

# Three Kings

Season: **Late November through to Mid June**

Location: 50 Nautical miles north west of North Cape, NZ

Nearest Port: Mangonui, Far North , nz

Time to get there: 18 hours

Departure times: 7.30am trawling to the shelf, fishing spots up the coast and arriving at the Kings around 9pm

Return: 1 – 3pm on the last day back to Mangonui.

Trip Length: Recommended 5 – 7 Days, minimum 4 days, most popular trip is 5 days

Cost: \$3400 per day for up to eight people , recommendation six

Food: fully catered \$60pp per day

Bait and Tackle and Rods for hire: \$50pp per day



The Three Kings and Princess Group are a group of 13 very remote rocky uninhabited islands, situated approx. 50nm northwest of North Cape, New Zealand. The fishing territory consists of several banks (such as the King and Middlesex Banks) with a range of deep trenches and sea mounts where the South Pacific Ocean and Tasman Sea converge. The islands are situated on a submarine plateau and amongst abundant upwelling's and strong currents that produces some of NZs most sensational fishing.



Due to the location and remote inhabitation of the Kings it is only accessible to the long range vessel. There is no where to land on the rocky islands and the nearest port is on the mainland NZ. This makes the Three Kings a fishing mecca. Mostly left alone from June till December when Enchanter arrives each year apart from the odd commercial operator, the Kings is rich in fish life. Trips are completely liveaboard and depart from Mangonui in the far north.



Day one sees the group travel and fish spots up the coast, trawling to the shelf and targeting marlin all the way to the Three Kings arriving at the kings around 9pm. During the peak of the season marlin are prolific at the kings and on the coast, so travelling during daylight hours is a must. Groups load up the night before in Mangonui, stay on the boat at the wharf to catch livebait and fill the tanks for fishing throughout the trip. The last day is travelling home departing in the late afternoon of day four and arriving back at Mangonui around 1 – 3pm.



Early in the season December through to March The Kings produce a range of fishing opportunities with top water in and around the princess group Islands where some of the eye candy of big kings smashing poppers on the surface is mind blowing stuff.

Mechanical jigging would have to be the most preferred way in which the modern fisherman wants to target the Yellow Tail Kingfish and Lance and the team know where some of the best jigging territory exists in the Three Kings area including the famous Middlesex and King Banks. Both are renown



for bait, oodles of current and phenomenal kingfish action as well as large bass and hapuka, king terakihi and trumpeter.

During the kings season from late December to late May early June the gamefish also conjugate being the gateway to and from the Norfolk Trench and the South Pacific Islands, the fish migrate south with the warmer currents and accumulate in food heaven around the Kings area. Therefore, many game boats are attracted due to the prolific marlin activity, its not uncommon for a game boat to be hooked up to two at a time. Striped marlin are the most common sizes from 90kg to 180 – 200kg, big blues and the odd black. Mahimahi are also not uncommon due to the very tropical type water. At this northern latitude it stays warmer longer than the mainland with marlin caught well into June each year as they feed up before they head north. Enchanter has managed a grand slam at the kings with a Black Marlin, a Stripy and a broadbill swordfish in 24 hours in 2010 with Mark Stannards group of annual fishos! If your ever gonna get a slam this is the place to do it!



The yellowtail kingfish are residents at the Kings all year around. This is their territory and they stay on the reef for most of their lives. Professional fisherman, rod makers, tackle specialists and international fishing guides come from all over



the world to experience this last frontier where kingfish are in large numbers and sizes, to try out their best and foremost fishing equipment and to beat their personal bests. The biggest kingfish landed at the Kings was caught on a jig and stands at 51kg tagged and released in June 2013 by Walter Wells on Enchanter, fish in the high 40's are caught here every season. There are bigger fish out there its just a matter of time and skill. It is not uncommon for a group to catch and release in excess of 50-60+ kingfish on a reasonable day at the kings with most fish being in the 25+kg range and odd fish being over 30kg and the occasional massive 40kg! Heavy tackle is the only way to go, these monster fish will rail you time after time! However there's still room for the bait fisherman though, with some days bait out fishing jigs and vs versa. So be prepared for some new techniques and methods to lure that big one in.



Puka and bass are also a great feature with regular 40 –60kg bass and 20 – 40kg puka. Theres normally no problem getting a feed for the table at the kings and most groups only needing to spend a limited time getting enough to take home as they cant be tagged and released. We have found some of the biggest bass and puka are often very early in the season and then spawning late in the season from May / June. 2016 season seeing three fish over 70kg landed in three consecutive trips in May. You can almost always guarantee a good feed of table fish to take home from the kings so bring along your freezer bags and chillies for the big cut up on the way home ready for the chef when you return.



The kings also hold some amazing broadbill swordfish fishing. The Enchanter team are always keen for a swordfish if the weather permits a nightdrift for broadbill is an option. T Theres nothing like tangling with the gladiator of the sea! Enchanter lands a few of these monsters every season.



What happens if the weather is not so good? Most of the time the boats can work around the weather due to the many options of fishing utilizing both the east and west coasts of NZ, as well as in and around the islands at the Kings. Trips are rarely cancelled. Both boats have extended surveys to fish offshore up to 100nm around NZ two of very few charter boats able to do this in NZ. Both boats are over 30 tonnes and very stable fishing platforms with experienced Offshore Masters as skippers. They have extensive safety equipment to meet all NZ safety standards. It is not unusual fishing these offshore remote places to experience moderate weather of 20+knots of wind with current and swell.



Diving and spearfishing at the kings is hard to beat, the water clarity, fish life and amazing real prospect of spearing a world



record kingfish! We host many spearfishing groups to the kings that have filmed some incredible footage of underwater life in and around the kings and outer islands. Abundant paua and crayfish and also the wreck of the SS Elingamite (1902) plenty of tank and free diving options. Check out Marks 45kg King speared at the Kings March 2014!

We have many professional and recreational groups returning to the kings year after year from all over the world. It is an amazing fishery. You will never come away being disappointed! Bring the big guns to the kings you're sure going to need them!!

