

DREAM CRUISE

Auckland – Coromandel – Rotorua – Waitomo - Auckland

DAY ONE: AUCKLAND TO COROMANDEL TOWN (2 hours travelling time by ferry)

Cruise by ferry from Auckland to discover charming Coromandel Town and the beautiful Coromandel peninsula.

Your tour starts as you cruise across the Hauraki Gulf on a 360 Discovery ferry to the relaxed, friendly Coromandel Town. Here you'll be met by our coach for the scenic journey into town, during which you will learn about the region's unique history from one of the locals.

You will then spend a leisurely hour in Coromandel Town visiting the cafes or browsing through shops filled with New Zealand made products. The next part of excursion sees you off to the eclectic Driving Creek Railway – where the old pioneering spirit is alive and well! A lifelong mission of potter Barry Brickell, the railway snakes its way through re-planted native bush to the 'Eyefull Tower' that offers breathtaking views of the harbour and hills.

The last stop on the tour is a visit to New Zealand's only working water-driven Gold Stamper Battery where rock is crushed to extract gold and silver. There's a lot to see and you can even try your hand at panning for gold! Then it's time to check in at your accommodation and freshen up for dinner!

Overnight: Anchor Lodge – motel accommodation.

Restaurant suggestions: Peppertree Restaurant & Bar, Admirals Arms, or Umu

DAY TWO: COROMANDEL TOWN TO WHITIANGA

Breakfast at your own leisure in Coromandel Town before continuing the journey through the Coromandel region. Travel from Coromandel Town across the Coromandel Ranges to Whitianga a journey of approximately one hour. Stops will be made enroute to soak in the beautiful scenery or to take photographs.

Lunch: Whitianga – to be organised depending on group size.

Afternoon activities

Experience the magic of Te-Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve up close onboard a glass bottom boat. View the fish life through the glass bottom in their natural habitat. Other marine animals that may be seen are blue penguins, fur seals and dolphins. From the boat, passengers will see one of New Zealand's most unique natural features - Cathedral Cove.

Overnight: Marina Park Apartments, Whitianga

Restaurant suggestions: Salt or Fireplace

DAY THREE: WHITIANGA TO ROTORUA (3 1/4 hours travelling time)

In the morning depending on tide times a stop at Hotwater Beach will be made en route to Rotorua.

Travel down the east coast of the Coromandel Peninsula to Tairua and cross over to Thames. From Thames drive via Matamata to Rotorua.

Afternoon activities (choose one or two depending on the activity):

- **Te Puia:** situated near the Whakarewarewa Village, the Maori Arts and Crafts Institute offers tours of their Marae. On the tour a visit is made to Māori artists carving and weaving as they hand their

knowledge down to younger generations. Journey around their geothermal area.

www.nzmaori.co.nz

- **Agrodome:** Agrodome gives international visitors an extraordinary, real hands-on, live experience of farming and a total interaction with commercially farmed animals such as sheep, goats, cattle, deer, alpacas and ostriches, plus the world famous sheep show. www.agrodome.co.nz
- **Rotorua Museum of Art and History:** Discover the great stories of the Rotorua region through the Museum's innovative exhibitions and cinema experiences. www.rotoruamuseum.co.nz
- **Polynesian Spa:** a historical hot mineral springs spa. It offers a choice of 31 hot mineral bathing pools and an extensive range of spa therapies. www.polynesianspa.co.nz
- **Lake Tarawera Cruise :** cruise on Lake Tarawera with Clearwater Charters. www.clearwater.co.nz

Overnight: Novotel, Rotorua

Dinner at Skyline Skyrides

DAY FOUR: ROTORUA – WAITOMO – AUCKLAND

Depart Rotorua at 9.30am and travel to Waitomo. Travel time: 2hours 15mins.

Lunch: Roselands and enjoy a traditional BBQ lunch.

Afternoon activities:

1.30pm – 2.30pm

Billy Black's Kiwi Culture Show: pioneering history combined with a farm show. New Zealand's first Kiwi Culture Show with audience participation, see sheep shearing, bush animals, the kiwi bear and the dancing pig.

3.00pm

Ruakuri Cave: Ruakuri translated from the Maori language means 'den of dogs'. The cave is the longest and most complex of all three tourist caves with some unusual features. Some of these include an ancient Maori burial ground inset high in the cliff above the entrance to the cave, and fossil shells inside that cave that are over 30 million years old. The cave entrance leads into a large chamber known as Holden's Cavern, named after James Holden who rediscovered the caves. Key points of interest include the Ghost Walk, the Bridal Chamber and the Mirror Pool.

5.00pm

Depart Waitomo and return to Auckland. Travelling time three hours.