

COROMANDEL PENINSULA 8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS TOUR Auckland to Rotorua

ITINERARY

Please bring this information with you to the tour start.

Distances are given in kilometres. 1 km = 0.62 miles

Cycling distances given are entirely optional; cycle as little or as much as you wish each day, the shuttle van will always be available. Suggested cycling distances are given for each day, as follows:

Cas. = casual cyclists, Int. = intermediate cyclists, adv = advanced cyclists.

The tour starts in AUCKLAND, (pop. 1.3 m) New Zealand's largest and most cosmopolitan city. It is situated on a narrow isthmus between two beautiful harbours, the Manukau on the Tasman Sea, and the Waitemata on the Pacific Ocean. Rides around the inner harbour offer excellent views of Rangitoto and other islands in the Hauraki Gulf, as well as a panoramic view of the city and its distinctive harbour bridge.



MEETING DAY / DAY ONE:

We meet at 12.00 noon at The Sebel (4 star hotel)
 cnr Hobson and Custom St West
 (on the waterfront)
 Downtown, Auckland.
 Phone. 09 978-4000 Fax. 09 978 4099

Should you need to contact Pedaltours please call our Auckland Office,
Richard or Helen or Lisa: tollfree within New Zealand 0800 302 0968,
tollfree from the U.S. 1 888 222 9187.

The first day of our trip is designed to allow visitors to settle in. Your tour leader will hold a trip orientation meeting prior to lunch. Time will be set aside to fit you to your Pedaltours rental bike or unpack your own and take a short ride along the harbourside.

Lodging : (Lunch and dinner are included today)
The Sebel (4 star)
Cnr Hobson and Custom Streets
Auckland
Phone. 09 978-4000 Fax. 09 978-4099
Facilities: Cocktail bar, laundry and kitchen facilities, Brasserie,
Features: Overlooking the harbour, close to many restaurants, a two min. walk to the ferry building and shops.

Day Two: Auckland to Thames - Transfer to Clevedon on outskirts of Auckland
 Clevedon to Waharau (lunch) cas. 38 km / 24 mi.
 Clevedon to Waitakaruru: int. 64 km / 40 mi
 Clevedon to Thames: adv. 90 km / 56 mi

After breakfast we leave the city by Pedaltours minibus and head for the village of Clevedon on the edge of the Hunua Ranges. It is here we start cycling on quiet roads. On reaching the coast at Kawakawa Bay we will have our first sight of the Peninsula with the Coromandel Ranges rising steeply from the sea.

Continuing south down the Firth of Thames the narrow road hugs the coast on its way to Miranda Bird Sanctuary. There are two climbs today with a final flat run from Miranda.

B, L, D (Breakfast, lunch and dinner included. Dinner: Sealey Café)
Lodging
Coastal Motor Lodge, 608 Tararu Road (Coast Rd), Thames,
Phone 07 868 6843, Fax: 07 868 6520.
Facilities: Bures with full kitchens, laundry.
Features: Garden setting with sea views.

Cycling distances given are entirely optional; the van will be available at any time

Day Three: Thames to Coromandel: int/adv 66 km./ 41 mi
Thames to Wilson's Bay (start of hill) cas. 46 km / 29 mi
(both include detour to Rapaura Water Gardens, 12 km return)

We visit a working historic Gold Mine before heading north past many pohutukawa trees leaning over the road and beach. The butterfly and orchid centre at Tararu is well worth a visit. At Tapu we turn inland to visit the picturesque Rapaura Water Gardens and have lunch. Returning to the coast there are two hills to climb - with great views - before the final descent to Coromandel. The town once flourished as a goldmining town; now it is a centre for crafts-people and 'alternative lifers'. Some of the old houses have been beautifully restored.

B, L Dinner is not included tonight; there are good restaurants in Coromandel.

Lodging:

Coromandel Court Motel

Phone: 07 866 8402 Fax: 07 866 8403

Facilities: Spacious units, guest laundry, BBQ

Features: 50m stroll to shops & restaurants, 5 minute drive to beaches, tranquil garden

Day Four: Coromandel to Whitianga: int/adv. 46km / 29 mi
Summit of Whangapoua to Whitianga: cas. 41 km/ 25 mi

This morning we take a ride on the Driving Creek Bush Railway and have the opportunity to view locally made pottery.

Crossing the range to the east side of the peninsula, we have magnificent coastal views and great riding down to the seaside village of Whitianga.

Lunch is not provided today, but there is a selection of cafes in Whitianga.

Lodging: (Breakfast and dinner are included today)

Admiralty Lodge Motel, 69-71 Buffalo Beach Rd, Whitianga

Phone: 07 866 0181 Fax: 07 866 0182

Facilities: Heated swimming pool

Features: Sea views from all rooms

Cycling distances given are entirely optional; the van will be available at any time

Day Five: Whitianga to Whangamata: int/adv. 74 km / 46 mi
Whitianga to Tairua: cas. 38 km / 24 mi

This morning we take the ferry to Flaxmill Bay. Past Purangi Vineyards, we head for Hahei where we can laze on the beach or walk to magnificent Cathedral Cove. After lunch we visit Hot Water beach where the natural mineral water rises through the sand. Those who have the energy can tackle the Pumpkin Hill climb with its views of Shoe and Slipper Islands and enjoy a great descent to Tairua before continuing around Tairua Harbour towards Whangamata.

Lodging: (Breakfast and lunch – dinner is not included today)
Palm Pacific Resort, 413 Port Road, Whangamata
Phone 07 865 9211 Fax 07 865 9237 Email: palmpacificresort@xtra.co.nz
Facilities: Units set in spacious grounds, swimming pool, spa, tennis court. Licensed restaurant adjacent.
Features: Close to shops, cafes and beach.

Day Six: Whangamata to Matamata. adv. 111 km./ 69 mi
Te Aroha to Matamata: cas. 40 km / 25 mi (best biking)
Waihi to Matamata: int. 82 km / 51 mi

Leaving the coast, we head inland through Karangahake Gorge to the Waikato Valley and south in the lee of the Kaimai Range. An attractive, varied route - gently undulating. An interesting diversion is to take the Historic Walkway (disused railway) through the gorge – you will need to walk a short distance through a tunnel. We are guests tonight of a local farming family.

Meals and Lodging: Breakfast and dinner are included today.
Farm Stay, Matamata.
(Written details of your host and their property will be supplied by your guide)

Please let us know if you would prefer not to have a farmstay and we will book you a room at a high standard motel in Matamata.

Cycling distances given are entirely optional; the van will be available at any time

Day Seven: Matamata to Rotorua: int/adv. 76 km / 48 mi
 Matamata to hwy 5 : cas. 34 km / 21 mi

A long gentle climb takes us to the bush clad Mamaku Plateau and a great descent, with panoramic views, to the thermal district of Rotorua. In the afternoon we will have time for some optional extras, such as the Agrodome (a sheep farming theme park) and a visit to the boiling mud pools and geysers for which Rotorua is renowned.

Lodging and breakfast: (Breakfast and dinner are included today)
 Princes Gate Hotel, 1057 Arawa Street, Rotorua
 Phone: 07 348 1179 Fax. 07 348 6215
 Facilities: Garden bar and café-style restaurant, geothermal pool and laundry.
 Features: Centrally located, charming refurbished 1897 hotel, overlooking the renowned Government Gardens

Day Eight: Rotorua

Rotorua has much to offer: Geysers and bubbling mud pools, a 4WD trip up Mt Tarawera, rafting, the Buried Village, the Green and Blue Lakes (a 32km cycle ride), fishing and, of course, shopping.

It is here we must say farewell, a safe journey home and hope to see you again.

You may like to leave the following accommodation list with friends or relatives.

ACCOMMODATION COROMANDEL TOUR

Day	Date	Location	Accommodation	'phone
1		Auckland	The Sebel	(09) 978 4000
2		Thames	Coastal M. Lodge	(07) 868 6843
3		Coromandel	Coromandel Court	(07) 866 8402
4		Whitianga	Admiralty Lodge	(07) 866 0181
5		Whangamata	Palm Pacific Resort	(07) 865 9211
6		Matamata	farm stay	(09) 585 1338
7		Matamata	farm stay	(09) 585 1338
8		Rotorua	Princes Gate Hotel	(07) 348 1179
9		Depart		