



## New Zealand Bay of Islands 5 Night Cruise Frequently Asked Questions

### General

#### **Does Coral Princess Cruises offer transfers?**

Answer: - : Auckland departures: Pre and Post cruise transfers are not included in the price of your Bay of Islands cruise departing from Auckland; there are a number of options available for transportation to and from the Wharf. At the conclusion of the cruise a complimentary transfer from Paihia to Auckland city hotels.

Paihia departures: A complimentary coach transfer from Auckland to Paihia is available on departure day for the itinerary departing from Paihia. Guests are provided a chartered coach from Auckland central hotels as well as the Discover New Zealand Travel Centre, 180 Quay St in the morning between 0700 and 0730, arriving into Paihia at approx 1230 for boarding at 1400.

#### **How do I get from the airport/hotel to the ship?**

Answer: - For our Auckland departures you will need to organise a taxi or hotel transfer. For the Paihia departures a complimentary transfer is offered from Auckland city hotels on the day of departure.

#### **How much will a taxi cost?**

Answer: - A taxi from the Airport to the centre of Auckland will cost approximately NZD50-60. A taxi from most Auckland hotels to the wharf will cost approx NZD10. Please check with your hotel to see if they offer a shuttle service.

### Meals

#### **Are all meals provided onboard and what style of dining is available?**

Answer: Throughout your Coral Princess expedition cruise you will savour three delicious, healthy meals per day as well as tempting morning and afternoon teas. Onboard Oceanic Discoverer, breakfast and lunch are buffet style and dinner is table d’hote. Post mix soft drinks are included in the price of the cruise and a complimentary tea and coffee station is open 24 hours. A selection of Australian and New Zealand wines, beers and spirits are available at additional expense.

\*The galley will attempt to meet special dietary requirements, however a minimum of three weeks notice must be provided prior to departure to allow us to provide this service.

## **Onboard Accommodations**

### **What are the facilities in your stateroom?**

Answer: All staterooms are air-conditioned and equipped with en suite, wardrobe, suitcase cupboard and windows or portholes for expansive ocean views (Main Deck staterooms feature portholes), settee and desk. Bathrooms feature a hairdryer, shower, toilet and power point (240 volt for Australian plugs.) There is a shaving outlet in each bathroom.

### **What staterooms/cabin categories are available?**

Answer: Onboard Oceanic Discoverer, there are five categories of accommodation including; Main Deck B and Main Deck A Staterooms, Promenade Deck B and Promenade Deck A Staterooms, and Bridge Deck Staterooms.

### **Can we 'push' two twin beds together to make a double?**

Answer: Onboard Oceanic Discoverer, we are able to change bedding configuration from twin beds to junior king beds or v.v. in Main Deck A and Promenade Deck A Staterooms only.

### **What size are the beds in a double stateroom?**

Answer: Oceanic Discoverer has Queen Beds in Main Deck B and Promenade Deck B Staterooms, and Twin Beds or Junior King Beds in all other categories.

## **Children**

### **Do you cater for children?**

Answer: When joining a Coral Princess Cruises Bay of Islands adventure cruise, children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Coral Princess Cruises does not provide services of entertainment, supervision or care of children. Our Bay of Islands itineraries are quite adventurous and we therefore recommend children aged above 12 years of age will enjoy the challenge and experience the most.

### **Can we put two adults and two children in one room?**

Answer: Should a family of four guests be travelling together, two separate rooms will be required, two adults in one room and the two children in another. Please ask for the same grades of accommodation to ensure that rooms are located together on the same deck.

### **Can we put two adults and one child in one room?**

Answer: Yes you can. Onboard Oceanic Discoverer, the third person (child only) will be accommodated on the settee as we do not have Pullman bunks in any staterooms. This is applicable in a Main Deck A or Main Deck B stateroom only.

## **Inclusions**

### **What extras will we be paying for onboard?**

Answer: During your Bay of Islands cruise you will find that most activities are included within the price of your cruise. Items incurring additional expense include; all bar and shop charges (with the exception of post mix soft drinks which are included), ship to shore phone/fax calls, laundry facilities and internet access.

### **Do we need to pre book activities or dives prior to boarding?**

Answer: All activities while on your cruise can be arranged on board for your convenience.

## **Miscellaneous**

### **What do we pack?**

Answer: There is no formal dress code in place during your cruise; however we recommend smart-casual attire for the evenings on board and comfortable active wear during your days of exploration. We recommend that you bring shorts, swimwear, T-shirts, collared and long sleeve shirts to avoid sunburn and a warm wind/rain protection jacket or windcheater in the event of cooler southerly breezes and/or a warm pullover and long pants. Evenings can be cool and we recommend clothing that can be easily layered. A good pair of hiking boots is recommended, along with some shoes that you don't mind getting wet, such as river walkers or aqua soles. Don't forget to bring a sun hat, sunglasses, sun block and all necessary toiletries.

### **What are river walkers/aqua soles and do we need to wear them?**

Answer: River walkers/aqua soles or reef shoes are thick-soled mesh socks for wet landings (a wet landing is when you arrive to the shore by the Xplorer/Zodiac and may get your feet wet). Sturdy rubber sandals which are strapped around your ankles and toes are also suitable for this purpose.

### **Do you supply beach towels?**

Answer: Yes, towels are provided should the opportunity arise for swimming or relaxing in Oceanic Discoverer's spa on the Sun Deck.

### **Are there laundry facilities onboard?**

Answer: There is a limited laundry service onboard the vessels, although drip dry, wash and wear clothing is recommended. A small fee applies for the laundering of garments.

### **Do we need spending money onboard?**

Answer: All purchases onboard will be charged to your room account, which must be settled with the purser prior to disembarking. Payment of your onboard account may be made by Cash, Credit Card or Australian Dollars Travellers Cheque.

### **Will my mobile telephone work? What communications are available?**

Answer: Given the remote nature of the cruise, mobile telephone service will not always be available. Should the need arise to contact family and friends, guests may utilise the ship's satellite communications equipment (telephone and fax) at a set per minute rate. Oceanic Discoverer also features an internet booth which may be used to contact family and friends, again at a set per minute rate.

Should your family need to contact you during your cruise our Helpful Hints booklet supplied in your documentation will provide direct dialing contact telephone number for Oceanic Discoverer.

**Where does the ship depart from?**

Answer: In Auckland the ship departs from either Princes Wharf or Queens Wharf, notification will be provided of the exact wharf on guest documentation. In Paihia guests board the 'Xplorer' at Waitangi Wharf for a transfer to Oceanic Discoverer.

**What Time Can We Board The Vessel?**

Answer: Auckland: Guests board Oceanic Discoverer at 1600 for a 1630 departure. Paihia: Guests are provided a chartered coach from Auckland central hotels as well as the Discover New Zealand Travel Centre 180 Quay St in the morning between 0700 and 0730 arriving into Paihia at approx 1230 for boarding at 1400.

**What happens when I disembark in Paihia?**

Answer: Oceanic Discoverer arrives at 0800 at the Waitangi Wharf. Enjoy free time to explore Paihia before a coach transfer from Paihia to Auckland departing at 1330 and arriving in Auckland at approximately 1730. Passengers staying at central Auckland hotels will be dropped at their hotel or at the Discover New Zealand Travel Centre at 180 Quay St.

**Do we need to take out Travel Insurance?**

Answer: It is highly recommended that all passengers purchase appropriate travel insurance prior to departure. In addition to cancellation, curtailment and baggage protection please ensure that your policy provides coverage for remote area evacuation.

**What if we have a special occasion whilst onboard?**

Answer: Should you be celebrating a birthday, wedding anniversary or any other special occasion during your cruise please let us know at the time of booking.

**What will the weather be like on the cruise?**

Answer: The average daily temperature during the cruise ranges between 14 Degrees Celsius (56 Degrees Fahrenheit) to 25 Degrees Celsius (76 Degrees Fahrenheit). Please note that the wind chill factor will reduce these temperatures when exposed.

**Will the weather/seas be rough?**

Answer: Every effort is made to ensure that we travel at times and in areas where it will be most pleasant although this can not always be guaranteed. For the majority of your cruise, we will be cruising close to shore or coastline where waters are generally relatively calm.

**What is the Xplorer and how does it work?**

Answer: Oceanic Discoverer is equipped with an 'Xplorer' - a unique, specially designed aluminium excursion vessel used for the majority of our excursions. This vessel has high horsepower engines and will accommodate all passengers at one time. The 'Xplorer' will be used for landings and for extensive exploration of rivers and tributaries. For your added convenience and comfort, the 'Xplorer' is equipped with an awning and toilet. These excursion vessels sit on a hydraulic lift at the rear of the ship (Main Deck). Following boarding, the unique hydraulic lift gently lowers the excursion vessel into the water, negating the need to clamber aboard unstable tenders. The ship is also equipped with a fleet of inflatable Zodiacs which are also accessible by the hydraulic lift at the rear of the ship.

**What is a wet landing?**

Answer: Many shore excursions and activities aboard the excursion vessels require a 'wet landing', and this is part of our adventure. Your feet may get wet in this instance, therefore we recommend wearing aqua soles/river walkers or reef shoes/sandals for these excursions. Hiking boots or sturdy footwear may be carried separately and worn once dry land has been reached.

**Is there an Elevator or Lift aboard the Ship?**

Answer: Oceanic Discoverer does not have elevators to move between the various decks. The ship does feature internal and external staircases. When booking your cruise, if you do not wish to move around too much between decks we recommend booking your accommodation on the Main Deck as the dining room is located on these decks and they are also the main departure point for all of the activities and shore excursions utilising the 'Xplorer'.