



With bags packed, and as always, a pick up at your door, we head off for a festive getaway to wonderful Waiheke Island. We enjoy a very relaxed drive to Auckland, getting to know your new tour mates and making sure we have plenty of stops along the way. Through the scenic Karangahake Gorge, we traverse the Hauraki Plains before climbing the Bommays and down into Auckland. Once we are settled in to our hotel, we make a special outing for dinner. Tonight we will dine at the stunning Orbit restaurant at the Sky Tower, where you will enjoy 360 degree views of the city while enjoying a 3 course meal, a great way to start our getaway.

After a lovely breakfast, the following day we explore our biggest city. We will soak up some of the famous sights that make 'The City of Sails' one of the most livable in the world. Enjoy exploring the bays and beaches of the Waitemata Harbour, plus we will admire some of the splendid views from the city's volcanic cones. A highlight is our visit to a secret garden nestled in an inner-city suburb. With something always in bloom, this spacious oasis is home to a variety of native birds, insects and butterflies. The collection includes mature trees, flowering shrubs and perennials (including a large collection of rhododendrons). After our garden visit there will be time if desired to do some last minute Christmas shopping, or enjoy a Christmas eve drink back at the hotel.

Christmas Day dawns and it is time for us to skip across the Hauraki Gulf to Waiheke Island – our home for the next 3 nights. The ferry ride over is spectacular with scenic views of the harbour, city and surrounding islands. On arrival on Waiheke we will check in to our beach-side accommodation and get ourselves ready for a memorable Christmas day. Relax on the golden beach and perhaps take a dip in the sea. Tonight we will have a fantastic Christmas dinner to celebrate with new friends – no need to worry about cooking or dishes!

Boxing Day is all about relaxation, and our trip to Waiheke is no exception. Today we soak up the sun, enjoy a stroll on the beach and simply relax. Our stunning beach front location will lend itself to the mood, and we won't need to venture too far today. Enjoy the company of your tour mates, with a wonderful dinner at a top local restaurant.

Our final day on Waiheke is a day all about exploration. With the help of a local guide, we will discover the delights of this island paradise. Awash with white sand beaches and calm bays, there are scenic wonders around every corner. We will visit 2 of the islands best known wineries, where you can try some of the award-winning wines. The island has a micro-climate perfectly suited to growing grapes and other artisan products. The highlight for many is the Man-O-War winery located on the remote eastern portion of the island, watch the boats out in the bay as we enjoy the winery set in a glorious location.

We will also learn about (and sample) some of the islands other produce. Seasonal favourites include olive oil, avocados, craft beer and more. The relaxed island vibe lends itself to producing high quality produce – and we will take our time today to soak in all the island has to offer. Dinner tonight is at a well regarded local restaurant, where we can recount all the wonderful memories we have made over the past few days.

We are homeward bound today. Departing Waiheke Island after breakfast, we take the return ferry ride to Half Moon Bay and head south. We will have you dropped at your door with a smile on your face in the afternoon, having had a wonderful Christmas.

Christmas to Waiheke 2020

Auckland, Waiheke Island ferry, wine tasting, Waiheke sightseeing, Xmas dinner and get together & more...

Experience a Christmas like no other as we relax and unwind island style. Let us take the hassle out of the festive period as we enjoy a relaxing few days on Waiheke Island, where we explore all the delights this place has to offer. And, of course spend Christmas in wonderful company enjoying a lovely Christmas day feast in the evening.

23 - 28 DEC 2020 - HT2020/09 - \$2295 pp

Whats Included:

- 6 days of touring
- 5 nights quality accommodation
- Door to door service [home pickups]
- Quality Air-conditioned vehicle
- Fully guided with commentary
- All breakfasts and dinners
- Special Christmas day feast
- Sky Tower Orbit Restaurant dinner
- Secret Garden Sanctuary visit
- Ferry to Waiheke
- Guided tour of Waiheke Island
- Wine tasting at two leading wineries
- Plenty of stops along the way

You will see:

- Stunning scenery throughout
- The city of sails - Auckland
- Sky Tower - Casino optional!
- The Waitemata Harbour
- Auckland city highlights
- The Hauraki Gulf

Not included:

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

* 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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