

Pedaltours

VACATIONS FOR CYCLISTS SINCE 1985

BEACHES AND VOLCANOES

North Island New Zealand

15 Days / 14 Nights Tour Auckland to Auckland

Pedaltours – Since 1985.

The original New Zealand guided bike tour company.

We specialise in wonderful fully supported cycling vacations for cyclists of all levels. Our tours highlight the stunning scenery and fabulous lodges of our country. We have the best rental bikes in New Zealand. Our tours are great value and are the easiest way to have a relaxed cycle vacation.

Our knowledgeable, friendly local guides take pride in showcasing their country for you, while you cycle as little or as much as you want.

Enjoy friendly Kiwi hospitality, a superb mix of mountain scenery and easier coastal terrain that will delight cycle enthusiasts – knowing that each evening, there is a comfortable lodge and excellent cuisine awaiting you.

The Coromandel is renowned for its beauty: an outdoor haven where rugged terrain is contrasted by an idyllic coastline. The laid back culture, locally known as 'Coromandel time', encourages a relaxed atmosphere.

Rotorua is famous for its exciting geothermal activity including geysers and mud pools. It also has a prominent Maori culture and a thriving adventure tourism industry.

The Tongariro National Park contains some of the Zealand's North Islands largest volcanoes: Mt Ngauruhoe (used in the filming of Lord of the Rings representing Mt Doom), Mt Tongariro and Mt Ruapehu.



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Please bring this information with you to the tour start.

Cas = casual, int = intermediate, adv = advanced cyclists

Should you need to contact Pedaltours please call the Auckland office: +64 9 585 1338

Cycling distances given are entirely optional; cycle as little or as much as you wish each day, the minibus will always be available.

ITINERARY

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 11 am at The Sebel, a 4.5 Star Hotel. on Auckland's waterfront and very close to the CDB. 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. Come dressed to cycle.

Time will be set aside to fit you to your Pedaltours rental bike or unpack your own and take a short ride in Cornwall Park which is located around one of Auckland's iconic extinct volcanoes. We will drive back to the hotel via the beautiful waterfront with views across the Hauraki Gulf to various islands and the Coromandel Peninsula.

Day Two:

Auckland to Thames (pop 27,000) - Transfer to Clevedon on outskirts of Auckland (35 mins)

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.

Highlights and Points of Interest

Thames is the main centre of the Coromandel Peninsula. The town was formed in 1870 from two smaller settlements - Shortland and Grahamstown - which were founded to support gold mining in the early 1860s.

The lure of gold and logging caused the town to grow rapidly. At one stage it looked likely to surpass Auckland as New Zealand's main centre. But, as often happens, the gold ran out and the town's population stabilised.

With nearly half of the population of the endemic Wrybill found at Miranda during part of the year, and with numbers of shorebirds often exceeding 10,000 the Miranda coastline is almost a mandatory stop for any birdwatcher passing by.



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Day Three:

Thames to Coromandel: int/adv 66 km / 41 mi
 Thames to Wilson's Bay (start of hill) cas. 46 km / 29 mi

We head 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 gold mining town; now it is a centre for crafts-people and 'alternative lifers'. Some of the old houses have been beautifully restored.

Breakfast and lunch included. Dinner is not included tonight; there are good restaurants in Coromandel.

Day Four:

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

This morning we take a ride on the unique Driving Creek Bush Railway and have the opportunity to view locally made pottery by pottery founder Barry Brickell and other artists. 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.

Day Five:

Whitianga to Whangamata: int/adv. 74 km / 46 mi
 Whitianga to Tairua (pop 1,588) 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.

Highlights and Points of Interest

On Day 5 we will visit two of New Zealand's favourite attractions, Cathedral Cove and Hot Water Beach.

Cathedral Cove is one of New Zealand's most popular tourist locations. The picturesque cove is named after the large cave which features a cathedral-like arch way. Cathedral Cove was featured in the film 'The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian'.

Hot Water beach has a hot thermal spring right on the edge of the beach where you can dig your own private spa pool and relax while you take in the stunning scenery.

Whangamata is recognised as one of the most popular beach resorts in New Zealand. This beautiful beach not only offers safe swimming, but also some of the best surfing in New Zealand too.

Day Six:

Whangamata to Matamata adv. 111 km / 69 mi
 Te Aroha to Matamata: cas. 40 km / 25 mi
 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. We are guests tonight of a local farming family.



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Day Seven:

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

We meander through delightful Waikato back roads then a long gentle climb takes us to the bush clad Mamaku Plateau. From here we descend 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.

Day Eight:

As soon as you enter Rotorua you will notice a faint scent of sulphur and escaping curls of steam.

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

You can also experience Maori culture through one of the Maori Villages. See and hear about Maori art forms and Maori foods, horticulture, songs and traditions.

Highlights and Points of Interest

Matamata is based in the Waikato region. Famous for dairying and fine thoroughbred horses, its easy to see why these green pastures and rolling hills were chosen to portray Hobbiton and the Shire.

Matamata is a must see if you're a Lord of the Rings and Hobbit fan. There are guided tours available of the Hobbiton Movie Set and many great cafes.

Rotorua has a unique history and Maori culture making it a great place to experience New Zealand's geothermal wonderland.

Your guide is available this morning to take you sightseeing around Rotorua (entry fees to attractions at your expense) – or we can arrange a mountain biking excursion in Whakarewarewa Forest.

Day Nine:

Rotorua to Taupo: adv. 105 km / 66 mi
 Rotorua to Waiotapu: cas. 39 km / 24 mi
 Rotorua to Reporoa: int. 50 km / 31 mi

We take a quiet back road through Waikite Valley and Waiotapu 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.

Day Ten:

Taupo to Tongariro National Park: adv. 98 km / 61 mi
 Taupo to Turangi: cas. 51 km / 32 mi
 Turangi to Tongariro National Park: int. 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 snow-capped 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



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Day Eleven:

Tongariro National Park

Rest Day

Tongariro National Park has World Heritage Site status. There are many excellent walks in the park, short and long, including the spectacular Tongariro Alpine Crossing – an 18.5 kilometre traverse of Mt Tongariro which takes 6-9 hours. Your guide can advise you about the hike. See also www.tongarirocrossing.org.nz.

The Visitors Centre is well worth a visit. Alternatively, The Grand Chateau is an excellent venue for a relaxing day.

Highlights and Points of Interest

Tongariro National Park: The three peaks of Tongariro (1,968m), Ngauruhue (2,290) and Ruapehu (2,796m) dominate starkly the surrounding plateau of tussock and near desert. Permanently snow capped Ruapehu is the North Island's main ski area and is known for its spectacular day walk, the Tongariro Crossing. There are also several short and very attractive day walks.

Piopio is a little village south of the world famous Waitomo Caves and north east of the Taranaki coastline. The areas known for its dramatic and picturesque landscapes, limestone/karst formations, pockets of native bush, rugged hills, river valleys and rolling productive farmland.

Waitomo takes its name from the Maori words for water (wai) and opening/entrance (tomo). The Waitomo river emerges from the cave which is world renowned for its spectacular Glow worm Grotto.

Day Twelve:

Tongariro to Piopio:

adv. 142 km / 89 mi

Tongariro to café:

int. 100 km / 62 mi

Tongariro to Taumaranui:

cas. 58 km / 36 mi

(all down hill)

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.

We are guests tonight of a local farming family

Day Thirteen:

Piopio to Waitomo:

cas./int./adv. 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 in the comfortable surroundings of a family-run B&B. A visit to the world famous glow-worm caves (included) and award-winning Visitor Centre is a must, with the option of black water (cave) rafting for the more daring.

Day Fourteen:

Waitomo to Auckland

Waitomo to Te Awamutu:

cas./int. 42 km / 26 mi

Waitomo to Pirongia:

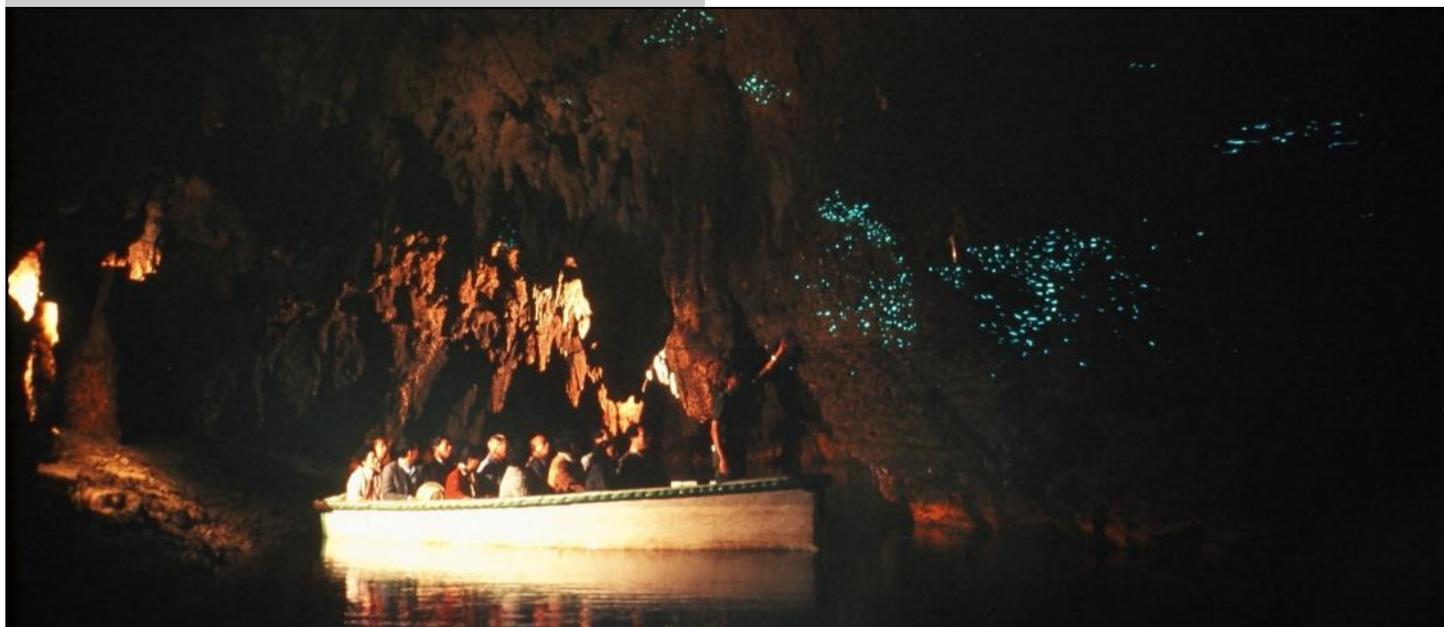
adv. 54 km / 34 mi

Today we follow delightful quiet back roads around Mt Pirongia to Te Awamutu and Pirongia where we have lunch prior to taking the Pedaltours minibuss back to Auckland.

Day Fifteen:

Auckland

After breakfast we must say farewell, a safe journey home and hope to see you again.



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What's included

- Mostly 3 and 4 star lodges
- 14 breakfasts, 12 lunches & 11 dinners
- Farm stay (optional)
- Full minibus support
- Experienced guide/ cycle mechanic
- Pedaltours souvenir cycle jersey or T-shirt
- Daily route directions and coloured maps with profiles
- Thirty years of experience in offering guided and fully supported cycle tours in New Zealand

Route rating

Moderate with a steep climb crossing the peninsula on the shortest day.

Accommodation Meal Details

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner

Key

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Bar |  Gym |
|  Guest Laundry |  Swimming Pool |
|  Internet Access |  Spa Pool |
|  Restaurant |  Sauna |

Day 1 (L,D)

The Sebel ★★★★★
 Cnr Hobson and Custom St West, Downtown Auckland
 09 978-4000, www.thesebelauckland.co.nz
 Superbly located 4 star apartment-style hotel overlooking the harbour, close to restaurants, and shops.



Day 2 (B,L,D)

Coastal Motor Lodge ★★★
 608 Tararu Road (Coast Rd), Thames,
 07 868 6843, www.stayatcoastal.co.nz
 Chalets with full kitchens in a garden setting with sea views.



Day 3 (B, L)

Coromandel Court Motel ★★★
 365 Kapanga Road, Coromandel Town
 07 866 8402, www.coromandelcourtmotel.co.nz
 Located in a tranquil setting, with a pretty garden of shade trees with outdoor tables and chairs., shops and charming craft galleries.



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Day 4 (B, L, D)

Admiralty Lodge ★★★★★
69 Buffalo Beach Rd, Whitianga
07 866 0181, www.admiraltylodge.co.nz
Luxurious accommodation on the beachfront.



Day 6 (B, L, D)

Farm Stay, Matamata
<http://www.matamatanz.co.nz/Places-to-Stay/Farm-Stays>
(Written details of your host and their property will be supplied by your guide. Should you wish not to stay in a farm stay please let us know and we'll arrange alternative accommodation or you.)



Day 5 (B, L)

Palm Pacific Resort ★★★
413 Port Road, Whangamata
07 865 9211, www.palmpacificresort.com
Spacious modern one and two-bedroom units in the heart of Whangamata.



Day 7 (B, L, D)

Novotel Rotorua Lakeside Hotel ★★★★★
Lake end, Tutanekai Street, Rotorua
07 3463888, www.novotelrotorua.co.nz
Situated on the picturesque shores of Lake Rotorua, the Novotel Rotorua Lakeside offers tranquil surroundings with sensational views.



Day 8 (B, D)

Novotel Rotorua Lakeside Hotel ★★★★★

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Day 9 (B, L, D)

Millennium Hotel and Resort Manuels Taupo ★★★★★

243 Lake Terrace, Waipahihi, Taupo

07 378 5110, www.manuels.co.nz

Situated right on the foreshore of the world-famous Lake Taupo. Featuring spectacular views of the lake and mountains of the Central Plateau.



Day 10 (B, L, D)

Chateau Tongariro Hotel ★★★★★

Whakapapa village, Mt Ruapehu

07 892 3809, www.chateau.co.nz

An elegant Georgian structure nestled at the foothills of Mt Ruapehu, boasting a golf course and spectacular views over Tongariro National Park.



Day 11 (B) ★★★★★

Chateau Tongariro Hotel

Whakapapa village, Mt Ruapehu

Day 12 (B, L, D)

King Country Farm Stay

Farm Stay, King Country

(Written details of your host and their property will be supplied by your guide. Should you not wish to stay in a farm stay, please let us know and we'll arrange alternative accommodation for you).



Day 6 (B, L, D)

Waitomo Caves Guest Lodge

7 Waitomo Caves Rd, Waitomo Caves

07 878 7641, www.waitomocavesguestlodge.co.nz

Situated on a hillside right in the heart of Waitomo Caves Village, in a peaceful garden setting, with beautiful views over the surrounding countryside.



Day 14 (B, L, D) ★★★★★

The Sebel

Cnr Hobson and Custom St West, Downtown, Auckland.

Day 15 (B)

Depart. We look forward to seeing you on another Pedaltours adventure one day.

Pedaltours PO Box 37-575, Parnell, Auckland, New Zealand

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