

Wilderness Itinerary

The Coromandel Escape



5 Days: Auckland – Auckland 511km

Head south east toward The Coromandel, Aucklanders' favorite weekend retreat. Explore both sides of the Coromandel Peninsula before returning to Auckland via the rugged forest scenery of The Pinnacles.

Highlights/Top Things to Do

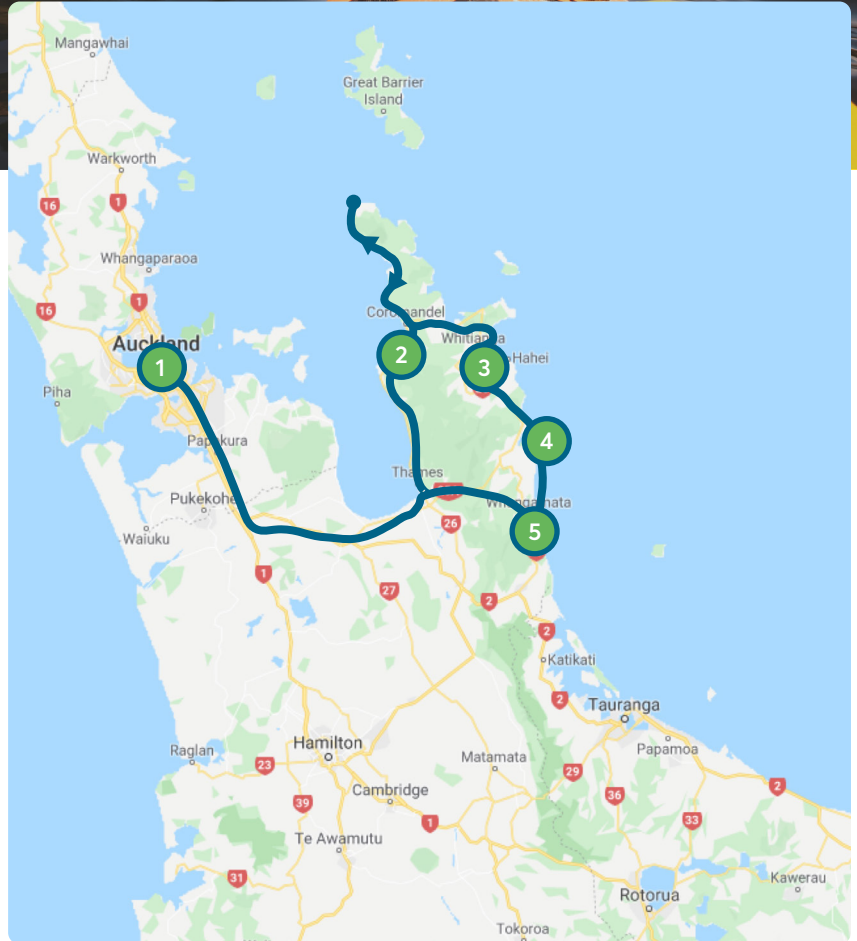
- The quirky Waiu Waterworks
- Driving Creek steam train
- White sandy beaches
- Spectacular coastal walkway
- Sea kayaking at Cathedral Cove
- Digging your own hot pool in the sand
- The Pinnacles stunning bushwalk

Pick Up Destination

Auckland

Drop Off Destination

Auckland



1.

AUCKLAND - COROMANDEL

📍 181 km

🕒 2 hours, 45 minutes

🏠 Overnight Stay

Depart Auckland and travel south down State Highway 1, turning left at the bottom of the Bombay Hills towards Thames. Alternatively, take the route down Auckland's eastern bays. The journey from Maraetai, through the country town of Clevedon and past Kawakawa Bay and Miranda is a nice one so if you have a couple of hours up your sleeve and you're in no rush, we recommend you travel this way.

From Thames, follow the Pacific Coast Highway to the Coromandel. With rolling hills on one side and rugged coastline on the other, driving up the Peninsula is a spectacular journey. On the west coast there is a never-ending parade of beaches, coves and inlets lined with pohutukawa trees (a red-flowering native of New Zealand). The drive up the western side of the Peninsula will take you through secluded bays and coastal settlements to Coromandel Township.

We suggest you take a detour down the 309 Road, to visit the remarkable Waiu Waterworks. Stop in Coromandel town to soak up some of the small-town atmosphere. [What to see and do in the Coromandel](#). Overnight at one of the beautiful spots along the Coromandel Peninsula.

2.

COROMANDEL PENINSULA

31 km

45 minutes north

Overnight Stay

Spend the morning exploring Coromandel town and perhaps take a ride on the steam train at Driving Creek, one of the most popular train rides in New Zealand. Then head north up the Peninsula. The drive up to the northern trip is mainly on unsealed road so take your time. There is a spectacular coastal walk at the northern tip of the Peninsula. Then travel south and cross over to the western side. Overnight at one of the lovely beaches on the Coromandel's west coast.



3.

COROMANDEL - WHITIANGA

43 km

1 hour approx

Overnight Stay

Today drive across to the Coromandel's East Coast, via State Highway 25, which takes you past the beautiful beaches of Whangapoua and Matarangi. Arrive in the lively coastal town of Whitianga, a great place from which to enjoy the delights of the Coromandel. [Things to see and do on the Coromandel's East Coast](#). Overnight in Whitianga.

4.

WHITIANGA – WHANGAMATA

76 km

1 hour, 45 minutes

Overnight Stay

Depart Whitianga this morning and drive to magical Cathedral Cove – the sea kayaking is fantastic. Then head south to the famous Hot Water Beach. If the timing is right (2 hours either side of low tide) you can dig your own hot pool. Continue down the west coast to the Coromandel and spend time exploring some of the coastal townships such as Tairua and Whangamata – where many Aucklanders spend their summer holidays. Overnight near one of the Coromandel beaches.

5.

WHANGAMATA – AUCKLAND VIA THE PINNACLES

180 km

2 hours, 30 minutes

Leave the beach today and drive inland to walk The Pinnacles, in the stunning Kauaeranga Valley. Then return to Auckland via State Highway 1 – or take a detour to Miranda or Te Aroha, to soak your tired walking muscles in the therapeutic mineral pools.

