

# The Coromandel Explorer



*Amazing coastal walks, gold mines, glistening white sand beaches, and thermal hot pools!*

## **tour highlights**

- Historical goldworks
- Glistening beaches
- Ancient kauri forest
  - Great company
- Experienced attentive guide

## **tours run**

Tours run: November - April (Fortnightly on Mondays)

## **tour cost**

**2019 / 2020**

Starting in Rotorua: NZD\$1650

## **options & supplements**

Single Supplement: NZD\$200  
Ensuite Upgrade: NZD\$120



## **the tour**

Join us on the guided Coromandel Explorer Walk, and experience a side of the Coromandel casual tourists never see. Walk through beautiful native forest to a sacred mountain, abandoned gold mines, idyllic bays and white sandy beaches. You'll see the famous rugged Pinnacles and amazing coastal walks, enjoying the panoramic views the Coromandel tracks are famous for. Other highlights include abandoned gold mines and glistening white sand beaches. You'll tour with a small group, and stay in beautiful boutique cabins.

## **about your guide**

Our guides are very experienced, friendly walkers and bikers who love to share their knowledge of New Zealand's flora and fauna and local history. They all hold current first aid certificates, passenger driving licences and are the very best people to ensure your experience will be one to remember.

## **at a glance**

**DAY 1** ROTORUA TO MATAMATA TO COROMANDEL PENINSULA  
**DAY 2** COROMANDEL PENINSULA (NORTH TO MT MOEHAU)  
**DAY 3** KAUAERANGA VALLEY  
**DAY 4** COROMANDEL PENINSULA TO ROTORUA

**Activities:** Walking  
**Accommodation:** Lodge

**Trip Duration:** 4 Days, 3 Nights  
**Grade :** Moderate





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## frequently asked questions

### **What do I carry while on my tour and what happens to the rest of my luggage?**

On a walking, cycling or kayak tour your extra luggage will be transported for you each day to your accommodation that night. All you need to have with you is your daypack with your lunch, clothing requirements, camera and incidentals. For cyclists, this can be left in the support vehicle while you are cycling as this is always close by for ready access. Please ensure the luggage you are sending on ahead is limited to one item and is packed in an easily transported overnight bag or suitcase.

On a hiking tour where huts and lodges are less accessible by vehicle, you may be asked to carry your own luggage for some or all of the days of the tour, please refer to your itinerary for details. For this reason we recommend you pack as lightly as possible and carry only the items suggested on your gear check list. For any of our tours, we recommend the use of a waterproof pack liner to keep your personal items as dry as possible.

### **Do I really need thermals and a fleece, even in summer?**

Yes, as some of the areas visited can be exposed, and New Zealand weather can be notoriously changeable, you must be prepared for all weather conditions.

## what's included

- Accommodation  
Days One, Two and Three  
3-4 star Boutique Lodge. Idyllic bush & rural setting with gorgeous bush views and delightful alfresco dining areas. Twin, double and triple cabins with share bathrooms, or ensuite upgrade.  
\*Please note Single supplement is an extra \$200 per person. Ensuite upgrade is an extra \$120 per room (subject to availability)
- Food  
You will enjoy great local cuisine; continental breakfasts and hearty packed lunches during the day, and either restaurant meals or wholesome home-cooked fare prepared by your host/hostess in the evenings.  
If you have any dietary issues or food allergies, we are happy to cater for these, please advise the office of details when you make your booking.  
All meals, snacks, pre-dinner drinks and nibbles are included. Wine and other beverages are available to be purchased during dinners.
- Luggage  
Transport of all your luggage for the duration of the tour.  
All you carry is a small day pack with your personal gear, drink and lunch. We do the rest
- An experienced guide
- All transport
- Access and Concession fees paid to the Department of Conservation
- NZ Goods and Service Tax (GST)
- Safety and Risk Management  
To ensure maximum safety for all, our guides are certified first aiders and fully qualified drivers. Tuatara Tours operate under a Safety and Risk Management Plan which is regularly audited and approved by a qualified and independent auditor.

This tour is operated in conjunction with another operator.





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## frequently asked questions

### How many people are in each group?

Typically, we take a maximum of twelve people on each tour. We feel this gives you the best opportunity to gain as much from your experience as possible and keeps the feel of each tour relaxed and friendly. We are happy to discuss options for groups of more than twelve with you.

### How fit do I need to be?

The main purpose of a guided tour is to enjoy your surroundings and learn from your local guide, it's not a race, however the more you can prepare for a tour, the better the experience will be for you. As a general guideline we suggest the following activity level guide for our tours.

Easy: An average level of fitness, Walk 7km, Bike 15km on well-formed tracks and roads with very little incline.

Mild: An average level of fitness, Walk 12km, Bike 25km on well-formed tracks and roads with average incline.

Moderate: An above average level of fitness, Walk 20km, Bike 45km on formed tracks and roads with some average to steep inclines at times.

Challenging: An above average level of fitness, Walk 20+ km , Bike 50+km on partially formed tracks and roads, some off-road , some steep inclines, some easy river and creek crossings.

## itinerary

### Day 1 Rotorua to Coromandel Peninsula

We'll pick you up from Rotorua at approx. 8:30am, or Matamata at 9:30am. Warm up with a 4km hike to the top of Wairere Falls, and view the verdant Waikato basin from two lookouts over hanging 90 metres of thunderous waterfall.

As we continue north, enjoy views out over the mussel farms of the Hauraki Gulf from one of New Zealand's classic coastal drives, the Coromandel west coast. Make a brief stop at Waiomu for refreshments before exploring the Waiomu Kauri Grove - this little known trail heads deep into a protected ecological reserve scattered with majestic Kauri trees – New Zealand's very own forest giants that grow up to 50 metres tall. Drive further up the Coromandel Peninsula in the late afternoon to reach your lovely accommodation, and watch the sunset from the verandah with a glass of wine or ice cold brew.

### Day 2 Coromandel Peninsula (North to Mt Moehau)

This morning, wake to the sound of the birds and enjoy a wonderful continental breakfast on the verandah of your accommodation.

Later we'll drive to the Peninsula's northern tip to walk one of New Zealand's best coastal tracks. There's some climbing involved, rewarded with great views over the Pacific Ocean to Great Barrier Island and sacred, forest-covered Mt Moehau. We'll then continue through farmland and native bush to remote and lovely Stony Bay. All the way, you'll enjoy the great views Coromandel walks are known for.

Later, you'll return to the lodge to relax over dinner and drinks.





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## frequently asked questions

### **Some tips for training:**

Undertake your training using the clothing and footwear you intend to complete the tour in, this will give you the opportunity to make sure they will be suitable for the purpose and to break in your foot wear so as to avoid any discomfort. Train with your pack or day pack on so you get used to bearing the weight and include a variety of terrain in your training including hills and off road. As much as we'd like to we can't guarantee fine weather on your tour so don't hesitate to get outdoors and train on the rainy days as well.

### **What will the weather be like?**

New Zealand is known to have four seasons in a day so you should always be prepared for sudden changes in weather or temperature and have the appropriate gear with you at all times. Rain can be expected at any time throughout the year.

Spring (September-November) and Autumn (March-May) are generally cooler months for experiencing the outdoors with temperatures averaging 15-25 degrees during the day.

Summer (December-February) is usually warmer with averages of 20-30 degrees and longer sunshine hours due to daylight saving. As New Zealand has very little air pollution, UV rays are strong during the summer months and a good sunscreen and a hat are recommended for outdoor activities during the heat of the day.

## Day 3 Kauaeranga Valley

Today: the Kauaeranga Valley, east of Thames, which follows the Kauaeranga River. The valley is home to the Pinnacles range (759 m). The entire Peninsula was once a chain of volcanic cones. These have eroded to form the spectacular outcrops present now. Miners and loggers made the tracks you will walk on today, to create a path for supplies to be brought via horseback.

We'll climb The Pinnacles trail through regenerating kauri past a well-preserved kauri dam. Near the top of the range: The Pinnacles Hut. At the crest: an amazing panoramic 360° view of the whole peninsula and beyond.

We'll celebrate our day's walking with a fabulous meal at one of the Coromandel's great restaurants.

## Day 4 Coromandel Peninsula to Rotorua

This morning we visit one of the top twenty beaches in the world, New Chums Beach. An unforgettable white sand, crescent moon-shaped beach, fringed by pohutukawa and nikau palms. Finding a secluded beach with no signs of man is an experience not to be missed.

We head into the laid-back coastal town of Whitianga to catch a short ferry across the harbour and walk towards Shakespeare's Cliff, which overlooks the beach where Captain Cook first set foot on New Zealand shores. Enjoy amazing views over Mercury Bay and Cooks Beach.

We'll stop for a picnic lunch above the spectacular Cathedral Cove, before walking down to the amazing natural archway, a must visit for anyone coming to the Coromandel.

We'll drop you off in Matamata or Rotorua relaxed and refreshed, with some fantastic memories!





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## **responsible travel**

None of us could deny the benefits of travel in broadening our horizons and our way of thinking about the world we all share; travel breaks down barriers and provides valuable insights into other ways of life, it challenges us to step outside our comfort zone and to learn from those around us.

Our responsibility as participants in this journey is to acknowledge our impact on the environment and the communities in which we travel and to consider our individual contribution now and for the benefit of future generations.

We are Qualmark endorsed; New Zealand tourism's official benchmark for environmental standards and quality control. Wherever possible our company utilises local products and services, we support conservation efforts to preserve our natural and cultural heritage and we respect and care for the unique environment we travel in. Make your commitment to responsible travel with us.

## **trip grading**

To determine the grade of a particular adventure we consider a number of factors.

These include the condition of the terrain, the altitude, the number of pass crossings and the length of the trip.

The Coromandel Explorer is graded Moderate: An above average level of fitness, Walk 20km, Bike 45km on formed tracks and roads with some average to steep inclines at times.

## **adventure travel**

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are mentally flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise.

If you are uncertain about your suitability for this tour, speak with us and we can help guide you in the right direction



## **pre and post tour accommodation**

If you would like some help booking pre/post tour accommodation we can help

### **Contact us at**

- ▶ New Zealand: 0800 377 378
- ▶ Australia: 1 800 044 633
- ▶ World: +64 3 962 3280
- ▶ Email: [info@tuataratours.co.nz](mailto:info@tuataratours.co.nz)
- ▶ Web: [www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)

## **what's not included**

- pre and post tour accommodation
- alcoholic drinks with meals
- personal expenses
- gratuities, tipping is not expected in NZ but gratefully received. It is at your discretion whether or not to reward for excellent service

## **custom tours**

### **▶ We Can Customise Existing Tours To Suit.**

You may want to spend an extra day or you may want to add another element to your tour!

### **▶ We Can Design A New Tour Just For You.**

We have years of experience in creating custom-made tours for groups, so if you are planning a tour for your friends, family, club, corporate workplace.... contact us now.



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## have you considered?

### New Zealand Walking Tours

The Akaroa Walk  
 The Franz Josef Trail  
 The Mesopotamia High Country Walk  
 The Queen Charlotte Walk  
 The West Coast Trail  
 The Kaikoura Trail  
 The Kenepuru Trail  
 The Hump Ridge Track Walk  
 The Coromandel Explorer Walk  
 The Tongariro Crossing Walk  
 The Lake Waikaremoana Walk  
 The Abel Tasman Walk - 3 Days  
 The Abel Tasman Walk - 5 Days  
 The Abel Tasman Walk/Kayak - 3 Days  
 The Abel Tasman Walk/Kayak - 5 Days

### New Zealand Hiking Tours

The Heaphy Track  
 The Lake Waikaremoana Great Walk  
 The Stewart Island Track  
 The Tongariro Crossing Walk

### New Zealand Cycling Tours

The Hanmer Cycle Trail  
 The Kaikoura Trail  
 The Kenepuru Trail  
 The Tekapo Canal Trail  
 The Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail  
 The Westland Wilderness Cycle Trail  
 The Otago Rail Trail  
 The Queenstown Cycle Trail  
 Around The Mountains Cycle Trail  
 The Clutha Gold Cycle Trail  
 The Roxburgh Gorge Cycle Trail

### Japan Walking Tours

All of these tours and more available at  
[www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)



## pre tour checklist

Please make sure you have the following essential items in preparation for your walk:

- Day-pack
- Warm hat & gloves
- Drink bottle
- Personal toiletries, shampoo, and medications
- Sunscreen ,sunhat
- Camera & battery charger

The following items of clothing are also essential:

- Boots or good walking shoes (preferably with ankle support & worn in)
- Waterproof Raincoat with hood (we lend raincoats by prior arrangement, please contact our office staff)
- Hiking Socks (about 3 pairs, wool is best. Well-fitting socks will greatly reduce the occurrence of blisters)
- Shorts or light weight trousers
- Thermal underwear (full set, long-sleeved & long-legged, polypropylene or wool)
- Short-sleeved shirts (preferably polypropylene or wool: merino wool is ideal)
- Long-sleeved shirt or light sweater
- Warm wool or polar fleece jersey
- Casual Clothes & shoes for the evenings
- PJ's / sleepwear
- Spare clothing: Extra socks and thermal layers are always handy. Even though it is summer you must be prepared for cold conditions - ensure you have enough warm items.

The following items are not essential but may be useful if you have them:

- Bathing suit & towel (beach swimming opportunities)
- Walking pole (highly recommended for those with weak knees, ankles or hips)
- Walking sandals or croc's (some walks cross small streams, you may get wet feet)
- Book, trip journal etc
- Insect repellent (insects are rarely a problem)
- Lunch-box to protect your sandwiches (We provide lunch bags)
- Small Torch

Note:

- Sorry, there are no drying rooms at the lodge.
- To prevent the spread of noxious weeds and plant diseases, please clean your boots and walking poles thoroughly before the walk.





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## **Tuatara Tours - experienced and innovative!**

Tuatara Tours is an experienced and innovative walking and cycling adventure company, based in the South Island of New Zealand. The vision at Tuatara Tours is to encourage as many people as possible to be involved in fun, adventure and the outdoors. We ourselves walk, run, mountain bike, road bike and occasionally participate in multi-sport adventure races... to the best of our ability. We are not champions – but we are out there! We understand the outdoors and we revel in the country, people and climate that we work with.

## **our team is here to provide the best experience**

We only have one world and we have to share it with each other. Much of the attraction for our clients is to experience unspoiled and un-crowded landscapes. It is our challenge to ensure that in this sharing of the experience, we minimise where possible, the impact of our business.

Through the introduction of strict environmental guidelines, we minimise our impact on the environment we live and work in.

## **subscribe to our newsletter**

Our newsletter will be emailed to you monthly on the first working day of every month.

- latest trips
- travel advice
- events & attractions
- and more!

Go to [www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz) and click the free subscription button.

## **how to book**

Go to [www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz), click the enquiry button and submit your booking request using the form provided.

We enjoy talking to people about their travel interests. So feel free to contact us directly if you'd rather not fill out a form.

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## **Tuatara Conservation**

Tuatara Tours are proud to be actively involved in Tuatara Conservation.

Tuatara Tours has formally adopted "BP" a male juvenile tuatara who resides at Orana Park in Christchurch and is part of the conservation programme to ensure the safe future of these amazing reptiles.



## **country information**

### **Culture**

New Zealand has a diverse multi-cultural population, the majority of whom are of British descent. New Zealand's indigenous Maori make up around 14 percent of the population. The culture of its indigenous Maori people affects the language, the arts, and even the accents of all New Zealanders. New Zealanders embrace new technology and culture, but they also have a background of quiet but rugged individualism, self-reliance and a passion for invention. Many New Zealanders travel extensively and thrive on learning and experiencing other cultures. They are renowned for their openness, ingenuity and "easy-going" nature.

### **Environment**

Fourteen spectacular national parks preserve New Zealand's natural heritage enshrining a huge variety of landscapes, vegetation and wildlife. New Zealand encompasses rich farmland, mountains, rivers and unsurpassed scenery. The country is slightly bigger than the UK in size. Three-quarters of the population live in the North Island with more than a third of New Zealand's population living in the largest city, Auckland.

The South Island - with its lakes, fiords and spectacular outdoor scenery is the most popular destination for tourists. The gateway to the South Island is Christchurch - a city of approximately 340,000 people.

### **Recreation**

New Zealand's stunning landscapes, lush forests, amazing wildlife and pleasant climate make it a haven for many outdoor activities, and a great place to relax and enjoy life. New Zealanders love the outdoors, especially tramping, camping, skiing and snowboarding. Sailing, surfing and swimming are also favourite pursuits. New Zealand's sports and recreation facilities are inexpensive, abundant and very accessible.





Thames

Waiheke Island

Day 3 - Pinnacles Trail  
& Billy Goat Trail  
6hrs

Day 1 - Includes Several Short Walks  
Gold rush remnants, remote waterfalls, majestic kauri forests  
and of course, the beautiful coastline.  
3.5hrs

Coromandel Township

Whitianga

Day 4 - Wainuiototo Bay  
& New Chums Beach  
- voted one of the world's top 20 beaches.  
Also visit the Lost Spring, and then explore  
the old Broken Hills gold mine.  
3.5hrs

Day 2  
Cape Colville  
The Coromandel  
Coastal Walkway  
and on to Stony Bay  
6hrs

Stony Bay

Mercury Island

-  Day 1
-  Day 2
-  Day 3
-  Day 4

# The Coromandel Explorer

4 Days of Walking

