



Confirmed Itinerary

Party Name	Jenny XXXXXX and friends	Ship	Dawn Princess (Princes Wharf)
Date	XX XXXXX 2011	\$ Per Person	\$XXXXXX

Itinerary

Your day begins as you meet your guide on the quayside and head south towards Waitomo. En route we take a 'coffee and comfort' stop beside the majestic Waikato, New Zealand's longest river.

In Waitomo, we visit the world-renowned Glow-worm cave. The *Arachnocampa luminosa* glow-worm is unique to New Zealand, and within the cave, myriad match-sized creatures radiate their unmistakable luminescent light. Throughout your visit, an expert local Maori guide will provide an informative commentary on the cave's historical, geological and cultural significance. This visit concludes with a unique and moving experience as you glide silently through the Glow-worm Grotto, in a boat drawn by hand by your guide.

Later we enjoy an excellent alfresco lunch of spit-roast lamb at a family-run restaurant set against the peaceful green backdrop of working sheep farms in the Waitomo Valley. Accompanying the lamb is a generous selection of fresh salads, hot vegetable, potato and pasta dishes, rice and breads. And make sure you save some room for dessert: homemade cakes and cookies, fresh fruit, tea and coffee.

A short drive then leads us to the Ruakuri Bush Scenic Reserve and the Aranui Cave. The reserve contains beautiful native bush, classic limestone outcrops, caves, tunnels, gorges and cantilevered walkways high above the rushing water. It is also a place of strong historical, cultural and spiritual significance, particularly to local Maori.

The Aranui Cave was accidentally discovered in 1910 by a young Maori, Ruruku Aranui, as he hunted wild pigs with his dog. The spectacle of the millions of delicate stalactites in Aranui Cave is probably without equal in the world. The cave is adorned with infinite fragile, sparkling limestone forms in pale brown, pink and white. Over the years, guides have given many of these natural art forms affectionate nicknames such as Snow White, which help to bring the cave to life for visitors of all ages.

From the Aranui Cave we make the 15-minute drive to Otorohanga, 'kiwiana' capital of New Zealand, and home to the Otorohanga Kiwi House & Native Bird Park. Here you will meet our shy national icon, the kiwi, plus many other native birds, such as mischievous kea, during a quick but fascinating tour.

Finally we depart, returning to Auckland with plenty of time for 'all aboard'.