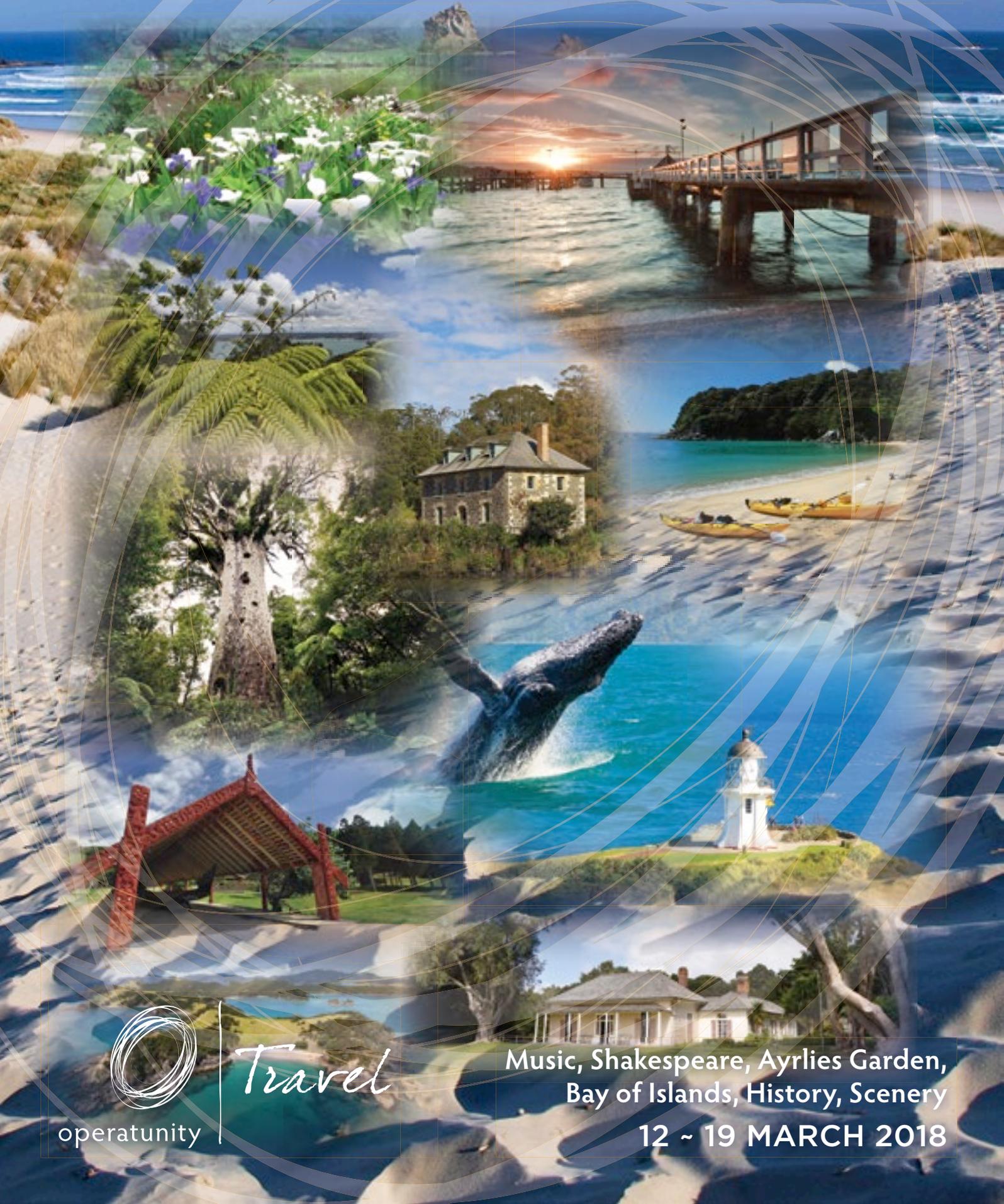


# FROLICKING IN THE FAR NORTH



operatunity

*Travel*

Music, Shakespeare, Ayrilies Garden,  
Bay of Islands, History, Scenery

12 ~ 19 MARCH 2018

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Music, Shakespeare, Ayrliès Garden, Bay of Islands, History, Scenery

12 ~ 19 MARCH 2018

**Discover the magic and mystique of the Far North as we explore this magnificent region and see some cultural highlights of Auckland. Steeped in history, the Bay of Islands is one of the most beautiful and interesting parts of New Zealand.**

We present musical events in some iconic places, taking each special setting and matching it with special concerts including *How Does Your Garden Grow* with string trio at Ayrliès within a garden party, a haunting sacred concert *Mystical Melodies* in Russell's Christ Church, a Victorian Music Hall in the old Duke of Marlborough Hotel and *Wine, Women and Song* in a vineyard setting in Kerikeri.

The eight day tour includes many breathtaking experiences, an exclusive private tour with Bev McConnell, the creator of Ayrliès Garden, as she shares her vision and the history of the garden she created - surely one of the most beautiful in New Zealand. We step back to the time of Shakespeare with the Pop-up Globe performance at Ellerslie, enjoy a coach tour to Cape Reinga and cruise the beautiful Bay of Islands.

All this with our own special flavour with fabulous themed concerts from our escorts Sue, Karl and Tizane.



## DAY 1: Monday 12 March 2018 (L, D)

**Grand Windsor Hotel (2 nights)** blends a protected historic building with chic, contemporary interior design. It boasts a great location in amongst the smart boutiques of Queen Street, in the heart of Auckland CBD and just off the scenic harbour.

### HIGHLIGHTS today include:

- A coach drive of Auckland, including Tamaki Drive, Bastion Point, the Domain and the beautiful Wintergardens before arriving at the Viaduct for lunch.
- A chance to explore the Viaduct area.
- A lovely lunch at one of Auckland's premier restaurants Soul Bar.
- Visit the Maritime Museum and then checking into the The Grand Windsor Hotel (2 nights).
- A welcome gourmet dinner at one of Auckland's top restaurants where you will be entertained by our artists in a concert entitled *From Broadway to Westend*.

## DAY 2: Tuesday 13 March 2018 (B, L, D)

### HIGHLIGHTS today include:

- ☞ A leisurely drive to Ayrles Garden in Whitford.
- ☞ A guided tour and talk with Bev McConnell, owner and designer of this magnificent garden. The garden is considered one of New Zealand's finest gardens.
- ☞ A chance to wander the gardens at leisure.
- ☞ String trio while we enjoy a gourmet lunch in the gardens with concert: How Does Your Garden Grow?
- ☞ Dinner and Shakespeare play at the incredible replica Pop-up Globe set in the beautiful Ellerslie Racecourse. (Subject to availability).

## DAY 3: Wednesday 14 March 2018 (B, MT, D)

### Scenic Circle Hotel - Paihia (5 nights)

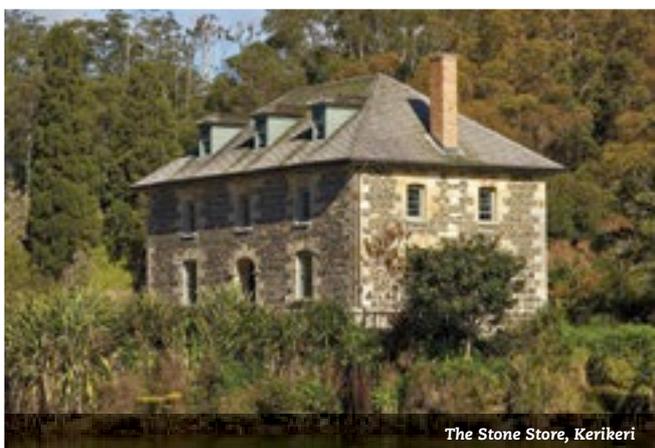
### HIGHLIGHTS today include:

- ☞ Today drive to the Bay of Islands with historic Puhoi for morning tea and lunch at the picturesque Whangarei Basin.

## DAY 4: Thursday 15 March 2018 (B, L, D)

### HIGHLIGHTS today include:

- ☞ Sail to Russell, the original capital of NZ with historic buildings.
- ☞ Enjoy a beautiful sacred concert *Mystical Melodies* at Christ Church which is New Zealand's oldest existing church.
- ☞ A visit to Pompallier House built in the 19th century.
- ☞ A half day cruise around the Bay of Islands onboard the historic R. Tucker Thompson sailing ship with a delicious BBQ lunch served on board.
- ☞ Off to Charlotte's Kitchen for a scrumptious dinner plus our concert entitled *Waltz of my Heart*.



## DAY 5: Friday 16 March (B, L, D)

### HIGHLIGHTS today include:

- ☞ Full day tour to Cape Reinga the most northern tip of New Zealand.
- ☞ Visit the fascinating Ancient Kauri Kingdom.
- ☞ Lunch and a drive down or up Ninety Mile Beach (depending on tides).
- ☞ A casual dinner with a sing-along movie night *Mary Poppins*.

## DAY 6: Saturday 17 March 2018 (B, L, D)

### HIGHLIGHTS today include:

- ☞ Foodies tour of Kerikeri including a visit to Makana Chocolates and Ake Ake Vineyard for some tastings!
- ☞ Visit to Kemp House (otherwise known as Kerikeri Mission House) and adjacent to this is the oldest stone building in NZ, the Stone Store built in 1832.
- ☞ Lunch at the lovely Peartree Restaurant with sweeping views overlooking the beautiful bay.
- ☞ Visit Mt Bledisloe, which has stunning views of the Bay.
- ☞ Visit Marsden Estate for an elegant dinner with concert entitled *Wine, Women and Song*. We present a fun concert of famous songs dedicated to women and women's names.

## DAY 7: Sunday 18 March 2018 (B, L, D)

### HIGHLIGHTS today include:

- ☞ A Bay of Islands cruise in search of dolphins and other marine life.
- ☞ Enjoy the views from the catamaran Dolphin Seeker to the Cape Brett Peninsula, to the famous Hole in the Rock on Motukokako Island.
- ☞ An afternoon at leisure.
- ☞ Catch ferry over to Russell for our final night dinner in the Duke of Marlborough Hotel ballroom with concert entitled *The Magnificence of the Music Hall*, a concert to match our Victorian hotel.

## DAY 8: Monday 19 March 2018 (B)

### HIGHLIGHTS today include:

- ☞ Visit the Waitangi Treaty Grounds for a chance to look around and enjoy a cultural concert at New Zealand's most important historical site.
- ☞ Journey back to Auckland stopping at central points to drop people off on our way home.

