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Extended Bay Of Islands & Northland

Paihia, Russell, and the Bay of Islands, Waitangi Treaty Grounds, 90 Mile Beach and Cape Reinga, Mangonui, Hokianga Harbour, Waipoua Forest, Kaipara Harbour & more...

Join us on this new extended 7 day, 6 night adventure to Northland – an interesting province full of history, culture and amazing scenery.

Enjoy some famous 'Hinterland quality hospitality' as we explore all the way to the top of New Zealand. With 2 day stays in Paihia, Taipa and Omapere, we can see and do so much with time to relax as well.

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DAY 1 Travelling from Tauranga north through the 'Big Smoke' of Auckland we soon hit the rolling countryside, native forests and stunning bays of Northland. Our lunch along the way is an iconic Pub, before continuing to on to Waipu and finally to Paihia which will be our base to the next 2 nights. We will make a stop to see funky Kawakawa and its famous Hundertwasser Toilets and newly built Te Hononga Kawakawa Hundertwasser Park and visitor centre, before checking in to our waterfront accommodation in Paihia.

DAY 2 On our first day in Paihia we set off on a half-day Bay of Islands cruise in search of dolphins and other marine life. Enjoy the views from our comfortable catamaran Dolphin Seeker as we journey right to the end of the Cape Brett Peninsula, to the famous Hole in the Rock on Motukōkako Island. Heading back we depart at Russell where we will enjoy lunch at the famous Duke of Marlborough Hotel. A short sightseeing tour allows us to see more of this interesting town, once named the "Hell hole of the Pacific" before taking the ferry back to Paihia. This evening is free for you to explore Paihia and select your own dining options.

As a no cost option to the Hole in the Rock cruise, you can opt for a visit to the Kawiti Glow worm Caves, morning tea in Russell and a tour of Pompallier House before lunch.

DAY 3 Next morning is spent at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds – New Zealand's most important historic site. A local guide will inform and educate you about the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840 and we will have time to explore the new interactive museum and also enjoy a short cultural performance in the carved meeting house in the grounds.

Then it is on to another of New Zealand's historic treasures – The Stone Store and Kemp House in Kerikeri. Again a guided tour is included, here we can enjoy visiting New Zealand's oldest stone building and Kemp Hous, our oldest building in the country, located at the head of the tranquil Kerikeri Inlet. A very popular stop for all visitors is a visit to the mouth watering Makana Chocolate factory before a short but scenic drive north to Taipa, which will be our base for the next 2 days, time to relax and enjoy our beach front resort.

DAY 4 The highlight for many is our trip to Cape Reinga. We join up with a family run tour company in Kaitia who have specially designed vehicles for driving on the sand as the trip includes a drive along 90 Mile Beach (only 64 miles long!) to the enormous Te Paki Dunes. A picnic lunch is included at a secluded bay before heading to the very top of New Zealand where the Tasman Sea meets the Pacific Ocean and marvel at the 360 degree views from the Cape Reinga lighthouse, which has to be one of those bucket list destinations! Dinner tonight is at the famous Mangonui Fish Shop for a delicious Fish N Chip supper at this harbour side setting. This will be a memorable day.

DAY 5 Today we move across the island to the West Coast, where a different pace of life is apparent as we enjoy the sparsely populated Hokianga region. But first off we will make a short detour south to visit the Butler Point Whaling Museum in Doubtless Bay, an interesting collection of whaling artefacts set in a stunning location on the shore at Butler Point. Then we retrace our steps north at first, before we pass through Ahipara, where 90 mile beach begins and then head south again down the west coast to take the ferry

Whats Included:

- 7 days of touring
- 6 nights quality accommodation
- Door to door service [home pickups]
- Quality Air-conditioned vehicle
- Fully guided with commentary
- All breakfasts and 5 dinners
- Hole in the Rock Dolphin Cruise
- Ferry from Russell to Paihia
- Lunch at The Duke of Marlborough Hotel
- Guided tour of Russell
- Cape Reinga and 90 mile beach tour
- Fish N Chips supper at Mangonui
- Waitangi Treaty grounds and tour
- Butlers Point Whaling Museum
- A guided tour of the Kemp House
- The Matakohē Kauri Museum
- Guided tour to see Tane Mahuta
- Plenty of stops along the way

You will see:

- Stunning scenery throughout
- Whangarei and its town basin
- The iconic Hundertwasser toilets
- The historic town of Russell
- Paihia with its stunning BOI vistas
- Mangonui and its famous Fish Shop
- Kerikeri and the Stone Store
- The Hokianga harbour and west coast
- Tane Mahuta - the 'Lord of the Forest'
- The Kaipara harbour

Not included:

- Any lunches unless specified*
- Morning/afternoon tea stops*
- Any alcoholic beverages with meals

across to Rawene, from which it is just a short drive to our waterfront accommodation at Omapere for the next 2 nights.

DAY 6 We begin today with a guided tour to the 'Lord of the Forest' – Tane Mahuta, located in the Waipoua Forest. This enormous tree is thought to be up to 2500 years old! and is now the largest of the species still standing. Our expert local maori guide will provide insight into the roll of the forest in both past and current times, enabling us to understand how important care of our natural environment is to us all.

We then head back to our resort where you can relax for the rest of the day, take a swim in the pool or ocean or join us on some no cost options to visit the historic Clendon House in Rawene and the Koutu Boulders, the Northlands version of the Moeraki Boulders in Otago.

For those more active travelers there is also an extra cost option to visit the Waipoua forest later in the day for a longer but easy night hike into the heart of the forest, where you may even see a Kiwi. This would be instead of the morning walk.

DAY 7 Departing Omapere for home, more rugged scenery awaits as we head south towards Matakohe on the edge of the Kaipara Harbour. The interesting Matakohe Kauri Museum awaits, and here we allow plenty of time to enjoy the detailed displays relating to the kauri timber industry. By the time we leave Matakohe we will have a much better appreciation of Northland life, as we head towards home – having had a wonderful few days in this fantastic slice of New Zealand.

* Please note, that unless specified in the itinerary we do not usually include the cost of lunches or morning and afternoon tea stops in the tour cost, but we always make stops where there are a range of options available so you can choose what you want, and have flexibility to do things on your own if you wish.

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