

Intrepid Travel: Enchanting Northland

Explore sub-tropical islands and world-famous coastlines on this Intrepid Comfort journey into Northland. Calling all nature lovers, this corner of New Zealand's North Island is like another world. Northland is known for its dense forests and warm weather, creating a paradise made up of 144 islands – the Bay of Islands. With a small group, you'll go swimming in the warm seas, take a full-day cruise through the scenic Poor Knights Islands, go scuba diving, snorkelling and kayaking and pay a visit to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds. Gain insight into one of the most important moments in New Zealand's history and learn about Māori culture. With free time for an adrenaline-filled adventure in Paihia (or some downtime kicking back on one of the gorgeous beaches), this journey will be nothing short of enchanting.

This itinerary is valid for departures from 01 October 2026 to 30 September 2027. Please consult your Travel Specialist for details on itinerary variations outside these dates.

Starts in: Auckland
 Finishes in: Auckland
 Length: 5days / 4nights
 Accommodation: Hotel 3 star
 Can be customised: Yes

This itinerary can be customised to suit you perfectly. We can add more days, remove days, change accommodations, mix it up, add activities to suit your interests or simply design and create something from scratch. Call us today to get your custom New Zealand itinerary underway.



Inclusions:

- Includes: All coach transport
- Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations
- Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring
- Included activity: Intrepid Travel
- Included: Explore Matapouri Beach
- Included: Explore the Bay of Islands
- Included: Poor Knights Islands day cruise from Tutukaka
- Included: Stop at Whangarei Falls
- Included: Visit the world's largest sea cave, Rikoriko Cave
- Included: Waitangi Treaty Grounds
- 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 1 dinner



Day 1



Welcome to New Zealand! Your adventure begins in Tamaki Makaurau (Auckland) with a welcome meeting tonight at 6 pm. If you arrive early, why not check out the Auckland Sky Tower – the tallest building in New Zealand. If the mood strikes, you can also jump off the Sky Tower (with a harness, of course). Maybe visit the Auckland War Memorial Museum or walk around the CBD at your own pace and pick one of the excellent spots for lunch. Tonight, you'll head out for a welcome dinner with your group to get to know each other.

It's very important that you attend the welcome meeting as we will be collecting insurance and emergency contact details at this time. If you are going to be late, please let your travel agent or hotel reception know. Ask reception or look for a note in the lobby for more information on where the meeting will take place.

Staying in:

- Hotel (1 night)
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Day 2

Start your day with a hearty breakfast at a local café for a dose of warm Kiwi hospitality. Then, take a scenic drive to Tutukaka, stopping at Whangarei Falls along the way. This 26 m-high waterfall is a great spot for a photo! Continue along the coastline to Matapouri Beach. With the soft sand under your feet, you can take some time to enjoy the soothing sounds of the ocean. This is a perfect spot to relax, unwind and appreciate the surroundings. Arrive in Tutukaka tonight – a coastal city known for its scenic views, world-famous beaches and coastline (rated one of the top three coastlines in the world by National Geographic Traveller!).

Your travel time today will be approximately 3.5 hours.

Activities:

- Matapouri Beach - Visit
- Whangarei Falls - Visit

Staying in:

- Hotel (1 night)
-

Day 3

After breakfast this morning, you'll set sail on a full-day cruise to the Poor Knights Islands. As a total Marine Reserve, the islands boast 11-million-year-old volcanic origins, featuring some pretty memorable drop-offs, walls, caves, arches and tunnels both above and below the water. The rich biodiversity includes plant, animal and fish life unique to the area, so if you're a wildlife buff this might be the highlight of your trip! Your day will be filled with sightseeing, kayaking, exploring caves, snorkelling, swimming, spotting sea mammals and learning the history of the islands. The highlight of the day is a visit to the world's largest sea cave – Rikoriko Cave, only accessible by boat. Finish your day with a scenic drive to Paihia, where you'll spend the night.

Your travel time today will be approximately 1.5 hours.

Activities:

- Tutukaka - Poor Knights Islands Day Cruise

Staying in:

- Hotel (1 night)
-

Day 4

Today is a free day in Paihia – this coastal town is known as the gateway to the popular dive sites and sandy beaches of the bay. With more than 140 sub-tropical islands dotted around the coastline, there's plenty to see and do here! Maybe hit the water and explore the many coves and beaches or take a cruise through the natural rock archway. Explore the ocean floor on a scuba mission or maybe set sail in search of local

dolphins. If you're looking for a hit of adrenaline, why not consider going skydiving? Your leader will have the inside scoop on optional activities and the best places to refuel for lunch and dinner.

Staying in:

- Hotel (1 night)
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Day 5

Today, you'll discover the Bay of Islands' important role in New Zealand's history with a trip to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds. Get an insight into Māori culture and see the 35 m carved waka (a ceremonial war canoe) – the biggest in the world! After lunch, say goodbye to the bay and start the scenic journey back to Auckland via Northland's east coast, with scenic beaches passing you by. Arrive back in Auckland in the late afternoon, where your trip comes to an end. If you'd like to extend your stay in New Zealand's north island, just speak to your booking agent ahead of time.

Your travel time today will be approximately 3.5 hours.

Activities:

- Waitangi - Treaty Grounds
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Tour details

Departures: Daily
Tour type: Small Group Escorted Tour
Starts: Auckland
Finishes: Auckland
Tour length: 5
Accommodation: Hotel 3 star
Car/transport type:

Accommodation summary