



## Confirmed Itinerary

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| <b>Party Name</b> | Marcia XXXXXXX x 8 | <b>Ship</b>          | Pacific Pearl<br>(Queens Wharf) |
| <b>Date</b>       | XX XXXXX 2011      | <b>\$ Per Person</b> | \$XXXXXX                        |

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### Itinerary

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After a leisurely breakfast on board, you'll rendezvous with your guide and vehicle at quayside. We then depart for Warkworth, 50-minutes north of Auckland, for a day dedicated to two of New Zealand's greatest exports: sheep and wine.

New Zealand is famous for its sheep, and during a highly entertaining show at Sheep World, a professional shearer will explain why. The show features an impressive demonstration as working sheepdogs round up the sheep in the paddocks. The shearer skilfully guides the dogs by whistle command and brings the sheep up to visitors and into the pens, while explaining how the dogs are trained.

Next the sheep are drafted, or sorted, before shearing. Audience participation is an integral part of the Sheep World show, so if you're keen to try your hand as a shearer, this is the place to have a go. At the end of the formal show, lambs are released and rush in, eager to be bottle fed by members of the audience.

Outside the auditorium is a mini Kiwi farm full of calves, pigs, lambs, goats and donkeys, plus more exotic species such as alpacas, emus and possums. For those keen to indulge in a little retail therapy Sheep World also sells luxury sheepskins, merino wool, possum fur and high-quality New Zealand made products and produce.

We leave and drive 15 minutes to the beautiful, award winning Ascension Vineyard. Over two backbreaking years, fifth generation winemakers Darryl and Bridget Soljan planted vines in the Bordeaux-like, iron rich, friable Matakana soil. Today Ascension Vineyard is acclaimed both for its wine and its culinary experiences.

Whilst lunch is being prepared one of the Ascension team will expertly guide us through their impressive array of wines in a 'cellar door' tasting. Appetites whetted, we lunch in the Oak Bistro and Grill: winner of 4 *Hospitality Association of New Zealand* national "Awards for Excellence".

This leisurely meal is drawn from the summer menu and crammed with Ascension's signature dishes; many prepared over a flaming grill fuelled with French oak barrel shavings soaked in red wine. Herbs and garnishes are from Ascension's own potager garden and many ingredients come from artisan suppliers around Matakana.

Late afternoon and replete, we begin our return journey to Auckland; arriving with plenty of time for 'all aboard'.