

Bay of Islands, Northland, New Zealand

Where New Zealand's founding document was signed and 144 islands spill into a sparkling blue bay — the Bay of Islands rewards every kind of curious cruiser, from history buffs to dolphin-chasers.

 Tender port

 Typical call: 7-9 hrs

 NZ Dollar (NZD)

 English / Te Reo Māori

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____

Arrive: _____

All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____

Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender to Waitangi Wharf, near Paihia

Best For: Māori history, boat cruises, wildlife, scenic walks

Walk to centre: 5-min shuttle or 20-min waterfront walk to Paihia

Don't Miss: Waitangi Treaty Grounds & Hole in the Rock cruise

 Getting around:  **Taxi**  NZD \$30 minimum

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Waitangi Treaty Grounds** — Walk a few hundred metres from the tender wharf to where the Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840 — NZ's founding document.
- Hole in the Rock Cruise** — A classic Bay of Islands bucket-list trip — cruise out to Cape Brett and pass through the sea arch carved into Motukokako Island.
- Historic Russell** — New Zealand's first European town and briefly its capital.
- Island Cruise & Snorkel** — Half-day tours explore the bay's 144 islands, stopping at Urupukapuka or Motuarohia (Robertson Island) for swimming, snorkelling, and short walks.
- Cape Reinga Day Trip** — Long but spectacular: a guided coach tour to NZ's northernmost tip where the Tasman Sea meets the Pacific Ocean, often including a sandboarding run...

BEST WALKS

- Waitangi Wharf to Waitangi Treaty Grounds** 1.2 km | 20 min | Easy | Flat waterfront — Walk north along the waterfront from Waitangi Wharf, cross the Waitangi Bridge over the Waitangi River estuary, and arrive at the Treaty Grounds entrance.
- Russell Historic Waterfront Walk** 1.5 km | 30 min | Easy | Ferry required — From Russell Wharf, stroll The Strand south past the Duke of Marlborough Hotel, Christ Church (1835), and the Pompallier Mission.
- Flagstaff Hill (Te Maiki), Russell** 2 km return | 45 min | Moderate | Some uphill — From near the boat ramp on The Strand, a short track climbs to Flagstaff Hill for panoramic views over the Bay of Islands, Paihia, and Urupukapuka Island.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 **CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)**

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		69°	58°	10d
Jun		61°	51°	11d
Aug		60°	49°	12d
Sep		62°	50°	12d
Oct		65°	53°	12d

 **DAYLIGHT &  MONEY**

Apr 6:47AM–5:59PM · Jun 7:30AM–5:17PM · Aug 7:05AM–5:51PM · Sep 6:23AM–6:14PM · Oct 6:41AM–7:37PM

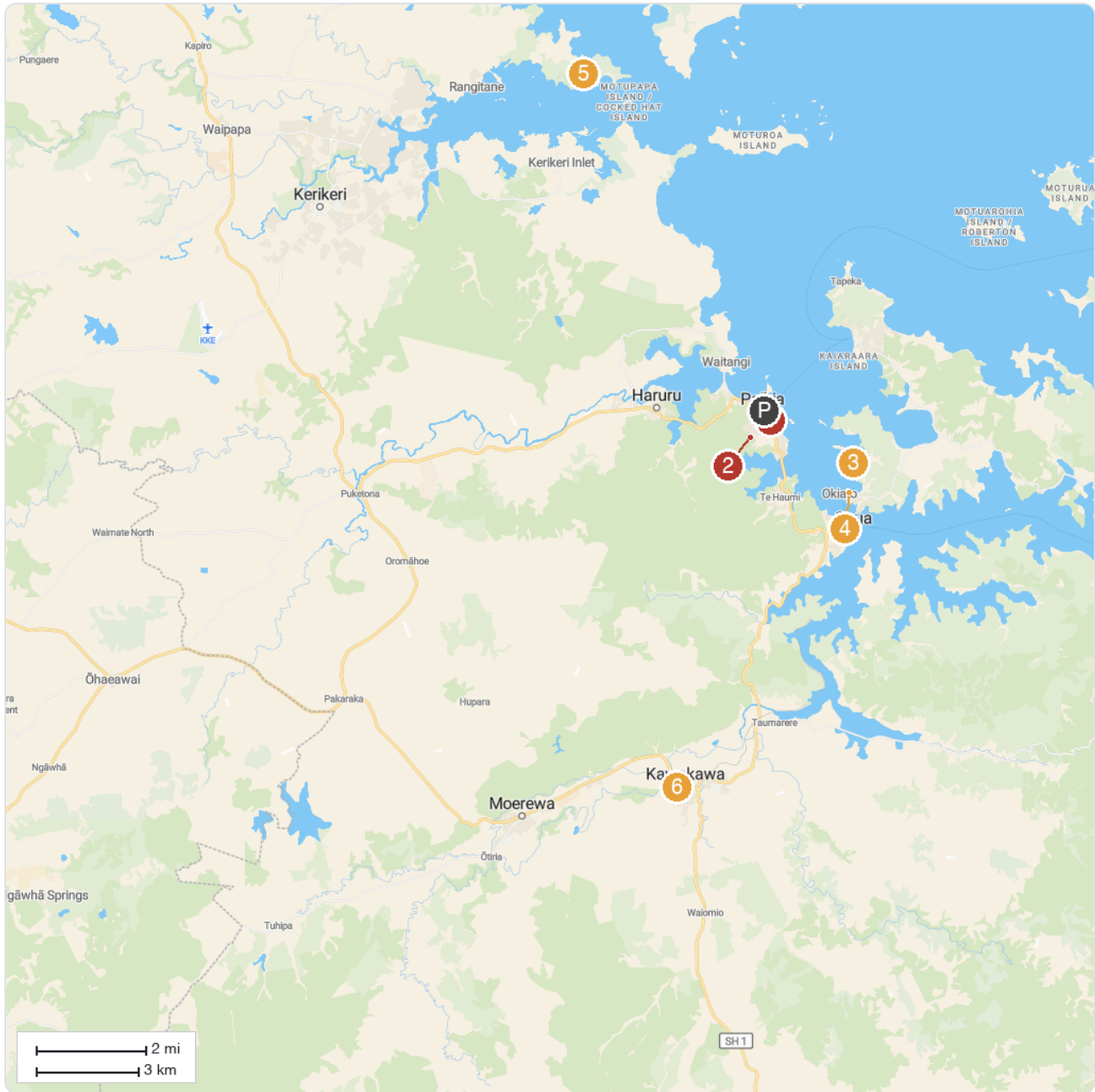
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Tender early. Queues build quickly on busy ship days — get ashore in the first wave to maximize time, especially if heading to the Treaty Grounds or booking a full-day Cape Reinga tour.
- Waitangi admission is worth it. The entry fee (~NZ\$60 adult) covers guided tours, a Māori cultural show, and two museums. It's the single best use of 2-3 hours in port.
- Russell ferry is easy. Catch the passenger ferry from Paihia Wharf (runs every 20 min, ~NZ\$13.50 return). Russell's historic sites are compact and walkable from the wharf.
- Bring NZD cash or a tap card. Most operators accept cards but small ferry and market stalls prefer cash. ATMs are available in Paihia township.
- Swimming with dolphins is prohibited in the Bay of Islands. You can still see them on boat tours — operators know where to look.
- Weather is changeable. Northland summers (Dec-Mar) are warm and humid; winter calls (Jun-Aug) can be cool and rainy. Pack a light layer even on sunny days.

Bay of Islands, Northland, New Zealand — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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| <p>1 Barefoot Sailing Adventures</p> <p>3 Omata Estate Vineyard & Kitchen</p> <p>5 Kerikeri Cruising Club & Marina</p> <p>P Cruise port / terminal</p> | <p>Enjoy scenic sailing tours and island adventures.</p> <p>A beautiful vineyard offering wine tasting and delicious food.</p> <p>A vibrant marina and club for boating enthusiasts.</p> | <p>2 Opua Forest Paihia Lookout Track Entrance</p> <p>4 First New Zealand Capital</p> <p>6 Bay of Islands Vintage Railway</p> | <p>Start a scenic forest walk to a stunning lookout.</p> <p>Visit Okiato, New Zealand's very first capital settlement.</p> <p>Ride a historic steam train through scenic countryside.</p> |
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