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2nd - 8th December 2026

Auckland Island Hopper

It's back better than ever, with a significant upgrade in accommodation and food - staying at the Sebel, idyllically located on **Viaduct Harbour's Waterfront** with exceptional views and dining at multiple Viaduct restaurants. If you love luxury and beautiful food, this tour is for you!

Who would think that islands of pure paradise exist just a short boat ride away from New Zealand's largest city? But they are there; and there in abundance. Waiheke, Tiri Tiri Matangi and Kawau Island are just a few highlights you can expect of this unforgettable tour.

Each day, we head out on the water to a different location which gives this tour so much diversity and surprises that you wouldn't think you'd experience so close to downtown Auckland.

We avoid the hustle and bustle of city life, and see the true highlights of the region while staying in luxurious accommodation throughout the entire tour.

DAY 1

Wednesday 2nd Dec

Home - Auckland



Depart Whanganui Racecourse at 8am and head up SH4 for a great **morning tea** stop. We continue our way up passing through the Tongariro National Park and the rolling hills of Taumarunui and onto Otorohonga for a superb **lunch**.

We have one last stop for a refreshment break before reaching our great central Auckland accommodation for the next 6 nights located at the Viaduct Harbour. You have free time to enjoy the great facilities before meeting as a group for our first delicious **dinner** at the renowned restaurant 'Giraffe' which is situated at the bottom of our accommodation. It is here that we will be enjoying a beautiful breakfast every morning also, throughout our stay.

Departing from another destination

For those departing from another destination we will arrange for you to meet the group at some point today. All tickets and details will be provided in your personal information pack, sent prior to travel.

Accommodation: THE SEBEL AUCKLAND VIADUCT HARBOUR (09-978 4000)



DAY 2

Thursday 3rd Dec

Auckland (Riverhead)



Enjoy a relaxed start to the day today. Following breakfast there will be a few options where you can decide how you would like to spend your morning. You could choose to have a stroll around the viaduct at your own leisure, where there are many impressive boats and yachts to view. Or you may choose to explore the Maritime Museum. We would also be happy to book you in on the ferry to cruise over to Devonport if you wish to have a look over there.

This afternoon we board the coach for a short drive around to Westhaven Marina. Here we board the MV Hogwash for a unique excursion into the beautiful uncharted waters of the upper **Waitamata Harbour**. This great cruise will take us to the famous historic **Riverhead Tavern**, where we will have a delicious **lunch**. (Lunch will be slightly later today, so it might pay to have a later breakfast) here you will experience the amazing culture and scenery. The Riverhead has been a house of refreshment and conviviality for around 150 years.

After a couple of hours enjoying the **fine dining** and waterside scenery at the tavern, we then join the vessel again for a relaxing journey back taking in such sights as Auckland's Harbour Bridge, Chelsea Sugar Refinery, Kauri Point, and Herald Island.

We then board the bus and return to the Viaduct to relax and enjoy our classy accommodation. **Dinner** will be at a local restaurant in the viaduct.

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DAY 3

Friday 4th Dec

Auckland (Kawau Island)



After **breakfast** 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 for the return trip back to Auckland. Tonight's **dinner** is at another fantastic restaurant in the Viaduct.

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DAY 4

Saturday 5th Dec

Auckland (Tiritiri Matangi Island)



A superb day exploring awaits us today as we cruise to **Tiritiri Matangi Island**. From the moment you step onto the island to the moment you leave; you will be serenaded by birdsong. A protected haven for endangered species, the island is a nature lover's paradise, particularly for avid birdwatchers.

Beyond native wildlife, Tiritiri Matangi is home to a 150-year-old lighthouse, a network of trail walks through lush coastal forest, plus pristine beaches, and spectacular views.

Guides will show us around the island pointing out various birds and explaining the history of the area. There are flat walking tracks but if you would rather just kick back and soak up the atmosphere there are plenty of spots to do just that, while enjoying a great **picnic lunch**.

After this truly memorable day we head back to the viaduct with a few hours to kick back before meeting for **dinner**.

NOTE: It's a good idea to bring a backpack today to carry your picnic lunch and a warm coat just in case.

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DAY 5

Sunday 6th Dec

Auckland (Waiheke Island)



Today is a day to wine and dine and see a large part of Waiheke Island. We cruise over at 10am and are picked up by coach to travel through town and out to **Stonyridge Vineyard** where we will enjoy our first wine tasting for the day.

We then weave our way to **KiMaha**, one of Waihekes' most celebrated modern restaurants overlooking the stunning Onetangi beach. Here we will enjoy a relaxed beachfront lunch experience.

This afternoon we visit **Soho Family Vineyards**, known for its vibrant atmosphere, bold branding, and beautifully crafted Waiheke Wines. Our final tasting is at one of Waihekes' iconic cellar doors **Mudbrick Vineyards**, known for its spectacular panoramic views across the Hauraki Gulf, elegant architecture and premium wine experiences.

Along the way your guide will share stories of the island, its history, people, vineyards and its hidden gems.

After this fabulous day of exploring the magnificent Waiheke, we then make our way back to Matiatia Wharf for the ferry back to Auckland before heading out for **dinner**.

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DAY 6

Monday 7th Dec

Auckland (Tikapa Moana Whales & Dolphins Cruise)



We have saved a little gem for our final day. We explore Tikapa Moana: the Hauraki Gulf with the Explore Group on the **Tikapa Moana Whales & Dolphins Cruise**. We hop on-board their purpose-built wildlife viewing vessel, departing from downtown Auckland. Cruise past iconic landmarks including the Harbour Bridge, Devonport and Rangitoto Island, before heading into the open Gulf as the experienced crew search for Dolphins, Whales and other Marine wildlife. Your journey also includes time ashore on either Rotoroa Island or Man O War on Waiheke Island with the chance to explore, swim or enjoy a relaxed bite or glass of wine.

NOTE: It's a good idea to bring a backpack today to carry your **picnic lunch** and a warm coat just in case.

After a great day out on the water (hopefully after seeing some majestic Whales and Dolphins!) We then head out for the evening to share our stories of our recent explorations and enjoy our last group **dinner** together.

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DAY 7

Tuesday 8th Dec

Auckland - Home

After our final scrumptious **breakfast**, we start the trip south but we first head to The Base shopping centre just north of Hamilton for some retail therapy or to grab yourself some morning tea. From here we head over to Te Kuiti for yet another delicious **lunch** before carrying on down the main trunk line to National Park for a light refreshment snack, before the final leg home to Whanganui.

Total cost

Departing from Whanganui:

\$4,495

\$1,000 deposit due by 1st August

Final payment due by 5th October

Payment methods

✓ Cheque

✓ Cash

✓ Eftpos

✓ Online

Send online bank deposits to:
BNZ 02-0792-0090015-00Please use your name and trip name
as code and reference.

What's included?



Transport

- All coach travel as stated in the itinerary.
- All ferry travel as stated in the itinerary.



Accommodation

- Great twin share accommodation
(single supplement available)



Food and drink

- Includes 2 course dinner every night.
- All lunches
- 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

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 30th September 2026 – loss of deposit.
- For cancellations after 2nd November 2026 – 75% of total fare will apply.
- For cancellations within 7 days prior to travel – 100% of total fare will apply.

Disclaimer

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