

**FOOTSTEPS WALKING AND TRAVEL CLUB  
of AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND**

*the best day-walks in 20 regions*

**NORTH ISLAND EXCURSIONS**

**2024-2027**

**SOME OF THE ABSOLUTE BEST NORTH ISLAND SHORT WALKS**

**OVER FOUR YEARS WE COVER THE ENTIRE NORTH ISLAND**

**2024**

**NIFTY NORTHLAND: 28 January – 3 February 2024**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- The unique and seldom-visited features of NZ's largest harbour (Kaipara)
- Forest giants in the most magnificent kauri precincts in the country (Waipoua)
- Sand dunes akin to the Sahara Desert (Hokianga)
- The cradle of our history in the Bay of Islands: birthplace of the nation
- Stunning scenery along Northland's pristine eastern coastline
- The incredible volcanic outcrops of Whangarei Heads and Bream Bay



Smugglers Cove

**AWESOME AUCKLAND: 4-10 February 2024**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- An island transformed into an internationally-famous bird sanctuary
- Exploring several of the 50 extinct volcanoes on which Auckland is built
- Walking from the Pacific Ocean to the Tasman Sea in just a few hours
- The magnificent headlands, beaches and seascapes of the Hauraki Gulf

- The black sand, stacks, gannets and roaring surf of the wild west coast
- Forest sanctuaries which are vital sources of water and waterfalls



Rangitoto Island

## **WONDERFUL WAIKATO: 11-17 February 2024**

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- One of the North Island's highest waterfalls (Wairere) and most stunning springs (Waihou)
- The longest pest-proof fence in the world (Maungatautari)
- The underground home of a unique creature – *arachnocampa luminosa*
- Spectacular *Lord of the Rings* locations in the King Country (Tawarau)
- New Zealand's tallest native tree (Pirongia)
- The wild west coast: raging surf, black sand, and white cliffs (Raglan)
- The picturesque setting of NZ's largest inland city – dissected by a river
- Scenes of heroism and tragedy from our colonial past: redoubts, battlefields, and graves



Bridal Veil Falls

**2025**

**CAPTIVATING COROMANDEL: 2-8 March 2025**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- The legacies of our gold-mining and kauri-milling past in the Coromandel
- A coastal walkway said to be one of the very best in the country (Fletcher-Stony)
- A spectacular cove which has featured in several movies (Cathedral)
- A beach which has been voted into the world's top ten (New Chums)



Cathedral Cove

**BREATH-TAKING BAY OF PLENTY: 9-5 March 2025**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Settlements that sit in the shadow of the brooding White Island (Whakatane)
- A waterfall gushing from two nostrils halfway up a cliff (Tarawera)
- The scene and surroundings of NZ's deadliest volcanic eruption (Tarawera)
- 2 very unusual features surpassing most of their counterparts overseas (Rotorua)
- The most beautiful thermal lake in NZ, a hidden gem seen by few (Echo Lake)
- The superbly scenic setting of NZ's fastest-growing coastal city (Tauranga)
- Several species of tree that are the tallest or largest in the world (Tauranga)



Te Whaiti Nui A Toi Canyon

**2026**

**WILD AND WINSOME WAIRARAPA (with southern Hawke's Bay)**

**1-7 February 2026**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- The largest mainland gannet colony in the world (Cape Kidnappers)
- NZ's second largest pa (Otatara)
- A tiny town with no less than 11 registered historic buildings (Ongaonga)
- The longest place name in New Zealand and the world (Porangahau)
- An historic lighthouse sitting high above a spectacular coastline (Castlepoint)
- The most extensive "Badlands" or hoodoos formations in NZ (Putangirua)
- A rail crossing that was unique in the world (Remutaka)



Castlepoint

**CAPITAL KAPITI (Wellington, Horowheua, Manawatu)**

**8-14 February 2026**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- The wild seascapes, seals and geology of Cook Strait
- "Lord of the Rings" locations along the river in the Hutt Valley
- The glorious cityscapes and harbour views of Wellington
- Mountains hugging beaches along the Kapiti coastal strip
- The weird "Bridge to Nowhere", built but never used
- The most polluted river in NZ, but one that carved an impressive gorge (Manawatu)



Turakirae Head

## **TANTALIZING TARANAKI: 15-21 February 2026**

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- The astounding volcanic vistas of New Zealand's very own "Mount Fuji" (Taranaki)
- The highest waterfall in the North Island (Damper Falls)
- The wild west coast at Tongaporutu: rolling surf, black sand, white cliffs
- Taranaki – voted by "Lonely Planet" (in 2017) as the 2nd best region in the world to visit
- New Plymouth's spectacular coastal walkway and Rewarewa Bridge



Lake Mangamahoe and Mount Taranaki

**2027**

## **EXCEPTIONAL EASTLAND (with northern Hawke's Bay)**

**28 February – 6 March 2027**

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- The world's largest Pohutukawa tree (Te Araroa)
- The easternmost point in the North Island (East Cape)
- The first city in the world to see the morning sun, the place where Captain Cook first landed, and the largest carved meeting-house in NZ (Gisborne)
- Natural hot springs in a stunning nikau forest (Morere)
- Limestone Caves, pristine lakes, quiet beaches, dramatic bluffs (Te Urewera)
- NZ's highest bridge, with windbreaks to protect the trains (Mohaka)
- A totally weird geological formation fit for a belfry (Bell Rock)
- The largest mainland gannet colony in the world (Cape Kidnappers)
- NZ's second largest pa (Otatara)



Lake Waikaremoana

## **TOP-NOTCH TAUPO and TUMULTUOUS TONGARIRO: 7-13 March 2027**

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- **NZ's largest lake, created by the biggest volcanic eruption on the planet (Taupo)**
- **Millions of litres plunging through a narrow gorge like a washing machine (Huka Falls)**
- **The 3 magnificent volcanoes in our first national park, a World Heritage Area (Tongariro)**
- **NZ's worst railway disaster and carrot capital (Tangiwai/Ohakune)**
- **New Zealand's most famous and popular one-day walk (Tongariro Crossing)**
- **One of New Zealand's most spectacular examples of railway engineering (Raurimu)**
- **New Zealand's largest totara tree (Pouakani)**
- **The area where they catch a trout and shoot a deer in the same morning (Rangipo)**
- **Forest giants and melodious birdsong in a forest saved from the axe (Pureora)**
- **Walkways, waterfalls and rapids along our longest waterway (Waikato River)**



Tongariro Crossing

**TRIP PRICES:** 6+ participants - \$1000pp; 5 - \$1100pp; 4 - \$1200pp.

Includes: accommodation, transport, breakfasts, information, guiding.

Not included: airfares, lunches and dinners.

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