

## LUXURY ADVENTURE CRUISES

6-day / 5-night cruises – The Bay of Islands or Auckland’s Hauraki Gulf



Here is an opportunity to explore New Zealand in the same way as you can on the small luxury cruise boats and barges of France. The ‘Island Passage’ is a beautifully appointed small ship with a stunning interior. Built and equipped to travel to inaccessible areas she offers the highest level of passenger comfort with 12 spacious ensuite cabins, a large dining room/saloon lounge, a library, and generous outdoor living spaces.

The Island Passage carries a landing craft, three large tenders, sea kayaks, a five-seat helicopter, fishing and snorkel equipment and for those looking for less strenuous activities lazing in a deckchair is always an acceptable option. During each journey, our eight-person crew is on hand to share their knowledge of the ocean and local landscapes. For those interested in fishing, several levels are available during the cruises to suit everyone from the novice to the more experienced angler. In the galley, our chef works with the freshest local ingredients and delicacies to create memorable meals that reflect the day’s adventures.

**Departures:** Maximum 21 passengers - departures are subject to a minimum number of 10.

**Bay of Islands:** Sundays: 8, 15, 22 & 29 Jan; 5, 12, 19 & 26 Feb; 4, 11, 18 & 25 Mar 2012

**Hauraki Gulf:** Sundays: 13, 20, 27 & 28 Nov 2011; 1 & 8 April 2012 (ex Auckland)

**Costs per person from:**

<b>Expedition Cabin:</b>	Double (1 x Queen Bed)	AU\$2295	Twin (2 x Single Beds)	AU\$2295
	Single (1 x Queen Bed)	AU\$3445	Triple (3 x Single Beds)	AU\$1595
<b>Stateroom Cabin:</b>	Double (1 x Queen Bed)	AU\$2995	Twin (2 x Single Beds)	AU\$2995
	Single (1 x Queen Bed)	AU\$4495		
<b>Bridge Deck Suite:</b>	Double (1 x King Bed)	AU\$3995	Single (1 x King Bed)	AU\$5995

**Included:** 5 nights onboard accommodation in air-conditioned cabins with ensuite bathrooms with towels (bath & beach), daily cabin cleaning; all onboard chef prepared meals, bottled water, juice, soft drinks & espresso coffee; expedition leaders, guided small boat excursions, guided small boat sport fishing trips, use of all fishing equipment (including lures & bait), snorkeling equipment & sea kayaks; all taxes and port charges.

**Not included:** Alcohol (available from wine cellar & bar onboard), phones/internet use, personal expenses.

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**



## **BAY OF ISLANDS CRUISING - 6-days / 5-nights - Cruising amidst marlin, dolphins and legends...**

### **Suggested itinerary:**

#### **SUNDAY – Depart Opuia**

We depart the port of Opuia at 3.00pm cruising up the Veronica channel lined with moored yachts. Have a glass of champagne and canapés on the back deck as we cruise past the bustling towns of Russell and Paihia with the historic Waitangi Treaty House. In less than two hours we arrive at picturesque Opunga Cove. The Cove is a haven for cruising yachts and launches enjoying the perfect sunset.

Opunga, also known as Assassination Cove, has a fearsome history. French Explorer Marion Du Fresne and 26 of his crew were killed and eaten in this bay in the 1800's. Utu (revenge) was carried out as the crew ignored warnings and fished in a tapu (sacred) area. Thankfully the Tapu has long been removed so our fishing guides can take you to their favourite spots.

#### **MONDAY – Roberton to Urupukapuka Island**

We visit Roberton Island today to swim, snorkel and kayak in the crystal clear lagoon, or wander on the perfect white sand beach. Walking to the top of the hill rewards you with a magnificent view of the Bay of Islands. Roberton or Motuarohia Island also has a murderous history. Mrs Roberton and her farm manager mistreated a Maori worker, which instigated a vicious axe attack (Utu) by Makutu. Mrs Roberton unwisely threatened him with an English hanging and he retaliated by murdering Mrs Roberton and her two daughters and threw her son a 60-metre cliff to his death!

We motor through the islands late afternoon to anchor in beautiful Paradise Bay, Urupukapuka the largest Island in the Bay. Tonight we enjoy our chef's gourmet BBQ with fresh seafood and produce from the local farmers' markets.

#### **TUESDAY – Hole in the Rock & Deep Water Cove**

A morning to relax, with time to explore Urupukapuka Island. Swim, laze, fish or kayak. Join the captain on our landing craft to remote bays or take a walk along some of the Department of Conservation walking tracks marked with signs interpreting archeological and historical sites. Take in the sensational views, Maori Pa sites (fortified Maori villages), and unspoilt coves and beaches.

We cruise through the narrows of the Albert Passage and out into deep water. The colour change in the water is spectacular as we make our way towards Deep Water Cove passing stunning cliffs, Gannet colonies and Cape Brett peninsula. Deep Water Cove is a nature reserve complete with an idyllic waterfall framed by steep forested hillsides. Swim with the Dolphins here, a once in a lifetime experience. A popular option from Deep Water Cove, once the favoured angling base for famous author Zane Grey, is a fishing trip to Piercy Island, the famous 'Hole in the Rock'. If conditions allow we will overnight in this spectacular cove.

#### **WEDNESDAY – Oke Bay to Parekura Bay**

Our next destination is Oke Bay, a favourite for local yachts because of its remote location and totally unspoilt surrounds. We are regularly visited by the local residents...a large pod of dolphins providing a great opportunity for keen photographers. As the sun sets we return through the Albert Passage to our anchorage in Parekura Bay.

#### **THURSDAY – Bay of Islands sailing**

This morning we cross to the other side of the Bay of Islands sailing through the islands dotted with stunning homes tucked into remote bays. Enroute we anchor off the Black Rocks, small outcrops in deep water smothered in Green lipped mussels. Collect fresh mussels for our BBQ lunch. We drop anchor at the Te Pahi

Islands just off the Purerua Peninsula. Time to visit Marsden Cross on the mainland, the site of the first Missionary settlement in New Zealand and the first Christmas service taken by Rev Samuel Marsden, with the local Maori in 1814. Tonight is the Captain's gourmet dinner and watch the sunset with a glass of pinot on the aft deck.

### **FRIDAY – Cruise ends in Russell**

This morning we pass through the Kent Passage on the way to Russell. All ashore for the last time to explore the little town with its craft shops displaying local artisans work, a museum and historic Pompallier French Mission House. Take morning tea on the veranda of the iconic waterfront Duke of Marlborough Hotel overlooking the boats at anchor. The final part of the cruise is up the Veronica Channel to Opuia for a 12.30pm disembarkation.



## **HAURAKI GULF CRUISES - 6-day / 5-nights cruising through the treasure islands of the Hauraki Gulf**

### **Suggested itinerary:**

#### **SUNDAY – Depart Auckland**

Your Hauraki Gulf adventure begins when you board the ship late Sunday afternoon for a 5pm sailing. On the way to our anchorage for the night, the ship passes the extinct volcanic Rangitoto Island. A few decades ago this island was a barren landscape comprised of tumbled basalt lava; today it supports New Zealand's largest pohutukawa forest and prolific birdlife.

Your first night aboard Island Passage is spent anchored at Waiheke Island with dinner served from 7pm. Welcome to Paradise.

#### **MONDAY - Waiheke Island**

Today we explore Waiheke Island. Start with a refreshing ocean swim off the back of the ship. Enjoy a sumptuous breakfast on the aft deck then we are away for a late morning Waiheke wine tasting. Waiheke wines are fast gaining international recognition for their quality and we will introduce you to three of their best vineyards.

#### **TUESDAY - Great Barrier Island**

With no electricity and a population of just 850, Great Barrier Island is the guardian of the gulf. It shields the inner islands, while taking a pounding from the Pacific Ocean on its eastern side. Fitzroy Harbour, on the sheltered side of the island, is one of the country's most naturally gifted harbours. The water is deep - right up to the shore - making it possible to anchor and tie the stern to a pohutukawa tree.

The island has a colourful history involving whaling, gold and silver mining, shipwrecks and alternative lifestyles. Today, a passion for conservation connects the residents who believe (with good reason) that they've found heaven on earth. More than 120 kilometres of walking tracks let you connect with Great Barrier Island's wild spirit.

Entering Port Fitzroy on Great Barrier Island, you'll awake to the extraordinary beauty of Fitzroy Harbour. This deep-water island sanctuary will be your launching pad for two days of soft, medium or hard adventure.

The Glenfern Sanctuary guided walk will give you a special insight into the natural world of Great Barrier Island. The sanctuary, which is on the Kotuku Peninsula, near Port Fitzroy, has an extensive network of walking tracks. A highlight is the swing bridge that enables you to climb into the crown of a 600-year-old Kauri tree.

The Kaiaraara kauri dam is a relic from the island's forestry days. Constructed entirely from Kauri logs, it has a 'trapdoor' that opens to let the water and logs pass through. The hot pools in Kaitoke Creek are another goal

to aim for when planning your Great Barrier Island hikes. We trade some fish booty for fresh local green-lipped mussels that are sensational on the BBQ with a glass of New Zealand's renowned Chardonnay.



### **WEDNESDAY – Coast hopping**

Coastal explorations are a large part of the trip. You can do it the fast way, in one of our high-powered tenders, or you can slip into a sea kayak and enjoy the tranquility of paddling at your pace. And then there's the fantastic fishing – you catch 'em, we'll cook 'em.

The choices of activity are many: forest-hiking to the Kauri dam; Kaitoke hot springs, or the summit of Mount Hobson; a peaceful kayak tour on the pristine waters of the harbour; a trip to Miners Head in one of our tenders; fishing at a spot known only to the locals; seabird photography from a chair on the deck. We'll help you to find outdoor entertainments that suit your interests and fitness level.

### **THURSDAY - Kawau Island**

Kawau's character rests on the historic shoulders of Sir George Grey, who owned the island from 1862 to 1888. Kawau Island is almost bisected by the long inlet of Bon Accord Harbour, which is geologically a 'drowned valley'. Within this sheltered haven there are many attractive bays; however, Mansion House Bay is the most remarkable.

Here, you can tour Sir George Grey's stately home, then stroll along the road that Grey's carriage (pulled by two zebras!) used to take. From the historic coach road, a track leads to the picturesque ruins of an underground seashore copper mine.

Another great Kawau walk is the Redwood Track, which reveals an interesting collection of exotic trees planted by Grey – redwoods, Australian bush cherry and bunya-bunya pines, to name just a few. A visit to the yacht club will uncover some interesting local characters, and you'll find that the fishing around Kawau is most rewarding.

### **FRIDAY – Tiri to Auckland**

Tiri Tiri Matangi represents the glory of conservation success – an eroded farm that has been ecologically restored. Tiri (as the locals call it) is one of New Zealand's most important and exciting conservation projects. An ecological restoration process that began in 1984 has transformed the island from eroded farmland into a sanctuary for rare birds.

This island is ideal for bird watching. A network of walking trails lets you explore a range of beautiful natural environments. Highlights include: encounters with takahe, the most rare of New Zealand's flightless birds; and kokako, which were on the brink of extinction. Nectar feeding stations are usually a frenzy of bellbirds – interrupted regularly by much-larger tui. Fantails enjoy leading you along the higher tracks, where bright green kakariki parrots also like to hang out. At Hobbs Beach, penguin-nesting boxes are occupied in spring.

Department of Conservation volunteers are available to lead your walk around this beautiful island sanctuary. We arrive back in Auckland at about midday on Friday.

Outdoor Travel offer a wide variety of active holidays in New Zealand including cycling, sea-kayaking and the famous Milford Sound Track. We also offer hotel barge cruises on waterways in France and in many destinations in the United Kingdom and Europe. Contact **Outdoor Travel** for details:

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