

Pedaltours

VACATIONS FOR CYCLISTS SINCE 1985

COROMANDEL BEACHES

North Island New Zealand

8 Days / 7 Nights Tour Auckland to Rotorua

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 scenic mix of mountain passes 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. These natural features provide inspiration for the creative works and unique attractions hidden around each corner and tucked into every bay. The laid back culture, locally known as 'Coromandel time', encourages a relaxed atmosphere.

The Coromandel Peninsula was named for HMS *Coromandel*, a ship of the British Royal Navy, which stopped at Coromandel Harbour in 1820 to purchase kauri spars and was itself named for India's Coromandel Coast.



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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, Maxine or Grace Ph: +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:

Auckland, on the waterfront and very close to the CBD.

We meet at 11 am at The Sebel, a 4.5 Star Hotel. 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.

Day Two:

Auckland to Thames - Transfer to Clevedon on outskirts of Auckland

Clevedon to Waharau (lunch) cas. 38 km / 24 mi

Clevedon (pop 2,508) to Waitakaruru: int. 64 km / 40 mi

Clevedon to Thames (pop 27,000) : 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.

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

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.

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 unique 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.

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.

Day Six:

Whangamata to Matamata. adv. 111 km./ 69 mi
Te Aroha to Matamata: cas. 40 km / 25 mi
Waihi to Matamata (pop 12,000) int. 82 km / 51 mi

Leaving the coast, we head inland through Karangahake Gorge to the Waikato Valley and then south in the lee of the Kaimai Range. An attractive, gently undulating and varied route. 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

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.

Day Eight:

Rotorua (pop 68,900)

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.

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.



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.

The tour ends after breakfast. It is here we must say farewell, a safe journey home and hope to see you again.



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Coromandel Beaches 8 days/ 7 nights

What's included

- Mostly 3 and 4 star accommodation
- 7 breakfasts, 7 lunches & 5 dinners
- Farm stay (optional)
- Full minibus support
- Experienced guide/ cycle mechanic
- Pedaltours souvenir cycle jersey
- Daily route directions and coloured maps with profiles
- Thirty years of experience in offering guided and fully supported cycle tours in New Zealand

What's excluded

- Airport and Airfare Taxes
- Airport transfers to and from accommodation
- Alcohol and Beverages
- Cycle Hire

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.)



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)

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