





Overview

Incorporating the unique maritime and subtropical rainforest environments of New Zealand's 'Winterless North', the Northern Outdoor Education Experience features a stimulating and exciting array of outdoor activities, with the benefit of excellent proximity to Auckland.

Travelling is kept to a minimum, resulting in a full and exciting programme and tremendous value for money. Activities have been designed around providing variety and surmountable challenge, and each excursion is suitable for students with no experience.

As with all Gefen programmes, we offer flexibility and are happy to discuss tailoring itineraries to your curricular requirements or student needs.

- Availability:** Year Round
Itinerary Flexibility: Medium to high
Minimum Group Size: 10

All trip prices include:

- 7 days accommodation, meals and domestic transport, fully detailed in final quote and itinerary

Ask us how teaching staff can travel **FREE** of charge!

Key Learning Areas

- Self Confidence and A Sense Of Achievement
- Teamwork and Leadership
- Problem Solving Skills
- Positive and Respectful Relationships
- Cultural and Indigenous Peoples Understanding
- Respect for The Environment
- Abseiling and Canyoning
- Climbing and High Wires
- Horsemanship
- Kayaking, Swimming and Surfing
- Survival Skills and Self Reliance
- Clay Pigeon Shooting, Fishing and Food Gathering.



DAY 1 Itinerary Overview

Wilderness Survival Training

Location: Auckland

Capability Level: Basic fitness

The journey commences with an authentic outdoor education adventure, Wilderness Survival Training, which provides basic principles of survival in an environment free from the stresses and distractions of everyday life.

In a world where many young people are disconnected from the natural environment, there is great benefit in having highly trained and experienced instructors to guide students into experiences that nurture their connection to the earth and allow them to feel at home in nature. From taking care of themselves in the outdoors, students develop a strong sense of personal competence along with self reliance, resilience and an appreciation for the benefits of teamwork.

Wilderness Survival Training takes students to the edge of their comfort zone in a safe and fun environment and is an ideal springboard to the upcoming week of diverse and stimulating outdoor education.

Learning Opportunities

- Develop confidence
- Learn survival skills
- Deal with the unexpected
- Discover internal capabilities
- Learn team-building skills
- Develop a deeper understanding of the natural world
- Discover the beautiful New Zealand native bush and experience stunning outdoor environments

Activity Information

- Professional instruction
- Realistic but safe survival scenarios
- Stimulating, well supervised environment
- Challenging and enjoyable



DAY 2 Itinerary Overview

Equestrian Experience

Location: North Auckland

Capability Level: No experience necessary

Day 2 provides an unparalleled opportunity for students to experience the incredible natural environment that New Zealand is famous from a tremendous vantage point: the back of a horse. Day rides can include spectacular beach rides, forests and farmland and all levels of experience are catered for.

Horse riding is an excellent way to exercise different parts of the body, working on core strength, balance, coordination, muscle tone and flexibility. Riders develop fine motor skills, endurance and improved posture and cardiovascular health.

Interaction with horses helps young people learn patience, compassion, and responsibility while understanding the extent to which their actions affect others. Communication, decision-making, problem solving and leadership skills are all enhanced.

Learning Opportunities

- Develop confidence, trust and awareness
- Develop horse handling and riding skills
- Develop team work and leadership skills
- Improve problem solving skills
- Experience a pristine New Zealand beach environment and a wide range of flora and fauna.

Activity Information

- Professional instruction
- Safety conscious, well supervised environment
- Caters to all levels including complete beginners



DAY 3 Itinerary Overview

Caving and Abseiling

Location: West Auckland

Capability Level: No experience necessary

Day 3 sees a return to the lush profusion of Auckland's subtropical rainforest and an incredible environment of waterfalls, pools, rock faces, creeks and canyons.

Students can experience the thrill of abseiling and surmounting difficult terrain in a safe and fun scenario. Hand/eye coordination and observation skills are improved and self confidence is enhanced, especially if fears are conquered and obstacles overcome. Teamwork challenges present an extra dynamic and students learn the benefit of mutual support, effective communication, trust, accountability and collaboration.

Abseiling and canyoning is as much a mental challenge as a physical one and is ideal for all skill levels.

Learning Opportunities

- Abseiling and caving training in pristine rainforest
- Develop self confidence and trust
- Develop team work and leadership skills
- Discover internal capabilities
- Undertake physical challenge

Activity Information

- Strict risk management guidelines followed
- Programs can be customised to your group's requirements to include team challenges, rogaines, and archery
- Fully qualified and experienced instructors and management
- Full training and safety instruction provided
- All equipment provided



DAY 4 Itinerary Overview

Treetop Challenge

Location: Whangarei

Capability Level: No experience necessary

On Day 4 we venture further north to explore the forest treetops in an ingeniously safe and challenging selection of range of high circuits and obstacles, including high wires and ziplining. A multi sensory experience incorporating rich forest scents, diverse textures, unique birdsong and stunning views, the Forest Challenge is a safe and exhilarating way to experience nature up close.

After a comprehensive briefing and equipment fitting, the unique safety system allows students to venture independently on the course, proceeding at their own pace and supported by staff. This stimulates participants to challenge their balance, confront challenges, develop safety awareness and support their peers.

The Forest Challenge is always a popular and unforgettable segment of this tour with students displaying a tangible sense of accomplishment, enhanced self-esteem and a sense of camaraderie as well as having a huge amount of fun.

Learning Opportunities

- Features a stimulating and fun range of high wire and treetop challenges
- Build confidence and a sense of achievement
- Develop safety awareness and self confidence
- Discover internal capabilities
- Undertake physical challenge
- Improve concentration span

Activity Information

- Outdoors Safety Audit Certified and operate under Best Industry Safety Practice codes
- Enthusiastic, well trained instructors
- All equipment provided



DAY 5 Itinerary Overview

Bay of Island Experience

Location: Bay of Islands

Capability Level: No experience necessary

After the exhilaration and challenges of the previous few days, Day 5 offers a gentler pace as we travel north again to the world-renowned Bay of Islands. We board the purpose-built, houseboat, cruise out to explore a stunning maritime paradise and enjoy a wide range of outdoor activities that are both invigorating and enjoyable.

Over the 24 hour voyage, students can experience the satisfaction of catching and harvesting their own food from the sea, lagoon swimming and snorkelling, night and day kayaking and exploring some of the stunning white sand beaches and many walking tracks in the vicinity.

The tour incorporates historical stories and legends, including ancient Maori fortifications and also offers the chance to see dolphins and other marine creatures and seabirds up close.

Learning Opportunities

- Overnight cruise in the World-renowned Bay Of Islands
- Options include target shooting, fishing, day and night kayaking, snorkelling and swimming
- A slightly gentler pace allows students to experience a wide range of activities in a spectacular maritime environment
- Unique opportunities include food gathering from the sea, and encountering marine mammals and birds in a safe and pristine coastal setting

Activity Information

- Stable, sedate, comfortable houseboat style cruising
- All equipment provided
- Emphasis on exploring the physical environment by physical participation.



DAY 6 Itinerary Overview

Waitangi Cultural Experience

Location: Bay of Islands

Capability Level: No experience necessary

Arriving back in port mid afternoon, the balance of Day 6 sees students investigating Waitangi, where the Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840. Experience Māori culture and understand the significance of Waitangi to contemporary Aotearoa New Zealand.

There are a variety of educational options available, including:

- Māori welcome, waiata (singing), poi and stick games, Māori weaponry, and the famous haka.
- Instruction on traditional Māori skills such as weaving, carving and performance art.
- A traditional meal cooked in a hāngi (earth oven)
- Exploring the Treaty Grounds which feature the historic Treaty House, the magnificently carved meeting house and the world's largest ceremonial war canoe.
- An educational experience aiming to bring to life the history and stories that surround the signing of the Treaty.

Learning Opportunities

- Spend the afternoon after returning from the cruise at the birthplace of the modern New Zealand Nation
- Special introduction to New Zealand's unique indigenous culture, traditional crafts, transport and food.

Activity Information

- Provides context to the journey
- Provides a glimpse into New Zealand's unique heritage.
- Opportunity to learn about and experience new cultures.



DAY 7 Itinerary Overview

Surf School

Location: Northland

Capability Level: Basic swimming is beneficial

The last day of the tour sees the group heading south back toward Auckland, via another stunning east coast beach, and an exciting mix of sea, sand and sunshine. Students finish their adventure on a high, experiencing one of the ultimate New Zealand adventure pastimes: surfing.

With a focus on safety and fun, surfing instruction covers a wide range of physical and mental coaching. Ultimately students are given an excellent grounding in techniques, etiquette and biomechanics and, with repeated practice, are rewarded for persistence and enthusiasm.

At the end of the day, many students will be able to stand on their boards and have basic steering and control skills in place. Tired, but satisfied and with a great sense of achievement, they board the bus for the drive back to Auckland and the end of an epic journey.

Learning Opportunities

- Challenges boundaries and pushes participants outside their comfort zone in a safe environment
- Emphasis is on participation, education, safety and fun
- Teaches surf etiquette, beach and surf safety and surf bio-mechanics

Activity Information

- Internationally accredited surf school
- Fully compliant with NZ school safety guidelines
- Wetsuits and boards provided

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