

# Abercrombie & Kent



## ADVENTURE TO MIDDLE EARTH

Discover New Zealand's North Island where world-famous vineyards vie with extraordinary volcanic terrain, on this self-drive journey to Rotorua.

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Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries



New Zealand & South Pacific,  
New Zealand



6 days from AU\$5,540 pp



Private

## Journey Overview

Discover New Zealand's North Island where world-famous vineyards vie with extraordinary volcanic terrain, on this self-drive journey to Rotorua. Sample artisan cheeses and freshly shucked oysters straight from Te Matuku Bay in Waiheke Island. Wander through 'the Shire' at Hobbiton, soar over hidden crater lakes by helicopter, get up-close to the precious kiwi bird, and hear ancient stories of Maori ancestors. From giant Redwood forests to the geothermal wonderland of Te Puia, this adventure to Middle Earth is an unparalleled journey onto Maori land.

### Journey Highlights

- Lose yourself in Tolkien's world on a tour of Hobbiton
- Witness boiling mud pools and shooting geysers in Rotorua
- Explore the breathing, and hidden crater lakes by helicopter
- Enjoy an exclusive Insider Access encounter with New Zealand's elusive kiwi
- Savour a full-day private food and wine tour of Waiheke Island



## Itinerary

### **Days 1-2: Arrive Auckland**

Welcome to New Zealand. With your first day at leisure, settle into your retreat, which is perfectly positioned on Auckland's waterfront. Spend the day exploring the local harbour and arts scene at your own pace.

Your adventure starts at Auckland Wharf on day two, where you'll board the ferry for Waiheke Island — a haven of beautiful vineyards, olive groves and beaches. Set out on a full-day gourmet food and wine tour with your private driver/guide. Sample award-winning olive oil, wild aromatic honey, artisan cheeses and freshly shucked oysters straight from Te Matuku Bay, accompanied by wines from some of the Island's top boutique vineyards. Afterwards, enjoy a platter lunch at one of New Zealand's famed vineyard restaurants. Return by ferry this afternoon for an evening at leisure.

### ***Park Hyatt, Auckland / BL***

### **Day 3: Rotorua**

Collect your rental car\* and journey through the rolling green farmlands of Matamata for a day of Middle Earth magic at the Hobbiton movie set. This experience transports you straight out of reality and right into the Shire, where you can see Hobbit holes, the Mill, gardens, wells and beehives, and the famous Green Dragon Inn. Listen in for fascinating behind-the-scenes stories about the creation of these extraordinary movies, before heading to the Green Dragon Inn for a Southfarthing ale, beer or cider. Finish in Rotorua, known for its bubbling mud pools, shooting geysers and natural hot springs, as well as its rich Māori culture. This evening, enjoy dinner at the luxurious Solitaire Lodge.

### ***Solitaire Lodge / BD***

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## **Day 4: Rotorua**

This morning, make your way to the Rotorua Lakefront for a spectacular heli-tour over Crater Lakes. Soar over Lake Tikitapu (Blue Lake), Rotokakahi (Green Lake), Okareka, Tarawera, Okataina and Rotorua to witness their extraordinary volcanic colours from above.

Continue to the National Kiwi Hatchery for an exclusive Insider Access encounter with New Zealand's elusive kiwi. Meet the master conservationists behind the scenes, and take a glimpse at kiwi eggs being incubated, the hatching process and newly hatched kiwi chicks. Learn all about kiwi conservation and the vital research taking place to house, feed and boost the population of these precious native birds.

This afternoon, explore New Zealand's geothermal wonderland, Te Puia, home to Maori ancestral histories and ancient stories of the land. Come face-to-face with the biggest, naturally active geyser in the Southern Hemisphere and set your eyes on the exploding mud pools in the valley. Next it's on to the Maori Arts & Crafts Institute, where you can watch carvers and weavers demonstrate their skill while hearing stories of the ancestors. Finish with a mesmerising Haka performance, before heading back for a dinner spent relaxing at the lodge.

### ***Solitaire Lodge / BD***

## **Day 5: Rotorua**

This morning, take a Tarawera Thermal Springs tour and visit the natural hot springs where you can soak in complete tranquillity as the morning sun filters through the native bush. Savour a light lunch, before an afternoon at leisure to unwind at your luxurious Lodge, with breathtaking views over Lake Tarawera.

After dinner make your way to Redwoods Treewalk, to meet night fauna in the 120-year-old Redwood Forest. High above the forest floor, your walk is an exhilarating 700 metres long, spans across 28 suspension bridges and 27 platforms. Lit by 34 exquisite lanterns, be transported to a world of forest and fantasy

### ***Solitaire Lodge / BLD***

## **Day 6: Depart Rotorua**

Leave Rotorua behind as you self-drive to the airport for your departing flight.

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**Note**

\*Vehicle hire not included.

## Map



## Accommodation

### Park Hyatt Auckland



Park Hyatt Auckland is a new addition to the city's waterfront with an ideal harbourside location on the western side of Auckland's Viaduct Basin with views across Wynyard Quarter's Lighter Basin and out to the Waitematā Harbour.

A dramatic atrium welcomes guests with local artworks and Maori artifacts before entering your spacious guestroom, where floor to ceiling windows maximise the view. Elegant furnishings and marble en suite bathrooms with bath products from artisanal brand Le Labo ensure a restful stay.

Gourmands and gourmets alike can savour a delectable meal in one of the four restaurants and bars. The Living Room is the perfect place to unwind and relax, enjoy a light meal or indulge in Park Hyatt Auckland's Afternoon Tea, a journey of discovery served in a playful style, marrying nostalgia with modern flair. In the Captain's Bar, sit by the fireplace or on the outdoor terrace soaking up the view, as you enjoy a fine selection of rums or classic cocktails with a local twist. It is the perfect setting for a sundowner, watching the last rays sparkle over the water from your terrace perch.

The hotel's signature restaurant, Onemata, is a vibrant space with harbour views and an open kitchen showcasing the finest seasonal produce from land and sea. The Spa at Park Hyatt Auckland is an intimate sanctuary of

calm and relaxation, with professional therapists to tailor and deliver a holistic sensory journey enriching body and mind. Start or end your day with a refreshing dip in the 25-metre infinity pool and for those with a focus on fitness, there is an onsite gym.

### **Why we like it**

- Mesmerising harbour and city skyline views
- Sustainably sourced local produce at signature eatery Onemata
- Traditional high tea in the stunning waterfront Living Room
- Thoughtfully placed Maori artworks and sculptures



## Solitaire Lodge, Rotorua



Solitaire Lodge, one of New Zealand's premiere luxury lodges, enjoys breathtaking views over Lake Tarawera, with lush natural bush and the backdrop of a volcanic landscape. Styled with comfort in mind, all nine luxurious suites are newly refurbished, featuring panoramic views over Lake Tarawera's still, deep waters. Freestanding baths allow views over the lake while soaking. Complimentary mini bar, fruit and snacks are also at hand. Cuisine at the lodge is a highlight and focuses on local seafood, regional produce and pickings from the kitchen garden. Menus change daily to entice the expectations of today's contemporary palate and dinners showcase New Zealand's finest regional wine varieties with specially paired recommendations.

Easy lake access allows exploration of surrounding waters, secluded private bays, a three hour hike to a 65 metre waterfall and natural thermal hot springs in which to soak and unwind. Embark on an adventurous scenic helicopter flight over the surrounding volcanic landscape and land on an active volcano. Catch a good sized rainbow trout for dinner, or explore tranquil waters in a kayak or motorised dinghy. The lodge is also the perfect place to simply relax, indulge and rejuvenate, left in the able hands of your warm, friendly Kiwi hosts.

### Why we like it

- Perfect place to relax and rejuvenate
- World class Rainbow Trout fishing
- Nine luxury suites with panoramic views
- Hot water beaches and thermal pools access
- Excellent wild cycle trails to geothermal sites



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