



FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL
Premiere Experiential Tourism



Northern Highlights Dive



Auckland to Auckland



Tour Highlights

- ▶ Dive Rainbow Warrior & the Bay of Islands
- ▶ Dive Poor Knights Islands
- ▶ Dive Twin Wrecks

Regions Visited

- ▶ Auckland
- ▶ Northland
- ▶ Bay of Islands
- ▶ Whangarei & Tutukaka

4 Day Top of the North Dive Tour

Explore the rolling hills, kauri forests, pristine bays, coastline and islands of the far north from both the land and by water. Dive some of the most famous as well as some of the less well known dive locations in New Zealand. Dive the magnificent Poor Knights Islands, the Rainbow Warrior and more an absolute must for all keen divers!

▶ Day One Bay of Islands

After leaving "the City of Sails", the freeways of Auckland soon give way to the open country roads of Northland. Travelling north via the Hibiscus Coast we soon arrive at The Bay of Islands.

This sub-tropical region has the finest maritime park in New Zealand with 144 islands, secluded bays, and an abundance of marine life including marlin, whales, penguins, dolphins, gannets and many other species. Being somewhat sheltered, the area is ideal for yachting, fishing, kayaking and diving. Rolling countryside, tidal estuaries, mangroves, sparkling and long silvery beaches abound.

It is an area of considerable historical significance, and is the place where Maori and European signed the Treaty of Waitangi that joined them as one nation. Long considered the cradle of Polynesian and European settlement in New Zealand, the area is rich in history and natural beauty. This is an ideal place to use as a base for expeditions to our other Northland destinations.



life and is an excellent shallow water wreck dive suitable for certified open water divers. The wreck is a splendour of colour with jewel coloured anemones clinging to the rails in hues of purple, yellow and blue making it a great underwater photography subject. It is the home to schools of Golden Snapper, Kingfish and John Dory.



▶ Day Three The Poor Knights

Taking the coastal route enables everyone to enjoy a piece of pristine New Zealand coastline before we start our ascent. Over the hill is Tutukaka - a safe, natural harbour with a modern marina, café, restaurants and bars. Tutukaka is the gateway to the Poor Knights Islands, 14 miles off the coast.

The Poor Knights Marine Reserve, was named by Jacques Cousteau as one of the top 10 dive sites in the world. The warm currents here originate in the Coral Sea, so the water temperature is higher and visibility greater than that of nearby coastal waters. Born from volcanic activity, tropical and sub-tropical life abounds in this



▶ Day Two Dive the Rainbow Warrior

Dive the Rainbow Warrior After making passage to the Cavalli Islands explore the wreck of the historical and controversial Greenpeace flagship - the Rainbow Warrior. Bombed in Auckland Harbour by French Secret Service agents on July 10th 1985, the wreck was relocated off the Cavalli Islands two years later. This artificial reef has matured into an ever-growing host to marine

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When was the last time you did something for the first time?

WAIT - THERE'S MORE!

After experiencing this phenomenal journey you're sure to be wanting more of a good thing! Join our next Adventure Tour and explore the best of New Zealand

Central Discoverer 7 Days Auckland to Auckland

Highlights: Coromandel, Rotorua, East Coast, White Island, Central Plateau, Taupo, Tongariro National Park, Waikato & Waitomo

Southern Wonder 7 Days Christchurch to Christchurch

Highlights: Christchurch, Kaikoura, Marlborough Sounds, Abel Tasman National Park, Buller, Hanmer Springs

Southern Divide - 7 Days Christchurch to Queenstown

Highlights: West Coast, Franz Josef, Wanaka, Queenstown, Te Anau, Doubtful Sound

Grand Escapade - 21 Days Auckland to Queenstown

Highlights: Central Discoverer, Southern Wonder and Southern Divide all combined to make the best New Zealand Experience

Book with your Travel Agent Now!

Northern Highlights - 4 Day Akld - Akld
Tour departs Oct - May each year

2006-2007 departure dates:

FLTNH701 - 5 Oct - 8 Oct 2006
FLTNH702 - 9 Nov - 12 Nov 2006
FLTNH703 - 7 Dec - 10 Dec 2006
FLTNH704 - 4 Jan - 7 Jan 2007
FLTNH705 - 8 Feb - 11 Feb 2007
FLTNH706 - 8 Mar - 11 Mar 2007
FLTNH707 - 5 Apr - 8 Apr 2007
FLTNH708 - 10 May - 13 May 2007

2007-2008 departure dates:

FLTNH801 - 4 Oct - 7 Oct 2007
FLTNH802 - 1 Nov - 4 Nov 2007
FLTNH803 - 29 Nov - 2 Dec 2007
FLTNH804 - 3 Jan - 6 Jan 2008
FLTNH805 - 31 Jan - 3 Feb 2008
FLTNH806 - 28 Feb - 2 Mar 2008
FLTNH807 - 27 Mar - 30 Mar 2008
FLTNH808 - 2 May - 5 May 2008

Tour Price:

NZD\$1475 Twin share
NZD\$1675 Single

Tour price includes transport, accommodation, meals, and activities (unless stated as optional)

unique underwater environment. Caves, tunnels and archways are all home to great schools of friendly colourful fish - great photography!

These islands, a wildlife reserve above water and a marine reserve below, provide a unique range of flora, fauna and fish in a dramatic setting, attracting visitors from all over the world.

► Day Four Twin Wrecks

Recent additions to the underwater playground off the coast of Tutukaka are two ex-naval ships. Strategically sunk to make artificial reefs, the former research ship HMNZS Tui and ex-combat frigate HMNZS Waikato make a fantastic days diving. Like huge adventure playgrounds underwater, they are accessible for divers of all levels and offer challenges for those with any level of experience.

At 62 metres long HMNZS Tui now lies in 30 metres of water. You can penetrate the wreck through purpose cut access and exit points to explore the control room, bridge, crew living quarters and engine rooms via established routes. Bubbles stream through gaps in the hull from divers exploring the interior while Golden snapper shoal above the ship, waiting for the final divers to emerge before they move back to their refuge.

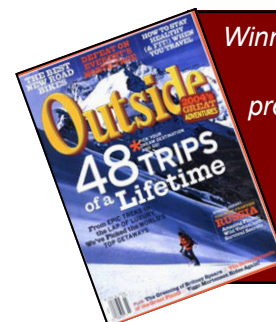


The HMNZS Waikato is a much larger ship - 137 metres long - and was sunk in 2000. Lying 30 metres down and bolt upright, she has large holes cut in the side making entry and exit very safe, offering less experienced divers valuable wreck diving experience. Snapper swarm over her, nipping at the anemones, sponges and hydroids, and crabs scuttle away into cracks between her plates. Kingfish cruise



in like approaching aircraft making low passes, bubbles rattling up towards them from the decks below.

After a full days diving and a snack from one of the local cafés we take the short journey back to Auckland.



Winner of Outside magazine's prestigious 'Trip of the Year' Oceania 2004!