

Driving Creek Railway

Coromandel, Coromandel Peninsula

Scenic Train Ride, Pottery & Sanctuary



New Zealand's only narrow-gauge mountain railway also incorporates a working pottery in summer and a wildlife sanctuary.

Track laying began in 1975 by Barry Brickell shortly after he established the pottery workshop on a corner of the 22Ha block of land he purchased in 1973. As a railway enthusiast he saw the practical and environmental advantages of having a narrow-gauge railway system through his rugged scrub-covered land to give all weather access to clay pits and pine trees for the kiln fuel. Yellow plastic clay derived from the weathering of the old volcanic rocks. The scattered pine trees are self-sown from original pines planted by the early Californian gold diggers of last century. New Zealand's first official gold discovery was made in this district in 1852. Most of the raw materials for the making of terracotta pottery wares, tiles and sculpture come from the hills above. The yellow plastic clay used at DCR is derived from the weathering of the old volcanic rocks.



Narrow Gauge Railway

An innovative train ride takes you through replanted native kauri forest and includes 2 spirals, 3 short tunnels, 5 reversing points and several large viaducts as it climbs up to the mountain-top terminus.

From the EyeFull Tower is a new building offering there are great panoramic views out over the island-studded Hauraki Gulf with the forested valley and mountains behind. The railway and pottery complex blend into the natural bush setting. The train ride is one of the most popular in New Zealand.

Departs 9.00am*, 10:15, 11:30, 12:45, 2:00, 3:15 *, 4:30*, 5:45* (*seasonal) Please arrive 20 minutes prior to departure time | Duration 1 hour

Please book in advance to reserve your seats, especially over the busy summer period. Suitable for all ages and weather conditions.

Pottery & Wildlife Sanctuary

After your train journey enjoy the pottery and wildlife sanctuary at Driving Creek Railway.

Price: \$35

Child, Family, Student and Senior reductions

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Directions

From Auckland Take the southern motorway, SH1, to the bottom of the Bombay Hills, 30 minutes. Take SH2 to Thames, 1 hour.

From Thames take SH25 to Coromandel. Driving Creek Railway is on Driving Creek Road 3km past the town centre.

Terms

CHILD POLICY Children of all ages welcome

CANCELLATION 48 hours 100% | 3-10 days 50%

SEASON Open year round except December 25th and ANZAC morning

Contacts

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Contact: Booking Office

380 Driving Creek Road, Coromandel

Website: www.drivingcreekrailway.co.nz

Email: bookings@dcrail.nz

Accommodation in this area

- [Colleith Lodge](#)
- [Manawa Ridge](#)