

Riding Holiday, New Zealand

Itinerary

Make your own way by rental car, or you may be met at Auckland International Airport (or hotel) by your hosts and taken to South Kaipara Head, which is one hour north of Auckland. The journey goes through vineyards, market garden and farming areas.

The itinerary is flexible and your stay at South Kaipara can vary from one or two days, to a whole week.

On arrival at Innisfree, settle into your room. Depending on your arrival time, there may be a chance to drive over to the other side of the peninsula and meet the horses for a ride this afternoon.



The itinerary is flexible, but on each riding day you will usually be in the saddle for between 4 and 7 hours. The following is an outline of what you may do during your stay, but the actual itinerary is variable and can change depending on the weather and other local conditions.



Each day you will head out in a different direction, exploring the best of what South Kaipara Head has to offer. On full day rides you will take a saddlebag picnic with you. If the riding group is larger, then lunch may be brought out to you by vehicle.



On one day you might set out from the horses' base and ride over farmland, through Woodhill Forest and out to Muriwai Beach. Make your way along the beach, perhaps with some beach canters if the conditions are right. Then head inland again and ride through trees and bush, crossing farmland along the way.



On another day you might ride along woodland tracks to Lake Otatoa. Here you might get the chance to have a swim as you enjoy a picnic on the lakeshore. Later, head through the forest to an historic farm. Depending on the season and the number of riders in your group, you may leave the horses here to overnight and return to Innisfree by vehicle. This evening, you might gather with your hosts for a barbecue supper.



One ride takes you northwest to the end of the peninsula, where panoramic views of the largest harbour in the Southern Hemisphere can be enjoyed. Crossing the wilderness flats you will pass (and ride if you want) sand dunes of up to 60 feet in height. Then it is out to the beach with nothing but sand and vigorous surf. You may ride for about 10 miles along the beach, then re-enter the forest for the journey home.