

Edition #6 of the **Footprints Waipoua & Crossings Hokianga** Newsletter
January - March 2007

Introduction

What a summer it has been. Footprints Waipoua continues to grow and Crossings Hokianga had a more than satisfactory start. The TEAMS continue to learn and management would like to sincerely thank you all for your hard work during a testing season. I hope that this is an enjoyable read.

Our new products and a Name Change

We have developed some new products Ex Bay of Islands (See Options 2 & 3) and have changed the name of our signature tour from Discover the Hokianga to Total Hokianga Experience. This newly named product also includes a lunch option. We identified that we required some more and different options for Bay of Island passengers. All rates shown are retail. For more information contact Nikki at the office.

Total Hokianga Experience (Ex Bay of Islands)

The Total Hokianga Experience is a day trip from the Bay of Islands to the rugged West Coast and historically significant Hokianga. Stop for a photo opportunity of a lifetime, a brief stop in Waimamaku and then visit the Waipoua forest and enjoy a guided tour of the largest kauri tree in the world, Tane Mahuta. Following an optional viewing of the Opo the dolphin movie and lunch join the modern Crossings Hokianga boat. The guided boat cruise may visit or make interpretive stops of places that are of historical interest such as Whiria Hill, home of Rahiri the Ngapuhi ancestor, Motuti the resting place of Bishop Pompallier, New Zealand's first Catholic Bishop, Horeke, site of the Mangungu Mission Station (historical site of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi) and Kohukohu, an early kauri timber mill and ship building town. The boat tour concludes in Rawene, the Hokianga's oldest European settlement where you will meet the coach and be transferred back to your accommodation place in the Bay of Islands.

Total Hokianga Experience Tour
Adult \$110 / Child (5-12) \$55
Minimum Number: May apply

Total Hokianga Experience Tour including lunch
Adult \$119 / Child (5-12) \$60
Minimum Number: May apply

Option 2: Historical Hokianga Harbour Cruise (Ex Bay of Islands)

This is a cruise only of Hokianga harbour Ex Bay of Islands. On arrival enjoy some free time before lunch and boarding the vessel Max for a historical harbour cruise like no other.

Tour Duration: 9am – 5.30pm
Adult \$99
Child (5-12) \$50
Minimum Number: May apply

Option 3: Giant Sand Dunes Safari (Ex Bay of Islands)

Enjoy an informative journey across to the Hokianga. Then experience the thrill of sand boarding, swim in the harbour or just relax on the beach. Join the coach for your return journey to the Bay of Islands

Tour Duration: 9am – 5.30pm

Adult \$69

Child (5-12) \$35

Minimum Number: May apply

Winter days Crossings will be operating

Crossings Hokianga day tours (EX Bay of Islands) will only be available to operate on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from May 1 weather and conditions permitting. Please contact the office for further information.

Winter start time

The Crossings Hokianga boat has a different departure time outside of daylight savings. It departs the Opononi wharf at 12.30pm (March – October). During daylight savings (October – March) it departs at 1pm.

New Accommodation Packages with Opononi Resort Hotel

Footprints Waipoua & Crossings Hokianga have new package options with the 3 star Opononi Resort Hokianga. Please contact Nikki at the office for more information.

No more OFFICE in the Bay of Islands

We unfortunately will no longer be based at the R Tucker Thompson office in Paihia. We would like to thank Jane, Rachel and the team for their support and assistance. If you require contacting us or would like to make a booking please contact Nikki at the office.

Night Hokianga Harbour Hotel Cruises

Our night Hokianga harbour Hotel cruises for groups are going well. The Hokianga and its harbour at night is an amazingly different world. For work, group and family evenings out please contact Nikki at the office.

New brochures and website

Footprints Waipoua and Crossings Hokianga have individual brochures and websites. The new websites will go live shortly thanks to Jolanda at www.kiwistyletravel.com. If you require brochures please contact Nikki at the office.

New Footprints Waipoua & Crossings Hokianga FLANNERS

A flanner is a combination of a flag and banner. We are extremely happy with the work of Lewis and the team at NPC Signs in Kerikeri. Thanks guys for getting them to us at such short notice. For more information visit www.npc.net.nz.

New uniforms

Look out for our new smart jackets, shirts, caps and beanies. Big UPS to Rhonda and the team at TLC Marketing.

MAGIC presentation in Auckland Domain

I would like to thank Shane and the team at Magic for organising a barbecue and opportunity for me to talk to agents about Footprints Waipoua & Crossings Hokianga. The Auckland Domain was a stunning setting. Thanks Magic for your support this season.

Hawaiian and American Indigenous visits

We had the pleasure of hosting native representatives from Hawaii and Alaska. We hope we were able to impart some knowledge to assist them in their endeavours.

Shane and Pip's trip to Australia

Shane and Pip attended the Millennium Waitangi Golf Classic in Sydney. By all accounts the day was enjoyed by all including Shane who shot a par round 175.

Koro's visit to Australia

In February I accompanied Nineke Metz (Destination Northland) and Ronnie Ronalde (Tourism Flair) to Australia. We visited agents in Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne and Brisbane. Thanks to Nineke for all her hard work in organising this trip. Also thanks to Ronnie for suggesting we stop at his parent's house for dinner, absolutely amazing hosts. A shame about the birds though but I'll take a rain check.

Features

Woman's Weekly
Kia ora Magazine
Northern News

Saved by the Air New Zealand Kia Ora magazine

On the plane to Australia I sat next to an American visitor on his way home. When the subject what do you do popped up, I quickly whipped out the Air New Zealand Kia Ora magazine. How handy was that.

Working relationship with Waipoua Lodge

We would like to thank Nicole for her continued support of Footprints Waipoua. You can contact Nicole for more information at Nicole@waipoulodge.co.nz and www.waipoulodge.co.nz.

Tawhiri on the road to recovery

Tawhiri is slowly getting better. He is out of his cast and we hope he will be re-joining the team sometime soon.

Thanks to the passenger who sent this poem in after experiencing a Crossings Hokianga experience.

Rock and roll is good for the soul
Blue so blue
White so white
Crossings dance over the waters day and night

Guided with love
And a touch of hand
Our eyes can see
From water to land

Mountains so high
Waters so deep
On the crossings we find our feet
Dancing with freedom

Kiwi Link Japan

Shane and I had the privilege of attending Kiwi Link Japan. We visited Osaka, Nagoya, Tokyo and Yakushima Island in 11 days. This was an amazing trip. What an amazing place and people. We would like to thank Tourism New Zealand, staff and Air New Zealand for a fantastic event. I have to say that next time any of you go to Japan make sure you visit Yakushima Island. The forest and trees there are something else. This place enjoys World Heritage Status and rightly so. This was definitely an experience of a lifetime.

Ernie Dingo & Co

We had the pleasure of doing some filming with Ernie Dingo and co. We look forward to seeing the end result on a TV near you.

Conclusion

Who would have thought 2 years ago we would be doing the things we are doing now, this is proof of hard work starting to pay off. What an interesting 3months. Not only are we still developing and trying to establish Footprints Waipoua but we also launched a new product in the form of Crossings Hokianga. What an amazing job our teams did. During this hectic 3 months we visited two off shore destinations and are extremely happy with the potential opportunities that exist in both these markets. We will continue to seek to better ourselves and products. We are really excited about the future of tourism in Hokianga and Hokianga's future in tourism. We would like to thank everyone who has supported US.

Footprints Waipoua & Crossings Hokianga

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