

16th March - 23rd March 2026

# Northern Explorer

**Northland blends history, cultural heritage and stunning coastline. On this expedition of New Zealand's northern reaches, we experience it all!**

With some of the most stunning landscapes and beaches, departing right in the heart of summer, this one will be sure to make your summer a hit!

The northernmost tip of New Zealand features many stunning attractions with the famous 90 Mile Beach, the legendary Cape Reinga - where the Pacific Ocean meets the Tasman Sea, and is home to a giant swamp of Kauri trees thousands of years old.

The whole region is lined with beautiful unspoiled white sandy beaches perfect to swim, snorkel and to take it easy. With so many fantastic tours departing from Paihia (Bay of Islands), you are given a few days of free time to tick off those bucket list options.

Come and join us on the Northern Explorer! Full itinerary details below.

## DAY 1

Monday 16th March

## Home - Auckland



Depart Whanganui Racecourse at 8am and head up the coast to Sth Taranaki for a great **morning tea** stop. We continue our way up the coast passing through small settlements such as Urenui, over Mount Messenger, through Mokau and onto Piopio for a superb **lunch**.

We have one last stop for a refreshment break before reaching our great central Auckland accommodation for the night. There is time for some R & R before meeting for our first **group dinner** of tour.

### Departing from another destination

For those departing from another destination you will be given your personalised itinerary for you to join the group today. All tickets and details will be provided in your personal information pack, sent prior to travel.

Accommodation: WAIPUNA HOTEL



## DAY 2

Tues 17th March

## Auckland - Paihia (Bay of Islands)



After breakfast we leave the hussle of the big smoke behind us as we head into Northland. This morning we deviate off SH1 to the world class **Sculptureum**. You will be given time to explore this sculpture park which is a world of art, food and wine with three sculpture-filled gardens, six galleries and a vineyard. We'll have **lunch** here on-site.

Continuing north, we head into the **Town Basin** of Whangarei. Here we have the chance to take in the thriving atmosphere as you have some free time to explore the many shops and galleries, and also view one of the largest and most historically significant collections of clocks in the Southern Hemisphere at Claphams Clock Museum or visit the Hunderwasser Centre.

If time permits we will view the majestic 26m high classic curtain **Whangarei Waterfalls** before the final leg into Paihia where we will be based for the next four nights. After you are settled in, we meet for **dinner** at the great onsite restaurant and enjoy a lovely meal together getting excited about the coming days adventures!

Accommodation: KINGSGATE HOTEL PAIHIA



## DAY 3

Wed 18th March

## Paihia (Bay of Islands)



Today is day one of your free time to explore this amazing part of the country. There are many great optional activities available from having a relaxing day in town to travelling along Ninety Mile Beach to the very tip of New Zealand. Please check your optional activity folder for more details. Below are some options:

- ❖ Cape Reinga and 90 mile beach day trip
- ❖ Hole in the Rock Dolphin Cruise
- ❖ Russell Mini Tour
- ❖ R Tucker tall ship sailing
- ❖ Famous Cream Trip cruise
- ❖ Discover Kerikeri
- ❖ Otehei Bay on Urupukapuka Island day trip
- ❖ Fishing
- ❖ Sailing
- ❖ Scenic flights
- ❖ Trike Tour

We will be more than happy to assist you in booking any other activities you may wish to do during your time in the magnificent Bay of Islands.

Tonight, we meet back at the hotel at a predetermined time and have a lovely **group dinner** together and share stories of our day's activities.

Accommodation: KINGSGATE HOTEL PAIHIA



## DAY 4

Thurs 19th March

**Paihia (Bay of Islands)**

The second free day to enjoy this special region. Again, check your optional activity folder for the great range of activities available, or there may be something else you would like to do. The tour leader will help make any bookings you may choose to do.

Tonight, we meet back at the hotel at a predetermined time and enjoy a good catch up with another **great dinner** together.

Accommodation: KINGSGATE HOTEL PAIHIA

## DAY 5

Fri 20th March

**Paihia (Bay of Islands)**

A relaxed start to the day before boarding the coach for a local sightseeing day out. Our first stop is just down the road where we visit the award-winning national attraction, **Waitangi Treaty Grounds**. This morning we will enjoy an authentic and interactive cultural experience as we have a private guided tour of the grounds. Also there will be some free time to explore the Treaty House, museum and view short films.



We have a great **picnic lunch** lined up before we then travel the back roads which will see us pass the **Haruru Falls** before arriving in **Kawakawa**.

As a group we then take a journey on the Bay of Islands **Vintage Railway**. This is unique in the world as it is the only working railway where the train travels down the middle of a State Highway and right through the middle of the town. The railway at Kawakawa was the North Island's first railway to be opened and the first to run a rail passenger service in the North Island.

You will also have the chance to visit the world famous **Hundertwasser toilets**, designed especially by the town's famous Austrian resident, Freidensreich Hundertwasser.

Back on the coach we have a short drive south to Waiomio and visit the **Kawiti Glowworm Caves**, Northlands ultimate glowworm experience. Our guided tour will follow a wooden boardwalk through a 200 metre limestone cave system. Once inside, you will see thousands of glowworms spread across the ceiling surrounded by breathtaking stalactites and stalagmites.

It is then time to head back to our hotel to get ready for our special group **dinner cruise** tonight. We will enjoy a leisurely 2½ hour cruise up the Waitangi River to the gorgeous Haruru Falls while enjoying delicious cuisine. Marvel in the tranquil surroundings with a rich abundance of bird life and historical points of interest, raising a glass to our exceptional time in the Bay of Islands.

Accommodation: KINGSGATE HOTEL PAIHIA



## DAY 6

Sat 21st March

## Paihia - Taipa



Today it is time to depart the Bay of Islands and carry on exploring the Far North. Stop in at NZ's oldest house in Kerikeri before we head north to visit one of the region's most fascinating heritage tourism destinations at **Butler Point**. We will be treated to a great tour which includes the Whaling Museum, one of the most comprehensive private museums of its kind in New Zealand. Also, Butler House, which is a nationally significant heritage building and the gardens which are recognised as a 'Garden of Significance'. **Morning tea** provided.

After this great visit we carry on and travel up to the beautiful **Karikari Peninsula**, which is renowned for its amazing white sandy beaches and bays such as popular Maitai Bay.

We have an outstanding lunch organised at New Zealand's northernmost vineyard and winery, **Karikari Estate**. Overlooking the rolling coastal land, towards the very top of the far north, we will also enjoy a **wine tasting** if you wish.

This afternoon we explore more of this picturesque area and visit a few lovely spots before checking into our beach front accommodation. Tonight we **dine at the onsite restaurant** enjoying the views while watching the sun go down.

Accommodation: TAIPA BEACH RESORT



## DAY 7

Sun 22nd March

**Taipa - Matakana**

We wake up in paradise and enjoy another delicious breakfast, We depart the peninsula and head south west to the **Hokianga Harbour**. We arrive at Kohukohu on the north side and catch the **vehicle ferry** over the harbour to Rawene, before heading up the harbour with the first stop at Opononi. This picturesque place was made famous in the summer of 1955 and 1956 due to the exploits of a dolphin called Opo. We park up next to the statue of Opo for photo opportunities while taking in the magnificent views.

Then we start making our way south into the majestic Waipoua Forest, which preserves some of the best examples of kauri forest remaining in New Zealand. We stop and visit the one and only **Tana Mahuta** “Lord of the Forest” which is a giant Kauri tree estimated to be between 1,250 and 2,500 years. It is the largest kauri known to stand today and a truly spiritual experience.



After being enchanted by this special area we are back on the road passing through Dargaville and onto Matakohē. Here we visit the award-winning **Kauri Museum**, which tells the story of our pioneering settlers through the lens of the Kauri Industry. We will be greeted with a warm welcome and an introduction to the museum which has many exhibits that tell the story of the pioneering days when early European settlers in the area extracted kauri timber and kauri gum. **Lunch on-site.**

We then hit the road reconnecting with SH1 before turning off again headed for the quaint little town of Matakana.

We have a superb **dinner** lined up where we'll celebrate our final night together..

Accommodation: MATAKANA MOTEL

**DAY 8**

3,695

Mon 23rd March

**Matakana - Home**

After breakfast and to really make our final day special we board the coach and head north to Sandspit to join the largest **mail run** by water in the Southern Hemisphere.



From the comfort of a large and luxurious ferry you will have uninterrupted 180-degree views of this scenic wonderland and historic landmarks, while your experienced and informative skipper guides you around over 75 different wharves, delivering freight and mail to the island residents.

Lunch today is a classic **Kiwi BBQ** onboard while cruising to our stopover on **Kawau Island**. Here you can visit **Mansion House Museum**, Sir Governor Greys Garden of Eden, or take one of the many walks to historic sites whilst watching Kawau's wildlife.

It is then back to Sandspit and board the coach and make our way to Auckland airport where you'll hop on the plane and **fly** directly home hopefully with some magnificent views of Mt Ruapehu and Taranaki. Our coach will be there waiting to transfer you back to the racecourse.

**\*If you are travelling to another destination, your travel arrangements will be made for you in your customised itinerary.**



## Total cost

Departing from Whanganui:  
**\$3,695**

\$1,000 deposit due by November 30th 2025

Final payment due by Feb 6th 2026

## Payment methods

- ✓ Cheque
- ✓ Cash
- ✓ Eftpos
- ✓ Online

Send online bank deposits to:  
 BNZ 02-0792-0090015-00

Please use your name and trip name as code and reference.

## What's included?



### Transport

- All coach travel as stated in the itinerary.
- Flight home.



### Accommodation

- Great twin share accommodation  
*(single supplement available)*



### Food and drink

- Includes 2 course dinner every night.
- All lunches except on day 3,4.
- Mixture of cooked and continental breakfasts.
- All morning and afternoon teas stated in the itinerary.



### Activities

- All activities as stated in **bold** in the itinerary.



## How to book

Be in quick to secure your seats!



Call us

06 3447465

Freephone: 0508 482269



Email us

[info@takeiteasytours.nz](mailto:info@takeiteasytours.nz)

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Thank you,  
The Take It Easy Team

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## Terms and Conditions

### Cancellation policy

If after your booking has been confirmed and you wish to cancel, the following cancellation fees will apply:

- For cancellations after Dec 31st 2025 – loss of deposit.
- For cancellations after Feb 6th 2026 – 75% of total fare will apply.
- For cancellations within 14 Days of departure – 100% of total fare will apply.



## Disclaimer

Take it easy tours will make every effort to provide on time service. It does not guarantee its departure and arrival times, which may be delayed by various factors including weather, traffic, road conditions, mechanical problems and any other conditions Take it easy tours can't control. Take it easy tours are not liable for any inconvenience or expense caused as a result of such delay. Take it easy tours assumes no liability or responsibility for property, delay or expense arising from or caused by weather conditions, acts of God, accident, government restrictions or regulations, from an act or omission of any individual, traffic, road conditions, mechanical problems, or any other cause or condition beyond its control. Take it easy tours reserves its right to cancel or change any tour, advertised schedule, or route without notice and assumes no liability or responsibility for any conditions beyond its control that may interrupt or cancel any tour.

## COVID - 19 cancellation policy for New Zealand travel

COVID - 19, has created uncertainty for us all, therefore for cancellations directly related to COVID - 19, we have updated our "normal cancellation" policy to the following:

If the New Zealand government imposes travel restrictions that impact our ability to deliver your booked tour before departure, our ideal preference would be to reschedule the tour when travel is permitted.

If this is not possible, passengers will receive a full credit, less any applicable airline or supplier cancellation fees that Take It Easy Tours has been charged.

If travel restrictions are imposed while on tour, we will seek credits on any unused portions on the itinerary from all suppliers. All applicable credits to be returned, will first be applied to any costs that have been incurred on our passenger's behalf. For example, if alternative accommodation or transportation has been required to repatriate the passenger to their home.

Any remaining refunds will be credited to the passenger for use for future bookings.

Passenger's personal situations will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

