

The Bay of Islands and the region north of Auckland is a world of sea and sand, beaches and bush-clad bays, a perfect place to relax after or before a long flight, or simply to get away to for a precious long weekend. Take a boat cruise, sail, swim with dolphins, kayak, picnic on the beach, paddle board, dive, fish or just retreat and recover. The region is also one of New Zealand's most historically significant, both in terms of Maori and European history and settlement and has a fascinating mix of cultural and historical sites to explore. Weather is subtropical and mild.

The Bay of Islands and the Coromandel Peninsula are the only two regions in New Zealand still to hold remnant stands of the great New Zealand Kauri forests. These magnificent native New Zealand trees grow to be 1000 years old and are some of the tallest trees in the world, but they were largely wiped out due to their suitability for ship masts over 100 years ago. If you are driving north from Auckland the Kauri Museum at Matakoho is well worth a visit to immerse yourself in the resourcefulness and character of early New Zealand European settlement. In Russell, visit the Waitangi Treaty Grounds (ferry from Paihia). The Treaty is today the basis of Maori-European partnership in New Zealand. Matauri Bay, 30 mins drive from Keri Keri and just a short distance from Takou Bay, is home to Mataatua Pahi, a Maori war canoe built to commemorate the great Pacific migration that brought the Maori people to New Zealand. A short walk up from the bay is the memorial to the Rainbow Warrior. Two and a half hours drive north of Keri Keri you reach Cape Reinga and the northernmost tip of New Zealand where the seas of the Pacific Ocean and Tasman Sea collide. Take the 10 minute stroll down to the lighthouse at the Cape or explore further along the stunning Te Pahi Coastal Track.



Highlights

Beaches

Boat trips & Sailing with dolphins

New Zealand Maori history & Waitangi Treaty grounds,

Cape Reinga

Kauri Forest

Golf at Kauri Cliffs