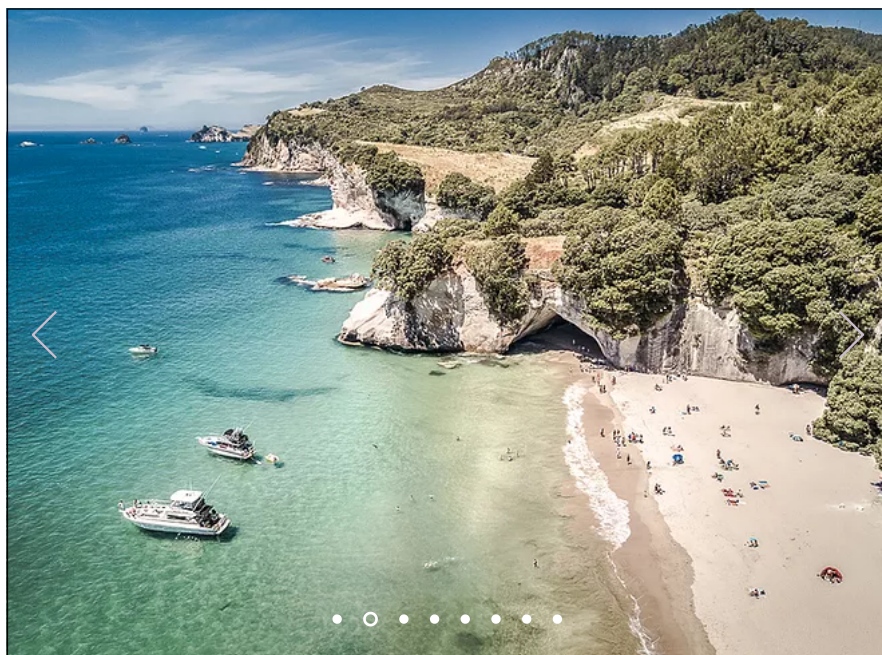



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Explore the Coromandel

Waihi, Karangahake Gorge, Thames, Coromandel, Driving Creek Railway, Opito Bay, Whitianga, Glass Bottom Boat Tour, Cooks Beach, Cathedral Cove, Hahei, Hot Water Beach, Tairua, Whangamata & more...

From towering kauri forests, to the pohutukawa lined beaches, escape 'up the road' with us to explore the Coromandel Peninsula – an area full of scenic delights and fascinating history. On our 4 day visit we traverse the peninsula, and explore some of the 'off the beaten' path areas. Overnight stays in Coromandel and Whitianga (2 nights) means we have a great base for our adventures.

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DAY 1 As always, we will collect you from your door before we head north towards the forests, beaches and stunning scenery that awaits. Our stop at the Martha Gold Mine will give us a good taste of some of the gold-mining history to learn along the way, especially as we then wind through the scenic Karangahake Gorge, an area full of mining relics. Continuing on through Thames (once New Zealand's largest town!) we hit the Tapu coast road, allowing majestic views out over the Firth of Thames.

Our stop tonight is at Coromandel town, but not before a ride on the unique Driving Creek Railway. New Zealand's only narrow-gauge mountain railway, this labour of love is now a popular tourist attraction. We ride the 2.7km up to the 'EyeFull' tower for splendid views of the area. Tonight we have dinner in Coromandel town to enjoy good food with new friends.

DAY 2 A leisurely breakfast awaits us before we say goodbye to the west coast and depart towards the east side of the peninsula. Glimpses of the coast and islands delight as we traverse up and over the peninsula. We leave the main road to explore some of the beautiful beaches including favourites – Matarangi and Opito Bay. Today is all about relaxing and taking our time, before we arrive in our base for the next 2 nights at Whitianga. Here we enjoy beachfront accommodation and tonight have dinner at one of Whitianga's great restaurants.

DAY 3 This morning we embark on a special treat – a trip on the Whitianga Glass Bottom Boat. This scenic boat ride takes us to the Te-Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve, with some very special sights along the way. From stunning cliffs, blowholes and sea caves to marine life, clear water and the famous Cathedral Cove. This purpose built boat lets us see above and below the water – everywhere you look the vistas are breathtaking. Keep your eyes peeled for pods of dolphins or orca that frequent the area! Once back on shore the afternoon is spent in and around Whitianga at your leisure. For those feeling fit we may explore some of the kauri forests in the area.

DAY 4 There is plenty more to explore on our final day, so after breakfast we first explore historic Cooks Beach and Hahei, before a short drive around to Hot Water Beach. If we time the tides right we will get a chance to see why this beach received its name. Further south are lovely towns such as Tairua and Whangamata which form part of our gentle drive back home.

We will have you dropped at your door in good time – having experienced a memorable getaway to one of New Zealand's most loved destinations.

Whats Included:

- 4 days of touring
- 3 nights quality accommodation
- Door to door service [home pickups]
- Quality Air-conditioned vehicle
- Fully guided with commentary
- All breakfasts and dinners
- Driving Creek Railway
- Glass Bottom boat cruise
- Plenty of stops along the way

You will see:

- Stunning scenery throughout
- Waihi and the Martha Gold mine
- The Karangahake Gorge
- Historic town of Thames
- Coromandel township
- Cathedral Cove
- Te-Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve
- Cooks Beach and Hahei
- Hot Water beach
- Whangamata and Tairua

Not included:

- Any lunches unless specified*
- Morning/afternoon tea stops*
- Any alcoholic beverages with meals

* Please note, that unless specified in the itinerary we do not usually include the cost of lunches or morning and afternoon tea stops in the tour cost, but we always make stops where there are a range of options available so you can choose what you want, and have flexibility to do things on your own if you wish.

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