



FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL
PREMIERE EXPERIENTIAL TOURISM



Suggested Itinerary for

October 30, 2006 - Auckland "City of Sails"

'The City of Sails' is New Zealand's largest urban area with a population of just under a million people. It is the centre of commerce and industry, and is perhaps the most vibrant, bustling and multicultural city in New Zealand. The biggest Polynesian city in the world, cultural influence is reflected in many different aspects of city life. Auckland is dominated with volcanic hills, many of which were once the site of Maori pas, or fortified villages, and which currently afford great views of the city. The city lies between the Waitemata and Manukau harbours, and its geography is such that glistening waters seem to beckon from every point. It is a water lover's paradise, with some of the best beaches, swimming, diving, fishing, sailing, windsurfing and water sports in the country. Its nickname 'the city of sails' is very apt as Auckland has more boats per capita than anywhere else in the world.



November 1, 2006 - The Bay of Islands

This sub-tropical region has the finest maritime park in New Zealand with 144 islands, secluded bays, and an abundance of marine life including marlin, whales, penguins, dolphins, gannets and many other species. It is one of the most picturesque and popular holiday sites in New Zealand. It combines great fishing, diving, sailing and other water sports with some of New Zealand's most significant historic sites. The Bay of Islands was the site at which the earliest contact between the indigenous population and European settlers took place. Historic places include the treaty house, which houses the treaty of Waitangi, Captain Cook Memorial Museum, Flagstaff Hill (the flagpole was the scene of a historic confrontation between Maori and Pakeha, and was chopped down by the Maori leader Hone Heke), the oldest building in the country (Kemp House), and the oldest Church. One of the most popular attractions is the Hole in the Rock, off Cape Brett. You can take a boating trip through the hole in a huge rock outcrop. Also popular are dolphin swimming and diving trips to the sunken Rainbow Warrior wreck.



Sailing the Bay of Islands and Dolphin Swimming

Sailing is by far the best way to experience the Bay of Islands. This sub-tropical region has the finest maritime park in New Zealand with 144 islands, secluded bays, and an abundance of marine life including marlin, whales, penguins, dolphins, gannets and many other species. Being somewhat sheltered, the area is ideal for yachting. Your day includes the opportunity of swimming with Dolphins, fishing, snorkelling, beach volleyball, bushwalking or relaxing in the sun on the spacious decks. Full bar facilities and included is a kiwi BBQ lunch.



November 2, 2006 - The Coromandel Peninsula – relax on New Zealand’s Most Beautiful Beaches



The Coromandel Peninsula lies east of Auckland, on the other side of the Hauraki Gulf. An impressive, heavily forested mountain range runs right up the middle of this peninsula - it's bordered on each side by kilometres of spectacular coastline. On the west coast, there's a never-ending parade of beaches, coves and harbours lined with pohutukawa trees. The eastern side is furnished with an amazing collection of white sand and surf beaches. The past can also be found in the charming colonial architecture and historical buildings preserved in several towns around the region. The coastal nature of the Coromandel makes it a brilliant choice if you like to fish, surf, dive, snorkelling, swim or wander along beaches. For contrast you can head for the hills and hike the trails in the-forest.



Hot Water Beach

A quick shovel in the sand provides us with our own geothermal heated spa pool. Water from a hot spring seeps up through the sand and mixes with the refreshing tide offering a tranquil setting as you sit in your own hot tub. Why not enjoy it with a glass of wine as the sunsets on the horizon!



November 3, 2006 - Hobbiton tour

Join a 2 hour guided tour of the "The Shire" movie set in Hobbiton (otherwise known as Matamata). Hobbiton is the home of Bilbo and Frodo in Peter Jackson's The Lord of the Rings. The tour takes you into the rolling farmlands of the beautiful Waikato and the home of the hairy little hobbits. The set is on private land and you will need to join a tour to get access to it. The set has been returned to its natural state but some structures are still present and your guide will escort you through the 10 acre site, recounting details on how it was created.



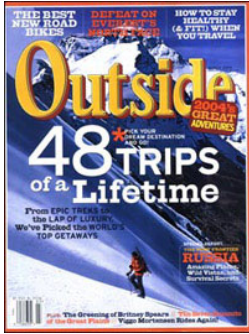
Caving and Black Water Rafting - Waitomo Caves

The caves at Waitomo are one of New Zealand's most commanding wonders – a celebration of nature's work over the last one hundred thousand years. There are hundreds of miles of labyrinthine caves, glow-worms, underground lakes, stalactites and stalagmites, and all manner of limestone crustaceans - a lost world waiting to be discovered - This ripper of a trip combines the best elements of black water rafting with walking, swimming and climbing through dry sections of the spectacular Tumutumu Cave. See awesome cave formations, some of the best stalactites and rock sculpture available, as well as the famous New Zealand glow worms.



About First light Travel

Our "Award Winning" travel company specialises in all aspects of New Zealand tourism, so we can help you put together pretty well anything for your trip, from international and domestic flights, adventure activities, specialised diving, golf, sailing or hiking options, through to car/motorhome hire, coach/train/ferry transport, accommodation and travel insurance. Choose to take a self driving holiday around New Zealand or join one of our many suggested group tours. We can also help with Fiji, Pacific Islands, Australia, Africa and UK holiday planning.



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