



Essential DownUnder Travel's Exclusive

The Bay of Islands – by Land and by Sea

Meals included indicated by B, L, D

DAY 01 WELCOME TO NEW ZEALAND

(D) Upon arrival in Auckland, you will be met by our local representative who will deliver your travel documents. Transfer by private car to Auckland Wharf, which is on the central waterfront of the city of Auckland handy to museums, shops and restaurants. Day at leisure in Auckland until cruise departure time.

4.30 pm Depart Auckland on Coral Princess. Cruise to predator-free Tiri Tiri Matangi Island, one of only two official Scientific Reserves in New Zealand, inhabited by native and endangered birds. Captain's Welcome Cocktails & Table d'Hote Dinner.

DAY 02 CORAL PRINCESS CRUISE

(BLD) After a buffet breakfast, enjoy an early morning guided walk to discover the delight of nature and rare native birds on Tiri Tiri. Then cruise to historic Kawau Island. Here enjoy a shore excursion to the abandoned Coppermine. Walk through to historic Mansion House, where you can wander the old stately grounds or visit the historic house of Governor George Grey.



This afternoon depart for Great Barrier Island, cruising past Little Barrier Island before entering beautiful Port Fitzroy through the narrow Man-O-War Passage. Pass by oyster farms and spectacular scenery before anchoring in this protected bay. Table d'Hote dinner.

DAY 03 CORAL PRINCESS CRUISE

(BLD) After a buffet breakfast, join your Guest Lecturers and Expedition Leader on a guided morning walk through the native bush to learn the history of the mining and Kauri logging industry on Great Barrier Island. For the less energetic, we offer a sightseeing cruise in the Xplorer before returning for lunch.

This afternoon visit the remote nature reserve of the Mokohinau Islands,



where weather permitting, you will land ashore at Burgess Island to enjoy the scenery and nature on offer. Table d'Hote dinner.

DAY 04
(BLD)

CORAL PRINCESS CRUISE

Buffet breakfast this morning as you cruise north to the remote Whangaroa Harbour, where you will board the Xplorer to discover the delights of these secluded bays. Table d'Hote dinner.

DAY 05
(BLD)

CORAL PRINCESS CRUISE

After your buffet breakfast, enjoy a full day exploring and discovering the spectacular Bay of Islands area. From the Hole in the Rock, Deep Water Cove, Urupukapuka (where Zane Grey had a legendary fishing camp!), Roberton Island, and more, the day promises unforgettable experiences.



This evening we enjoy the Captain's Farewell Cocktails in the sheltered Harbour, followed by a Table d'Hote dinner.

DAY 06
8:00 am
(B)

CORAL PRINCESS CRUISE/PAIHIA

After breakfast, farewell and disembarkation in Paihia. Transfer by private car to Kerikeri Airport. Collect a Toyota Camry or similar 2 litre automatic rental vehicle (airport collection fee applies). Deposit your luggage at your accommodation, then enjoy exploring the art, craft, chocolate and beauty studios in nearby Kerikeri Township.

This afternoon join a half day tour which includes a scenic flight by light aircraft up the western coastline and over the surf and sands of Ninety Mile Beach. Once the aircraft lands you will be taken on a land tour to Cape Reinga, the northern most point of New Zealand where the blue Pacific Ocean meets the green Tasman Sea. This site is sacred to the Maori people. The return flight follows the east coast over bays and inlets that can only be seen from the air.

Your accommodation is located across the road from the beach with views of the bay. There is a restaurant and day spa on site.

ACCOMMODATION: PAIHIA BEACH RESORT AND SPA (2 NIGHTS)
Studio

DAY 07
(B)

BAY OF ISLANDS: Maori culture day

Breakfast at your accommodation. This morning join a voyage of discovery that is spiritually unique as you paddle in a Maori waka (canoe) up the Waitangi River to the Haruru Falls experiencing local Ngapuhi Culture and hear the stories of their history (weather conditions permitting).

Later today join a guided tour of the Waitangi Treaty House and grounds. It was here in 1840 that the historic treaty was signed between Maori and British, forming the nation of New Zealand. See the intricate carving and weaving that

tell the story of ancestors in the Meeting House as well as the might waka (war canoe).

This evening enjoy the sound and light show in the grounds of the Waitangi Reserve, which tells the story of the coming of Kupe (the first Maori to discover this land) through to present day and includes the events surrounding the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi which gave birth to the nation of New Zealand.



DAY 08 **BAY OF ISLANDS/NORTHLAND**

(B) Breakfast at your accommodation. Morning at leisure in Paihia to enjoy the many activities and attractions available in the area – you may wish to kayak amongst the mangroves up to the Haruru Falls, visit a winery, swim with the dolphins in their natural environment, wander through the historic streets of the quaint settlement of Russell across the bay or tour some of the historic homes which have national significance. Available at extra cost.

This afternoon drive north following the coastline to Doubtless Bay, perhaps stopping to visit the winery at Carrington Estate or enjoying a round of golf at New Zealand's famous Kauri Cliffs golf course, or Carrington along the way.

Enjoy the barefoot chic atmosphere of your self-catering accommodation, nestled into the 70-kilometre unspoiled coastline of semi-tropical Doubtless Bay.

ACCOMMODATION: DOUBTLESS BAY VILLAS (1 NIGHT)
1 bedroom apartment

DAY 09 **NORTHLAND/HOKIANGA**

Drive across the top of the North Island then down State Highway 1 to join the West Coast route into the Hokianga, an area of special significance to the Maori people.

6.00 pm Join a very special four-hour night experience guided by the local Maori, to visit the oldest and largest known kauri trees in the world, Te Matua Ngahere (The father of the forest) and Tane Mahuta (The lord of the forest). Let the night noises, foreign environment, time, local Maori guides and ecological and cultural interpretation (Maori story, song and instruments) awaken your spiritual senses.



The hotel is across the road from the beach and has panoramic views across the water and harbour.

ACCOMMODATION: COPTHORNE HOKIANGA (1 NIGHT)
Superior beach view room

DAY 10**HOKIANGA/AUCKLAND**

This morning join harbour cruise that follows in the footsteps and relives the journey of this country's most influential visitor, Kupe, who was the first person to discover this land. 1000 years ago Kupe called Hokianga his home - discover the natural beauty of the Hokianga Harbour and share thousands of years of history through the stories. This cruise departs the Opononi wharf and travels to Rawene for a brief stop. Visit the historically significant Mangungu Mission House, then cruise whilst enjoying an informative commentary by your local skipper and guide. The boat returns to Opononi wharf at 11.30am.

From the Hokianga drive into the lush growth of the Waipoua Forest. Here you may wish to stop for a short bush walk to see the largest of all the majestic Kauri Trees, Tane Mahuta in daylight.

Then drive south through Dargaville to Matakohe, to visit the interesting Kauri Museum which gives insight into the early gum digging and timber industries of this area as well as fine examples of what was made from this wood.

Continue on to Auckland, perhaps detouring into the West Auckland Wine Region around Henderson, or travelling across to the Matakana region to visit the wineries, or perhaps stop at Puhoi to sample the local cheese at the factory there. Return rental vehicle to the Auckland International Airport. Check in for your onward flight and depart New Zealand – or stay on to visit other areas.

COST PER PERSON – USD \$5432.00*

**Based on double occupancy. Price subject to confirmation of all arrangements, and fluctuation in the exchange rate. Price is valid through Feb. 2009. Call for updated prices..*