

## **NORTH ISLAND HIGHLIGHTS 15 DAYS / 14 NIGHTS Auckland to Auckland**

### **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 support vehicle will always be close by. Suggested cycling distances are given for each day as follows:*

*a Casual cyclists, b Intermediate cyclists, c Advanced cyclists*

The tour starts in AUCKLAND, 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 in Cornwell Park.

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, in-room laundry and kitchen facilities, full bath.  
Features: Superbly located 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)a. 38 km / 24 mi.  
Clevedon to Waitakaruru:                   b. 64 km / 40 mi  
Clevedon to Thames:                   c. 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.)  
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*

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Day Three: Thames to Coromandel: b/c 66 km./ 41 mi  
Thames to Wilson's Bay (start of hill) a 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: b/c 46km / 29 mi  
Summit of Whangapoua to Whitianga: a 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.

Lodging: (Breakfast, lunch 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*

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Day Five: Whitianga to Whangamata: b/c 74 km / 46 mi  
Whitianga to Tairua: a 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](mailto: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. c. 111 km./ 69 mi  
Te Aroha to Matamata: a. 40 km / 25 mi (best biking)  
Waihi to Matamata: b. 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 comfortable motel in Matamata instead.**

Day Seven: Matamata to Rotorua: b/c 76 km / 48 mi  
Matamata to hwy 5 : a. 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.

Novotel Rotorua Lakeside Hotel Lake end, Tutanekai St, Rotorua

Ph: 07 3463 888 [www.novotelrotorua.co.nz](http://www.novotelrotorua.co.nz)

Facilities: Restaurant and bar, thermal swimming pool, fitness room, wireless internet, optional Maori cultural show.

Features: Central lakefront location in heart of café district

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

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.

Lodging and breakfast: Breakfast only is included today.  
Novotel Rotorua Lakeside Hotel Lake end, Tutanekai St, Rotorua  
Ph: 07 3463 888 [www.novotelrotorua.co.nz](http://www.novotelrotorua.co.nz)

Day Nine: Rotorua to Taupo: c. 105 km / 66 ml.  
Rotorua to Waioapu: a. 39 km / 24 mi  
Rotorua to Reporoa: b. 50 km / 31 mi

We take a quiet back road through Waikite Valley and Waioapu thermal areas on our way to Taupo. The thundering Huka Falls provide a noisy and spectacular entrance to the town of Taupo. Lake Taupo is New Zealand's largest lake at 606 sq km. On a good day there will be superb views across the lake to Tongariro National Park and its three distinctive mountains. The area is famous for trout fishing in the many streams that flow into the lake.

Lodging : Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included today.  
Tui Oaks Motor Inn, 88 Lake Terrace, Taupo.  
Phone 07 378 8305 Fax 07 378 8335 Email: [tui.oaks@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tui.oaks@xtra.co.nz)  
Features: Overlooks the lake, walking distance to town.

Day Ten : Taupo to Tongariro National Park: c. 98 km / 61 mi  
Taupo to Turangi: a. 51 km / 32 ml  
Turangi to Tongariro National Park b. 47 km / 29 mi

A varied, spectacular ride along Lake Taupo leads to the still active volcanoes in Tongariro National Park, the night being spent at the side of Mt Ruapehu. The mountain is permanently snowcapped and the North Island's highest at 2,797 m. On leaving the lakeside there is a substantial climb up to the plateau with a view of the entire lake. As we gain altitude there will be a distinct change in the vegetation, pine forests giving way to tussock grasslands.

Lodging : Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included.  
The Chateau, Whakapapa village, Mt Ruapehu.  
Phone: 07 892-3809, Fax: 07 892 3704.  
Facilities: Cocktail bar, and restaurant, heated indoor pool and sauna, fitness centre, tennis courts and 9 hole golf course.  
Features: A grand old hotel, spectacular setting overlooking Mt Ngauruhoe.

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

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Day Eleven: Tongariro National Park

There are many excellent walks in the park, short and long, including the spectacular Tongariro Crossing. The Visitors Centre is well worth a visit. Alternatively, The Grand Chateau is excellent for spending a relaxing day.

Lodging : B.  
The Grand Chateau, Whakapapa village, Mt Ruapehu.  
Lunch and dinner not included today

Day Twelve: Tongariro to Piopio: c.142 km / 89 mi.  
Tongariro to Taumaranui: a. 58 km / 36 mi (Lunch. All downhill)  
Tongariro to cafe b. 100 km / 62 mi

After an exhilarating downhill ride we travel through ever changing scenery to King Country, a sparsely populated district known for sheep farms and limestone formations.

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

Day Thirteen: Piopio to Waitomo: a./b./c. 50 km / 31 mi

In the morning your hosts will show you the workings of a typical New Zealand sheep farm. After the day's ride, relax and soak up the old charm of Waitomo Hotel. A visit to the world famous caves (included) is a must, with the option of black water (cave) rafting for the more daring.

Lodging : Breakfast and dinner are included. Lunch at own expense.  
Waitomo Caves Guest Lodge B&B  
Phone: 07 878-7641 [www.waitomocavesguestlodge.co.nz](http://www.waitomocavesguestlodge.co.nz)  
Facilities: B & B with ensuite rooms, Wi-Fi internet access and laptop available.  
Features: Beautiful rural setting and cottage garden views

Dinner: Huhu Café or similar.

Day Fourteen: Waitomo to Auckland.  
Waitomo to Te Awamutu: a./b. 42 km / 26 mi  
Waitomo to Pirongia: c. 54 km / 34 mi

Today we follow delightful quiet back roads around Mt Pirongia to Te Awamutu and Pirongia where we take the Pedaltours minibus back to Auckland.

Lodging : Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included  
The Sebel Suites  
Cnr Hobson and Custom Street, 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.

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Day Fifteen: Auckland

After breakfast 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  
NORTH ISLAND HIGHLIGHTS 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   |      | Rotorua      | Novotel Lakeside Rotorua  | (07) 3463 888 |
| 8   |      | Rotorua      | Novotel Lakeside Rotorua  | (07) 3463 888 |
| 9   |      | Taupo        | Tui Oaks                  | (07) 378 8305 |
| 10  |      | Tongariro    | Grand Chateau             | (07) 892 3809 |
| 11  |      | Tongariro    | Grand Chateau             | (07) 892 3809 |
| 12  |      | King Country | farm stay                 |               |
| 13  |      | Waitomo      | Waitomo Caves Guest House | (07) 878 7641 |
| 14  |      | Auckland     | The Sebel                 | (09) 978 4000 |
| 15  |      | Depart       |                           |               |