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We’re famous for Middle-earth movie magic, underground wonders, the iconic Waikato River, and legendary surf beaches, and that’s just the start…

The Waikato, and its metropolitan hub of Hamilton, are situated in the central North Island – an area renowned for nature-based tourism, rich agricultural land and proud Māori heritage.

Visitors to the Hamilton & Waikato region will enjoy a wealth of world-class attractions. Go underground and experience the subterranean wonders of the Waitomo Caves, with a playground of glowworms, black water rafting, abseiling and cave exploration on offer. Movie buffs will love our slice of the ‘real Middle-earth’ at Hobbiton Movie Set, near Matamata, as seen in ‘The Lord of the Rings’ and ‘The Hobbit’ trilogies. While on the west coast, the bohemian town of Raglan is famous for its left-hand surf break and rugged black-sand beaches.

Lovers of the great outdoors are spoilt for choice with a range of protected park land and mountain ranges offering fantastic walking, hiking and cycling trails including three of the nation’s ‘Great Rides’ - the Timber Trail, Waikato River Trails and Hauraki Rail Trail.

The mighty Waikato River is the lifeblood of our region and a playground for jetboaters, kayakers, rowers and boaties, particularly on our picturesque hydro lakes such as Lake Karapiro near Cambridge.

When you’ve worked up an appetite, there’s a whole smorgasbord of gourmet options to choose from including award-winning eateries, microbreweries, artisan producers, farmers markets and fine-dining.
As for nourishment for the soul, a soak in the silky waters of the Te Aroha Mineral Spas, or a stroll through the award-winning Hamilton Gardens, makes for a refreshing change of scene.

The Hamilton Gardens are a sparkling jewel in the heart of Hamilton City and tells the story of gardens through time.

The Waikato is known for its vibrant arts scene with Hamilton hosting world-class cultural events including Hamilton Gardens Arts Festival and Balloons over Waikato, as well as a number of museums and galleries on show.

Home of the Māori King, the Hamilton & Waikato region has been a significant area for Māori for centuries, ever since the great voyaging Tainui waka (canoe) made landfall in Kawhia. Māori place names tell the story of the region, with Waikato meaning ‘flowing water’ named after the people of the Tainui waka observed the river’s strong pull into the sea.

Along with its proud Māori heritage, the region is one of the world’s richest agricultural areas and is fast becoming a hub for high-performance sport, with world-class cycling and rowing facilities, Olympic champions and sports-mad locals based in the region.

That’s just a taste of what we’re most famous for. This guide will show you how to make the most of your time in our region - we hope you love it as much as we do.
Our City

Hamilton is a metropolitan hub on the banks of the Waikato River, offering everything expected of a thriving city – and then some. With great shopping, a vibrant arts scene, award-winning restaurants and a bustling nightlife, Hamilton offers a myriad of urban entertainment options to choose from. Visitors can take a stroll through the award-winning Hamilton Gardens, visit SkyCity Hamilton’s new dining precinct, soak up some history at the Waikato Museum, discover animal encounters at Hamilton Zoo or relax with a picnic at Hamilton Lake. Classic cars, river cruises, microbrewery tours and more are all on offer, and for a truly spectacular view of Hamilton and the wider Waikato region, a hot air balloon ride is definitely a must!

Where to Stay

Visitors to the region can choose from a variety of accommodation options. Pamper yourself in a boutique lodge, get back to nature in an eco-style dwelling or enjoy a family break in a beachside holiday park. Opt for a touch of luxury in a high-end city hotel, or for a self-contained option, motels and serviced apartments are a great choice. [www.hamiltonwaikato.com/accommodation](http://www.hamiltonwaikato.com/accommodation)

Getting Around

The region’s central location means its simple and easy to get around, with most attractions within two hours’ drive of Hamilton City and expressway links with Auckland. Domestic flights operate from Hamilton Airport and the Northern Explorer rail service travels through Hamilton on its Auckland - Wellington journey. We recommend visitors to New Zealand who are going to self-drive check out [www.drivesafe.org.nz](http://www.drivesafe.org.nz)

[www.hamiltonwaikato.com/transport](http://www.hamiltonwaikato.com/transport)
Underground Wonders

Waitomo is the stuff of legends, and a ‘must do’ item on everyone’s bucket list.

Millions of years in the making, the Waitomo Caves are a world-famous underground playground that have been enthralling visitors since 1889.

This subterranean world of stalagmites, stalactites and underground waterfalls is full of geological and historical wonder. From families to thrill-seekers, visitors will love the options on offer including gentle boat rides under galaxies of twinkling glowworms, walking tours of awe-inspiring limestone formations, and a blood-pumping range of adventure activities.

Adrenaline junkies get ready, as expert guides take you black water rafting on underground rivers, zip-lining through spectacular caverns and abseiling deep into the bellies of caves.

While these activities may sound extreme, a moderate fitness level and a sense of adventure are all that is needed for most of these exciting tours.

Waitomo comes from the Maori words “wai” (meaning water) and “tomo” (meaning hole or shaft), rising from the sea about 30 million years ago. The caves have continued to evolve ever since thanks to the constant action of water seeping through the earth.

Lesser-known but equally inspiring subterranean wonders can also be found near the coast of the North Waikato area (see page 22).

www.hamiltonwaikato.com/underground-adventure
Middle-earth Movie Magic

If the Shire is at the heart of Middle-earth, then the Hamilton & Waikato region is at the heart of the Shire. When scouting around for settings for his epic movie adaptation of JRR Tolkien’s ‘The Lord of the Rings’ and ‘The Hobbit’, Kiwi director Peter Jackson found just what he was looking for in the green rolling paddocks, rugged limestone outcrops and underground caverns of the Hamilton & Waikato region.

The idyllic setting for the Shire, home of the hobbits, including Bag End and the Party Tree standing majestically over the lake, was right here nestled on a sheep farm near the Waikato town of Matamata, just waiting for the magical director’s touch.

Visitors to Hobbiton Movie Set today can imagine hobbits going about their everyday business, as the set was rebuilt in 2011 for the filming of the story that started it all, ‘The Hobbit’, and remains as a permanent set today.

Gain a first-hand insight into filming and the way things looked when shooting was in full swing. Get up close with over 17 hobbit holes and other iconic sites from the films including the Green Dragon Inn.

Tolkien-esque landscapes can also be found in other parts of the region, such as Waitomo, where weird and wonderful rock formations give way to underground limestone caves.

Other filming locations in the Hamilton & Waikato region include Weathertop Hollow from ‘The Lord of The Rings’ trilogy, filmed near Port Waikato and the Trollshaw forest filmed on rugged farm land near Piopio in Waitomo.

To find out more about Middle-earth Movie Magic visit: www.hamiltonwaikato.com/experiences/middle-earth-movie-magic
Outdoor Adventures

Get outdoors and amongst some of New Zealand’s most iconic scenery. Our region boasts a wide variety of experiences for nature lovers to enjoy, both on and off the water.

The country’s longest river, the Waikato River, winds its way through the region, providing excellent kayaking, boating, and water-skiing opportunities. Lake Karapiro – one of the river’s hydro lakes – is home to Rowing New Zealand and is a training ground for many of New Zealand’s elite athletes.

The seaside township of Raglan is a mecca for surfers and those wanting to get out on the water. The black-sand beaches are revered by sun seekers and the harbour is loved by those keen to cruise, kayak, kite-surf or stand-up-paddle board.

The Waikato is home to a range of top cycle trails including three of the nation’s Great Rides, each offering an exciting and unique journey. Tramping opportunities are also abundant - from casual strolls along the river to overnight bush excursions and winding mountain tracks. Hike up to the top of a waterfall, tackle the countless steps to enjoy a stunning vista or visit Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari to see ancient forests and native wildlife.

After an adrenalin rush? Black water rafting and caving at Waitomo has plenty to offer while heated pools and relaxing mineral spas offer sweet relief for tired muscles.

For something a little different, discover one of the region’s hidden gems and dig your own natural hot pool at low tide at Kawhia’s Ocean Beach, south of Raglan.
Top 10 Activities for Family Fun

The Hamilton & Waikato region has something to suit the whole family. Warning: you may never want to leave! Here’s a sample:

1. Experience the magic of glowworms at the Waitomo Caves. Enjoy the world-famous boat ride, gliding under thousands of twinkling glowworms.

2. Visit Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari, Otorohanga Kiwi House and Native Bird Park to get up close to native wildlife and their natural habitats.

3. Explore the themed Hamilton Gardens and pick up an activity sheet from the Visitor Centre for the kids. The gardens include traditional Māori, Japanese, American modernist, Italian Renaissance just to name a few!

4. Enjoy an animal encounter at Hamilton Zoo. There’s even the chance to go behind the scenes and get a private ‘Eye2Eye’.

5. Visit the Waikato Museum, with fun, interactive exhibitions designed specifically for children.

6. If the weather calls for indoor activities, check out Bowlevard at SkyCity Hamilton, offering jam-packed tenpin bowling fun, and TimeZone games to enjoy.

7. Take the family out on one of the region’s numerous cycling and/or walking tracks. There are hundreds of kilometres to explore.

8. Relax with a picnic at Hamilton Lake while the kids enjoy the adventure playground.

9. Take the family along to see the lush green hills and hobbit holes within them at Hobbiton Movie Set. You may even run into Pickles, the resident cat!

10. Get out on the water with a range of water activities. Dig your own natural hot water spa at Kawhia, or give kayaking or stand up paddle-boarding a try in Raglan harbour.
Gourmet Delights
The region is a foodie’s delight with an array of award-winning restaurants, cafes and bakeries using fresh ingredients from local artisan producers and Zealong Tea Estate, the nation’s only tea plantation, offering what is reputedly the purest Oolong tea in the world.
As you might expect from a region famous for its dairy farming, local cheesemakers have established themselves as industry leaders, and artisan ice-cream makers are gaining popularity with imaginative flavour combinations. Bread and honey producers as well as coffee roasters also call the region home, along with the growing number of farmers markets with specialist food purveyors selling their wares.

Arts & Culture
For history buffs, Waikato Museum in Hamilton City, is renowned for displaying our strong Māori history and pioneering heritage alongside national touring exhibitions. Smaller museums throughout the region proudly tell stories of local heritage and industry. Local artists take inspiration from the rich landscapes of the region, and the many galleries such as Arts Post in Hamilton and Wallace Gallery in Morrinsville profile original pieces and unique collections.

Shop Up A Storm
The region’s shopping options include boutique lanes, high end fashion stores, various malls, and the super-sized shopping complex, Te Awa at The Base in Hamilton. Towns such as Tirau and Cambridge specialise in antique stores, contemporary homewares and unique gift shops. Weekend and annual markets across the region also offer visitors the chance to purchase locally and handmade arts, crafts and quirky collectables.
www.hamiltonwaikato.com/markets
Your Business Events Destination

Hamilton is well equipped to host conferences and business events of all sizes. Conferencing in this city is easy, connected and accessible, thanks to Hamilton’s central location and facilities on-hand. It is home to top-class conference, exhibition and event centres. In fact, Hamilton boasts some of the largest (up to 8,000 theatre-style) and newest conference and exhibition venues in New Zealand. Venues range from large, dramatic spaces to small, quirky and boutique offerings throughout the region. The Waikato as a whole also offers many hidden gems and off-the-beaten track retreats, and a wide range of accommodation including national and international hotel brands with accompanying conference centres. There are also an array of places suitable for hosting award dinners.

There’s plenty of opportunity to get adventurous or creative when it comes to team building activities and field trips within the region. The many varied options include caving, motor sports, cycling, ballooning, tea tasting, craft beer sampling, kayaking, and Middle-earth movie magic.

For more information and support for holding an event in the Hamilton & Waikato region, contact:

bureau@hamiltonwaikato.com

www.hamiltonwaikato.com/business-events
Itinerary Suggestions

From one-day adventures, to five-day ultimate road-trips around the hot spots in the central North Island, there is an itinerary to suit all tastes and with flexibility in mind, they can be easily tailored to suit your timeframe and needs.

If you would like some suggestions on how to plan your trip and make the most of your time in the Hamilton & Waikato region, check out the range of suggestions on our website. www.hamiltonwaikato.com/itineraries

Thermal Explorer Highway Touring Route

The Hamilton & Waikato region features on the Thermal Explorer Highway – a touring route which exits Auckland and takes in some of the top spots in the central North Island from Hamilton & Waikato, through to Rotorua and Taupō. The Thermal Explorer Highway also connects up with the Volcanic Loop – an extension of the route which runs from Taupō through to the alpine Ruapehu district. Working in conjunction with the Pacific Coast Highway, the touring routes provide the perfect way to explore the central North Island. www.explorecentralnotherisland.com

Our Climate

Summer temperatures tend to be in the low to mid 20s with a few days reaching around 30 degrees celsius. Winter temperatures average between 5-14 degrees Celsius, and fog and frosts can sometimes occur at this time of year; late summer is usually settled and dry.

**Summer** – December to February
High: 23° | Low: 12° Celsius

**Autumn** – March to May
High: 20° | Low: 9° Celsius

**Winter** – June to August
High: 14° | Low: 5° Celsius

**Spring** – September to November
High: 18° | Low: 8° Celsius
Training Wheels to All Terrain

Home to three of New Zealand’s Great Rides, the Hamilton & Waikato region boasts hundreds of kilometres of trail to discover, offering riders a close-up look at our picturesque scenery and fascinating past. From riverside trails to ancient forests, or purpose-built mountain bike parks, there is something to suit all levels.

Trail Grades:

- **Waikato River Trails, South Waikato:** Situated in the southern area of the region, the Waikato River Trails take in over 100km of cycling and walking tracks along the Waikato River. Access via multiple locations.
  - Sections include:
    - Karapiro section 13.7km
    - Arapuni section 33.8km
    - Waipapa section 14.6km

- **Hauraki Rail Trail, Te Aroha:** An easy-grade trail showcasing the rich pioneering history of the area. Access from Te Aroha, Waihi, Paeroa and Thames.
  - Te Aroha to Paeroa 20km one way
  - Paeroa to Waihi 20km one way
  - Paeroa to Thames 33km one way

- **The Timber Trail, Waitomo:** Spectacular, easy trail through the historically rich Pureora Forest Park. Access from Pureora Village.
  - Pureora Village to Pureora Mountain 8km
  - Connecting Maraeroa Cycleway 24km
  - Pureora to Ongarue, full 80km trail

- **Hamilton City River Rides:** The shared walkway and cycleway runs through central Hamilton along the Waikato River.
  - City section 10km
Te Awa - The Great New Zealand River Ride, Ngaruawahia to Lake Karapiro:
70km of easy cycling and walking track along the banks of NZ’s longest river, perfect for families.
• Cambridge to Lake Karapiro section 5.5km return
• Horotiu to Hamilton north section – 3km

Cougar Mountain Bike Park, Tokoroa, South Waikato:
35kms of off-road forest tracks with views of the surrounding area. Access off Mossop Road, Tokoroa.
• 14 different rides catering for riders of all abilities

Raglan Cycle Trails, Raglan:
Ride the challenging Mount Karioi Loop trail or get close to the giant wind turbines at Te Uku Windfarm.
• Mount Karioi Loop: 45km loop
• Pipiwharauroa Trail/Te Uku Windfarm: 18km return

Avantidrome – Home of Cycling:
Features world-class 250m velodrome track, which is open to the community for a range of programmes and track cycling lessons. Access via SH1 just north of Cambridge.
Links to the Gallagher Bike Skills Park as well as nearby BMX, road, trail and mountain biking facilities.

Te Miro Mountain Bike Park:
Situated 20 minutes north-east of Cambridge, popular with a wide cross-section of riders. Access via Waterworks Road, Te Miro.
Grade depends on the track cycled
• Track lengths vary from 500m – 3km
• Total track network of over 20km.

Hamilton Mountain Bike Track:
Located within Hamilton's northern city limits and suitable for beginners and families as well as more advanced riders. Access via Maui Street, Hamilton.
• Compact single track 10km in length

For more information on cycle trials in the Hamilton & Waikato region see: hamiltonwaikato.com/cycling
Summit Tracks to Sunday Strolls

The region’s natural environment provides great scenery for walking and hiking trails of all levels and lengths, as ancient volcanic bush-clad mountains and wildlife reserves give way to the stunning Waikato River and fertile rolling hills. Te Araroa, ‘The Long Pathway’, also passes through the region.

- **Hakarimata Scenic Reserve, Ngaruawahia:**
  - Featuring ancient native Kauri trees, spectacular views and challenging stair climb.
  - Kauri Loop track 2 hrs return
  - Summit track 3 hrs return
  - Waterworks track 1 hr return

- **Mt Te Aroha, Te Aroha:**
  - Climb to the summit or the Whakapipi lookout for spectacular views. Visit Waiorongomai Valley for great walks with a touch of gold mining history. Access via Te Aroha Domain.
  - Te Aroha Mountain track 3 hrs one way
  - Whakapipi Lookout 45 min one way
  - Domain Loop track 20 min
  - Tui Mines track 2 hrs one way
  - Mountain Bike track 10km
  - Waiorongomai Valley tracks vary in length

- **Wairere Falls, Matamata:**
  - Follow well-formed tracks and climb stairs to the base of the impressive 153m falls, the highest in the North Island, or continue on to reach the lookout from the top. Great paddling and picnic spots are found along the track. Access via Goodwin Road off Te Aroha-Okauia Road.
  - Wairere Falls track 3 – 4 hrs return

- **Hamilton Gardens, Hamilton:**
  - The 2014 International Garden of the Year, telling the story of gardens through time including the Te Parapara Māori Garden. Access via Cobham Drive, Hamilton.
  - Over 18 uniquely themed gardens including Italian Renaissance, Chinese Scholar and more

- **Te Waihou Walkway, Putaruru:**
  - A picturesque walk through rural landscapes. The pure water of the Blue Spring is bottled after being underground for 100 years. Access via Whites Road, Putaruru.
  - 1.5 hrs one way
Bridal Veil Falls, Raglan: An easy 10 minute walk through native bush to the top of the 55m Bridal Veil Falls, followed by a set of steps to the bottom viewing platform. Access via Kawhia Road off State Highway 23 to Te Mata.
• Waireinga / Bridal Veil Falls 20 min return

Waikato River Walks, Hamilton: Stroll along the banks of the Waikato River in Hamilton for a tranquil escape from city life. Popular with runners for an early morning workout, the tracks are also suitable for cyclists. Access via Hamilton Gardens or Hamilton City.
• Various lengths

Mt Pirongia, Pirongia: Take an educational stroll along the Mangakara Nature Walk and picnic by the stream, or opt for an overnight excursion on the Tirohanga – Mahaukura round trip. Access via Grey Road, Pirongia Forest Park.
• Mangakara Nature Walk 1 hr return
• Bell Track 6-10 hrs one way
• Wharauroa and Mahaukura Lookout 2-3 hrs one way
• Overnight campsite and 20-bunk DoC hut available

Otorohanga Kiwiana Walk, Otorohanga: Celebrating all things NZ, the Otorohanga Kiwiana Walk is great for families. Access via main street, Otorohanga
• Featuring kiwiana from No.8 Wire to the pavlova and more

Mangapohue Natural Bridge, Waitomo: Impressive limestone formations and 17m high arch form the natural bridge. Access via Te Anga Road, Waitomo
• 20 minute loop track
• Spot the fossils in the limestone outcrops

Taitua Arboretum, Hamilton: Featuring lakes, woodland gardens, birdlife and ample picnic spots, all linked by a network of walking tracks, the arboretum is perfect for a leisurely weekend stroll, family picnic or more active outing.
• From Tills Lookout on Melva Street it’s 30 minutes one way to the arboretum
• Dogs permitted on leads

For more information on walking and hiking tracks in the Hamilton & Waikato region see: hamiltonwaikato.com/walking-hiking
Visit our Website

hamiltonwaikato.com provides comprehensive information on all the things to see and do in the Hamilton & Waikato region.

facebook.com/HamiltonWaikato
@HamiltonWaikato

Visit www.hamiltonwaikato.com for
- Accommodation Bookings • Transport Options • Activities
- Free Attractions • Places To Go • Museum Guide
- Must Dos • Events and so much more....

Useful Information

Emergency Calls: (Police, Fire, Ambulance): 111
24 Hour Medical Care: (Anglesea A & E): 07 858 0800 cnr Anglesea & Thackeray Street, Hamilton City

New Zealand Country Code: 0064
Hamilton & Waikato Area Code: 07 (when calling from a country other than NZ please remove the 0 i.e. 0064 7....)

Driving Guidelines: Always drive on the left-hand side of the road in New Zealand. Please stop and ensure there is no traffic coming in either direction before pulling out of intersections. For tips and guidelines on driving in NZ visit www.drivesafe.org.nz

PIRONGIA FOREST PARK

Stunning walks for the whole family - just 25 minutes from Hamilton City!

- **Hihikiwi Lookout** (3-4 hours - outstanding views)
- **New Pahautea Hut** for an overnight adventure
- **Karioi** (6 hours) - ancient volcano
- For easy strolling, explore the **Kaniwhaniwha Caves**
- Cycle the **Nikau Walk** and camp by the stream
- Be amazed on the **Mangakara Nature Walk**

Enjoy nature www.doc.govt.nz
What’s On - Events

The Hamilton & Waikato region has established itself as a leading events destination and this year’s line-up shows just why. From international sporting matches and expos, to live concerts and music festivals, they all contribute to an exciting events calendar. Check out some of the top events on now in the Hamilton & Waikato region below.

**Soundsplash**

With over 40 acts, sun, sand and surf on the agenda, Soundsplash is the epitome of a summer festival.

- **Wainui Reserve, Raglan**

**Festival One**

Festival One is a multi-day Christian festival, which brings together music, creative arts and culture to create a community atmosphere within the festival.

- **Mystery Creek Events Centre, Hamilton**

**Raglan Arts Weekend**

Around 30 artists will be exhibiting over the three days, showcasing an impressive range of painting, ceramics, photography, jewellery and wearable art.

- **Raglan**

**Kawhia Kai Festival**

The Kawhia traditional Māori kai festival is Kawhia’s biggest day. A genuine taste experience of Traditional Maori Kai from the sea and the land.

- **Kawhia**

**Mansfield Garden Party**

Think Great Gatsby: pack a picnic and dress in your best 1920’s costume and head along to the Rogers Rose Garden for a fun-filled day.

- **Hamilton Gardens, Hamilton**
What's on Hamilton & Waikato Region

**Blackcaps Cricket Matches**
Grab your friends and family to experience the stadium summer buzz, and cheer on the Blackcaps.

- Seddon Park, Hamilton

**Hamilton Garden Arts Festival**
The spectacular Hamilton Gardens will be abuzz with summer activity and entertainment during this iconic open-air summer festival.

- Hamilton Gardens

**Day in the Domain**
The annual Te Aroha Day in the Domain brings entertainment, food, and music together for a free family day out, with something to delight everyone.

- Te Aroha Domain

**Turangawaewae Regatta**
The annual Turangawaewae Regatta is a celebration of Māori Culture, waka ama (canoe racing) and the marae on the mighty Waikato River.

- Turangawaewae Marae, Ngaruawahia

**Huntly Half Marathon**
Grab your running shoes for one of NZ’s premier half marathon events, with four categories to enter, the Huntly Half is suitable for all levels of fitness.

- Riverview Road Reserve, Huntly

**Balloons over Waikato**
Looking skyward is likely to be rewarded during this premier ballooning festival which draws balloons, pilots and enthusiasts from around the world.

- Innes Common, Hamilton Lake

**Haka**
A showcase of Māori arts and crafts with interactive workshops, cultural performances, guided tours and traditional food.

- Hamilton Gardens, Hamilton

**Great New Zealand Muster**
In the best Kiwi tradition, Te Kuiti puts on a show, celebrating its unofficial status as the sheep shearing capital of the world.

- Te Kuiti

**Kihikihi Int. Horse Show**
One of NZ’s major equestrian events bringing together Australasia’s top eventing riders, live music, a trade and food village - something for everyone.

- Kihikihi Domain, Te Awamutu
What's on

**Hamilton & Waikato Region**

**14-17 JUN**

**Fieldays**

The National Agricultural Fieldays is the largest agricultural event in the Southern Hemisphere, with more than 1,000 exhibitors across 40 hectares.

**Mystery Creek Events Centre, Hamilton**

**30 JUL**

**Karioi Classic**

This 46km race takes participants around the stunning rugged west coast of Karioi Mountain and Raglan coastline including a gruelling 12km climb.

**Raglan**

**13-14 MAY**

**Great NZ Food Show**

Showcasing the best food, wine, delicious edibles, latest innovative products and includes cooking classes and cooking demos from celebrity chefs.

**Claudelands Event Centre, Hamilton**

**8 APR**

**The Generator**

Held along one of New Zealand’s great cycle trails, the Waikato River Trails, The Generator is a challenging multi-sport event for individuals or teams.

**Waikato River Trails, South Waikato**

**20 JUN**

**Chiefs v Lions**

Be there to support your team and experience the electric atmosphere when thousands of British & Irish Lions fans descend on FMG Stadium Waikato.

**FMG Stadium Waikato, Hamilton**

**5-6 AUG**

**Chrome Expression Session**

Want to just cruise around with your mates in an action packed day at Hampton Downs? Featuring Racing Sessions, Show & Shine, and much more!

**Hampton Downs Motorsport Park**

**AUG**

**Cambridge Half Marathon**

Lace up your running shoes and head to Cambridge for the 2017 Cambridge Half Marathon. The marathon takes in a mainly flat, mostly road course.

**Cambridge High School, Cambridge**

**21-30 APR**

**World Masters Games**

Rowing and cycling competitors, supporters and spectators will converge in Cambridge for part of the world’s largest multi-sport event.

**Cambridge**

**7-9 APR**

**Waikato Show**

A jam-packed event featuring animal competitions, arts and music displays, expos, a cultural village, sideshows, competitive displays and more.

**Claudelands Event Centre, Hamilton**

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**Cambridge High School, Cambridge**
What’s on

**Head of the Waikato**
World class river rowing as elite crews battle it out over a gruelling 4.2km upstream course through central Hamilton on the Waikato River.

- Waikato River

**Pirongia Craft Market**
Pirongia comes to life at the annual Craft Day. The main street is closed off and becomes a hive of activity with craft wares and live entertainment.

- Pirongia Main Street, Pirongia

**Waikato Home & Garden Show**
Showcasing the latest trends, ideas, products and services for home owners who are building, renovating, decorating or landscaping their homes.

- Claudelands Event Centre, Hamilton

**Hamilton Half Marathon**
Get out your running shoes and start training; the Hamilton Half Marathon is just around the corner, and is great, whether a pro or you want a challenge.

- Hamilton

**Equidays**
The equestrian rich Hamilton & Waikato region, hosts Equidays, covering all areas equine with exhibitions, demonstrations, clinics and training sessions.

- Mystery Creek Event Centre, Hamilton

**The Taniwha**
A multisport event with multiple categories across varying sections of the Waikato River Trails taking in the views of Lake Karapiro and Lake Arapuni.

- Waikato River Trails, Putaruru

**Rugby League World Cup**
4th - Samoa v Tonga | 11th - Kiwis v Tonga. Tournament hard hitters Samoa and Tonga compete for their spot in the quarterfinals.

- FMG Stadium Waikato, Hamilton

**Round the Bridges**
Great for all ages and levels of fitness this annual run is set to hit the pavement with on course musical entertainment, spot prizes, medals and trophies.

- Hamilton

**TriMāori Festival**
Festival challenges Māori and the wider community to get active and celebrate healthy living. Enjoy arts and crafts, kids’ activities, healthy food stalls.

- Claudelands Event Centre, Hamilton
Equidays

Balloons over Waikato, Hamilton
North Waikato

While you’re here

- Tackle the Hakarimata Summit track near Ngaruawahia: Over a thousand steps lead you to spectacular panoramic views over the stunning landscape
- Walk around Lake Hakanoa in Huntly: The easy flat 4km walkway is a popular family friendly trail with plenty of picturesque picnic spots
- Learn about one of New Zealand’s historic land wars: Visit the site of Rangiriri and learn about the cultural significance of the area
- Feed your need for speed: From V8 super cars, drag racing and drifting at Hampton Downs to the local speedway in Huntly
- Order an ice cream as big as your face in Pokeno: Well known for its huge ice creams and delicious local bacon, a visit to Pokeno is a must-do!

Steeped in cultural history and with stunning natural landscapes, the North Waikato area and town of Ngaruawahia is home to the Māori King and the Kiingitanga movement, with significant historical Waikato Land War sites throughout the area. The North Waikato’s rich mineral deposits also mean it’s a significant source of the nation’s power – first
with coal mining and now thermal power.

You can learn about the area’s rich history and visit the sites of the influential land wars by following the Waikato War Driving Tour, exploring the towns of Tuakau and Rangiriri, all with cultural and historical significance.

The roar of engines can be heard for miles, with key motorsport facilities in the North Waikato area regularly hosting events: from local speedways and drag racing tracks at Meremere to drifting and V8 supercars at Hampton Downs.

Those seeking a coastal escape can head west to where the mighty Waikato River meets the Tasman Sea at Port Waikato. This somewhat untouched slice of Kiwi paradise is popular with surfers, keen fishermen and holiday makers alike, offering a secluded escape, fresh seafood and great fishing spots. Those looking for gourmet delights will not be disappointed, with artisan producers of cheese, bacon and olive oil all calling the North Waikato area home, not to mention the fantastic local markets and huge ice creams found at Pokeno.

The North Waikato area also boasts many popular walking trails, from easy lakeside tracks to challenging full day hikes. Lake Puketirini, a former opencast mine, is now a popular spot for picnics and leisure activities for the family and the Hakarimata Ranges provide many options such as the Kauri Loop track and the Summit track with its popular stair climb.
Hampton Downs

Hampton Downs Rd, Te Kauwhata 09 280 6504 @ events@hamptondowns.com  hamptondowns.com

Hampton Downs is Australasia’s Premier Motorsport & Entertainment facility, central to both Auckland and Hamilton and home to NZ’s best international motorsports events, which feature throughout the year. Whether you’re looking for some exhilaration to add to your holiday or wanting to give your friends, customers or staff access to a range of unique and exciting experiences… look no further.

• Perfect conference destination offering a variety of function rooms, designed to cater for any size group and any style event
• Endless adrenaline fuelled options for fun, client entertainment and team building - guaranteed to make your people smile!
• Drive a V8 Muscle Car • Go Karts • Supercar Fast Dash - Lamborghini Huracan • Hampton High Speed Taxi • V8 Hot Laps • Driver Training

The Waikato War Driving Tour

Find the Waikato War Driving Tour, on our Heritage Trails App, by visiting: heritage.org.nz/apps

The 1863-64 Waikato War was a pivotal moment in New Zealand’s history. Maori united to protect their land and formed a resistance movement known as Te Kingitanga.

Download the app and listen to how this war unfolded, learn how the landscape changed, and relive the events at these sites.
Tuakau Hotel
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Let the award winning Tuakau Hotel look after your dining, entertainment, accommodation, wedding and function needs. Within 1 hour drive of Auckland and Hamilton, close to SH 1 & 2. A great stopover or weekend getaway location close to the Waikato River and easy drive to beaches on either coast. Hotel and self-contained accommodation. Bookings recommended for Elsie’s Restaurant. We look forward to welcoming you.

Mercer Airport & Backpackers
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09 232 6767 info@mercerhotel.co.nz
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Home to Mercer Hotel Backpackers, Dome Café, and aviation activities such as Flight Training, and Model Aircraft. Easily accessible from SH1 at Mercer or SH2 at Mangatawhiri.
The recently refurbished 30 bed backpackers in the historic Mercer Hotel also offers power for campervans. The café opens for summer.

Adventure Waikato
695 Waikorea Valley Road, Matira, NW Waikato
07 825 4515 adventurewaikato.co.nz
Extraordinary adventures all on one property! OutdoorsMark Certified.

Nikau Cave and Cafe
1770 Waikaretu Valley Road, Waikaretu
09 233 3199 nikaucave.co.nz
“Spectacular...incredible...authentic...so much fun!” - Trip Advisor

Huntly i-SITE Visitor Information Centre
156 Great South Road, Huntly
07 828 6406 info@waikatodistrict.co.nz waikatodistrict.govt.nz
The first visitor centre heading south after the International Airport. We are the local tourism experts in the Waikato District!
While you’re here

- Wander through the stunning Hamilton Gardens: The international award-winning gardens are a ‘must do’ and the perfect place to spend a day
- Visit an art gallery or museum: A thriving arts and cultural scene is on display at the various boutique galleries and museums
- Wine (or beer!) and dine: Choose from the many award-winning eateries and craft breweries with something to suit all tastes
- Do the Time Warp: Check out the life-size statue of Rocky Horror Picture Show creator and Hamilton native, Richard O’Brien dressed as iconic character Riff Raff
- Take the kids for a gentle cycle or walk along the mighty Waikato River: Peaceful views and tranquil picnic spots are aplenty along the river paths

Hamilton is a thriving hub of activity, centrally located in the Waikato region making it the perfect base to explore the central North Island.

Just an hour and a half south of Auckland, it’s the nation’s fourth largest city. An expanding list of award-winning eateries and artisan producers of honey, bread,
pure oolong tea, cheese, ice cream and more, is quickly putting Hamilton on the map as a national foodie hotspot, offering a tantalising range of gourmet experiences. Shopaholics are also spoilt for choice, from boutique fashion and gifts, quirky laneways with the latest trends, homewares and art, to large shopping complexes, including The Base, the largest shopping centre in New Zealand.

Hamilton’s thriving arts scene, along with local, national and international events highlight the cultural and creative diversity of the city.

From sporting events, theatrical performances, large-scale concerts, the annual iconic Balloons over Waikato hot air balloon festival, New Zealand National Agricultural Fieldays and the Hamilton Gardens Arts Festival, Hamilton’s event calendar is bursting with reasons to stay and play.

Outdoor enthusiasts can find plenty to do, from a scenic cruise on the Waikato River, a hot air balloon ride over the city, a stroll or cycle along the river side or exploring the award-winning Hamilton Gardens. There’s plenty for families to do too, with everything from playgrounds to tenpin bowling and top attractions such as Hamilton Zoo, interactive kids exhibitions at Waikato Museum and more.
Welcome to Hamilton

Get the most out of our city, region and country! The friendly team at Hamilton i-SITE can help you with:

- Tours, trips and itinerary planning
- Local and nationwide bookings: Accommodation, transport (trains, buses, ferries), attractions and activities
- Free travel guides and maps
- Event ticketing
- Local information: The best places to stay, eat, shop and explore
- Advice for living, working and playing in Hamilton

Visit us:
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0800 Hamilton (4264 5866)
Email us:
info@visithamilton.co.nz

www.visithamilton.co.nz
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To find out more about our current art, science, tangata whenua and history exhibitions and events, visit our website.

Waikato Museum
TE WHARE TAONGA O WAIKATO

Open daily March - October 10am-4.30pm, November - February 10am-5pm
Free entry 1 Grantham Street Hamilton waikatomuseum.co.nz
GUIDED TOURS
11am daily, October to March
Adults $15, 50% discount with this advertisement
Picnic baskets available
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@emailinfo@hcc.govt.nz 🌐 hamiltonzoo.co.nz

Hamilton Zoo is home to over 600 native and exotic animals, featuring large enclosures, beautiful walkways and tranquil surroundings.

Catch free zookeeper talks to learn about the characters and personalities of our animals and their feeding and enrichment. For more, go behind the scenes on a Face2Face encounter to meet our lemurs, southern white rhinos, siamang or cheetah.

Bring a picnic and dine al fresco or use the café onsite. Hamilton Zoo is open 9am to 5pm daily (except Christmas Day).

Last admission 3.30pm.

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Classics Museum

11 Railside Place, Hamilton ☎️ 07 957 2230 | 07 846 2260 Diner
@emailinfo@classicsmuseum.co.nz 🌐 classicsmuseum.co.nz

Something classic for the whole family. Have a look at the cars of yesteryear which are sure to bring back memories.

Our collection encompasses a range of interests including an extensive collection of petrol memorabilia. The Jukebox Diner is onsite, a 1950s styled diner serving some American favourites as well as a variety of delicious menu and cabinet options. Open weekdays from 8-3 and weekends 9-4.

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Kiwi Balloon Company

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The River Jetty, Hamilton Gardens
0800 1EXPLORER (139 756)
or 0272 397 567
info@waikatoexplorer.co.nz
waikatoexplorer.co.nz

Experience the unique beauty and tranquil waters of the Waikato River when you travel through the heart of the region on the Waikato River Explorer.

Enjoy a relaxing scenic cruise, lunch at a country cafe or charter the whole vessel for a private or corporate function. The Waikato River Explorer has a fully licensed bar and a range of cafe menu options available.

Leap Indoor Trampoline Park & Megazone Laser Games

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Open: Mon-Thur 9-5pm, Fri 9-5.30pm, Sat 10-4.30pm, Sun 10-4pm.

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See and hear how our beers are made
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Come on a pilgrimage to the Old St George’s Church where all of our beer is made. We’ll walk you through the brewing process and show you how we do it, with a few surprises along the way!

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☎ 07 855 1400  info@smithandmckenzie.co.nz
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Your local steak and function specialist.

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voie Hamilton Lake Domain,
off Ruakiwi Rd, Hamilton
☎ 07 838 9975 Cafe - Open 7 Days
☎ 07 838 0692 For event enquiries
✉ info@theverandah.co.nz
 theverandah.co.nz
The Verandah Café & Function Centre is situated at the entrance to the Hamilton Lake. The Verandah offers a range of services from café dining with the family through to ice creams at the popular Lakeside Kiosk and boasts a magnificent waterside setting which includes children’s playgrounds, picnic spaces, canoeing and sailing.

Accommodation

Sudima Hamilton
voie 287 Victoria Street, Hamilton
☎ 07 839 4993 or 0800 SUDIMA (783 462)
✉ reservations@sudimahamilton.co.nz  sudimahotels.com
This Qualmark 3 star hotel is ideally located in the CBD adjacent to SkyCity Casino, 5 minutes drive to Claudelands Events Centre and within walking distance of many restaurants, pubs, cafes and shops. The hotel is housed in an iconic 1876 historic building, offering 69 well appointed rooms with a variety of room types and configurations and has received a recent refurbishment with the addition of modern furniture and fittings across all accommodation rooms and public service areas. The hotel features onsite parking, wireless internet access, ensuite, kitchenettes in some rooms, laundry facilities and 24 hour guest services. Sudima Hamilton is just right for all styles of travellers and budgets. Quote HWT2017 for a complimentary upgrade, subject to availability.
Experience the exceptional comfort and great value of Novotel and ibis Tainui Hamilton, located on the banks of the Waikato River.

Both hotels are located in the city centre and offer two restaurants, bars, conference facilities, fully equipped gymnasium, sauna and spa complex with massage therapies.

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Tel (07) 838 1366

ibis Tainui Hamilton
18 Alma Street, Hamilton
Tel (07) 859 9200

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The central North Island gateway, Hamilton Airport is conveniently located 15 minutes from Hamilton, 40 minutes to Hobbiton and 55 minutes from Waitomo. Services include daily domestic flights to and from most New Zealand destinations, helicopter flights and the ability to cater for international charter flights.

The fully licensed café provides barista quality coffee and delicious food. Onsite catering and room hire is available for functions or business meetings. The airport store carries a wide range of books and travel essentials. With several rental car agencies, shuttle and taxi services as well as an online car park booking system, Hamilton Airport has a welcoming, spacious terminal and is the perfect place to start or finish your travels.

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bookings@kiwirailscenic.co.nz  kiwirailscenic.co.nz
A remarkable train journey between Auckland and Wellington, with stops at Hamilton and Otorohanga in the Waikato. Experience stunning scenery as you travel in world class scenic carriages. The Northern Explorer operates a 6-day timetable travelling southbound on Monday, Thursday & Saturday, and northbound on Tuesday, Friday and Sunday.

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Visit our one stop shop for all local and national information and bookings, event ticketing, itinerary planning and much more!
Kayaking the mighty Waikato River
While you’re here

- Cruise the Raglan harbour at sunset: A scenic cruise during the summer months on the harbour is a must-do, complete with fresh fish’n’chips
- Visit Raglan Museum: Learn about the story of Raglan (Whaingaroa) and its history as a surfing mecca
- Learn to surf: Popular with both novices and those wanting to hone their skills in this iconic surf destination
- Take a scenic walk: Get out and about and explore the many walkways and scenery including Bridal Veil Falls and Mt Karioi
- Follow the art trail: Visit the numerous studios and galleries of the artists who call Raglan home

Discover a real slice of Kiwi paradise in the west coast town of Raglan (Whaingaroa). Boasting one of the longest left-hand surf breaks in the world and a relaxed bohemian vibe, Raglan is popular with locals and visitors alike. Many are drawn to Raglan for the famous surf conditions as seen in the iconic cult classic surfing movie ‘The Endless Summer’.

Originally known as Whaingaroa (The Long Pursuit), Raglan is a surfing mecca that is quickly gaining popularity for other water activities. Relax on the black sand beaches or try stand-up-paddle boarding or kayaking in...
the Raglan harbour or head out to the limestone formations at Te Akau or Okete Falls. For serious surfers, head to Whale Bay, Manu Bay or ask a friendly local for the best spot to find those famous breaks. Adventurous types will love the guided rock climbing or canyoning trips through the lush landscapes and waterways of Mt Karioi.

There is also plenty to do off the water in Raglan, with many walks to choose from such as hiking up Mt Karioi or the popular Heritage Trail. Get out in the countryside and bike up to the Te Uku Wind Farm’s giant wind turbines or take a guided scenic motorbike tour along the roads of the rugged coastline. Families will love sliding down the sand dunes at Ruapuke, enjoying the playgrounds in the Raglan Domain and discovering hidden rock pools and capturing crabs at Ocean Beach. Browse the main town centre for the range of surf shops, boutique arts, crafts, gifts and homewares.

Great eateries are also a Raglan highlight, with local produce, bakeries, markets and the Kiwi classic fresh fish’n’chips straight off the wharf all on offer. A thriving events calendar sees regular local gigs featuring popular NZ and international musicians, art weekends, music festivals and more come to town. Raglan’s flourishing arts scene, displayed in its many studios, art galleries and the Arts Trail also adds to the mix, making Raglan the ideal location for a laidback beachside escape.

There is an eco-friendly feel in Raglan with a collective of boutique accommodation properties, tourism businesses and food producers focusing on the environmental care of this unique area.
Raglan’s Mountain Bike Park
- raglanoceantrails.co.nz
  for trail map and directions.
Experience Te Ara Kakāriki, New Zealand’s newest coastal mountain bike park overlooking the Tasman Sea.
The trails wind through pristine pine forest and coastal farmland.
The park consists of a range of custom built world-class mountain bike trails, with options for all skill levels, from beginners to advanced riders.
Located within Raglan’s Wainui Reserve and free to access.
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  - info@raglansurfemporium.com
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Raglan Surfing School
- 07 825 SURF
  - raglansurfingschool.co.nz

Raglan & District Museum
- 15 Wainui Rd, Raglan
  - 07 825 8925
  - raglanmuseum.co.nz
Explore the stories of Raglan Whaingaroa. Open 7 days.

Wahinemoe Harbour Scenic Cruises
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Sunset Fish and Chip Dinner Cruise Special! Group Tours also available.

Raglan Rock
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Accommodation

Raglan Kopua Holiday Park
📍 61 Marine Parade, Raglan
☎ 07 825 8283
✉ stay@raglanholidaypark.co.nz  📧 raglanholidaypark.co.nz
Almost entirely surrounded by water and just a 2 minute walk to the beach, Raglan Kopua Holiday Park offers tent, campervan or caravan sites, backpackers, cabins and motel unit accommodation so look no further. We have internet access, a great outdoor dining area, a children’s playground with walks and Raglan township nearby.

Solscape Eco Retreat
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✉ info@solscape.co.nz  📧 solscape.co.nz
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Raglan Palm Beach Motel
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Raglan i-SITE Visitor Information Centre
📍 13 Wainui Road, Raglan  ☎ 07 825 0556
✉ info@raglan.org.nz  📧 raglan.org.nz
Visit us first, we offer expert knowledge on the local area and advice on all your accommodation and activity requirements.
Morrinsville & Te Aroha

While you’re here

- Follow the trail of colourful life-sized cow sculptures through Morrinsville: The ‘Herd of Cows?’ is a quirky and colourful art installation with ‘cows’ in and around the town.
- Te Aroha Mineral Spas: Relax in the silky smooth mineral water spas or indulge in luxurious spa treatments
- Explore the many galleries and museums: Wallace Art Gallery in Morrinsville and Adrian Worsley Gallery in Te Aroha
- Ride your way through the region: The historic Hauraki Rail Trail, iconic Mt Te Aroha trails or Te Miro Mountain Bike Park are all on offer
- Visit Café Frock and Mini Boutique in Morrinsville: NZ Fashion Designer Annah Stretton offers home-grown fare and the latest designer clothing and apparel

The towns of Morrinsville and Te Aroha are rich in history, each with their own unique stories to tell and attractions to see. From quirky art installations and galleries, to gold mining heritage and world renowned health-giving natural spas and wellness retreats, they have it all. A rich dairying area,
Morrinsville is known as the ‘Cream of the Country’ and celebrates its dairy history in the colourful life-size ‘Herd of Cows?’ art installations found around town. Follow the heritage trail, visit the Museum and a number of local and national exhibitions on display at the nationally significant Wallace Gallery. Fashion designer Annah Stretton also calls Morrinsville home, with her boutique and onsite café based in the township. In the north-east of the Waikato region is the Edwardian spa town of Te Aroha, renowned for its therapeutic mineral spas and the world’s only hot water soda geyser, the Mokena Geyser. Te Aroha prospered during the goldrush days with the area’s rich mining heritage now on show at the Te Aroha Museum and walks such as the Waiorongomai Valley providing a unique insight with artefacts and relics. Mt Te Aroha stands tall over the township, providing a variety of hiking trails with spectacular views and mountain biking trails along the base of the mountain. Te Aroha provides the perfect base for those cycling the Hauraki Rail Trail, where riders can start or finish in Te Aroha, as they explore the 82kms of trail on offer. After an active day, relax, and soothe tired muscles in the Te Aroha Mineral Spas which are renowned for their health-giving properties.
Herd of Cows? - Morrinsville Street Art

Morrinsville i-SITE, 251 Thames Street, Morrinsville
07 889 5575  morrinsville.info@xtra.co.nz
morrinsvillenz.co.nz | herdofcowsmorrinsville.co.nz

Open 8.30am-4.30pm (Mon-Fri) 10.00am-2.00pm (Weekends/Public Holidays). ‘Herd of Cows?’ Morrinsville Street Art, a collection of 42 life-sized cow sculptures throughout the town showing the history and heritage of Morrinsville (Cream of the Country). Take the journey and discover the trail of stunning cows throughout our vibrant community. Our dream is to put smiles on the faces of everyone who walk the streets of Morrinsville. Discover the unique ‘Herd of Cows?’ and learn about the local businesses and families who have worked together with our New Zealand artists to create these iconic pieces of art. Contact our friendly team at the Morrinsville i-SITE to arrange a ‘Personalised Cow Tour’ (to suit individuals or large groups) or call in to get your ‘Herd of Cows?’ trail map. ‘Herd of Cows?’ merchandise also available.

Visit Morrinsville - Arts

167 Thames Street, Morrinsville
07 889 7791
info@morrinsvillegallery.org.nz
morrinsvillegallery.org.nz

The Wallace Gallery Morrinsville is borne out of passion and community vision: a contemporary gallery with five unique spaces that showcases New Zealand art and artists, alongside artworks from the most comprehensive collection of contemporary New Zealand art of the James Wallace Arts Trust. An ideal venue to hold events, to be inspired and for educating young and old. Open 10-4 Tues-Sun.

Visit Morrinsville Museum

41 Canada Street, Morrinsville
07 889 4190
info@morrinsvilleheritagecentre.org.nz
morrinsvilleheritagecentre.org.nz

The Morrinsville Museum is a purpose built Museum encompassing dairy, soldier settlement, educational and medical displays.
Walk through the 1873 McDonald Cottage for a look back in time and take a glance at ‘Our Fallen Serviceman’ memorial wall. Ask to view ‘The Green Circle’ film on the dairying through the years.
Te Aroha Mineral Spas
 Te Aroha Domain, off Broadway Street, Te Aroha 07 884 8717
◼ tearohamineralspas.co.nz
◼ tearohamineralspas

Nestled in the beautiful Domain at the foot of Mount Te Aroha is the Te Aroha Mineral Spas. Silky smooth mineral water flows straight from the only hot soda geyser in the Southern Hemisphere. Renowned for its healing properties since the 1800's, Te Aroha Mineral Spas is the perfect place to escape your busy lifestyle. All of our spas are private, with an ensuite and changing area for ultimate comfort and relaxation. Open 7 days. Bookings are essential.
For health and safety reasons we require a minimum of two adults per spa booking.

The Nunnery
 Cnr Burgess & Koromiko Street, Te Aroha 0800 119 022 thenunnery.co.nz
An accommodation option with a difference in historic Te Aroha.

Loxy&Co eatery
 292 Thames Street, Morrinsville 07 8894066
Cafe Open 7 days a week - 7.30am - 3pm.
Fully Licensed. Cafe | Out Catering | Private Functions | Wedding Catering

Te Aroha i-SITE Visitor Information Centre
 102 Whitaker St, Te Aroha 07 884 8052
@ info@tearohanz.co.nz ◼ tearohanz.co.nz
Visit Te Aroha for cool bush walks and hot pools. See us for maps, guides and a FREE booking service.

Morrinsville i-SITE Visitor Information Centre
 251 Thames Street, Morrinsville 07 889 5575
@ morrinsville.info@xtra.co.nz ◼ morrinsvillenz.co.nz
Morrinsville ‘Cream of the Country’ - visit our friendly rural town and discover what the locals already know!
Matamata

While you’re here

- Explore Middle-earth: Hobbiton Movie Set has to be seen to be believed, with incredible attention to detail and first-hand insights into how the set was created and what went into the filming of the award-winning trilogies.

- Tackle the tallest waterfall in the North Island: Hike to the viewing platform or to the very top of the stunning Wairere Falls in the Kaimai Ranges.

- Soak in the naturally heated mineral pools: Opal Hot Springs private outdoor mineral pool is a relaxing place to soak after a day exploring the region.

- Sample some specialty fresh milk cheeses: From heavenly feta to some award-winning bocconcini, the Kaimai Cheese Company’s cafe is the perfect place to stop.

- Explore and learn about the rich history of the buildings, places and people: Firth Tower Museum and heritage trails are steeped in history.

You know you’re in Matamata when you see the aptly themed i-SITE Gatehouse on the main street reminding you - you’ve entered Middle-earth territory. From movie magic and great walking trails, to a rich thoroughbred history, the town of Matamata has
plenty of hidden gems to discover.

With the perfect combination of hillsides and plains, Matamata - meaning ‘headland’ in Māori, has its rural roots in the equine and dairy industries and is home to the nearby Hobbiton Movie Set. The set remains as it was during filming for ‘The Lord of the Rings’ and ‘The Hobbit’ trilogies and visitors can take a guided tour through the purpose-built, permanent movie set and enjoy exclusive Southfarthing beverages and local fare at The Green Dragon Inn.

Set in the shadow of the Kaimai Ranges, the area’s diverse range of natural scenery means there’s plenty of local treasures and walkways to uncover, including the Wairere Falls with stunning views across the Waikato plains. Meanwhile, the Opal Hot Springs, next to the town’s 18-hole golf course, add to the region’s many opportunities for a soak or swim in naturally heated waters.

Back in town, Matamata’s cafés on the main street are popular local meeting spots while artisan producers can be found in the surrounding area. The many grand trees give the town centre a distinctive appeal and the iconic Firth Tower Museum in its park-like setting provides an insight into the area’s pioneering history.
Step into the magical world of Hobbiton™

Experience the real Middle-earth™ at the Hobbiton™ Movie Set from The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit Film Trilogies.

See Hobbit Holes™ and enjoy a beverage at The Green Dragon™ Inn during a fully guided tour.

Tours leave daily from Shire’s Rest™ Cafe, 501 Buckland Rd, Hinuera, Matamata Information Centre or Hobbiton Movie Set Shop, Rotorua

07 888 1505 | 0508 4 HOBBITON
www.hobbitontours.com
Matamata i-SITE Visitor Information Centre
45 Broadway, Matamata 07 888 7260
to info@matamatz.co.nz

Offering expert knowledge on the local area and advice on all your accommodation and activity requirements. Visit us first.
Cambridge

While you’re here

- Explore Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari: The vibrant, pest-free ancient forest, alive with native wildlife
- Hop on your bike - or hire one! Known as ‘Cycling Central’, Cambridge is unique in that it offers something for everyone: Great track cycling, the best in mountain bike, track and BMX and a network of over 650kms of road trails
- Venture into real rural Waikato: Take a guided tour of a working dairy farm, deer stud farm, or see some of New Zealand’s finest thoroughbred horse studs
- Get out on the water: Go paddle boarding or kayaking on Lake Karapiro or try jet boating on the mighty Waikato River
- Take some real retail therapy: Boutique shopping, antiques, art, designer fashions and unique homewares

In the heart of rural Waikato is the picture-perfect town of Cambridge. Characterised by quaint “Old English” charm and leafy oak tree-lined streets, Cambridge is steeped in history and has much to celebrate. With a long standing history of thoroughbred horse racing and high performance sport, Cambridge boasts multiple Melbourne Cup champion racehorses and many rowing, cycling and equestrian Olympic medallists, earning the town
the unofficial title of ‘Home of Champions’. Cambridge is also fast becoming New Zealand’s ‘Cycling Central’. It offers the best of track cycling at the Avantidrome, a network of top road cycle trails, including the Te Awa River Ride, the Te Miro Mountain Bike Park and an international BMX track.

Close by, Lake Karapiro, created by the Karapiro Hydro dam on the Waikato River, provides great kayaking, stand-up paddle-boarding, fishing and boating options, while those seeking adventure can experience the thrill of jet boating further downstream.

You will love the choice of chic cafes and restaurants, boutique shopping, characterful heritage and art trails around the town centre. A wander through the main street will spoil you for choice with everything from gourmet producers and artisan delis, to art galleries, giftware emporiums and designer outlets – and the weekly farmers market is a favourite among locals and visitors alike offering the best of local produce in the heart of the town.
Te Awa Cycleway, Lake Karapiro, Cambridge
THE GREATEST CYCLING DESTINATION IN NEW ZEALAND!

Download interactive GPX files at www.cambridge.co.nz

P: 07 823 3456   E: info@cambridge.co.nz
Mighty River Domain - Lake Karapiro

601 Maungatautari Rd, RD2, Cambridge  ☏ 07 827 4178
info@lakekarapiro.co.nz  lakekarapiro.co.nz

On the banks of Lake Karapiro is Mighty River Domain that offers stunning lake views spread over a spacious 19 hectare recreational reserve, located just 7 kilometres from central Cambridge, minutes from SH1.

Offering two camp grounds with lake views the domain is home to many events throughout the year. See the national waka ama sprint races, a triathlon, cycling, classic cars, hydroplanes or a national rowing regatta.

Home to many famous gold medallist rowers, Lake Karapiro is the perfect destination for families who enjoy boating and swimming. Located on the national Te Awa cycling/walking pathway there are numerous short walks or paths for joggers or cyclists.

Stay at Mighty River Domain to visit world famous Sanctuary Mountain, Hobbiton Movie Set, with Hamilton, Rotorua, Waitomo and Raglan all within an hours drive.

Avantidrome

15 Hanlin Road, (SH1), Cambridge  ☏ 07 823 1421
hoc.administrator@homeofcycling.co.nz  avantidrome.co.nz

The Avantidrome is located in the heart of the Waipa, “Home of Champions” territory. This world class facility offers a 250m wooden indoor cycling velodrome, the outdoor Gallagher Bike Skills Park, Avantidrome Tours, one of a kind function rooms, The Bikery Cafe, and is host to a range of high performance sports.

There’s something for everyone at the Avantidrome; from beginner to experienced cyclists - our Have a Go session gets you on the track to try it out for yourself, coffee connoisseurs, watching top New Zealand athletes in action or being taken on a guided tour of our impressive facility. It’s worth stopping in as you drive past!
Sanctuary Mountain
Maungatautari

99 Tari Road, Pukeatua 3880
07 870 5180
info@santuarymountain.co.nz
santuarymountain.co.nz

Experience an ancient, vibrant and pest free forest, surrounded by a 47km fence, making it the largest mainland fenced sanctuary in New Zealand.

- Guided and self-guided bush walks
- Endangered species
- Ancient forest with viewing tower
- Visitor Centre open 7 days
- Central Waikato location

Cambridge Dairy Farm Tour

07 823 3456
info@cambridge.co.nz
cambridge.co.nz

From pasture to the milk factory, the Waikato Dairy Story. Experience a working farm and the story behind our white gold.

Cafe IrresistibleBlue at Monavale Blueberries

156 Turkington Road, Monavale, Cambridge
07 834 3501
cafeirresistibleblue.co.nz


Camjet Cambridge Jet Boat Tours

Riverside Park, Dominion Ave, Cambridge
0800CAMJET or 027 775 8193
camjet2011@gmail.com
camjet.co.nz

Extreme Jet or slower Ecological Tours available!

Waikato Thoroughbred Stud Tours

022 600 5783
pete@nzoutdoorexperiences.co.nz
nzoutdoorexperiences.co.nz

Tailored tours to some of New Zealand’s finest studs.

Cambridge Deer Stud Tour

07 823 3456
info@cambridge.co.nz
cambridge.co.nz

Breeding the best for world markets. An exciting visit to a premier deer stud farm - an introduction to this vibrant global industry.

Good Union

98 Victoria Street, Cambridge
07 834 4040
ask@goodunion.co.nz
goodunion.co.nz

Good Union is a place where good people come together over good food and good local beer and cider. We partner with local produce vendors and Good George Brewing to bring the freshest ingredients to the table and pour the best craft beer in your glass.
Bike and Helmet Hire & Cycle Tours

Phone: 07 823 3456 ➤ info@cambridge.co.nz
Web: cambridge.co.nz

Over 650kms of local rural road trails. Avanti bikes for all sizes. Guides and Trail Maps for groups available.

Heritage Gallery

Address: 85a Victoria Street, Cambridge
Phone: 07 827 4346 ➤ sandra@heritagegallery.co.nz
Web: heritagegallery.co.nz

Gifts for home and overseas, New Zealand-made.

Inspirit Studio & Gallery

Address: 360 Pencarrow Road, Tamahere, Hamilton
Phone: 07 856 3170 ➤ jenny@inspirit.co.nz
Web: inspirit.co.nz

Spacious gallery and sculpture garden in stunning rural setting.

Lake District Adventures - Cycling

Phone: 0800 287 448 ➤ lakedistrictadventures.co.nz
Email: info@lakedistrictadventures.co.nz
Web: lakedistrictadventures.co.nz

Mountain Bike Hire and Shuttle service on the Waikato River Trails and surrounding areas.

Lake District Adventures - Kayaking

Phone: 0800 287 448 ➤ lakedistrictadventures.co.nz
Email: info@lakedistrictadventures.co.nz
Web: lakedistrictadventures.co.nz

Guided Kayak Glow Worm Tours, Kayak and Sup hire on the southern end of Lake Karapiro.

Rouge

Address: 11 Empire Street, Cambridge
Phone: 823 9178
Web: rougeempire.co.nz ➤ RougeCambridge

Rouge - Food, Wine, Espresso. Open 7 days from 7.30am-4pm

The Bikery Café at the Avantidrome

Phone: +64 7 282 0015 ➤ team@thebikerycafe.co.nz
Web: thebikerycafe.co.nz

Open 7 days. Find your balance and check out the unique atmosphere delicious food & amazing coffee.

Te Awa - The Great NZ River Ride

Phone: 07 834 1925 ➤ Te-awa.org.nz
Web: TeAwaTheGreatNZRiverRide

Te Awa Cycleway offers stunning views of Waikato River, it’s a fun, easy ride for the whole family.
Accommodation

Hamilton Airport Hotel
Airport Road, Hamilton
โทร. 0800 10 66 79 ห้องพักที่เว็บไซต์ hamiltonairporthotel.co.nz
ให้บริการอยู่ใกล้สนามบินฮัมเบิร์ก.

73 Milton Accommodation
โทร. 07 823 7275 รายละเอียดที่เว็บไซต์ reservations@73milton.co.nz
เว็บไซต์ 73milton.co.nz
ผ่อนคลายด้วยแก้วไวน์ แช่ในสระว่ายน้ำเกลือ ที่พักของคุณรออยู่.

Ravenswood Manor
352 Lake View Drive, Karapiro, Cambridge
โทร. 021 977 489 รายละเอียดที่เว็บไซต์ caro@caroandco.co.nz
เว็บไซต์ ravenswoodmanor.co.nz
ที่พักหรูหราบนทะเลสาบคาราปิโอ.

Huntington Stables Retreat
โทร. 07 823 4136 หรือ 022 1629161 รายละเอียดที่เว็บไซต์ hunt.stables@xtra.co.nz ห้องพักหรูหราที่อยู่ห่างห้านาทีจากเมืองศูนย์กลาง.

Colonial Court Motel
โทร. 0800 525 352 หรือ 07 827 5244 รายละเอียดที่เว็บไซต์ info@colonialcourt.co.nz
เว็บไซต์ colonialcourt.co.nz
15 ห้องพักที่เงียบสงบบนฝั่งใต้ของหมู่บ้าน.

Bike Hike Stay | Pickering Rd BnB
296b Pickering Road, RD3, Hamilton
โทร. 07 827 8832 หรือ 027 255 7225 รายละเอียดที่เว็บไซต์ bikehikestay.co.nz
ให้บริการเช่าจักรยาน ขับรถและ BnB ที่ใกล้กับที่พักที่ดีที่สุด.

Cambridge i-SITE Visitor Information Centre
ณ แคร์นีควีนและวิคเตอรีียัส คริมฟิลด์
โทร. 07 823 3456 รายละเอียดที่เว็บไซต์ info@cambridge.co.nz เว็บไซต์ cambridge.co.nz
สำหรับทุกการท่องเที่ยวในศูนย์การท่องเที่ยว ปรึกษากับทีมที่ i-SITE.
Te Awamutu

While you’re here

• Pirongia Village and Mountain: Discover the range of great walking and cycling trails on offer
• Visit Lake Serpentine: The National Wetlands Centre is the perfect place to see the plants and wildlife of this unique environment
• Meander through the lavender farms: Lavendar farms in the area produce a range of boutique lavender products with the grounds particularly picturesque in November to January
• Get close to nature: Take a guided tour at Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari and explore the native ancient forest
• Pick your own fresh blueberries: Blueberry Country offers a chance to pick your berries straight from the bush from December to March

Known as “the town of roses” and surrounded by rich farmland, Te Awamutu is a significant contributor to the region’s prosperous dairy industry and is home to one of the largest producers of Manuka honey-based health products in the country. Walking enthusiasts will enjoy the many walking trails on offer around the township, such as the
Lake Ngaroto wetland, the native bush-clad mountains of Pirongia, the nearby Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari, and many more. Just south of Te Awamutu is the small town of Kihikihi, known for its speedway and polo grounds, which hosts events such as the Kihikihi International Horse Trial each year. The award-winning Viands Bakery in the main street is a must-stop for hungry travellers passing through looking for a bite to eat.

The area has a rich history, with several significant Waikato War sites including one of the most famous at Orakau just outside Kihikihi. The Te Awamutu Museum provides an insight into the area’s history and people, showcasing stories and important taonga (treasure) of the Tainui people, as well as regular local exhibitions.

For the food-lovers, Te Awamutu’s cafés and delis are ideal for a lazy lunch while the regular farmer’s markets provide the perfect opportunity to sample some of the locally grown produce. The area also offers many unique experiences including the chance to visit a lavender farm. Pirongia hosts the annual Pirongia Craft Market with upwards of 7,000 visitors flocking to the village each year and is known for its quaint galleries, cafés, the ever-popular Pirongia Boxing Day Races, and the magnificent Pirongia Clydesdales. The Te Awamutu area also encompasses a variety of great golf clubs such as the Pirongia and Ngahinapouri clubs, which rest beneath Pirongia Mountain.
Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari
- 99 Tari Road, Pukeatu 3880  07 870 5180
@ info@sanctuarymountain.co.nz  sanctuarymountain.co.nz

Come and experience for yourself the New Zealand environment the way it used to be – an ancient, vibrant pest-free forest alive with native wildlife including many of New Zealand’s rarest endangered plants, insects, tuatara and birds like the takahē, kiwi and kaka. Step through the 47km long pest-proof fence into another world, where an ancient forest towers majestically above well maintained walking tracks and the air is filled with birdsong. As the largest mainland fenced sanctuary in New Zealand we offer a variety of experiences like guided tours and bush walks, a viewing tower, tuatarium and a wetland experience.

Te Awamutu Museum
- 135 Roche Street, Te Awamutu  07 872 0085
@ museum@waipadc.govt.nz  tamuseum.org.nz

Come and explore our unique history. Situated in the heart of the Waikato-Tainui tribes, the Te Awamutu Museum houses the oldest Maori artefact – Uenuku. It’s main historical exhibit, Waipa – Ngā Taonga Tuku iho showcases treasured moments in Waipa history. Check out the fascinating local historical objects and explore the local ecosystems in the other permanent galleries. Open Mon-Fri 10am-4pm, Sat & Public Holidays 10am-2pm.

Treechurch
- 119 West Road  0276 903 105
@ bjcox@xtra.co.nz  treechurch.co.nz
The man who grew a church from trees. Open October to May Sundays and Tuesdays 10am-4pm.

Alphra Lavender - Free Attraction
- 169 Brotherhood Rd, Te Awamutu  07 870 3212
lavendergreen.co.nz
Share our passion - NZ home of essential Lavender oil. Open Wed-Sun 10.30-4pm.
Accommodation

Out in the Styx Guesthouse

- 2117 Arapuni Rd, Pukeatua  0800 461 559 or 07 872 4505  info@styx.co.nz  styx.co.nz
- Adjoining Sanctuary Mountain and Waikato River Trail, drop off available, spa, dinner.

Strathallan Bed & Breakfast

- 184 Parklands Road, Te Awamutu  07 870 6666 or 0274 966 299  strathallan14@gmail.com  strathallanbnb.com
- New farmstay between Cambridge and Te Awamutu.

R & R 4 U

- 170 Te Kawa Road  jewels.r@clear.net.nz  027 223 2334 or 07 871 1724
- Central to Te Awamutu, Cambridge and Waitomo. Sleeps 3.

Te Awamutu i-SITE Visitor Information Centre

- 1 Gorst Avenue, Te Awamutu  teawamutuinfo.co.nz  07 871 3259  consultant@teawamutuinfo.co.nz
- You can’t beat ‘Local Expert Knowledge’. Te Awamutu, Pironga, Kihikihi and Ohaupo, that’s our patch.
Waitomo and Surrounds

While you're here

- Head underground for a caving adventure in Waitomo: From adrenaline-fuelled fun to a gentle journey, there’s something for everyone
- See a Kiwi up close: Otorohanga Kiwi House & Native Bird Park is the perfect place to see NZ’s national icon
- Ride through stunning native ancient forest: The Timber Trail boasts 85km of picturesque trail across ancestral lands, suspension bridges and historic tramways
- Dig yourself a natural hot water spa at low tide: Kawhia Ocean Beach on the west coast is one of the region’s best hidden gems
- Immerse yourself in Kiwi pop culture: The Kiwiana Walk in Otorohanga’s town centre displays NZ’s best-loved kiwiana icons
- Learn more about Waitomo’s intricate cave network: The Museum of Caves in Waitomo will teach you everything you need to know

A hot spot for visitors from around the world, the Waitomo Caves offer a subterranean adventure unlike any other. With stunning formations and magical glowworms, there are plenty of ways to explore the underground caves. From walking tours...
and gentle boat rides down underground rivers, to black water rafting, zip-lining, abseiling and high-wire climbing for the thrill-seekers among us.

Above-ground you will find excellent cafes, restaurants and local organic produce to refuel after an active day exploring the area. Great walking trails, including the Mangapohue Natural Bridge and Marokopa Falls walk, offer stunning karst landscape views, while the Pureora Forest Park is also home to The Timber Trail, which features native forests, breath-taking suspension bridges and historic tramways.

The area also stakes its claim in Middle-earth, with tours available through the stunning towering limestone cliffs, primeval native forest and massive rock formations of the Mangaotaki Valley near Piopio, which became the location for the Trollshaws Forest in The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey… and is the home of ‘sting’!

Nearby Otorohanga, the self-proclaimed Kiwiana capital of NZ, celebrates all things New Zealand with its many tributes to Kiwi pop culture and national icons and gives visitors the chance to see the native Kiwi up close.

On the rugged west coast you’ll find the beaches of Mokau, Awakino and Marokopa along with the hidden gem of Kawhia, where visitors can dig their own natural hot water spa at Ocean Beach and further south the sheep shearing capital of the country, Te Kuiti, completes the Waitomo and Surrounds area with the long-standing tradition of The Great NZ Muster and NZ Shears held each year.
New Zealand’s original Black Water Rafting Company

BOOK NOW
0800 228 464
www.waitomo.com
Visit the world famous Waitomo Glowworm Caves

BOOK NOW  0800 456 922
www.waitomo.com
Enter a green and spectacular landscape, then slip into our extraordinary cave to marvel at Waitomo's largest, brightest and most breathtaking glowworm display.

Small groups, great guides, two private caves, photography is allowed, booking is advised.

Freephone 0800 SPELLBOUND (0800 773 552)
www.glowworm.co.nz | info@glowworm.co.nz
Waitomo Museum of Caves

21 Waitomo Village Road, Waitomo 07 878 7640
@ info@waitomodiscovery.org.nz  waitomocaves.com

The Museum of Caves is a not for profit organisation based at the centre of Waitomo Village and is one of the best special interest museums in New Zealand.

You will: come face to face with fossil giants including a life-size replica moa; see cave decorations, fossils and sub-fossil bones; go on a journey through geological time and discover the origins of Waitomo’s caves; be enthralled by the glowworm multi-media show and take on the cave crawl challenge.

Described by Sir David Attenborough as “A wonder!” and by David Bellamy as “A phenomenal job of capturing the atmosphere of the caves and the area!”

Open daily except Christmas. Minimum hours 9am – 5pm. Extended hours at certain times of the year – check website!

Hairy Feet Waitomo

1411 Mangaotaki Road, Piopio 07 877 8003
@ info@hairyfeetwaitomo.co.nz  hairyfeetwaitomo.co.nz

SCENIC FILM LOCATION TOUR.
Come and see why this hidden Mangaotaki Valley near Waitomo was used by Sir Peter Jackson as a film location for the Troll Camp Fire scenes in “The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey”. Take a personally guided film location tour on our farm with its spectacular limestone cliffs and native forest.

Bookings advisable.

Roselands

579 Fullerton Road, Waitomo Caves 07 878 7611
@ info@roselandsnz.com  roselandsnz.com

Roselands offers a Unique Kiwi BBQ + Buffet experience, specialising in large group catering, Guided Mountain Bike Tours, Farm Park, Clay Bird Shooting, Scenic Helicopter Flights, Chalet Accommodation. Situated on 20 acres of rural property with native bush, gardens and a lawn tennis court.

ROSELANDS Open 7 Days 9am-late pm
Otorohanga Kiwi House & Native Bird Park
- Alex Telfer Drive, Otorohanga
- 07 873 7391
- manager@kiwihouse.org.nz
- kiwihouse.org.nz
- View rare kiwi up close in a night time setting
- Keeper talks throughout the day: Kiwi 10.30am, 1.30pm and 3.30pm, Kea & Kaka 11am, Red Crowned Kakariki 12pm, Whio and Longfin Eels 2.30pm
- 15 minutes from Waitomo Caves

Kiwiana Leisure Park
- 7 Alex Telfer Drive, Otorohonga
- 0800 557 686 (KLPOTO)
- kiwianaleisure.com
- KiwianaLeisurePark
- 20% off all activities!
- Balls of Fun for Everyone!
- Come and join us at the Kiwiana Leisure Park for a fun filled day out enjoying our NZ designed & Kiwiana themed mini golf, outdoor cricket & baseball batting cages, practice golf drive & native bush paintball!
- Only 40 mins from Hamilton and 15 minutes to Waitomo caves!
- *Mention this feature to redeem.

Pa Harakeke Timber Trail Services
- 138 Maraeroa Road, Pureora, SH 3, Benneydale
- 07 929 8708
- edwina.teaho@maraeroac.co.nz
- paharakeke.co.nz | timbertrail.co.nz
- Pa Harakeke is ideally located at Pureora at the start of the 85km Timber Trail, providing a one stop shop for bikers. Our friendly staff can arrange everything from shuttle rides to accommodation, bike hire to secure parking and baggage transfers. Our Visitor Centre includes a coffee bar and gift shop and is open 7 days in summer 9am-4pm.
Waitomo Top 10 Holiday Park
📍 12 Waitomo Village Rd, Waitomo Caves Village
📞 07 878 7639
✉️ stay@waitomopark.co.nz
🌐 waitomopark.co.nz
Winner Top 10 ‘Top Service Award’ 2014 and 2015. Our award winning Holiday Park is located in the centre of Waitomo Caves village. A short stroll to caves, cafés and adventure activities. Relax & enjoy the quiet, spacious surroundings with clean & modern accommodation and facilities to suit everyone. Swimming pool, hot-tub, playground, trampolines, internet access, Sky TV and reading room on site.

Woodlyn Park World Unique Motels
📍 1177 Waitomo Valley Rd, Waitomo 3977
📞 07 878 6666
🌐 woodlynpark.co.nz
OUR ‘WORLD INNOVATION AWARD’ Winning Complex & RV Caravan Park is just 2 minutes to Black Water Rafting, Glowworm Caves and Cafes. A Train, Aeroplane, Ship and Hobbit Motels, all self contained with kitchenette. Get your picture with our resident Pet Sheep staying in our world unique complex. Free WiFi at our main office, conference, restaurant, entertainment room.

Kamahi Cottage
📍 229 Barber Road, RD5, Otorohanga
📞 07 873 0849
✉️ enquiries@kamahi.co.nz
🌐 kamahi.co.nz
5 star self-contained farmstay, 30 minutes to Waitomo Caves.

Kiwi Paka Waitomo
📍 Hotel Access Rd, Waitomo Caves
📞 07 878 3395
🌐 waitomokiwipaka.co.nz
In the heart of Waitomo, 3.5 star backpackers and private chalet rooms. Licensed Cafe/Pizzeria.

Juno Hall Backpackers
📍 600 Waitomo Caves Rd, Waitomo
📞 07 878 7649
🌐 junowaitomo@xtra.co.nz
🌐 junowaitomo.co.nz
Relax and enjoy the beautiful views of our farm in our hostel.

Kawhia Beachside S-Cape Holiday Park
📍 225 Pouewe Street, Kawhia
📞 07 871 0727
🌐 kawhiabeachsidescape@xtra.co.nz
Harbourside camp ground with self contained motel units, family/backpacker style cabins, tent/van sites.

Timber Trail Lodge
📞 0800 885 364
✉️ stay@timbertrailodge.co.nz
🌐 timbertrailodge.co.nz
Add comfort to your adventure - the only accommodation on the Timber Trail.
Otorohanga i-SITE Visitor Information Centre
27 Turongo Street, Otorohanga  07 873 8951
0800 122 665  otovin@xtra.co.nz  otorohanga.co.nz
The friendly, experienced team can assist with bookings for transport, tours, accommodation, attractions and activities.

Te Kuiti i-SITE Visitor Information Centre
Rora Street, Te Kuiti  07 878 8077
tkisite@waitomo.govt.nz  waitomo.govt.nz
“Expert local knowledge at your one stop shop for buses, ferry’s, trains, accommodation & tours in Waitomo and beyond.”

Waitomo i-SITE Visitor Information Centre
21 Waitomo Village Rd, Waitomo Caves  07 878 7640
info@waitomodiscovery.org  waitomocaves.com
Too many options? We can help you decide which caving and activity experiences suit you best! Local expert knowledge.
While you’re here

- Cycle along the mighty Waikato River: Over 100kms of grade 2-4 cycling and walking tracks run alongside the river.
- See the crystal clear waters of The Blue Spring: Te Waihou Walkway in Putaruru is a stunning 4.7km (one way) scenic walk to the picturesque spring.
- Stop for a shop in Tirau: Tirau offers quirky antiques, art, collectables and corrugated iron creations along with a range of cafes to visit.
- Take a walk to see the Talking Poles in Tokoroa: the art installation that depicts the heritage and cultural history of the area.
- Play a round of golf: Play at one or all of the four golf courses dotted around the South Waikato.

With its innovative engineering, rich dairy farming history, forestry heritage and stunning waterways, the South Waikato district is quickly becoming known as a key destination for those seeking cycling adventures. The ‘corrugated iron capital of New Zealand’, Tirau, is most well-known for its giant corrugated iron sheep and dog structures on the main street, welcoming you to the small but vibrant town. These eye-catching structures, along with a
number of great cafés, boutique galleries and unique arts and crafts stores make for an ideal spot to visit.

Further south, the township of Putaruru is home to the award-winning Over The Moon Cheese Company and the beautiful Blue Spring at Te Waihou Walkway. The spring is iconic for its vibrant blue colour, while remaining virtually clear, and is so pure that it is the source for around 70% of New Zealand’s bottled water.

Tokoroa celebrates its forestry, artistic and cultural heritage with the carved Talking Poles sculpture trail through town. With over 35 cultures residing in the area, visitors from worldwide will feel welcome.

The South Waikato region is gaining a reputation as a hub for cycling. One of New Zealand’s ‘Great Rides’, the Waikato River Trails follows the Waikato River as it winds its way through the region, providing what is becoming one of the country’s most popular cycleways.

The Cougar Mountain Bike Park near Tokoroa is another popular track, while the Waikato River’s many hydro dams provide spectacular views with great spots for boating, trout fishing or a riverside picnic.

Heated pools in Tokoroa and natural hot springs at Okoroire near Tirau offer year-round family fun, and keen golfers can take their pick of one or more of the four courses on offer in the area.
South Waikato District, home of the Waikato River Trails offers 5 Hydro Dams, 4 Mountain Biking, Running and Walking Tracks, 3 Villages, 2 Dam Crossings and 105kms full of adventure for all fitness levels.

Waikato River Trails friendly expert team can take the hassle out of planning your cycling or walking adventure - let us do the work for you; our booking service is free. We offer: • Free itinerary planning and booking service • Customised itineraries to suit your requirements • Daily luggage transfer • Accommodation bookings • Bike hire - manual and e-bike.

With every booking made through the Waikato River Trails office, a percentage of each booking is invested back into the maintenance and enhancement of the trails.

Unique experiences in South Waikato

South Waikato towns offer unique experiences to visitors. In the north is Tirau that offers exceptional boutique retail shopping and a selection of cafes. Further south is Putaruru, home to exceptional quality water which can be accessed free from water fountains in town; also a selection of eating houses and restaurants.

Our main town of Tokoroa is home to 45 carved Talking Poles (well worth a tour), the Cougar Mountain Bike Park tracks to suit all ages and levels, access to excellent hunting in the forests and the picturesque Lake Moananui.

A variety of accommodation and traveller needs like laundromats, supermarkets, fuel and cafes are available.
Freedom Camping Grounds

The South Waikato offers several freedom camping areas along the Waikato River boasting magnificent views, excellent fishing and beautiful walking and biking trails. In the north is Little Waipa (off Horahora Road), Jones Landing (off Lake Arapuni Road) and Dunham Point and Whakamaru Reserve (both off Ongaroto Road) in the south.

Permits can be obtained from the district’s i-SITE’s in Tirau and Tokoroa and the Pride in Putaruru office in Putaruru.

These freedom camping sites have toilets and refuse collection.

Talking Poles

The Talking Poles of Tokoroa are a vibrant and exciting attraction in the South Waikato. These beautifully crafted poles and sculptures showcase the variety of cultures residing within Tokoroa, and the importance they hold within the community.

Each of the 45 poles, carved by over 30 contributing local, national and international artists, comes with its own pakiwaitara (legend). These stories can be found on the talking poles website: www.talkingpoles.co.nz.

In the past the Talking Poles Trust and respective artists have been gifting poles to the township for over 15 years, to help celebrate the strong and diverse culture of Tokoroa. The management of the Talking Poles now rests with the South Waikato District Council.
Shopping in Tirau
Te Waihou Walkway

Whites Road, Putāruru
 southwaikato.govt.nz

The award-winning Te Waihou Walkway meanders 4.7km (one way) with an average walking time of one and a half hours (or three hours return).

This beautiful track, located just south of Putāruru, boasts crystal clear flowing water, abundant birdlife and gushing gorges.

The track is home to the beautiful Blue Spring. In recent times swimming in this area has degraded the environment. Swimming in the Blue Spring is now discouraged.

Over 70% of New Zealand’s bottled water comes from the Blue Spring. We invite you to help us preserve this beautiful piece of our natural heritage.

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Blue Spring Farm Stay and Waihou Lodge

400 Leslie Road, RD3, Putaruru
027 977 4040
bookings@waihoulodge.nz
waihoulodge.nz


Situated walking distance to the beautiful pristine Blue Spring.

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Tirau i-SITE Visitor Information Centre

65 Main Road Tirau, SH 1, Tirau
07 883 1202
tirau.info@xtra.co.nz
tirauinfo.co.nz

Tirau i-SITE can help you ‘Discover it, Live it & Love it’ in Tirau. Come and see us!!

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Tokoroa i-SITE Visitor Information Centre

SH 1, Tokoroa
07 886 8872
tokoroa.info@xtra.co.nz
southwaikatonz.com

Tokoroa i-SITE can help you ‘Discover it, Live it & Love it’ in Tokoroa. Come and see us!!
For an experience that measures up to your expectations, simply choose Qualmark. Accommodation, transport and activities carrying the Qualmark logo have met tough quality standards and environmental criteria earning New Zealand tourism’s official quality mark. If we’ve rated it, you will too.

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Huntly i-SITE Visitor Information Centre
156 Great South Road, Huntly
P: 07 828 6406
E: info@waikatodistrict.co.nz
www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz

Hamilton i-SITE Visitor Information Centre
Corner Caro & Alexandra Streets, Hamilton
P: 07 958 5960
E: info@visithamilton.co.nz
www.visithamilton.co.nz

Raglan i-SITE Visitor Information Centre
13 Wainui Road, Raglan
P: 07 825 0556
E: info@raglan.org.nz
www.raglan.org.nz

Morrinsville i-SITE Visitor Information Centre
251 Thames Street, Morrinsville
P: 07 889 5575
E: morrinsville.info@xtra.co.nz
www.morrinsvillenz.co.nz

Te Aroha i-i-SITE Visitor Information Centre
102 Whitaker Street, Te Aroha
P: 07 884 8052
E: info@tearohan.co.nz
www.tearohan.co.nz

Matamata i-SITE Visitor Information Centre
45 Broadway, Matamata
P: 07 888 7260
E: info@matamatanz.co.nz
www.matamatanz.co.nz

Cambridge i-SITE Visitor Information Centre
Cnr Queen & Victoria St, Cambridge
P: 07 823 3456
E: info@cambridge.co.nz
www.cambridge.co.nz

Te Awamutu i-SITE Visitor Information Centre
1 Gorst Avenue, Te Awamutu
P: 07 871 3259
E: consultant@teawamutuinfo.co.nz
www.teawamutuinfo.co.nz

Otorohanga i-SITE Visitor Information Centre
27 Turongo Street, Otorohanga
P: 07 873 8951
E: otovin@xtra.co.nz
www.otorohanga.co.nz

Te Kuiti i-SITE Visitor Information Centre
Flora Street, Te Kuiti
P: 07 878 8077
E: tkisite@waitomo.govt.nz
www.waitomo.govt.nz

Waitomo i-SITE Visitor Information Centre
21 Waitomo Village Road
Waitomo Caves
P: 07 878 7640
E: info@waitomodiscovery.co.nz
www.waitomocaves.com

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E: tirau.info@xtra.co.nz
www.tirauinfo.co.nz

Tokoroa i-SITE Visitor Information Centre
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E: tokoroa.info@xtra.co.nz
www.southwaikatonz.com

For more information visit:
www.i-site.org