with different suggestions.

what's not included

- 6 evening meals
- Alcoholic and soft drinks with included meals
- Shuttle transportation to Tongariro Crossing
- Other extra activities on the route
- Personal expenses
- Gratuities, tipping is not expected in NZ but gratefully received. It is at your discretion whether or not to reward for excellent service

private groups

The adventures featured in our brochures, and on our website, are just a starting point. Planning and providing special group departures is something we do exceptionally well. Over the past 18 years we have developed some exceptional itineraries, from cycling to hiking or combination multi-adventure trips. School groups, charities, work colleagues and cycling buddies have all been part of our experience. 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.

subscribe to our e-newsletter

To keep up to date with the new and exciting trip releases, special offers plus more please subscribe to our free e-newsletter at www.advsouth.com

Or why not view past travellers images and join in on the conversation at <http://www.facebook.com/AdventureSouthNZ>

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

