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Waiheke Island Escape - a 6 day New Zealand Tour



Waiheke Island Escape

Auckland shopping, gardens and museums. Waiheke Island sights, wineries, arts & crafts, plus more...

Join our tour and escape to Waiheke Island, what a contrast to the hustle and bustle of Auckland - yet just a short ferry trip away. We first see some of the sights of Auckland, such as the latest shopping mall in Newmarket, or if you prefer - explore the Auckland Museum or Wintergardens. We will dine at the top of the Sky Tower on our first night. Then unwind for 4 relaxing days on Waiheke, visiting wineries, boutique food producers, markets, arts and crafts and much more. This is a must see destination for our international A list celebs, so why not come and enjoy its many delights as well.

6th Feb 2021

\$2295 pp twin share

Day 1 - With bags packed, and as always a pick up at your door, we head off for a getaway to wonderful Waiheke Island. We enjoy a very relaxed drive to Auckland, getting to know your new tour mates and making sure we have plenty of stops along the way. Through the scenic Karangahake Gorge, we traverse the Hauraki Plains before climbing the Bombay Hills and then into central Auckland.

Before checking in to our city hotel we offer the option for some retail therapy at the new Newmarket Westfield shopping mall, or if you prefer, time to explore the Wintergardens or Auckland Museum in the Auckland Domain. If these options are not for you then you can check into the hotel which is just a 10 minute walk from the Holy Trinity Cathedral, a stunning building and well worth a visit.

Tonight we dine at the Orbit Restaurant, at the top of the Sky Tower, where you can enjoy 360 degree views of the city while enjoying your meal.

Day 2 - Time for us to skip across the Hauraki Gulf to Waiheke Island – our home for the next 4 nights. The 45 minute ferry ride from Half Moon Bay is spectacular with scenic views of the harbour, city and surrounding islands such as Rangitoto and Browns Island.

On arrival on Waiheke we head straight to the Ostend Markets, this is an island institution and should not be missed. It's a fun friendly, vibrant, diverse and interesting place for young and old. The market has been a melting pot for the people of Waiheke and its many visitors for around 30 years. A chance to grab some interesting lunch snacks as you browse the many stalls, from food, arts, crafts and collectables, there's something for all (market only operates on Saturdays).

Time also to do a quick shop if you want at the adjacent Countdown supermarket for any of those treats you may fancy over the next 4 days at our apartments.

It's then just a short drive to our beach-side accommodation - time perhaps for a swim in the warm waters of the gulf or a stroll along the beach before dinner at a local restaurant this evening, our first on the island.

Whats Included:

- 6 days of touring
- 5 nights quality accommodation
- Door to door service (Tauranga area)
- Quality air-conditioned vehicle
- Full commentary by your guide
- All breakfasts
- 2 lunches and 4 dinners
- Sky Tower Orbit Restaurant dinner
- Auckland Botanic Gardens
- Guided tours on Waiheke Island
- Wine tasting (at least two wineries)
- Visit to an arts & crafts gallery
- Waiheke Island Village Museum
- Plenty of stops along the way

You will see:

- Stunning scenery throughout
- The City of Sails - Auckland
- Sky Tower - casino optional!
- The Waitemata Harbour
- Waiheke and the Hauraki Gulf
- The island from end to end

Day 3 - For our first morning on the island we start with a "BBQ and bubbles" breakfast, so join us in the courtyard and get to know your travelling companions better over a glass of bubbles or two.

Today is about relaxation, so we have made the activities optional this morning. Maybe you would like a morning boat cruise to explore the less visited bays. For the adventurous you could try the zip line. Included today is lunch at a stunning location

overlooking Palm Beach (this is also our venue for the Christmas Day lunch on the Christmas tour).

After our leisurely lunch we head back to our apartments to relax. Dinner this evening is not included, so you can do your own thing, or try one of the local restaurants just a few minutes walk away (if you still have any room).

Day 4 - Today we will be joined by our local guide for a morning exploring some of the lesser know artisan businesses on the island, including micro breweries and wineries. Our guide has a wealth of knowledge and is a real "Waihekean" so will impart some interesting stories as we travel the island.

Waiheke is also home to many gifted artists and the best place to see a range of their work is at the Waiheke Arts and Crafts Centre in Oneroa. Be sure to have your credit card to hand as there will be many works that may tempt you. Oneroa, the island's largest village, has many interesting shops, boutiques, bars and cafes, so we have time here today for some "retail therapy" and for you to grab a bite for lunch. This evening enjoy the company of your tour mates, with a wonderful dinner at another top local restaurant.

Day 5 - Today we explore the more remote eastern side of the island, leaving behind the residential areas where most of the 10,000 locals live. Joined again by our local guide, we travel along gravel roads, through farm land and vineyards, with truly spectacular views from hill top lookouts across the Hauraki Gulf to far off islands and the Coromandel Peninsula.

Our destination this morning is "Man O War" Bay and its beach front winery of the same name. The bay was named by navigators in the late 1700s. The winery is part of a 4,500 acre family farm with 75 vineyards, as well as orchards, olive groves, restored native forests, beehives and livestock. The farm produces much of the food used for the cellar door restaurant - a true farm-to-table ethos. Our visit begins with wine, olive oil and honey tastings, followed by our lovely included lunch today. Set amongst native trees overlooking the tranquil bay, this beautiful setting makes this winery such a popular choice.

Following lunch and maybe a dip in the sea or a few games of boules, we continue around the coast road with great views back to the mainland and Auckland. We pass many multi-million dollar homes of the rich and famous (sadly hidden behind secure fences) on the way back to our apartments at Onetangi. A chance to relax this afternoon before we head out to a local restaurant for dinner, our last on the island. Time to recount all the great experiences before we leave Waiheke in the morning.

Day 6 - Today we are homeward bound, departing Waiheke after breakfast and maybe that last stroll along the golden sand beach. We take the ferry back across the Hauraki Gulf to Half Moon Bay and begin our journey south.

We have one final treat in store though - our mid morning visit to the Auckland Botanic Gardens. Covering 64 hectares, including 10 hectares of native forest, the gardens opened to the public in 1982, so is a young garden by world standards. The gardens are home to more than 10,000 plants from around the world as well as many native species, so something for everyone to enjoy. Before we depart for Tauranga, visit Café Miko (located in the Huakaiwaka visitor centre) as there is a wide selection of food available for lunch if needed. Or just spend your time to wander the gardens and woodland.

We will make a mid-way stop for refreshments on the route back home and will have you dropped at your door late afternoon after this great trip.

All Hinterland multi-day tours can be taken by clients from any region of New Zealand or Australia. Please contact us for details. Additional charges may apply.

Not included:

- Any lunches unless specified*
- Morning/afternoon tea stops*
- Any alcoholic beverages with meals

* Please note, that unless specified in the itinerary we do not usually include the cost of lunches or morning and afternoon tea stops in the tour cost, but we always make stops where there are a range of options available so you can choose what you want, and have flexibility to do things on your own if you wish.



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Enquire now

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