



Bay Of Islands & Northland

Whangarei, Russell, Paihia 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 wonderful 5 day, 4 night adventure to Northland – an interesting province full of history, culture and amazing scenery. Enjoy some famous 'Hinterland hospitality' as we explore all the way to the top of New Zealand. With overnight stays in Whangarei, Paihia/Bay of Islands (2 nights) and the Hokianga, we will see and do so much.

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Travelling from Tauranga and through the 'Big Smoke' of Auckland we soon hit the rolling countryside, native forests and stunning bays of Northland. After a fun evening at Whangarei's lovely Town Basin, we spend the next few days enjoying a quieter pace and soaking in the sights.

See funky Kawakawa and its famous Hundertwasser Toilets. If we are lucky the historic train may be rolling down the main street. Stroll around charming and historic Russell (New Zealand's first capital) – home to many historic buildings. Then, cross to Paihia on the scenic ferry where we base ourselves for a couple of nights. Enjoy the tree-lined beaches and scenic vistas looking out onto the Bay of Islands.

The highlight for many is our trip to Cape Reinga. Joining up with a family run tour company who have specially built vehicles for driving on the sand, the trip includes a drive along 90 Mile Beach (only 64 miles long!) to the enormous Te Paki Dunes. See where the Tasman Sea meets the Pacific Ocean and marvel at the 360 degree views from the Cape Reinga lighthouse. This is one of those bucket list destinations!

On the way home we stop at the famous Mangonui Fish Shop for a delicious dinner on the waterfront. What a memorable day.

Next morning is spent at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds – New Zealand's most important historic site. A local guide will inform and educate about the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840, and we will have time to explore the new interactive museum.

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, and here we will enjoy visiting New Zealand's oldest stone building – sitting on the tranquil Kerikeri Inlet.

A short drive takes us across the island to the West Coast, where a different pace of life is apparent. Enjoy the sparsely populated Hokianga region, and see the Opo the Dolphin statue at Opononi. You will be fully relaxed by the time we make it to our overnight stop on the shores of the Hokianga Harbour.

Next day it is home to Tauranga but not before making some incredible stops along the way. We will visit the 'Lord of the Forest' – Tane Mahuta. This enormous tree is thought to be up to 2500 years old! This is a magical stop in the breath taking Waipoua Kauri Forest.

More rugged scenery awaits as we head towards Matakoho on the edge of the Kaipara Harbour. The interesting Matakoho Kauri Museum awaits, and here you can enjoy the detailed displays relating to the kauri timber industry.

By the time we leave Matakoho we will have a much better appreciation of Northland life, as we head towards home – hopefully 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.

Whats Included:

- 5 days of touring
- 4 nights quality accommodation
- Door to door service [home pickups]
- Quality Air-conditioned vehicle
- Fully guided with commentary
- All breakfasts and dinners
- Ferry from Russell to Paihia
- Cape Reinga and 90 mile beach tour
- Fish N Chips lunch at Mangonui
- Waitangi Treaty grounds and tour
- A guided tour of the Kemp House
- The Matakoho Kauri Museum
- 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

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