



# Supernatural

For those looking for true escapism and adventure, **New Zealand** offers something for everyone. Whether it's spotting Kiwi on Kapiti or standing on an active volcano on White Island, a charter along the coastlines of its North and South Islands combines a little bit of luxury with dramatic encounters

—  
**by Miriam Cain**



Year-round sunshine, extensive coastlines, diverse natural landscapes, and untouched native forests make New Zealand the perfect outdoor adventure destination. From the subtropical Bay of Islands in the far north to the 16-kilometre long fjord of Milford Sound, scenery of otherworldly beauty is everywhere around you, wherever you cruise. Whether your itinerary takes in the marine reserves and islands lying off North Island, or heads to South Island to glide along the Marlborough Sounds, the best of New Zealand is all about taking to the water.

Known as the 'City of Sails', Auckland boasts more boats per capita than any other metropolis in the world. The country's main international gateway, it is also a great place to use as a jump-off point to explore North Island. Set between two harbours, Manukau to the south and Waitemata to the north, cruise from the harbour to the trendy island of Waiheke lying just off the main coastline, or anchor off the Coromandel Peninsula and discover secluded beaches surrounded by native bush.

The majority of New Zealand's land area is south of Auckland, but the northern parts should not be missed. The landscape is dotted with subtropical forests, beaches, Maori settlements and historic towns. Nearing the tip of the mainland lies the famous 'Bay of Islands', an idyllic spot for watersports and big-game fishing, and also the birthplace of modern New Zealand. It was here that Queen Victoria's government and the indigenous Maori chiefs signed the document ceding the islands to the British Empire in 1840.

After your stay in the Bay of Islands, you can disembark and fly to South Island for a week of adrenalin-packed adventures. Alternatively, cruise south to Auckland and on to the clear, clean waters, fjords and coves along the Marlborough Sounds coastline.

New Zealand's South Island is larger than the North Island but far less populated. It's not for nothing that *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy was filmed here; the scenery alone is worth travelling to see. The varied landscape offers mountains, waterfalls, fjords, lakes, and sun-drenched vineyards. Spend a few days exploring the Marlborough Sounds at the top of South Island: one of New Zealand's premier cruising grounds, it alone offers more than 1,000 miles of coastline to explore. Those looking to explore further south will find some of the most spectacular cruising grounds in the world around the fjords of Milford Sound.

A CHARTER ALONG THE COASTLINES OF ITS NORTH AND SOUTH ISLANDS COMBINES A LITTLE BIT OF LUXURY WITH DRAMATIC ENCOUNTERS.





## RECOMMENDED ITINERARY

### North Island's Hauraki Gulf and the Bay of Islands

#### Day 01

##### Auckland

Perched between Waitemata and Manukau harbours, Auckland offers a buzzing mix of culture, events, nightlife and restaurants with native rainforest, wild beaches and wineries all within half an hour of the city centre.

In keeping with the title 'City of Sails', take to the water and race in an America's Cup yacht or make your way across the harbour on 'SeaLegs' - a New Zealand invention that travels over dry land and water. If this doesn't get your adrenaline pumping then the thrill of a 192-metre bungee jump from Auckland's Sky Tower will; and for a unique and exhilarating way to explore the city limits why not jump on the back of a Harley Davidson for a tour of Auckland's best beaches and viewpoints with a group of gnarly Kiwi bikers?

#### Day 02

##### Auckland to Waiheke Island

10 nautical miles

Located just off the main coastline, Waiheke Island is the Hamptons' of Auckland and has a growing local food scene, stunning white sandy beaches, and an eclectic art scene. Those with a passion for wine can also enjoy Waiheke Island's wineries where you will find unique and high-quality New Zealand wines based on Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Malbec, Cabernet Franc and Chardonnay grape varieties. Discover Mudbrick Vineyard, where handpicked fruit is nurtured from vine to bottle and the wines are carefully selected and grown from classic French varietals. Alternatively, head to Stonyridge Vineyard, nestled in a valley of olive trees, and for the scenery alone Te Whau Vineyard is worthy of a detour. Described as one of the most beautiful and dramatic places a vineyard has ever taken root, here you will find five star Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot.

#### Day 03

##### Waiheke Island to Coromandel Peninsula

20 nautical miles

Lying just off the mainland, the Coromandel Peninsula is the perfect anchorage for all manner of watersports activities including kayaking, snorkelling, wakeboarding and waterskiing.

#### Days 04 + 05

##### Coromandel Peninsula to Great Barrier Island

35 nautical miles

Cruise for a couple of hours to the furthermost reaches of the Hauraki Gulf where you will find Great Barrier Island. Visited by Captain Cook in 1769, the island was so named because it was believed to be sheltering the Hauraki Gulf from the worst storms of the Pacific. The Barrier is the largest island off the coast of New Zealand's North Island.

#### Day 06

##### Great Barrier Island to Poor Knights Islands

45 nautical miles

The subtropical reefs of Poor Knights Islands were rated one of the world's top ten dive sites by Jacques Cousteau. Fed by a warm current, the striking underwater caves, tunnels and arches formed from a chain of volcanoes that eroded millions of years ago are a haven for tropical fish rarely seen in New Zealand's largely temperate water. Here you will find sharks, coral fish, moray, stingrays, migrating whales, turtles and orca.

#### Days 07 + 08

##### Poor Knights Islands to Bay of Islands

35 nautical miles

Reminiscent of tropical Tahiti, the Bay of Islands is a paradise for those who love beaches. Known for its beauty and history, the archipelago is made up of 144 islands including Cape Brett, the Purerua Peninsula, and Moturua Island. Venture ashore and try out your fly-fishing skills on huge brown and rainbow trout in the vast rivers of Motu and Tongariro; try your hand at sand-dune surfing in Cape Reinga; or explore the deeper and more remote waters where you will find numerous shipwrecks.

THERE ARE SEVERAL POPULAR CRUISING ITINERARIES FOR NEW ZEALAND, INCLUDING THE BEAUTIFUL BAY OF ISLANDS AND THE MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS, AND FOR THOSE SHORT OF TIME, YOU CAN'T BEAT AUCKLAND'S HAURAKI GULF



## SILENCIO

Available to charter in New Zealand this winter season for prices from US\$175,000 per week, the 50m (164') sailing yacht Silencio offers a sumptuous interior and outstanding outdoor spaces. Accommodating 12 guests in five beautiful staterooms that embody the perfect combination of tradition and modernity, her spacious full-beam master-suite saloon can be converted into a double guest stateroom, and her two twin cabins include Pullman berths that are perfect for children.

From the crisp linens and leather accents to the refined neutral colours and cherrywood interior, Silencio's sumptuous and ergonomic living spaces define effortless elegance. Despite her immaculate style, Silencio allows for all manner of relaxation and fun when on board with spacious lounging areas in the sun and shade, fantastic audio-visual equipment, and an array of watersports equipment.

Her deck areas include a typical luxurious 'Perini style' aft cockpit with protected alfresco lounging and dining ideal for hosting family and friends. On the fly bridge, the large sunbathing area is also suitable for alfresco dining as well as lounging in the sun.

With five-star service provided by a professional crew of nine, including an award-winning chef, a charter on board Silencio through the exciting waters of New Zealand promises to be a mix of fantastic hospitality with extremely competent and thrilling sailing.

*For more information on chartering Silencio, or any other yacht in New Zealand, contact your nearest Camper & Nicholsons charter broker, see page 10.*



## RECOMMENDED ITINERARY

### **South Island's Marlborough Sounds**

#### **Day 01**

##### **Picton to Motuara Island**

*18 nautical miles*

Located on the north-eastern corner of South Island, the Marlborough Sounds are noted for their scenic beauty and abundance of bird and marine life. Year round sunshine and a diverse natural landscape of extensive coastline (some 1,500 kilometres, or 20% of New Zealand's coast) make the area one of the premier cruising grounds in the world. A collection of ancient sunken river valleys, the Sounds are made up of three main bodies of water: Queen Charlotte, Kenepuru and Pelorus Sound.

Nestled at the head of the Queen Charlotte Sound, the small marine and coastal town of Picton harbours its beauty between the valleys and is a popular place to start your charter through the Marlborough Sounds.

Cruise on to Motuara Island, where Captain Cook stood and declared that the islands of New Zealand belonged to Queen Victoria. Today Motuara is a native bird sanctuary and can only be reached by boat. The predator-free sanctuary makes for ideal forest walks among native wildlife including blue penguins and melodic bellbirds.

#### **Day 02**

##### **Motuara Island to Pelorus Sound**

*35 nautical miles*

The remote Pelorus Sound has a number of wildlife sanctuaries, including Tiro and Chetwood Islands. Pass through Pelorus Sound and the surrounding valley, and cruise on to Tennyson Inlet. Take a kayak to explore the rocky coastline.

### **Day 03**

##### **Pelorus Sound to D'Urville Island**

*40 nautical miles*

Separated from the mainland by a narrow, tidal channel, D'Urville Island has stunning scenery ranging from towering mountains to tranquil bays and coves. Step ashore and hike to the peaks of the island for sweeping views over the Marlborough Sounds. Back on board, the waters are a haven for fishing enthusiasts. Harvest fresh seafood and have your chef cook up a veritable feast on board accompanied by some fine local wine. Vinophiles swoon over Marlborough's Sauvignon Blancs, the perfect accompaniment to freshly caught seafood.

#### **Day 04**

##### **D'Urville Island to Abel Tasman National Park**

*35 nautical miles*

Cruise across Tasman Bay to Abel Tasman National Park with dolphins accompanying you along the way. Explore the National Park's magnificent bush and beaches with a coastal walk, then step ashore to discover Tonga Island's seal colony. For those with a real sense of adventure, the park provides ample opportunity for sea kayaking, rock climbing, white-water rafting and mountain biking.

#### **Day 05**

##### **Abel Tasman National Park to Nelson**

*25 nautical miles*

Disembark in the city of Nelson. From here you can explore the surrounding wineries scattered around the Moutere Hills and the Waimea Plains.