



First Light Marathon Optional Extension

HOBBITON & COASTAL WONDERS - ITINERARY



17 TO 21 JANUARY 2027

5 DAYS

DOUBLE/TWIN

\$ 2612 AUD

SINGLE

\$ 3680 AUD

The Hobbiton & Coastal Wonders pre-tour takes you on a 5-day journey from Auckland to Gisborne, where you get to explore all the hottest spots of New Zealand, ranging from the breathtaking nature of the Coromandel Peninsula to the comfy holes of Hobbiton, from digging your own hot spring spa to savouring delicious kiwi-cuisine.



Day 1 - 17 January: Welcome to Auckland | City Tour

Welcome to Auckland! All participants will arrive in Auckland and find their own way to their hotel for the night at Grand Millennium, Auckland. With its approximately 1.3 million inhabitants, Auckland is home to almost a third of New Zealand's population. The city is located on a narrow landmark with water on both sides - the Pacific Ocean to the East and the Tasman Sea to the west - and is thus a true mecca for sailors.

The city is affectionately known as the 'City of Sails' due to Aucklanders' love of sailing and other water sports. Auckland is built on 50 extinct volcanoes; and while most of them are miniature in size, as green hilltops or even completely invisible, the three largest - Mount Albert, Mount Eden, and One Tree Hill - reign over the landscape.

You will explore the exciting city of Auckland through a bus tour in the afternoon. The route will journey through the cozy suburbs of Parnell, with old, well-restored houses as well as small restaurants and galleries. You will visit the renowned Bastion Point for panoramic views of the city and the sparkling Hauraki Gulf.

After returning to the hotel, the rest of the evening is at leisure for you to explore the wonders of Auckland further on your own.

Meals: No meals included this day.

To book or for more information contact Travelling Fit... Your Running Tours Specialists
Phone +61 2 4385 2455 | www.travellingfit.com | Email: sales@travellingfit.com

Please Note: All prices are quoted in Australian dollars and are based on a per person basis.
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Day 2 - 18 January: Auckland to Coromandel

After breakfast it's time to travel south from Auckland, passing through its vibrant southern suburbs before ascending the Bombay Hills, which mark the boundary of the Auckland region. At Pokeno, turn east toward the stunning Coromandel Peninsula, a beloved getaway renowned for its golden sand beaches, lush native forests, and breath-taking coastal landscapes.

Upon arrival, check in to the Grand Mercure Puka Park, a secluded retreat nestled amid native bush. Spend the afternoon at leisure - relax on the pristine beaches or embark on an invigorating adventure such as the Pauanui Mountain Summit Trail. This rewarding hike ascends through dense forest to a 400-meter-high summit, offering panoramic views of the coastline and surrounding islands.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner.

Day 3 – 19 January: Hike to Cathedral Cove & visit Hot Water Beach

If you are familiar with the 2005 film *Chronicles of Narnia*, then you'll already be somewhat familiar with Cathedral Cove. It's a stunning hour-and-a-half return walk along the coastline to Cathedral Cove. As you emerge through the picture-perfect archway framing the beach, you'll be greeted by stunning sea cliffs and pristine emerald waters. Other notable features include Te Hoho, a pinnacle of pumice breccia rock shaped like the prow of a ship, and the Te Whanganui-o-Hei Marine Reserve, a sanctuary for diverse marine life that thrives on its sandy flats and rocky reefs.

Lunch will be taken in Hahei (own cost) before departing to Hot Water Beach.

Dig your own natural hot pool metres from the Pacific Ocean at world-famous Hot Water Beach (hire a spade or shovel from a local café – own cost). Naturally heated mineral water bubbles up from deep within the earth to emerge through golden sand at the appropriately named Hot Water Beach. To find the hot water area, head towards the rocks at the southern end of the beach and here you can dig your own spa pool in the sand. It's certainly a unique experience to be lying in a pool of hot water just metres from the refreshing ocean.

The long sandy beach stretches north and curves east under a headland. Here you'll find sheltered and secluded spots for quiet, sleepy sunbathing. There are also some cafés and galleries nearby.

Overnight once again at Grand Mercure Puka Park.

Meals: Breakfast.

Day 4 – 20 January: Hobbiton & Bay of Plenty

Today it's time to visit Middle-earth and the many adventures that await us therein. Your explorations lead you to the Hobbiton Movie Set, the bucolic setting for The Shire that featured in the Peter Jackson directed films, *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*.

The journey begins with a guided tour as you traverse the picturesque 1,250-acre sheep farm with spectacular views across to the Kaimai Ranges. Your guide will escort you through the ten-acre site recounting fascinating details of how the Hobbiton set was created. The Hobbit holes, Green Dragon Inn, Mill and other structures created for *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* films can be easily observed and it's possible to see how this beautiful piece of Waikato farmland was transformed into The Shire from Middle-earth. Upon completion of your tour, you will enjoy a complimentary beverage at the Green Dragon Inn.

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Day 4 – 20 January: Hobbiton & Bay of Plenty (cont.)

You continue over the Kaimai ranges into the picturesque Bay of Plenty. Upon arrival, you will visit the town of Mt Maunganui, often referred to as The Mount by locals. The Mount is a laid back suburb set on a peninsula surrounded by spectacular white sand beaches suitable for both swimming and surfing. Perhaps most iconic is the mountain Mount Maunganui, or Mauao, which rises 232 meters from the sea. The walking tracks to the top of this extinct volcano provide 360 degree views which span the entire length of the Bay of Plenty.

The afternoon is at leisure to spend at The Mount where you can relax on its glittering beaches, hike to the top of Mount Maunganui or go shopping in the many boutiques dotted along The Mount's main street.

Overnight at Trinity Wharf in Tauranga.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 5 – 21 January: Gisborne

Following breakfast you will depart to Gisborne. The route takes you along the east coast of the North Island passing through the small towns of Matata and Thornton before reaching Whakatane. Whakatane is the heart of the eastern Bay of Plenty, as it aligns with its spectacular coastal shore and contains a rich cultural history. Here you will have time to purchase lunch before departing through the Waioeka Gorge.

On arrival at the sunny township of Gisborne, you will check into your chosen accommodation.

Meals: Breakfast

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