



# NORTHLAND DISCOVERY

## ITINERARY



Northland is beautiful and it feels a long way from anywhere. Long white beaches stretch between ancient volcanic headlands, remote dune-scapes meld into sub-tropical forests, warm evenings yield to starry nights. There is plenty of time for swimming in secret coves of turquoise water, brilliant short walks as well as one big climb. Two fabulous locations will act as the base from which to explore this magical area. Unpack your bag and feel like you are on holiday as you stay two nights at each spot. Return after a good days hiking and unwind on the veranda with a glass of wine. Highlights include a remote coastal hike near the Bay of Islands, the feeling of isolation at the very tip of New Zealand, the expansive Te Paki sand dunes and standing under BIG trees.

<b>LENGTH</b>	5 days
<b>GRADE</b>	B - No hiking experience necessary, reasonable standard of fitness required. Lodge/motel-based.
<b>START</b>	Auckland - 8:30am, pick up zone outside Sky City, 20m from Sky Tower base, corner Victoria and Federal Streets
<b>FINISH</b>	Auckland - 5:00pm (approx.)
<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>	Lodge/motel
<b>INCLUDED ACTIVITIES</b>	Sand boarding
<b>OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES</b>	Sea kayaking - NZ\$100 to NZ\$160 - minimum of four people
<b>DEPARTURES</b>	On group request
<b>PRICE</b>	On group request

### “NORTHLAND DISCOVERY WITH UNEXPECTED DELIGHTS”

*Beautiful country, challenging yet manageable hikes, nourishing food provided, breathtaking vistas, and Kath was a great guide! Highly recommend.*

~ Anne H - Australia, Jan 2018, **Trip Advisor**

### “UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE THAT WE CAN HIGHLY RECOMMEND”

*The guides worked tirelessly from early morning to late evening every day, to make sure we do a lot of hiking, learn about New Zealand, experience sandboarding, swimming in the ocean and feel comfortable all the time. We were never rushed, were given a lot of information about places we visited and learned a lot about New Zealand.*

~ Rad416 - Canada, Jan 2018, **Trip Advisor**



# ITINERARY

## DAY 1 JOIN TRIP IN AUCKLAND

### 1km/1 hour hiking

Depart Auckland and follow the east coast northwards with a quick cafe stop for anyone who missed breakfast. A short deviation to a limestone cave gives you a chance to see one of the best glowworm spectacles in the country (expect wet feet!). After a picnic lunch here continue on to the historic township of Russell. We arrive early afternoon. Check into your accommodation and explore this charming little harbour settlement and New Zealand's original capital. Enjoy a swim off the wharf, or just chill with a glass of wine and chat with your fellow travellers. Later on drive a few minutes to the peninsula's end before returning to enjoy a barbecue dinner in the hotel garden-nook. If it's not barbecue weather we'll pop into a local café or pizzeria. Today is an easy day but gets us to where the fun starts.

*Includes lunch and dinner.*



## DAY 2 BAY OF ISLANDS

### 9 km/5 hours hiking

After a 30 min drive east you reach the first of today's hikes. Traverse up through regenerating native bush to a ridge top and gaze out across the bright blue Pacific Ocean. Below are sandy coves and rocky headlands. Descend to a wonderful swim spot and then walk through the bush to the old whaling station. Pass huge steel pots and old brick vats amid the ruins. These stations are a sad reminder of the many humpback and southern right whales that were once hunted here. Many of New Zealand's first European settlers came for the sealing and whaling rather than our beautiful natural environment!

We hike back to the vehicle before a short drive takes us to our second hike. Pukehuia at 345m is the highest hill and best viewpoint in the entire Bay of Islands area. The track climbs steadily up with plenty of view points on the way. On return we stop at a perfect bush-fringed bay of lapping water and moored yachts. This cute cove of turquoise water is the ideal place to wash away your exertion. It is a short drive back to Russell and your accommodation. Tonight you eat at one of the many lovely cafes and restaurants (own cost) on Russell's waterfront.

*Includes breakfast and lunch.*



## DAY 3 WHANGAROA HARBOUR, 90 MILE BEACH

### 5 km/3 hours hiking or 3 hours kayaking

This morning you travel by vehicle ferry across to Opuia and drive through Paihia, the main tourist centre of the Bay of Islands, before driving north to Whangaroa. You have the option of a fantastic half-day guided kayaking trip along the coast (optional extra) or a hike into a beautiful forest-fringed inlet. This hike sidles up and over a small saddle passing through sub-tropical forest before meeting the stream and mangroves at the head of the inlet. On a warm day plop into the pools to cool off. The trail follows this coastline of red volcanic headlands and island outcrops a short distance to a historic hut. You can swan around on the hut deck enjoying the peace and quiet, or stomp your way up the spectacular old volcanic plug (Duke's Nose) for views. Later catch the water taxi back to the jetty where the vehicle waits. A short drive takes you to Mangonui where the group enjoys a simple meal of fish and chips at the famous fish shop bar on the old wharf. An early evening drive north gets you to a remote old homestead lodge in the middle of the dunes on the edge of 90 Mile Beach. A little more rustic than your previous accommodation, this off the grid lodge more than makes up for it with its amazing location and wonderful atmosphere.

*Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*



## DAY 4 CAPE REINGA

### 2 km/2 hours hiking

A one hour drive brings you to the tip of the North Island where there is the chance to explore some of the trails of the Cape Reinga walkway. Hike a less visited part of the cape's coastline. Cross Te Pahi Station to the surreal iron-stained sand dunes of Cape Maria van Diemen. Climbing high, get grand views of this incredible piece of New Zealand landscape. Wander along an expansive stretch of empty beach before ending up on the edge of the world at the Cape Reinga lighthouse where the Pacific Ocean meets the Tasman Sea. In the afternoon you may choose to do a cliff top walk to the stunning white sands and blue waters of Tapotupotu. Return to your lodge and relax in this beautiful spot. After a good meal, sit on the veranda and enjoy life as you watch the sun set over the Tasman Sea. Being so far from any light pollution, the starry nights up north are quite remarkable.

*Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

## DAY 5 KAURI FORESTS

### 1km/1 hour hiking

You leave the far north early today and begin the journey southwards, passing through Kaitaia and across the sleepy Hokianga Harbour on a car ferry. In Maori mythology Hokianga is the returning place of the great Maori navigator Kupe. At Waipoua Forest you get to see New Zealand's biggest kauri tree Tane Mahuta; it's easy to feel humble beneath him. The last walk before Auckland is through the Trounson Kauri Reserve, an intensively managed mainland conservation 'island', surrounded by a sea of farmland. Trounson is one of the better kauri forests in the country and provides refuge for many threatened species including brown kiwi. Arrive in Auckland at approximately 5:00pm.

*Includes lunch and dinner.*





# LIFE ON THE TRAIL

## GRADE B

- Average of 4-5 hours physical activity per day; up to 6 hours.
- At times carrying small backpack of 4-5kgs.
- Tracks generally in good condition.
- Altitude gains of up to 600m on second day.
- No hiking experience necessary.
- Reasonable standard of fitness required.
- Some energetic sections and climbs, but includes lots of time for relaxation and other activities.



## GUIDES AND SAFETY

An excellent guide can make the difference between a trip of a lifetime and just an ordinary trip. Our handpicked professionals come from a range of backgrounds. Each has extensive outdoor and hiking experience and a passion for New Zealand's wild and beautiful backcountry. The guides will ensure that your trip is truly inspiring, a huge amount of fun and safe. All guides are trained in Mountain Safety First Aid.

## ACCOMMODATION

The trip uses double and twin share with en suite accommodation on nights 1 and 2, and double/twin share with shared bathrooms on nights 3 and 4. Occasionally different accommodation is used. We will tell you when you book if this is the case.

## LAUNDRY

Laundry facilities are available most nights, either as the hotel laundry service (additional charge) or as access to laundry facilities for hotel guests. Save up your NZ\$1 and \$2 coins as most washers and driers require these to operate. Laundry detergent is often available to purchase on-site.

## CHARGING DEVICES

Devices such as cameras and cellphones can be charged throughout the tour - while travelling in the vehicle (bring along a charger adaptor) and during the hotel nights.



## TRANSPORT

The average driving time per day varies, some days you are in the wilderness and won't see the vehicle! On other days you might be in the vehicle for 2-3 hrs. The driving time is a chance to rest and enjoy the fantastic scenery which is forever changing. You will travel in a 12 seat minibus towing a custom-built trailer with camp equipment and your luggage. They are also equipped with a range of natural history reference books. There will be a range of roads - sealed and unsealed. The guide will often stop the vehicle if there is a great photo opportunity or primo ice cream shop!



## FOOD

Breakfasts are continental style in Russell, and at Hukatere Lodge we also offer a warm breakfast - just whatever you need to have a great day hiking! We make picnic lunches of delicious sandwiches and wraps, fresh fruit, and have plenty of snacks to move you along at a happy pace! We rustle lunch up en route from supplies your guide carries in their backpack, or from the trailer kitchen when we are touring. Hot and cold drinks are also generally available (even when hiking) and we always have drinking water for you in our bus. Dinner is varied from lovely restaurants to simple fish and chips at a wharf cafe. We provide dinner on night 1 (picnic/barbecue style at the beach/motel or dinner at a café or pizzeria if not picnic weather), night 3 (basic and tasty fish and chips from a wharf café) and night 4 (a home-cooked meal). Any special dietary requests or requirements are easily provided for. Please let us know at the time of booking.



# LIFE ON THE TRAIL

## ADDITIONAL COSTS

### Meals

One evening meal is not included in this trip.

### Optional activities

Half day kayaking NZ100-160 (minimum 4 people)

\*Prices are correct at time of publishing.

## BOOKING CONDITIONS

### Payment

For bookings four or more months in advance of the departure a 25% deposit can be paid with the remainder due 95 days prior to your trip. For bookings within four months of the departure, full payment is required.

### Cancellations

95 days or more prior to departure – 80% refund of the deposit paid OR your full deposit is transferable to a future trip booked directly with Hiking New Zealand

94 to 21 days prior to departure – 80% refund of the full ticket price

20 to 11 days prior to departure – 50% refund of the full ticket price

10 days or less prior to departure – NO REFUND.

### Travel Insurance

It is recommended that clients take out comprehensive travel insurance.

## “NORTHLAND DISCOVERY TOUR - AMAZING!”

*We went to Northland Discovery Tour on Dec 19 2017 and it was unforgettable experience that we can highly recommend to any person who loves outdoors. We had a small group of 8 people and 2 guides (Justin and Marie) and guides worked tirelessly from early morning to late evening every day, to make sure we do a lot of hiking, learn about New Zealand, experience sandboarding, swimming in the ocean and feel comfortable all the time. We were never rushed, were given a lot of information about places we visited and learned a lot about New Zealand - Nature, People and History.*

*On top of this they were very accommodating whenever possible with rooms and food as well as pick-up and drop-off. If we ever visit New Zealand again (and we hope so :) - we would definitely plan to do more hiking with them.*

~ Rad416 - Canada, January 2018, **Trip Advisor**

## “FABULOUS WALKING HOLIDAY IN THE NORTHLAND”

*This was our first introduction to walking as a group and we had a ball. Malcolm looked after us just like family ensuring we were all fed, watered and happy. The pick up from Auckland was easy and the bus comfortable for our small group of trampers. Malcolm had a trailer attached to the van which served as our kitchen and extra storage for the various activities we did. Nothing was forgotten, from a hot cuppa whenever we stopped, all the “nibbles” you would need and breakfast, lunch and dinner provisions all kept in the trailer. Accommodation at Russell was pleasant, nice a close to the village so we could walk in and have a look around, but the eco lodge at 90mile beach was beautiful! The walking was amazing and we were lucky enough to have wonderful weather, challenging at times but that was half the fun. Thanks Hiking New Zealand.*

~ Diane B - Australia, May 2017, **Trip Advisor**

# PACKING LIST

Items shown in bold can be hired from us (see the rate table below).  
Please arrange hire at least two weeks prior to your departure date.

## EQUIPMENT

- Daypack**
- Drink bottle – 1 litre
- Sunscreen and sunglasses
- Insect repellent (sandflies like foreign blood)
- Personal toiletries and medication
- Walking Poles** (optional)

## CLOTHING - one set for walking, one set for evenings

**WALKING CLOTHES:** Several layers of wool, polypropylene and/or polar fleece will ensure you remain a comfortable temperature regardless of the weather. **No cotton shirts hiking/kayaking in the wet please!** Cotton gets cold when wet and is difficult to dry.

- Raincoat (goretex or similar)
- Hiking boots or good hiking shoes
- Spare lightweight shoes or sandals
- Shorts or lightweight trousers (preferably quick-dry)
- Short-sleeved shirt x 2 (quick-dry, polypropylene or wool)
- Warm fleece/wool jersey (not cotton) x 2
- Wind or waterproof over-trousers
- Warm hat or balaclava
- Socks (we suggest 3 pairs)
- Togs (swimming costume)
- Towel (lightweight travel towels are great)

**SPARE CLOTHING:** Extra socks and polypropylene layers are always handy - ensure you have enough warm items. Comfortable clothes for non hiking days. Spare clothing can be left in the secure trailer when we are away on the hikes, so don't worry about the extra weight - ensure you have enough warm items. Outside November to March thermals and warm hats are required. Note: there are only limited opportunities to do laundry during a tour, so quick drying clothing is an advantage. Weather can change rapidly in the locations we hike so layers of clothing is ideal.

Hire gear (NZ\$)	5-7 days trip	8-11 days trip	12+ days trip
Backpack (60 litres)	\$50	\$60	\$80
Sleeping bag and liner	\$50	\$60	\$80
Walking pole (per one pole)	\$20	\$20	\$20

It's not always easy packing - feel free to drop us a line if you have any questions.