

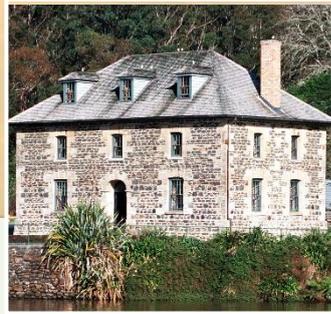
ENCHANTING FAR NORTH

HOME – TAUPO – AUCKLAND – PAIHIA – TAIPA – CAPE REINGA – HIBISCUS
COAST – CAMBRIDGE – NATIONAL PARK – HOME

4 April 2024

11 Day Fully Hosted Tour

Home pickups from Manawatu, Horowhenua, Kapiti & Wellington



ENCHANTING FAR NORTH ITINERARY 4 April to 14 April 2024

THU 4 Home – Taupo (D)

Today we travel along the pretty Kapiti Coast, continuing across the fertile Manawatu Plains through the Mangaweka Hills to reach the Tongariro Volcanic Plateau before driving over the Desert Road with the spectacular backdrop of the volcanoes of Ruapehu, Tongariro and Ngauruhoe.

Later this afternoon we arrive in Taupo for the night, nestled on the shores of New Zealand's largest lake and dine at our hotel for our Welcome Dinner.

FRI 5 Taupo – Auckland (B) (D)

Departing Taupo, we stop at **Huka Falls** where the clear waters of the Waikato River gush through narrow gaps in the rocks, then continue north through Tokoroa and Putaruru, stopping at **Tirau**, famously dubbed the '**Corrugated Capital of the World**'. Continuing we travel through Matamata and over the Auckland Harbour Bridge, to the Auckland, with time for a rest and relax at leisure this afternoon.

Tonight, we dine together in our centrally located hotel.

SAT 6 Auckland - Paihia (B) (D)

Today we travel north across the Auckland Harbour Bridge and past the lovely Pacific Coast beaches of Orewa and Waiwera and journeying through picturesque farmlands to Matakohē for a **visit to the Kauri Museum**. This award-winning Museum records the timber milling and gum digging pioneering days of the Northland region. Afterwards we drive through Dargaville north to **Waipoua Kauri Forest to see Tane Mahuta**, the largest kauri tree in New Zealand. From here we travel around the Hokianga Harbour, which has special spiritual significance for local Māori, and cross the Northland Peninsula to Paihia in the Bay of Islands.

Dinner tonight is together at our hotel.

SUN 7 Paihia (B)

This morning we visit the **Waitangi Treaty House** where New Zealand's history began for a guided tour. Explore the Treaty House before we marvel at the scale of Ngatokimatawhaorua, one of the world's largest carved war canoes (waka taua). Take time after the tour 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.

This afternoon we take the local **ferry over to Russell**, for our **tour of Russell** giving us 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. The remainder of the day is at leisure and dinner is your own arrangement this evening allowing you time to enjoy one of the lovely restaurants in Paihia or Russell.

MON 8 Paihia – Taipa (B) (D)

This morning is a leisurely start before we commence our travel to the eastern coast of Northland. 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.

It is here we 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. Continuing north we then travel up to beautiful Doubtless Bay our home for the next two nights. Dinner will be together tonight at our hotel.

Meals included:



Breakfast



Lunch



Dinner

Trip Highlights

- HUKA FALLS
- STOP IN TIRAU (CORRUGATED CAPITAL OF THE WORLD)
- KAURI TIMBER MUSEUM AT MATAKOHE
- VISIT THE OLDEST KAURI TREE IN THE WORLD (TANE MAHUTA – THE LORD OF THE FOREST)
- VISIT WAITANGI TREATY HOUSE & GROUNDS
- TOUR OF RUSSELL
- GUIDED TOUR OF STONE STORE & KEMP HOUSE (KERIKERI MISSION HOUSE)
- CAPE REINGA AND NINETY MILE BEACH
- GUIDED TOUR OF THE SCULPTUREUM MATAKANA
- VISIT THE BEAUTIFUL HAMILTON GARDENS
- VIEW THE BRONZE STATUE OF ALL BLACK LEGEND SIR COLIN MEADS
- TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK

Enchanting Far North

Journey with us this Autumn up to the Bay of Islands, Northland, untouched Cape Reinga and the beautiful Hibiscus Coast, rich in culture, history 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 region, we visit the acclaimed Kauri Museum and marvel at the majestic Tane Mahuta, the world's biggest kauri tree in the Waipoua Forest. We have a guided tour of the Waitangi Treaty House and discover Russell, one of the earliest European settlements in the country and visit the historic Stone Store & Kemp House in Kerikeri, two of the oldest buildings in New Zealand.

On our return become inspired as we spend time on the delightful Hibiscus Coast, and it is during our time here we visit the fabulous Matakana Sculptureum. As we travel south, we take time to visit the impressive Hamilton Gardens and then onwards towards the centre of the North Island, we enjoy the view of the volcanoes of Ruapehu, Tongariro and Ngauruhoe dominating the landscape as we arrive into Tongariro National Park.

There is so much to see and do on this tour, you won't be disappointed.

TUE 9 Cape Reinga Day Excursion (B)(L)(D)

Today we depart on a **full day Fullers Great Sights Cape Reinga Excursion** travelling by coach to Cape Reinga, New Zealand's northernmost point.

Here we see the grandeur of the mighty Kauri trees and the native bush in the magnificent Puketi Forest, race through the waves along the sandy expanse of Ninety Mile Beach and drive through the Te Pahi quicksand stream beneath the gigantic sand dunes. At Cape Reinga see the famous lighthouse and enjoy the spectacular coastal views where the Tasman Sea and the Pacific Ocean meet. Lunch is included and return to Taipa is in the late afternoon. After our full day out together dinner this evening is at our hotel.

WED 10 Taipa - Whangaparaoa Peninsula (B)(D)

Today depart Taipa Bay and start our journey south through undulating farmlands and the small settlements of Kawakawa and Hikurangi to the city of Whangarei.

Continue south through the rural townships of Warkworth and Wellsford then pass the delightful beaches of the Hibiscus Coast, before arriving into Whangaparaoa this afternoon. We have dinner together tonight in a local restaurant.

THU 11 Whangaparaoa Peninsula (B)(L)(D)

After a leisurely start to this morning we travel to Matakana to enjoy a **guided tour of Sculptureum**, with three sculpture filled gardens and six art galleries. We begin our experience in the Garden of Creative Diversity with paths leading through to Classical and Reflective gardens. From there we move into the galleries, all of which follow a different theme. The two rear gardens will delight with their interesting mix of artwork, sculpture, and palm trees.

Following our tour we will take lunch together followed by time for a wander at your own pace. Later this afternoon, there will be some time in Matakana Village before departing and taking a scenic drive down the coast to visit Orewa and Red Beach, with time here for a walk around before travelling back to Whangaparaoa. Dinner will be together tonight.

FRI 12 Whangaparaoa Peninsula - Cambridge (B)(D)

This morning we say goodbye to the Hibiscus Coast as we depart Whangaparaoa. Travelling over the Auckland Harbour Bridge then 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 **visit the impressive Hamilton Gardens** for a self-guided walk. The unique theme of Hamilton Gardens is 'the story of gardens' which is explored through a series of five garden collections. We then travel the short distance to Cambridge, with dinner this evening at our hotel.

SAT 13 Cambridge - National Park (B)(D)

Today we travel 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 on 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 can 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. We have our farewell dinner together tonight at our hotel.

SUN 14 National Park - Home (B)

This morning we depart Tongariro for a short drive to Waiouru, stopping for morning tea and time allowed for those wanting a short visit to the Army Museum – Te Mata Toa.

We then begin our travels back through the Rangitikei and Manawatu regions before heading back down the Kapiti Coast towards home.



ENCHANTING FAR NORTH

11 Day Tour Includes

Fully hosted by a YOURTours Host

Quality Accommodation & Touring Coach

Sightseeing & Entrance Fees as indicated on itinerary.

Meals as per itinerary

Departs 4 April 2024

Price \$5,670 pp twin share

Single Price \$6,950 pp

You are invited to join us on one of our fully hosted 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 will 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 YOURTours team members, ensuring everything is looked after from start to finish.

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