



# Bay of Islands & Northland

## Includes ➔

Mangawhai .....	126
Waipu & Bream Bay ..	128
Whangarei .....	129
Tutukaka Coast & the Poor Knights Islands ..	134
Bay of Islands .....	136
Russell .....	139
Paihia & Waitangi ..	142
Kerikeri .....	147
Cape Reinga & Ninety Mile Beach ..	155
Hokianga .....	159
Kauri Coast .....	162

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ à Deco (p132)
- ➔ Wood Street Freehouse (p127)
- ➔ Gables (p142)
- ➔ Food at Wharepuke (p150)
- ➔ Little Kitchen on the Bay (p154)

## Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Endless Summer Lodge (p158)
- ➔ Waipoua Lodge (p163)
- ➔ Tree House (p160)
- ➔ Kahoe Farms Hostel (p153)
- ➔ Kokohuia Lodge (p161)

## Why Go?

For many New Zealanders, the phrase 'up north' conjures up sepia-toned images of family fun in the sun, pohutukawa in bloom and dolphins frolicking in pretty bays. From school playgrounds to work cafeterias, owning a bach (holiday house) 'up north' is a passport to popularity.

Beaches are the main drawcard and they're here in profusion. Visitors from more crowded countries are flummoxed to wander onto beaches without a scrap of development or another human being in sight. The west coast shelters the most spectacular remnants of the ancient kauri forests that once blanketed the top of the country; the remaining giant trees are an awe-inspiring sight and one of the nation's treasures.

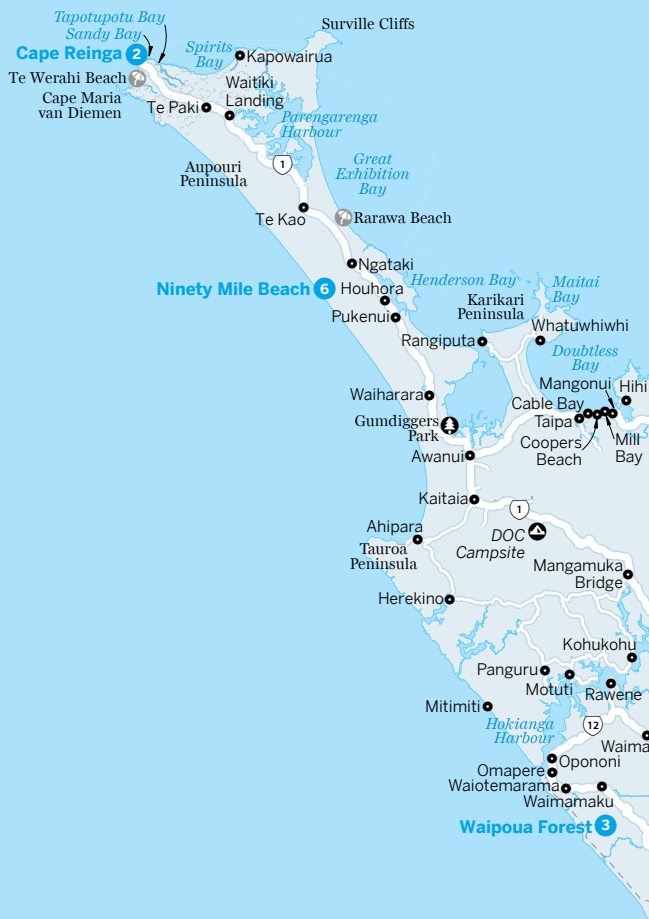
It's not just natural attractions that are on offer: history hangs heavily here. The site of the earliest settlements of both Māori and Europeans, Northland is unquestionably the birthplace of the nation.

## When to Go

- ➔ Northland's beaches go crazy at New Year and remain busy throughout the January school holidays, with the long, lazy days of summer usually continuing into February and March.
- ➔ The 'winterless north' boasts a subtropical climate, most noticeable from Kerikeri upwards, which averages seven rainy days per month in summer, but 16 in winter.
- ➔ In winter the average highs hover around 16°C and the average lows around 7°C.
- ➔ Temperatures are often a degree or two warmer than Auckland, especially on the east coast.

# Bay of Islands & Northland Highlights

- 1 Matauri Bay** (p151) Splashing about, body surfing, sunbathing and strolling.
- 2 Cape Reinga** (p155) Watching oceans collide while souls depart.
- 3 Waipoua Forest** (p162) Paying homage to the ancient kauri giants of this forest.
- 4 Poor Knights Islands** (p135) Diving at one of the world's top spots.
- 5 Bay of Islands** (p136) Cruising northern waters and claiming your own island paradise among the many in this bay.
- 6 Ninety Mile Beach** (p155) Surfing the sand dunes.
- 7 Waitangi Treaty Grounds** (p142) Delving into history and culture.



TASMAN  
SEA