

NEW ZEALAND



After many years out of the water, a trip to fisherman & spearo paradise reignites a lifetime passion!

Our visit to these wild islands will be the culmination of a "one in a life" trip. The 3 Kings have a reputation for being subjected to fierce weather and strong, unpredictable tides and currents, however, it holds one of the best fisheries in the world, surrounded by the most incredible landscape!

The Three Kings Islands (situated 45 miles off the north-eastern tip of New Zealand) have a magnetic attraction for the adventurous spearos & fisherman, offering rugged spectacular scenery and a remoteness that few other northern locations can match (not to mention prolific fish life and big pelagic!). Part of its attraction is the element of uncertainty that comes with fishing an exposed offshore island group, this is a place where on one trip you may encounter calm blue water and marlin swimming past you, and on the next a howling gale and four metre swells...true adventure!

Get ready for mammoth national parks, dynamic Māori culture, and world-class surfing and skiing. New Zealand can be mellow or action-packed, but it's always epic.

TARGET SPECIES



Three Kings Islands are situated 50 nautical miles north-west of Cape Reinga off the tip of the North Island and consists of a series of rock islands, the Three Kings Island and Princess Group. The underwater terrain consists of a series of banks, Middlesex and King Bank which are home to some of the best recreational fishing New Zealand has to offer including Kingfish, bill fish and also pelagic fish such as Marlin, Tuna and Mahi Mahi. The warm nutrient currents and upwelling's pushing up over these banks and the abundance of bait fish makes this a Yellow Tail Kingfish "meca" putting the most experienced anglers to the test whether jigging or on live baits. With large numbers of fish from 15 to 20kg and up to 40kg's plus, Stripped Marlin also congregate here in the summer months making Three Kings New Zealand's premier game fishing destination.

The diving around the islands is regarded as some of the best in the country with stunning underwater scenery, with an abundance of fish life and water clarity second to none. Diving along the coast also provides some great crayfish diving with regular captures over 3kg along with excellent snapper fishing around the northern coastline including Cape Maria Van demon. Trips to the Three Kings depart from Mangonui in Doubtless Bay which is 4 hours drive north of Auckland or about 40 minutes shuttle ride from either Kaitaia or Kerikeri domestic airport.

A minimum of 5 days is recommended between March and May.

BOAT & ACCOMODATION



Depends on what we are going to do we can use two different boats:

The Cascade 54' Carey, with spacious cockpit, built in live bait tank, walk down transom (great for sports fishing and easy access for divers), Insulated fish holds, births for 7 passengers + crew, well equipped galley, BBQ, full oven, gas hobs, microwave, 2 fresh hot water showers and flush toilet, comfortable open saloon for eating and socializing, leather interior and surround sound & on board dive compressor and generator. For the safety we have a 3.8 metre "Niad" rigid hull inflatable, EPIRB, Fire extinguishers, flares, life buoys, ample life jackets, and all the electronics like two GPS colour chart plotters, auto-pilot, radar, SSB & VHF radio, powerful colour depth sounder, C-Plot and weather fax.

The Tracker 56' Randall is also a great boat with spacious cockpit, built in live bait tank, walk down transom (great for sports fishing and easy access for divers), Insulated fish hold, births for 7 passengers + crew, fresh water shower and flush toilet, comfortable open saloon for eating and socializing, well equipped galley, full oven, gas hobs, microwave, EPIRB, fire extinguishers, flares, life buoy, life jackets & all the electronics.

SURROUNDINGS



There are just 4.8 million New Zealanders, scattered across 268,021 sq km: bigger than the UK with one-fourteenth of the population. Filling in the gaps are the sublime forests, mountains, lakes, beaches and fiords that have made NZ one of the best hiking (locals call it 'tramping') destinations on the planet. Tackle one of the epic 'Great Walks' (you might've heard of the Heaphy and Milford Tracks) or spend a few hours wandering along a beach, paddling a canoe or mountain biking through some easily accessible wilderness.

New Zealand's all-conquering All Blacks would never have become back-to-back rugby world champions without their unstoppable Māori players. But this is just one example of how Māori culture impresses itself on contemporary Kiwi life: across NZ you can hear Māori language, watch Māori TV, join in a hāngi (Māori feast) or catch a cultural performance with song, dance and a blood-curdling haka (war dance). Māori design continues to find expression in tā moko, Māori tattooing (often applied to the face) and the delicate artistry of bone, shell and pounamu (greenstone) sculpture.

New Zealand isn't a place where you encounter many on-the-road frustrations: buses and trains generally run on time; main roads are in good nick; ATMs proliferate; pickpockets, scam merchants and bedbug-ridden hostels are few and far between; and the food is unlikely to send you running for the nearest public toilets (usually clean and stocked with the requisite paper). And there are no snakes, and only one poisonous spider, the endangered katipo. This decent nation is a place where you can relax and enjoy (rather than endure) your travels.

British-influenced classics like fish and chips aren't going anywhere, but NZ gastronomy has come a long way, baby. Chefs in Auckland, Wellington and Napier borrow influences from as far afield as South Pacific islands and Western Europe for creative takes on locally sourced lamb and seafood like abalone, oysters and scallops. Meanwhile, the vegetarian and vegan food scenes grow evermore prominent and inventive. Wash it all down with coffee culture, an edgy craft-beer scene and legendary cool-climate wines (like sublime sauvignon blanc and pinot noir).

New Zealand's landforms have a diversity that you would expect to find across an entire continent: snow-dusted mountains, drowned glacial valleys, rainforests, dunelands and an otherworldly volcanic plateau. Straddling the boundary of two great colliding slabs of the earth's crust (the Pacific plate and the Indo-Australian plate) NZ is a plaything for nature's strongest forces.

OTHER ACTIVITIES



The Waitangi Treaty Grounds. Occupying a headland draped in lawns and bush, this is NZ's most significant historic site. Here, on 6 February 1840, after much discussion, the first 43 Māori chiefs signed the Treaty of Waitangi with the British Crown; eventually, over 500 chiefs would sign it. Admission incorporates a guided tour and spirited cultural performance, and entry to the Museum of Waitangi, the Whare Rūnanga (carved meeting house) and the historic Treaty House.

Near the north end of the park, not far from the road, stands mighty Tāne Mahuta, named for the Māori forest god. At 51.5m, with a 13.8m girth and wood mass of 244.5 cubic metres, he's the largest kauri alive, and has been holding court here for somewhere between 1200 and 2000 years. He's easy to find and access, with a well-labelled car park (complete with coffee cart) on the highway.

The Blue Pinguin Clony. Every evening the tykes from the Oamaru little penguin colony surf in and wade ashore, heading to their nests in an old stone quarry near the waterfront. Stands are set up on either side of the waddle route. General admission will give you a good view of the action but the premium stand (adult/child \$45/22.50), accessed by a boardwalk through the nesting area, will get you closer.

From the Kauri Walks car park, a 20-minute walk leads past the Four Sisters, a graceful stand of four tall trees fused together at the base, to Te Matua Ngahere (The Father of the Forest). At 30m, he has a significant presence. Reinforced by a substantial girth, he's the fattest living kauri (16.4m), the tree presides over a clearing surrounded by mature trees resembling mere matchsticks in comparison. It's estimated that he could be up to 3000 years old.

The Arthur's Pass National Park. Straddling the Southern Alps, known to Māori as Ka Tiritiri o Te Moana (Steep Peak of Glistening White), this vast alpine wilderness became the South Island's first national park in 1929. Of its 1144 sq km, two-thirds lies on the Canterbury side of the main divide; the rest is in Westland. It is a rugged, mountainous area, cut by deep valleys, and ranging in altitude from 245m at the Taramakau River to 2408m at Mt Murchison.

USEFUL INFORMATION



Despite a decade marred by disasters, including devastating earthquakes and mining and helicopter tragedies, New Zealand has never lost its nerve. The country remains a titan on both the silver screen and the sports field, and change is coming in the world of politics...

Historians continue to unravel New Zealand's early history, with much of what they discover confirming traditional Māori narratives. In less than a thousand years NZ produced two new peoples: the Polynesian Māori and European New Zealanders (also known by their Māori name, 'Pākehā'). New Zealand shares some of its history with the rest of Polynesia, and with other European settler societies. This cultural intermingling has created unique features along the way.

Those who have limited time to get between NZ's attractions can make the most of a widespread (and very reliable and safe) network of intra- and inter-island flights. New Zealand's abundance of year-round activities means that airports here are busy most of the time: if you want to fly at a particularly popular time of year (eg over the Christmas period), book well in advance. The high season for flights into NZ is during summer (December to February), with slightly less of a premium on fares over the shoulder months (October/November and March/April). The low season generally tallies with the winter months (June to August), though this is still a busy time for airlines ferrying ski bunnies and powder hounds. A number of NZ airports handle international flights, with Auckland receiving the most traffic.

The currency it's the New Zealand dollar (\$), the languages are English & Māori. The New Zealand time (GMT/UTC plus 12 hours). New Zealand poses minimal health risks to travellers and the biggest risks to travellers involve exploring the great outdoors.

Citizens of 60 countries, including Australia, the UK, the US and most EU countries, don't need visas for NZ. Disembarkation in New Zealand is generally a straightforward affair, with only the usual customs declarations and luggage-carousel scramble to endure. Under the Orwellian title of 'Advance Passenger Screening', documents that used to be checked after you touched down in NZ (passport, visa etc) are now checked before you board your flight (make sure all your documentation is in order so that your check-in is stress-free).

WHAT TO BRING



- All your Fishing & Spearfishing gear (big spearguns, floatlines, floats, thick shafts... without the weights!)
- A lot off replacement gear!
- All your spearfishing & fishing equipment & apparel
- Trekking gear
- Insect repellent
- Electricity adapter
- Driving licence
- Comprehensive travel insurance highly recommended
- Raincoat
- Shoes and flip-flops
- Passport with more than 6 months of validity
- Cameras
- Cash in € or USD, and a Visa credit card

MEDIA & GUIDING



As a Professional Freelance Audiovisual Producer & Fishing / Spearfishing Guide, my job is to promote the best trips around the world, operated by the best companies I work with, always offering the best quality and compromise. I will, simply, bring you the best destinations, personally known, that offer you all the guarantees and adapts to your necessities. If you are a group, great! If you are alone, don't worry, I will find more people to join you! Whatever you want, from hardcore fishing to family holiday, I will provide Expert Coaching, advices & knowledge in the field, to make you catch that "one in a life-time" fish, that sometimes can be so elusive and challenging.

I know where & when to find them, and how to get you on them!

I'm also a professional cinematographer & photographer, and I will be capturing footage of your experience so you can have high quality content of memories that will last a lifetime. My gear allows me to film from the sky, underwater and outside, with the best quality, so forget about the videos & photos, I will be there to capture every moment while in the water.

WHAT'S INCLUDED & WHAT'S NOT



Included

- 6 days, 5 nights aboard
- 5 days fishing or spearfishing
- Breakfast, snack's, afternoon lunch & dinner
- All media will be covered upon request
- Guide, a skipper, & two assistants on board
- Diving leads, bait, ice, dive fills, rods & gear

Not included

- Flights
- Transfer
- Accommodation before and after the liveaboard
- Other day trips
- Visa
- Other extra meals
- Tips