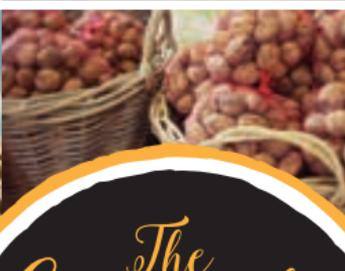


THE COROMANDEL FOOD TRAIL GUIDE



A small selection of places to visit

1 THAMES & NEARBY

The Cheese Barn at Matatoki ★ 🍷

Wainui Road, Matatoki
P: 07 868 1284
www.thecheesebarn.co.nz

Cafe Melbourne 🍷

715 Pollen Street, Thames
P: 07 868 3159
www.cafemelbourne.co.nz

Omahu Valley Citrus ★

146 Omahu Valley Road,
RD 4
P: 07 868 1274
www.omahuvaleycitrus.co.nz

The Depot 🍷 ★

713 Pollen Street, Thames
P: 07 868 3159
www.cafemelbourne.co.nz

Grahamstown Bar and Diner

The GBD 🍷 🍷
700 Pollen Street, Thames
P: 07 868 6008
www.thejunction.net.nz

636 Steampunk Coffee House 🍷

636 Pollen Street, Thames
P: 07 868 6636

Sola Cafe 🍷

720b Pollen St Thames
www.solacafe.co.nz

2 THAMES COAST

Waiomu Beach Café 🍷

622A Thames Coast Road
P: 07-868 2554

Koru at Rapaura 🍷

586 Tapu-Coroglen Road
P: 07 868 4821
www.rapaurawatergardens.co.nz

3 COROMANDEL

Coromandel Oyster Company ★ 🍷

1611 Tiki Road, SH25
Coromandel Town
P: 07 866 8028

Coromandel Smoking Co. ★

70 Tiki Road, Coromandel Town
P: 0800 327 668
www.corosmoke.co.nz

Coromandel Mussel Kitchen & MK Brewing Co 🍷 🍷

20 The 309 Road
(corner with SH25/Manaia Road)
Coromandel Town
P: 07 866 7245
www.musselkitchen.co.nz

Pepper Tree Restaurant and Bar 🍷

31 Kapanga Road
Coromandel Town
P: 07 866 8211
www.peppertreerestaurant.co.nz

Star and Garter 🍷 🍷

5 Kapanga Rd, Coromandel Town
P: 07 866 8503
www.starandgarter.co.nz

Castle Rock Café 🍷

1242 Whangapoua Road
Te Rerenga
P: 07 866 4542
Mob: 022 391 2070
www.castlerockcafe.co.nz

UMU Restaurant and Café 🍷

22 Wharf Road, Coromandel
P: 07 866 8618
www.facebook.com/umucafe

4 MERCURY BAY NORTH

Pipers Café @ Matarangi 🍷

197 Matarangi Drive Matarangi
P: 07 866 0774
www.piperscafe.co.nz

The Dunes 🍷

The Dunes Golf Resort,
Matarangi Drive Matarangi
P: 0800 165 777
www.thedunes.co.nz

Luke's Kitchen 🍷

20 Blackjack Road
Kuaotunu Village
P: 07 866 4480
www.lukeskitchen.co.nz

5 WHITIANGA

Salt Restaurant & Bar 🍷

1 Blacksmith Lane, Whitianga
P: 07 866 5818
www.salt-whitianga.co.nz

Continued page 4

KEY



Restaurant or café



Pub or Bar



Winery or Brewery



Boutique or Specialty Food

AUCKLAND

HAMILTON

TAURANGA

ROTORUA

PORT CHARLES

COLVILLE

WHANGAPOUA

MATARANGI

KUAOTUNU

COROMANDEL TOWN

WHITIANGA

HAHEI

TAIRUA
PAUANJI

COROGLÉN

WHENUAKITE

TAPU

2

1

THAMES

Kauaeranga Valley

HIKUIAI

8

OPOUTERE

ONEMANA

10

WHANGAMATA

PAEROA

11

WAIHI

KARANGAHAKE
GORGE

To Hamilton

TE AROHA

To Rotorua 80kmT

o Tauranga 70km

The Lost Spring Restaurant & Licenced Café 🍷

121A Cook Drive, Whitianga
P: 07 866 0456
www.thelostspring.co.nz

Wilderland Shop ★

SH25 Whitianga-Tairua
www.wilderland.org.nz

6 COOKS BEACH-HAHEI

Eggsentric Cafe & Restaurant 🍷

1049 Purangi Road, Flaxmill Bay
P: 07 866 0307
www.eggsentriccafe.co.nz

Mercury Bay Estate 🍷 🍷

761A Purangi Road, Cooks Beach
P: 07 866 4066
www.mercurybayestate.co.nz

The Church Restaurant 🍷

87 Hahei Beach Road, Hahei
P: 07 866 3797
www.thechurchhahei.co.nz

Cathedral Cove Macadamias Orchard Tour ★

335 Lees Road Hahei
P: 07 867 1221
www.cathedralcovemacadamias.co.nz

The Coromandel Brewery 🍷 🍷

7 Grange Road. Hahei
P: 07 866 3354
www.coromandelbrewingcompany.co.nz

7 HOT WATER BEACH, COROGLLEN & WHENUAKITE

Hot Waves Café 🍷

8 Pye Pl Hot Water Beach
P: 07 866 3887

Coroglen Tavern 🍷

1937 Tairua-Whitianga Road,
RD1 Whitianga Coroglen
P: 07 866 3809
www.coroglentavern.co.nz

Hot Water Brewing Co 🍷 🍷

1043 SH25 Whenuakite
P: 07 866 3830
www.hotwaterbrewingco.com

Colenso Country Café & Shop 🍷

895 SH25 Whenuakite
P: 07 866 3725
www.colensocafe.co.nz

8 TAIRUA

The Old Mill 🍷

The Esplanade, Tairua
P: 07 864 9390
www.theoldmillcafetairua.com

Manaia Kitchen and Bar 🍷

228 Main Road, Tairua
P: 07 864 9050
www.manaiakitchenbar.co.nz

The Bakery - Tairua ★

242 Main Road
Tairua
P: 07 864 9974

9 PAUANUI

The Bakery - Pauanui ★

Shop 15,
Pauanui Shopping Centre
P: 07 864 8094

Miha Restaurant at Puka Park 🍷

48 Mount Ave, Pauanui
P: 07 864 8088
www.pukapark.co.nz

10 WHANGAMATA & ONEMANA Onemana Food Company Restaurant 🍷

101 Bambury Place, Onemana
P: 07 865 7200
www.onemanafoodcompany.co.nz

Cafe Sixfortysix 🍷

646 Port Road, Whangamata
P: 07 865 6117
www.sixfortysix.co.nz

Argo Restaurant and Wine Bar 🍷

328 Ocean Road, Whangamata
P: 07 865 7157
www.argorestaurant.co.nz

11 KARANGAHAKE GORGE Bistro at The Falls Retreat 🍷

25 Waitawheta Road, Waikino
P: 07 863 8770
www.fallsretreat.co.nz

Ohinemuri Winery 🍷 🍷

23 Moresby Street
Karangahake S37
P: 07 862 8874
www.ohinemuri.co.nz

Start your Tour



THE MOUNTAINOUS FOREST, FERTILE TERRACES and nutrient rich waters of the Coromandel have fed generations of gardeners, gatherers, bushmen and campers since the earliest of settlement times in New Zealand. This guide will trace their footsteps to help you source the freshest delicacies on offer today.

The Coromandel was once isolated from a ready supply of hardware and supermarket goods, and our smaller communities continue to innovate, grow and share organic produce amongst each other year-round.

Food is at the heart of the Coromandel's economy, with mussel farms, organic and honey growers and artisan producers working the land and sea to export and to serve home grown food through world class chefs.

We've designed this guide for the visitor, bach owner or local seeking to taste the bounty of our place whilst on a tour of the Thames-Coromandel district.



View of Paku and Ocean Beach, Tairua with Pauanui beyond.



Thames

THE FORMER GOLD MINING TOWN of Thames is a pantry of artisan products, and a perfect place for stocking the picnic hamper for the bach, bush walks or your drive up the Thames Coast Road to Coromandel Town.

A 20 min drive inland is the Department of Conservation's **Kauaeranga Valley Visitor Centre**, the best place to seek out campgrounds and bush walks as daytrips or overnights. Stock up before you go.

Thames has niche shops and small producers selling their cheeses and yoghurts, homemade Scottish oat cakes, locally-grown organic produce, spice blends and a surprisingly vast selection of excellent coffee houses.

The **GBD (Grahamstown Bar and Diner)** is a hotel, restaurant and traveller's accommodation steeped in history. The GBD first opened its doors to cater for gold miners in 1869, an era when Thames had more than 80 hotels. Now only seven remain.

Thames has proudly maintained its heritage buildings, boasting some of the finest examples in New Zealand.

Grahamstown at the northern end of Thames houses many cafes handily close to museums and walking trails, like the colourful



Coffee at The Depot.



Grahamstown small guage railway.

Underfoot Gallery that hugs the Thames coast. Visit **Sola Cafe** for international vegetarian cuisine, made from organic and locally sourced ingredients where possible, boutique coffee and local art on display.

Café Melbourne across the road serves seasonal all-local produce mainly for breakfast and lunches. It is part of The Depot, where you'll find delicatessen goods, freshly-ground spice blends, fresh fruit juices and art works.

Thames is the starting point of the Hauraki Rail Trail, where **The Cheese Barn** at Matatoki and **Omahu Valley Citrus**, at 146 Omahu Valley Road 1.5km off State Highway 26, between Thames and Paeroa, are among your pit stops. At the Cheese Barn - a 10 min drive from Thames or 1-2hr cycle - sample organic blue,

mozzarella, camembert and traditional Dutch gouda.



Humble Oatcakes.

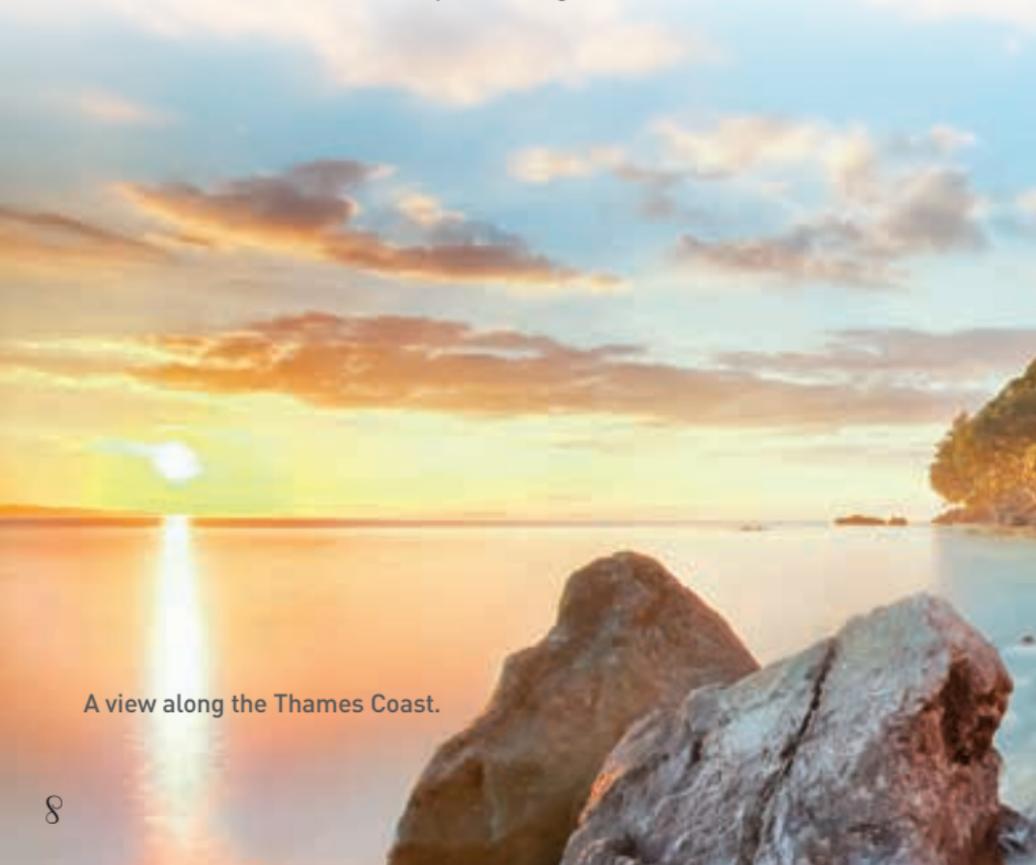




Thames Coast

THE COAST ROAD FROM THAMES to Coromandel hugs the pohutukawa-fringed Firth of Thames, offering magical little bays for swimming or fishing. Looking out to sea near Coromandel Town you will see the mussel farms that produce up to one quarter of New Zealand's mussels and oysters for local consumption and for export.

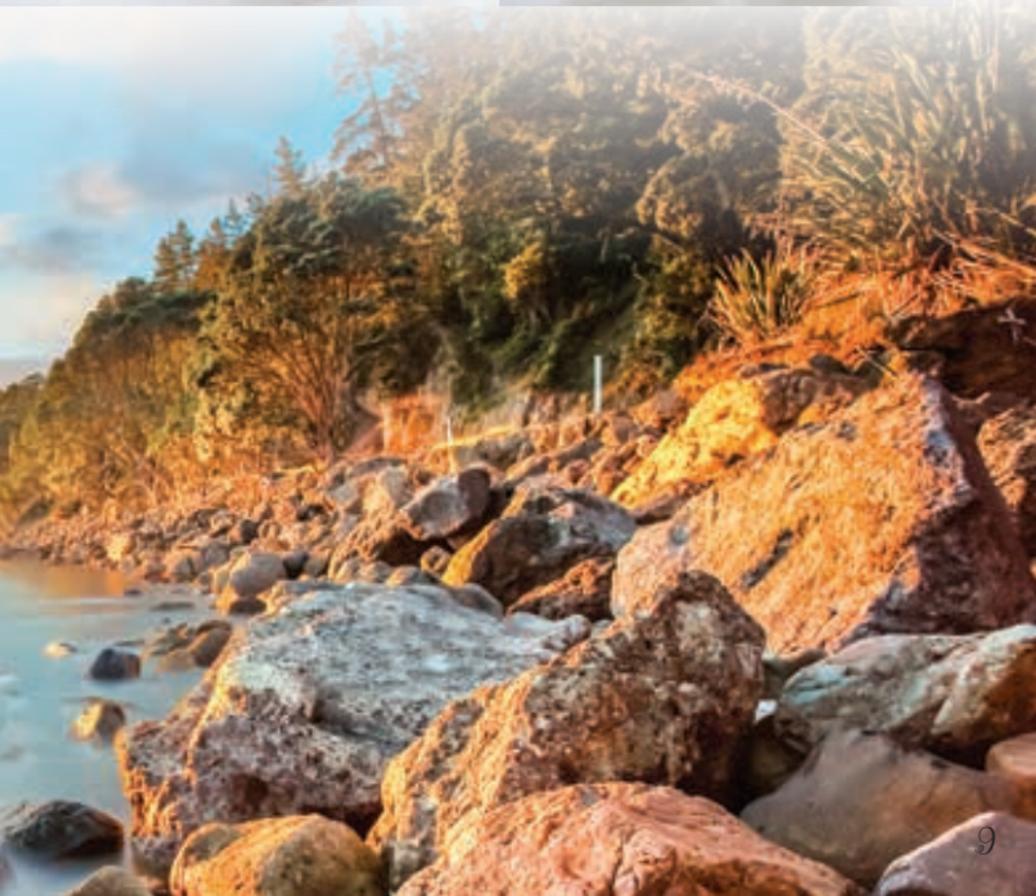
Waiomu Cafe is a popular stop on the way up the coast. Across the road from a seaside park, the cafe is renowned for its ice-cream and coffee. It is also near the start of the 2-hour Waiomu kauri walk. Further up the coast, opt to turn right and enter an enchanting part-gravel road winding up through the mountains to the east coast via the Tapu-Coroglen Road.



A view along the Thames Coast.

Koru Cafe at Rapaura Watergardens is one of the joys of taking the turn into the Tapu Valley. A labour of love first begun more than 50 years ago, the Watergardens are now an experience of man working in harmony with nature – with abundant bird life, meandering walks over bridges, and a bush walk up to the cascading waterfall. Amidst all this natural beauty lies the **Koru Cafe**, which serves home-baked delights, hearty soups and Coromandel mussels. Open daily from October to April, the cafe is situated on the Tapu Coroglen Rd.

You will need to head back to the coast road to carry on north towards historic Coromandel Town.



Coromandel Town - Colville

SUMPTUOUSLY TEXTURED NEW ZEALAND OYSTERS take 12-20 months to reach ideal market size in farms off the Coromandel, fed predominantly from plankton. These and Greenshell mussels contribute to New Zealand's international reputation for high quality seafood, and are never fresher than when they are eaten locally. **The Coromandel Oyster Co.** serves meals on-site or

oysters from the farm gate in the 1/2 shell or whole-shell. Find other locally harvested seafood here too, on SH25 about 4km south of Coromandel Town.

About 3kms before you arrive at Coromandel Township, **Coromandel Mussel Kitchen** and **MK Brewing Co** offers fresh, fat mussels grown across the road and prepared with homegrown ingredients. It was started by the Bartrams, a local mussel industry family. Try the mussels with a Gun Smoke Ale or Gold Digger Pilsener from hops grown here.

As you arrive in town, **Coromandel Smoking Co.** on Tiki Rd serves marinated smoked mussels, perfect for a picnic. You can also bring your own fresh caught fish here for smoking by Kevin and his team.



Fresh Coromandel mussels.



Colville.



In the heart of historic Coromandel Town in Kapanga Rd is the **Star and Garter** and **The Pepper Tree Restaurant**. Build your appetite with one of the many walks in the area, and after exploring kauri forest that once dominated the land, dine in a premises built with kauri, such as the Pepper Tree which was built as a family home in 1928.

In the courtyard there is a magnificent pepper tree, now over 100 years old, that gives the restaurant its name.

From Coromandel Town, choose to push north to the remote bays and beaches in and between settlements like Colville, Papa Aroha, Tuataewa and Port Jackson. Many such places mushroom into large communities based in the campgrounds for a brief few weeks in summer, and camp stores pop up with basics and homegrown goods. But lose track of time mooching around the **Colville General Store** if you're passing, since this is a wonderful place to find homegrown produce.



Mercury Bay North



RETURNING TO COROMANDEL TOWN, head over the spine of the Peninsula eastward to Te Rerenga, gateway to New Chum beach and Whangapoua. New Chum beach is around the northern headland of Whangapoua and accessed only by foot, giving you the experience of a trek back in time through nikau tree forest to untouched white sand seclusion.

The Castle Rock Café crafts homemade breads, slices, fresh produce, chutneys and sauces, and is a stockist of local honey and **Coffee Lala**, the only artisan local coffee roaster. Try their “Insanely Good Coffee” at many cafes or search www.coffeelala.com. Castle Rock Cafe is on SH25 near Whangapoua.

Matarangi is a small community loaded with holiday houses on a long white sand beach and estuary. There is plentiful birdlife, a golf course and a very small shopping centre.

New Chums Beach.



The Dunes Restaurant at The Dunes Golf Resort on Matarangi drive, has crumbed Coromandel scallops on the menu when available.

Kuaotunu is a 20min drive to the south along beaches that rarely ever get busy, and its cosy Kuaotunu village on the water's edge comes alive through the addition of an iconic Coromandel pizza restaurant and live music venue, **Luke's Kitchen**. By combining tasty, fresh pizza with a relaxed surf vibe overlooking Kuaotunu's Black Jack reef, Luke's Kitchen has created a must-do destination on the Coromandel and is the social saviour for locals in the hibernation months at Kuaotunu.





Whitianga, Hahei and Surrounds

WHITIANGA IS IN THE MERCURY BAY, a picturesque town with something for all tastes. A must-do while here is to bathe while you sip a cocktail in natural thermal hot springs at **The Lost Spring** and then dine poolside at The Lost Spring Café and Restaurant.

Whitianga is spoilt for great cafes, walk around and take your pick. Restaurants include **Salt Restaurant** serving contemporary European cuisine using fresh seasonal NZ produce. From free range pork to the local wild watercress, only the best quality ingredients are used.

Heading south on SH25 from Whitianga for approx. 20 minutes, you'll come to the **Coroglen Tavern**, an iconic kiwi pub popular with motorcyclists cruising the Coromandel, and home of the Whitianga Pig Hunters Club as well as top international and New Zealand bands through summer. The kitchen serves the usual range of filling pub tucker, with mussel

fritters, the seafood basket and maxi mix being great choices for local seafood. A little further on you'll access signposted turnoffs to the





beachside settlements of Hahei, Cooks Beach and Hot Water Beach.

For a relaxed pace, join the native kereru birds as you tour the organic orchard of **Cathedral Cove Macadamias**, on Lees Rd Hahei. For dinner, **The Church** restaurant is in a 1916 converted Methodist church, serving an authentic tapas menu with strong influences from Italian and Middle Eastern cuisines, plus the obligatory Spanish favourites. There is also a Kiwi feel to the menu, with specialties of local shellfish, fresh fish and locally sourced meats, cheeses and vegetables.

The Pour House brewery and restaurant is within easy walking distance of Hahei Beach and a perfect place to enjoy woodfired pizza with the **Coromandel Brewing Co.** craft beer brewed onsite by owner Neil Vowles.

Driving north of Hahei, the **Mercury Bay Estate** cellar door is the perfect place to relax and enjoy a taste of wine with a delicious platter of local food matches. Stop to enjoy Shakespeare Cliff's network of walks and the gorgeous Lonely Bay, before heading to **Eggsentric Cafe & Restaurant**, which hosts local, national and international musicians, films, poetry, afternoon concerts, art exhibitions, and an annual sculpture symposium. Eggsentric uses local food and suppliers and is organic where possible.

The Pour House brewery and restaurant.



Hot Water Beach and Whenuakite

HOT WAVES is a licensed cafe and gallery set in beautifully landscaped native tree gardens, only a one minute walk from the hustle and bustle of internationally renowned Hot Water Beach. Take your time to enjoy the surroundings here, either before or after a dip in the sandy hot pools. From here, head south to Tairua on SH25. Enroute you'll find the fully licensed **Colenso Café**, set among plum and mandarin orchards and serving delectable cakes, coffee and more substantial lunch dishes with herbs and produce from the garden.

On the road to Tairua you'll also find **Hot Water Brewing Co** in Whenuakite, which has won international acclaim for its canned beer varieties made by brewer Dave Kurth. A holiday park is handily located next door where The Rising Can Festival is held in November, celebrating canned craft beer in New Zealand.

Hot Water Beach.





Miha Restaurant, Puka Park Resort.

Tairua and Pauanui

TAIRUA IS YOUR NEXT FOODIE STOP, with numerous cafes and restaurants each with its own character and style. **Manaia Kitchen & Bar** is the lively social centre of town. There is live music, theme nights and DJs on occasion throughout the year. A freshly-made cabinet range with raw food, woodfired pizza and local seafood like ika mata (raw fish in coconut) are highlights of the menu.

A walk that takes less than an hour around the harbour to the base of Mt Paku is **The Old Mill Cafe**, a charming eatery with hearty breakfasts through to a changing dinner menu and live local musicians from time to time. Stroll around the Tairua Marina or work up an appetite with a heritage trail walk around Tairua before or after relaxing in this refurbished historic building.

Pauanui is a 25 minute drive from Tairua or a 5 minute ferry ride, with the award winning **Miha Restaurant** serving 'Pacific Rim' with a European twist. A fine dining experience inside or on the deck amid the bush setting of Puka Park Resort. These townships have wonderful surf and swimming options with summer patrolled beaches, estuary-side parks and vibrant little town centres with supermarkets, gift and surf shops, libraries and information centres offering friendly advice for walks, fishing, kayaking or other activities.

The Bakery, found in both Tairua and Pauanui, offers supreme coffee, T2 teas, baguettes, wildberry doughnuts and other genuine European pastries all baked fresh daily.





Whangamata



CONTINUING BACK TO THE STATE HIGHWAY after Pauanui, Hikuai is a rural settlement with bush treks through the backdrop of steep hills. To hike, travel approx. 7km from the unsealed section of Puketui Valley Road. From Hikuai to Onemana, where the **Onemana Food Company Restaurant** make everything fresh from scratch and supports local producers and suppliers where they can.

The beach town of Whangamata is your next stop.

Scallops and kina are gathered from the east Coromandel coastline when sea conditions allow divers to enter. You'll find seasonal seafood on the menu in Whangamata at **Argo Restaurant** which has a varied craft beer and wine menu to match the culinary selection. **Café 646** is at the heart of Whangamata; a favourite for its funky décor and a varied cabinet along with A La Carte menu from breakfast through to dinner. The Classic Coro burger features scallops with local bacon and red onion jam, as a taste of the menu.





Karangahake Gorge



FROM WHANGAMATA, COMPLETE YOUR CIRCUIT of the Coromandel via Waihi and the Karangahake Gorge, a popular section of the Hauraki Rail Trail. On this side of the Peninsula, the trail starts in Waihi. Rail Trail cyclists know to allow time for wine tasting, sales and food at the **Ohinemuri Estate** in the heart of heritage walking trails and the 1km tunnel that's part of the rail trail and accessed only by bike or foot. You can get to this area either by road, cycling the Rail Trail or taking the steam train from Waihi.

No foodie tour in this area is complete without visiting the award winning **Bistro at the Falls Retreat** (a short push up the hill from the rail trail in the gorge). Stop to admire the gushing Waitawheta Falls – especially if it's been raining – and then enjoy slow cooked rustic food in a peaceful garden setting. From here you'll travel towards Paeroa and back to Thames, to complete your circumnavigation of the Coromandel.



Markets

Tairua Market	Tairua Hall, Main Rd, Tairua	First Saturday morning each month
Kuaotunu Market	Kuaotunu Township	Saturday morning from Labour weekend-Easter
Matarangi Craft Market	Matarangi village shops	Sundays from December to January & holiday weekends
Whitianga Art, Craft & Farmers Market	Soldiers Memorial Park Whitianga	Saturday mornings on holiday weekends and community events
Tairua Fireman's Market	Tairua Fire Station, Main Rd	Saturday morning of Labour Weekend
Coroglen Farmers Market	Gumtown Hall, Coroglen	Sunday morning Labour Weekend-Easter
Thames Market	Pollen Street Grahamstown Thames	Saturday mornings 8am - 12noon
Coromandel Market	31 Kapanga Rd Coromandel Town	Fridays 8am - 12noon
Whangamata Lions Market	RSA Carpark	Anniversary Weekend, Easter & Labour Wknd
Whangamata Community Market	TCDC Town Green	8am - 1pm Saturdays in summer months

www.thecoromandel.com for updated listings

Meat & Honey

PLANNING A BARBECUE? The **Coromandel Meatkeeper** in Coromandel Town sells traditional smoked bacon, free range eggs and steaks on the bone for a hearty breakfast after early starts on the sea. **Tairua Butchery** and **All Things Organic** (both in Tairua) and **Meat at the Beach** in Whangamata are among other good options for free range and organic meats.

EXPERIMENT WITH YOUR OWN marinades for supermarket-bought local mussels, using Coromandel honey that is sought after worldwide for its therapeutic properties and taste. At The 309 Rd you can buy honey then experience the bush at nearby walks through conservation land.

The **309 Rd honey** brand is harvested from bush clad hills with due care and attention to the bees and the environment that produces it. Stop at the **Wilderland shop** off SH25 20 mins south of Whitianga for honey perfected for over 40 years. Other Coromandel honey producers include **Woodland Honey**, **Wild Honey**, **Hay Honey** and **Plan Bee** (at Kuaotunu market).



A taster of Foodie Events

Spice up your gastronomic tour of the Coromandel by combining it with one of the many iconic events throughout the year...

JANUARY

Tairua School Wine and Food Festival

A huge celebration of food, wine, arts and crafts. The Tairua School Wine and Food Festival is a ritual amongst holidaymakers in the Tairua and Pauanui area.

www.tairuawineandfood.co.nz

FEBRUARY

Coromandel Mussel Festival

Mussel favourites are served all day at the Coromandel Mussel Kitchen as live music plays. Free camping on site.

www.musselkitchen.co.nz



Concert in the Vines

Gather your picnic or build one from the fare on offer from the Coromandel's favourite wine and cuisine vendors as you enjoy an all Kiwi lineup of acoustic musicians at a vineyard overlooking Mercury Bay.

www.concertinthevines.org.nz or keep an eye on the rescue chopper Facebook page for its fundraising events.
www.facebook.com/rescue1chopper

APRIL

A Taste of Matarangi

Experience the delicious cuisines, taste world-class wines and craft beer, enjoy family activities, food competitions, charity auctions and great continuous live music on stage at the Matarangi Village Green by the beach.

www.atasteofmatarangi.co.nz

MAY

The Coromandel Seafood Fest

Become a pro at shucking oysters, marinating mussels or filleting fish at this festival, which celebrates the local harbour that is renowned for its mussel and oyster farms and fishing. The Coromandel Seafood Fest will also feature live local bands and a showcase of seafood by nearby restaurants and cafes – book your weekend!

www.coromandeltown.co.nz/seafood-fest



SEPTEMBER

The Whitianga Scallop Festival

New Zealand's best seafood festival, taste the finest seafood creations and beverages, enjoy the music and fun-loving festival ambience, all set on the picturesque waterfront of Whitianga.

www.scallopfestival.co.nz



NOVEMBER

The Rising Can Festival

Hosted at the Hot Water Brewing Co. in Whenuakite, the Rising Can is a one-day taster of hearty canned craft beer, tasty food and funky live sounds.

www.hotwaterbrewingco.com

This is just a small selection of events taking place on the Coromandel, for more events see www.thecoromandel.com



www.tcdc.govt.nz

