

Bay of Islands

The Bay of Islands has the finest maritime park in New Zealand with 144 islands and secluded bays.

Around Paihia, the main town, you can enjoy country cafes, stylish restaurants, kayaking on the bay, swimming with dolphins, coastal walking tracks, a walk around a huge Maori war canoe—or simply rest. Bay of Islands has many experiences to offer, whether on the bay, in the ocean or on land. Take a boat trip to, or even through, Grand Cathedral Cave, ‘the hole in the rock’. Trips can be booked through Bishop Tours.

Walk to Cape Brett Lighthouse (1906). Be guided through historic sites by local storytellers. Listen to the roar at the horseshoe-shaped Haruru Falls, and look for the legendary ‘taniwha’, or water monster, in the lagoon below.

At Paihia you can see dolphins, whales, penguins and seals. Have a round of golf on one of the famous courses. Like something more exciting? Ride a jet-ski!

In the Bay of Islands you can sense history while awaiting the pleasures that are to come. Many activities are free but other activities can be booked through Paihia’s tourist offices. Enjoy scenic attractions around the bay—take plenty of photographs!

*Photo by
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