

2018-2019

# NEW ZEALAND

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# Bay of Islands & Rotorua Unearthed

7 DAYS | AUCKLAND RETURN | ZBR5

**Cruise in the Bay of Islands • Day at leisure in the Bay of Islands • Visit Waitangi Treaty Reserve  
Visit Waitomo Glowworm Grotto**

As this Short Break departs at 6.45am, accommodation will need to be pre-booked for the previous night.

## Day 1: Welcome to Auckland – Bay of Islands

Depart Auckland by coach for the Bay of Islands. On arrival in Paihia visit the historic Waitangi Treaty Reserve, where New Zealand's founding document, the Treaty of Waitangi, was signed. You'll have time on your own to learn about New Zealand's early Māori and European history and take in highlights such as the Māori War Canoe (Waka) and Meeting House (Marae). Then board the Dolphin Seeker, a purpose-built catamaran, and meet your experienced local skipper for a cruise through the beautiful clear waters. Keep a look out for common and bottlenose dolphins, whales and other marine life as you get up close to the action. Enjoy the views as you cruise past the Cape Brett Lighthouse, before arriving at the majestic 'Hole in the Rock'. You'll be holding your breath as the skipper navigates through the narrow space. Take in the unique sights of Grand Cathedral Cave before heading back into the inner islands of the Bay. Hotel: Copthorne Resort, Garden View (R) or Water View (S), Bay of Islands, 2 nights. D

## Day 2: Bay of Islands Free Time

The day is at leisure for you to experience the beauty of the Bay of Islands. Perhaps take a coach trip to Cape Reinga, the northern-most point of New Zealand, via idyllic Ninety Mile Beach, a day of sailing on a tall ship or play a round of golf. Tonight, you can choose to dine at one of the local cafés or restaurants on the waterfront. B

## Day 3: Bay of Islands – Auckland

This morning why not spend time in a local café or perhaps take a ferry to Russell, the first capital of New Zealand. This afternoon enjoy the lush green farmland scenery as you return to Auckland. Hotel: Scenic Hotel (R) or The Cordis (S), Auckland. B

## Day 4: Auckland – Waitomo – Rotorua

Travel through the lush farmland of the Waikato and King Country regions. Enjoy a morning snack as you drive past Rangiriri, the location of a historic Māori Land Wars site. On arrival in the small town of Waitomo, tour with a local guide through the Waitomo Glowworm Caves with their amazing stalactites, stalagmites and other limestone formations. Finish with a silent boat ride through the Glowworm Grotto – a subterranean cavern lit by thousands of tiny Glowworms. Later, travel on to Rotorua, the cultural centre of New Zealand. Hotel: Copthorne Hotel (R) or Millennium Hotel (S), Rotorua, 2 nights. B

## Day 5: Rotorua

Enjoy a sightseeing tour around three of Rotorua's iconic visitor attractions. Experience Te Puia, a place of Māori culture and a thermal wonderland of impressive geysers and boiling mud pools. Explore Rainbow Springs Nature Park, which showcases native flora and fauna. You may even spot a kiwi! Then enjoy a demonstration of New Zealand's agricultural industry with a sheep shearing display and sheep dog trials at the Agrodome Farm Show. Tonight an evening of culture, history and scrumptious food awaits you at the Tamaki Family Marae. Wander through the ancient

forest village and learn about Māori art forms and traditions, followed by a concert featuring local performers. Experience an authentic Māori Hangi meal, steamed underground in the traditional way. B D

## Day 6: Rotorua – Auckland

This morning is at leisure. Later travel through lush Waikato farmland on your way to Auckland. Hotel: Scenic Hotel (R) or The Cordis (S), Auckland. B

## Day 7: Farewell from Auckland

Your short break concludes this morning after breakfast. You'll be transferred to Auckland Airport for your onward flight (flights anytime). B



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