

# Travelling with a Family in New Zealand

## *Features*

### **WHALE AND DOLPHIN WATCHING**

amongst the beautiful Hauraki Gulf of Auckland

### **MARINE RESERVE KAYAKING**

at the stunning Cathedral Cove

### **EXPLORE LOCAL CULTURE**

in the ultimate geothermal destination

### **DISCOVER THE HIDDEN GLOW WORMS**

with a trip through Waitomo Caves





Travelling with a baby can seem like a bad idea when you first contemplate it, no matter what form of transport you're considering for your trip. But when you look into it a little more it is often easier than travelling with toddlers or teenagers especially when it comes to flying thousands of km by plane.

At under a year old if your child doesn't yet crawl everywhere they can stay cozied up in a baby capsule for 12 hours without too many problems. It's the same in the car seeing that they will spend most of their time sleeping, it is easy to programme your car trips into their sleeping schedule and plan the different visits around meal time.

If you're worried about what gear to pack it's best to bring your baby car seat or car capsule so that you don't disturb your little ones comfort or rhythm and a pram for when you're visiting towns, cities and different sights; a baby backpack carrier is also useful for places where the pram can't really go. You can put all this in your

checked in luggage so you only have to transfer it to your rental when you arrive, just make sure you pick a hire car with plenty of boot space. The car seats available at our rental car companies are also an option, they conform to all the international standards.

In New Zealand, you will find cots available everywhere and most restaurants and toilets have baby change tables; high hygiene standards are maintained so it's never a hassle. Even campers will be blown away by the infrastructure in the holiday parks. I have been able to find basins the size of a wee bathtub in most of the shared bathrooms and everything is kept really clean.

For the most daring among you, it is even an option to hire a campervan or motorhome. It's fairly easy when your little one doesn't require a lot of space. However, with toddlers or young children, I can say from personal experience that unless you are fantastically well organised and have unlimited patience campervan trips are not

recommended. We found it to be a bit of never-ending circus but that will be the subject of another article!

For all your daily needs supermarkets and superettes have all the usual baby products; nappies, baby wipes, mineral water, pottles of baby food & baby formula. There is also now an ever expanding range of organic and natural products and as mums and babies are very well catered for in New Zealand you'll never feel like a fish out of water. And for the shopping addicts no doubt you'll leave with a few layers of blissfully soft merino wool that will delight the whole family.

In conclusion, there's no need to wait until your kids grow up to take them travelling in New Zealand with you!

**By Adeline Lemaitre**

# 9 Day North Island Family Adventure

## DAY 1 & 2 | AUCKLAND

Two days to explore New Zealand's largest city - a half-day **Auckland Whale and Dolphin Watching Excursion** in the Hauraki Gulf is on the programme and a detour via the Skytower will enthrall young and old.

---

## DAY 3 - 5 | COROMANDEL PENINSULA

The Coromandel is very well known for its beaches but we'd advise against heading to Cook's Beach which can be quite noisy and crowded in summer. Instead, we have some great suggestions for much more secluded spots. We recommend doing the Driving Creek Railway, visiting the Waterworks theme park with its eclectic water features and **Kayaking in the Cathedral Cove** marine reserve. **Hot Water Beach** can be really busy but if low tide falls happens in the evening you'll have more space to enjoy yourselves.

---

## DAY 6 & 7 | ROTORUA

New Zealand's ultimate geothermal destination! You'll find the best geothermal parks to the south of Rotorua, the ones closer to town can be a bit touristy. **Rainbow Springs** gives you the opportunity to discover New Zealand's native fauna and flora including the flightless kiwi bird and the Big Splash ride will no doubt be a hit with the whole family. If you want to learn all about New Zealand's other national emblem that is the humble sheep, then head to the **Agrodome**.

---

## DAY 8 | WAITOMO

You definitely can't go to Waitomo without seeing the glow worms, and better yet we book small group **Waitomo Cave** tours with a max of 12 people. You will get to test your guide's knowledge by asking them any questions and you will even be allowed to take photos in the cave. With a more limited number of people coming through this particular cave it is not harmful for the environment. The cherry on top is the chance to check out some moa bones, relics of the enormous birds that once roamed this land!

---

## DAY 9 | AUCKLAND AIRPORT

Drop off your rental car at the airport and catch your flight home. We hope you and your family have had an unforgettable adventure in New Zealand and come back soon to explore the South Island!



DISCOVER  
MORE