Waikatos Wild West Coast . - itinerary

30% Deposit Required on Booking.

DAY ONE MT,L,D

We have an exciting day ahead as we head north, stopping for morning tea before collecting a picnic lunch. At Tuakau Jetty, board a luxurious 22-metre houseboat for a scenic cruise along the Waikato River. Enjoy a delicious, boxed lunch with tea and coffee as we glide past towering cliffs, Maori cultural landmarks, and historic sites. Cruise in the wake of paddle steamers that once supplied goods upriver before roads and railways. This area was pivotal during the Maori Wars of 1863-1864. Along the way, observe the remains of old barges hidden under trees and learn about the history of Tuakau Bridge. The stunning, ever-changing river landscape provides a glimpse into New Zealand's colonial past and natural beauty. After disembarking, we travel to Raglan, a charming west coast township, for our first overnight stay. Prepare for a memorable day filled with history, scenery, and relaxation on the water.

DAY TWO B, MT, L, D

After breakfast, we will be at the wharf to step aboard the Wahinemoe for about an hour's cruise of the Whaingaroa Harbour - discovering for ourselves the delights of its expansive and distinctive coastline. The fascinating geology, natural birdlife habitats, and riveting local history will be pointed out to us by our captain and crew on this relaxing and refreshing journey. Afterward, we will be able to explore the local township and main beach – Ngarunui is famous for a lot of things – and its left-hand point breaks at beaches to the south of the town making it a mecca for surfers from around the world. Many of the local shops and sights pay homage to the community's surfing customs and traditions. After lunch in Raglan, we journey through the rugged country onto the impressive 55-metre-high Bridal Veil Falls on the Pakoka River. We next drive to the coastal settlement of Kawhia for a short comfort stop before proceeding to our destination to overnight in Waitomo. Tonight, we will dine at the Motor Inn.

DAY THREE B,MT,L,D

Please note: There's formed gravel tracks over undulating ground, with a few steps in one place so good walking shoes will be required today.

We'll begin our day with breakfast, before embarking on a "Hairy Feet" adventure in Mangaotaki Valley. Over ten years ago, Sir Peter Jackson's film crew filmed The Hobbit here, putting Warwick and Suzie Denize's farm on the map. Suzie will share personal stories about the farm's 80-year history and its connection to the film industry. She'll also discuss the unique geology and farming practices. After the presentation, there's a chance for photos with movie props. We'll then enjoy a pub lunch at the Awakino Hotel before heading to Marokopa Seaside Village to view its stunning 35-meter waterfalls, considered some of the

most photogenic in New Zealand. After marveling at their beauty, we'll visit the Mangapohue Natural Bridge, a 17-meter limestone arch. The walk highlights stalactite formations, farmland, and fossilized oysters over 25 million years old. We'll end the day with dinner at the Motor Inn.

DAY FOUR B

We will begin our day after breakfast by gliding silently beneath thousands of magical glowworms in our tour boats within the Waitomo Glowworm Caves. This iconic attraction has been running since the 1880s and the limestone caves have a fascinating history dating back 30 million years to when they began to form. We will have time for morning tea here before setting out for Otorohanga where we will be stopping in for our tour at the Kiwi House and Native Bird Park. Find out more about the active brown kiwi breeding program and donate to its ongoing work. After our furry encounter, it's time for some lunch and a look through town before heading home