

# COROMANDEL WINTER ESCAPE

HOME – ROTORUA – WHITIANGA – CAMBRIDGE – TAUPO – HOME

22 August 2022

8 Day Fully Hosted Tour

Pickups from Manawatu, Horowhenua, Kapiti and Wellington



## COROMANDEL CAPER 22 August to 29 August 2022

### MON 22 Home – Rotorua (D)

This morning we travel along the pretty Kapiti Coast then cross the fertile Manawatu Plains through the Mangaweka Hills to reach the Tongariro Volcanic Plateau before driving over the Desert Road with spectacular views of the volcanoes of Ruapehu, Tongariro and Ngauruhoe. We travel around the shores of Lake Taupo, New Zealand's largest lake to the resort town of Taupo before continuing on through the vast pine forests and farmland to Rotorua, in the heart of New Zealand's famous geothermal region. After checking into the **historic Princes Gate Hotel**, we have time for a refresh before our Welcome Dinner tonight.

### TUE 23 Rotorua (B D)

This morning we have a leisurely start before heading out to view the **Green and Blue Lakes**

Our next stop today is the **Buried Village** to see remains of the Maori village of Te Wairoa that was devastated by the volcanic eruption of Mt Tarawera during the night of June 10, 1886. The excavated village offers a firsthand insight into the chaos and destruction that ensued following the eruption of Mt Tarawera. This eruption also destroyed the famed Pink and White Terraces.

This afternoon we enjoy a dip at **Hells Gate** for a warm Sulphur Swim. Here you can relax and indulge in the naturally heated geothermal pools, renowned for their restorative properties.  
*Note: May be replaced with Polynesian Spa.*

This evening we have an early dinner and then head out to the **Redwood Forest Treewalk**, suspended high above the forest floor, encounter 75-metre-tall redwoods as you walk across eco-suspended bridges and platforms intricately designed to honour and accentuate the stunning natural environment. **Redwoods Nightwalks** is one of New Zealand's top design lead tourism experiences, featuring 34 lanterns and 28 suspension bridges, it really is a sight to behold in the evening and something not to be missed.

### WED 24 Rotorua – Whitianga (B D)

This morning we leave Rotorua, travelling past pretty Lake Rotoiti towards Te Puke in the heart of kiwifruit growing country. Continuing past **Mt Maunganui** which is New Zealand's top beach resort, and Tauranga in the Bay of Plenty we travel north on towards the Coromandel Peninsula, through Waihi which is an old gold mining settlement.

Here we join a local guide to learn the fascinating and unique story of gold in **Waihi**. Whilst mining operations are ordinarily off-limits to the public, our guide will take us **inside the fence** to experience modern-day gold mining up close. After being fitted out with safety gear and a safety briefing, we move inside the security fence to see the mine operations in the best available vantage points. See every stage of the process from ore extraction and crushing, through to final processing and see massive mining equipment too. Our guide will relate colourful stories from the mine's past and discover how much gold and silver the Martha Mine has yielded since 1878.

From Waihi we continue through **Whangamata** and up to Whitianga. Rustic, relaxed and unspoiled, the Coromandel is one of New Zealand's best-loved holiday destinations. The rugged volcanic hills are cloaked in native rainforest, and more than 400 kilometres of spectacular coastline promises you can find the beach of your dreams. The eastern side of the Coromandel is furnished with an amazing collection of white sand and surf beaches, and an impressive, heavily forested mountain range runs right up the middle of the peninsula.

Tonight we dine together at a local restaurant.

### THU 25 Coromandel Peninsula (B D)

This morning we take our **Ocean Leopard cruise to Cathedral Cove and beyond**. On our return, just before lunch, the rest of the day is at leisure in Whitianga. You may wish to soak up the underground thermal minerals at The Lost Spring or just read a good book.

This evening we reconvene for dinner at a local restaurant.

## Trip Highlights

- STAY AT THE HISTORIC PRINCES GATE HOTEL, ROTORUA
- WALK THE REDWOOD FOREST NIGHTWALK
- VISIT THE BURIED VILLAGE OF TE WAIROA
- VIEW THE GREEN & BLUE LAKES
- RELAX IN SULPHUR POOLS AT HELL'S GATE GEOTHERMAL RESERVE
- PRIVATE TOUR OF THE GOLD MINING STORY "INSIDE THE FENCE" IN WAIHI
- VISIT HAHEI, COOKS BEACH & HOT WATER BEACH
- LUNCH AT THE LOCALLY FAMOUS COLENZO CAFE
- VISIT MERCURY BAY MUSEUM, WHITIANGA
- CRUISE TO CATHEDRAL COVE & BEYOND
- RIDE ON THE FAMED OPEN SIDED **DRIVING CREEK RAILWAY** TRAIN
- VIEW HERD OF COWS? (ART INSTALLATION)
- GUIDED TOUR OF HOBBITON MOVIE SET
- VISIT HUKA FALLS

### FRI 26 Coromandel (B L D)

This morning we travel by coach to **Hot Water Beach** for a dig and soak. We then arrive into **Hahei** for a wander around this lovely coastal village with a stop to view the amazing scenery across Mercury Bay. Our lunch today is at **Colenzo Café**, a favourite amongst locals and holidaymakers alike.

After lunch we travel to **Cooks Beach** with its lovely views, before taking the ferry from Ferry Landing back to Whitianga followed by a very short walk to **Mercury Bay Museum**, a small but fascinating "must-see" museum. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure, before dining together this evening at a local restaurant.

### SAT 27 Whitianga – Cambridge (B D)

This morning say goodbye to Whitianga and journey west through the small settlement of Kuaotunu to Coromandel township, then up to **Driving Creek Railway**. Here we enjoy a scenic ride in this open sided Driving Creek Railway train on its 3km narrow gauge track with 3 tunnels, 2 spirals, 5 reversing points and 6 viaducts originally constructed to retrieve clay for the local potter Barry Brickell, this is a wonderful ride through the thick regenerating Coromandel bush with a fantastic view at the mountain top terminus (The Eyefull Tower!).

Departing Driving Creek Railway we follow the coastline down the Coromandel Peninsula to **Thames**, our lunch stop today.

Continuing on we travel through the Waikato farmland before stopping for a break in the farming town of Morrinsville. **Herd of Cows?** We wander along the main street and view this collection of life-size cow sculptures throughout the town, showcasing the history and heritage of Morrinsville. The project combines both the strong dairying sector with the town's growing art culture. We reboard our coach and travel onwards to **Cambridge** with dinner this evening at our hotel.

## Coromandel Caper

The Coromandel Peninsula is one of New Zealand's best-kept secrets. It is an area of beautiful golden sand beaches and magnificent native forests.

Our eight-day Coromandel Winter Escape incorporates some of the best sights and beaches of the area, including the historic Gold Mining town of Waihi, Whangamata, Driving Creek Railway, Cathedral Cove, Hot Water Beach and Whitianga, while travelling at a relaxed and leisurely pace.

Beginning on the Kapiti Coast we journey north, across the Desert Road, a central volcanic plateau, past Lake Taupo before arriving in Rotorua to discover urban delights, geothermal wonders, and traditional Maori culture at its very best.

Continuing our journey through to Whitianga, a lovely seaside settlement on the Coromandel Peninsula, here we find a place we can leave the stresses of life behind. Our time in Whitianga is spent exploring all things Coromandel, before heading west over to the fabulous Driving Creek Railway. Farewelling the Coromandel, we head through Thames to Morrinsville's and the famous "Herd of Cows?", before travelling on to explore movie magic at Hobbiton.

Our final stop on this lovely tour sees us back in Taupo with an overnight at our lake front hotel, of course always stopping **ALONG THE WAY** to view the always roaring and beautiful Huka Falls, before our farewell dinner together.

### SUN 28 Cambridge – Taupo (B D)

After breakfast this morning, we travel the short distance to Matamata, home of **Hobbiton**.

Here we experience the real Middle-earth with a visit to the Hobbiton Movie Set, the bucolic setting for The Shire that featured in the Peter Jackson directed films, The Lord of the Rings. Our tour starts with a drive by coach and guide travelling through the picturesque 1,250 acre sheep farm with spectacular views across to the Kaimai Ranges. Our guide will escort us walking through the ten acre site recounting fascinating details of how the Hobbiton set was created. The Hobbit holes, Green Dragon Inn, Mill and other structures created for The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit films can be viewed and you will see how this beautiful piece of Waikato farmland was transformed into The Shire from Middle-earth. Upon completion of our walking tour, we will enjoy a complimentary beverage in the **Green Dragon Inn** then return to The Shires Rest.

We then continue through the towns of **Tirau**, Putaruru and Tokoroa and the extensive pine forests to Taupo stopping at **Huka Falls** en-route.

Following our check-in at **Lake Taupo**, we have time for a rest and refresh, before regathering for our Farewell Dinner at **lake front hotel**.

### MON 29 Taupo – Home (B)

Today after breakfast we start our travels around the shores of the lake, continuing on back across the Central Plateau, and Manawatu Plains, towards home, saying goodbye to newly found friends.



# COROMANDEL CAPER

## 8 Day Tour Includes

Fully hosted by a YOURTours Host

Quality Accommodation & Coach

Sightseeing & Entrance Fees as indicated on itinerary

Meals include all breakfasts and dinner plus some lunches as per itinerary

Departs 22 August 2022

Price \$3,995 pp twin share

Price \$4,845 single room

**You are invited to join us on one of our fully hosted small group tours, with a maximum of 18 guests.**

We are based on the beautiful Kapiti Coast with our guests joining us from all corners of New Zealand. We believe you will be pleasantly surprised by just how much we include in our tour price.

You can be reassured that your tour host will always be one of our friendly well-experienced YOURTours Hosts, ensuring everything is taken care of from start to finish, allowing you to relax and enjoy your tour.


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