

## NEW ZEALAND INDEPENDENT WINE-FOOD TOUR

7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS

CLASSIC NEW ZEALAND WINE TRAIL – NORTH ISLAND

DAY 1 Fly to Wellington. On arrival, **transfer** from the airport to your hotel.  
SUN/WED

The 'coolest little capital in the world' merges small village charm with big city style (more cafés and restaurants per head of population than New York). Taste the finest cuisine, explore creative culture and learn about the youngest country on earth in New Zealand's capital of cool. A visit to Wellington is not complete without:

- ✓ experiencing **Te Papa ('my place')**, the bold and innovative national museum; the **'Kapu Ti' Tour** includes Maori culture with traditionally inspired food tastings
- ✓ Stroll along Wellington's waterfront, with the *Wellington Writers Walk*.
- ✓ **ZEALANDIA: Karori Sanctuary Experience** – the ultimate urban nature experience (the [Night Tour](#) is the perfect time to see a Kiwi in its natural habitat)
- ✓ Ride the historic Cable Car up to the Botanic Garden.
- ✓ Carter Observatory – Maori mythology meets Big Bang science.



**Accommodation:** [The Bay Plaza Hotel](#) is located across from the waterfront and close to Te Papa, and a short walk to the restaurant and entertainment areas of Cuba Street and Courtenay Place. **Upgrade** to a Deluxe Room at the [Amora Hotel Wellington](#) which overlooks the harbour. Or stay at [Lambton Heights](#) Boutique B&B.

DAY 2



Explore Wellington's favourite food places in this compact city with [Zest Food Tours Walking Gourmet tour](#) - visit a boutique coffee roaster (Mojo); enjoy tastings of regional cheeses, honey, chocolate and much more at each stop amongst Wellington's best specialist gourmet food stores (including Moore Wilson's); meet owners, baristas, coffee roasters and chefs;

savour a delicious, three course tasting lunch with matched New Zealand wines at a top Wellington restaurant or café. **Upgrade** to a [Flat Earth Experiences](#) tour (Wild Wellington; Maori Treasures; Capital Arts; Middle Earth Filming).

**Accommodation:** Wellington



DAY 3 After breakfast, pick-up your **Thrifty Car Rental** in the city (compact; automatic; Toyota Corolla or similar).

Drive from Wellington to the Wairarapa Region. It will take about 90 mins through the spectacular scenic drive of the Rimutaka Mountain Pass. Wairarapa offers a diverse experience for lovers of great wine, gourmet food, native wildlife and natural beauty. Wairarapa wineries are mostly family owned with the focus on quality. Martinborough is the centre of the region, known especially for its Pinot Noir. Stop at the **Martinborough Wine Centre** for a tasting and advice on the region's wineries. For spectacular scenery, drive to Lake Ferry and Cape Palliser (2-3hrs return) to see the fur seals, and climb the 258 steps to the lighthouse for spectacular views.



**Accommodation:** **The Claremont** has stylish modern studios in spacious landscaped grounds close to the centre of town. **Upgrade** to the **Martinborough Hotel**, located on the town Square in the centre of Martinborough. Built as the town's first hotel (in 1882), it is still the best hotel in town, renovated in the last ten years to bring it back to its original glory. Or stay at **Aylstone Boutique Retreat**, a B&B located only a ½km from centre of town.

DAY 4 Travel from Martinborough to Hawke's Bay / Napier (288 kms / it will take about 3½ hrs for this drive). Hawke's Bay Wine Country is New Zealand's oldest and largest food and wine region, as well as home to a world class concentration of Art Deco architecture.



A great way to see the Art Deco architecture in Napier is with the **Vintage Deco Guided Walking & Car Tour** – walk with an experienced 'guide' who will take you inside a number of buildings and drive in a restored 1930s vintage car to visit the remarkable National Tobacco Company building, the Deco suburb of Marewa and explain the effect the 1931 earthquake had on the architectural style of the city.

**Accommodation:** **The Masonic Hotel** is a vintage 1930s Art Deco building located on Marine Parade across from the Pacific Ocean. **Upgrade** to a Luxury Room at the **County Hotel**, a 5-star, faithfully restored 1909 Edwardian Art Deco hotel, located right in the heart of Napier; or stay at **Mon Logis**, a French-style B&B located on Marine Parade.

DAY 5 Spend the day exploring this wonderful region:

- ✓ **Gannet Safaris Overland** operate eco-tours along the Cape Kidnappers peninsula (well-known for its world-class golf course), including **guided walking tours** for all levels of walkers.
- ✓ For the bike enthusiast, **Hawke's Bay Trails** are a "Great Ride" on the nationwide New Zealand Cycle Trails - **Takaro Trails Cycle Tours** offer one day and multi-day cycle tours.



- ✓ National Aquarium
- ✓ [Silky Oak Chocolates](#)
- ✓ Classic Sheepskins
- ✓ Golf at Napier GC, Hastings GC or the famous Cape Kidnappers
- ✓ Visit Trinity Hill Winery, Sileni Estates, Craggy Range, Church Road, Mission Estate, Vidal Estate, Bridge Pa Vineyard or any of the many quality vineyards.

Finish off the evening with **[Terroir @ Twilight \(progressive winery dinner\) by Odyssey Tours](#)**, enjoying 3 courses at 3 different, famous Hawke's Bay wineries (may include Elephant Hill, Craggy Range, Mission Estate, Vidal Wines).

**Accommodation:** Napier.

DAY 6 Drive from Napier to the Geothermal Wonderland of Rotorua (220kms / 3hrs). There are plenty of places to stop along the way:

- ✓ Huka Jet Taupo – see the mighty Huka Falls from its base
- ✓ Rotorua Museum
- ✓ Rainbow Springs / Kiwi Encounter
- ✓ Wai-O-Tapu Geothermal Wonderland
- ✓ Waimangu Volcanic Valley
- ✓ Te Puia Thermal Reserve & Maori Arts and Crafts Village
- ✓ [New Zealand Riverjet Thermal Safari](#) (half day tour down the Waikato River by jetboat to Orakei Korako Thermal Reserve)
- ✓ [Hells Gate / Wai Ora Spa](#) (great combination of geothermal reserve and mud bath treatments).
- ✓ Volcanic Air Safaris – fly over to White Island (the most active volcanic spot in NZ)



**Accommodation:** [The Wai Ora Lakeside Spa Resort \(B&B\)](#) is the perfect way to finish a week's indulgence. Located right on Lake Rotorua, this resort will rejuvenate you with relaxing spa options based on traditional Maori healing and wellbeing techniques.

DAY 7 Return your rental vehicle at Rotorua Airport; Air New Zealand have a direct flight  
 SAT/TUE each Sat & Tue / departs 1:15pm; arrives Sydney 3:00pm.

**There are many options which can be added to this itinerary.**

- Stay at hand-picked, exclusive 5-star luxury lodges at any point during your trip;
- Join a small exclusive tour rather than drive yourself; Or create your own group;
- Add extra days to your itinerary either before, during or after;
- Make your tour a special golf, food and wine tour; play on New Zealand's best golf courses like Paraparaumu near Wellington (where Tiger Woods played); Cape Kidnappers near Napier; Wairakei Resort or the Jack Nicklaus course in Taupo;
- Fly to the energetic South Island and explore the magnificent Central Otago wine region;
- Add a day or two in the Marlborough / Nelson wine regions;
- 'Walk the Walk' on one of New Zealand's famous Tracks – the Abel Tasman near Nelson; the Queen Charlotte near Blenheim; or even the Hollyford Experience out of Queenstown.
- [Customise this itinerary to your own choosing](#)

**To make your reservation – [click here](#)**