

An epic 680km daytime journey through New Zealand's North Island.

The **Northern Explorer** is a long distance passenger train, New Zealand's longest running, travelling between **Auckland and Wellington** via Palmerston North, Ohakune (near Waitomo Caves), National Park and Hamilton.

Witness **fantastic views** of New Zealand **farmland**, Tongariro National Park with its magnificent **volcanic mountains** (Tongariro, Ngauruhoe and Ruapehu) and **viaducts**, the world famous **Raurimu Spiral** and **stunning river gorges**. The **Hapuawhenua Viaduct** is spectacularly curved and perfect for capturing **amazing photos**.

Panoramic windows and **open-air viewing decks** allow you the **best possible views**.

One-way fares can be found below. For return or through-way fares please contact us.

Northern Explorer Information

Key details

Route: Auckland - Wellington v.v

Distance: 680.7km

Duration: 10hrs30mins

Stations: (Auckland) The Strand, Ngaoho Place, Auckland, (Wellington) Wellington Train Station, Bunny Street, Wellington

On board

The Great Journeys of New Zealand provide a relaxing atmosphere for all guests with maximum viewing. Every detail has been considered to enhance the passenger experience.

Seating

- Wide chairs with ample leg-room for maximum comfort
- Revolving airline seats that are swung round to always face forward
- Spacious table seats for groups and families
- Panoramic windows with sky-lights, to create a light and spacious carriage with maximum seat-side viewing



Audio commentary

- At-seat commentary system with free headphones, to tell you stories, narratives & facts about the places outside your window

Licensed Café carriage

- Licensed cafe selling hot and cold food and drink

Viewing Carriage

The open-air carriage is the perfect place for taking in unobstructed views of New Zealand's spectacular scenery.

Secure baggage

- There is a dedicated baggage carriage (to ensure an uncluttered carriage) and baggage assistants to help you.
- Luggage Allowance: 1 check in baggage per person, maximum weight 32kgs per item. Size must be no more than 200 linear cm (height plus length plus width)
Extra items can be booked for an additional cost.

Accessible

- The Northern Explorer is fitted with lifts/hoists for step-free access and has accessible seating/toilets.

Baby changing

- On-board changing facilities located in the Accessible Toilet near the Café.

Other

- Air conditioned
- Onboard toilets/bathrooms
- Power sockets at every seat

Northern Explorer Timetable

Departures:

- **Southbound:** The Northern Explorer operates Southbound on Monday, Thursday and Saturday
- **Northbound:** The Northern Explorer operates Northbound on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.
- Timetables shown are subject to change at short notice. Heat induced speed restrictions may occur during the summer season and delay arrival.
- Services may depart intermediate stations earlier if all booked passengers are on board
- Check in: We recommend arriving **30 minutes** prior to the departure time shown.
- Timetables are subject to change at short notice. **Please reconfirm 24 hours prior.**

Itineraries:

Auckland - Wellington		Wellington - Auckland	
(Mondays, Thursdays & Saturdays)		(Wednesdays, Fridays & Sundays)	
Departs		Departs	
Auckland Strand	dep 07.45am	Wellington	dep 07.55am
Papakura	dep 08.40am	Paraparaumu	dep 08.45am
Hamilton	dep 10.15am	Palmerston North	dep 10.00am
Otorohanga (Waitomo)	dep 10:55am	Ohakune	dep 12.45pm
National Park	dep 01.15pm	National Park	dep 01.15pm
Ohakune	dep 01.45pm	Otorohanga (Waitomo)	dep 03.45pm
Palmerston North	dep 04.19pm	Hamilton	dep 04.30pm
Paraparaumu	dep 05.30pm	Papakura	dep 05.55pm
Wellington	arr 06.25pm	Auckland	arr 06.50pm

Note: Timetables shown are subject to change without notification.

Frequently Asked Questions

Are the Great Train Journeys of New Zealand smoke free?

Yes, all the trains are completely non-smoking.

What time do we check in for our service?

Passengers are advised to be at all stations at least 20 minutes before the time shown.

Are there baggage restrictions?

Your checked baggage allowance: 1 check in baggage per person, maximum weight 32kgs per item. Size must be no more than 200 linear cm (height plus length plus width).

Baggage weighing over 23kgs will require two crew members to lift onto the train - we may ask for your assistance.

Two additional items of baggage can be purchased for \$20.00NZD including GST per item.

There will be a \$10NZD charge for carrying extra items like surf boards, bicycles or skis.

What is classed as check-in luggage?

Wheeled cabin bags and backpacks are classed as check-in luggage.

Can I take my Bicycle on the train?

We welcome bikes on board and can carry up to four bikes on each of our services. Bikes are stored securely in the Baggage Carriage.

Bicycles are charged at a rate of \$10NZD per bike. Passengers are advised to book in advance as space is limited on all services and transport of bicycles which are not pre-booked cannot be guaranteed. You may be requested to remove, fold, or cover some parts of your bike.

Payment & Ticketing

Conditions:

- Full payment is required 7 days from advice of confirmation. If full payment is not received Rail Plus holds the right to cancel your booking.
- Any bookings made within 5 days prior to departure require full payment prior to confirmation.

Travel insurance providing appropriate cover is strongly recommended.

Cancellation & Amendments

Conditions:

- Change in date of travel, passenger names and a reduction in journey length (stopping at an earlier station).

5 days + prior to departure	No Fee
4 days or less prior to departure	Non-changeable, 100% charge applies

- Change in service, direction or reduction in passenger numbers. Please remember that a change in date of travel and reduction in journey length becomes a cancellation fee if within 5 days of departure.
- All cancellations must be advised directly to Rail Plus.

Unpaid bookings	No Fee
5 days + prior to departure	15% Cancellation fee
4 days or less prior to departure or No Show	100% Cancellation fee

Northern Explorer Fact Sheet

seat61.railplus.com.au/index.cfm?event=factsheet&page=northern-explorer§ion=new-zealand-by-rail