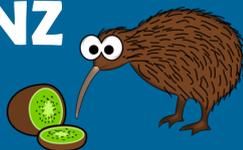


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## **CHRISTMAS - North Island Tour** **19th to 30th December 2020 12 days 11**

**Sign up with Smylies Tours on their unique Xmas tour showing you the best of the North Island beaches and some secret places along the way.**

**Day 1: Sat 19th Dec - Christchurch to Auckland** (1 hours flight)

If you joined us from the start (Tour 1) then today is your relax / shopping day in the City and if you are starting the tour then you fly to Auckland where we will meet you and join up with the others. Our evening get together meal will ensure we know our travel companions for the next 12 days. [Stay—YHA Auckland](#)

**Day 2: Sun 20th Dec - Auckland Activity Day**

Heard about "One Tree Hill in a song"? U2? Never mind, Auckland has some of the best volcanoes (we should say, extinct volcanoes!) in the country and you can walk up to them without too much exercise as they are all in the city. We will also check out some other activities (Sky Tower for anyone?) and places and do our final shopping for the big Xmas beach holiday. [Stay—Auckland YHA](#)

**Day 3: Mon 21st Dec - Auckland to Paihia** (230km, 3.5 hours driving)

Today we head to Paihia and the Waitangi Treaty grounds. This is where the Treaty of Waitangi was signed. Paihia YHA is our base for a couple of nights. [Stay—Paihia YHA](#)

**Day 4: Tue 22nd Dec - Paihia to Cape Reinga** (200km, 2.5 hours driving)

This is your day to explore the far North and Cape Reinga near the top we will have chance to try sand dune surfing and a swim in the sea. [Stay—Paihia YHA](#)

**Day 5: Wed 23rd Dec - Paihia to Whitianga** (360km, 5 hours driving)

We are going to head down past Auckland and head over to the Coromandel for our Xmas break. We will sample a variety of beaches for the next few days and experience a real NZ beach holiday so be prepared to get sand between your toes. [Stay—Whitianga Harbourside Holiday Park tenting](#)

**Day 6: Thurs 24th Dec - Whitianga to Cooks Beach day trip** (100km, 3.5 hours driving)

This morning we will head over to Cooks Beach and enjoy the water. If we get bored then we will have compulsory sleep time before more water time, beach games and food. This is going to be hard work—not! Relax beach style. [Stay—Whitianga Harbourside Holiday Park tenting](#)

**Day 7: Fri 25th Dec - Cooks beach, Cathedral Cove, Hot Water Beach day trip** (150km, 2 hours driving)

Today is Xmas day and traditionally a quiet day for NZ'ers. We will try and take advantage of that and head over to Cathedral Cove (Narnia Prince Caspian) and Hot Water Beach. We'll have a secret Santa too. [Stay—Whitianga Harbourside Holiday Park tenting](#)

**Day 8: Sat 26th Dec - Cooks Beach to Maraehako Beach** (380km, 5.5 hours driving)

In the morning we will pack up and slowly head south to Tauranga where we will stock up on supplies. We are going to cruise today and take in the sea view's and local landscape. Tonight we are going to camp in a very special spot called Maraehako beach. [Stay—Maraehako Beach tenting](#)

**Day 9: Sun 27th Dec Maraehako to Gisborne** (190km, 3.40 hours driving)

Depending on how fast we wake up, we will do another cruise day to and head along the East Coast to Tolaga Bay. This area has a rich history that we want to learn about (Whale Rider). Tolaga Bay also boasts the Longest Warf in NZ. [Stay—Tolaga Bay Top 10 tenting / cabin](#)

**Day 10: Mon 28th Dec Tolaga Bay to Hastings** (270km, 3.5 hours driving)

After the peace and serenity of the East Cape we will head into Gisborne for some comfort food before heading down towards the Art Deco Capital of NZ, Napier. This area had a major transformation in the 1930's and was rebuilt with modern buildings (of that era). Late afternoon we will drive towards our final destination for the day, Hastings. We will stay in the Top 10 and wash away the sea salt in the pool. [Stay—Hastings Top 10](#)

**Day 11: Tue 29th Dec Hastings to Wellington** (310km, 4 hours driving)

The last day of the North Island tours involves a journey along the wine regions and through rich green landscapes This is a time you can catch up on some sleep as tonight we will arrive for our last North Island night in Wellington. [Stay—Wellington YHA](#)

**Day 12: Wed 30th Dec Wellington to Ferry and Home or join Tour 3**

In the morning we will say goodbye to the North Island and head over to the Ferry Terminal for a spectacular crossing to the Mainland. The Sounds in December are a sight to behold and make sure you have your camera fully charged. Once we arrive into Picton we will join with the Christchurch students and carry on to Nelson or if we say goodbye we shall part in Picton and return to Christchurch on the bus going home. [Stay Nelson YHA or home](#)

**TOUR INCLUDES: 11 nights accommodation, 11 dinner, 11 breakfast, transport, guiding (tents ,sleeping mats provided, bring own sleeping bag)**

**Please get a trip form from the international office and return it by the 18<sup>th</sup> of Sept. We need a minimum of 8 students to run this trip.**

All trips subject to Smylies Tours Terms and Conditions found on [www.smylies.co.nz](http://www.smylies.co.nz)



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