

NORTH ISLAND HIGHLIGHTS: A SELF GUIDED MOTORCYCLE TOUR



BEST ADVICE - BEST TOURS - BEST BIKES

The North Island Highlights Tour

It's a busy few days on the [North Island](#), but when there is so much to see and do that's to be expected!

Intricate and fascinating coastal rides, un-touched beaches, energetic thermal hot springs and explosive geysers, mysterious lakes and towering mountains. The natural splendour on offer is matched only by the vibrant Maori culture, widespread ancient historical sites and some of the finest examples of [art deco](#) architecture anywhere in the world.

It's not all rushing around and no relaxation though. This route takes you through some of the most select culinary regions in New Zealand, offering up fantastic dining and some of the finest wineries around to wash it all down with.

...all from the saddle of your motorcycle. Paradise!



Self Guided Tour THE NORTH ISLAND HIGHLIGHTS





Auckland



Auckland

Auckland is New Zealand's largest, most cosmopolitan city and its perfect blend of culture, harbour, islands and city lifestyle ensure there is something for everyone. You don't have to be a yachtsman to appreciate the 'City of Sails'!

Stroll through Queen Street, enjoy some of the best dining in New Zealand and cruise magnificent [Waitemata Harbour](#), the 'heart' of the city.

Wherever you are in Auckland, you're never very far from the water, hemmed in on either side by the [Tasman Sea](#) and [Pacific Ocean](#). A day spent in Auckland is a day well spent, and one that you'll remember for a long time to come.





Coromandel Peninsula





Coromandel Peninsula

An area immensely popular with Kiwis everywhere, so you know this place must be something special. The Coromandel is one of the most popular and best loved holiday destinations in New Zealand, and you'll easily be able to see why.

The abundant serenity attracts 'alternative lifestyle aficionados' away from the hustle and bustle of [Auckland](#), but most come for the best beaches on the North Island and coastal scenery unrivalled anywhere. With a backdrop of rugged hills and mountains draped with lush green native forest, the pristine white sandy beaches offer a marked and pleasant contrast.

What better way to end the day than swim in crystal clear blue water, then dig a hole in the sand at [Hot Water Beach](#) and relax in your own sandy hot water spa!



Rotorua





Rotorua

One of New Zealand's best known tourist spots, the steaming crevasses, bubbling mud pools and hot springs lead the way to invigorating thermal baths. Rotorua, on the '[Volcanic Plateau](#)' and the '[Pacific Rim of Fire](#)' is more than a hydrothermal sideshow though, much more.

It's also an important cultural centre for the [Maori](#), ancestral home to the [Te Arawa](#) people and one of the most accessible to outsiders. The culture is alive in their arts, crafts, architecture, traditional '[hangi](#)' feasts and in long remembered song and dance.

Of course, this being New Zealand, adrenaline filled activities get a look in too. One of the best mountain biking circuits in the country, zorbing, skydiving and plenty else, mean you'll probably need a relaxing thermal spa by the time you're finished in Rotorua.



Bay of Plenty

Bay of Plenty

The highest proportion of sunshine days in the whole of the country makes this one of New Zealand's most blessed regions, not only some of the finest agricultural land around, but the beaches aren't too shabby either.

Captain James Cook found plenty to his liking here, hence the name, and chances are you'll discover a great deal to keep you interested and amused too. The local Maori dialect is spoken all over this area, and you can easily immerse yourself in the fascinating Maori culture, enjoy a 'hangi' feast or simply relax on the many beautiful beaches.





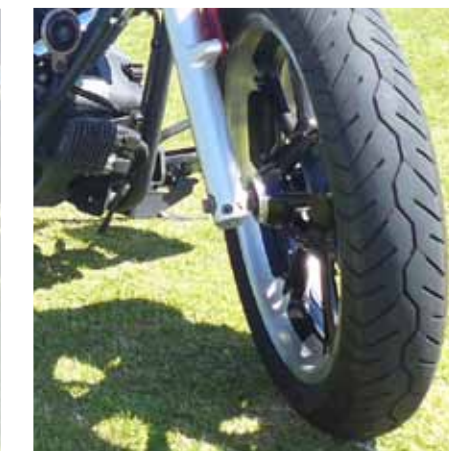
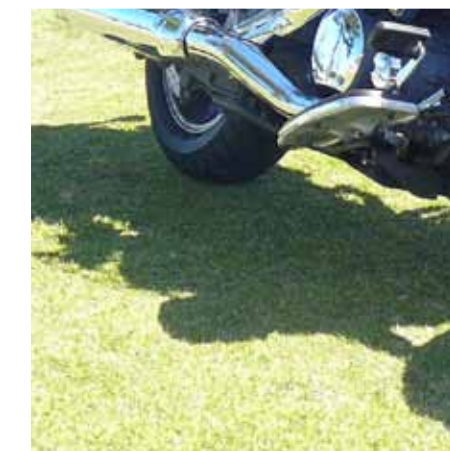
Napier



Napier

Napier is famous as one of the finest examples of an [Art Deco](#) city anywhere in the world but there's so much more! Situated at the southern end of [Hawkes Bay](#), palm trees fringe the city streets, parks and gardens punctuate the blocks of art deco buildings at frequent intervals and a Mediterranean climate all combine to create a superb atmosphere.

Friendly people, great restaurants offering various culinary delights and over [30 local Hawkes Bay](#) wineries are simply the icing on an already pretty fantastic cake.





Lake Taupo

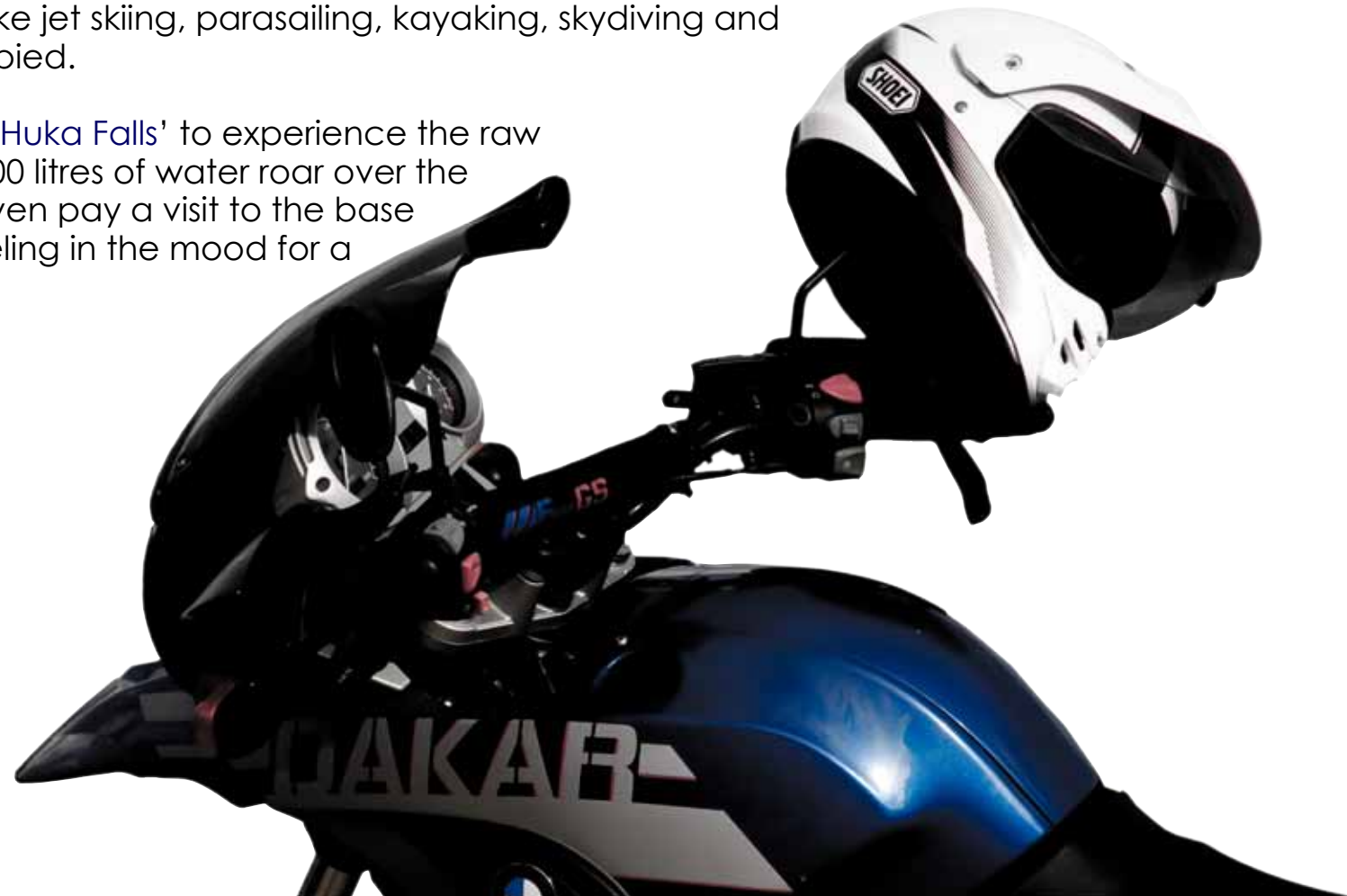


Lake Taupo

At the largest lake in New Zealand, the clear blue tranquil waters of Lake Taupo hide a violent secret. It was formed over 25,000 years ago in a devastating volcanic explosion that literally removed the top of the volcano, leaving behind an enormous crater. As with most big holes in the ground of course, it eventually filled with water to become Lake Taupo.

Evidence of the energetic background to the area can be seen at the '[Craters of the Moon](#)', nearby bubbling mud pools, alkaline springs and hot water geysers. If you feel energised after learning about Taupo's vigorous past, there are plenty of activities like jet skiing, parasailing, kayaking, skydiving and white water rafting keep you occupied.

Or simply pay a visit to the nearby '[Huka Falls](#)' to experience the raw power of nature, where over 220,000 litres of water roar over the cliff face every second; you can even pay a visit to the base of the falls in a jet boat if you're feeling in the mood for a revitalising shower.



Self Guided Tours

HOW THINGS WORK

Self Guided Tours are designed to make it as easy as possible for you to arrange your bike tour in New Zealand.

We take away all the trouble and time needed to research and plan the tour, and you can be confident that you'll make the most of your time, see the best the route has to offer and have somewhere nice to stay each night. It makes for stress free days on the bike and leaves you to simply enjoy the freedom of riding, marvel at the scenery and soak up the atmosphere.

Tour costs include the bike, accommodation in nice quality 3.5 to 4 star B&Bs/motels/resorts and a very detailed itinerary with maps that will tell you the best biking route and things to see on the way.

We know what works on these trips and the pace has been designed for people that like to make good use of the bike but also enjoy stopping to admire the spectacular scenery, take short walks to things of interest and enjoy local hospitality with a great coffee or lunch at cafés and restaurants on the way.

A typical day is around 350km but on some days it will be less and others a little more depending on what there is to see. The maps provided with the itinerary will take you from one overnight stop to the next. You won't ride the most direct route, where's the fun in that in a country like New Zealand? The maps combined with the incredibly detailed itinerary document will take you on the best biking roads, tell you all about the background and history of each area and highlight things to see on the way.

'Rest' days are built into some of the longer tours in places of particular interest. For example, you can't see the delights of Milford Sound without a trip on a boat and so time is allowed in the tour for this if you wish. You don't have to take these days out but if you'd like to then we can book the excursions for you too so that you simply turn up and enjoy your day out.

It means we tailor the tour to your dates and preferences and can even book your accommodation before and after the trip if it helps. If there are other aspects of your tour in New Zealand where some expert advice and help would be useful then just ask! We love New Zealand, know most areas intimately and hope that our advice helps you leave with the same passion for the country as we have.

Thanks for your interest in these tours and we hope to share New Zealand with you sometime soon!

Warmest regards



Mark

For more information on this, or any of our other tours please visit:

www.bikeroundnz.com

or contact us directly at:

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