



~ Christmas in New Zealand ~



CHRISTMAS IN NEW ZEALAND

9 Days / 8 Nights

Fully Escorted

22 - 30 December 2021

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Auckland City Sights
- Auckland War Memorial Museum
- Auckland Harbour Ferry Ride
- Parry Kauri Park
- Waitangi Treaty House
- **Christmas in Bay of Islands**
- Cape Reigna
- Puketi Forest
- Bay of Island Cruise to Cape Brett & Russell
- Brick Bay Sculpture Trail
- Waiheke Island Cruise
- Peacock Sky Vineyard
- Auckland Sky Tower

INCLUDES:

- Return Economy Class Airfares from Brisbane, Sydney or Melbourne
- **Private Single Room** in quality accommodations
- Meals as per the itinerary: 8 Breakfasts/ 5 Lunches/ 6 Dinners
- Sightseeing Tours and Airport Transfers as per itinerary
- **Tour Host** – travels with group from/to Auckland
- Local Driver/Guide

EXCLUDES:

- Any flights, meals, tours, excursions or transfers other than mentioned above or in the itinerary
- Items of a personal nature i.e. laundry, drinks, phone calls, etc
- Travel Insurance

Priced from \$6,249* per person

Terms and Conditions apply. Price is per person Sole Use and subject to availability. Price is correct as at 21 May 2021. Flights based on Air New Zealand "The Works" Airfare. Tour requires minimum number of passengers to depart. Solo Connections is constantly striving to improve our itineraries and inclusions. If such improvements can be made, or unforeseen circumstances beyond our control make changes necessary, we reserve the right at any time to vary itineraries and to substitute inclusions of equal value. Further booking conditions apply, please check all prices, availability and other information with your travel agent at time of or before booking. Package cancellation fees apply. Denise Marie Falsay trading as Solo Connections. ATAS Accredited A11424. ABN 92 582 582 996

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Day 1 – Wednesday 22 December 2021
Brisbane to Auckland

D

This morning we meet at the Brisbane International Airport for our flight to Auckland.

Upon arrival into Auckland International Airport we will be met and transferred to the hotel and enjoy a **central city orientation tour** en-route. Regularly named as one of the best life-style cities in the world, Auckland is a vibrant cosmopolitan city, with a busy nightlife, world-class restaurants, and diverse neighbourhood's to explore. Auckland has a plethora of great museums and galleries, and is a melting pot of cultures, with a large Polynesian and Asian population.

This evening we will have a **Welcome Dinner** in the hotel.

Accommodation: Sky City Hotel Auckland or similar (2 nights)

Day 2 – Thursday 23 December 2021
Auckland Sightseeing

B-D

After breakfast this morning we enjoy a **sightseeing tour of Auckland**, known as the 'City of Sails' for the large number of yachts and sailboats that use the beautiful waters of Auckland Harbour and the stunning Hauraki Gulf. From Bastion Point enjoy the city and harbour views including Rangitoto Island.

We visit the **Auckland War Memorial Museum** which was built as a memorial to the New Zealanders who sacrificed their lives in WWI, WWII and other conflicts. The Maori and Pacific Islands Court at the Museum gives an excellent introduction to the people of the Pacific and New Zealand and the remarkable flora, fauna and geography of the area.

This afternoon **ride the ferry** across the Auckland Harbour to Devonport, which is approximately a 10-15-minute trip. Devonport is an historic Auckland seaside village featuring Victorian villas and a picture-postcard waterfront.

This evening we enjoy a wonderful dinner at a local Auckland Restaurant.

Day 3 – Friday 24 December 2021
Auckland - Bay of Islands

B-D

Enjoy breakfast this morning before we check out and depart Auckland. We travel north over the **Auckland Harbour Bridge** to first of all visit the **Parry Kauri Park**. Here we will view some fine examples of Giant Kauri Trees.

Continuing we then visit the **Matakohe Kauri Museum**, at Otamatea. Here we will gain an insight to the early New Zealand Pioneer History, which helped form the New Zealand that we see today. Our journey then takes us to Paihia in the beautiful Bay of Islands, where we take a guided tour of the **Waitangi Treaty House** where New Zealand's history began.

We will check into our accommodation and freshen up before meeting for dinner this evening.

Accommodation: Kingsgate Hotel Paihia or similar (4 nights)



Day 4 – Saturday 25 December 2021
Bay of Islands

B-L-D

Merry Christmas!

Take the chance to sleep in and have breakfast at leisure before we set off on a scenic drive around Paihia, Waitangi, Haruru Falls and Kerikeri. We will take along a **picnic lunch** today to enjoy at a local beach along the way.

This afternoon we return to our accommodation in time to fresh up and join in the festive **Christmas Dinner!**

Day 5 – Sunday 26 December 2021
Cape Reinga

B-L-D

Today you will be collected after breakfast for a full day tour to **Cape Reinga**, the northernmost tip of New Zealand.

Our coach will be driven along a quicksand stream and raced through the waves of mighty **Ninety Mile Beach**.

At Cape Reinga there are spectacular views, including the meeting of the blue Pacific Ocean and deep green Tasman Sea.

We'll also pay a visit to **Puketi Forest** to see giant kauri trees before returning to our hotel for dinner.

Day 6 – Monday 27 December 2021
Bay of Island Cruise & Russell

B-L

After breakfast we join a **cruise** through the Bay of Islands out to **Cape Brett**.

On the way to the **Cape Brett Lighthouse**, the boat seeks out the playful dolphins. Bottlenose and common dolphins take great delight in racing alongside and showing off their aerobic flips! Conditions permitting, see them race alongside and play in the bow waves. Orca whales are often encountered too.

Farther out see beautiful **Motukokako Island** and the famous **Hole in the Rock**. Hold your breath as the skipper skilfully navigates his way through the hole and into **Grand Cathedral Cave** (sea conditions permitting). On the return to Paihia we pass several remote islands, fringed with golden sand beaches.

We disembark at **Russell** in time for lunch at the famed **Duke of Marlborough Hotel** situated right on Russell's waterfront.

After lunch we have a small group guided tour of Russell discovering New Zealand's earliest European history. We will visit areas of historic interest which cannot be easily covered on foot, seeing sights such Long Beach, Tapeka Point and the famous Flagstaff with stunning 360' vistas as well as Christ Church (the oldest church in NZ famed for the bullet holes in its walls).

Late this afternoon we make our way back to Paihia for an evening of leisure. Our tour host will be on hand for anyone needing assistance with arrangements for dinner.



Day 7 – Tuesday 28 December 2021
Bay of Islands - Auckland

B-L

This morning, enjoy breakfast before checking out as we farewell the Bay of Islands and head south to Whangarei.

We continue on to Snells Beach for a visit to the **Brick Bay Sculpture Trail** –an exhibition of contemporary sculptures by New Zealand’s leading contemporary artists. During the **2-km walk** discover a dynamic exhibition of 60 artworks set in a stunning natural environment of native bush, wildlife and ponds bursting with waterlilies.

We also get the chance to have lunch at Brick Bay before continuing our southbound journey down the Hibiscus Coast before arriving back in Auckland to our hotel.

After checking in, and a day of travelling, we have an evening at leisure. You may like to venture out to a local restaurant or have an early night in. Whatever you choose to do, our tour host will be on hand to assist if you need it.

Accommodation: Sky City Hotel Auckland or similar – 2 nights

Day 8 – Wednesday 29 December 2021
Waiheke Island

B-L-D

After breakfast today we depart Auckland for a **35-minute cruise** across the picturesque Hauraki Gulf to **Waiheke Island**. This island is known for its beautiful beaches, boutique wineries and artisans. Upon arrival we will be met by a local Waiheke Island guide who will accompany us today.

Our tour will commence with a drive along the scenic northern route, taking in spectacular views of the Hauraki Gulf and beyond to the Coromandel Peninsula.

We visit **Rangihoua Estate** where the first **olive oil** in the North Island was produced. Rangihoua’s award-winning olive oils have won many accolades since the first pressings. Learn how the oil is produced and taste a range of different oils, including the peppery Greek-style Koreneiki, the Spanish-style Picual, or the Tuscan-style Frantoio, as well as island blends.

Afterwards we will visit **Peacock Sky Vineyard** and **enjoy a tasting** at Peacock Sky, who produce Rosé Méthode Traditionelle, Chardonnay, Rosé, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot Malbec wines. The wines are all carefully matched with morsels of tempting food created daily by the vineyard owners.

We also stay here for a platter style lunch.

After lunch, our guide will take us to **Oneroa Village** where you can wander the many art galleries and boutique shops before returning to Auckland via the ferry.

Freshen up and meet this evening for a **Farewell Dinner** at the Orbit Restaurant at the top of the **Sky Tower**.



Day 9 – Thursday 30 December 2021
Auckland to Brisbane

B

Enjoy breakfast this morning before checking out of the hotel to board our coach and be transferred to the Auckland International Airport.

We say farewell to New Zealand, and new friends, as we all return home with wonderful memories made.