

# **NEW ZEALAND TRAVEL MAGIC #2**

## **COROMANDEL PENINSULA**

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# NORTH ISLAND ZEALAND

NEW



Auckland

Hot Water Beach

Hobbiton



- Previous Route
- Current Path
- Magical Places



## New Zealand Travel Magic #2

The past few years of backpacking North and South America has been exhilarating beyond my wildest expectations, but now I'm about to embark on the most physically challenging section of my world tour: Middle Earth.

After months of preparation and training, I'm ready for an ass-kicking cycle tour across New Zealand and Australia. I will be pedaling from Auckland on the North Island and zigzagging down to Queenstown on the South Island.

After wandering around Auckland for a few days to overcome my jetlag, I will be taking a ferry over to the Coromandel Peninsula to explore its legendary thermal coastline, and hope I can stay on the left side of the road.





December 9th: I woke up at 5am, made coffee, did a quick yoga session, wolfed down three eggs, packed my bike, and rode down to the harbor just in time to catch the ferry.



At 9am we arrived at the Coromandel Pier and I'm super excited to start my bike tour.



This is my turn off of the coastal highway; no surprise, my path is the 'Alternate Route'.

These attractive bell-shaped flowers, known as Foxglove, are irresistibly beautiful and grow so oddly upside-down; they almost beckon the curious fool to look inside.

However, you should take care not to be tempted by its mesmerizing inner pattern, they are considered a weed because all parts of the plant are poisonous to humans.





After cursing the steep gravel road, I'm excited to go for a swim and take a lunch break.





The water was cold but quite refreshing for a quick swim under the waterfall. I sat in the sun for awhile to dry off, ate a can of tuna for lunch and enjoyed the rushing water.



At the summit, I came across two black sheep who curiously waddled over to be petted.



After a steep descent through a beautiful valley, I got back on the paved coastal highway.



I'm almost out of steam, as I climb the last hill to my destination of Hot Water Beach. Today I pedaled 59km (36 miles) and I can feel every stroke in my aching calf muscles.



After pitching my tent, I went to discover that Hot Water Beach is aptly named; because if you dig a hole in the sand, it fills up with thermally-heated water - nature's hot tub.



Ahh, soaking in a thermal pool, listening to the ocean waves, and watching the sunset fade away - what an amazing reward for my efforts. I'm also really grateful for the past few months of physical training, as I pedaled like a champ over the mountains today.

Thanks for joining me on this 15-page preview to cycle the Coromandel Peninsula, to continue the adventure with me to Cathedral Cove, purchase the full 50-page eBook at Amazon.com.

[www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00UXX3S0S](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00UXX3S0S)

Won't you join me for my next adventure to pedal down into the Karangahake Gorge?

[www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00ZAT3ULC](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00ZAT3ULC)

The author, Scott David Plumlee, with a monkey on his head, is an avid world traveler, photographer and writer. He has traveled to over 50 countries, taken millions of photos, and is always willing to share his jokes, stories and philosophies. He is also the author of the Vietnam Travel Magic eBook series, and currently loving his life in Thailand.



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