

Bay of Islands New Zealand



Life Jacket Instructions

Please take the time to familiarise yourself with these instructions and ask one of the crew if you need any assistance.

Life jackets are located either under your seat or in the clearly marked lockers at the bow or stern of the vessel. Each vessel can be different and your crew will announce where these are located during your departure.



Your guide to the Bay of Islands

1 Paihia

A friendly resort town, which makes an excellent base for exploring the Bay of Islands. Paihia means 'Good Here' in Māori.

2 Russell (Kororāreka)

This historic seaside village has been a haven for visitors since the 1700's and was a base for the whaling industry in the 1830's. Formerly known as the 'Hellhole of the Pacific' due to the rowdy behaviour of its inhabitants.

3 Moturoa Island

The second largest island in the Bay, Moturoa is a sheep farm and is serviced by the famous Cream Trip cruise.

4 Black Rocks

An extensive chain of unusual volcanic basalt rocks, populated with bird rookeries and interesting flora.

5 Marsden Cross (Rangihoua Bay)

The stone cross on this spot marks the place where the Reverend Samuel Marsden held New Zealand's first Christian sermon on Christmas day 1814. The area was home to a prominent Māori chief named Te Pahi.

6 Project Island Song

Give your gear the all clear. You're about to visit beautiful pest-free island wildlife sanctuaries, you can help keep them this way by giving your gear the all clear before departing the mainland. If you find anything, such as rodents, ants or skinks, let the crew know. Thank you for doing your part in helping Project Island Song to keep these island sanctuaries thriving for future generations. For more information about Project Island Song and the Bay of Islands' pest-free wildlife sanctuary, visit projectislandsong.co.nz.

7 Robertson Island (Motuarohia)

Captain James Cook anchored the Endeavour off this beautiful island with its twin lagoons when he visited the Bay of Islands in 1769.

8 Moturua Island

A thriving wildlife reserve with rejuvenated native forest and home to several endangered bird species. The traceable history of Moturua Island dates back to the very earliest Polynesian settlers through to the early European explorers such as Cook and du Fresne. The dominant vegetation is Manuka and Kanuka.

9 Motukiekie

A narrow, privately owned island (28.8 hectares) with some walking trails.

10 Otehei Bay

American author Zane Grey lived here in the 1920s. His popular book 'Tales of The Angler's Eldorado' made game fishing in the Bay of Islands world famous. Beautiful beaches, nature walks and camping facilities are available here.

11 Urupukapuka Island

The largest island in the Bay, this recreational reserve and farm park covers approximately 520 acres (208 hectares), with many beautiful beaches and a range of walking trails.

12 Waewaetorea Island

A popular recreational reserve with fine sandy beaches, 115 acres (46 hectares).

13 Okahu Island

A scenic reserve of 53 acres (21.4 hectares), also known as Red Head Island.

14 Cape Brett and Piercy Island (Motukōkako)

Cape Brett's lighthouse was built on the Coromandel Peninsula, barged up the coast and winched into place. Lighthouse keepers lived here from 1910 until 1978, when a new automated light went into service.

At the end of the Cape is Motukōkako, which Captain Cook named Piercy Island. It is commonly known as the 'Hole in the Rock' due to the impressive 18 metre high (60 foot) passage running through the island at one end.