

SHIP n SHORE

Tours and Cruises

Auckland 478 1462 HBC 428 1462 PO Box 564, Whangaparaoa 0943, NZ

Email: tours@shipnshore.co.nz

Website: www.shipnshore.co.nz

Great Barrier Island #2 – 4 Days

Thursday 15th to Sunday 18th April 2021

Great Barrier (Aotea) is 88km from the mainland and is the largest island in the Hauraki Gulf. It's a rugged and scenic island, with crystal clear waters, resembling the Coromandel Peninsula to which it was once joined. Named by Captain James Cook, he regarded the island as the



guardian or barrier to the Hauraki Gulf. Great Barrier Island later became a whaling, mining and logging centre, but all these industries have had their day. Most of the island is now publicly owned and managed by DOC. Great Barrier has unspoilt sandy beaches, a forestry sanctuary and a network of tramping tracks. Because there are no possums on the island, the native bush is lush. Although easily reached from Auckland, Great Barrier seems a world away. The island has no supermarket, no electricity supply (only private generators and solar panels), no main drainage (only septic tanks), many of the roads are

unsealed and fuel costs are high. There are no banks or street lights. Great Barrier Island is life in New Zealand many decades back – a place with a slower pace and where locals use only the last 3 digits when giving out their phone number. It's a wild, untamed and very special place with its own rules, and is a definite breath of fresh air for visitors. *To top all this off, in 2017 Great Barrier Island became only one of three 'Night Sky' Sanctuaries in the world, with the best darkness readings and we get to see this too!*

Thursday 15th After home pick-ups we take our mid-morning 30-minute flight from North Shore Airfield. We fly over Whangaparaoa Peninsula and the northern Hauraki Gulf islands, with



views of Kawau Island and Coromandel Peninsula, till we arrive Claris Airport on Great Barrier Island. After disembarking we stop at the Claris Centre to check out the crafts and have lunch at the café. Then we travel to Tryphena, on the south coast. Tryphena is the main arrival point (by sea) and centre of the population on Great Barrier Island. Tryphena is split into three areas or bays; Shoal Bay, where the wharf is, Pa Beach and Mulberry Grove. The latter two are the main service areas with most of the shops in the Stonewall Complex in the heart of Tryphena. We settle into our home for the next three nights.

Tonight we dine at the lively *Currach Irish Pub*, written up as the social centre of the island. Built in a historic villa and specialising in great food, a fun atmosphere and great craic!

Friday 16th

We are exploring the northern end of the island today, beginning with a drive to Whangaparapara Harbour. Back in the early 1900s this harbour was a hive of activity with a huge wharf to cater to the logging industry and a whaling station near the entrance to the



harbour. It's here we board MV 'Sundancer' and Skipper Chris will bring the past to life as we cruise alongside the whaling station that morphed into a fish cannery and now is home to a delightful couple. We cruise through the entrance and out along the coast passing Bowling Alley Bay before entering the Broken Islands which leads us through Man O War Passage into the expansive FitzRoy Harbour. We view Smokehouse Bay (known to all Auckland Boaties and still a free facility that has just had a major

overhaul) on our way to visit the good folk at *Barrier Gold Honey*.

We pass Two Island Bay and travel alongside the protective Kaikoura Island and complete our cruise at the secluded and private Karaka Bay as guests of *Orama Community* for a plentiful lunch, with time for a wander around this unique complex.

After lunch we are booked in at *Glenfern Sanctuary* offering us a rare opportunity to experience native wildlife on Great Barrier Island. The Sanctuary is part of 230ha Kotuku Peninsula in the North of Great Barrier Island between Port FitzRoy and Port Abercrombie and is the result of over 20 years hard work, planting 10,000 native trees, forming an extensive track network and constructing a predator proof fence across the peninsula in 2008, to eliminate pests. Our guide talks us through a presentation of what *Glenfern* is all about, before we go for a 4WD ride up to the top of Sunset Rock. Here we enjoy awesome views of the whole of the Port FitzRoy area from the memorial to the founder of Glenfern Sanctuary, Tony Bouzaid. We complete our visit with an easy 15-20 minute walk into the beginning of the Glenfern Track.

Mid afternoon sees us tracking back down through the island, by SHIP n SHORE bus, with excellent views of Rakitu (Arid) Island. After driving through Okiwi we travel alongside Palmer, Kaitoki and Medlands Beaches to arrive Tryphena early evening. Dinner tonight is a local treat of Fish and Chips with Salad and Dessert, at the *Mulberry Grove Cafe*.



Saturday 17th

Today is spent closer to Tryphena, starting with a visit to Medlands Beach, learning of the pioneer families that scratched out an existence farming the land and fishing the seas. This is the most popular beach on the island, especially with the surfies, so we'll have time for a swim for those keen to experience the clear refreshing waters on this magnificent east coast beach. In this area we will see some seriously expensive real estate before crossing to the western side of the island for a stop at Okupu Wharf in Blind Bay. This bay is now home to *Great Barrier Radio*



which plays such a vital part in island maritime communication and emergency missions. *We will have our VHF radio with us so you can hear the constant airwaves chatter between local vessels and the land based operator.*

We have Lunch at *Pah Beach Café*, before meeting Marion at *The Elephant Gallery*. We also visit Sarah at Shoal Bay Pottery and venture down to Tryphena Wharf to see where most of the island's goods arrive.

Tonight we dine with the locals at the *Barrier Social Club*.

After dark, we enjoy a night of wonder gazing through a magnificent telescope at Constellations, Planets, the Magellanic Clouds, the Moon or the Milky Way – *Ron and I were pretty luke warm about this, but when we saw Pluto with three moons we were totally hooked! Take advantage of the best conditions in the world, right on our doorstep!*

Photograph – Mark Russell/Sophi Reinholt/the Renegade Peach Project

Sunday 18th:

On our way to the airport we visit the *Milk, Honey and Grain Museum* before our return flight back to the North Shore. *Shore Shuttles* will be waiting to transfer us home.

\$1,722 Twin Share *Includes Door to Door Shuttles. Three nights Twin Share *Accommodation with 3x Continental Breakfasts, 3x Dinners and 2x Lunches. Flights North Shore/Claris/North Shore. SHIP n SHORE Bus Transport on Great Barrier Island, 4 hour Scenic Cruise, Dark Sky and Glenfern Sanctuary Guided Tours, including 4WD Trail Ride to Sunset Rock. Sole Occupancy of unit is + \$345 (Note: Only one Single Unit available). A deposit of \$400 Per Person is required to secure this booking with balance of payment due 4 weeks prior to travel, by Fri 12th March 2021.*

*The Villas can easily take three people with each person having their own space (one or two in the bedroom, one in the lounge and one on the mezzanine floor, which has a steep stairs access). If you are a group of three people, the Triple Share is \$1,635 Per Person. These villas are really a two-story house, are very comfortable and the deck opens onto the stream in the parklike grounds. For even more fun and savings, these units can even be QUAD share (\$1564 Per Person) if you get a small group of four people together!

NOTE: The Content of this tour is subject to change, due to circumstances arising beyond our control.

GREAT BARRIER ISLAND #2 – 4 Days

\$1,722

CONDITIONS and REFUNDS: Seats are not confirmed until tour deposit has been received, and Boarding Pass issued. 'GREAT BARRIER ISLAND' bookings cancelled incur a loss of \$300 per person plus any prepaid non-refundable services i.e. Air Content, Accommodation, etc. Tours cancelled within four weeks of departure date only receive a refund if we are able to re-sell the seat/s.

Name/s..... Mr Mrs Ms Phone No.....
Address..... Postal Code.....

TWIN BEDS DOUBLE BED TRIPLE ROOM SINGLE ROOM *please circle one*
(Please check, as only 1 Single Room available)

Deposit payment of \$..... (\$500pp) enclosed Balance due \$.....by Fri 12th March 2021

Do you have any special dietary or medical requirements?

Any special requests?

Bank Details: BNZ Orewa 02 0390 0028737 00 SHIP N SHORE TOURS

Send To: SHIP n SHORE Tours, PO Box 564, WHANGAPARAOA 0943

✂ -----