



A DC3 ADVENTURE IN THE NORTH ISLAND WITH BILL PEACH JOURNEYS

Aircruising The Classic North Island

11 Days | 3 Mar – 13 Mar 2019 | AUD\$12,995pp twin share | Single Supplement AUD\$1,200

EXCLUSIVE HIGHLIGHTS

- ✦ Travel by DC3 aircraft around the North Island of New Zealand with a professional crew of two pilots and a flight attendant
- ✦ Incredible Māori cultural experiences at the Mataatua in Whakatane
- ✦ Experience spectacular aerial flightseeing over the North Island of New Zealand including the Bay of Plenty, Taranaki and Wairapa regions
- ✦ Explore the picturesque towns of Tauranga, Lake Taupo, New Plymouth, Palmerston North, Greytown, Martinborough & Gisborne
- ✦ Experience an eco-adventure to White Island - New Zealand's only active marine volcano
- ✦ Stay in stylish accommodation throughout
- ✦ All touring, transfers and meals included
- ✦ Escorted throughout by a dedicated Journey Director

"Our DC3 'Gooney Bird' adventure in New Zealand was most exhilarating. Our Journey Director created a magnificent atmosphere, making us all feel special."

Wendy Borchers, Tuncurry, NSW

Spend 11 days exploring the North Island of New Zealand by vintage DC3 aircraft which is regarded as one of the most significant transport aircraft ever made. The aircraft is ideal for air touring and aerial sightseeing with generous windows that offer excellent outside viewing and photo opportunities. This incredible programme includes visiting towns such as Tauranga, Lake Taupo, New Plymouth, Palmerston North, Greytown and Gisborne. You will experience spectacular aerial flightseeing over the Bay of Plenty, Taranaki and Wairapa regions.

Partake in incredible Māori cultural experiences at the Mataatua in Whakatane and step back in time on board New Zealand's only functioning coal paddle steamer in Wanganui. Enjoy a full day touring to the remarkable White Island to explore New Zealand's only active marine volcano. Enjoy the comfort of stylish accommodation and exceptional cuisine throughout. Join us for this incredible DC3 adventure!





BREATHTAKING NORTH ISLAND BY PRIVATE AIRCRAFT

DAY 1 | ARRIVE AUCKLAND

Today your journey begins in Auckland rated the third most liveable city in the world, a place where vibrant urban style and spectacular landscapes go hand in hand. Transfer to your luxury 5 star accommodation, Cordis Auckland, which is ideally located within easy reach of the city's museums, galleries and thriving retail scene. Meet your Journey Director and fellow travellers at a welcome dinner this evening.

Overnight: Cordis Auckland or similar

DAY 2 | AUCKLAND - TAURANGA

After breakfast we fly to Tauranga, a beautiful city resting on the sandy shores of the Bay of Plenty. Named by Captain James Cook, the Bay of Plenty is acclaimed for its fertile land and ideal growing conditions. Today we sample delicious produce during lunch at an award-winning winery.

Today we also visit the Elms - Te Papa Tauranga, one of New Zealand's oldest heritage sites, a place of early contact between Māori and Pākehā (white settlers). Here we explore the expansive grounds and enjoy a guided tour of the historic house and library gaining a rare glimpse into the past of this now bustling city.

Overnight: Trinity Wharf

DAY 3 | TAURANGA - TAUPO - NEW PLYMOUTH

Today we fly to beautiful Lake Taupo and learn about the volcanic history and Maori mythology surrounding this spectacular natural formation, Australasia's largest lake. Created nearly two thousand years ago by a volcanic eruption



so big it darkened the skies in Europe and China, today Lake Taupo is a tranquil and picturesque town in the centre of the North Island. We enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before flying on to New Plymouth. Known for its sunny climate, art galleries and beautiful parks, New Plymouth is also famed for its majestic views of towering Mount Taranaki.

Overnight: Millennium New Plymouth

DAY 4 | NEW PLYMOUTH

Today we explore Taranaki, the coastal and mountainous region on the western side of New Zealand's North Island. A landscape that is dominated by Mount Taranaki, its namesake volcano, it lies within the rainforested Egmont National Park. We will explore the striking and dramatic mountain scenery and learn about the Taranaki Land Wars of the 1800s and the remarkable passive resistance movement.

Overnight: Millennium New Plymouth

DAY 5 | NEW PLYMOUTH - WHANGANUI - PALMERSTON NORTH

Pukekura Park is a famed green space in New Plymouth, a place to relax and enjoy nature with lakes and formal gardens that grow rhododendrons and king ferns. We transfer on to Whanganui and a chance to step back in time. Cruising aboard the iconic Waimarie Paddle Steamer. Undoubtedly, this is one of the most authentic ways to experience Whanganui River's scenery and history, as you cruise on board New Zealand's only authentic coal-fired paddle steamer. We reboard the DC3 for our flight to Palmerston North located in the Manawatu Plains.

Overnight: Copthorne Hotel Palmerston North



DAY 6 | PALMERSTON NORTH - MASTERTON

This morning explore Palmerston North, which offers the sophistication and diversity of a major city featuring heritage collections, art galleries and urban street art hand in hand with a colourful array of cafés and restaurants. We transfer to Masterton, the largest town in the Wairarapa region.

Overnight: Copthorne Hotel Solway Park or similar

DAY 7 | MASTERTON - GISBORNE

After breakfast, explore historic Greytown, New Zealand's first planned inland town which is home to excellent examples of Victorian colonial architecture that line the main street.

We next explore Martinborough. Packed with colonial charm, the area features over 20 wineries not far from the quaint village square. We lunch today in a local Wairapa vineyard to sample this world famous produce. Later, we fly on to Gisborne.

Overnight: Portside Hotel or similar

DAY 8 | GISBORNE - WHAKATANE

As the centre of the spectacular East Coast surrounded by contrasts of rugged mountain ranges, undulating rivers, the vast Pacific Ocean and the Poverty Bay plains, Gisborne is one of the best and most scenic cities in New Zealand. We explore the town before transferring to Whakatane, the "Sunshine Capital" of New Zealand which is considered to be the artistic and cultural hub of the district.

Overnight: Tuscany Villas or similar

DAY 9 | WHAKATANE

This morning we depart for an eco-adventure to the 'other-worldly' White Island - New Zealand's only active marine volcano! Discover an ever-evolving landscape of fumeroles, lava bombs, crystals, bubbling mud and the steaming acid lake.

Overnight: Tuscany Villas or similar

DAY 10 | WHAKATANE - AUCKLAND

This morning we will enjoy a cultural experience and learn the amazing story of Mataatua Whareniui, before being welcomed on to the marae and into the sacred house by way of the ancient ritual of pōwhiri. Marvel at the intricacy of the carved representations of the great chiefs of Ngāti Awa, before two of the most famous traditions of the tribe are brought to life in Hiko: Legends Carved in Light – the award winning Mataatua visitor experience. Enjoy our final flight this afternoon on board the DC3 as we transfer to Auckland and return to the

Cordis Auckland. The afternoon is at leisure before a final farewell dinner this evening.

Overnight: Cordis Auckland or similar

DAY 11 | DEPART AUCKLAND

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your homeward flight. Take away fond memories of an incredible DC3 journey throughout the spectacular North Island of New Zealand.





ABOUT THE DC3

ZK-AWP was built in 1945 at Oklahoma City, USA. With a wing span of 95 feet, an overall length of 64.5 feet and a height of almost 15 feet and powered by two Pratt and Whitney R – 1830 - 92 engines with 1250 bhp each it was ideally suited to military service, operating comfortably into unpaved fields of 1000 metres or sometimes less, carrying a standard load of three tons and featuring a range of 1200 nautical miles.

ZK-AWP left its “birthplace” at Oklahoma City, USA on Saturday the 21st of April 1945 - the day the Red Army over ran the German High Command in Berlin - and flew to Hamilton, New Zealand. From 13 May 1945 the aircraft became RNZAF Dakota NZ3543 and was assigned to 41 Squadron RNZAF from 21 July of that year, 1945 until 1952. The aircraft was engaged in ferrying servicemen home to New Zealand - in this role the RNZAF operated their C - 47's as far as Japan.

On 30 June 1952 the aircraft was handed over as NZ3543 at Whenuapai to New Zealand National Airways Corporation where it spent many years on passenger routes. Over the next 48 years the aircraft operated in various capacities, as a passenger aircraft in Samoa, a crop duster in the South Island and then as a charter aircraft. In 2004 at the request of none other than the Crown Prince of Tonga (later King George V) it left Christchurch to work in the Kingdom of Tonga and flew domestic routes until 23 October 2006 when it was bought by another company.

It was very lucky to survive the violent riots that broke out in the Tongan capital of Nuku'alofa and subsequently spent the next 3 years gathering dust in a hangar. The aircraft was purchased by our partners in New Zealand - Air Chathams - who undertook extensive work to return the aircraft to airworthiness in 2010 and it continued on as a passenger service in Tonga. The aircraft was then flown “home” to New Zealand in December 2013. The aircraft, now 70 years later, remains in commercial service and a very important part of Kiwi history. It is today, the only surviving RNZAF World War II veteran aircraft still in frontline service detail.

ABOUT AIRCRUISING

An Airruise with Bill Peach Journeys is the perfect way to explore these hard to reach destinations in the style, speed and comfort of your own private aircraft. Travelling by private aircraft means that we can land directly in each location ensuring time on the ground is spent discovering each region. The style of aircraft is chosen to provide the best possible access into remote locations.

When you travel on an Airruise everything is included. This means not only does your holiday include accommodation, dining and all excursions but every one of these elements is the finest in its class. Throughout the journey you will have a Journey Director on hand to look after each detail.

FITNESS LEVEL - MODERATE

“Flying in a DC3 to areas of New Zealand we had not visited before. The air crew were great – they gave me so much confidence. The itinerary was perfect, we saw so much of the country both from the air and the ground.”

Marion Breden, Mosman, NSW

WHY BILL PEACH JOURNEYS?

- ✦ A name you can trust with over 35 years of experience in the luxury travel industry
- ✦ Fully inclusive journeys, all meals, accommodation, touring, entrance fees, portage taxes and luggage
- ✦ International travel requires expert planning and organisation. Our Journey Planners ensure you enjoy an intimate exploration of the places visited in comfort and style
- ✦ A dedicated Journey Director that ensures you are looked after every step of the way
- ✦ Local professional guides at every location
- ✦ 55% of our travellers return to travel with us again within the first year of their initial journey



For more information please call our Reservations Team on 1800 252 053 (Australia),
0800 445 700 (New Zealand) or visit www.billpeachjourneys.com.au
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