

Cathedral Cove, Coromandel, Aotearoa New Zealand

ROTORUA
Education Network

2027

Enhancing teaching with practical, hands-on learning

COROMANDEL

Who is the Rotorua Education Network

Rotorua Education Network (REN) is the premier education travel specialist, providing support and enhancing ākonga (student) learning by providing informative and engaging hands-on experiences with tourism operators. We work with a diverse range of high-quality operators, most of which are Rotorua based, to ensure your visit is of the highest standards.

What we can do for you

- Our team will provide the relevant resources and information for kaiako (teachers) and ākonga that is up to date and directly linked to your curriculum.
- We'll create customised itineraries and arrange bookings for all activities, accommodation and transport needs.
- We'll coordinate speakers from the tourism industry.
- We can also arrange sporting activities for kaiako and ākonga on request.

We offer

- Customised itineraries
- Affordable trips
- One easy payment
- RAMS on request

How to contact us

- +64 7 351 7320
- school.groups@rotoruaNZ.com
- rotorua-education.co.nz

- 1167 Fenton Street
  Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

- Postal Private Bag 3007
  Rotorua Mail Centre
  Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

How to book a trip through REN

1. Complete the online booking form found on our website and select the accommodation, transport, operators/activities you would like to visit, including any speakers available.
2. REN will respond to your enquiry with a suggested itinerary and a FREE quote.
3. When you are happy with the itinerary and associated costs, REN will book the transport, accommodation and activities that you've confirmed.
4. You will receive an email with your itinerary and a code to gain access to our online curriculum resources for the achievement and unit standards.
5. You will receive an invoice two weeks prior to your trip, or by other arrangement, following confirmation of your attendee numbers. New Zealand schools are required to make payment no later than seven calendar days after the trip. All other groups are required to make payment seven calendar days prior to the trip.

Cancellation policies & procedures

The notice period for cancellations of REN itinerary bookings varies for each operator, therefore, any requests to change or cancel your itinerary that is made less than seven calendar days from the scheduled commencement of your itinerary may be invoiced for the full amount.

Invoices are sent by REN on behalf of the operator.

We understand that unexpected events may necessitate changes to or cancellation of your itinerary. We ask that if you find yourself in this position then please contact the REN team as soon as possible.

After your trip

Please complete the trip evaluation form online here: www.rotorua-education.co.nz/evaluation-form or scan the QR code below.

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THE COROMANDEL

TAIRUA

Tucked beneath the majestic Coromandel Ranges and sheltered by the Aldermen, Shoe, and Slipper Islands - with iconic Mt. Paku standing watch - lies the coastal gem of Tairua with an estuary, local shops, cafes, restaurants, and a vibrant playground. Tairua — meaning "two tides" — the area is shaped by the meeting of ocean and river, creating a vast tidal estuary system of winding channels, sheltered inlets, mangrove forests, sandy banks, and calm freshwater streams.

The Tairua Harbour stretches deep inland and connects to the Tairua River, which flows down from the Coromandel Ranges, creating an ever-changing landscape influenced by tides, weather, and seasons.

With Cathedral Cove and Hot Water Beach around 20km away, we're an ideal base for exploring the wonders of the Coromandel Peninsula.



On booking your trip through Rotorua Education Network, you will gain access to our online resources, including the following curriculum-based assessment activities and worksheets.

Geography Level 3

Achievement Standard	Activity	Provided by
AS 91426: Demonstrate understanding of how interacting natural processes shape a New Zealand geograpic environment.	Students are required to use specific information and/or case studies to illustrate their answers.	• Sea Cave Adventures • Coromandel Ocean Adventures

Outdoor Recreation Level 2

Unit Standard	Activity	Provided by
US 32848: Demonstrate paddling skills on moving water.	Students are required demonstrate paddling skills for craft on moving water.	• Cathedral Cove Kayak Tour

Outdoor Recreation Level 3

Unit Standard	Activity	Provided by
US 19428: Demonstrate sea kayaking skills on coastal water.	Students are required demonstrate manoeuvering a sea kayak on coastal water.	• Cathedral Cove Kayak Tour

Tourism Operators



ON THE WATER

Cathedral Cove Kayak Tour

Outdoor Recreation: *US 19428, US 32848*

Take to the water in double sea kayaks and experience the Coromandel's spectacular coastline from a whole new perspective. Paddle through unique rock gardens, explore sea caves and take in stunning scenery along the way.

Students develop practical kayaking, communication and teamwork skills through hands-on exploration, building confidence as they learn to work together on the water.

A highlight is a stop at world-famous Cathedral Cove, where students can explore, take in the scenery and enjoy hot drinks and cookies on the beach before continuing the adventure.



ON THE WATER

Coromandel Ocean Adventures

Geography: *AS 91426*

Coromandel Ocean Adventures offers unforgettable marine experiences that showcase the spectacular coastline, offshore islands, and unique natural environment of the Tairua and wider Coromandel region. Locally owned and operated, the company provides premium small-group and private boat tours to destinations including the Aldermen Islands (Ruamaahu), Cathedral Cove, and Whakahau/Slipper Island aboard their modern vessel, MV Shearwater.

Coromandel Ocean Adventures offers curriculum-aligned water-based field trips 3 hours max with timing – early morning or (early afternoon) from Tairua Marina for Year 5-13 students.

Our experiences, including Aldermen Islands expeditions, cover volcanic geology, Māori history, tourism, and marine wildlife with a focus on hands-on conservation and ecological sustainability.



ON THE WATER

Sea Cave Adventures

Geography: *AS 91426*

Experience the coastline between Whitianga and Hot Water Beach, exploring the hidden blowholes and natural beauty of the incredible sea caves along the way. Students will learn about and collect data on the tectonic, volcanic, and coastal processes which have formed this amazing coastline of the Coromandel.



PADDLE AND SURF

Tairua Estuary SUP Kayak – DUTCHEY'S

No AS or US available

Explore the remarkable waterways of the Tairua Estuary and River through guided stand-up paddleboard (SUP) and kayak adventures.

The unique environment offers an ideal setting for safe, accessible outdoor exploration.

Guided tours take students and visitors through peaceful mangrove-lined waterways and hidden estuary channels, including the beautiful Pepe Stream inlet, where calm waters and native birdlife create a quiet and immersive natural experience. The experience combines gentle physical activity with an environmental experience, encouraging participants to slow down, connect with nature, and appreciate the unique relationship between land, river, and sea that defines the Tairua landscape.

SESSION DETAILS

- Two sessions each day; 1/2 day per group (tide/weather dependant), 2-3 hours either side of high tide.
- Each session: 2 double kayaks, 5 single kayaks (9 max kayaking) and 6 paddle boards, with instructor.



PADDLE AND SURF

Te Puia Surf Co - Hot Water Beach Surf School

No AS or US available

Group lessons offer 1 hour and 30 mins of step-by-step instruction from your surf coach. These lessons are a great way to begin your surfing journey and share the stoke of catching your first waves or to improve your surfing skills and meet other surfers! We pride ourselves on teaching surfing in a fun and supportive way no matter your level! We are a Surfing New Zealand approved surf school with your safety as our priority.



GEOLOGY AND NATURAL HISTORY

Heaven & Earth NZ Crystals

No AS or US available

Heaven & Earth NZ Crystals offers a fascinating guided exploration into the world of gems, crystals, minerals, and fossils, led by founder and internationally recognised author Robert Simmons, who has worked with stones and crystals for more than 35 years. Home to one of the largest collections of crystals and natural specimens in New Zealand, the experience introduces visitors to extraordinary gemstones and fossils from both New Zealand and around the world.

Through engaging storytelling and hands-on learning, students and visitors discover how crystals and fossils are formed, the geological processes behind them, and the incredible diversity of Earth's natural treasures. The tour provides a rare opportunity to explore a world-class private collection while learning about geology, natural history, and the science behind some of the planet's most beautiful and ancient formations.



STAY IN TAIRUA

Pacific Harbour Villas

Pacific Harbour Villas is a unique waterfront retreat in the Coromandel Peninsula. Our modernised Polynesian inspired villas offers convenience and comfort. Enjoy an unforgettable view of the harbour at sunset, or breakfast when the sun rises. Located on the main Street of Tairua, next to shops and cafes.

Season	4 Sharing	2 Sharing
Low Season	$45 pp	$75 pp
High Season	$65 pp	$130 pp

SEASON DETAILS

- Low: 1 April - 31 October
- High: 1 November - 23 December & 20 January - 31 March



STAY IN TAIRUA

Hosts on the Coast Holiday Homes

House available for rental for up to 18 persons, minimum 2 day stay. Rental includes linen, and cleaning on departure. 5 min walk to Tairua main street, where shops and cafes are located.



STAY IN TAIRUA

Tairua Campground - Paradise Coast

Numerous tent sites are available as well as 2 x 2 guest cabins and 1 Family room, that sleeps 11 people. Centrally located with 2 minute walk from town and a 5 minute walk to the estuary.

Option	Supplied Rate
Camping	$25 per person per night
Two-person tent hire	$40 per tent per night
Air mattress hire	$3 per person per day
Two-person cabin	$90 per night
Family lounge with kitchenette	$200 per night



HOLIDAY PARK

Hot Water Beach TOP 10

Choose from powered and unpowered sites, cabins, villas and an apartment.

FACILITIES LISTED

- Swimming Pool
- Bar and Café
- Shop and free Wi-Fi
- Games room and TV room
- Playground and basketball court

NEARBY EXPERIENCES

- Hot Water Beach
- Cathedral Cove
- Marine Reserve tours
- Tairua and Pauanui
- Whangamatā



STAY IN OPUTERE

Wharekawa Lodge

Wharekawa Lodge sits alongside the beautiful Wharekawa Harbour, at Opoutere, just ten minutes north of Whangamatā. providing cabins and tent sites. The beautiful Opoutere Beach is a ten-minute walk away through the pine forest – its 5km length is perfect for uncrowded adventure including surfing, swimming, fishing and exploring.

The site is steeped in local history having served as the grounds for the Opoutere Native School during the early 1900's. The original teacher's house still stands, now housing the kitchen, lounge and some of the bunk rooms. The old school classroom is now a large communal space, set out with couches, coffee tables, lots of board games and books to read. There is also a log burner to keep visitors toasty in the cooler months.

Frequently Asked Questions

If we book directly with the operators can we still get REN rates?

If you book directly with operators, you will pay normal kaiako and tauira rates. Booking through REN, you will secure the lowest rates.

Why should we book through REN?

Booking through REN makes your life easier and your school trip more affordable.

REN will:

- Provide the relevant resources and information for kaiako and tauira that is up-to-date and directly linked to your curriculum.
- Create customised itineraries and arrange bookings for all activities, accommodation and transport needs;
- Coordinate speakers from the tourism industry; and
- Set up one easy payment to cover everything in your itinerary.

Can we book other activities or operators who are not featured on your website?

Yes. Simply let us know what you would like to do and we'll source the most affordable rate for you.

Can our vouchers be delivered to our accommodation/activity if we arrive late?

Yes. Just let us know and we'll arrange that for you.

Do cancellation fees apply?

There is no fee for making changes to or cancelling your itinerary if you notify us seven or more calendar days prior to the commencement of your itinerary. If you do need to make any changes, please get in touch with the REN team as soon as possible.

Do you organise trips for overseas schools?

Yes. Please contact us at School.Groups@rotoruanz.com for more information.

Do you have RAM (Risk Analysis Management) Reports?

Yes. All operators have up-to-date RAM Reports that can be downloaded from the Rotorua Education Network website.

Is it possible to book activities outside of Rotorua?

Yes. We can arrange activities and accommodation outside of Rotorua.

Ngā mihi nui

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