Fiona Donaldson - Personal Travel Manager
0403868746
www.travelmanagers.com.au/ptm/FionaDonaldson/



Gourmet Trails & Coastal Sails

Experience the essence of Northland on a journey designed for the senses. From the gourmet vineyards of Waiheke Island to the turquoise coves of the Bay of Islands, this trail balances high-end gastronomy with raw natural beauty. Relax in exclusive boutique lodges, soar over Cape Reinga, and encounter Māori legends on an unforgettable trail from Auckland to the Far North.

Starts in:	Auckland
Finishes in:	Auckland
Length:	10days / 9nights
Accommodation:	Boutique Lodges & Hotels
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: Late model rental cars

Includes: Fully inclusive rental car insurance (excess may apply)

Includes: Unlimited kms

Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring

Included activity: The Visitor Promise - Cultural Learning Course

Included activity: Electronic Travel Guide and In-Country Support App

Included activity: Private Transfer Auckland Airport to your Auckland Accommodation with Tourcorp

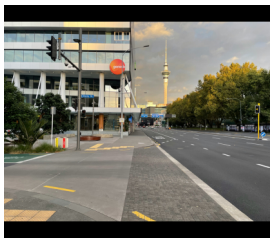
Included activity: Fullers Ferry Auckland to Waiheke Island (Return)

plus much more...

Day 1







Welcome to Auckland

Welcome to Auckland, known in Māori as Tāmaki Makaurau. Auckland is New Zealand's vibrant "City of Sails," and the country's largest metropolitan area. Nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the Tasman Sea. Surrounded by native bush, lush rainforests, and pristine beaches, Auckland is a haven for both adventurers and urban explorers. Wander through world-class museums and galleries in the city centre or enjoy a peaceful retreat at the Auckland Gardens, where stunning landscapes showcase New Zealand's diverse flora. Stroll along the lively waterfront to savour fresh seafood and international cuisine at Viaduct restaurants. For an unforgettable perspective, ascend the iconic SkyTower, New Zealand's tallest structure, and take in panoramic views of the city and its picturesque islands.

Private Transfer Auckland Airport to your Auckland Accommodation with Tourcorp

You will be met at the Auckland airport by your private driver and be transferred to your Auckland accommodation.

Your accommodation: M Social Hotel Auckland

A contemporary hotel for the curious, the explorers and those who thrive on new experiences. Functionally chic, this contemporary hotel overlooks the vibrant Princes Wharf that is home to a good array of dining, entertainment and shopping experiences.



Day 2







Fullers Ferry Auckland to Waiheke Island

Take a scenic approximately 45-minute cruise through the Hauraki Gulf between the Auckland down town ferry terminal and Matiatia Wharf on Waiheke Island.

Waiheke Island Gourmet Food and Wine Tour

Enjoy succulent fresh oysters, award-winning olive oil and other locally-produced speciality foods, accompanied by wines from some of the Island’s top boutique vineyards. The guide will provide an entertaining and informative commentary along the way.
Visit an award-winning olive oil mill, followed by two vineyards, each offering a range of gourmet tastes to accompany the wines. A platter lunch at one of Waiheke's top vineyard restaurants is also included.

Fullers Ferry Waiheke Island to Auckland

Take a scenic approximately 45-minute cruise through the Hauraki Gulf between Matiatia Wharf on Waiheke Island and the Auckland downtown ferry terminal.

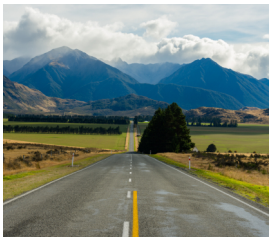
Your accommodation: M Social Hotel Auckland

A contemporary hotel for the curious, the explorers and those who thrive on new experiences. Functionally chic, this contemporary hotel overlooks the vibrant Princes Wharf that is home to a good array of dining, entertainment and shopping experiences.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch



Day 3




Collect Rental Car

This tour's from price includes an intermediate-sized vehicle, setting you up for comfortable travels. Yet, we understand every adventure is unique! Feel free to select the perfect wheels from our incredible collection of rental cars, spanning from economy hatchbacks to premium SUVs.

Auckland to Tutukaka via Puhoi

The journey from Auckland to the stunning Tutukaka Coast is a curated introduction to Northland's coastal charm and artisan heartland. Take your time to discover the unique villages along the way, beginning with the historic Bohemian settlement of Puhoi, where you can savour a taste of award-winning local cheeses. Continue to the renowned Matakana region, a gourmet oasis dotted with boutique wineries, a vibrant village market, and artisan producers offering everything from exquisite chocolates to freshly brewed coffee. Further north, a stop at Whangarei's spectacular Hundertwasser Art Centre provides a moment of unexpected architectural delight and cultural immersion.

Tutukaka Coast

The Tutukaka Coast is your gateway to an underwater world of wonder. Offshore lie the legendary Poor Knights Islands, declared by Jacques Cousteau as one of the top 10 dive sites globally, a vibrant marine reserve teeming with life. These waters are also a renowned hotspot for big game fishing, boasting numerous world-record catches. Beyond diving and fishing, explore the stunning coastline with scenic cruises, kayaking tours, or tranquil strolls along sandy beaches. When hunger strikes, local cafes and restaurants offer delicious fresh seafood straight from the ocean, ensuring a taste of Tutukaka's bounty.

Your accommodation: Lodge 9

Experience quirky tropical paradise at this boutique eco-retreat tucked into a private valley just steps from Tutukaka Marina. With six individually designed ensuite rooms, a saltwater pool, and a cedar sauna, it is the ultimate base for divers and coastal explorers. Enjoy gourmet continental breakfasts or explore one of the four top-tier restaurants just a two-minute stroll away.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 4



Perfect Day Ocean Cruise

Step into a world-class marine wonderland today as you adventure on the "Perfect Day" ocean cruise to the Poor Knights Islands. Rated by Jacques Cousteau as one of the top ten dive sites in the world, this protected marine reserve offers a breathtaking blend of volcanic history and vibrant biodiversity. The best way for non-divers to experience the wonder of Poor Knights Island, this special day-trip, includes sight-seeing, kayaking, cave explorations, snorkelling, swimming, sea mammal-spotting, snippets of fascinating history, Island facts and great food. The boat is incredibly well fitted-out, with plenty of indoor and outdoor seating, upstairs viewing and lunch included. It is important to read and understand the risks associated with this activity before travel. For more information please see here

---

Your accommodation: Lodge 9



Experience quirky tropical paradise at this boutique eco-retreat tucked into a private valley just steps from Tutukaka Marina. With six individually designed ensuite rooms, a saltwater pool, and a cedar sauna, it is the ultimate base for divers and coastal explorers. Enjoy gourmet continental breakfasts or explore one of the four top-tier restaurants just a two-minute stroll away.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5





Tutukaka to Russell

Your journey begins by soaking up the last moments of the Tutukaka Coast's beauty. Consider a peaceful stop at the serene Whale Bay, an exquisite beach accessible via a short, beautiful bush walk. Referred to by many as a top hidden gem, it offers a tranquil final moment before your drive. From there, your drive unfolds into the rich cultural heartland of Northland, making a fascinating and whimsical stop in the town of Kawakawa, known for its world-famous public toilets designed by the visionary artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser. Continue on to the ferry terminal at Opua, where a short and scenic car ferry will transport you to the tranquil shores of Russell. This pleasant 15-minute crossing saves a long drive around the harbour, providing a final moment to take in the beautiful bays before you arrive in a historic and charming seaside village that serves as your idyllic base for the next part of your adventure.

Explore Russell

Experience the timeless charm of Russell, a historic village accessible by a quick ferry ride from Paihia or a scenic coastal drive. Once a notorious whaling hub, New Zealand's first European settlement, and briefly the country's first capital, Russell now offers a tranquil escape with a rich past. You'll love exploring historical sites like the bullet-scarred Christ Church, New Zealand's oldest church, or the historic Marlborough Hotel, which holds the country’s oldest liquor license. For breathtaking views of the Bay and its islands, a short walk up Flagstaff Hill is a must. This historic site tells the story of Māori chief Hone Heke's famous protests. Russell is the perfect place to step back in time while enjoying the stunning beauty of the Bay of Islands

---

Your accommodation: Bellrock Lodge

Bellrock Lodge is on the hill overlooking the historic village of Russell in the stunning Bay of Islands. From this wonderful vantage point you will see all the comings and goings of the passenger ferries, pleasure boats and village life. Bellrock is a 5 minute walk to the village and wharf.

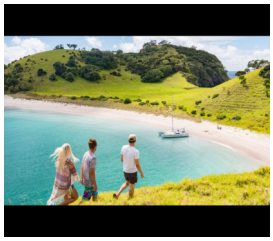
Meals included: Breakfast



Day 6







Island Hopper Day Cruise with Barefoot Sailing Adventures - Lunch Included

Come spend a day with the Barefoot Sailing crew for a magical day cruise sailing to a beautiful wildlife sanctuary island. You can enjoy water activities such as snorkeling and paddle boarding and explore hiking trails which are perfect for bird lovers.
This small-group tour is designed to suit the active adventurer but is equally relaxing if you’re looking for an easy-going day out.
Please take your time to understand the risks associated with this activity here.

Your accommodation: Bellrock Lodge

Bellrock Lodge is on the hill overlooking the historic village of Russell in the stunning Bay of Islands. From this wonderful vantage point you will see all the comings and goings of the passenger ferries, pleasure boats and village life. Bellrock is a 5 minute walk to the village and wharf.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch



Day 7







Cape Reinga Scenic Flight & Guided Tour with Salt Air

Experience the ultimate journey to the northernmost tip of New Zealand with a spectacular scenic flight that showcases the dramatic contrast between the rugged West Coast and the white silica sands of the East Coast. Upon landing, join a comfortable vehicle tour to the iconic Cape Reinga lighthouse, where you can witness the powerful meeting of the Tasman Sea and the Pacific Ocean. This seamless half-day adventure combines breathtaking aerial views of Ninety Mile Beach with ground exploration of sacred Māori sites and giant sand dunes, offering a perspective of the Far North that few ever see.

Your accommodation: Bellrock Lodge

Bellrock Lodge is on the hill overlooking the historic village of Russell in the stunning Bay of Islands. From this wonderful vantage point you will see all the comings and goings of the passenger ferries, pleasure boats and village life. Bellrock is a 5 minute walk to the village and wharf.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 8







Russell to Waipoua Forest via Waitangi

Heading west from the Bay of Islands, you'll leave the coastal charms of the Pacific Ocean behind and transition into Northland's rugged wilderness and the wilder seas of the Tasman. On the way, you'll make a profound and important stop at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, the very place where New Zealand's founding document was signed, allowing you to connect with the nation's powerful history. The journey continues west, through the small seaside townships of Omapere and Opononi, the perfect place to stop for an ice cream. The route then heads south and into the Waipoua Forest, home to the massive Kauri trees. As you pass through the forest, be sure to take one of the short walks to view the majestic Tāne Mahuta, the largest of all the trees, on a not to be missed 5-minute loop.

Waitangi Treaty Grounds Guided Tour and Cultural Performance

Waitangi is one of New Zealand's most historic sites where the Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840 between the Māori and the British Government. This two day pass allows you access to the Treaty of Waitangi Grounds and includes admission to the Te Kōngahu Museum and Te Rau Aroha Museum and a Maori Cultural performance. During your guided tour, learn about the history of the treaty and discover the stories and events that shaped New Zealand. The cultural performance inside the carved meeting house includes waiata (singing), poi and the haka - a war dance Aotearoa-New Zealand is well known for.

Gourmet Four-Course Dinner at Waipoua Lodge

Savor the flavors of the Northland wilderness with an exquisite four-course gourmet dinner at Waipoua Lodge. Set within the historic charm of a converted 100-year-old wool shed, this intimate dining experience highlights the lodge's "estate-to-plate" philosophy. Each course is carefully crafted using seasonal ingredients from the lodge's own organic gardens and local artisan producers. From delicate canapés to decadent desserts, this four-course culinary journey is the perfect sophisticated conclusion to a day spent among the giant Kauri trees.

Twilight Waipoua Encounter

Experience the Waipoua Forest at night on this spectacular 4 hour tour. Learn about the rich birdlife and fauna that inhabit the forest, including the carnivorous kauri snail. You'll also get to experience the deep spiritual respect the Maori people have for this place. Your Maori guide will brief you on the protocols for your visit and you once formal greetings have been made you will be allowed to meet the giant Tane Mahuta, or Lord of the Forest - the oldest Kauri tree in the world.

Your accommodation: Waipoua Lodge

Waipoua Lodge is nestled on a ridge overlooking the mighty Waipoua Forest. Experience authentic New Zealand luxury hospitality in a breathtaking ancient and natural environment. Please contact the property a day or two before your arrival to discuss menu preferences.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 9








Waipoua to Snells Beach

Continue along the Kauri Coast and through the fertile agricultural region of Dargaville. Heading back across country the Matakohe Kauri Museum is an award winning museum and has extensive displays of the regions logging, farming and social history. Just a short drive from Warkworth you'll reach the coastal settlement of Snells Beach.

Matakohe Kauri Museum

The Kauri Museum is located approximately 90 minutes drive north of Auckland, in the rural backdrop of Matakohe. Offering insight into the region's pioneering history, It charts the rise and fall of the great Kauri forests with stunning displays and detailed exhibitions including: The largest collection of Kauri Gum in the world, a fully furnished 1900's era Kauri house, the largest collection of Kauri furniture in the world, a huge 22 metre long Kauri slab and a magnificent collection of original photographs and pioneering memorabilia.

Explore Matakana

Discover the glorious Matakana Coast, a region where rolling vineyards meet rugged coastlines and world-class art. Matakana offers a sophisticated escape into New Zealand’s artisan heart. Wander through whimsical sculpture gardens at Sculptureum or Bricks Bay Wines & Sculpture Trail, sample award-winning local wines, or explore the pristine white sands of Tāwharanui Regional Park. You can stretch your legs along the riverside, grab a world-class coffee from local roasters, or browse boutique galleries. It’s a place where the pace slows down, and the quality of life, and the food, is second to none.

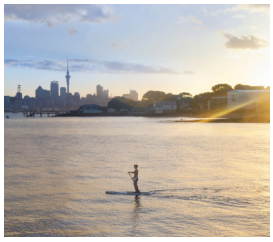
Your accommodation: Tahi Lodge

Tahi Lodge is situated at Snells Beach in the picturesque Matakana Coast Wine Country region, only an hour scenic drive north from Auckland and close to many activities and attractions. It is an ideal accommodation choice for relaxing short breaks, holidays with family and friends or celebrating special occasions such as birthdays, weddings or anniversaries.

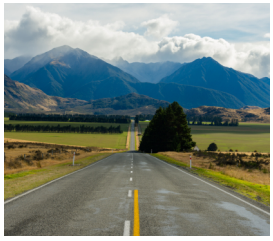
Meals included: Breakfast



Day 10







Snells Beach to Auckland

From Snells Beach return to Warkworth and then south passing through the North Shore Suburbs. Perhaps take a detour to see Tauwharanui Regional Park en route or take the scenic drive along the Hibiscus Coast Road.

Return your rental car

Return your rental vehicle to your designated depot before your next adventure.

Farewell from Aotearoa / New Zealand

Bid farewell to Aotearoa / New Zealand, taking with you unforgettable memories of its breathtaking landscapes and incredible adventures. In Māori, it is said mā te wā, which is not goodbye, it is see you soon!

Tour details

Departures:	Daily
Tour type:	North Island Self Drive
Starts:	Auckland
Finishes:	Auckland
Tour length:	10
Accomodation:	Boutique Lodges & Hotels
Car/transport type:	

Accommodation summary

Day 1	M Social Hotel Auckland
Day 2	M Social Hotel Auckland
Day 3	Lodge 9
Day 4	Lodge 9
Day 5	Bellrock Lodge
Day 6	Bellrock Lodge
Day 7	Bellrock Lodge
Day 8	Waipoua Lodge
Day 9	Tahi Lodge