



**Bay of Islands Package – 4 nights / 5 Days**



*Pictured: Cape Brett, Cape Reinga Lighthouse and Waitangi Treaty Grounds*

## **Day One      Arrive Kerikeri, Russell**

On your arrival into Kerikeri, you will be meet and transferred by private vehicle to your accommodation in Russell.

The Bay of Islands is an island paradise comprising of 144 Islands with a handful of historic towns. The stunning scenery, golden beaches and fresh seafood make it one of the most prominent tourist destinations in New Zealand. The 'winterless north' enjoys year-round warm weather making it a popular destination for game fishing and water sports from kayaking to parasailing. The Bay of Islands is also home to several historical attractions such as the Mission House and the Waitangi Treaty grounds, the birthplace of the nation.

Accommodation: Duke of Marlborough, Waterfront Room with Cooked Breakfast Daily

*Refreshing Rascals and Reprobates since 1827. Located on the waterfront of Russell in the Bay of Islands, the Duke of Marlborough Hotel offers an outstanding restaurant and accommodation. Holding New Zealand's first liquor licence, this historical beauty has been lovingly restored and offers a great place to relax, unwind and watch the world go by.*



**Or Upgrade to Eagles Nest, First Light Temple (one couple) or The Eyrie (two couples) with Gourmet Breakfast Provisions with Five Course Dinner prepared by private chef (first night)**

*This multi-award winning luxury hotel & retreat is set within a 75 acre estate atop its own private ridgeline offering spectacular views of the Bay of Islands. Designed and furnished in an eclectic international contemporary style, where gardens and lodgings blend into the natural topography and foliage.*

*First Light Temple is located on the hill side overlooking the magnificent land and seascapes, it is the ultimate couple retreat. Absolutely stunning and romantic, your every whim is catered for. The mezzanine bedroom enjoys spectacular views and has a floor to ceiling glass shower in the ensuite and skylight over the bed. The main floor has indoor and outdoor fireplaces and walls of glass bifold doors that open onto a stunning balcony on three sides. It has a fabulous gourmet kitchen, another full bathroom and an outdoor shower and jacuzzi.*

*The Eyrie is situated high up in native bush overlooking the ocean, and out to Waitangi, Paihia and the Islands of the North. This luxury three bedroom villa is perfect for friends or a family, and features original artwork and contemporary design. The gourmet kitchen overlooks the private and secluded courtyard, surrounded by tropical plants and alive with native birds. It also includes a jacuzzi and 18 metre heated infinity edged pool.*



## **Day Two**

### **Russell**

This morning from the Russell Wharf, board Cool Change, a 54 ft sailing catamaran offering you a totally unique way to experience the beautiful Bay of Islands.

You will sail for approximately one hour to an island beach with sheltered anchorage. En route you're welcome to take part in the sailing if you wish, otherwise sit back and enjoy the stunning scenery. At the Island swim, snorkel, kayak, or enjoy a walk while lunch is being prepared for you. Lunch (with beverages) is served while enjoying the picturesque surroundings, then board the 3.7m inflatable for further exploration. You will then return to Russell later in the afternoon.

*Please note, this itinerary is completely flexible based on individual requirements. Also, another cruise option is an evening charter, where the advantage is less crowded anchorages. You will enjoy a delicious BBQ onboard in a sheltered bay watching the sun set. (pricing on application)*



**Or if you prefer a day's fishing and cruising in the Bay of Islands, then we can arrange the following day trip at no extra cost:**

On boarding the 40ft 'Screaming Reels' boat, you will experience a warm and comfortable boat combining the extreme fishing capabilities of an epic fishing vessel, with the best sea keeping abilities of its size for cruising. This premier game boat has the perfect blend of comforts for cruising and its fishing ability. It's equipped with the latest fishing gear and the best crew in the Bay, ensuring the best day out.

Today, cruise the Bay of Islands in the footsteps of James Cook and take in the beauty of the bay and its marine wildlife. Your skipper will also put you on the right fishing spots and the deckhand will be on hand to help out with anything else.

On board you will find first class fishing equipment, which is all IGFA rated to let you record and claim your record catches! The roomy cockpit with live bait tank, bait station, chair and heavy-duty rod holders, gives every angler plenty of fishing abilities. With the huge refrigeration and freezer facilities, accessible from the cockpit, the catches are kept in prime condition.



Through the game seasons the boat is rigged for Big Game fishing. A 130lb Relax Game Chair is then centred in the cockpit. The four 80lb PENN VISW reels sits on 80lb Kilwell chair rods and this is complemented with two 50lb PENN VISW reels on 50lb kilwell chair rods as well two 30lb PENN VISW reels on two 15kg CD Titan stand up rods. For winter and spring fishing we equip the boat with deep drop fishing gear appointed for

Hapuku, Bass and BlueNose. We provide electric reels, Daiwa Tanacom 1000, on board for the deep drops. Conventional gear like PENN Fathom reels on PENN Ocean Assassin rods will ensure the angler the thrill of their lives when big kingfish are hooked up.

Tea, coffee, hot chocolate, fruit and fresh water is supplied, just bring clothes for the weather, water bottle and container for taking the fish home. You may choose to have your catch cooked for tea; having a snapper gently fried in olive oil and salt or have a trevally raw sliced with just some soy sauce and wasabi. That is as fresh it gets.

Your day includes Fishing Equipment, Bait and Picnic Lunch. Staff will fillet the fish onboard.

### **Day Three      Russell**

By private helicopter, fly up to the Cape Reinga region via Northlands spectacular harbours including Whangaroa Harbour and the Rangaunu Harbour. You will also pass over beautiful beaches - Coopers Beach, Doubtless Bay and of course the famous Ninety Mile Beach. From Ninety Mile Beach, you will fly inland and land at a private airfield which is only 20km from the Cape Reinga lighthouse. Once on the ground, you will be transferred to an air conditioned vehicle to begin your vehicle tour.

This part of the tour takes approximately three hours and includes stops at the Cape Reinga Lighthouse, Tapotupotu Bay and the Te Paki stream with its giant sand dunes; (sleds are provided for those who wish to slide down the dunes).

Following your vehicle tour, you will travel back to the airfield for a short flight over further spectacular and remote scenery such as the white silica sands of Parengarenga Harbour and Great Exhibition Bay before landing at Henderson Bay on the east coast for a leisurely lunch near the beach. After lunch, the flight back takes in the east coast crossing the Houhora Harbour, Whangaroa Harbour, the Cavalli islands and onto Cape Brett.

For many years visitors have come to the Bay of Islands to venture through this New Zealand icon the 'Hole in the Rock' by boat, but now it can be experienced up close and on foot. Today you will land on the purpose built helipad on top of the island to take in the incredible views from the platform and hear the islands' unique history and its cultural and ecological significance. Being surrounded by steep cliffs (over 150 metres high) and stunning scenery looking towards Cape Brett and its surrounds, this adventure will not be for the fainthearted. Full picnic lunch & beverages are included.



## **Day Four      Russell at Leisure**

Today is at leisure. If you would like to experience the Bay of Islands further, perhaps you would like the spectacular Heli Cruise Island Escape, where you depart Russell onboard the Sea Shuttle boat for an informative cruise out into the Bay of Islands. You will be delivered to the island of choice to enjoy a range of activities including hiking, swimming, snorkelling or simply relax. At a pre-arranged time, the Sea Shuttle boat will then transfer you to the custom built Helicopter Barge in the heart of the Bay of Islands for your 15 minute scenic helicopter flight back to Paihia (or Eagles Nest).



Otherwise re-join your driver for a day trip visiting the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, Kerikeri and Hokianga.

The treaty grounds are one of our most important historic sites and offers an authentic and interactive cultural experience to visitors. Take a guided tour before continuing onto Kerikeri, a small town rich in history. In the early 1800s it was home to the Māori chief Hongi Hika, who allowed the early European missionaries (led by Reverend Samuel Marsden) to establish a mission station here. Explore the grounds, home to New Zealand's oldest standing European buildings: the Stone Store and Kerikeri Mission House (Kemp House).

Then continue to Hokianga and join your local Māori guide for your journey to the rich eco-system otherwise known as the Waipoua Forest. Your tour will start with a karakia (prayer) seeking permission from Tāne Mahuta (the Māori God of the Forest) to enter his domain and to ensure that a safe and enjoyable experience is endured. Under the branches of this 2000-year- old living treasure our guides will share the Māori creation story - the separation of Sky Father and Mother Earth.

## **Day Five      Depart Russell**

This morning you will be collected from your accommodation and transferred by private vehicle to Kerikeri Airport, for your flight home (flight not included).