

New Zealand North Island Hiking

A Showcase of Spectacular Nature

Thank you for checking out our adventures and for downloading this itinerary. Please note that this itinerary and accommodations may be subject to change depending on the specific departure date. Be sure to check with us before scheduling any flights.

We love talking travel!
Contact us at info@mtsobek.com
or call **800-974-0300**



Feel the difference

with **Mountain Travel Sobek**

Unrivalled Expertise

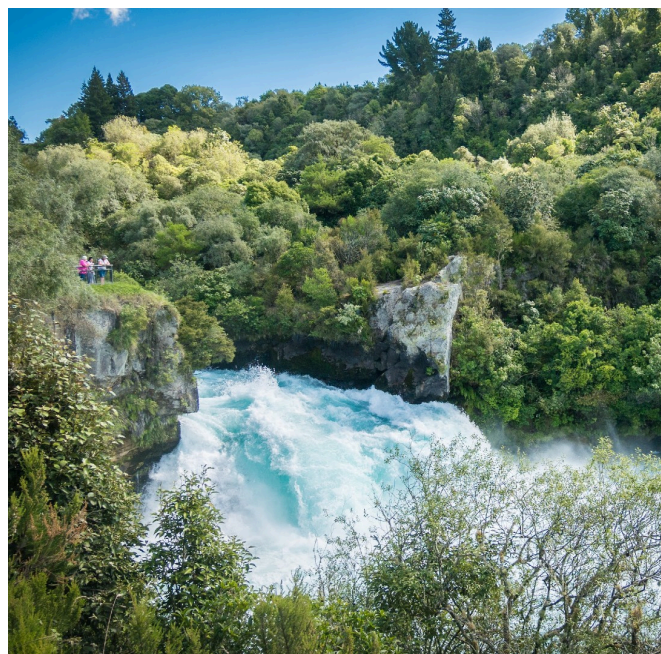
MT Sobek started it all! Since our first Everest Base Camp trek in 1969, we've been leading award-winning adventures and building authentic connections in far-flung locations around the world. We were named Best Adventure Travel Company by Newsweek Readers' Choice Awards.

Unique Trip Design

Our adventures are perfectly paced, with incredible attention to detail — the right mix of fun, learning, and challenge that guarantees lifelong memories. Plan nothing, enjoy everything. We take care of all of the logistics so that you can have more time to do what's most important: relax, take in the experience, and enjoy!

Small Groups

We keep our groups intentionally small — usually fewer than 10 people. This allows you a more intimate experience with the people and wildlife you encounter. With a smaller group size, we can take advantage of many unexpected invitations and opportunities that would be impossible with larger groups.





Leading the Way

World-Class Local Guides

Our knowledgeable and passionate expert guides effortlessly create an immersive local experience for you. They are trained to the highest professional standards and are at the heart of everything we do. They make it possible to meet the challenges of adventure travel, and help create lasting memories and lifelong friendships... we can confidently say our guides are the best in the business.





Why take this trip with us?

REASON 1

MT Sobek has been exploring the Pacific for over 20 years, working with the best local guides for immersive and fun experiences.

REASON 2

Our stellar North and South Island itineraries can be easily paired for a complete New Zealand adventure.

REASON 3

We bring you the best of New Zealand, from epic hikes and great hotels, to carefully selected local food and wine — as well as unique cultural insights.

At A Glance

ACTIVITIES

Seven days of moderate hiking, cultural touring, wine tasting, and scenic boat rides.



LODGING

Comfortable, contemporary and amenity-laden hotels and lodges, mostly located by splendid natural sites.



CLIMATE

Expect changeable weather in New Zealand's temperate, ocean-controlled climate. Temperatures range from high 50-90°Fs from January to March.



KNOW BEFORE YOU BOOK

"What a total comfort to know that with MT Sobek, you're in the hands of professionals who have been doing it so long and so well. That was part of why we landed on them as our operators for our dream trip, and everything about the experience they gave us—from tailored expertise to unswerving professionalism—confirmed the company's emphasis on excellence." - Alex M.



New Zealand North Island Hiking

A Showcase of Spectacular Nature

Delight in the many wonders that bless the magnificent North Island of New Zealand. Begin with a wine tasting on Waiheke Island, marvel at the geothermal features of Rotorua, then walk underneath sky-high trees of the Whirinaki rainforest. Hike through lava valleys to active volcanoes in the world-famous Tongariro National Park and soak up the surreal colors of Waiotapu—a thermal wonderland! Sip coffee while you explore the waterfront harbor city of Wellington. Pair this journey with our New Zealand South Island Hiking adventure for the full New Zealand experience.

9 Days

Start: Auckland, New Zealand

End: Wellington, New Zealand

Departing: January, February, March, November, December

Activities: Hiking & Trekking

Lodging: Comfortable Hotels

Group Size: 6-15 Guests

ACTIVITY:



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"My first experience with MT Sobek was a trip to New Zealand. Everything about it met or exceeded my expectations. The guides, the dining, the accommodations, the activities were all top notch and I would recommend MT Sobek without hesitation!"

- Ann Z.

Check mtsobek.com for date-specific pricing.

The Itinerary

DAY 01

Welcome to Auckland

Meet your MT Sobek guide at Auckland airport and enjoy a transfer to your hotel in the heart of the city. In the afternoon, meet your group at the lobby bar, then head out to a waterfront restaurant for your first taste of New Zealand.

MEALS: Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 30-minute airport transfer

DAY 02

Explore the Hauraki Gulf & Sip Wine on Waiheke Island

Hop on the ferry to Waiheke Island, the largest island in Hauraki Gulf. Stroll along its undulating shorelines and admire gorgeous coastal headlands, vine-laden landscapes, olive groves, and pristine beaches of white sand. Transfer by shuttle to one of the island's most established wineries and enjoy a tasting of superb New Zealand wines before lunch. After returning to Auckland mid-afternoon, enjoy a relaxed evening and dinner on your own.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch

TRANSPORTATION: 50-minute cruise and 10-minute shuttle transfer

ACTIVITY: 40-minutes walking

DAY 03

Drive to Rotorua & Hike the Tarawera Trail

Drive to the town of Rotorua in the Bay of Plenty region, a beautiful area of lakes, geothermal landscapes, and lush forests. Starting from Lake Tarawera, one of 18 lakes in the region, embark on the Tarawera Trail that meanders through the bush to heavenly sand-strewn beaches where you will enjoy a trail lunch and a refreshing dip. Return by water taxi. After settling in the hotel, enjoy a lovely buffet dinner at the hotel restaurant.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 3.5-hour drive to Rotorua, 20-minute water taxi

ACTIVITY: Up to 5 miles/2 to 4 hours hiking with 500' elevation gain and 750' loss



DAY 04

Venture into the Whirinaki Rainforest & Explore Rotorua

Hike in the majestic Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tane Conservation Park, an ancient podocarp forest with moss-laden trees up to 1,000-years old and 200-feet tall. Take a riverside loop hike, learning about this home of Ngati Whare people as well as more than 50 endangered species. Stop by a waterfall for a picnic. Back in Rotorua, visit Ohinemutu, a historic Maori village, and the vibrant Anglican church on Rotorua lakeshore. In the evening, feast on the traditional hangi dinner prepared in a ground pit and admire a Maori cultural performance.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 2.5-hour private transfer

ACTIVITY: 5 miles/3 to 4 hours hiking with 450' elevation gain and loss

DAY 05

Experience Waiotapu Thermal Reserve & Explore Lake Taupo

Start the day at the spectacular Waiotapu thermal reserve — an otherworldly landscape of steaming vents, sinter craters, bizarre colored lakes, and mud pools. Weather-permitting, savor a picnic by the mighty Huka Falls or take a swim in the lake. In the late afternoon, set off by public boat to explore Lake Taupo and visit contemporary Maori rock carvings in the northern ignimbrite cliffs (only accessible by water). Dine on the launch and soak up astonishing views across the lake to the volcanoes.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 1-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 1.5 hours/3 miles walking, 90-minute boat cruise (optional)



Journey from Taupo to Tongariro National Park

Start with breakfast at the hotel, then drive south skirting the eastern shore of New Zealand's largest lake, Taupo, formed by massive volcanic eruptions. Drive and hike around the bush-fringed Lake Rotopounamu, keeping an eye out for birds like the North Island robin and kaka. Rest over a picnic lunch at a beach, and then continue on to Tongariro National Park. Join your guide on one of the lower mountain walks, Taranaki Falls or Silica springs, either on the way to the hotel or after check-in.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 2-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 2 to 3 miles/1.5 to 3 hours hiking with 420' elevation gain and loss; Taranaki Falls 4 miles/1.5 to 3 hours hiking with 450' elevation gain and loss



Hike Tongariro Alpine Crossing

Set out for a full day of hiking over the UNESCO-listed Tongariro Alpine Crossing to the craters of Mount Tongariro. This world-renowned trek features striking volcanic terrain, old lava flows, active craters, steam vents, and emerald lakes. The track can be steep and rocky at times; as such, it is best suited to hikers who are very fit. Guests who prefer a more restful day can explore the area, walk to 50-foot Taranaki Falls, see the exhibits in the Park Visitor Center, and enjoy a lunch on their own.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 1.5-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 12.6-miles/9-hours hiking with 3,280' elevation gain and loss



Journey to Wellington & Explore the City

In the morning, embark on a scenic drive to Wellington, New Zealand's vibrant capital. Along the way, take in the dazzling imagery of Tongariro National Park, post-glacial river terraces of Rangitikei and the North Wellington coast. Savor an early lunch at a local cafe, and later the farewell drinks at a bar overlooking the marina. Spend the rest of the day exploring this lovely harbor city with a beach-lined waterfront, and a happening craft beer and art scene.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 4.5-hour private transfer



Head Home or Transfer to Nelson

Trip participants who are doing the North Island journey finish the tour in Wellington. This cozy and walkable city, often called the San Francisco of New Zealand, makes for an excellent extension of the trip for a day or two. Those who are continuing on the South Island leg of the trip will take a quick mid-morning transfer to Wellington airport, followed by a 45-minute scenic flight to the town of Nelson.

MEALS: Breakfast

TRANSPORTATION: 45-minute flight (if continuing to Nelson)



Where You'll Stay

These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.

Rydges Auckland Hotel

The Rydges Auckland Hotel has a prime position in the CBD, close to the harbor and with views over the region. The Rydges Auckland Hotel infuses elements of London sophistication, Sydney cool and New York style, with the bonus warmth of world class Kiwi hospitality, making this one of the finest Auckland CBD hotels.

Rydges Rotorua

Poised by the Redwood forest and overlooking the Whakarewarewa Geothermal Reserve, Rydges Rotorua immerses you in the region's unspoiled natural beauty. Its 203 rooms are modern and comfortable, with A/C and Wi-Fi. The main draw is the year-round geothermal-heated swimming pool, as well as the Champan's restaurant, locally famous for its dishes that couple Pacific flavors with international cuisine.

Millennium Hotel and Resort Manuels

Situated on the shores of New Zealand's largest lake, the Millennium Hotel & Resort is one of Taupo's top hotels. Delight in stunning views of the lake and mountains as you enjoy the artfully decorated accommodations. Its 39 boutique guest rooms are well-equipped with modern amenities including AC, complimentary Wi-Fi, in-room entertainment, laundry services, coffee and tea making facilities, and more. Savor your meal as you gaze at the lake from the onsite restaurant and bar. Then head to the heated swimming pool, private grotto plunge pool, or sauna for ultimate relaxation.



Where You'll Stay

These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.

Skotel Alpine Resort

The locally owned Skotel Alpine Resort is situated at the foot of Mount Ruapehu in the North Island's Tongariro National Park. It's cozy wood-paneled rooms have a ski-lodge feel and come well-appointed with modern amenities. Enjoy stunning views, excellent service, and great onsite facilities — including a gym, restaurant, and soothing hot tub!

The Park Hotel Ruapehu

With stunning views of the three volcanoes, the Park Hotel makes the perfect base for your stay in the North Island's Tongariro National Park. The hotel has an adventure lodge feel with simple, comfortable rooms — complete with modern amenities. Unwind in front of the roaring log fire or relax in the hot tub after a day of exploring.

Copthorne Hotel Wellington Oriental Bay

Perfect for soaking up the vibe of Wellington, Copthorne Hotel occupies a prime position overlooking the harbor. Each of the 118 modern, well-equipped rooms has a balcony with ocean views, which are also the highlight of the restaurant and cocktail bar. The city's commercial and shopping areas are just a 10-minute stroll away, as are attractions such as the Te Papa Museum.

Departure Dates

This trip is available to run in: January, February, March, November, December

Book early for a greater choice of available dates.

Once you book, your price is GUARANTEED!

November 23-December 1, 2025

January 25-February 2, 2026

February 22-March 2, 2026

November 22-30, 2026

What's Included

PRICE INCLUDES

- Expertise and services of our experienced adventure guides
- All accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, almost all lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Snacks and water between meals
- Additional regional guides and experts on many trips
- Comprehensive Trip Planner with detailed pre-trip information
- Private guided tours at historic sites, museums, wineries and other select attractions as noted in the itinerary
- Special events and other select attractions as mentioned in the itinerary
- All gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Equipment and experienced guides for activities as described in the itinerary
- Park and other entry fees (unless otherwise noted)
- Fares for trains, ferries and other modes of travel as listed in the itinerary
- Select transfers as mentioned in the itinerary
- Baggage transfers and portage

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages (MT Sobek provides wine at select events)
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and guide-drivers
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses



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