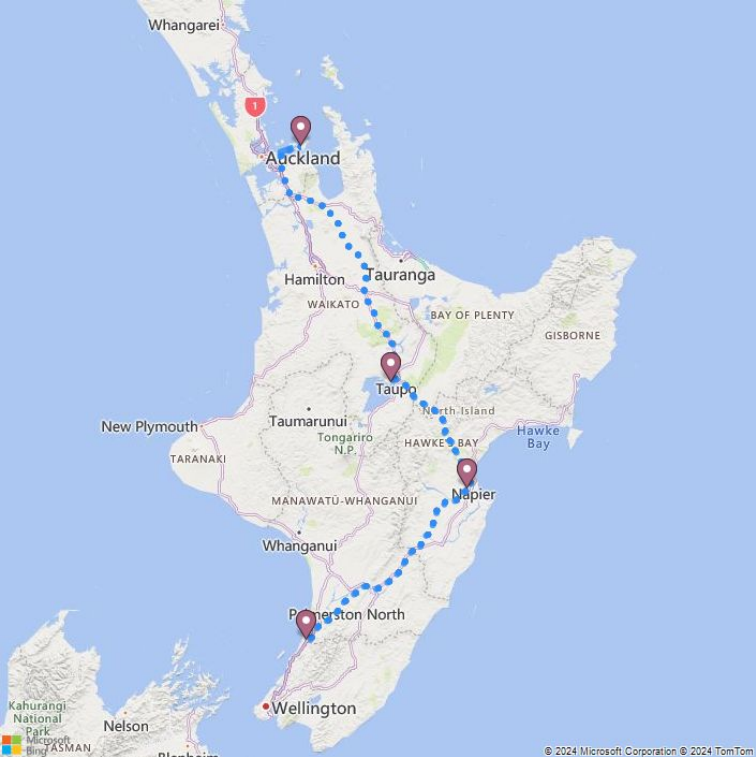


Our North Island Gourmet Journey provides an opportunity to explore and indulge in New Zealand’s best food and wine regions, whilst enjoying local fare and a high standard of cuisine at specially chosen accommodations along the way. Several lodges are hosted by professional chefs who will cook for you personally and offer an insider’s guide to their local wine and food providers. BoutiqueTravel.nz Journeys also allow you insights into our history and Maori culture. On this itinerary you start from Auckland, catching the short ferry ride out to the glorious and relaxing haven of Waiheke Island for your first two nights. Visit Taupo, Hawkes Bay wineries and orchards and end your journey in vibrant Wellington.

We recommend slow travel, add extra nights or extra stops along the way if you have more time.



At a glance

Duration: 9 days, 8 nights

Connection points:
Auckland airport
Wellington airport or Inter Islander ferry

Activity level: easy

Best season: year-round

Driving times

Auckland - Waiheke: 40 mins by ferry
Waiheke - Taupo: 4 hours
Taupo - Napier: 2 hours
Napier - Wellington: 4 hours 15 minutes



Join this journey from Auckland by taking the ferry or flying Waiheke Island.

Day 1 Travel to Waiheke Island. [Select accommodation and activities from our Collection.](#)

Waiheke Island is a wine-growing area and a laid-back place for you to relax at the start of your trip. Dine at your accommodation or ask your hosts for a recommendation and to make a booking for you.

Day 2 Waiheke Island

Join an island tour to explore the food, wine and art culture, take a massage, a round of golf, or visit one of the wineries for lunch.

Day 3 Travel to Taupo / Turangi. [Select accommodation and activities from our Collection.](#)

On the way, stop at one of the geothermal areas in Rotorua or Reporoa.

Day 4 Taupo / Turangi

Lake Taupo is the size of Singapore and a huge caldera dating back 26,500 years. Take a sailing boat to modern Maori carvings, a fishing charter or a floatplane. The Lake is fed by rivers stocked with brown trout. For the more active, the Tongariro Crossing is one of New Zealand's best day hikes and the area boasts great mountain-biking and river rafting.

Day 5 Travel to Hawke's Bay. [Select accommodation and activities from our Collection.](#)

Dine with your host or ask for recommendations.

Day 6 Hawke's Bay

Wineries and great restaurants feature highly in any visit to this area, with tours by bike and private tour. There is also Cape Kidnappers golf course, private Maori tours, a gannet colony and Art Deco history.

Day 7 Travel to Wellington. [Select accommodation and activities from our Collection.](#)

Day 8 Wellington

New Zealand's capital city is also its cultural centre. Te Papa Museum has some exceptional exhibitions. Zealandia is a fenced sanctuary where you can see many native birds. The Weta Workshops display many special effects from the Lord of the Rings and other movies. Take a walk along Oriental Parade and dine at one of the nation's best restaurants.

Day 9 Journey's End

Wellington Airport has flights within New Zealand and also Australia. The Inter-Island ferry also connects you to South Island.