



## Waipoua Forest

The 9600 hectare Waipoua Forest Sanctuary is a lush native forest encompassing New Zealand's largest kauri sanctuary and was created in 1952 to preserve native flora and fauna along with the 2-3000 year old kauri in its heart. Around  $\frac{3}{4}$  of New Zealand's kauri are here in these forests surrounding us. In the forest there are **walks** from 10 minutes in duration through to long tramps maintained by the Department of Conservation. Creation provided New Zealand with no mammals (except bats), and only introduced mammals are now in our forests, and so, our forests are safe for walking and exploring by yourself. We have no snakes and negligible poisonous animals in NZ.

We can assist you to find a magic spot in the forest to share with some of the birdlife, native plants, tiny orchids and ferns that abound in this land. One of the largest trees in the world, and certainly New Zealand's largest kauri with a girth of 13.8 metres, stands 51 metres high amongst other majestic, ancient forest trees.

**Tane Mahuta** (God of the forest) is by maori legend the separator of heaven and earth. **Te Matua Ngahere** (Father of the forest) is on a separate track and is also well worth the time to soak in the beauty of nature. Information can be found at the Department of Conservation **Forest Headquarters** just ten minutes from the lodge. To walk and enjoy all the trees takes around three to four hours depending on your fitness on well formed tracks. You can enjoy the walks at your own pace and you can select just one of the tree destinations if you prefer a shorter walking time from ten minutes.

Also in the forest are crystal clear rivers, containing native eel, small native fish and great secret **swimming holes** in the clean water courses filtered by the natural forest, a great way to cool off over summer. Ask us for directions.

We have wonderful maori guides who will explore the Waipoua Forest with you exclusively and immerse you in the story of the forest through maori mythology, history, botanical information and understanding of the mighty Waipoua Forest. These professional guides are local maori who have lived here in the Waipoua for many generations. These guides have been awarded as one of '**82 global experiences**' featured in the **Lonely Planet Code Green: Experiences of a Lifetime Guide Book, released in 2006**. This is an outstanding acclaim for them to receive, as these guides have only been operating since 2005, and this acclaim is much deserved. Their tour is a glimpse into the world of responsible tourism: where guests are introduced to an experience that is sensitive to the environment, the culture and the economy.' These maori guides will collect you at our door and deliver you home full of wonder for this beautiful and sacred environment.

You can enjoy this Waipoua Maori Forest experience by group tour at twilight only, where you drive yourself to meet the tour bus in the forest (20mins), however we do encourage you to opt for a private chauffeured tour. The private tour is at your own time request (most commonly by day), however also available by night.



## Trounson Kauri Park

Trounson is a much smaller pocket of mature native forest containing a 40 minute walking track and boardwalk within a 450 hectare reserve. This is one of only two 'mainland islands' in New Zealand and home to native North Island brown kiwi '**Te Kiwi**', kukupa (NZ pigeon), pekapeka (bats) and kauri snails. It also incorporates a magnificent dense stand of kauri that has long been recognised as one of the best examples in the country.

### **The Night Walk in Trounson Kauri Park - A Rare and Exclusive Opportunity**

Experience the wonder of the New Zealand predator free bush by night. The guided night walk to see kiwi in the wild in Trounson Kauri Park is our most popular tour and can be arranged for your second night's stay - it is an easy walk for all levels of fitness. Trounson Park is administered by the Department of Conservation who constantly work to eradicate pests to ensure the survival of the very rare Kiwi bird. You will enjoy a leisurely guided walk (one and a half hour's easy walking) through the forest with a guide whose knowledge of our local flora, fauna and kiwi is thorough and interesting.

The wonder of our forest is uncovered by night. Our rare native Kauri Snail (and only carnivorous snail) winds its way slowly through the bush by night, giant prehistoric wetas (insects) are found under fallen kauri logs, native fish and eels are found in the stream that meanders through the bush, and the canopy by nightlight is breathtaking. But, the wonder of Trounson is found in New Zealand's icon - 'Te Kiwi' which live here in this protected pocket of kauri forest where you can look for and listen for the kiwi that live here - yet you are less than three hours from the bustle of Auckland's International Airport. This opportunity to experience kiwi in the wild is extremely rare - most New Zealander's have never seen kiwi in the wild - so this is an activity to definitely embrace.

We start the evening with a beautiful dinner especially prepared early in the evening so you can depart early for your unique night walk.

You can choose to join a group tour at a very reasonable cost, where you drive yourself to and from the forest park by dark (20mins). Or, you can opt to have the guides chauffeur you from the lodge on a private tour. The private tour is escorted through the forest by night at your own pace and without the interruption of anyone else, ensuring absolute quiet for you to hear and see kiwi in the wild. Our guides will chauffeur you back safe and sound to the lodge following your tour. You will return to the lodge around 10-11pm and we can have your dessert ready and waiting in your room for you to enjoy before you cuddle down into our luxurious beds and listen to the moreporks and the silent wings of the native puriri moths that fly through the silent nights, as your drift off to sleep at Waipoua.

### **Flora, Fauna and Specialist Ornithological Guiding**

Our specialist nature guide is here for you who want to know more about our ornithology, environment and biodiversity. Our guide has a 17 year background in education with the Department of Conservation. He is also a professional conservationist and has lectured in environmental studies and founded many community ecology groups. Gerry is regarded as a New Zealand biodiversity and offshore Islands specialist and has a licence with the Department of Conservation to guide in both Trounson Kauri Park and Waipoua Forest. We can create a special days outing particularly for your requirements with this consummate and fun environmentalist.



## Lakes & Sea

The **Kai Iwi Lakes** are gin-clear fresh water lakes about 30mins from Waipoua Lodge that shine sapphire blue in the sun. You can walk around the lakes, discover small white sand beaches to swim at all by yourself, or take a picnic to pine beach and spend the day at the safe swimming beach that is so perfect for families and kids to loll around in the shallow waters of the lake edge. Spread your picnic blanket, suntan, **swim**, or rent a **kayak** and paddle around the lakes.

### Remote, Golden Sand Deserted Beaches

Waipoua Lodge is just 3kms from the sea 'as the crow flies' and ten minutes to Maunganui Bluff - a 1500 foot high sentinel, sacred to maori, marks the end of **New Zealand's longest drivable beach**. The golden sand beach is wild and woolly, with great surf breaks and rolling sand dunes where seals rest and kids can build sand castles forever. It is a great place to take a long run or share a romantic walk to the river mouth. You will most probably be one of **the only people on the beach**, to be solo, a freedom not often found in the western world, yet common to Waipoua.

Our **fishing guide** will chauffeur you by 4x4 for a full/half day trip on our remote deserted beaches in a four wheel drive to go **surfcasting** where he will assist you to catch your own fish (that we will cook for your dinner), explore the story of the sea, the fur seals, the shipwrecks, seascapes and the rugged coastline. Local maori speak of the 'Kai Moana' (food of the sea) as the shellfish and sea life are so plentiful here.

Further down the beach is Baylys Beach (1/2 hr drive) where you can hire a **quad bike and freedom ride** down the **golden sand** beach and dunes, or catch lunch at the Funky Fish Café to meet the locals after you have played a game of golf on a course where the fairway views pan out across sand dunes to the deep blue sea. You don't even have to book your tee off time - you put your money in the honesty box and play golf whenever it suits you!



## The Hokianga Harbour

One of the jewels of Northland is just forty minutes from the lodge and an area where early European settlement began in New Zealand. Discover the churches and history of the area, ride down the golden sand dunes, or swim where the famous friendly dolphin Opo used to play with children in the sea.

"Crossings Hokianga" is a boat cruise of the historically significant Hokianga harbour via maori interpretation.

Take in the magnificent **views of the harbour**, try **sand duning** (riding boogie boards down the sand dunes), which is so much fun!. Try the safe harbour swimming on golden sands, **arts, crafts and mazes**. Walk to waterfalls in beautiful Waioterama or find the sea caves and blow hole at the entrance to the Harbour.

Charter a deep sea fishing boat for **Big Game Fishing** for marlin, shark and tuna – launched wherever the fish are biting. Or, spend the day on the Hokianga Harbour to catch a small snapper, to **snorkel** or dive for crayfish from the boat, if you don't want the adventure of the deep blue sea.

## Four Wheel Driving

If you are able to bring a four wheel drive to the lodge, we can send you on roads and tracks inaccessible by car, taking you to wilderness locations and we have 2 kayaks to throw on your roof rack. We can also arrange a guide with a four wheel drive if you aren't able to bring your own.

## Mountain Bikes, kayaks and horse riding

We have a range of complementary quality mountain bikes for you to take over the roads and forest tracks surrounding the lodge before breakfast (if you're keen!) and kayaks for the lakes and inner harbours. We have a local 'horse adventure' guide – canter up rivers and over wooded farmland with a real local character on his horses.

## Relaxation and for a Quiet Day Out

In Dargaville you can enjoy the quiet beauty of our Maritime Museum, Cafes, the Zizania Paper Company whose owners craft handmade paper from local river grass and several local kauri and gum shops where kauri is crafted into beautiful bowls and giftware. Spend a day learning to wood turn with a local artisan of kauri wood or bone carving (see our packages page for more details).

We also have a massage and reflexology therapist for relaxing therapeutic massage and total relaxation while on your holiday - taken in the privacy of your suite – bookings essential.