

THE “SPIRIT OF NEW ZEALAND” TOUR

This tour embraces both the natural beauty and the spirituality that makes New Zealand unique. We show you never-ending beaches, mighty kauri trees still growing after 2,000 years, glaciers, pristine rain forests, deep gorges, spectacular mountains, lakes - and pure streams you can drink from. Meet indigenous Maori people, guardians of our natural environment, whose aim is to live in balance with nature and each other, in order to guarantee a sustainable and rich future for following generations - something we should all aspire to.

“All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.”
~ Gandalf’s quote from ‘The Lord of the Rings’.

THE ITINERARY:

Relax and let us take you there.

Day 1.

Arrive in Auckland. We will meet your flight and transfer you to the Spencer on Byron Hotel. Tonight you meet your fellow travellers over dinner.

Day 2.

This morning we travel north to the Bay of Islands, with stops along the way in scenic areas of significance. This afternoon we explore the beautiful grounds around the Waitangi Treaty House with expansive views of the Bay of Islands and learn something of New Zealand’s early history. Accommodation: Copthorne Waitangi Hotel.



Bay of Islands

Day 3.

After breakfast this morning there’s time to explore Paihia. (A little shopping?) We’ll have an early lunch at a local cafe before a coach takes us to Opua to board the vessel “Ipiripiri” for our overnight cruise in the Bay of Islands. (Dinner and Breakfast on board included.)



The Ipiripi

There is an opportunity for an on-shore walk on a picturesque island, or a kayaking excursion from 'Ipiripi' during the cruise. If you enjoy a glass of wine - the bar is open and you can run a tab for drinks and coffees (not included) during your cruise. Filter coffee and varieties of tea are available free 24/7 from the galley. www.overnightcruise.co.nz

Day 4.

We disembark at around 10-30 a.m. at Opuia Wharf and drive north, through Kerikeri, with a stop to check out the Stone Store - N.Z.'s oldest building.



Then it's on to Mangonui - our scenic lunch stop. Try traditional Fish & Chips fresh from the sea, at the popular Mangonui Fish Shop!

Accommodation tonight and tomorrow night: Taipa Resort Beachfront Hotel.



Taipa Beach



Mangonui Fish Shop

Day 5.

Today enjoy a Day Tour to the top of New Zealand - Cape Reinga.

See the famous lighthouse, the Tasman Sea shaking hands with the Pacific Ocean and the Pohutukawa tree where Maori people believe that at life's end, their spirits leap off on their journey to 'Hawaiiiki', the homeland of their ancestors. Enjoy a barbecue lunch in the beautiful sheltered Tapotupotu Bay.



Cape Reinga Lighthouse



90 Mile Beach

Day 6.

This morning after breakfast, we travel south through the centre of the island to catch the vehicular ferry from Kohukohu to Rawene. We'll have lunch along the way at a rustic waterside cafe.

From Rawene we drive across to Opononi and Omapere on the west coast.

Time to enjoy the beachfront setting and white sandhills across the harbour.

This evening Maori Guides will take us into the Waipoua Forest to see the 2000 year old Kauri Tree "Tane Mahuta" - Lord of the Forest - and we will experience the sights and sounds of the forest - the flora and fauna - kiwis calling / silver ferns by moonlight / and much more - a special experience.

Accommodation: Copthorne Omapere Hotel.



Tane Mahutu

Day 7.

Today we drive through the forest via Dargaville, stopping at the Matakohe Kauri Museum to see some fascinating history of the north. This is our lunch stop, (with souvenir shopping for those who want it). Onwards to Auckland Airport, where we board a 1 hour flight to

Wellington City - N.Z.'s capital. Accommodation- the Duxton Hotel. Wellington's interactive Te Papa Museum is just across from our hotel and well worth visiting.



Wellington Harbour

Day 8.

This morning we take the early inter-island ferry to Picton and drive down the scenic east coast of the South Island to the township of Kaikoura.

Accommodation - White Morph Hotel.

Day 9.

A Whale Watch trip is scheduled for this morning and this afternoon a highly recommended and personalised Maori Cultural experience.



Whale Watch Kaikoura

Day 10.

Today we travel further south to the city of Christchurch.

Enjoy free time in this 'garden city'. Accommodation - the Copthorne Central Hotel.



Christchurch

Day 11.

Departure Day your own arrangements to return home

OR ~ take any of our 1 - 4 day "Add Ons" (guided or independently)

Example :- (P.O.A.)

1 - Fly from Christchurch to Queenstown. (Novotel Lakeside Hotel)



Local sites and half day Routeburn Track scenic hike.



Milford Sound Day Trip.



Overnight cruise on Doubtful Sound.



2 - Trans Alpine Rail journey from Christchurch through the Southern Alps, to Greymouth and return. <http://www.tranzscenic.co.nz/>

- **COSTS:**

From Twin / Double NZD\$4,680 per person.
Single supplement NZD\$1.320.

Costs include:

- * 10 nights' accommodation
- * All breakfasts and 1 Dinner
- * Overnight cruise
- * Waitangi Tour
- * Cape Reinga Tour
- * Footprints Forest Tour
- * Matakohe Kauri Museum entry fee
- * Whale Watch tour
- * Maori Tour
- * Flight Auckland to Wellington
- * North / South Ferry crossing
- * All personalised Driver/Guiding.

- Add on days: prices on request, based on options chosen.