



Bay of Islands & Far North

Sun 11 Feb AUCKLAND – HOKIANGA

Please arrive in Auckland this morning (pick up from airport around 10.00am). From the airport, we will travel North via the Kaipara Harbour stopping enroute for lunch. Spend some time in the award-winning Kauri Museum at **Matakohe** which tells the story of the kauri tree, the people and the industries that fuelled the building of our nation. By late afternoon we'll be settling into our accommodation located right on the **Hokianga Harbour**. You might like to stretch your legs with a roam along the beach before sundowners.

Accommodation: The Heads Hokianga, Omapere (2 nights)

Mon 12 Feb HOKIANGA (B,D)

After breakfast, we'll drive across to **Rawene** for a leisurely cruise on the Hokianga Harbour where we'll hear tall tales and interesting local history from our skipper. Time for lunch and a look around the historic village of **Rawene**.

In the afternoon we visit **Manea Footprints of Kupe** for a unique cultural encounter by way of a multisensory journey through art, toanga, film, digital interaction and a cultural performance. You will come away from this with a better knowledge of Maori and the Hokianga which is a great way to segue into our evening which is extra special.

With a local guide, we head into the **Waipoua Forest** for a twilight encounter like no other! Prepare yourself for spine-tingling chants and song as our guide leads us into the forest. Come face to face with our national icon, **Tane Mahuta** (our largest giant kauri), and **Te Matua Ngāhere** (our oldest kauri). As day turns into night your senses become enhanced and you will be absorbing the spiritual energy of the forest – absolutely magic!

Tue 13 Feb DOUBTLESS BAY (B,L,D)

Enjoy a leisurely stroll along the top of the Hokianga Heads after breakfast. We'll then continue our journey into the Far North stopping at the cute little fishing village of **Mangonui**. Fresh fish from local boats is unloaded at the wharf in the village and much of it makes its way to the Mangonui Fish Shop. The shop has been selling fresh fish for over 70 years and lunch is included here today.

In the afternoon we do some exploring and walks on the **Karikari Peninsula**. The beaches here will take your breath away – simply stunning. We'll stop for an early dinner at New Zealand's northernmost vineyard – **Karikari Estate**. You might like to taste some of their superb wines produced from the slopes of this scenic vineyard.

Accommodation: Taipa Beach Resort (2 nights)

Wed 14 Feb CAPE REINGA (B,L,D)

This morning we will drive across to **Kaitia** and board a specially designed 4x4 passenger truck. Sit back and relax as our local tour guide shares some amazing stories of Far North legends and history. You can expect to see

Houhora Heads and Mt Camel, the white silica sands at Rarawa, Te Paki Giant Sand Dunes (sand boarding optional!), The Bluff, Aupouri Forest and 90 Mile Beach. Lunch is included at Tapotupotu Bay. Our main destination is of course **Cape Reinga** – the dramatic meeting place of the Tasman & Pacific Oceans. Dinner is included at our hotel this evening.

Thu 15 Feb **KERIKERI** **(B,L)**

After breakfast, we set off for **Hihi** for an interesting tour of the Butler Point property including the **Whaling Museum, Butler House** and the extensive **Gardens**. This is a real Northland gem and always a highlight. A delicious lunch is served in the garden.

In the afternoon, we arrive at the **Kerikeri Rainbow Waterfall** and look at these from different angles. From here you have the option to do the scenic river walk down to the **Kerikeri Basin**. We'll check in to our rooms later this afternoon. Enjoy the swimming pool and lush gardens this wonderful property offers.

Accommodation: Stay Kerikeri (2 nights)

Fri 16 Feb **KERIKERI** **(B)**

This morning we tour through some of New Zealand's history. **Kemp House** is the oldest surviving European building in New Zealand and **The Stone Store** is the country's oldest surviving stone building. Time to learn about the history from a local guide. From here we'll visit **Matakana Chocolate** where you can taste some exquisite sweets and watch them being made. You have the afternoon free to either laze by the pool, check out the shops in town or do a walk on another one of Kerikeri's gorgeous waterfall trails.

Sat 17 Feb **WAITANGI – RUSSELL** **(B,D)**

After checking out, we'll stop at the Packhouse Market where you can purchase your own breakfast from one of the tasty vendors. On arrival in **Waitangi**, meet a local guide for an informative tour where 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 before departing for Russell.

Afternoon overview tour of **Russell** which 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!

Later, check in to the town's most iconic hotel, **The Duke of Marlborough**, situated on the waterfront. The hotel is steeped in history and intrigue and claims to have been "refreshing rascals and reprobates since 1827"! Be sure to take some time to explore the curated art within the hotel. Watch the sunset as we dine in the picturesque hotel tonight.

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

Sun 18 Feb **ISLAND CRUISE & RUSSELL** **(B,D)**

Enjoy stunning views of the islands on a cruise past Cape Brett Lighthouse, the Hole in the Rock and Marsden Cross, where the first Christian sermon was held in NZ back in 1814. Hopefully we will also see dolphins on our morning out. There will be some time on one of the Islands for some walking and swimming.

This afternoon is free to explore more of Russell plus we will have a guided tour of **Pompellier House** where you will learn how books were printed and bound and leather was produced way back in 1839 – absolutely fascinating! Enjoy a final dinner out with your new friends.

Mon 19 Feb **WHANGAREI – AUCKLAND - WAIKATO** **(B)**

We say Haere Ra to the Bay of Islands and begin our return South. First stop is the iconic **Kawakawa** toilets followed by the new **Hundertwasser Art Centre** located in the **Whangarei** 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! After lunch we continue south via the infamous **Puhoi Pub** for our last refreshment together.

Traffic dependent, we should get to Auckland Airport around 4.30pm (recommend you book flights out from 5.30pm onwards).

Cost

NZ\$3585 per person twin share*

NZ\$950 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 / Chief Navigator
- Transportation in modern minicoach (12 seater)
- Pick up/drop off from Cambridge, Hamilton and Auckland Airport
- 8 nights accommodation (as specified in itinerary)
- Meals as specified (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)
- Entry & local guides as mentioned in itinerary including Hundertwasser Park, Pompellier House, Island Cruise, Waitangi, Cape Reinga day tour, Butler Point Museum & Garden Tour, Kemp House, Stone Store Museum, Manea, Waipoua Twilight Forest Encounter, Matakohe Kauri Museum, Hokianga Cruise

Excludes

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

