

RTYC New Zealand Cruise Briefing paper
March 19th to 27th 2010

BACKGROUND

In March 2010 Members of the Royal Thames Yacht Club in-conjunction with the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron plan to spend a week cruising the waters of the Bay of Islands, New Zealand. It is likely that a number of other members of the ICOYC may also charter yachts and join the cruise.

THE EVENT

The cruise will start with a reception and dinner at the RNZYS Clubhouse at Westhaven close to the Viaduct Basin, former home of the America's Cup in 2000 and 2003. The following day a bus will take the group the three hours north to Opuia, in the Bay of Islands, charter boats will be arranged and ready to start out that afternoon for Russell or Te Hue Hue. Next, on to Parakura Bay and a visit to Rawhitipa where a Maori welcome will be laid on. The rally then progresses, with possible anchorages in Paradise Bay or Endicott Bay on Urepukapuka Island offering swimming, walking or fishing. Other suggested anchorages include Marsden Cove, Robinson Island and a sail via black rocks to Kawarau Island with a last night dinner at the KeriKeri Sailing Club.

Fri 19th March Arrival Auckland, accommodation arranged at Auckland City hotel. 4.pm RNZYS Friday Rum race invitation. 7pm Evening Welcome dinner party at RNZYS Westhaven.

Sat 20th March 9am Depart Auckland by Coach for Opuia in the Bay of Islands, visit Matakoho Kauri Museum, lunch at Whangarei Town Basin arrive Opuia 2pm. Pick up charter boats and provisions, short passage to Russell (the first Capital of NZ) to moor overnight and visit this early NZ town.

Sun 21st March Excursion to Waitangi for cultural experience at Treaty Grounds transport via ferry from Russell. Sail to Parakura Bay for next anchorage .

Mon 22nd March Sail to Paradise bay or Endicott's bay on Urepukapuka Island, day of recreation swimming , fishing walking. Meal at Otehei Bay. Alternative if conditions suitable a long sail around Cape Brett to Whangamumu harbour a landlocked early whaling station site.

Tues 23rd March Sail to Deep Water cove or Oke Bayt Urepukapuka and close by inner islands and beaches ,walks ashore.

Wed 24th March Sail to Sail to Motourua Island and other islands in the vicinity. Shore excursions and exploring the coastline. Moor for night in one of the sheltered anchorages in this area

Thurs 25th March Sail to Marsden Cove on North side of Bay.

Fri 26th March Sail via black rocks and Motoroa Island to Doves Bay Marina for the evening. Cruise closing dinner at KeriKeri yacht Club looking over the Inlet.

Sat 27th March Return by 12 noon to Opuia after a short sail via Kent Passage and past Russell. Coach transport back to Auckland or alternative optional excursions.

CHARTER VESSELS

The biggest charter company in New Zealand is the Moorings - <http://www.moorings.com/Destinations.aspx?Destination=BOI> members will be responsible for managing their own bookings etc.

An indication of costs and vessels available through the Moorings and a few other options are below.

SUPPLIER/NAME	TYPE	BAREBOAT	LENGTH	DOUBLE	SINGLE	TOTAL	
		CREWED		CABINS	BERTHS	COST	
						NZ\$	
Moorings	Monohull	bareboat	40.3	3		4732	
Moorings	Mono	B/B	41.3	3		4977	
Moorings	Zuben	Mono	43.3	3		5751	
Moorings	Mono	B/B	35.3	3		3969	
Moorings	Mono	B/B	35.2	2		3969	
Moorings	finvarra	Mono	33.1	2			
Moorings Atmosphere Mono		B/B	38.1	3			
Cotton Blossom	Mono	crewed		3		12600	
sv TeVaka	Mono	crewed	60	3		15,120	
Caribbean Girl	Mono	B/B	41.1	3		3850	
Lion NZ	Mono	crewed	80		15	22000	
Dolphin Explorer	power cat	crewed	Mother ship?	20m	6	6	60,000

NEW ZEALAND INFORMATION



New Zealand comprises three main islands, the North and South Islands, and Stewart, and a number of smaller islands, located near the centre of the water hemisphere. Cook Strait, 20 kilometres wide at its narrowest point, separates the North and South Islands. The total land area, 268,680 square kilometres (103,738 sq mi), is a little less than that of Italy or Japan, and a little more than the United Kingdom. New Zealand's capital city is Wellington located at the bottom of the North Island, however Auckland has the largest population of just over 1 million (25% of the country's population)

The country extends more than 1600 km (1000 mi) along its main, north-north-east axis, with approximately 15,134 km (9,404 mi) of coastline. The most significant of the smaller inhabited islands include Rakiura; Waiheke Island, in Auckland's Hauraki Gulf; Great Barrier Island, east of the Hauraki Gulf; and the Chatham Islands, named Rēkohu by Moriori. The country has extensive marine resources, with the seventh-largest Exclusive Economic Zone in the world, covering over four million square kilometres (1.5 million square miles), more than 15 times its land area. The South Island is the largest land mass of New Zealand, and is divided along its length by the Southern Alps, the highest peak of which is Aoraki/Mount Cook at 3754 metres (12,320 ft). There are 18 peaks over 3000 metres (9843 ft) in the South Island. The North Island is less mountainous but is marked by volcanism. The highest North Island mountain, Mount Ruapehu (2797 m, 9177 ft), is an active cone volcano, which last erupted in 1997

New Zealand has a population of about 4.3 million, of which approximately 78% identify with European ethnic groups. New Zealanders of European descent are collectively known as *Pākehā*; this term generally refers to New Zealanders of European descent. Most European New Zealanders are of British and Irish ancestry, although there has been significant Dutch, Dalmatian, Italian, and German immigration together with indirect European immigration through Australia, North America, South America and South Africa.

Indigenous Māori people are the largest non-European ethnic group, accounting for 15% of the population. People identifying with Asian ethnic groups account for 9% while 7% of people are of Pacific Island origin.

Much of contemporary New Zealand culture is derived from British roots. It also includes significant influences from American, Australian and Māori cultures, along with those of other European cultures and – more recently – non-Māori Polynesian and Asian cultures. Large festivals in celebration of Diwali and Chinese New Year are held in several of the larger centres. The world's largest Polynesian festival, Pasifika, is an annual event in Auckland. Cultural links between New Zealand and the United Kingdom are maintained by a common language, sustained migration from the United Kingdom, and many young New Zealanders spending time in the United Kingdom on their "overseas experience" (OE). The music and cuisine of New Zealand are similar to that of Australia, Canada, UK, and the US, although both have distinct New Zealand and Pacific qualities.

Māori culture has undergone considerable change since the arrival of Europeans; in particular the introduction of Christianity in the early 19th century brought about fundamental change in everyday life. Nonetheless the perception that most Māori now live similar lifestyles to their Pākehā neighbours is a superficial one. In fact, Māori culture has significant differences, for instance the important role which the marae and the extended family continue to play in communal and family life. As in traditional times, Māori habitually perform karakia to ensure the favourable outcome of important undertakings, but today the prayers used are generally Christian. Māori still regard their allegiance to tribal groups as a vital part of personal identity, and Māori kinship roles resemble those of other Polynesian peoples. As part of the resurgence of Māori culture that came to the fore in the late 20th century, the tradition-based arts of kapa haka (song and dance), carving and weaving are now more widely practiced, and the architecture of the marae maintains strong links to traditional forms. Māori also value their connections to Polynesia, as attested by the increasing popularity of waka ama (outrigger canoe racing), which is now an international sport involving teams from all over the Pacific

Use of the Māori language (Te Reo Māori) as a living, community language remained only in a few remote areas in the post-war years, but is currently undergoing a process of revitalization, thanks in part to Māori language immersion schools and a Māori Television channels. This is the only nationwide television channel to have the majority of its prime-time content delivered in Māori, primarily because only 4% of the population speaks Te Reo Māori. However, partly in recognition of the importance of Māori culture to New Zealand, the language was declared one of New Zealand's official languages in 1987

TRAVEL TO NEW ZEALAND

By anyone's standards New Zealand is a long way away and the average journey time is around 30 hours from door to door.

There are a number of different airlines that fly into Auckland International airport the four most comfortable are:

Air New Zealand	www.airnewzealand.co.uk
Emirates	www.emirates.com
Singapore Airlines	www.singaporeair.com
Qantas	www.qantas.com

A very good site to look at for best priced fares is: www.kayak.co.uk

AFTER THE CRUISE

Given the distance that Members will have travelled to get to New Zealand it is anticipated that most will want to spend more time in the country. It is hoped that the following will offer some ideas and stimulate plans for the weeks following the cruise.

The tourism New Zealand web site has a great deal of good information and recommendations for first time travellers to the country: <http://www.newzealand.com/travel/UK-Ireland>

One of the best ways to see the country is by road as it is possible to see most of the country in about three weeks and a very popular method is to hire a camper van or mobile home:

Two of the best companies to do this through are:

Maui	www.maui.co.nz
Britz	www.britz.co.nz

Some highlights of New Zealand include:

Auckland:

Viaduct Basin – the former home of the America's Cup, is a vibrant area with bars and good restaurants, along with the national maritime museum and the harbour often has a number of well known yachts visiting. It is also possible to go and do a little match racing on two former Americas Cup boats: <http://www.sailnz.co.nz>

Kelly Tarlton's - is a wonderland of snow, ice and amazing underwater sights. Explore the wilds of Antarctica and the natural treasures of the ocean depths in our Underwater World - and beyond <http://www.kellytarltons.co.nz>

The Skytower – New Zealand's tallest manmade structure offers fantastic views of the city and the Hauraki Gulf, the revolving restaurant offers a unique setting for lunch or dinner <http://www.skycityauckland.co.nz/Attractions/Skytower.html>

Skycity – New Zealand's premier casino offers a wide range of tables and machines for all skills! <http://www.skycityauckland.co.nz/casino/welcome.html>

Heading South:

Waitomo Caves – offer a unique experience of total darkness and glow worms, for the more adventurous there is the opportunity to do some "dark water rafting" <http://www.waitomo.com>

Rotorua - perceived by most tourists as the heart of Maori culture in New Zealand, Rotorua is also known as the sulphur city as it is surrounded by geothermal activity. <http://www.rotoruanz.com>

Orakei Korako – situated just south of Rotorua, the Hidden Valley is truly one of New Zealand's gems and something NOT to be missed <http://www.orakeikorako.co.nz>

Lake Taupo – New Zealand's largest natural lake is the by-product of one of the world's largest volcanic eruptions, said to have been felt in China! The lake and surrounding area are host to a number of attractions including the Geothermally heated Prawn Farm and mighty Huka Falls <http://www.laketaupo.co.nz/index.html>

Hawkes Bay – The Art Deco heritage created after the devastating 1931 earthquake is fascinating to explore, while Maori history is rich and exciting. Food, art and wine trails meander right across the district – even to the longest place name in the world! <http://www.hawkesbaynz.com/default.aspx>

The Wairapa – part of New Zealand's agricultural heartland, the Wairapa offers a mix of boutique hotels and stunning scenery... they also produce quite a bit of good wine here so a side trip to Martinborough is well worth the drive. <http://www.wairarapanz.com>

Wellington – New Zealand's capital city offers everything to almost everyone, rated as serving the best coffee in the world the cafe culture that has developed here leads to a very vibrant city. Courtney Place is a must during the evening and for those who want a sail on the harbour (not for the faint hearted, they sail in an average of 25 knots here!) just drop in to the Royal Port Nicholson Yacht Club (soon to be reciprocal with the RTYC) <http://www.wellingtonnz.com>

CROSSING THE COOK STRAIGHT

The Interisland Line operate the ferries that run between the North and South Islands, they run on a regular basis and for those making the crossing for the first time it is worth doing during daylight hours as the scenery is spectacular. www.interislander.co.nz

THE SOUTH ISLAND

Picton – the Interislander terminates in the small town of Picton, situated at the top of the beautiful Marlborough sounds. www.picton.co.nz

Kaikoura – situated on the east coast of the South Island half way between Picton and Christchurch, Kaikoura is the ideal place for whale watching and during the winter months many Humpback whales are seen from the whale watching boats that ply their trade.
<http://www.kaikoura.co.nz/>

Christchurch – known as the garden city, Christchurch is New Zealand's third city. Home to the Canterbury and Crusaders rugby teams, Jade Stadium is one of the city's best known features, as is the "wizard" who can be often found outside the cathedral. The "Strip" is full of restaurants and bars and a good place to start a night in Christchurch. <http://www.christchurch.org.nz>

The Deep South- Dunedin, Invercargill and Bluff – The bottom of the South Island is well known for its fantastic scenery and rural lifestyle. Dunedin was the first port of call for the Maoris settlers in the South Island over 400 years ago and is also home to the worlds steepest road, Baldwin St.!. There is much to see including old Gold mining settlements and rare wildlife. Bluff the Southernmost point of the Island is home to the country's famous Bluff Oysters.
<http://www.dunedinnz.com> <http://www.southland.org.nz>

Fiordland - Travelling west from Southland the power of Fiordland's scenery never fails to enthral travellers. Waterfalls tumble hundreds of metres into massive fiords; ancient rainforest clings impossibly to the mountains; shimmering lakes and granite peaks look the same today as they did a thousand years ago.
<http://www.newzealand.com/travel/destinations/regions/fiordland/fiordland.cfm>

Queenstown – situated on the way back up the South Island the town is well recognised as the extreme sports capital of the world! However it is also possible to sail and America's Cup boat on the lake and even watch some cricket on the John Davis Oval, hailed as one of the most remarkable international cricketing venues in the world. <http://www.queenstown-nz.co.nz>

Fox Glacier – heading west again from Queenstown the magnificent Fox Glacier is beautiful scenery, mighty glaciers, primeval rainforests, gourmet experiences, scenic flights, ice treks, unique wild life, meandering walking trails, ore inspiring day hikes, rugged beaches and friendly hospitality. A wonderful mild climate and an enviable setting on the South Island's West Coast makes Glacier Country an essential place to pause during any New Zealand experience.
<http://www.glaciercountry.co.nz>

The West Coast - With towering mountains, clear, clean rivers and lakes, vast podocarp forests, temperate coastal forests, diverse wetlands, accessible glaciers, wild beaches and long captivating caves, the West Coast is a wonderland of natural features just waiting to be explored. The area is teeming with abundant wildlife, rare kiwi and white heron (kotuku), seal colonies, the world's rarest penguins, dolphins and a variety of unique native alpine flora, this 600 kilometre long region is a time capsule, revealing what NZ might have looked like before humans arrived some 1000 years ago. <http://www.west-coast.co.nz>