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Bay of Islands Short Break

Leave the city behind for the subtropical magic of the far north. This stress-free getaway takes you to the heart of Paihia, where you'll cruise through the famous Hole in the Rock and stand on the historic grounds where New Zealand's story began. It's a perfectly paced blend of island adventure and cultural discovery.

While this itinerary serves as a great starting point, we invite you to connect with our travel specialists, who can help tailor these experiences into a larger New Zealand journey personalised to your interests.

Starts in:	Auckland
Finishes in:	Auckland
Length:	3days / 2nights
Accommodation:	Motels
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: The Visitor Promise - Cultural Learning Course

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

plus much more...

Day 1






Auckland to Paihia by InterCity Coach

Leave the urban skyline of Auckland behind for the coastal roads of the North, traveling past the seaside villages of the Hibiscus Coast and through the rolling hills of Whangarei. Your journey follows a historic trail through unique rural townships and farmland before descending into the subtropical Bay of Islands. You’ll be greeted by the sparkling turquoise waters and golden sands of Paihia, a vibrant seaside village that serves as your gateway to this paradise.

Paihia Central/Coach Stop to Paihia Accommodation with Haruru Cabs

On arrival to Paihia, you will be transferred from Paihia Central to your accommodation.

Paihia, Bay of Islands

Paihia, an oceanside gem, played a pivotal role in Aotearoa-New Zealand's history. A visit to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds offers a profound look into the signing of the Waitangi Treaty, where 43 Māori chiefs and 39 Crown representatives shaped the nation’s future. Beyond its rich history, Paihia is a haven for water-based activities. From sailing through the Hole in the Rock and dolphin spotting to kayaking or fishing, or perhaps a day relaxing on the beach, this picturesque coastal town is the perfect base to explore the stunning Bay of Islands.

Your accommodation: Admirals View Lodge & Motel

Admirals View Lodge & Motel offers a range of quality self-contained accommodations. Relax in this peaceful location in central Paihia and enjoy the sunny terraces and sea spray from the nearby ocean. You can easily meander along to the beach, restaurants and cafes from your luxurious accommodation.



Day 2





Bay of Islands

Discover the Bay of Islands, a jewel of the Northland, beckoning with its idyllic sub-tropical climate and a rich tapestry of history and natural beauty. This renowned holiday destination boasts over 140 atolls, 40 parks and reserves, and 800 kilometres of stunning coastline. Immerse yourself in the vibrant marine world, where dolphins, seals, penguins, whales, and gannets flourish. Numerous charter companies offer unforgettable journeys, taking you deeper into the islands to marvel at incredible geographic formations like the iconic 'Hole in the Rock'. For those seeking a more personal exploration, yacht chartering provides an unparalleled way to navigate the area's pristine waters. Beyond the marine park, the seas are world-renowned for big game fishing, with impressive catches of marlin, broadbill, and game sharks.
Delve into New Zealand's compelling past with a visit to Russell, just across the harbour from Paihia. This charming township is steeped in history; explore the Pompallier Mission House, the local museum, and take a stroll to New Zealand's oldest church. Russell also offers an array of fine restaurants, cafes, and is home to the nation's oldest licensed premises, the Duke of Marlborough. No visit to the Bay of Islands is complete without journeying to Waitangi, the birthplace of modern New Zealand, to explore the historic Treaty Grounds and Treaty House.

Hole in the Rock Cruise with Fullers

Board your cruise and take in the stunning views as you glide out through the islands and along the Rakaumangamanga Peninsula to Cape Brett, where a historic lighthouse keeps watch over and Piercy Island/Motukōkako, or as it is popularly known as the Hole in the Rock. According to Māori legend, local warriors used to paddle through the Hole in the Rock in their canoes before departing for battle. Drops of water from the cave roof above were a good omen. If conditions permit, your skipper will expertly guide the ship through the narrow space. Keep an eye out for common and bottlenose dolphins, whales, and other marine life during your cruise, and have your camera ready as you get up close to the action. Stop off at Otehei Bay on Urupukapuka Island where you have time to relax, take a walk, have a swim, or enjoy a bite to eat and drink from the on-site fully licensed café.

Waitangi Treaty Grounds: Guided Tour, Cultural Performance & Return Shuttle

Waitangi is one of New Zealand's most historic sites where the Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840 between 43 Māori chiefs 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 Māori Cultural performance. During your guided tour, you'll 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, a display of Māori weaponry and the haka - a war dance New Zealand is well known for.

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Day 3



Paihia, Bay of Islands to Auckland with InterCity Coach

Leaving the magical Bay of Islands behind you head south on State Highway 1 back towards Auckland, the "City of Sails". The route takes you through Kawakawa, affectionately known as 'train town'. The farming regions of Wellsford and Warkworth accompany you the rest of the journey before passing through the suburbs of the North Shore and crossing the harbour bridge and into the heart of Tāmaki Makaurau-Auckland City.

Tour details

Departures:	Daily
Tour type:	Self-Guided Coach Tours
Starts:	Auckland
Finishes:	Auckland
Tour length:	3
Accomodation:	Motels
Car/transport type:	

Accommodation summary

Day 1	Admirals View Lodge & Motel
Day 2	Admirals View Lodge & Motel