DriveNow

Helping travellers since 2003 find the best deals on campervan and car rental

NORTHLAND ROAD TRIP · 5 DAYS FROM AUCKLAND AND BACK

North of Auckland and the Bay of Islands in 5 nights

DISTANCE
About 570 km

DAYS
5 days, 5 drives

ROUTE
Round trip from Auckland

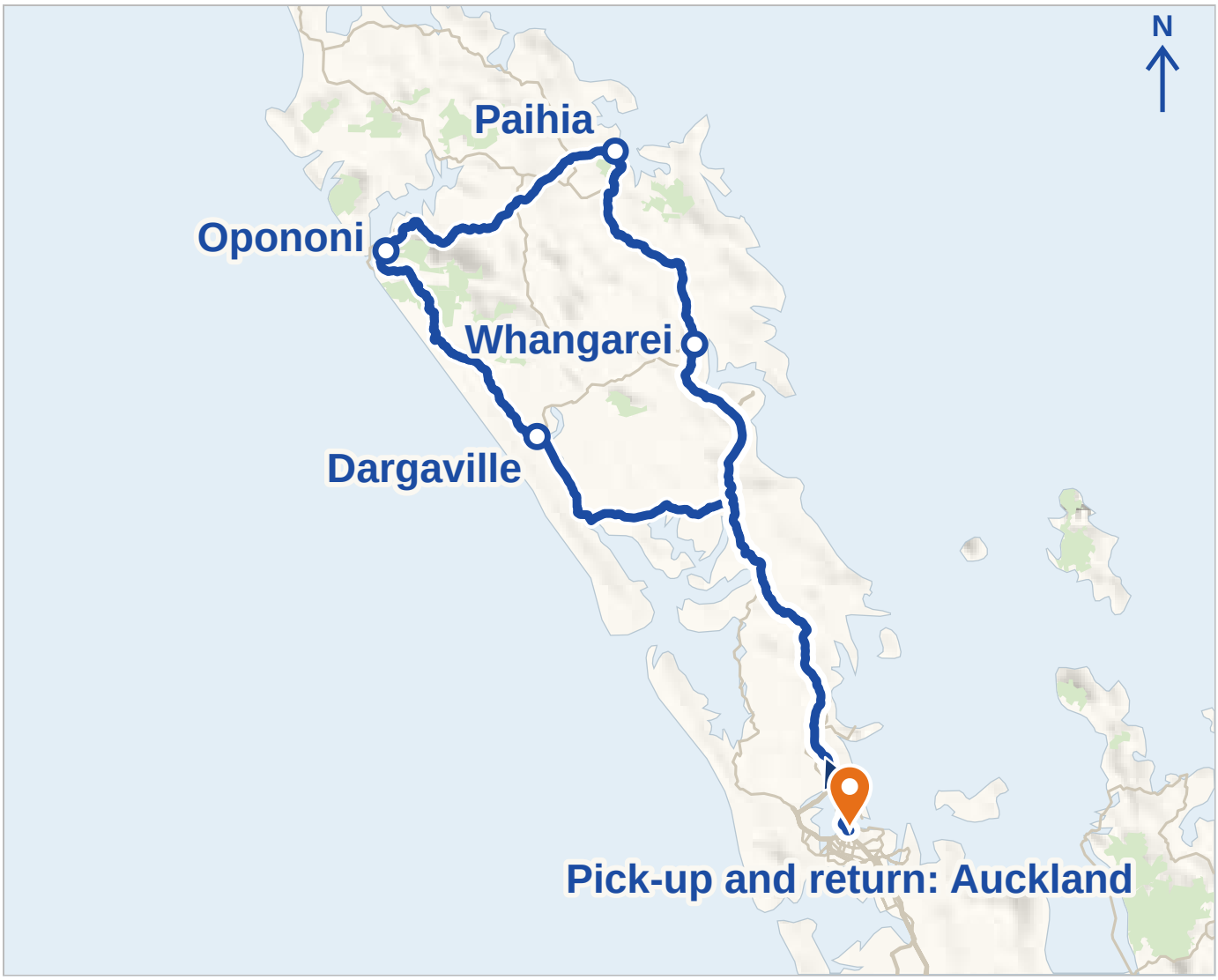
DRIVING TIME
About 9 h 30 min by campervan

LONGEST DRIVE
175 km, Dargaville to Auckland

VEHICLE
Campervan



Bay of Islands, day 2 · Illustrative image



Planning overview, not navigation. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors · coastline Natural Earth · relief Terrain Tiles (LINZ, SRTM).

Picking up in Auckland

Arrive well before the branch closes so staff have time to take you through the van. Bring a driver's licence for every driver, and a credit card in the main driver's name for the bond (a security deposit). See picking up your campervan in New Zealand and what to check at the vehicle inspection and demonstration. More on campervan hire in Auckland.

DRIVE

155 km from Auckland | **about 2 h 40 min** by campervan | Via **State Highway 1**

DAY 1

Auckland to Whangarei

PICK-UP

Pick up your car or campervan in Auckland today. If you are collecting a campervan, allow plenty of time at the branch so the rental company can show you how it works before you leave.

Depart this morning and follow State Highway 1 to Tarewa Road in Whangarei.

Travel back in time and see the Clapham's National Clock Museum. An eccentric character himself, Mr. Clapham sold his local clock collection to the council to be put on display. With everything in the form of classic clocks on display, Clapham's is more notorious for its collection of the weird and wacky. This includes a clock that even has the ability to make tea, you are sure to find something here that you have never seen before.

The Whangarei Quarry Gardens are a community-built natural escape, offering over 60 acres of waterfalls, rainforest, historical remnants and picnic areas. Take a picnic and enjoy exploring the lush greenery or relaxing in the serenity of the park.

Stay Whangarei TOP10 Holiday Park

DRIVE

70 km from Whangarei | **about 1 h 10 min** by campervan | Via **State Highway 1**

DAY 2

Whangarei to Paihia

Depart this morning and return to State Highway 1, following signs for Cape Reinga/ Route 1. Continue onto State Highway 11 until you reach Paihia.

When visiting Paihia, an absolute must-visit is a tour to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds. This is where the Maori chiefs first signed an accord with the British Crown, the Treaty of Waitangi, which is also known as New Zealand's founding document. Here you will find a museum, the preserved Treaty house, the Carved Meeting House, and the Ceremonial War Canoe.

Paihia is also a great way to access the Bay of Islands, whether you want to take a cruise out the various islands and features, or try some water activities. Swimming with dolphins and kayaking are both popular in the area, with frequent tours available.

Stay Waitangi Holiday Park

DRIVE

86 km from Paihia | **about 1 h 30 min** by campervan

Via **State Highway 12**

DAY 3

Paihia to Opononi

Depart this morning and follow State Highway 11 to Te Ahu Ahu Road in Oromahoe. Follow Te Ahu Ahu Road and Old Bay Road to State Highway 1. Drive to State Highway 12 in Opononi.

Opononi is the perfect town to take a picnic to the beach and enjoy some time to unwind. Pack the swimming costume and lap up the picturesque waters, whilst enjoying the seclusion of a small town's beach.

If you're up for an activity, visit the Tane Mahuta Waipoua Forest, and walk through the thick rainforest along the trail. Here you will find a vast array of native animal and plant species. The Tane Mahuta is a giant kauri tree, estimated to be between 1,000 and 2,500 years old and the largest of its kind in New Zealand.

Stay Opononi Beach Holiday Park

DRIVE

85 km from Opononi | **about 1 h 20 min** by campervan

Via **State Highway 12**

DAY 4

Opononi to Dargaville

Depart this morning and head south west on State Highway 12 towards Fairlie Crescent.

Dargaville is a great way to access the Kauri Coast. Whether you're into canoeing, kayaking or swimming, there are plenty of activities to entertain everyone in the family.

The Museum in Dargaville is worth a visit, as it showcases the history and importance of the area you are visiting. Especially the history of the river that the town sits on, as it was used as a great resource for the locals, but also has a history of shipwrecks.

Stay Baylys Beach Holiday Park

DRIVE

175 km from Dargaville | **about 2 h 50 min** by campervan | Via **State Highway 12**

DAY 5

Dargaville to Auckland

RETURN

Depart this morning and follow State Highway 12 to State Highway 1 in Brynderwyn. Follow State Highway 1 to Auckland.

The Auckland Museum is a must-visit when in Auckland. The Maori galleries offer a fascinating insight into the indigenous culture of New Zealand, detailing their history and the ancestors that came before them. Other galleries of note include the War Memorial Galleries and the evolutionary history of New Zealand.

The Sky Tower in Auckland will take you 220 metres high in the sky, with a panoramic 360° view of the beautiful city around you. Whether you would like to just enjoy the view and perhaps have dinner, there are activities for those who seek adrenaline. The Sky Tower offers a SkyWalk, where you walk on a platform 192 metres up and outside of the building, and a SkyJump, where you can take the challenge of bungee jumping off the 192 metre platform.

Stay Manukau Holiday Park

Returning in Auckland

When you return your campervan, allow time for the return inspection. Return it by the time on your booking, as rental companies charge for late returns.

Check your rental agreement for the fuel level and whether the toilet and waste-water tanks need emptying, as the company inspects the van before it releases your bond (returning your campervan in New Zealand). More on campervan hire in Auckland.

Enjoy the drive, and the Bay of Islands.

DriveNow Disclaimer

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DriveNow's suggested itineraries help you plan your own trip. Distances and times are from mapped routes and are a guide only; campervan driving times are car times plus about 20%. Road conditions, closures, opening hours and prices change, so check them before you travel. Any reliance on this itinerary is at your own discretion.

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