

How to get here

Russell’s location on a scenic peninsula is part of its charm – it takes a little more effort to get here! But it’s worth it! The fastest way by car is to take the vehicle ferry from Opuā to Ōkiato. Entering “5 Beechy Street, Opuā” into your GPS will get you to the ferry departure point.

The car ferry runs every 10 minutes between 6:00am and 10:00pm. It takes just 5 minutes and can transport all sizes of vehicle. No pre-booking is necessary, purchase your ticket on board. Credit cards, EFTPOS and cash are all accepted.

Once off the ferry, Russell is an easy 8km drive from Ōkiato.

The alternate route, avoiding the ferry, is a scenic four-hour drive from Auckland. Take State Highway One through Whangarei. After 22km, “the old” Russell Road starts just before Whakapara.

Regular bus services run from Auckland to Paihia. From Paihia, catch the passenger ferry to Russell. The passenger ferry takes 15 minutes and operates between 7:00am and 9:00pm. There is a late crossing in the summer (10:00pm from Russell, 10:30pm from Paihia).

Bay of Islands Airport at Kerikeri is less than an hour’s drive from Russell. Rental cars and a transfer service to Paihia are available.



Where to eat and drink

Bayside Restaurant and Bar

Modern cuisine and cocktails on The Strand
www.bayside.nz Ph: 09 403 7309

Bay of Islands Swordfish Club

Bar food, bistro and bar
www.swordfish.co.nz Ph: 09 403 7857

Butterfish Eatery

Waterfront dining 7 days a week
www.butterfish.co.nz Ph: 09 403 7652

Duke of Marlborough Hotel and Restaurant

Iconic waterfront dining, lunch and dinner
www.theduke.co.nz Ph: 09 403 7829

Greens International Indian & Thai Cuisine

Dine-in or take away, deliveries available
www.spicerouteindian.co.nz Ph: 09 403 7561

Hell Hole Café

Coffee, bagels, smoothies
Ph: 022 175 7847

Hone’s Garden Bar

Pizzas and wraps
Ph: 022 466 3710

Otehei Bay Bar and Café

A short ferry ride to Urupukapuka island
www.exploregroup.co.nz Ph: 0800 365 744

The Duke Tavern

Bar and meals, lunch and dinner
www.duketavern.co.nz Ph: 09 403 7831

The Gables Restaurant

Historic waterfront fine dining
www.thegablesrestaurant.co.nz Ph: 09 403 7670

Tuk Tuk Bangkok Thai Restaurant

Dine-in or take away
www.tuktukrestaurant.co.nz Ph: 09 403 7111

York Street Café

Breakfast and lunch Ph: 09 403 7360

Vineyards

Omata Estate Vineyard and Kitchen

Gourmet platter lunch or something from the pizza oven!
Tastings and cellar door sales
www.omata.co.nz Ph: 09 403 8007

Paroa Bay Winery and Sage Restaurant

Authentic Italian cuisine in an idyllic setting
Tastings and cellar door sales
www.paroabay.co.nz Ph: 09 403 7928



Walking Tracks

Ranging from short walks to full day and even overnight tramps, from families to the expert trampster and everyone in between.

So bring your walking shoes!

- Cape Brett Walkway
- Flagstaff – Beach and Bush Walk
- Full Circle Walkway
- Long Beach walkway
- Motorua Island
- Roberton Island
- Russell Forest Kauri Grove & Twin Bole Kauri
- Tapeka Point Historic Reserve
- Urupukapuka Island
- Waihihi Bay
- Whangamumu Harbour and Whaling Station

Easy access by ferry to many other walks in and around Paihia

www.russellnz.co.nz/russell-area-walks

Beaches

- Long Beach (Oneroa Bay)
- Russell Beach (Kororareka Bay)
- Tapeka Beach
- Waihihi Bay



Heritage & Culture

As you stroll round Russell, Bay of Islands today, you’re walking back in time. The town’s original street plan and names from 1843 are still intact and feature some of New Zealand’s oldest and most significant historic buildings. Russell Kororareka was developed initially as a shore station for shipping. The European population grew, with a mixture of deserting seamen, runaway convicts, and grog sellers, as well as settlers and traders. The township thus gained a reputation as a lawless and rowdy port and the unflattering nickname “Hell Hole of the Pacific”. Many of the buildings seen in Russell Township now are dated back to these times, and during your stay, you will be able to discover more about the amazing stories that these buildings hold.

Christ Church - Russell / Te Whare Karakia o Kororareka is New Zealand’s oldest existing church and possibly the oldest building still used for its original purpose.

Flagstaff Hill Historic Reserve / Te Maiki – This important scenic landmark has had a turbulent past, with its first four British flagstaffs cut down in protest by Hone Heke and his allies. russellnz.co.nz/russell-area-walks/flagstaff-hill

Pompallier Mission – NZ’s Heritage printer, with award-winning gardens in their magnificent beachside grounds, with wonderful views across the bay to Waitangi. www.pompallier.co.nz Ph: 09 403 7701

Russell Museum - tells the story of the development of Russell from a small Maori fishing village, to a port of call for visiting ships and whalers, to today’s tourist town. Call in to collect an informative map of Russell’s historic points of interest. www.russellmuseum.org.nz Ph: 09 403 7701



Bay of Islands



www.russellnz.co.nz



Russell

Romantic, historical, fun, adventurous - the perfect place to explore the Bay of Islands!

Along with a rich & colourful history, Russell Kororareka is today an ideal base for your visit to Northland, offering something for everyone. Being right in the heart of the Bay, we have instant access to the 144 islands. Swim, fish and snorkel our safe pristine beaches and explore our marine playground. Wander forest pathways, rich in native birdlife, taking in the scenic views. Dine in our waterfront restaurants and soak in the picturesque sunsets. Come and discover why Russell is where it all began!

The story of Kororareka

The legend goes that a Maori chief, wounded in battle, asked for penguin broth to be brought to him. After drinking the broth he said 'Ka reka te korora' (how sweet is the penguin). Thus - Kororareka - korora, the blue penguin - reka, sweet. In 1844, Kororareka was renamed Russell. Today Russell is a tranquil seaside village and an exciting discovery for all tourists and visiting yachties. We hope you too will enjoy the tranquility and beauty of Russell - Kororareka and the Bay of Islands during your stay.



What to do

Russell Booking and Information Centre - situated right on the Russell Wharf. www.russellinfo.co.nz Ph: 0800 633 255

South Sea Art Gallery - stocks NZ artists, both local and further afield. A delightful gallery, run by a passionate curator. www.southseaart.com Ph: 09 403 7268

Revive Wellness & Day Spa
www.revivedaysparussell.co.nz Ph: 09 403 7117

Russell Mini Tours - discover why Russell has played such a key role in NZ's history. www.russellminitours.com Ph: 09 403 7866

Rogue Pony - Private Jeep and Mustang Tours
www.roguepony.co.nz Ph: 0800 764 837

Russell Boat and Bike Hire - Rent self-drive motorboats, sailboats, paddleboards or kayaks, or explore on land with a bike! www.russellboatandbikerehire.co.nz Ph: 022 601 0611

Bay of Islands Guided Kayak Tours
www.bayofislandskayaks.nz Ph: 021 079 2352

Explore Group - Award-winning sustainable company with an exciting range of tours and cruises in the Bay of Islands. www.exploregroup.co.nz Ph: 0800 397 567

Fullers GreatSights - Bay of Islands cruises: Hole in the Rock, dolphin swimming, Bay of Islands tours, Cape Reinga/90 Mile Beach. www.dolphincruises.co.nz Ph: 0800 653 339

R Tucker Thompson - sail on Northland's own iconic tall ship. www.tucker.co.nz Ph: 0800 882 537

Kingfisher Sailing Charters
www.kingfishercharters.co.nz Ph: 0800 56 64 34

Phantom Sailing Charters
www.yachtphantom.com Ph: 0800 22 44 21

Vigilant Sailing Charters
www.sailing-bay-of-islands.co.nz Ph: 0800 334 662



Where to stay

A Place in the Sun – Self-Contained Apartment
www.aplaceinthesun.co.nz Ph: 09 403 7615

Arcadia Lodge – B & B
www.arcadialodge.co.nz Ph: 09 403 7756

Bellrock Lodge – B & B
www.bellrocklodge.co.nz Ph: 09 403 7422

Blue Oasis – Holiday Home
www.blueoasis.co.nz Ph: 027 483 6603

Commodores Lodge – Motel
www.commodoreslodgemotel.co.nz Ph: 09 403 7899

Donkey Bay Inn – Luxury Boutique Hotel
www.donkeybayinn.co.nz Ph: 027 240 9109

Duke of Marlborough Hotel
www.theduke.co.nz Ph: 09 403 7829

Eagles Nest Luxury Accommodation
www.eaglesnest.co.nz Ph: 09 403 8333

Genevieve's on Du Fresne - B & B
www.tapekabandb.co.nz Ph: 09 403 7713

Hananui Lodge – Motel and Apartments
www.hananui.co.nz Ph: 09 403 7875

Motel Russell
www.motelrussell.co.nz Ph: 09 403 7854

Paradise on the Strand – Holiday Home/B & B
www.bayofislandsholidays.com



Paroa Bay Chalets – Self-Contained Cottages
www.paroabaychalets.co.nz Ph: 027 403 7411

Paroa Bay Winery – Luxury Holiday Accommodation
www.paroabay.com Ph: 09 403 7928

Russell Cottages – Luxury Self-Contained Cottages
www.russellcottages.co.nz Ph: 0800 13 16 17

Russell-Orongo Bay Holiday Park
Camping, Self-Contained Units, Campervan Park
www.russellaccommodation.co.nz Ph: 09 403 7704

Russell TOP 10 Holiday Park
Camping, Self-Contained Units, Campervan Park
www.russelltop10.co.nz Ph: 0800 148 671

Seaport Village Holiday Accommodation – Self-Contained Apartments & Studios
www.seaportvillage.co.nz Ph: 09 403 7833

Tapeka Del Mar – Beachfront Holiday Home
www.tapeka.com Ph: 021 367 700

The Clendon – Boutique Hotel
www.theclendon.co.nz Ph: 09 403 7948

The Duke Motel
www.thedukemotel.co.nz Ph: 09 403 7008

Villa Russell – B & B
www.villarussell.co.nz Ph: 09 403 8845

