

## 3 DAY BAY OF ISLANDS AUCKLAND – AUCKLAND

**Duration:** 3 days / 2 nights

**Departs:** Sundays

**Start Location:** Auckland CBD

**Finish Location:** Auckland CBD

**First Departure:** 15/09/19

**Last Departure:** 26/04/20

### DAY 1: Auckland to Paihia

Nau mai, haere mai (welcome)! Your journey kicks off in New Zealand's largest city Auckland, known as the 'City of Sails' because of its location between the Waitemata and Manukau Harbours, making it a boaters' paradise. Pick-ups start at your accommodation bright and early, before we head north to the seaside town of Paihia, gateway to the Bay of Islands. We stop en-route to hug some of the world's mightiest trees, the native Kauri, and stop for lunch at scenic Waipu Cove. This is followed by a trip to the historic Waitangi Treaty Grounds (own expense), before settling into our accommodation where you'll have a group meal and the evening free to relax. (D)

**Accommodation included:** Hostel along from the beach

**Activities included:** Tree hugging huge kauri trees at Parry Kauri Forest, swimming or walk to see waterfalls at Waipu Cove (weather dependent)

**Optional activities:** Waitangi Treaty Grounds

### DAY 2: Paihia to Hokianga

This morning we take a wildlife cruise in the beautiful Bay of Islands, a collection of 144 islands bursting with marine life. There's no better way to see it than by boat - keep an eye out for wild dolphins. In the afternoon it's off to the Hokianga Harbour, where we will see the huge sand dunes across the harbour. Tonight, you have the option to take part in a Maori-guided twilight encounter in the Waipoua Forest, where you'll learn about Maori legends and the spiritual inhabitants of the forest, and visit the largest Kauri tree in the world, the "God of the Forest" Tane Mahuta (own expense). Finish the day with a Kiwi classic for dinner, traditional fish and chips. (B,D)

**Accommodation included:** Harbourside hotel

**Activities included:** Hole in the Rock marine cruise

**Optional activities:** Footprints Waipoua twilight encounter, bone carving

### DAY 3: Hokianga to Auckland

We start the morning with a ferry ride across the Hokianga Harbour for a sand boarding adrenalin rush (weather dependent) before we start to make our way south through the mighty Waipoua Forest. Here we will have the opportunity to see NZ's largest Kauri trees. We'll stop at the idyllic Kai Iwi Lakes for a swim in the beautiful crystal-clear waters surrounded by a pure white sandy beach, before returning to the 'Big Smoke' Auckland for a late afternoon arrival. We hope you had a blast on your Stray Journey! (B)

**Activities included:** Hokianga Ferry ride, sand boarding, visit Waipoua Forest (NZ's largest Kauri trees), swim in the Kai Iwi Lakes

**Notes:**

- Standard accommodation is **quad share** in hostels, cabins and lodges
- Upgrades to twin/double and private rooms are available subject to availability
- Luggage is limited one backpack, bag or case per person with a maximum weight of 15kg plus a day pack
- Trips are not suited to children aged 6 years or under. 7 – 17-year-olds may travel if accompanied by a parent or legal guardian
- A basic level of fitness is required for medium length walks

This itinerary is a guide. Given the spontaneous nature of our trips and lack of control over New Zealand's weather(!), what we do each day might occasionally vary.