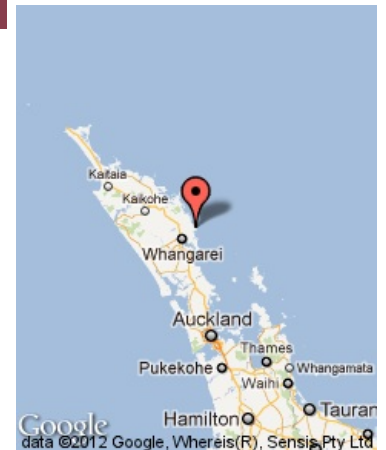


Wreck Diving in New Zealand



Highlights

On the seafloor off the Tutukaka Coast are the remains of the HMSNZ Tui and Waikato, two purpose-sunk vessels that are magnets for divers and sea life alike. This one-day tour gives you backstage access to both of these awesome wrecks!

Located just 2 miles off New Zealand's Tutukaka Coast, are the wrecks of the HMSNZ Tui and Waikato. Here you will find sub-tropical and temperate plant and animal life, including soft corals, encrusting sponges, ecklonia kelp forests and over 125 species of fish! These myriad life forms inhabit an underwater wonderland of caves, tunnels and wrecks like the Tui and Waikato, making for some truly unique dive expeditions!

This one-day wreck diving tour is Poor Knights adventure! The day begins at 8:30am with an onshore briefing, then you'll get kitted up and board your vessel – a custom-made, high-speed wreck diving boat. First stop is the HMSNZ Tui, a former hydrographic research vessel lying in 32 metres of water. Like the HMSNZ Waikato, which you'll explore after a surface interval back on shore, the Tui has been carefully prepared for adventure diving, with purpose cut access and exit points allowing exploration of all the major features, from guns and bridges to cabins and engine rooms! And when you're not staring in awe at a giant propeller or some tombstone-like turret, you might notice the astonishing array of sea life about the place: rays, groupers and rainbow fish are among the vessels' countless new inhabitants!

Is it for me?

This is a one-of-a-kind wreck tour, featuring the only purpose-sunk frigate in the Southern Hemisphere alongside an extraordinary abundance of aquatic biodiversity. In order to explore these wrecks, though, you need a fair amount of diving experience (35 logged dives for the Tui, 15 for the Waikato). It's also essential that you've dived within the last six months. If you haven't got quite another experience fear not: you can still explore the Waikato on a special instructor-led tour, which counts towards advanced certification).

Accommodation

Food and accommodation aren't provided on this tour, but there are plenty of options for both in Tutukaka and nearby Whangarei. On the accommodation front you'll find hotels, hostels, self-catering cottages and campsites to suit every budget, from The Bach, an exclusive beach house at Kowharewa Bay, to the cheap and cheerful YHA Manaakitanga overlooking Whangarei Harbour. There's an equally comprehensive range of restaurants and cafes serving both international and 'local' cuisine. As you'd expect being so close to the ocean, seafood is the regional specialty, but for those needing a break from all the fish there are lots of other options, from organic meats like lamb and venison to excellent fresh fruits and vegetables.

Itinerary

These wreck trips are run three times each day. The Tui tour begins at 8:30am, after which you'll return to shore for a break. You then have the choice of two Waikato tours, the first leaving at 11:30am and the second at 2:30pm. The day comes to an end once you return from this dive, leaving plenty of time to check out the local après-dive scene!

Details

Prices from

119 GBP (1 day) per person

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Getting there

It takes 2.5 hours to drive from Auckland and 1 1/4 hours drive from Paihia. Alternatively, if you get a bus to Whangarei, you can be picked up by a complimentary shuttle bus.

Price includes

Price quoted is the price per person for two dives with full gear hire.

For just tanks and weights hire the price is NZ\$175.

If you have all your own gear the price is just NZ\$130 per person.

Equipment hire, tuition (optional), boat transfers, refreshments, kayak use.

Available

Jan—Dec

Typical Duration

1 day

Experience required

Some previous experience is needed