



SKY TOWER DOMINATES AUCKLAND'S SKYLINE. CLOCKWISE FROM BELOW RIGHT: O'CONNELL STREET BISTRO BAR; OBJETS D'ART AT APARTMENTO; RARE BOOKS ON HIGH STREET; SEASCAPE WITH SPADES AT HOT WATER BEACH; COROMANDEL PENINSULA; TRADITIONAL MAORI CULTURE; A SCATTER OF ISLANDS NEAR CATHEDRAL COVE; THE PRIVATE TERRACE AT THE VILLA TOSCANA LODGE; COROMANDEL PENINSULA; HERITAGE HOTEL; WAITING; VULCAN LANE; KAREN WALKER AT ALBA; DOLPHIN WATCH.



THE COROMANDEL PENINSULA

When you've exhausted yourself in Auckland, head for the magnificent Coromandel Peninsula. It's just a 30-minute flight or less than two hours by car.

How to get there Air Coromandel, tel 649 256 6500; Heletranz Helicopter (24-hour tel 649 479 1991); hire a car, and revel in the spectacular views; take the Quick Cat Ferry from Auckland to Coromandel Town.

Places to stay A private chalet at the Puka Park Resort, tel 647 864 8088; breathtaking Villa Toscana Lodge, tel 647 866 2293; homestyle Kuaotunu Bay Lodge, tel 647 866 4396; TePuru Coast View Lodge, tel 647 868 2326.

Things to do • Paddle a sea kayak to Cathedral Cove • Dig your own thermal spa on Hot Water Beach • Trek through ancient kauri forests • Ride a horse on long white beaches • Swim with wild dolphins • Hire a boat from Small Dog Boat Hire on Hahei Beach, and find your own island • Try a toronchi (exotic, and delicious, mountain pawpaw) • Go game-fishing for marlin and tuna • Snorkel for crayfish and paua (NZ abalone) off Mercury Island • Learn bone carving • Do nothing. **CP**

