



# West of North Island

March 2021 | 9 nights

A guided adventure for active women

## Sun 14 March Cambridge

Arrive in to Cambridge or Hamilton anytime today. If you are arriving in to Auckland, we can arrange a shuttle for you at an additional cost. The charming town of Cambridge is known for its trees and champions and recently voted NZ's "**Most Beautiful Large Town**". Your hotel is an easy walk to Lake Te Ko Utu, the Town Hall and the main street with it's own walk of fame – it's not quite Hollywood but you never know which famous Kiwi you might spot!

## Mon 15 March Waitomo - Taumarunui

Within an hour's drive from Cambridge is the world renowned **Waitomo Glowworm Caves**. The glowworm, *Arachnocampa luminosa*, is unique to New Zealand and as our Guide takes us deep in to the cave we will see thousands of these tiny creatures radiate their unmistakable luminescent light. An informative commentary on the Caves' historical and geological significance and a magical boat ride beneath the glow will surely enlighten you!

Next is the **Ruakuri loop walk**, taking us through a forested gorge, natural sculpted cliffs, impressive limestone arches and a cavernous tunnel. We'll stop for a picnic lunch before walking through a majestic limestone gorge to the 17m high natural arch which is the **Mangapohue Natural Bridge**. Our last scenic visit will be a short stroll through tawa and nikau to the **Marakopa Falls**, often described as the most beautiful waterfall in the country.

We journey further south to the small King Country town **Te Kuiti** to say hello to a local legend, before continuing to **Taumarunui**. This evening enjoy local hospitality with convivial hosts in their country home.

*Walking: 1 + 1 hours*

## Tue 16 March Forgotten World - New Plymouth

Today we change our mode of transportation for **Rail Carts**. Spend the morning travelling at a leisurely pace along the northern most section of an abandoned railway line which cuts through rugged farmland, across bridges and through hand-dug tunnels, some of them up to 1.5km long.

Arrive in Tokorima around midday and meet up with your vehicle for a scenic drive along the **Forgotten World Highway** to **Whangamomona**. Time for a wander around this tiny quirky village, learn about the controversial history and “wet your whistle” in NZ’s remotest country pub. Maybe you had plans to travel overseas in 2020/21 and collect a few more stamps in your passport ... don’t worry you can bring your passport on this tour and have it stamped here in the **Republic of Whangamomona!**

By late afternoon we’ll arrive in the capital of **Taranaki** and settle into our accommodation. The hotel has a heated pool and spa which will be a nice place to relax in this evening.

## Wed 17 March      New Plymouth

After breakfast, we set off for a walk along the award-winning **Coastal Walkway**. This is a flat easy walk with picturesque views as we hug the coastline walking a paved path between farmland and pounding waves and across the dramatic **Te Rewa Rewa bridge**. Fingers crossed for a clear day as the way this Bridge frames **Mt Taranaki** is an incredible sight.

Afternoon at leisure. The hotel has free bikes if you want to head out for a ride, or take a walk in to the city along the Coastal Walkway. In the city you might like to visit the contemporary art museum and home to the collection of modernist filmmaker and kinetic artist **Len Lye**, or stop by **Puke Ariki** with its heritage and art collections.

*Walking: 1.5 hours*

## Thu 18 March      Pukeiti - Opunake - Whanganui

Rise early this morning for a scenic drive to **Pukeiti Gardens**. All sorts of interesting plants and trees make up this absolute gem tucked in to the foothills of towering Mt Taranaki. Take your time exploring.

Later this morning we’ll journey on to the popular holiday town of **Opunake**. Our walk takes us across paddocks and along the beach clifftop enjoying mountain and ocean views. After a picnic lunch we’ll continue driving along the **Surf Highway** to Whanganui. This small city is located on the historically significant **Te Awa o Whanganui** – NZ’s longest navigable river and once an important transport route for Maori and early European settlers. It’s a city with an interesting heritage and arty locals extending manaakitanga (legendary hospitality). Afternoon orientation walk of the city.

*Walking: 1 + 2 hours*

## Fri 19 March      Whanganui River

The **jetboat** was invented by a Kiwi, Bill Hamilton, in 1954 and is a thrilling way to travel. We board our powerful streamlined boat in Pipiriki and enjoy an exhilarating ride up the **Whanganui River** through pristine bush and deep gorges to the “**Bridge to Nowhere**”. On arrival at Mangapurua Landing we have an easy bush walk to the historic bridge where we’ll learn about the history of the gateway to the “Valley of Abandoned Dreams” over a picnic lunch before jetboating back to Pipiriki.

This afternoon visit the peaceful village of **Jerusalem**, the resting place of well-known poet James K Baxter and home to the Sisters of Compassionate Convent,

*Walking: 1.5 hours*

## Sat 20 March      Whanganui

The **Whanganui River Traders and Farmers Market** beckons this morning, offering a diverse range of stalls. A great place to have brunch. We’ll then drive out to **Castlecliff** to look at some quirky buildings and art and have a roam along the rugged beach.

A scenic rural drive brings us to a **Garden of National Significance**. Ramble through exotic gardens with Clive, the visionary owner/designer/hard grafter of **Paloma**. Then at your own pace you can gaze at the

sculptures and plants from all over the world and even come face-to-face with GOD (the Garden of Death!).

Once back in Whanganui, you can ride on New Zealand's only **underground elevator** from Drurie Hill Memorial down to the city. Free afternoon to enjoy the art galleries and shopping on offer in Whanganui.

*Walking: 1.5 hours*

## Sun 21 March Whanganui – Kapiti Coast

We continue travelling south, having a leisurely day of driving, shopping, eating and walking including stops at famous places like Scullys, Vivs Kitchen for a creamed horn, the Foxton windmill and an afternoon roam along the Kapiti Coast with fabulous views of **Kapiti Island**.

*Walking: 1 hour*

## Mon 22 March Kapiti Coast

This morning's walk is optional - it's not for the faint-hearted as we will be reaching some heights with steep drops.

The **Paekakariki Escarpment walk** will take us over farmland, through bush, across swing bridges and up and down some steep steps. This is one of the sections of the **Te Araroa walkway** and offers breathtaking views of the ocean, Kapiti and the South Island (weather permitting).

Those who prefer an easier option can take a stroll through the lovely **Queen Elizabeth National Park** where there are numerous trails on offer.

Sunset drinks on the beach, before our final dinner together.

*Walking: 3.5 hours*

## Tue 23 March Tour ends Wellington

The tour ends this morning, with a transfer to Wellington City or Airport.

---

### Price

NZ\$2870 per person twin share\*

NZ\$700 single supplement

\*if you would like to twin share, let us know and we'll endeavour to find you a room-mate

### Tour Inclusions

- 9 nights accommodation (hotels, motels)
- Daily breakfast, 1 lunch, 4 dinners
- Tour leader / walking guide
- Transportation in modern air-conditioned mini-coach
- Sightseeing & entry as specified
- Arrival transfer in Hamilton on Day 1
- Departure transfer in Wellington on Day 10

### Excludes

- Meals and refreshments (unless specified in inclusions)
- Items of a personal nature
- Optional tours



## Your Roam Navigator

**Marie Coles** is a born & bred Kiwi who had a carefree country upbringing in North Canterbury. She now resides in Cambridge with her husband and twins. Having worked in the travel industry for many years, Marie has travelled extensively and escorted tours to Africa, India, Middle East, Europe and her favourite destination New Zealand. With her local knowledge and passion for walking, Marie has carefully crafted this itinerary to include some iconic walks as well as venturing in to less-travelled areas.



## About the Walks

Each evening you will be briefed about the walk for the following day. This will include what to wear, what to pack, terrain and timings etc. On average you will walk 5km per day, however some days may be longer and some shorter, some easy and some hard. There is lots of variety from beach to bush, rivers to lakes, ravines, volcanos, and farmland. The pace will be leisurely with ample time for breathers and photos. The tour is aimed at leisure walkers who appreciate the outdoors.

## Tour Combinations

This tour can be combined with:

- 8-night Waikato Tour
- Hobbiton Tour & Feast – you will need to arrive in Cambridge a day earlier for this
- Cycling the Hauraki Rail Trail or Waikato River Trails

Prices on application.

Terms & Conditions apply. See [www.roamtraveladventures.com/FAQ](http://www.roamtraveladventures.com/FAQ) for full details.