



LUXURY CRUISES AND CHARTERS

Bay of Islands – Waiheke Island – Auckland's Hauraki Gulf



NEW ZEALAND
2011/2012

HAURAKI GULF CRUISES

from Auckland, 5 Nights – November, March and April



Take a Waiheke winery tour, or fishing and kayaking at Great Barrier Island. Explore historic Kawau Island. Enjoy guided bush walks – Hauraki Gulf Cruises, the ultimate in Auckland cruises.

Cruise from Auckland and sail out into the Hauraki Gulf on one of Island Escape's famous Hauraki Gulf Cruises. You'll enjoy first class excursions led by expert guides who travel with you and uncover the mysteries of the region's wildlife. Plus, you'll get a chance to go on guided walks, kayaking, fishing, small boat exploration, shore transfers and island tours. Or hey, you could choose to simply relax with a good book from the library or laze on a steamer chair in the sun. You decide...

Island Escape's Hauraki Gulf Cruises include luxury accommodation, all onboard chef prepared meals, juices, water, exclusive shore excursions, snorkel equipment, kayaks and small boat exploration, onboard expedition leader, fishing equipment and guides.



explore new horizons

Hauraki Gulf Cruises

5 nights of luxury cruising through the treasure islands of the Hauraki Gulf

DAY 1 SUNDAY

Dinner

Your Hauraki Gulf Cruise 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 glides past the volcanic island Rangitoto. 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 will be spent anchored at Waiheke Island.

DAY 2 MONDAY

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today provides the opportunity to explore Waiheke Island. Begin with a refreshing ocean swim off the back of the ship. Enjoy a sumptuous breakfast on the deck. Then, choose the morning's activity. Include an indulgent, fully-guided Waiheke winery tour. Beachcombing on these islands is also the perfect start to your adventure.



WAIHEKE WINE TIME

A vineyard discovery tour will introduce you to the island's famous cabernet sauvignon, merlot, cabernet franc and malbec. Waiheke's clay soils have a layer of 'rotten rock' beneath, which helps to produce complex, intense red wine.

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DAY 3 TUESDAY Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

GREAT BARRIER ISLAND

The final frontier. Half the size of Singapore, but 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.

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.

DAY 4 WEDNESDAY Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Coastal explorations are actively encouraged on Island Passage. 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 a paddling tour. And then there's the fishing – you catch 'em, we'll cook 'em.

Entering Port Fitzroy, Gt 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 choices 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.



Places of interest – 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.



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DAY 5 THURSDAY

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

DAY 6 FRIDAY

Breakfast

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 a twitter's dream come true. A network of walking trails lets you explore a range of beautiful natural environments. Highlights include: encounters with takahe, the rarest of NZ'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.

Island Passage arrives back in Auckland at noon on Friday.

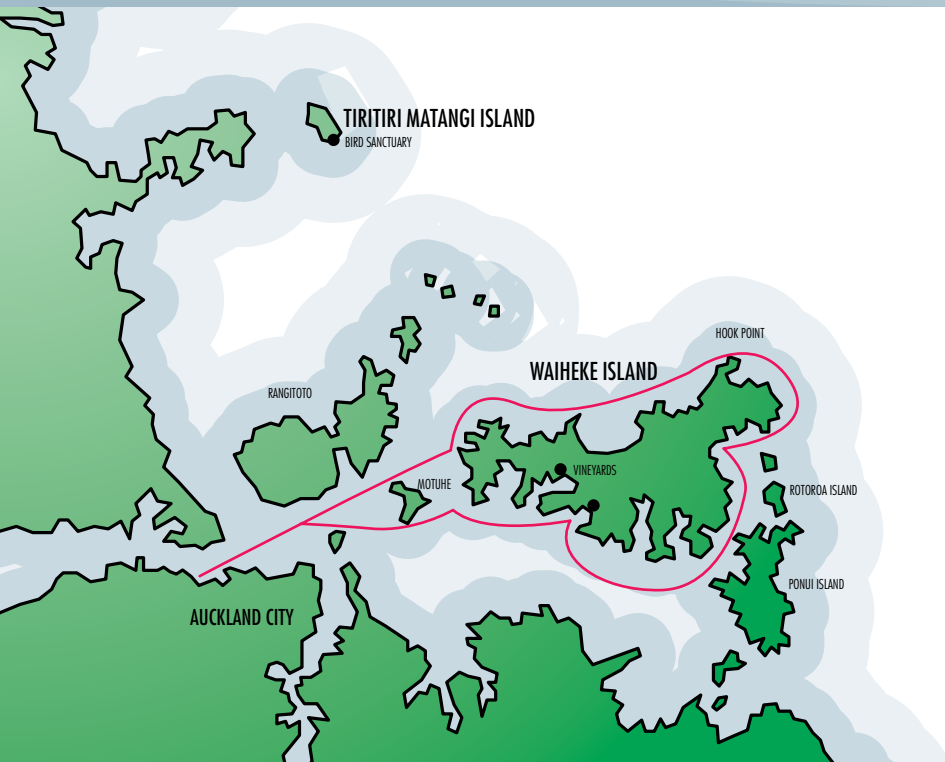


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Auckland 1010, New Zealand

Waiheke Island Escape Cruise – December/January

2 Nights Escape to Auckland's Waiheke Island



Onetangi Beach, Waiheke Island

ON YOUR WAIHEKE ISLAND ESCAPE you can be as active or laid back as you choose. After an evening cruise, fine dining and a great night's sleep, you'll wake fresh and ready to explore the island. Discover the magnificent marine environment, walk barefoot on sandy beaches, take a guided tour of some leading New Zealand vineyards or relax with a book in a steamer chair – it's up to you. We'll help you find the kind of relaxation you need.



explore new horizons

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DAY 1

Your Waiheke Island adventure begins when you board the ship late afternoon for a 5pm sailing. On the way to our anchorage for the night, the ship glides past volcanic Rangitoto Island. A few decades ago this island was a barren landscape of tumbled basalt lava; today it supports New Zealand's largest pohutukawa forest and prolific birdlife. Your first night aboard Island Passage will be spent anchored at Waiheke Is.

DAY 2

Today provides the opportunity to explore Waiheke. Begin with an invigorating ocean swim off the back of the ship, enjoy a sumptuous breakfast on the deck, then ease into a day of enjoyment Waiheke-style.

Beachcombing is always blissful – a perfect way to start to your adventure. Or slip into a sea kayak and enjoy the tranquility of a paddling tour. And if you want to see a lot in a short time, you can discover the island's coastal secrets in one of our high-powered tenders. To fully appreciate this island's special character, be sure to include an indulgent fully guided Waiheke wine experience. Then there's the fishing – you catch 'em, we'll cook 'em. There's nothing quite like reeling in your own dinner.

DAY 3

After a leisurely 'island time' start to the day, we depart from Waiheke mid-morning. A hearty brunch is served on the aft deck as we sail through the islands and bays towards Auckland. Island Passage arrives back alongside Princes Wharf at noon.



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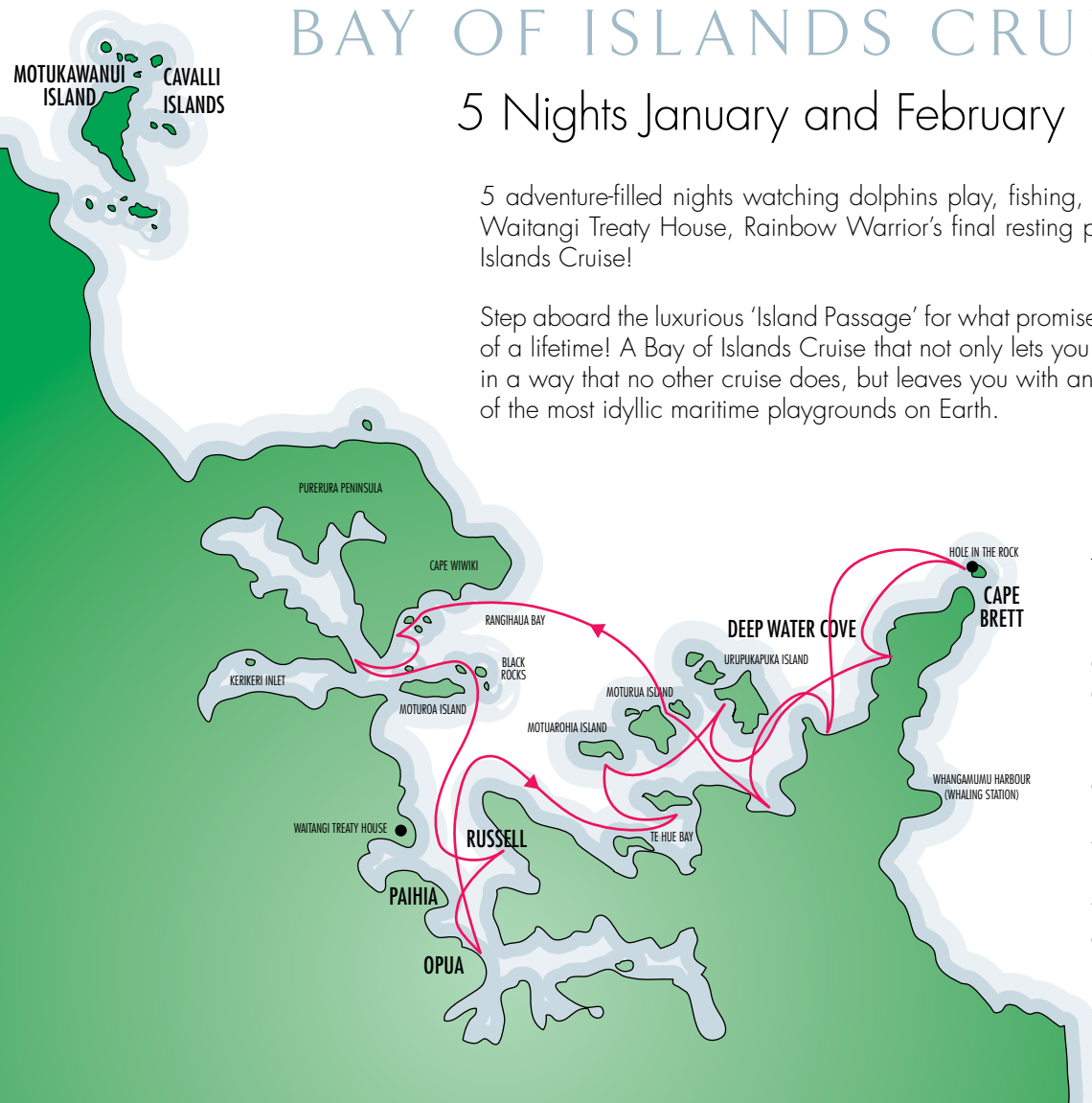
BAY OF ISLANDS CRUISES

5 Nights January and February

5 adventure-filled nights watching dolphins play, fishing, visiting the "Hole-In-The-Rock", Waitangi Treaty House, Rainbow Warrior's final resting place – it's the Ultimate Bay of Islands Cruise!

Step aboard the luxurious 'Island Passage' for what promises to be the cruising experience of a lifetime! A Bay of Islands Cruise that not only lets you explore these beautiful islands in a way that no other cruise does, but leaves you with an ever-lasting impression of one of the most idyllic maritime playgrounds on Earth.

The 144 islands that make up the Bay of Islands are a haven for holiday makers – especially those who enjoy sea activities and the beauty of the uncrowded sub-tropical sandy beaches and native forests. It's also an area of considerable historical significance, made famous over a century ago by legendary author and game fisherman, Zane Grey. It's the cradle of European civilisation in New Zealand.



explore new horizons

Bay Of Islands Cruises

5 Nights January and February

YOUR BAY OF ISLANDS CRUISE ITINERARY

5 luxurious nights January and February – Cruising amidst marlin, dolphins and legends... as you gaze in wonder at the edge of the world!

DAY 1 SUNDAY 3PM

We depart the port of Opuia this afternoon cruising up the sleepy Veronica channel lined with moored yachts. Enjoy 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 peaceful Opunga Cove. The Cove is full of 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 for the catch of the day.

DAY 2 MONDAY

We visit Roberton Island today to swim snorkel and kayak in the crystal clear lagoon, or just laze on the perfect white sand beach. A walk 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 cruise through the islands late afternoon to anchor in beautiful Paradise Bay, Urupukapuka the largest Island in the Bay. Tonight we enjoy our chef's sumptuous gourmet BBQ with fresh seafood and produce from the local farmers markets.

Maori War Canoes, Waitangi



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Bay Of Islands Cruises

5 Nights January and February

DAY 3 TUESDAY

A relaxed morning with time to discover magnificent Urupukapuka Island including swimming fishing or kayaking. Join the captains exploration cruise on the 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. Enjoy 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. Guests frequently experience swimming with the Dolphins here, a once in a lifetime experience. A popular option from Deep Water Cove, once the favoured angling base for famous 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.

DAY 4 WEDNESDAY

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 a snug anchorage in Parekura Bay.

DAY 5 THURSDAY

This morning we meander across 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. The guests can forage for our lunch menu of fresh mussels on the BBQ... a cruise highlight. 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. This is the last night of the cruise and we enjoy the Captain's gourmet dinner and the still starlit night is interrupted only by the shrill call of the Kiwi birds, inhabiting the thick bush on cliffs beyond.



explore new horizons

Bay Of Islands Cruises

5 Nights January and February

DAY 6 FRIDAY

This morning Island Passage passes through the Kent Passage on the way to Russell. All ashore for the last time to explore the little town boasting craft shops displaying local artisans work, a museum and historic Pompallier French Mission House. We say farewell to the Bay of Islands with a morning tea on the veranda of the iconic waterfront Duke of Marlborough Hotel overlooking the boats at anchor.

Our final part of the cruise takes us up the Veronica Channel to Opuia for 12.30pm disembarkation.



Historic Russell, Bay of Islands



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YOUR FLOATING RESORT



When the ship was designed, the instructions were to provide a luxurious layout, uncrowded and very comfortable areas for a maximum of 20 guests.

This has been well achieved. You will encounter the spacious saloon and dining area on the promenade deck; a large aft teak deck with steamer chairs and ease of access to the tenders. Oversized cabins and ensuite, wide teak decks for strolling the ship create an overwhelming feeling of being on board a small private yacht.



The 'Island Passage' is perfect for a leisurely break from a hectic lifestyle. We have accommodation on board for only 20 passengers. The ten spacious and individually designed cabins, with timber panelling and hand made furniture are fitted with DVD, flat screen TV and are separately air-conditioned.

Most have doors that open directly onto the outer teak deck. Each cabin has its own large, private ensuite.



explore new horizons

YOUR FLOATING RESORT



Clear sparkling water and warm fresh air not only clears your mind, it will build your appetite. Our chef is dedicated to making every meal magnificent. Local seafood (maybe even some caught yourself) is often on the menu. You'll enjoy other delicacies and organic artisan foods produced in the local region. Breakfast and lunch are usually served on the aft deck, so that you won't miss a minute of the beautiful scenery.

Evenings are a highlight of small ship cruising, where the mood changes on board to sunset cocktails, white linen dining and personal service as you enjoy our excellent Pacific cuisine. Our on-board wine cellar is brimming with a selection of award-winning New Zealand wines. You won't need to remember the recipe for your favourite aperitif; our bartender is well-versed in the magic of mixology.

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RATES & DATES 2011/2012 (Based on Per Person)

AUCKLAND / BAY OF ISLANDS

HAURAKI GULF CRUISE

BAY OF ISLANDS LUXURY CRUISE

5 NIGHTS	TWIN/DOUBLE	
CABIN CATEGORY	NZD	AUD
Expedition Cabin	3750	2995
Ocean Stateroom	4950	3995
Bridge Deck Suite	6250	4995

AUCKLAND DEPARTURE DATES

04, 08, 12, 16, 20, 24, 30 **December 2011**
02, 04 **January 2012**

BAY OF ISLANDS DEPARTURE DATES

Sunday 08, 15, 22, 29 **January 2012**
Sunday 05, 12, 19, 26 **February 2012**
Sunday 04, 11, 18, 25 **March 2012**

INCLUDED IN YOUR CRUISE PRICE

- En-suite accommodations – all outside cabins
- All included shore excursions as described
- Onboard professional cruise leader
- Use of all tenders, kayaks, snorkel and fishing gear
- All onboard chef prepared cuisine
- Complimentary coffee, tea, juices, water or soft drinks
- All port charges, taxes, fees and onboard services

WAIHEKE

LUXURY WAIHEKE ISLAND ESCAPE CRUISE

2 NIGHTS	TWIN/DOUBLE	
CABIN CATEGORY	NZD	AUD
Expedition Cabin	1495	1195
Ocean Stateroom	1995	1595
Bridge Deck Suite	2495	1995

DEPARTURE DATES

Sunday 13, 20, 27, 28 **November 2011**
Sunday 01, 08 **April 2012**

PRIVATE SHIP CHARTERS

	NZD	AUD
5 NIGHTS	85140	68310
2 NIGHTS WAIHEKE	34110	27270



BRIDGE DECK SUITE



OCEAN STATEROOM



EXPEDITION CABIN



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