

Bay of Islands - Island paradise of golden, sandy beaches & charming towns - itinerary

DAY ONE

MT, L, D

As we set out for the winterless north, we will have a morning tea stop along the way and take the time to stretch our legs before continuing our journey through Auckland. We will head north across the bridge to enjoy a sumptuous lunch at The Glass House Restaurant which is in the home of Brick Bay Wines and gateway to the Brick Bay Sculpture Trail. Today we will be dining only as we push forward continuing onwards, we upwards in a northerly direction we'll arrive in our destination Whangarei for our evening. This afternoon we will visit the fabulous Hundertwasser Art Centre this is an amazing venue to visit which celebrates his art all encased in one of his architectural creations which does not lead to any form of normality of straight lines but curves and colour. After our visual sensory cup has been filled, we will head to our accommodation for the evening The Distinction Hotel in Whangarei, home for tonight. We will enjoy our dinner on-site at the hotel.

DAY TWO

B, MT, L, D

After breakfast, we continue our journey north; our holiday would not be complete without pausing to take in the quirkily iconic Hundertwasser Kawakawa toilets. From here, we head to the Butlers Museum and Gardens for Morning Tea. Captain William Butler was a retired whaling ship captain who became a successful merchant in northern New Zealand. In 1838 Butler purchased land that formed the nucleus of what is today, Butler Point. Butlers Point Whaling Museum & Garden in Hihi is about stepping back in time to learn more about New Zealand's once-lucrative whaling industry. We will have the opportunity to view the beautiful gardens, historic homestead and the vast collection of Whaling memorabilia which will make for a fascinating morning. Then we head on for some deserved Fish and Chips from the famous Mangonui Fish and Chip Shop. Eat locally caught fish landed at Mangonui Wharf while the ocean waves roll under your feet. From here, we will

take a tiki tour back down to the Historical Kerikeri Mission Station and take the time to view this historic location, home to the remarkable 1832-built Stone Store. Stopping here, we will have time to take the tour, learning about the store's history and surrounding mission station.

DAY THREE

B, L, D

This morning, we travel to the stunning golden beaches & coastline of Northland to Cape Reinga. We will not be stopping for morning tea however you could take a drink bottle and snacks if you wanted to. We will be joining another tour company that has intimate local knowledge of the area. This will be a wonderful day out. Highlights include a short stop at the Ancient Kauri Kingdom in Awanui, along 90 Mile Beach, Te Paki stream, giant sand dunes, Cape Reinga and historical Gumdiggers Park. Lunch will also be included in today's journey.

DAY FOUR

B, D

Time for an exploration of the harbour today; we will board the Fullers Catamaran, Dolphin Seeker, as we journey to the end of the Cape Brett Peninsula and onto the world-famous "Hole in The Rock". After our wonderful cruise, we will have some free time in Paihia to have lunch at one of the local cafés before heading to Waitangi Treaty Grounds for a guided tour of the grounds and a look around the museum. Tonight, we enjoy a delicious meal out in a stunning setting.

DAY FIVE

B, L, D

Let us begin our day with a hearty breakfast at the hotel before catching the ferry from Paihia to Russell. We will be split into two groups for this morning activities, with one group visiting Pompallier Mission and Printery, and the other embarking on a mini tour of Russell. After this we will enjoy a delicious lunch at the Duke of Marlborough in Russell which boasts stunning waterfront views that create the perfect atmosphere for a relaxing and enjoyable lunch. We will have the opportunity to soak in the historic charm of the building and the picturesque surroundings of Russell's waterfront. Our afternoon will consist of the groups swapping the morning activities. After this, we will have free time to explore the

local shops or museum in Russell or catch the ferry back in your own time to relax at the Kingsgate Hotel. This evening, everyone will gather for dinner at the Kingsgate Hotel, where we will enjoy our evening together.

DAY SIX

B, MT, L, D

After breakfast, we say farewell to Paihia our journey then commences with a scenic drive to Kerikeri to visit the gorgeous Silkwood Lodge a luxury boutique venue with subtropical gardens in Kerikeri. This is a unique and private venue perfect for boutique weddings, small gatherings, or photoshoots. We will enjoy a catered morning tea and informative talk about the venue, both delightful and engaging. Next, we head to Marsden Winery, renowned for its exquisite cuisine and stunning vineyard views. The picturesque surroundings provide a feast for the eyes and a serene ambiance for our palates to indulge in. We end our day with a picturesque ferry ride across the Hokianga Harbour, arriving at the charming Heads Hotel. Here, we are treated to dinner at the on-site restaurant, complete with breathtaking scenery.

DAY SEVEN

B, L, D

Tane Mahutu has stood as a majestic sentinel in the Waipoua Forest for over 1,250 years. Occupying a place in the record books as New Zealand's largest known living kauri tree, we will be stopping this morning to marvel at its towering canopy and massive circumference before moving on to have morning tea at the Gumdigger's Café in Matakoho. The adjacent kauri timber-lined museum presents a fascinating insight into the area's incredible pioneering industry. Unique to this part of the world and displaying the many shapes, sizes, and colours of kauri's beautiful golden resin, stopping in here is a must. From here, we head to the Sculptureum Gallery in Matakana for a scrumptious lunch. With three sculpture-filled gardens, six art galleries, and a vineyard, there is something for everyone. We will be carrying the beauty of this cherished region of New Zealand in our hearts and minds, not to mention our cameras. We are overnighting at Northridge Country Lodge in Wainui on the North Shore of Auckland. After settling into our accommodation, we will enjoy dinner at the onsite restaurant for our final night

together.

DAY EIGHT

B

After breakfast, we start our journey home via Hamilton Gardens. We will enjoy a tour of the Mansfield and Surrealist Gardens. The Mansfield Garden represents the early 20th century New Zealand garden described in Katherine Mansfield's short story 'The Garden Party'. The Surrealist Gardens are where we will step into a strange world where mysterious dreams have come to life! There is time for some lunch before we make our way home to Tauranga.