



# Northland Coast to Coast

Feb 2023 – 7 nights

Walking & Cycling Adventure for Active Women

## Mon 13 Feb 2023      AUCKLAND - WHANGAREI – TUTUKAKA

This morning we journey north from Cambridge via Auckland (pick up from airport around 10.30am) and on to **Whangarei**. You will love the new **Hundertwasser Art Centre** located in the city viaduct area. Friedensreich Hundertwasser was a painter, architect, eco warrior and extraordinary visionary who came to New Zealand in the 1970s and purchased land in Northland. His work and imagination left a lasting impression on the region and thanks to a team of loyal, creative friends, his art and architecture have been brought to fruition with a bright new building full of total uniqueness! Plenty of time to explore at your own pace.

By late afternoon we'll be checking in to our accommodation overlooking the marina in Tutukaka. You might like to take a stroll or a swim in the hotel pool before freshening up for dinner this evening.

*Accommodation: Quality Hotel Oceans Tutukaka (2 nights)*

## Tue 14 Feb 2023      TUTUKAKA – POOR KNIGHTS MARINE RESERVE

Meet "Hookie" our private boat and skipper Luke and enjoy a day out on the ocean. We'll explore the coastline with its gorgeous little bays, unique landscapes and cultural history. You can snorkel and swim around the Poor Knights Marine Reserve, and even try paddleboarding. Full day out.

## Wed 15 Feb 2023      PAIHIA – KERIKERI

After breakfast, we'll continue north to **Waitangi** to meet our local guide. On this informative tour you will discover contemporary museums, see carvers at work, attend a Maori cultural performance and visit the world's largest ceremonial war canoe. There will be free time to roam about the grounds with their wonderful sea views.

After lunch in **Paihia**, we'll make the short journey up to **Kerikeri** and stop at the **Rainbow Waterfall**. Enjoy a 4km walk along the Kerikeri River past the **Wharepuke Waterfall** to the historic **Stone House** (walk is optional) before checking in to our accommodation. You'll love this funky wee property located on the edge of the town centre, surrounded in lush tropical gardens and towering trees. There's a pool to cool off in and comfy chairs on your balcony to relax in with a cool refreshment.

*Accommodation: Stay Kerikeri (1 night)*

## Thu 16 Feb 2023      KERIKERI – KAIKOHE

Enjoy a healthy breakfast at Superbowl, before a bush & river walk on another one of Kerikeri's picturesque trails – the **Wairoa Stream Track**. Roam by Te Wairere Waterfall and the Secret Waterfall to **Kororipo Pa** where you'll have fabulous views of the Kerikeri inlet and Stone House (approx. 3km).

Free time in Kerikeri for lunch and a look around the shops.

Later this afternoon, we make our way across to **Kaikohe** - Northland's largest inland hub servicing the local farming community and relatively new cycling community. This will be our cycling base, and given the town is situated well

above sea level, means our rides will be downhill! This afternoon you will meet your E-bike for a fitting before riding round to the hotel. Our accommodation dates back to 1910 and until recently was the BNZ before being tastefully renovated into a boutique lodging and restaurant. We'll be staying in the unique shared accommodation wing (if you book a single you will have your own ensuite room upstairs) and dining in-house at *Mint* each evening.

*Accommodation: Left Bank, Kaikohe (2 nights)*

#### **Fri 17 Feb 2023                      KAIKOHE – HOKIANGA HARBOUR    Cycle 48 kms**

Early this morning we'll ride out of town on the **Twin Coast trail** towards the Hokianga Coast. The first part of the ride passes through undulating farmland, a 80m long curved tunnel, past Lake Omapere and in to the village of Okaihau where we'll stop for morning tea.

We then ride southwest along the road for a few kms before heading off through farmland and down the steep switchbacks into the **Utakura Valley** – this is where the trail gets a little tricky and you might choose to walk some parts of this. Once at the bottom, it's a beautiful ride through farms alongside the Utakura River to Snows Farm where we'll stop for a picnic lunch. Once off the farm, we ride alongside country roads for a distance before crossing to a 1km boardwalk through a mangrove estuary, popping out at the tiny settlement of **Horeke**. Continue along a quiet road to **Mangungu** where there's time to view the historic **Wesleyan Mission house** full of historic relics and learn about the history of the site. This is where the largest ever signing of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi) took place in front of a crowd of 3000 as they watched over 60 rangatira (Māori chiefs) ink the document.

From the Mangungu jetty, we'll board the boat "*Ranui*" and enjoy a 2-hour cruise on the **Hokianga Harbour** learning about the history and local tales as we journey across to **Rawene**. Disembark, and have some free time for a look around before being transferred back to Kaikohe.

#### **Sat 18 Feb 2023                      KAIKOHE – KAWAKAWA - OPUA    Cycle 45 kms**

Back in the saddle bright & early for a ride past the Kaikohe Aerodrome (built in 1942 as a US Marines bomber base), across picturesque rolling hills, historic rail bridges, twin suspension bridges and around the back of Moerewa and into the bustling town of Kawakawa. Time for refreshments, and a roam about town to admire the bright street art and famous **Hundertwasser toilets**. There are not many towns where the train track runs right down the middle of the main street and we may see a vintage train trundling past. The track is currently under restoration and hopefully we can ride on to Opuia across the historic **Taumarere Long Bridge**, but if this is not possible by Feb 2023, we will be transferred by vehicle.

Arrive in Russell later this afternoon and check in to the town's most iconic hotel, **The Duke**, situated on the waterfront. The hotel is steeped in history and intrigue and claims to have been "refreshing rascals and reprobates since 1827"! This evening we will dine in the hotel restaurant.

*Accommodation: The Duke of Marlborough Hotel, Russell (2 nights)*

#### **Sun 19 Feb 2023                      RUSSELL**

**Russell** features some of New Zealand's oldest and most significant buildings and the town's history is certainly interesting. Once known as the "Hell Hole of the Pacific" with a reputation as a lawless and rowdy port full of deserting seamen, runaway convicts, grog traders and settlers, Russell's history certainly makes for an interesting tour! We spend a few hours this morning exploring the town and surrounds ending at **Pompellier House** for a French inspired morning tea.

Afternoon at leisure. You might like to visit the museum, explore the curated art within The Duke, relax by the beach, visit the shops and galleries, or take a Bay of Islands cruise to the famous hole in the rock.

All around Russell are **kiwi and weka** foraging in the native bush reserves – at night you can easily hear them calling to each other. After dinner, there is an optional walk to a nearby bush reserve to see if we can spot the elusive kiwi!

#### **Mon 20 Feb 2023                      RUSSELL – AUCKLAND**

On our journey back to Auckland today, we'll make a few stops to break up the half day journey. Our final lunch will be at the legendary **Puhoi Pub** before we make our way through the city to the airport for 3pm drop offs.

## Cost

NZ\$3175 per person twin share\*

NZ\$870 single supplement

\*if you would like to twin share let us know and we'll endeavour to find you a room-mate

## Includes

- Tour Escort / Cycling Guide
- Transportation in modern minicoach (12 seater)
- Pick up/drop off from Cambridge/Hamilton and Auckland Airport
- 7 nights accommodation (as specified in itinerary)
- Daily breakfast, 1 lunch, 4 dinners
- Full day Tutukaka Coast & Poor Knights Island cruise
- Entry to Hundertwasser Art Centre
- Guided tour of Russell & Waitangi
- 2-hour Hokianga Harbour cruise
- 2-day E-bike hire, back-up and shuttle transfers

## Excludes

- Flights, Travel Insurance, Meals (unless specified in inclusions) / Refreshments, Items of a personal nature & optional tours



