



Playing Around New Zealand Ltd
 64 Pine Harbour Parade
 Beachlands, Auckland, New Zealand
 Ph. +64 9 5364560
 E. info@playgolf.co.nz

North Island Escorted Tour

PACKAGE INCLUSIONS

- 6 rounds of golf (Te Arai South, Te Arai North, Kauri Cliffs, Wairakei, Kinloch and Cape Kidnappers) with shared electric carts.
- 10 nights in 4 & 5 star hotel / resort accommodation with breakfast.
- Welcome dinner at Te Arai.
- Dinner at Bistro Lago in Taupo.
- Lunch at Craggy Range in Hawke's Bay.
- Farewell dinner at Mission Estate, Hawke's Bay.
- Ground transfers and touring in a late model air-conditioned Mercedes minivan with local guide.
- Air NZ flight between Bay of Islands to Taupo (includes one checked bag – golf clubs will travel by road)
- 24 hour on-call assistance from your Play Golf New Zealand tour office.
- New Zealand goods & services tax (GST) at 15%

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

- Luxury Lodge upgrades at Kauri Cliffs, Huka Lodge and the Farm at Cape Kidnappers.
- Caddies and rental clubs.
- Golf and activity bookings on leisure days.
- Sightseeing and activity program for non-golfers.
- Hotel room upgrades.
- Pre and post tour accommodation including Tara Iti or Queenstown extension.

COSTS

8th November: NZ\$8,990 per person double occupancy. \$10,750 single occupancy

23rd January: NZ\$9,450 per person double occupancy. \$11,300 single occupancy

9th February: NZ\$9,175 per person double occupancy. \$10,950 single occupancy

3rd March: NZ\$9,175 per person double occupancy. \$10,950 single occupancy

Guaranteed Tour Dates

Commence:

Wednesday 8th November 2023

Tuesday 23rd January 2024

Friday 9th February 2024

Sunday 3rd March 2024

Departure Day

Saturday 18th November

Friday 2nd February

Monday 19th February

Wednesday 13th March

Please note that Te Arai is a walking only golf course. Caddies and pull carts are available.

Schedule

Day 1: Depart Auckland (Sunday)

Departure from central Auckland at 10am and transfer to Te Arai (2 hours). Pre-tour Auckland hotel accommodation and airport transfers are available.

On arrival at Te Arai, you will have access to the superb practise facilities.

1:30pm – Tee off at Te Arai (South Course)

Casual presentation and after golf drinks and snacks at Rics followed by checking in to your King Suite.

8:00pm – Welcome dinner at Te Arai.

Accommodation: Te Arai Links, King Suite x 2 nights

Day 2: Te Arai (Monday)

Morning: Golf at Te Arai (North Course)

Evening: At leisure. There are two dining options at Te Arai.

Day 3: Te Arai to Bay of Islands (Tuesday)

Morning: At 9:30am your transport will depart to the Bay of Islands (2.5 hours)

Afternoon: At leisure. We recommend the Bay of Islands cruise or an afternoon spent in Russell.

Evening: At leisure in Paihia

Accommodation: Edgewater Palms, One Bedroom Apartment x 3 nights

Day 4: Bay of Islands (Wednesday)

Leisure Day: At leisure in the Bay of Islands.

We recommend a full or half day cruise around the Bay of Islands as well as a visit to Russell. There is also a transport service to your choice of golf courses including Waitangi, Kerikeri and Kauri Cliffs.

Day 5: Bay of Islands (Thursday)

Morning: At 9am you will travel 45 minutes to the magnificent Kauri Cliffs golf course.

Tee time: 10:45am (onwards)

Evening: At leisure in Paihia.

Day 6: Bay of Islands to Taupo via Auckland (Friday)

Morning: This morning you will depart Paihia and travel the short distance to Kerikeri Airport. Your Air New Zealand flight will depart at 9:45am and will arrive in Auckland at 10:30am. Following a short time in Auckland Airport you will depart to Taupo at 11:45am, arriving in Taupo at 12:45pm

Afternoon: Your host will provide a tour of Taupo prior to you arriving at your hotel.

Activity options include fly fishing, jet boating and lake cruises.

Evening: Group dinner at the Bistro Lago (Hilton Hotel restaurant)

Accommodation: Hilton Hotel Taupo, Guest Room Plus x 3 nights

Day 7: Taupo (Saturday)

Morning: Golf at Kinloch (25 minute transfer). **Tee time:** 10:00am

Evening: At leisure.

Day 8: Taupo (Sunday)

Morning: Golf at Wairakei (15 minute transfer). **Tee time:** 10:30am

Evening: At leisure.

Day 9: Taupo to Hawke's Bay (Monday)

Morning / Afternoon: Travel to Hawke's Bay (2 hours). Your guides will provide a complimentary wine tour during the afternoon including a group lunch at Craggy Range (wine and tasting costs are at own expense).

Evening: At leisure in Hawke's Bay.

Accommodation: Crown Hotel, Superior Room x 2 nights

Day 10: Hawke's Bay (Tuesday)

Morning: At 9am you will travel 45 minutes to the magnificent Cape Kidnappers golf course.

Tee time: 10:45am onwards.

Evening: Your guide will host a farewell dinner at Mission Estate Winery.

Day 11: Hawke's Bay (Wednesday)**Departure Day:**

We can arrange flights to your next destination and provide post tour accommodation.

Highlights of Itinerary

- Play golf at the best golf courses that the North Island of New Zealand has to offer including the amazing new layouts at Te Arai, the scenic Kauri Cliffs and the magnificent Cape Kidnappers Golf Course, all of these courses feature or will feature in the World Top 100 golf rankings.
- Scenic touring through some of the most picturesque parts of New Zealand in a luxury air-conditioned Mercedes mini-coach with experienced driver / guide.
- Quality accommodation, conveniently located to golf courses and attractions.
- Lunch at the iconic Craggy Range vineyard.
- Welcome, mid-tour and farewell dinners at top local establishments.

Special Notes

- This tour is open to a maximum of twelve guests.
- These tours have guaranteed departures.
- Golfers of all abilities and ages are welcome.
- Additional sightseeing trips and rounds of golf are available on each day.
- Scenic touring is broken up with numerous photo and refreshment stops.

Your Transport and Guide



Mercedes Sprinter

You will be transported in our own luxury Mercedes Sprinter vehicles. They are all late model, air conditioned and very spacious. There will be complimentary refreshments on board and drive times will not exceed 90 minutes without a break.

Richard Parsonson

Richard spent a lifetime in the men's clothing industry in New Zealand – a director and owner of Barkers Men's Clothing, an icon of New Zealand retail. The company was founded in 1972 and is still a market leader today. Richard sold his interest in the company back in 2002 and this allowed him to further his passion for golf.

Richard has since played all the top courses in New Zealand and many places around the world. His current handicap is 12 but like every avid golfer, this can result in a sub 80 on one day and a score north of 90 on others! He



also has an extensive knowledge of both the North and South Island of New Zealand, especially the wine growing regions – another of his passions. When approached by Will Owen to assist with group liaison / leader for golf tours, Richard was only too pleased to assist. Guests of Play Golf NZ will enjoy Richard's banter, knowledge of all things golf, his sense of humour and his willingness to be of assistance wherever possible.

The Golf Courses

Te Arai South (Near Mangawhai)

Developed by the founders of the ultra-private Tara Iti Golf Club, and located a short distance south of Tara Iti, the first course completed at Te Arai was the South Course. The South was designed by Bill Coore, and occupies a beautiful stretch of duneland right along the Wellsford coast. The features were expertly shaped by John Hawker and Riley Johns, who moved a lot more earth to build these holes than many will realise, but did so in a manner that makes it difficult to distinguish between the natural and built form. The fescue playing surfaces are sure to compliment the linksy characteristics well. As a destination Te Arai is sure to win many plaudits, and prove particularly popular with those who can't afford the lofty fees associated with a round at Tara Iti.



Te Arai North (Near Mangawhai)

Opening October 2023.

Course designer Tom Doak states:

"The North Course starts and finishes on the ocean, but for me the unique character of the course will be found inland. The green of the par-4 5th hole, and the next tee, sit high on a ridge adjacent to an ancient Māori Pa, or hill fortress, built from the largest dune on the property, while the 4th, 6th, 7th and 9th greens sit in a shared bowl amongst the dunes."

Possibly the most dramatic holes on the course will be the 11th and 13th. The former is a long par-5 with an elevated green and a 'whirlpool' hazard to the right, some seven meters below the green. The 13th is a long par-4 with its green at the edge of a huge natural bunker, so that second shots have to be played over the sand or safely around to the left. It's a hole very reminiscent of Pine Valley in New Jersey, and indeed so is much of the inland terrain at Te Arai. It is odd having to apologize for a golf course that 'only' features the ocean for seven of the 18 holes, but that is how spoiled golfers have become by the best of New Zealand's modern golf courses. The North Course promises to be near the head of the class.

Kauri Cliffs (Bay of Islands)

Kauri Cliffs was designed and built by David Harman of Golf Course Consultants, Orlando, Florida. The par 72 championship golf course measures 7,119 yards/6,510 metres and offers five sets of tees to challenge every skill level. Fifteen holes view the Pacific Ocean, six of which are played alongside cliffs which plunge to the sea. The beautiful inland holes wind through marsh, forest and farmland. The golf complex includes a world-class practice range, putting and chipping greens, a well-stocked golf shop and ladies' and mens' locker rooms.



Wairakei Golf & Sanctuary (Taupo)

The Wairakei Golf & Sanctuary is set midway between Auckland and Wellington, in the heart of the spectacular scenery of the Lake Taupo region. Designed by Commander John Harris, Michael Wolveridge and Peter Thomson with the aim of producing New Zealand's first internationally recognised golf course, there is little doubt that this trio exceeded all expectations. The end result is a course that sprawls over 450 acres of natural countryside. This coupled with the 6429 metres from the championship tees and 108 large well placed bunkers has led Wairakei to receive worldwide acclaim.

Kinloch (Taupo)

The first Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course to be built in New Zealand has been created around the unique natural features of the site rather than transforming the landscape to meet a uniform golf course design. The course fits the landscape with ease, and the backdrop of Lake Taupo provides a magnificent setting. Jack Nicklaus on the Kinloch golf course development: "The Kinloch site has the views and all the elevation that you need for a great golf course. It will be a very special and enjoyable golf course."





Cape Kidnappers (Hawke's Bay)

The American designer of Cape Kidnappers, Tom Doak, who is also well known for his prize-winning courses in the US, has said that, 'If Cape Kidnappers were a book it would be an epic. Enjoy your game and enjoy the setting (because) you may never play golf somewhere like this again'. Like Kauri Cliffs, Cape Kidnappers plays above the ocean, atop dramatic cliffs, but unlike Kauri Cliffs, where the shape of the land dictates play along the shoreline, this course runs to and from the edge. Cape Kidnappers is built on a ridge-and-valley landscape with spectacular sea views.

Accommodation

Te Arai Links (Near Mangawhai)

Positioned alongside a pristine New Zealand coastline, Te Arai Links promises to be a world class golf destination. Boasting two pure links golf courses designed by Tom Doak and the other by Bill Coore & Ben Crenshaw. Te Arai Links is a scenic 90-minute drive from the Auckland CBD, or 25 minutes by helicopter. While only a short trip north of New Zealand's largest city, you'll find yourself in another world - surrounded by trees, sand dunes and coastal views over one of the country's most stunning, white sand, surf beaches.

The accommodation options at Te Arai Links all share a luxuriously understated aesthetic and uncompromising build quality. The structures, designed by Studio John Irving Architects, blend seamlessly into the natural surroundings, so that the architecture feels that it belongs in this absolutely stunning environment. The interiors, by Jenni Kayne, combine beauty, functionality and authenticity to create spaces that are calm, relaxing and provide enduring comfort.

Edgewater Palms Apartments (Paihia, Bay of Islands)

Golden sands of the Bay of Islands curve out to greet the wide blue south pacific ocean. Picture perfect sunrises stream over the hills of Russell. Dolphins play curiously in the late afternoon waters. Edgewater Palms Apartments, set on the waterfront with tropical landscaping and exceptional facilities – is the perfect place to enjoy all that Northland has to offer.

Hilton Hotel, Taupo

The elegant Hilton Lake Taupo hotel is located on the Napier-Taupo Highway, just minutes from the town centre and 15 minutes from Taupo airport and features stunning views over the largest lake in New Zealand and the mountains of the Tongariro National Park. The onsite Bistro Lago restaurant is considered to be one of Taupo's finest. The hotel boasts a **Qualmark 5 star rating** as well as an Enviro-Gold rating, New Zealand's highest award for Environmental and Social Sustainability in Tourism.

Crown Hotel, Napier (Hawke's Bay)

Overlooking the stunning waterfront in the historical seaside village of Ahuriri, Napier, with the sun, sea and landscape on your doorstep...location is everything! A boutique 4.5 star hotel with 39 guestrooms offering studios, 1 and 2 bedroom suites in an idyllic location where you can come to dine, dream and discover. A timeless hotel which combines modern design and history with our teams genuine personalized service.

Auckland



Auckland's blend of harbour, islands, Polynesian culture and modern city environment has created a lifestyle ranked amongst the best in the world. The natural assets of Auckland have made it a dream destination for all kinds of travellers, from doing-it-on-the-cheap backpackers to cost-is-no-issue super yacht owners. Welcome to Auckland, our largest and most diverse city. Being at the narrowest point of the North Island it literally stretches itself from one side of the country to the other – from the Pacific Ocean to the Tasman Sea. This means, wherever you are in Auckland, you're never far from the water. From big wild rolling surf beaches to a beautiful gulf scattered with tranquil holiday

islands, the sea and all its attractions are why this is known as the City of Sails. From some of New Zealand's best shopping and dining experiences to a cruise on the beautiful gulf harbour – a few days in Auckland is the perfect beginning or end to your vacation in New Zealand.

Activity recommendations:

- Waiheke Island wine and food experience.
- Harbour Bridge climb & bungee jump.
- Shopping in Parnell and Ponsonby.
- Americas yacht sailing experience.
- Fishing for Snapper on the harbour.
- Enjoying the panoramic views from Mount Eden or exploring the black sandy beaches on the West Coast.

Bay of Islands

The Bay of Islands is one of New Zealand's great holiday destinations - enjoyed by 'Kiwis' and international visitors alike. This is authentic New Zealand - both stunningly beautiful and historically significant. With a sub-tropical climate, you can enjoy beach and water activities, go exploring one of the many nature walks, swim with dolphins, charter a boat to go fishing or to explore the 144 different islands in our bay. The Bay of Islands was where the first European settlers arrived, and where they forged the first relationships with local Maori



- not always a friendly experience! The famous Treaty of Waitangi became the founding document for our new nation, and is celebrated every year at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds. Each town in the Bay of Islands has its own unique culture and lifestyle - from the more up-market lifestyle focus of Kerikeri, to bustling Paihia with its focus on providing a great visitor experience, to the calming historic atmosphere of Waitangi and the Haruru Falls, and the beautiful and sometimes quirky sea-side town of Russell.

Activity recommendations:

- Explore the Islands by charter boat.
- A day trip to Ninety Mile Beach and Cape Reinga.
- Visit the Waitangi Treaty Grounds.
- A day trip to Hokianga and the Waipoua Kauri Forest.
- Visit the beautiful town of Russell.
- Diving, snorkelling and swimming with dolphins.

Rotorua & Lake Taupo



Rotorua is one place where the turbulent forces that formed New Zealand are most evident. This city, on the Volcanic Plateau, has one of the world's most lively fields of geothermal activity. Skyrocketing geysers, hot springs and boiling mud pools all tell you that this place sits squarely on the Pacific Rim of Fire. Rotorua is also the ancestral home of the Te Arawa people who settled here more than 600 years ago and their presence offers the visitor numerous cultural experiences.

See the clear blue waters on a summer's day and Lake Taupo can appear the most beautiful and tranquil place in New Zealand. Appearances deceive. Taupo is more than a lake. It is a volcano with no top – a top that was blown off in one of the largest and most devastating eruptions ever seen on the planet.

Visit the Craters of the Moon and you will see evidence of its fiery birth in the geysers, steaming craters and boiling mud pools.

Activity recommendations:

- Visit Huka Falls and the geothermal parks at Wai O Tapu or Te Puia.
- Enjoy a relaxing massage or treatment at the world class Polynesian Spa.
- Visit a Maori village and experience a cultural show.
- Take a twilight cruise on Lake Taupo.
- Experience fly-fishing in the pristine rivers.
- Take a hike in the Tongariro National Park.

Hawke's Bay

There are two words that sit with Hawke's Bay and they are Wine Country. Hawke's Bay is one of New Zealand's warmest, driest regions and this has made it one of the country's leading producers of wine; notably red wines – cabernet sauvignon, merlot and latterly syrah – but also with some quite stunning whites. But there is much more than wine to this glorious place. It is New Zealand's Art Deco centre, rebuilt in the 1930's after a huge earthquake. It hosts the country's most elaborate celebrations of Matariki – the Maori New Year. It's a place where you can shop at the farmers market for locally grown delicacies, indulge in artisan gourmet food, and join the lunchers at Napier's Great Long Lunch. And it's a place where you can walk the forest trails of the Ruahine and Kaweka Forest Parks or the glorious beaches that stretch along the coast.



Activity recommendations:

- Take a tour of the world class wineries.
- Enjoy lunch/dinner at the Craggy Range or Elephant Hill wineries.
- Walk amongst the Art Deco buildings in Napier.
- Visit the largest mainland gannet colony in the world at Cape Kidnappers.
- Visit the national aquarium on Napier's seafront.

Playing Around New Zealand

In the summer of 2003, a passion for golf and travel prompted Will Owen to buy a small minibus and begin offering a daily golf service for visitors to Christchurch, New Zealand under the company name of Playing Around New Zealand Ltd. Through hotel and online marketing this service became popular and he expanded the tours to include other destinations on the South Island. In 2004, he conducted his first multi-day tour for a golf group from Australia along with several self-drive itineraries for visiting golfers from across the globe. By the summer of 2005, Playing Around New Zealand was firmly established and Will began employing the services of first-class guides to assist him in making his tour service truly nationwide. Fast forward to 2023, thousands of golfers from across the world have enjoyed the first-class itinerary planning and tour services from the team, lifelong friendships have been formed and several visitors have returned to New Zealand for their second, third and even fourth golf trip! Will now leads a small team of dedicated professionals from his Auckland office. During the past twenty years, they have built superb relationships with the best New Zealand golf courses and accommodation providers to ensure that golf visitors who use their services have the best possible travel experience. The company also owns several Mercedes vehicles that are exclusively available for self-drive and guided golf tours. As members of Tourism Industry Aotearoa (TIA) and the International Association of Golf Tour Operators (IAGTO) you are assured of the highest standards of service and integrity. The team were also the proud recipients of the World Golf Awards “Best New Zealand Inbound Golf Tour Operator” in 2015, 2017 and 2018. You can also read reviews on TripAdvisor at https://www.tripadvisor.co.nz/Attraction_Review-g255106-d5111714-Reviews-Playing_Around_New_Zealand-Auckland_North_Island.html