



Women's Tours by **EMBARK**

8 DAY HOSTED TOUR
COMMENCE 20 MARCH 2027
CONCLUDE 27 MARCH 2027

NORTH ISLAND NEW ZEALAND





Let's visit New Zealand's North Island

Experience the very best of New Zealand's North Island on this unforgettable week-long journey through spectacular landscapes, vibrant cities and iconic attractions. From the sparkling harbour city of Auckland to the geothermal wonders of Rotorua, this tour is filled with breathtaking scenery, rich culture and unique experiences.

Discover the laid-back charm and world-class wineries of Waiheke Island, explore the magical glowworm caves of Waitomo, and visit the picturesque town of Cambridge, known as the "Town of Trees." Step into the enchanting world of Middle-earth on a guided tour of the famous Hobbiton Movie Set, before travelling to the stunning lakeside town of Taupo, home to New Zealand's largest lake and dramatic natural beauty.

In Rotorua, immerse yourself in Māori culture and witness bubbling mud pools, steaming geysers and geothermal landscapes unlike anywhere else in the world. We'll also spend time in Hamilton, a vibrant riverside city surrounded by the lush Waikato region.

Combining natural wonders, charming towns, delicious local produce and unforgettable sightseeing, this North Island adventure offers the perfect balance of relaxation, discovery and fun.

Inclusions That Set Us Apart

We believe in offering a seamless, stress-free adventure. Here's what's included:

- Small group sizes (maximum 12 travelers) for a more personal experience.
- Inclusive! At least 2 meals a day and all your sightseeing included. There is no need to pay for extras along the way.
- Transfers from your home address in Newcastle, no need to even make your way to the airport/train station.
- Pre-tour group lunch to meet you fellow travel companions.
- Pre-flight accommodation in Sydney so you don't have an early start to get to the airport.
- Welcome Home Bag with goodies to make your first few days at home a breeze.

If you can't take a long holiday this year, this trip is the perfect way to recharge and enjoy an unforgettable adventure in a shorter time! It's an ideal choice for first-time travelers with us—you'll get a taste of how we do things, and we promise you'll love every moment. But honestly, who needs an excuse to indulge in an incredible experience like this? Treat yourself, dive into the adventure, and make memories that will last a lifetime!



20th March 2027 : Day One (D)

Today, you'll be transferred from your front door (Newcastle, Hunter or Lake Macquarie region) to our accommodation near Sydney Airport. We'll stay overnight close to the airport ahead of our morning flight to New Zealand tomorrow.

This evening, dinner is included at the hotel restaurant.



21st March 2027 : Day Two (B, D)

We'll check in for our flight across the Tasman, taking us to Auckland in just over 3 hours. Kia Ora! Depending on our arrival time, enjoy a sightseeing tour of New Zealand's largest city, affectionately known as the 'City of Sails'.

Later this evening, enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant to celebrate the start of our adventure in New Zealand.



22nd March 2027 : Day Three (B, L)

This morning, take a short walk to the ferry terminal and board your scenic cruise across the sparkling Hauraki Gulf to beautiful Waiheke Island. Just 40 minutes from downtown Auckland, Waiheke feels a world away, renowned for its boutique vineyards, olive groves, golden beaches and relaxed coastal atmosphere. In fact, the island is home to more than 30 wineries and is often referred to as New Zealand's "Island of Wine."

Upon arrival, meet your local guide for a scenic tour of the island, travelling through rolling hills, seaside villages and vineyard-covered landscapes. Visit the charming village of Oneroa, known for its boutique shops, cafés and stunning beach views, before enjoying a tasting at boutique winery. Our second tasting visit on the island will be to a local olive oil mill.



Following the tour, sit back and relax over a delicious lunch accompanied by a glass of local wine or beer, while soaking up the island's laid-back charm. Mid-afternoon, return by ferry to Auckland, where the remainder of the day is yours to enjoy at leisure.

23rd March 2027 : Day Four (B, L)

Today we will travel south across the Bombay Hills through the Waikato Valley, to Waitomo - location of the famous Waitomo Caves, an impressive underground limestone labyrinth.

We will take a guided tour through Ruakuri Cave, which has an innovative design that makes it one of the most accessible and safe ways to experience a unique cave environment and the beauty of the glow worms. In fact, wheelchairs are permitted in the caves!

You will walk approximately a 1km, including a descent/ascent of around 50metres. There are handrails and the tour is at a slow pace.



The spiral entranceway is a remarkable feat of modern engineering and design as well as being a major feature of the recent redevelopment, providing a dramatic introduction to the cave.

The guided tour leads down the large spiral walkway, gently deeper and deeper into the ground until the bottom is reached. Pass through the specially constructed tunnel called The Drum Entrance and into the cave. Journey down marvelling at the softly folding shawl-like limestone formations and crystal tapestries. Hear the distant thunder of the subterranean waterfalls and get up close to the glow-worms. Travel along narrow corridors and across low-lit walkways suspended high above the river, sometimes glimpsing the black water rafters on the Huhunui River below.

After our visit to Ruakuri Cave, we'll have lunch at a nearby restaurant. It's then time to continue onto Cambridge - a quaint town memorable for its leafy streets, heritage buildings, antique shops and thoroughbred horse studs. Often referred to as the "Town of Trees, you'll have time to explore the local artisan stores.

Our overnight stay in Cambridge is at a historic boutique hotel. Originally built in 1866 and redesigned in 1912 in an elegant Beaux Arts style, it remains a timeless icon of heritage, architecture, and hospitality in the heart of Waikato.

24th March 2027 : Day Five (B, L)

This morning we will head to Matamata, where you can experience the real Middle-earth™ at the Hobbiton Movie Set. In the heart of the Waikato region, step into the lush pastures of the Shire™, as seen in The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit Trilogies.

Fall in love with the Alexander family sheep farm, just as acclaimed director Sir Peter Jackson did, as you journey on a short bus ride through the unequivocal beauty of the land, with the mighty Kaimai Ranges towering in the distance. Your guide will then escort you on a shared walking tour around the movie set, showing the intricate details, pointing out the most famous locations and explaining how movie magic was made here.

Journey past the colourful Hobbit Hole™ doors that scatter the hillsides, including the iconic Bag End, home of Bilbo and Frodo Baggins, before arriving at Bagshot Row™ for a glimpse of the interior of a humble Hobbit's home.

Designed and crafted by the renowned creative teams behind the film trilogies, Bagshot Row offers an authentic glimpse into the charming dwellings of Hobbits going about daily life in the Shire. Your guide will lead you through one of two Hobbit Holes offering time to explore the detailed interiors, with each home designed to create an identical experience. Continue along the pathways past The Millhouse, across the double-arch stone bridge and into the world-famous Green Dragon™ Inn, where you will be presented with a complimentary, exclusive beverage from the





Hobbit™ Southfarthing™ range before following your guide up to the Party Marquee.

The Party Marquee is adjacent to The Green Dragon™ Inn with an exquisite view across the water. The painted canvas exterior, vibrant bunting and colourful lanterns means visitors are immersed in the festive magic of the movies. Your lunch is served buffet style from a specially themed table, bursting with hobbit fare.



Afterwards, continue through the towns of Tirau, Putaruru and Tokoroa and through the extensive pine forests to the resort town of Taupo and on the shores of New Zealand's largest lake and world-renowned trout fishery.

This afternoon we will set sail on Lake Taupo, onboard The Barbary - the ocean-going yacht Errol Flynn is said to have won in a card game in 1938. Relax on the spacious deck as Barbary takes you right up close for the perfect shot of the 10-metre high rock art of the Māori Carving on the cliff face. Glide across stunning Lake Taupo as you soak up the warming sun or go for a swim before you enjoy free refreshments at the rock carvings.



25th March 2027 : Day Six (B, D)

Enjoy a relaxed start to the day as we travel through the vast Kaingaroa Forest, one of the largest plantation forests in the Southern Hemisphere, on our way toward Taupō and Rotorua.

Our first stop is the spectacular Huka Falls, where the crystal-clear Waikato River — New Zealand's longest river — thunders through a narrow volcanic gorge, creating an incredible display of power and colour.



We then visit the fascinating geothermal wonderland of Waiotapu Thermal Wonderland, one of the most colourful geothermal parks in the world. Wander along the walking trails to discover bubbling mud pools, steaming vents and vibrant mineral terraces, including the famous Champagne Pool and the striking Artist's Palette, where mineral deposits create vivid natural colours across the landscape. Along the way, learn about the region's unique volcanic activity and geothermal history.

This afternoon, unwind at the tranquil Secret Spot, nestled amongst native ferns beside the beautiful Whakarewarewa Forest and Puarenga Stream. Relax in a cedar hot tub, enjoy a sauna session or simply soak your feet in a "shinny dip" while surrounded by nature.



After dinner this evening, we will visit the Redwood Forest for Redwoods Nightlights. This is one of New Zealand's top design led tourism experiences that features 34 exquisite lanterns designed by world-renowned designer and sustainability champion David Trubridge. View the lanterns whilst walking high amongst giant 120-year-old redwood trees above the forest floor, surrounding yourself with gentle giants, native fauna and sweeping silver ferns.

26th March 2027 : Day Seven (B, D)

Our first stop today in Rotorua is the Agrodome! For over 50 years visitors from all of the globe have come to see the iconic show. You'll hear amazing facts and have a few laughs as you're introduced to 19 breeds of sheep. Then, witness a live sheep shearing demonstration and a fun sheep auction with bidding from the floor and audience participation. But the animal stars are not just sheep. The remarkable farm dogs will amaze you, as they demonstrate their ability to respond to commands and keep those sheep (and ducks!) in line!

Afterwards we will visit the neighbouring National Kiwi Hatchery. The Kiwi, New Zealand's national icon, is an endangered species and The National Kiwi Hatchery Aotearoa is a world leader in kiwi husbandry, egg incubation systems, hatching techniques and kiwi chick rearing. Your visit here will showcase how Kiwi recovery programmes are playing their part to bring this treasured icon back from the brink of extinction on the New Zealand mainland.

Gain an understanding of what it takes to hatch a chick and see genuine 'Conservation in Action' in the purpose-built incubation facility and if you're very lucky, perhaps see a newly hatched kiwi chick! By sharing in this experience, you will make a valuable contribution to the conservation of our precious kiwi with all funds going to the National Kiwi Recovery Trust.

Afterwards, ride the aerial gondola up to Mt Ngongotaha for panoramic views across the city of Rotorua and Lake Rotorua.

Early evening we will be transferred to the Tamaki Māori Village for Te Pā Tū. This evening experience and feast is aligned to and changes with the maramataka (Māori lunar calendar). Feast on Māori song, tradition, and divine seasonal kai (cuisine) within the forest Pā (village) amidst towering Tawa trees, blazing bonfires, and forest-formed amphitheatre. Hākari (feasting) begins with forest horotai (canapes) and culminates in a lavish 4-course fusion feast. Hāngi is featured in varied seasonal menus designed by Māori chefs served to table in the wharekai (dining room).

27th March 2027 : Day Eight (B, L)

Today we journey north through the bush-clad Mamaku Ranges, travelling alongside the mighty Waikato River (New Zealand's longest river) as we make our way to the vibrant city of Hamilton. Along the drive, enjoy views of rolling farmland, native forest and the lush green countryside that has made the Waikato region famous.

Our highlight today is a visit to the internationally acclaimed Hamilton Gardens, where we'll join a guided tour through the spectacular Enclosed Gardens collection. Unlike traditional botanical gardens, Hamilton Gardens tells the story of civilisation through garden design, with each themed garden transporting you to a different time and place. Wander through beautifully recreated landscapes including the Italian Renaissance Garden, Japanese Garden of Contemplation, Indian Char Bagh Garden and



the whimsical Tudor Garden. With 18 unique enclosed gardens to explore, every turn reveals a new and fascinating experience.

Enjoy lunch in this picturesque setting before continuing north over the Bombay Hills, the natural gateway to Auckland. If time didn't permit on arrival in Auckland, we'll ensure your city sightseeing is done during our final stay in the city.

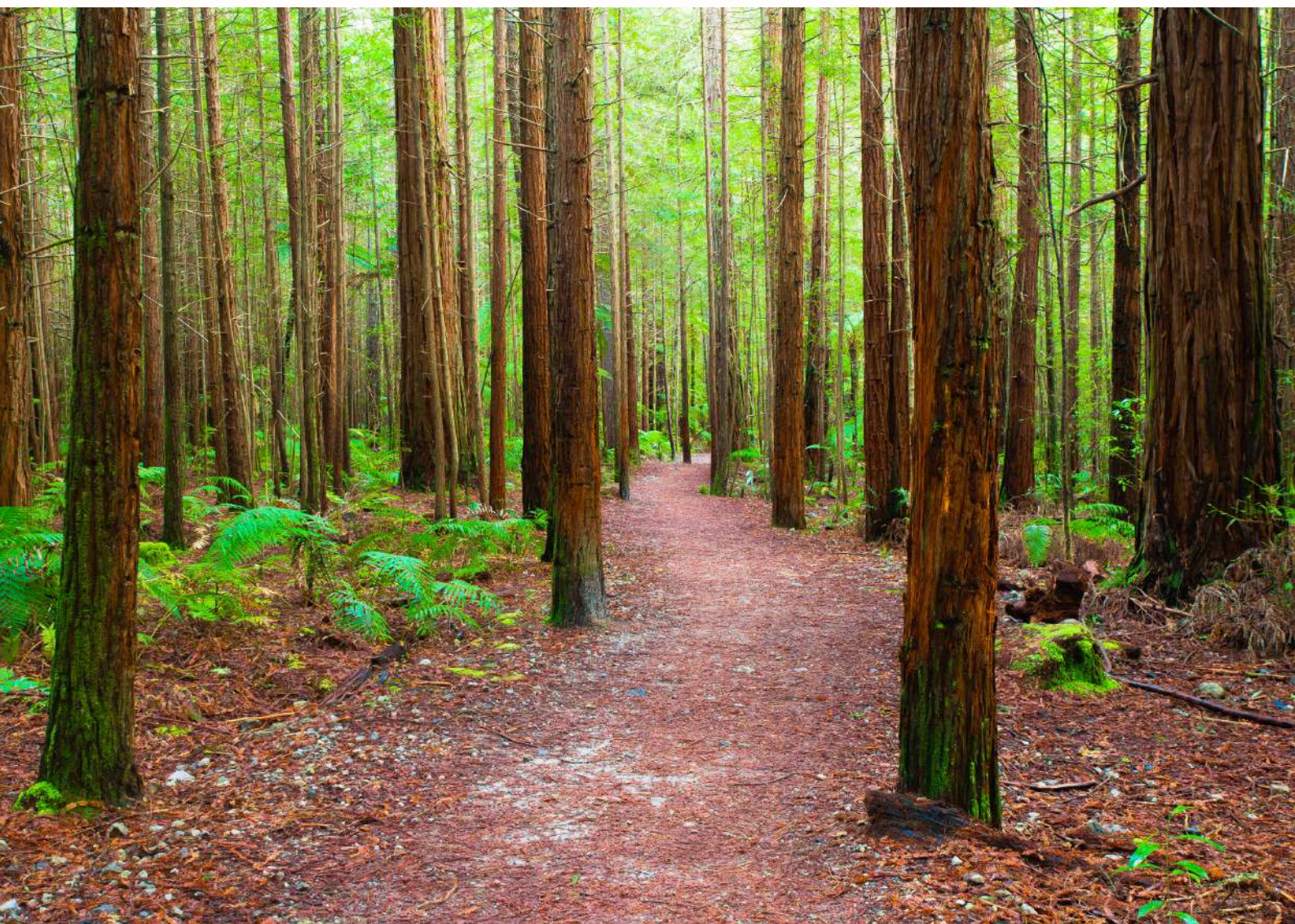
28th March 2027 : Day Nine (B, Meals in Flight)

Today we will be transferred to Auckland airport, for our flight back to Australia.

Once we land in Sydney, you will be transferred to your home address (Newcastle/Hunter/Lake Macquarie).

Itinerary Overview:

- 1 night Sydney Airport
- 2 nights Auckland
- 1 night Cambridge
- 1 night Taupo
- 2 nights Rotorua
- 1 night Auckland





Your 2027 Embark Womens Tour includes

INCLUDES

- Return Transfers from your home address* to Sydney airport
- Economy Class Flights with a full-service airline (upgrade to business class available)
- All accommodation, Sightseeing and transport as per the itinerary
- Meals: Breakfast (B), Lunch (L) and Dinner (D) where indication - minimum of 2 meals per day
- Small Group of only 12 women (plus guides and Embark Travel representatives)
- Embark Travel tour manager, travelling with you
- Local sightseeing experts throughout
- Pre-tour get together meal
- Departure Pack (luggage tags, luggage straps, ticket wallet etc)
- Welcome Home Pack

PACKAGE COST \$7,260 per person twin share

Upgrade to Solo Accommodation Throughtout - additional \$1,430

Upgrade to Business Class for Flights - additional \$1,400

First deposit due within 7 days of booking - \$1,500

Balance Due 20th December 2026

Please note: While this itinerary includes specific restaurants, hotels and activities, occasional changes may occur due to circumstances beyond our control—such as venue renovations or updates to group dining availability. Rest assured, any adjustments we make are thoughtfully chosen to enhance your overall experience. We appreciate your understanding and flexibility, as part of the joy of travel lies in embracing the unexpected and discovering new highlights along the way.

Ready to secure your place? Have questions about the tour?

Email michelle@embark-travel.com.au or call 0402 335 919