

# BEST OF THE BAY OF ISLANDS

1, 2 & 3 DAY TOURS  
FROM AUCKLAND

## A Taste of the Bay Dolphin Discoveries 'Swim with the Dolphins' cruise

- 6.35 – 7:15 A **Gray Line NZ** coach will collect you from your hotel / motel and transfer you to the Gray Line Travel Centre at **172 Quay St.** Please report to the counter on arrival to pay or exchange vouchers.
- 7.30am Tour departs Gray Line Travel Centre.
- Travel over Auckland's Harbour Bridge via the North Shore and through the lush countryside to Warkworth.
- 8.30am A brief stop (time permitting) will be made at the Parry Kauri Park where you are able to view one of world's mightiest trees, the kauri, one of New Zealand's native trees.
- Continue through Warkworth, rich in heritage and a hub which services the wider region of Matakana, Leigh, Snells Beach and Kawau Island.
- Pass through Wellsford, a busy country township which services the local farming and horticultural communities.
- 9.25am Morning tea and rest stop enroute in Kaiwaka – a little town known for its lights which illuminate the buildings at night.
- After morning tea, continue on a slow climb up the Brynderwyns, along the Waipu Straits and on to Whangarei – New Zealand's most northern city.
- 11.00am Whangarei
- Whangarei's full name is *Whangarei Terenga Paraoa* – translated as "swimming place of the whales" which can be further translated as "the meeting place of the chiefs". It's known as the commercial city of the North and is well known for its beaches at the Whangarei Heads and the Tutukaka Coast. A growing population,  $\frac{3}{4}$  being of European descent and the other  $\frac{1}{4}$  are mainly *tangata whenua* – Maori, with many other cultures starting to settle here.
- 12.00pm Arrive in the Bay of Islands and check in at the **Explore NZ** office.

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12.15pm Join **Dolphin Discoveries** for the ultimate dolphin eco-adventure! Cruise among the 144 islands and see dolphins in their natural environment. Once mammals have been encountered our experienced crew will tell you all about these wonderful creatures and their habits. Our crew will assess the behaviour of the dolphins on the day and decide whether swimming with the dolphins will be possible (DOC regulations).

You will then be given an option to join the dolphins in the water and swim with them. The modern high speed catamaran is purpose built for dolphin watching and swimming and offers easy access to the water, which is the warmest in New Zealand.

Complimentary use of snorkels, goggles, fins and wetsuit when required. Boxed Lunch included.

- 4.30pm Vessel arrives back in Paihia. **Please go directly to the front of the Maritime Building to meet your coach for your return trip to Auckland.**
- 4:45pm Coach departs Paihia for Auckland
- 8:15pm Coach arrives in downtown Auckland. Hotel/motel drop-offs commence.