

# Whangarei Views Bed and Breakfast

Our Bed and Breakfast location is **scenic AND central!** Share our gorgeous private views over the Whangarei valley.

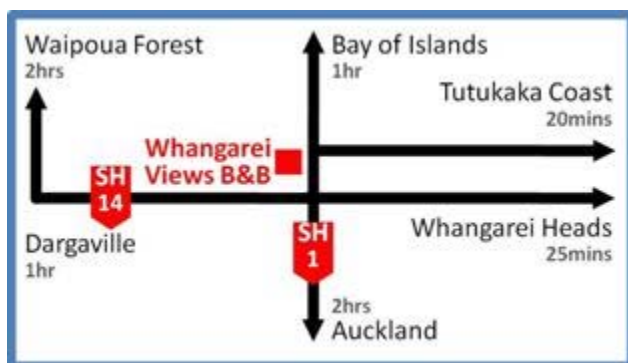
Discover Northland using our **diving, walking and travel expertise** in **English, Swiss-German, French and Spanish** (we have outstanding travel experience and run a local tour company) or just relax in your own comfortable lounge and garden. Get as excited about Whangarei and Northland as we are!



In our house you can either **rent the whole self-contained apartment** (two bedrooms, sleeps 4 - from 160 NZD) **or one of the two bedrooms** (from 80 NZD) in our **separate B&B floor** (private entrance and parking). It

has a fully fitted kitchen and spacious lounge that opens up onto the garden next to a scenic reserve.

Be as private or as sociable as you like: choose if you want your breakfast prepared or simply provisions provided.



Ideally located to explore the **spectacular beaches and natural bush walks** of both the Whangarei Heads and Tutukaka coast. 2 minutes driving to supermarkets, pubs and cafés, walking distance to the "Subtropical Quarry Garden" and the ASB sports grounds.

## Why Whangarei?

Whangarei is well connected on the Twin Coast Highway and being only 2 hrs drive from Auckland is an ideal first stop and a great base to further explore Northland.

It is **rich in Maori culture and heritage** with many historic pa sites, offers **some of the finest beaches in the world**, has **world class diving**, a great range of **golf courses**, many **gorgeous and uncrowded bush and beach walks** together with great examples of the most stunning natural beauty which is unique to NZ.

There are **plenty of things to see and do in Whangarei**, visit the well known **Whangarei falls**, walk among the treetops and ancient Kauri trees at **AH Reed canopy walk**, go big game or freshwater **fishing**, go **sailing** around the 10km harbour or out to one of the many outlying islands, dive or sightsee the famous **Poor Knights islands**, try **riding a horse** along the beach or up a native forest stream, or just have a coffee and wander around the many **art galleries and shops**, to name but a few.

Also save time and money **exploring the Bay of Islands from Whangarei!**

## Our house and the rooms



We live in a 13yr old modern 'executive' house with a lovely sunny position and great views overlooking the Whangarei valley. Opposite is the impressive Mount Parihaka (an extinct volcano with ancient Maori Pa).

We have a **mature subtropical garden** leading onto a scenic reserve which means that we get lots of relatively rare native birds flying in and around the garden. You'll probably hear fat wood pigeons flapping over your head, Tuis singing weirdly (enjoy with a glass of wine at sunset), or meet some of the cheeky fantails flitting around within touching distance.



The **B&B floor** is a private area dedicated to our guests, it has its own driveway, safe off street parking, private entrance and access directly to the garden. The **fully fitted self contained apartment** has 2 bedrooms which can be rented separately – guests share all the infrastructure if both rooms are booked. You can also rent the whole apartment for your family, friends, or enjoy some luxury for yourself.

In the **lounge** you can relax on the comfy new leather sofa and put your feet up in one of the reclining chairs, watch TV or select one of our DVDs, enjoy dinner at the dining table that seats 6. The lounge and bedrooms have a real wooden floor (Hevea from a renewable wood source).



**King bedroom:** Enjoy a Posturezone King size bed, specially selected to ensure you have a great night's sleep. Natural wooden floor with cosy sheepskin rugs. Step out directly onto the spacious patio and garden, relax with a wonderful view over the Whangarei valley and listen to the birds. The room is fully equipped with a hairdryer, heated towel rail, dresser with mirror, built-in wardrobe and two bedside tables.

**Super King/Twin bedroom:** Enjoy the Posturezone Twin beds which have been specially made to zip and form a Super King size bed. Natural wooden floor with cosy sheepskin rugs. This room has a lovely private 2 sided view into our subtropical garden, wake with the sound of birdsong. The room is fully equipped with a hairdryer, heated towel rail, dresser, mirror, built-in wardrobe and two bedside tables.



The **kitchen** is fully fitted if you wish to self cater....but wouldn't you prefer to have breakfast made by us and to cook a kiwi style barbecue for dinner?

In the **garden** you can play Badminton, throw a rugby ball or frisbee, explore the native plants on our own little bush walk or just relax and read a book on the deck or patio.

You are always welcome to join us for a drink on our balcony, we'd love to hear your travel stories and we are happy to share what there is to do in the area or help you with your itinerary.

## Our Prices

Apartment with 4 person occupancy	220 NZD
Apartment with 3 person occupancy	190 NZD
Apartment with 2 person occupancy	160 NZD
King room / Twin room with 2 person occupancy	110 NZD
Twin room with 1 person occupancy	80 NZD
Children up to age 16 with additional mattress in the King room	10 NZD

Earliest **check in 1 pm**, latest **check out 11am**, (if you need to check in or out at other times please let us know)

**Delicious continental breakfast included** (choose if you want us to prepare it or simply ask for provisions to be provided)

- **FREE** use of our library and DVDs
- **FREE** wireless or regular internet access
- **FREE** tea/coffee making facilities
- **FREE** use of washing machine
- **FREE** use of BBQ
- **FREE** tour bookings and advice
- **FREE** pickup - courtesy car will meet you if travelling by bus

Excellent espressos and lattes (2.50 and 3.50 NZD)

Frozen microwave dinners and barbecue meat

Photo CD burning (5 NZD)

Ask Wendy for interesting tour packages

**Cancellation policy:** Please understand that your booking generates a chain of events i.e. buying food, servicing the apartment, cancelling personal activities, missed bookings, etc.

- For weekend cancellations less than one week ahead 50% will be charged to your credit card

- For other cancellations after 12 noon the day before 50% of the first night's price will be charged to your credit card

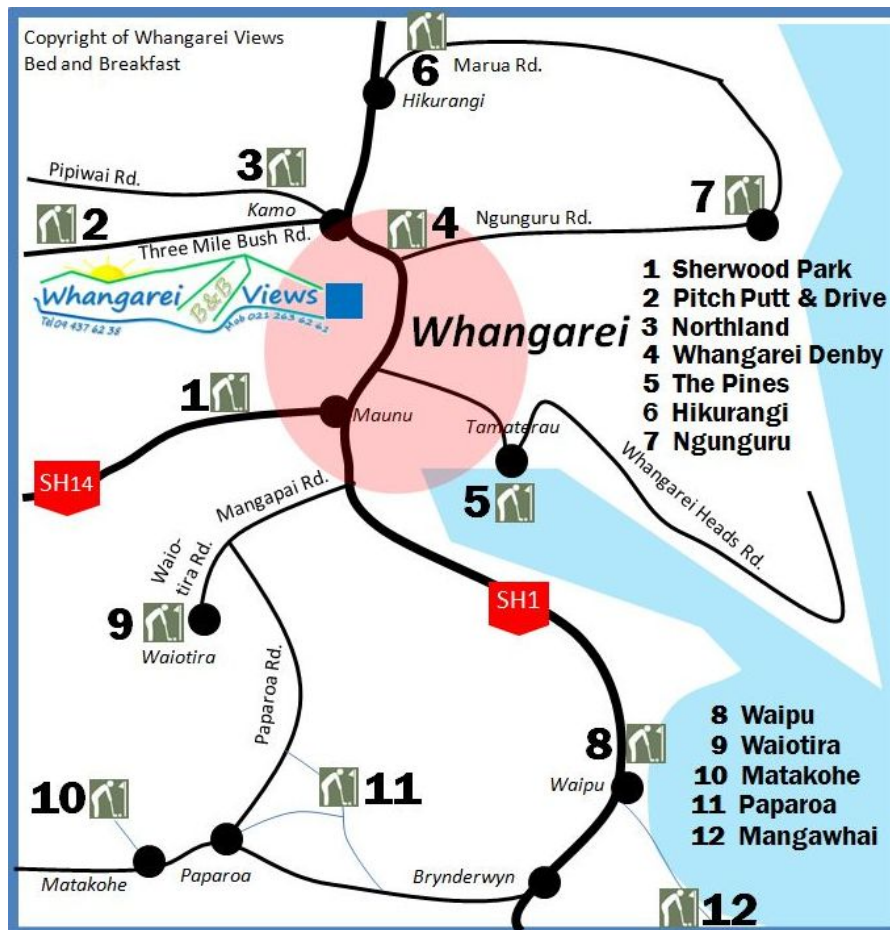
If you would prefer not to send us your credit card details via email then you can telephone us or **securely book online through the AA Online Booking System.**

## Golf

Whangarei has **8 golf courses within 30mins drive of our B&B**, that's one for every day of the week! For those used to the prices in Europe golfing here will be a pleasant surprise, **fees start from NZD5**. There are both 9 and 18 holes, you can walk or hire a cart and the courses range from easy to challenging.

Test your skills while enjoying the native trees and birdlife, take in the magnificent views of Bream Bay, or even enjoy the challenge of golfing on sheep grazed and mown fairways with fenced greens. Whatever your preference, you are sure to find something to suit you in Whangarei.

This is a map of all the **12 golf courses we know about in our region** (5 of them are on the Northland Golf Trail). For more information please send us an email.



## Diving

Many people have no idea that New Zealand is a great place to dive. They haven't heard of Jacques Cousteau's claim that this is **one of the top 10 dive spots in the world!** The clue is that it is not tropical, but **subtropical diving**. The Poor Knights are New Zealand's oldest island reserve, protected by an encompassing **marine reserve**.

Water temperature is around 18-22°C, but thanks to the 7mm wetsuits a shivering dive can be avoided. Actually the water is warmer than it should be, thanks to a **warm current from Northern Australia** (probably the one Nemo's dad was floating on), bringing with it some exotic fish larvae. Extraordinary are the **giant schools of fish** (Snapper, Maomao and many more), the stingrays that come to breed in summer, colourful nudibranchs and the large **variety of rare (and often endemic) species** who live there: sharks, Kingfish, John Dory, Lord Howe Coralfish, Long-finned Boarfish, prolific wall life, dolphins, seals, giant salps, kelp forests, crayfish, seahorses, turtles, crabs, sunfish...as well as natural arches, caves, tunnels and vertical underwater cliffs. You can even dive in the largest underwater cave in the world. Visibility ranges from 10m-40m (the plankton bloom in spring brings fantastic fish life, better visibility towards the end of summer through to winter). Dive companies are very professional and the trip itself is an experience even for non divers, there are **over 60 dive sites** that will keep you more than occupied. You can also dive the **Waikato and Tui wrecks** at Tutukaka.

The Poor Knights islands are also extraordinary on land. Once inhabited by the local Ngatiwai ("people of the sea") tribe, they were never resettled after a massive slaughter by enemies, and declared tapu (sacred/prohibited) thereafter. The islands are one of the few places where Tuataras, Wetas, Kaka parrots, Little Blue Penguins and many more rare species can survive.

Also here in Northland the sunken **Rainbow Warrior** off Matauri Bay and soon the **Canterbury** in the Bay of Islands invite you to discover their secrets. New Zealand is suitable for divers of all levels. On Cousteau's website it says: "There were so many wonders to show that two films were produced."

## Other Activities

There is a huge range of activities in the Whangarei region, **such as these for good weather days:**

World class diving, golf on one of 7 courses, snorkel in marine parks, swim with dolphins, kayak the ocean and rivers, relax on one of the many beaches or beautiful bays - over a dozen we highly recommend, visit the local wineries, catch a trout or go big game fishing, horse riding on the beach in the bush or river, explore by bike, sail the harbour or ocean, learn to surf, go caving to see glow worms, take a helicopter or scenic flight, join a working bee in the Subtropical Quarry Garden, take a day cruise to the Poor Knights Islands, go on a day trip to the Bay of Islands, picnic at the impressive Whangarei Falls, have lunch and then stroll the Yacht Harbour, make a historic rivercruise, cheer on a team at a rugby or cricket game, sample local theatre, visit an orchid grower, view the stars at the observatory, test your skill at outdoor or indoor rock climbing, abseil the Whangarei Falls, join a working bee to a Kiwi sanctuary island, pet the animals at a farm park, enjoy the scents of the Rose Garden, place a bet at the horse races, join a fun run or walk or another public sports event, discover a historic pa site, do one of many easy or challenging walks: forest walks, mangrove walks, kauri tree walks, Pa Site walks, lookout and summit walks, four different waterfall walks, hidden bay walks or join in at one of the many regular events throughout the year (an A&P show with sheepdog trials, rodeos, concerts etc.).

### Or these activities for bad weather:

Swim and relax at the Aquatic Centre & Spa, see local history at the Whangarei Museum and Heritage Park, peek at a live kiwi, visit a historic homestead, listen to a talking Tui at the Native Bird Recovery Centre, see the largest fernery in NZ, go on the Oil Refinery Tour, wonder at Clapham's Clock Museum, peruse art galleries, take in the latest film at the multiplex cinema, shop at the boutiques and galleries, go olive oil tasting, visit a buddhist monestary, have a coffee and read the latest magazines in the modern library, cuddle a white lion at the lion park, go wining and dining at one of the fine restaurants or bars, follow a sculpture tour around town, view the Whangarei Art Museum, combine history and art at Reyburn House Gallery and Museum (the oldest early settler house in Whangarei), learn how to make paper, try your hand at flax weaving, see how kiwis live by visiting an open home, get bowled over at Ten Pin Bowling, drink the local brew at the brewery, get takeaway sushi, pizza, chinese or fish n' chips....

We would love to give you more details on any of the above activities or maybe there is something that we have missed, please just ask us.

And if you prefer to enjoy your holidays to the max, then ask Wendy, she will be happy to take you on a **personal tour around Whangarei!**

We are also developing a growing database of activities from all over NZ, we're glad to help you planning your trip!

## Who we are

We are a Swiss-British couple who have recently moved from Switzerland to beautiful New Zealand, excited to live in one of our favourite places that we discovered on our travels, a great spot with world class diving.

**Wendy** was originally an accountant in England, after travelling independently for 2.5 years she went to work in India for 2 years as a tour leader, because of Urbi she moved to Switzerland for 7 years where she started another successful career as an HR manager. She fell in love with NZ, because when travelling she was handed from one new found friend to another, helping out on sheep and dairy farms, orchards, squid and sail boats and finally a backpackers hostel.

**Urbi** met Wendy as he travelled around the world for 2 years after his studies and then returned to Switzerland to develop banking products. As a child he wanted to become an archeologist, he is still thrilled by ancient Rome, has chased many famous temples around the world, always trying to speak new languages, now he is excited to live in a culture with Polynesian roots, with so much to understand and learn again.

We still love to travel and put our outstanding travel experience (over 50 countries so far) to good use running a tour company in Whangarei - after a globetrotting life we are more than happy to share our NZ dream and home with you!



## How to find us

### Driving north from Auckland:

After entering Whangarei continue north on State Highway 1, past the Visitor Centre on the left and past the turn off for Town Centre and Town Basin on the right. After 3kms and 3 traffic lights turn left into Russell Road at the brown sign for the "Subtropical Quarry Garden", crossing a little river.

Follow Russell Road almost to the end, just before you cross another bridge our driveway number 75 is on the left hand side, to the right side of a chalet style collection of mailboxes. We are the third house up on the left side.

### Driving south from the Bay of Islands:

Stay on State Highway 1 (do not go to Whangarei Town Basin), just before the ASB Sports Centre on your left, turn right into Douglas Street, follow the road and this will automatically change into Russell Road, cross the bridge, turn into the first drive on the right with a chalet style collection of mailboxes, drive to the right of the mailboxes. We are the third house up on the left side.

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