

Super Yacht Cruise around the Bay of Islands

Board your cruise in Mount Maunganui
20 – 26 December 2021



Island Escape Cruises is a New Zealand based luxurious super yacht operator with a 15 year history in operating small ship voyages in New Zealand and the remote South Pacific islands. Island Escape was launched this year and is a brand new build, 53.5 metres in length catering for just 32 guests. This exclusive experience is supported by a professional crew of 14 who love to “over-deliver” on a personalised service.

This itinerary will encompass some enchanting ports of call such as visits to Mercury Bay in Whitianga and Waiheke as we head for the winterless north and the Bay of Islands. Enjoy the peace and relaxed style of our home on Island Escape between the sumptuous dinners and canapés on deck watching the sun going down.

Exploring the township of Russell, and waking up on Christmas Day in Fitzroy Harbour at Great Barrier Island. And finally celebrating with a more formal and Traditional Christmas Dinner hosted by the Captain of Island Escape. Enjoy the fully inclusive experience with all meals, drinks and land excursions – Tauranga to Tauranga.

Price is based on Double Occupancy Ocean Suites with beautiful spacious bathrooms and luxury amenities Upgrades available to Horizon and Owners Suites. Solo suites also available on application.

6 Night Tauranga to Tauranga package

\$8,759*

Per person share twin/double



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Itinerary:

Day 1 – Tauranga - Whitianga

You will find Island Escape moored at the Mount Maunganui Port – boarding is at 11am for a 12-noon departure. Once onboard please make yourselves at home in your cabins then join the Captain, crew and fellow passengers for champagne and canapés on deck. Relax and mingle as we cast-off into Tauranga Harbour, taking in evening views of Tauranga's waterfront, Matakana Island and Mount Maunganui. We head north taking in the stunning scenery as we sail towards Mercury Bay, Whitianga and our anchorage for dinner. After a sumptuous dinner celebrating the start of your adventure, we sail towards Waiheke Island.

Day 2 – Waiheke Island

Rise early, and you can start day two with a refreshing swim off the stern of the ship (or sleep in a little) before joining the others for a sumptuous breakfast on the aft deck. This morning we head off on our vineyard and olive oil tasting tour – Waiheke has a multitude of wineries and produces some of New Zealand's best wines. You will start to understand the charm of this beautiful island as we have free time to explore Ostend Village, followed by a visit to Rangihoua Estate to taste their award-winning olive oils. Our final destination this morning is Stonyridge Vineyard where you will taste a range of their premium wines. Back on board for lunch we will lift the anchor and sail to Oneroa. This afternoon is yours to explore Oneroa village, perhaps take the 3km art trail or join in a fishing expedition.

Day 3 – Bay of Islands

During the night, we round Cape Brett and anchor in the beautiful turquoise waters of Oke Bay - one of our favourite spots. Feel free to dive off the stern, and perhaps swim to the white sandy beach before breakfast. Dolphins are regular visitors to the Oke Bay, they are bold and enjoy playing around the ship, keep an eye out for them.

We take to the air after breakfast – helicopters pick you up, whisking you away to get stunning views across the Bay of Islands – don't forget your cameras! The afternoon of day three is spent bay-hopping for swims and beach exploration. You always have the option to relax onboard of course. We anchor in Parekura Bay just before sunset, then sit down to another beautiful dinner and perhaps share a few photos of the day's adventures.

Day 4 – Bay of Islands

Today we head west to the beautiful Motuarohia-Roberton Island and moor up exactly where Captain James Cook anchored his ship Endeavour in 1769.

You can explore the island in many ways – snorkel in the sheltered lagoon, kayak around the Bay or hike up to the historic Maori Pa site. From the summit, you will be rewarded with panoramic views of the Bay. After lunch, we motor back across to Urupukapuka island, the largest in the Bay, to enjoy its crystal-clear waters and collect green-lipped mussels from our special spot. They make a lovely afternoon snack served with a chilled sauvignon blanc and some gentle herbs from our chef's onboard garden. We anchor for the night off Russell.

Day 5 – Bay of Islands

After breakfast, you can explore Russell. The town has a rich history – known in the old whaling days as the lawless 'the hellhole of the Pacific' – it became the first capital of New Zealand in 1840. Russell today retains an old-world charm – enjoy the shops and cafes or perhaps take a ferry across the Bay and visit the Waitangi Treaty Grounds. We usually all end up back at Russell's waterfront in the afternoon, gathering at the Duke of Marlborough Hotel's veranda bar. Enjoy a drink here with the Captain while overlooking the Bay before returning to the ship for dinner. Overnight we head south to Great Barrier Island.

Day 6 – Great Barrier Island – Christmas Day

Great Barrier Island is wild, remote, and unspoilt – you will wake on Christmas Day to the aroma of croissants and fresh coffee and a real sense of being 'away-from-it-all'. Fitzroy Harbour is one of New Zealand's most beautiful natural harbours with a colourful history of whaling, gold mining, shipwrecks, and alternative lifestyles. Today you will have the opportunity to explore the island's coastline by landing craft and maybe try a spot of fishing in these abundant waters to help supply the chef with fresh ingredients for our celebratory lunch. Make the most of the stunning Fitzroy harbour by taking a refreshing swim off the stern or a peaceful jaunt in a kayak or on a stand-up paddleboard. Tonight, we celebrate Christmas with a formal evening and a traditional Christmas dinner hosted by our Captain. Off the coast, far from major habitation, clear dark skies give stargazers a spectacular celestial canopy.

Day 7 – Auckland To Tauranga

Our final breakfast is served by Rakino Island in the Hauraki Gulf. Enjoy the scenery from the deck as we head into the Waitemata Harbour, passing between Motutapu, Waiheke, Motuihe and Rangitoto Islands. Disembark the Island Escape and say goodbye – till next time!! Board your Coach Transfer for your return to Tauranga with a stop on the way for a lovely Devonshire Tea with scones, jam & cream and your choice of Tea.



*** Terms and Conditions:** NZD\$2,000 per person non-refundable deposit is required to confirm your Suite. The final payment on the Cruise is due 20 October 2021. All payments to be made by Internet banking or Eftpos. Credit Card Payments will incur a 3% surcharge. A full and comprehensive Travel Insurance policy is required to hold a space on this package. You do have the option to source your own Travel Insurance and this must be done at the time of paying your deposit to cover your deposit/full payment in the event that circumstances outside your control such as sickness or accident prevent you from travelling. We will confirm what the COVID conditions would be if any Government directive affects this departure. We reserve the right to amend the scheduled itinerary if necessary due to weather, equipment or other conditions arise that prevent us from providing the advertised itinerary. We would provide an experience of equal value and style to that advertised.