

# The Mighty Waikato

New Zealand

*Come with us. Share  
our waka, and feel our  
strength and passion...*



## The Mighty Waikato is New Zealand's most underestimated visitor destination.

- A quieter alternative to New Zealand's busiest destinations
- A region where global icons meet deeply local stories
- A place where nature, culture and food are still personal





Hamilton Gardens



Te Awa River Ride



Raglan



Hobbiton™ Movie Set



Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari



Zealong Tea Estate



Strawberry Farm



Wairere Falls



Cambridge

*This is not the New Zealand you think you know...*



# Where Waikato fits in itineraries

## Domestic Jet Connectivity

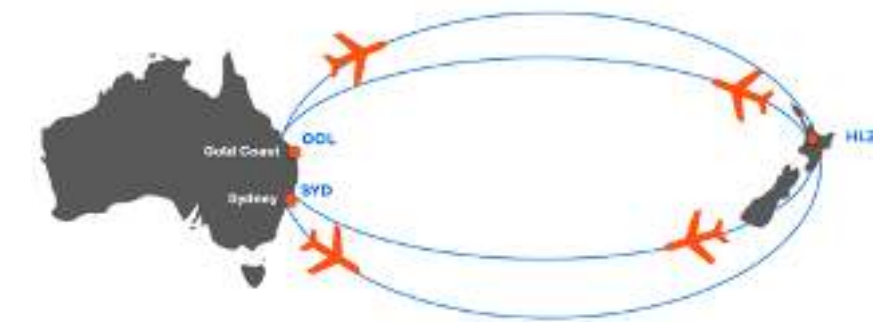
Air New Zealand and **Jetstar** both operate daily 75 minute direct jet flights between Hamilton and Christchurch, providing consistent and convenient domestic access.



## International Access

**Jetstar** now offers direct flights into Hamilton Airport from Sydney & Gold Coast, Australia

**Fly direct. Arrive closer. Experience more.**



## Why this matters for trade:

- Enables Waikato as a primary entry or exit point - loop itinerary option
- Reduces reliance on Auckland and associated congestion
- Supports seamless North–South Island itineraries
- Ideal for self-drive and regional dispersal
- Improves overall travel flow and client experience

*Always far from the ordinary this is a magical region of villages to play, relax, connect and explore in...*



 Hobbiton™ Movie Set



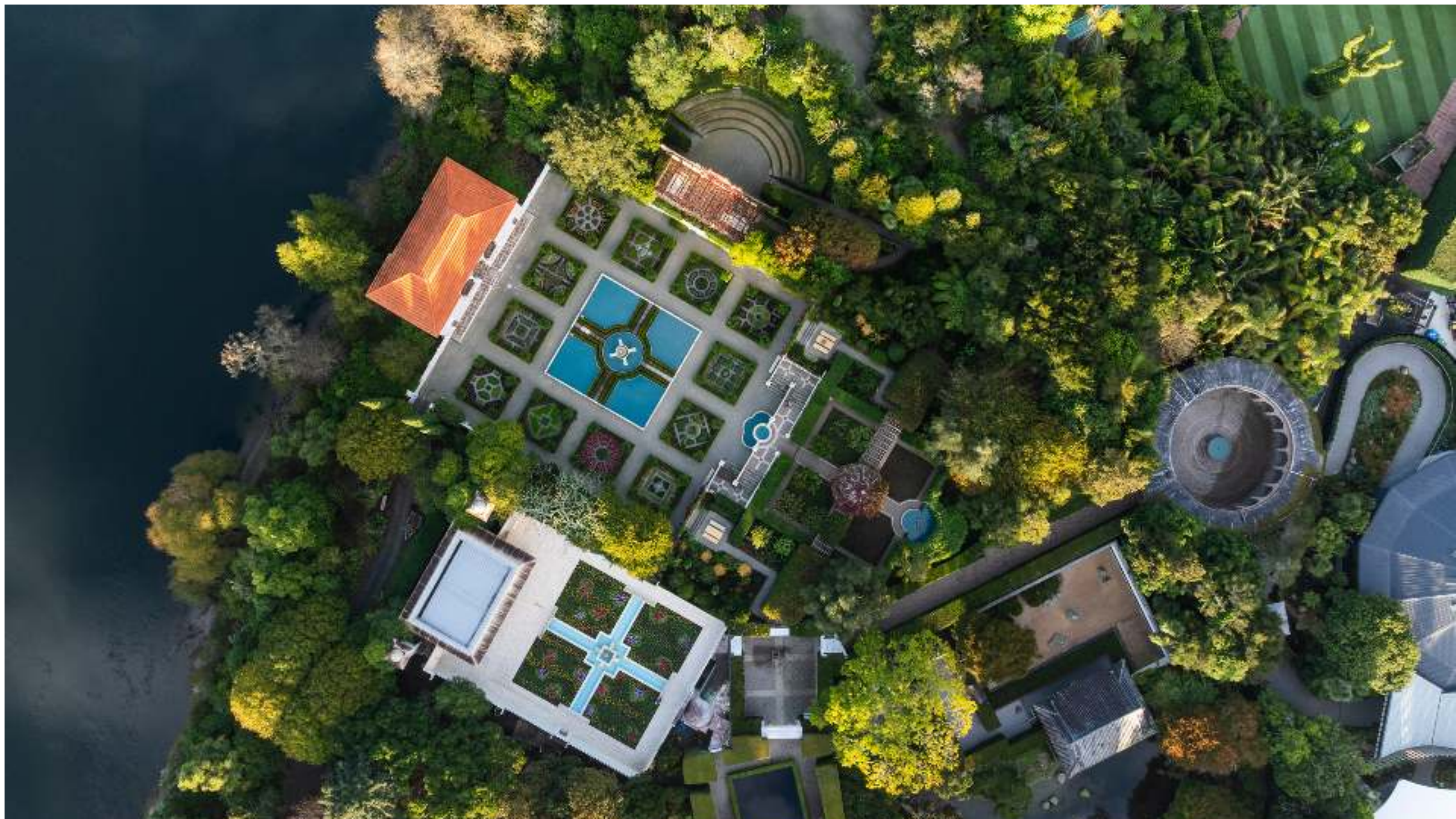


📍 Cambridge, Waipā



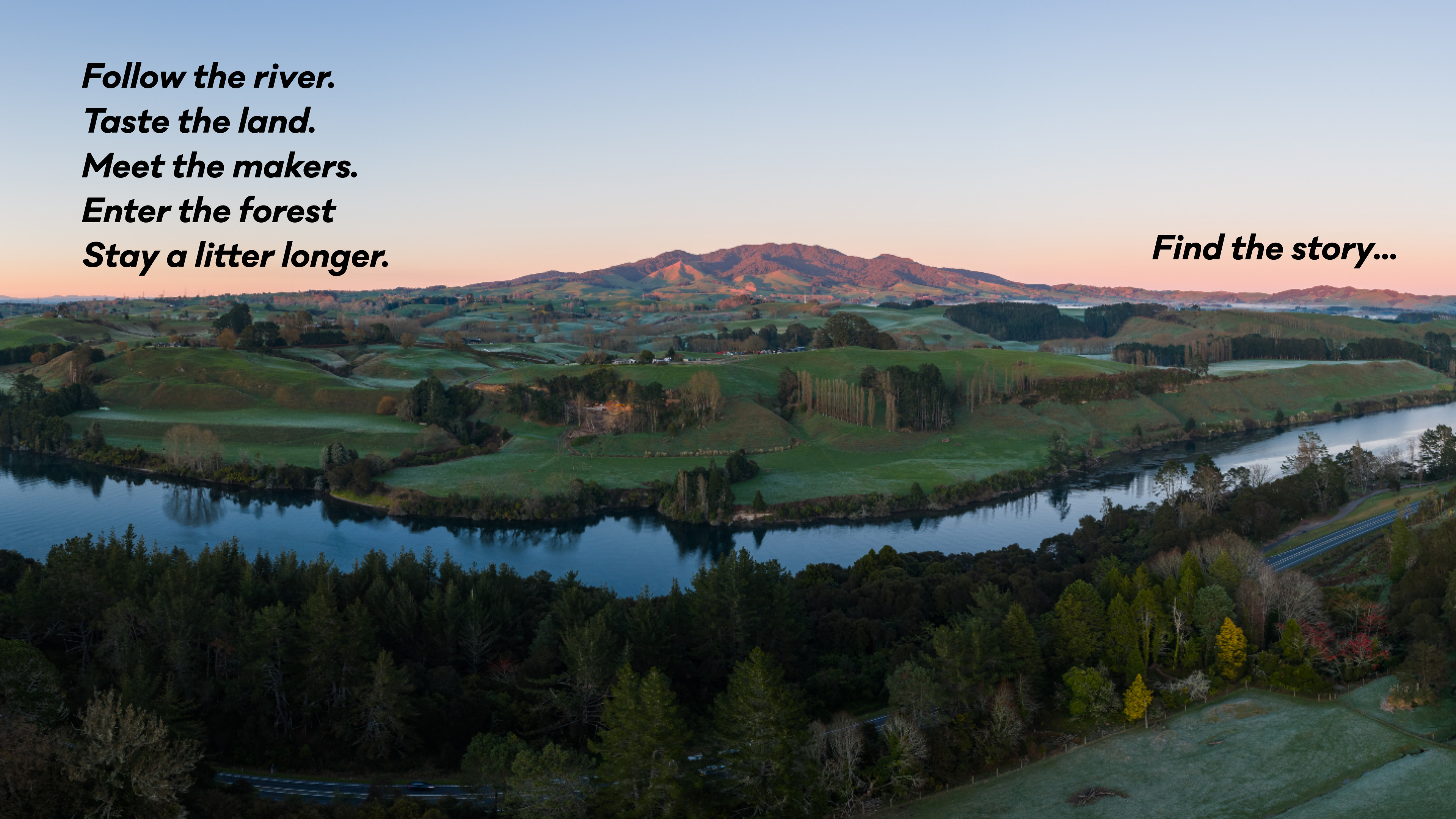


📍 Hamilton City



***Follow the river.  
Taste the land.  
Meet the makers.  
Enter the forest  
Stay a litter longer.***

***Find the story...***



***Take the long way through New Zealand...  
discover the heart of Central North Island.***





## ***Story Seeds***

- 1. The detour destination*
- 2. The river journey*
- 3. The food bowl*
- 4. The mountain sanctuary*
- 5. The quiet luxury escape*

***Waikato... NZ's detour with depth***



# What the Mighty Waikato offers

## Urban Hub

Hamilton City provides a convenient base with accommodation, dining, retail and transport connections. All experiences are within easy driving distance, making Waikato ideal for flexible and efficient itinerary planning.

## Food & Agritourism

Award-winning eateries, local producers, farmers markets and boutique food experiences.

## Gardens & Culture

Hamilton Gardens offers a unique storytelling garden experience, ranked among New Zealand's top attractions.



## Connected & Easy to Access

Located in the heart of the North Island touring route, Waikato enables seamless travel between major destinations, making it ideal for self-drive, FIT and multi-region itineraries.

## Nature & Outdoors

Cycle Great Rides, explore walking trails, predator-free nature precincts, and enjoy river, lake and coastal experiences.

## Iconic Experiences

Home to Hobbiton Movie Set™, one of New Zealand's most visited attractions, alongside the world-renowned left hand surf break in Raglan



## Hobbiton™ Movie Set



**New Zealand's most recognised and requested visitor experience.**

### Key Experience

- Guided tour through the Shire™
- Visit Hobbit Holes™, Bag End & Green Dragon Inn™
- Includes a drink and immersive storytelling

### Ideal for

FIT, Groups, Film, First-time NZ visitors

### Trade Notes

- Pre-booking essential
- Multiple departures daily
- All ages, accessible options available

## Hamilton Gardens



**A globally unique "garden storytelling" experience (not a botanical garden)**

### Key Experience

- 18 themed gardens across cultures + time
- 75-min guided storytelling tour
- Optional high tea / lunch add-on

### Ideal for

FIT, Premium, Cultural travellers, Groups

### Trade Notes

- Half-day to full-day experience
- 90% wheelchair accessible
- Open year-round

## Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari



**New Zealand's largest mainland eco-sanctuary**

### Key Experience

- Guided forest walks inside predator free sanctuary
- Native wildlife: kiwi, takahē, kākā
- Wetlands + conservation storytelling

### Ideal for

Nature, Special interest, Premium, Educational groups

### Trade Notes

- Moderate fitness required
- Small group focus
- Multiple tour options

## Riverside Adventures



**Flexible, packaged cycling/kayaking experiences (easy to plug into itineraries)**

### Key Experience

- Guided bike rides + e-bike hire
- Multi-day cycle/kayaking packages with accommodation
- Shuttle + logistics included

### Ideal for

FIT, Active travellers, Families, Groups

### Trade Notes

- Min 2 pax
- Multi-day options available
- Strong add-on to self-drive itineraries

## Clements Hotel



### Cambridge - 5 Star Boutique

High-end, design-led stay in a charming town setting

#### Key Experience

- 29 room boutique heritage hotel
- Strong F&B offering (restaurant + bar)
- Ideal for luxury itineraries

#### Ideal for

Premium, Couples, MICE

#### Trade Notes

- Group buyout options
- Centrally located in Cambridge

## Te Karaka Lodge



### Port Waikato - Luxury Farm Stay

Authentic NZ farm experience with luxury positioning

#### Key Experience

- Hosted lodge experience
- Farm tours + chef dining
- Remote, nature-based stay

#### Ideal for

Luxury, Honeymoon, Special interest

#### Trade Notes

- 10 rooms/sleeps up to 20
- Seasonal closure (winter)
- Exclusive-use options

## Hidden Lake Hotel & Apartments



### Cambridge - Boutique luxury

Lakeside boutique hotel offering elevated comfort in a central Cambridge setting

#### Key Experience

- 34 rooms overlooking Lake Te Koo Utu
- Rooftop bar/dining with lake views
- Premium design with wellness focus (spa, sauna)

#### Ideal for

Premium, Couples, MICE

#### Trade Notes

Suitable for small groups and exclusive stays

## Novotel Tainui Hamilton



### Hamilton CBD - 4 Star Hotel

Central city hotel with riverfront location and full-service amenities

#### Key Experience

- Waikato River views and walking access to dining and attractions
- On-site restaurant, bar and conference facilities

#### Ideal for

Groups, FIT, Corporate, MICE

#### Trade Notes

- Suitable for group series and event
- Strong base for Waikato itineraries

# Example Itineraries for the Waikato (1-3 nights)

## Self-Drive



### Stay

- Hamilton City - Novotel Tainui Hamilton
- Cambridge - Hidden Lake Hotel & Apartments
- Raglan - Te Whaanga Resort & Spa
- Matamata Lodge

### Experience

- Hobbiton Movie Set
- Raglan Sunset Cruises
- Hamilton Gardens
- Carve your own Pounamu (Greenstone)
- Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari

### Dine

- MADE, Hamilton East
- Palate, Hamilton City
- Alpino, Cambridge
- Good George Brewing, Hamilton City

## Premium/Luxury



### Stay

- Hamilton City - KOSH Properties
- Cambridge - Clements Hotel
- Raglan - Te Whaanga Resort & Spa
- Waikato - Te Karaka Lodge

### Experience

- Hobbiton Movie Set
- City to Surf Scenic Helicopter Experience
- Hamilton Gardens
- Zealong Tea Estate Tour & High Tea
- Takapoto Estate Wine Tasting

### Dine

- Alpino, Cambridge
- The Gallery, Clements Hotel, Cambridge
- Palate, Hamilton City
- The Green, Hamilton East

## Families



### Stay

- Hamilton City - KOSH Properties
- Cambridge - Hidden Lake Hotel & Apartments
- Raglan - Raglan Holiday Park
- Waiuku - Castaways Resort

### Experience

- Hobbiton Movie Set
- Raglan Surf School
- Hamilton Gardens
- Hamilton Zoo

### Dine

- MADE, Hamilton East
- Palate, Hamilton City
- Good George Brewing, Frankton
- Mr Pickles, Hamilton City
- Good Union, Cambridge

## Special Interest



### Stay

- Cambridge - Oar & Paddle
- Mangatautari - Takapoto Estate
- Raglan - Te Whaanga Resort & Spa
- Hamilton City - KOSH Properties

### Experience

- Hobbiton Movie Set
- Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari
- Raglan Rock Adventure Co
- Carve your own Pounamu (Greenstone)

### Dine

- MADE, Hamilton East
- Palate, Hamilton City
- Good George Brewing, Frankton
- Hayes Common, Hamilton East
- Koi Whisky Lounge, Cambridge

*Here, our kaitiaki runs deep, our mana inspires and unforgettable discoveries are just around the bend.*



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**The Mighty  
Waikato**  
**New Zealand**

***This is the Mighty Waikato. It's all yours to discover.***

