



Playing Around New Zealand Ltd  
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## **March 2022: North Island Escorted Tour**

### **PACKAGE INCLUSIONS**

- 6 rounds of golf (Windross Farm, Gulf Harbour Country Club, Kauri Cliffs, Wairakei, Kinloch and Cape Kidnappers) with shared electric carts.
- 10 night's in 4 & 5 star hotel accommodation with breakfast.
- Welcome drinks in central Auckland
- Farewell dinner at Terroir Restaurant, Craggy Range, 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 Rotorua (includes one checked bag – golf clubs will travel by road)
- Golf competitions with prizes and golfing merchandise.
- 24 hour on-call assistance from your Play Golf New Zealand tour office.
- New Zealand goods & services tax (GST) at 15%

### **OPTIONAL EXTRAS**

- 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**

- NZ\$5550 per person based on twin share. NZ\$7050 per person based on single occupancy.

## Schedule

### **Day 1: Auckland (Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup> 2022)**

**Morning / Afternoon:** Our staff member will meet you at your Auckland arrival point and transfer you to the centrally located City Life Hotel.

**Evening:** Welcome drinks in Central Auckland.

**Accommodation:** City Life Hotel, Superior Room x 2 nights

### **Day 2: Auckland (Monday March 7<sup>th</sup>)**

**Morning:** Golf at Windross Farm. **Tee time:** 10:30am

Your transport will depart the hotel at 9am to ensure you can take advantage of the superb practise facilities at Windross.

**Evening:** At leisure in Auckland

### **Day 3: Auckland to Bay of Islands (Tuesday March 8<sup>th</sup>)**

**Morning:** Golf at Gulf Harbour Country Club. **Tee time:** 9:30am (Your transport will depart the hotel at 8:00am).

**Afternoon:** Following golf you will transfer to the Bay of Islands via a refreshment stop at Whangarei Marina (2 ½ hours).

**Evening:** At leisure in Paihia

**Accommodation:** Waterfront Suites, Deluxe Suite x 3 nights

### **Day 4: Bay of Islands (Wednesday March 9<sup>th</sup>)**

**Leisure Day:** At leisure in the Bay of Islands.

Your host will offer a complimentary tour of the Bay of Islands region. There is also a transport service to your choice of golf courses including Waitangi, Kerikeri and Kauri Cliffs. Other activity options include a Bay of Islands cruise.

### **Day 5: Bay of Islands (Thursday March 10<sup>th</sup>)**

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

**Tee time:** 10:45am

**Evening:** At leisure in Paihia.

### **Day 6: Bay of Islands to Rotorua to Taupo (Friday March 11<sup>th</sup>)**

**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 Rotorua at 1pm (via a stopover in Auckland).

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

Sightseeing and activity options include Te Puia, Agrodome, Hells Gate and Wai O Tapu (geothermal park).

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

### **Day 7: Taupo (Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup>)**

**Morning:** Golf at Wairakei. **Tee time:** 10:00am

**Afternoon / Evening:** At leisure. Your tour guide will provide a complimentary tour of the region including the Huka Falls and Aratiatia Dam.

**Day 8: Taupo (Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup>)**

**Morning:** Golf at Kinloch. **Tee time:** 10:00am

**Evening:** At leisure.

**Day 9: Taupo to Hawke's Bay (Monday March 14<sup>th</sup>)**

**Morning / Afternoon:** Travel to Hawke's Bay (2 hours). Your guides will provide a complimentary wine tour during the afternoon (tasting costs are at additional expense).

**Evening:** At leisure in Hawke's Bay.

**Accommodation:** Crown Hotel, Superior Room x 2 nights

**Day 10: Hawke's Bay (Tuesday March 15<sup>th</sup>)**

**Morning:** Golf at Cape Kidnappers. **Tee time:** 10:30am

**Evening:** Your guide will host a farewell dinner at a leading Hawke's Bay vineyard restaurant.

**Day 11: Hawke's Bay (Wednesday March 16<sup>th</sup>)**

**Departure Day:** We offer a complimentary road transfer back to Auckland (5 ½ hours). Alternatively, we can arrange a flight to Auckland to suit your travel plans.

\*Cost of domestic flight is additional and will be subject to Air New Zealand's best rate at time of booking\*

**Highlights of Itinerary**

- Play golf at the best golf courses that the North Island of New Zealand has to offer including scenic Kauri Cliffs and the magnificent Cape Kidnappers Golf Course, both regular features on 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.
- Friendly golf competition with daily prizes.
- Welcome drinks and a farewell dinner 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 Escort



### **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.

### **Tolan Henderson**

Tolan is the company's leading Tour Director and will be the friendly face that guides you around New Zealand. After spending 18 years in the IT industry with Intel and Microsoft the lure of the golf course was too strong! Beginning with a 2-year stint as a club maker, the fire was lit and with a desire to combine the love of golf, people and travel, it was only a matter of time before Tolan joined the Play Golf New Zealand team. With a cheerful and humorous personality and a local golfing knowledge that is second to none, Tolan is the perfect tour director and host. To say Tolan is an avid golfer is an understatement – when not touring you can almost guarantee that you will find Tolan on a golf course somewhere! Not only has he played just under 300 of New Zealand's 407 golf courses he claims to have ticked off most of the courses in the South Pacific Islands and Hawaii and has made a start on mainland America.



## The Golf Courses

### **Windross Farm (Auckland)**

Set amongst picturesque panoramas in the south of Auckland City is New Zealand's newest golf course, Windross Farm. The course traverses 60 hectares of pristine farmland with 360 degree views of spectacular tree lined hills and lush green countryside. Windross Farm has been developed as a unique links-style course that offers a mixture of flat and undulating ground, man-made lakes and strategically placed dramatic bunkers to offer the best of golf and the natural environment. As an enjoyable and unique golfing experience, the course has already received fulsome praise from some of New Zealand's golfing greats and officials. Windross Farm Golf Course played host to the LPGA sanctioned 2017 New Zealand Women's Open.



### **Gulf Harbour Country Club (Auckland)**

Gulf Harbour Country Club is a spectacular golf course located only 40 minutes north of the Auckland CBD and was home to 1998 World Cup of Golf, the course itself was designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr. it is well known for its stunning views out over the Hauraki Gulf. The layout is a Championship par 72, with returning 9's of par 36. Each nine consists of two par 3's, five par 4's and two par 5's and will challenge golfers of all ability.

### **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 lead 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

### **CityLife Hotel, Auckland**

Whether you're visiting the City of Sails for the first time, or are a returning guest, CityLife Auckland offers truly memorable Auckland accommodation. Located on Queen St in the CBD, it's a short stroll to the city's best restaurants, bars and attractions like the Sky Tower, Ferry Terminal and Viaduct Harbour.

### **Waterfront Suites, Paihia (Bay of Islands)**

The Waterfront Suites Bay of Islands offers luxury apartments which are located only steps away from Paihia's restaurants and wharf, ideally situated to take advantage of all that the glorious Bay of Islands and Northland region has to offer. All these luxury Paihia apartments include full kitchens, laundry facilities, lounge & dining areas, mini bar and high-speed internet access. The complex has a **Qualmark 5 star rating**.

### **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.

## **Play Golf 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 2020 and following a rebranding and a name change to Play Golf New Zealand, 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 fifteen 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](https://www.tripadvisor.co.nz/Attraction_Review-g255106-d5111714-Reviews-Playing_Around_New_Zealand-Auckland_North_Island.html)