

Discover Aotea Great Barrier

Tuesday 19 April - Saturday 23 April 2022

4 nights

TOUR OVERVIEW

Escape to a stunning unspoiled island, a world away but just thirty minutes scenic flight from Auckland.

Aotea Great Barrier has stunning coastline, rugged mountain ranges, beautiful native bush and friendly and welcoming locals. The island has a rich history from ancestral Polynesian inhabitants to early European settlers attracted by abundant natural resources of kauri, copper, silver and gold and whaling which has resulted in several booms and busts. The islanders have a strong connection to nature and sixty percent of the island is Department of Conservation land.

You will experience native flora and fauna, beautiful beaches and coastline on this tour.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Cruise the coastline
- Enjoy the vast night sky. Great Barrier is a dark sky sanctuary
- Explore interesting local museums and learn the rich history of the island: gold and silver mining; kauri timber milling and whaling.
- Meet local artisans and growers.
- Enjoy free time to wander the beaches and enjoy the serenity of this beautiful island
- Visit Glenfern sanctuary and discover the challenges and successes of the pest control and native plant and bird reintroduction.
- Enjoy an exhilarating (optional) joyride on a 3 wheeled Harley style motorcycle (as a passenger!)

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- The services of an experienced New Zealand based Calder & Lawson Tours tour manager
- 4 nights' accommodation (twin share)
- Return flight Auckland to Great Barrier
- Meals as specified in the itinerary
- Local guides
- All group transfers
- Admissions as detailed in the itinerary
- Activities and sightseeing tours with local guides as detailed in the itinerary
- Pre-tour material

TOUR EXCLUSIONS

- Domestic flights/travel to/from Auckland (*arrangements can be made for you at an additional cost*)
- Travel insurance
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Beverages during included meals, unless specified
- Personal expenses
- A 2.5% surcharge if you wish to pay by credit card

IS THIS TOUR FOR ME?

This is a comprehensive tour of Great Barrier Island/Aotea, the perfect way to explore the island without the need for your own transport and in the company of a small group and experienced local guides.

Although this is not a walking tour, to make the most of the tour, the ability to stand and/or walk for up to 2 hours is recommended.

The walk on the fourth day to Kaitoke hot springs is 40 minutes each way. Good mobility to get on and off the small aircraft for the flight to the island is also a requirement.



TOUR PRICE

Share twin per person NZD \$2,190

Single supplement NZD \$750

GROUP SIZE Minimum 10, maximum 16

VARIATIONS IN TRAVEL We can make arrangements for any travel you would like to do before or after this tour. Please contact us to discuss your requirements.



TOUR MANAGER

As one of our experienced travel consultants, Penny has 25 years experience in helping people plan their holidays. She has travelled extensively including to Aotea Great Barrier and is a font of knowledge on all things travel.

As a tour manager she is enthusiastic, organised and caring. She loves to make sure all her tour members get the most out of their tour.

HOW TO SECURE YOUR PLACE ON THIS TOUR

A deposit of \$500 is required to secure your place on the tour. When minimum numbers are reached, the tour will become a 'confirmed departure' and your deposit will be non-refundable. At that point we will advise when the tour payment is due. If the tour is unable to operate as a result of government travel restrictions due to Covid-19, you will have the choice of transferring your deposit to another tour or receiving a full refund.

- [Click here](#) to complete the online registration form, pay the \$500 deposit and your place in this tour is secured.
- Or you can complete a paper registration form. You can download one from the website www.calderandlawsonstours.co.nz, or give us a call and we will email or post one to you.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Can be found on the website www.calderandlawsonstours.co.nz, on the back of the paper registration form or on the summary page when you complete an online registration. There is a 2.5% surcharge if you wish to pay by credit card.

VARIATIONS

This itinerary is Version 1 dated 22/09/2021 and is subject to change. Exchange rate fluctuations may result in a change to the tour price.



DAILY ITINERARY

Tuesday 19 April 2022 **Auckland - Great Barrier**

Meals: L,D
Overnight:

Meet your tour manager and group mid-morning at Auckland Airport before flying into Claris airfield on Great Barrier. The flight itself is very scenic with views over the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park as you spot Rangitoto, Kawau and Little Barrier from your window. Upon arrival, you head south for a morning tea break in Medlands where you can stretch your legs along one of the island's most popular ocean beaches.

Visit local artist and potter Sarah at Shoal Bay Pottery and stop for lunch at Pa Beach Café before exploring the Tryphena Harbour area. Then on to our accommodation, Great Barrier Lodge which sits on park like grounds beside beautiful Whangaparapara Harbour. Take time to settle in and explore the lodge before joining your tour manager and fellow travellers for a welcome dinner at the on-site restaurant.

Wednesday 20 April

Daily meals: B/L/D
Overnight: Great Barrier Lodge

After breakfast this morning, take a short walk down to the wharf where you will board 'Sundancer' for our coastal cruise. Your experienced skipper will host you on an exhilarating cruise on one of the most beautiful stretches of the island coastline. View old kauri sawmill and whaling stations from the ship while you head up the west coast and through the amazing Broken Isles. Once through the Man O' War Passage you will enjoy an onboard lunch in the sheltered waters of the beautiful Port Fitzroy Harbour. After lunch, disembark and visit Glenfern Sanctuary - where you learn of the work that is being done at the sanctuary to control pests, restore native plantings and reintroduce native birds which as kaka, kereru and banded rail then transfer to Sunset Rock for a stunning panoramic view of Port Fitzroy Harbour and beyond.

Travel back down the east coast by coach enjoying great views of Rakitu Island, The Windy Canyon and Pacific Ocean panoramas. You will enjoy a stop at Awana for coffee and cake, where you can also enjoy an optional walk along this spectacular east coast surf beach.

Thursday 21 April

Meals: B/L/D
Overnight: Great Barrier Lodge

This morning visit Jacques' Haven a literal bird and bee paradise! After a guided walk around this amazing property, we get to sample Jacques' top notch manuka honey. Today we have lunch at Angsana Thai Restaurant where we can explore the lovely grounds and check out the local birdlife. After lunch we visit The Community Art Gallery and the Milk, Honey & Grain Museum in Claris. Enjoy free time in the late afternoon before a group dinner this evening.

Friday 22 April

Meals: B/PL
Overnight: Great Barrier Lodge

We recommend you pack your togs because after breakfast we head up to the Kaitoke Hot Springs. The walk to these natural & undeveloped springs is on a mainly level and sheltered gravelled track. The first 10-minutes of the trail meanders through a stunning Nikau Palm grove. It takes up to 45 minutes to reach the pools... and another 45 minutes back to the bus.

A shorter walking option is also available. We head back to the lodge for a late lunch and a free afternoon.

Saturday 23 April

Meals: B/PL
Overnight: Great Barrier Lodge

For your final day on the island, you will set off to explore the Okupu Harbour area. Visit Okupu Beach to check out the ancient Pohutukawa trees and then around to the 'forgotten wharf' at Blind Bay. This is a very scenic route with lovely old stone bridges and deep gullied streams. We enjoy a picnic lunch on the shores of a privately-owned beach before making our way back to 'civilization'.

For those keen, you can feel the wind in your hair as you experience a joy-ride with your local guide on the back of 'Crazyhorse' a Harley style 3 wheeled motorbike. Farewell Great Barrier/Aotea as you take a return flight to arrive into Auckland in the early evening.