

ENCHANTING FAR NORTH

KAPITI – TAUPO – OREWA – HOKIANGA – TAIPA – PAIHIA – AUCKLAND –
CAMBRIDGE – TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK – KAPITI

10 February 2021

11 Day Fully Hosted Tour

Pickups from Manawatu, Horowhenua, Kapiti and Wellington



ENCHANTING FAR NORTH ITINERARY

10 February – 20 February 2021

MON 10 Kapiti – Taupo ^(D)

Travel along the pretty Kapiti Coast, stopping at Viv's Kitchen in Sanson for a cuppa and "famous" cream horn. With over 100,000 sold, these Cream Horns have put them on the map! Continue across the fertile Manawatu Plains through the Mangaweka Hills to reach the Tongariro Volcanic Plateau and drive over the Desert Road with the spectacular backdrop of the volcanoes of Ruapehu, Tongariro and Ngauruhoe. Arrive in Taupo for the night, nestled on the shores of New Zealand's largest lake.

TUE 11 Taupo – Orewa ^{(B) (D)}

Departing Taupo, stop at Huka Falls where the clear waters of the Waikato River gush through narrow gap in the rocks, then continue north through Tokoroa and Putaruru, stopping at Tirau - famously dubbed the 'Corrugated Capital of the World'. Travel through Matamata (home to Hobbiton), and over the Auckland Harbour Bridge, to Orewa on the Hibiscus Coast. Dinner at a local restaurant.

WED 12 Orewa – Hokianga ^{(B) (D)}

We have a later departure this morning after the long drive north and stop at the nearby Puhoi Pub for a late breakfast. Our next stop is the Kauri Museum at Matakohe. This award-winning Kauri Museum tells the fascinating story of the pioneering days through the use of kauri timber and kauri gum. Explore the many exceptional displays and galleries inside the museum, from the magnificent collection of antique kauri furniture and the largest collection of kauri gum in the world, to restored machinery, including NZ's earliest tractor, a 1929 Cat 60, and a turning steam sawmill. As one of Northland's top attractions, you will also view a two-storey life-sized replica Boarding House, a Pioneer School and the historic Matakohe Post Office with a fantastic collection of telephones. Continuing our journey north we travel up Northland's west coast skirting Kaipara Harbour and following the Kaihu River to Kai Iwi Lakes and the primeval forest of Waipoua, which translates as 'water falling at night'. After an early dinner at the hotel you will be collected from the hotel for a 90-minute night tour into the Waipoua Forest to visit one of the oldest and largest known kauri trees in the world, Tane Mahuta (The lord of the forest). Let the night noises, foreign environment, time, local Maori guides and ecological and cultural interpretation (Maori story, song and instruments) awaken your spiritual senses.

THU 13 Hokianga – Taipa ^{(B) (D)}

After a leisurely start this morning we commence our travel to the eastern coast of Northland. Our first stop for the day will be Kerikeri, a town with a rich and colourful history. While here we enjoy a guided tour of the Stone Store and Kemp House (Kerikeri Mission House). The iconic Stone Store stands at the edge of the Kerikeri inlet, offering a unique shopping experience with an interactive story space upstairs.

See how the early settlers lived and learn about the building's many lives as a trading post, library, barracks, school and general store. Built in 1822, Kemp House is the country's oldest surviving building, surrounded by English-style cottage garden and orchards. Hear the story of the first missionary families and see their personal items and furniture preserved over the years. We'll stop in Kerikeri for you to purchase your lunch before visiting Makana Confections, where you are able to sample their delicious handmade chocolates. Continuing north we travel to the beautiful Doubtless Bay where we will stay for the next two nights. Dinner tonight will be at the hotel.

FRI 14 Taipa ^{(B) (L) (D)}

This morning we will board a Great Sight coach and visit the most northern point of New Zealand – Cape Reinga (Te Rerenga Wairua). On this full day tour by coach, uncover the wild beauty of this vast and untouched region that is rich in Māori culture and tradition. Enjoy a taste of New Zealand's varying and beautiful landscape: the rolling hills of Northland's rural countryside, breath-taking coastal views and native forest. We drive along the sand on Ninety Mile Beach as the waves crash beside the custom-built coach. Feel the sand between your toes as we help the driver guide dig for shellfish (conditions permitting). Our off-road journey continues up Te Pahi Stream, stopping at the massive sand dunes where you can experience the thrills and spills of sandboarding. Clambering up and surfing down the dunes (if you dare!) is sure to get your heart pumping. We also visit the Puketū Kauri Forest and get up close to ancient and majestic giant kauri trees and native bush. Stroll along an elevated walkway as these graceful giants surround you and learn about conservation efforts to preserve the forest today. The highlight of the trip is visiting Cape Reinga where we hear the stories of this significant site where, according to Māori legend, spirits depart on their journey home to Hawaiki. Enjoy spectacular panoramic views, visit the iconic lighthouse, and see the point where the Tasman Sea and the mighty Pacific Ocean come crashing together. During our Cape Reinga tour, we enjoy a delicious fresh fish and chips lunch! A vegetarian option is available. Dinner tonight will be at the hotel.

All in-flight meals included.

^(B) Breakfast

^(L) Lunch

^(D) Dinner

Trip Highlights

- HUKA FALLS
- STOP IN TIRAU (CORRUGATED CAPITAL OF THE WORLD)
- STAY IN OREWA (HIBISCUS COAST) & BREAKFAST AT THE FAMOUS PUHOI PUB
- KAURI MUSEUM AT MATAKOHE
- NIGHT TOUR OF WAIPOUA FOREST
- VISIT THE OLDEST KAURI TREE IN THE WORLD (TANE MAHUTA – THE LORD OF THE FOREST)
- GUIDED TOUR OF STONE STORE & KEMP HOUSE (KERIKERI MISSION HOUSE)
- CAPE REINGA AND NINETY MILE BEACH
- VISIT WAITANGI TREATY HOUSE & GROUNDS
- TOUR OF RUSSELL
- GUIDED TOUR OF THE WAIOMIO GLOWWORM CAVES
- VIEW THE OUTDOOR ART EXPERIENCE AT THE BRICK BAY SCULPTURE TRAIL
- VISIT THE NEW ALL BLACKS EXPERIENCE & RIDE UP THE SKY TOWER
- VISIT THE BEAUTIFUL HAMILTON GARDENS
- SEE THE ALL BLACK LEGEND SIR COLIN MEADS BRONZE STATUE
- VISIT THE UNESCO CULTURAL AND NATURAL WORLD HERITAGE SITE AT TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK
- OVERNIGHT AND FAREWELL DINNER AT THE CHATEAU
- RIDE THE SKY WAKA GONDOLA OVER WATERFALLS AND ANCIENT LAVA FLOWS OF MOUNT RUAPEHU

SAT 15 Taipa - Paihia (B) (D)

Departing Taipa this morning we travel south into the heart of the Bay of Islands – Paihia. We visit the Waitangi Treaty House where New Zealand's history began. Explore the Treaty House and marvel at the scale of Ngatokimatawhaorua, one of the world's largest carved war canoes (waka taua). Take time to wander through the beautiful grounds of the Waitangi estate, complete with extensive gardens, bush tracks, beaches, and fabulous views over the Bay of Islands and beyond. We then travel into Paihia where you have time to purchase your lunch (own cost). This afternoon, we reconvene as a group and take the ferry over to Russell, where on arrival we take a tour of Russell to give an insight into New Zealand's earliest European history. We will visit areas of historic interest which cannot be easily covered on foot, see sights such as the Giant Sundial, Long Beach, Queen's View, Tapeka Point and the Flagstaff with stunning 360' vistas. Dinner tonight will be at the hotel.

SUN 16 Paihia (B)

Today is yours at leisure in Paihia. Your Host is on hand to provide ideas for your day out, or perhaps just take time out to sit back relax and read a good book.

MON 17 Paihia - Auckland (B) (D)

Departing Paihia we stop for a guided tour of The Waiomio Glow Worm Caves. Our tour follows a wooden boardwalk through a 200 metre limestone cave system. Once inside, we will see thousands of glow worms spread across the ceiling surrounded by breathtaking stalactites and stalagmites. As we enjoy the galaxies of glow worms above, our friendly guide will explain the life cycle of the New Zealand Glow Worm (*Arachnocampa Luminosa*) and the intricate webs used to catch their prey. We'll even get close enough to see the actual body of the glow worm and its stunning blue/green taillight, before we make the return bushwalk through a natural corridor of karst rock formations and pristine rainforest.

Continuing south we make a stop at Brick Bay - The Brick Bay Sculpture Trail is not to be missed, a dynamic 60-minute outdoor art experience featuring the best of contemporary New Zealand art set in a sublime native landscape. After our walk we enjoy a wine tasting and cheeseboard, before continuing to Auckland for our overnight stay. Dinner at the hotel.

Enchanting Far North

Journey with us this summer up to the Bay of Islands and the untouched region of Cape Reinga, rich in Maori culture and tradition and blessed with breath-taking coastal views, native landscape and rolling countryside. Driving along the sand on Ninety Mile Beach is sure to be a highlight as the waves crash beside us.

Whilst touring this beautiful destination from west coast to east coast we stop at the beautiful seaside village of Orewa, have breakfast at the "famous" Puhoi Pub and visit the award-winning Kauri Museum. We take time to view the magnificent Tane Mahuta (world's largest Kauri Tree) before our arrival in Harbour Town of Hokianga. Touring the famous Stone Store & Kemp House in Kerikeri and then sail over to Russell, one of the oldest European settlements in New Zealand. Visiting the Waitangi Treaty House, we take time to wander the beautiful grounds of the Waitangi estate.

On our return be inspired by the impressive Hamilton Gardens, then travelling back towards the centre of the North Island, enjoy the backdrop of the volcanoes of Ruapehu, Tongariro and Ngauruhoe dominating the landscape. There is so much to see and do on this tour, you won't be disappointed.

TUE 18 Auckland - Cambridge (B) (D)

We start our day visiting the new All Blacks Experience - an immersive and interactive journey through the New Zealand rugby story, followed by a ride up the Sky Tower. At 328 metres, it is the tallest structure in New Zealand and on a clear day offers breathtaking views for up to 80 kilometres in every direction. Travelling south over the Bombay Hills, we continue along the east bank of the Waikato River, our longest river through some of the country's richest farmland in the lush Waikato Valley to the city of Hamilton, set on the banks of the Waikato River. Here we visit the impressive Hamilton Gardens. The unique theme of Hamilton Gardens is 'the story of gardens' which is explored through a series of five garden collections. The Paradise Garden Collection featuring gardens representing some of the most significant garden design traditions. The Productive Garden Collection representing different aspects of the relationship between people and plants. The Fantasy Garden Collection representing different forms of garden fantasy. The Cultivar Garden Collection featuring the story of plants selected and bred for the garden. The Landscape Garden Collection with areas representing the different historic interpretations of an idealised landscape. This evening we stop in Cambridge and dine together.

WED 19 Cambridge - Tongariro National Park (B) (D)

Today we continue south through Otorohanga, stopping in Te Kuiti - the sheep shearing capital of the world, hosting a 6-metre-tall statue of a shearer in the main street. Te Kuiti is also home to the 2.9m high bronze statue of All Black legend Sir Colin Meads. Continuing through Taumarunui to the Tongariro National Park, a UNESCO cultural and natural World Heritage Site, where the volcanoes of Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and Tongariro dominate the landscape of the Central North Island. Time permitting, we will visit The Tongariro National Park Visitor Centre featuring exhibits on the volcanoes, Maori mythology, flora and fauna and a 3D model of the National Park. Overnight and Farewell Dinner at The Chateau.

THU 20 Tongariro National Park - Kapiti (B)

Your exploration of the central North Island isn't complete until you've experienced a ride on the largest gondola in the country. Journey on the Sky Waka Gondola over waterfalls and ancient lava flows and take in the majestic scenery of Mt Ruapehu and its neighbouring volcanoes, Ngauruhoe and Tongariro. We then depart Tongariro, arriving in Waiouru for a short stop at the Army Museum, providing an insight into New Zealand's past and present military life. Continuing down through Rangitikei, we arrive in Marton for a coffee break at the Sugar Plum Café before heading home.



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11 Day Tour Includes

Fully hosted by a YOURTravel Tour Host

Premium and Boutique Accommodation

Sightseeing & Entrance Fees as indicated on itinerary

Meals as per itinerary

Departs 10 February 2021

Price from \$4,740pp twin share

Single supplement \$965

You are invited to join us on one of our fully escorted small group tours, with a maximum of 18 guests.

We are based on the beautiful Kapiti Coast with our guests joining us from all corners of New Zealand. We believe you'll be pleasantly surprised by just how much we include in our tour price.

You can be reassured that your Tour Host will always be one of our friendly well-experienced YOURTravel Team Members, ensuring you are looked after from start to finish.

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