

5 Days/4 Nights in Northland

We love Northland and **Whangarei** is our favourite place of all – and still an insider tip even for New Zealanders who only know about the city. The beautiful beaches can match any in the world, the native bush (forest) is unique and the viewpoints are fantastic.

The **6 must do's of Whangarei** are:

- A stroll around the **Yacht Harbour** at the Town Basin,
- The 20 minute **Canopy Walk** in AH Reed Park with some huge 500yr old Kauri trees,
- A quick visit to the impressive 26m **Whangarei Falls**,
- A few hours at the wild and undeveloped Whangarei Heads **Ocean Beach**,
- The steep climb to fantastic 360° views up **Mount Manaia**,
- If you're a diver you have to get to know the extraordinary **Poor Knights Islands**. There are day trips (if you like with a jet boat) for snorkellers and dolphin/penguin watchers, taking in the biggest sea cave in the world.



1. From Auckland head north via **Waipoua Forest**, **Lang's Beach** and **Mangawhai Heads**, as well as **Whangarei Falls** and **Canopy Walk**
2. Have dinner at the **Whangarei Yacht Harbour** at the town basin
3. *Overnight at Whangarei Views B&B*
4. Explore the **Whangarei Heads** with Parihaka Lookout, **Ocean Beach**, **Mount Manaia** and many other highlights
5. Have a BBQ in the garden
6. *Overnight at Whangarei Views B&B*
7. Dive at the **Poor Knights** or check out the **Tutukaka Coast**
8. *Overnight at Whangarei Views B&B*
9. Visit **Hundertwasser Toilets**, **Russell**, **Bay of Islands** and **Waitangi Treaty ground**
10. *Overnight somewhere on the way to Hokianga Harbour*
11. **Waipoua Forest** with Tane Mahuta and Te Matua Ngahere, via **Bayley's Beach** to the **Kauri Museum** in Matakohē and **Waiwera Thermal Park**

The other Northland highlights on our map are:

- **Langs Beach, Waipu Cove and Mangawhai Heads:** It's worth to stop the car and take in the breeze on the beaches of this beautiful coast line.
- **Whangarei Heads:** The scenic drive along this Pohutukawa lined coast passes many picturesque bays, bush walks and Polynesian style volcanic summits until the roads end at wild ocean beaches – and only a few surfers to share them with.
- **Tutukaka Coast:** Another gem of Northland with gorgeous bays, peaceful river estuaries and million dollar baches (holiday homes).
- **Hundertwasser Toilets** at Kawakawa: Friedensreich lived in the area and dedicated this colourful piece of art to his community, now the whole town benefits from all the visitors.
- **Russell:** The oldest town in New Zealand has retained some of its old architecture, offers a lovely waterfront to stroll on and short walks to views and beaches.
- **Bay of Islands Cruise:** Only by boat can you experience the beauty of the bay, and maybe even swim with dolphins.
- **Waitangi Treaty ground:** This beautiful spot is where Maori and British signed the founding document of New Zealand. Today you can visit one of the most beautiful Maraes in the country and attend interesting Maori dance and song performances.
- **Cape Reinga:** For Maori of highest significance, the northern cape is where their spirits are believed to leave New Zealand and travel back home to Hawaiiiki. You can also take one of many diverse tours along 90 Mile Beach to get there.
- **Waipoua Forest:** The biggest remaining Kauri forest is wonderful to drive through and you'll never forget your encounters with Tane Mahuta and Te Matua Ngahere, the two oldest (we heard 2000 years old) and biggest Kauri trees of New Zealand.
- **Bayleys Beach:** Just like on 90 Mile Beach, here you can drive up to 100kmph on incredible 110kms of pure wide sand, but try to avoid the soft sand and flood...
- **Kauri Museum** in Matakoho: Find out about how the early settlers of New Zealand logged the mighty Kauri trees of Northland and see how big they were.
- **Waiwera Thermal Park:** If Northland wasn't relaxing enough these pools will do the trick!