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GREAT NZ WINTER ROAD TRIP

Publication designed and produced by Sharm Roberts

SAYING GOODBYE to summer can be a little depressing. But we know the perfect way to pick yourself up during the colder months. A winter road trip.

New Zealand has just as many fabulous places to visit and enjoy in winter as it does in summer. So we have made it easy for you with our special *Great New Zealand Road Trip* winter edition. Come with us, in these pages at least, as we help you plan a full-on exploration of the sights and tastes that make this country so special.

Perhaps, if it's a short break you're after rather than a road trip, you will be inspired to find the perfect place for some time out. You won't even need a car if that's not your mode of transport. All our regions are accessible by air travel and, with tourism such an important part of the landscape, guided trips, bus rides or Shanks' pony will get you to some of the most amazing destinations in the world.

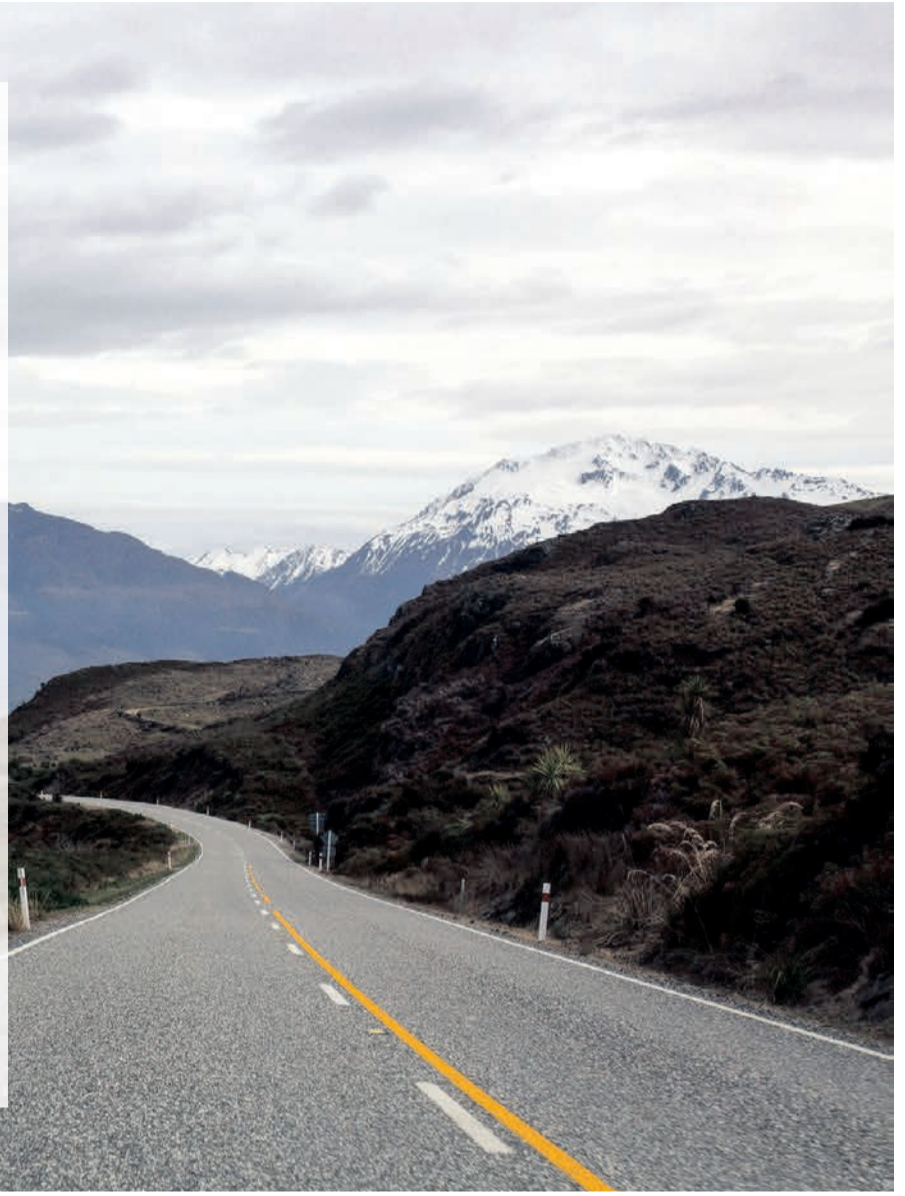
We've tried to bring you a tempting glimpse of what you might find if you head off from the top of the road in the Far North, follow the highways and byways to the deep South, or take a smaller detour from any starting point on the map to somewhere very special.

You might even have been there before . . . but you can't have enough of a good thing.

Come with us on the Great New Zealand Winter Road Trip, a journey though our wonderland.

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Northland

Northland is New Zealand's warmest and only subtropical region, so winter offers fewer crowds and crisp days

LONG AND narrow contrasting coastlines make it easy to hop over to the other side if the weather is less than ideal where you are.

Just follow the pathway along the Ancient Kauri Coast.

The West Coast of Northland is a hauntingly beautiful stretch of coastline with ancient kauri forests, wild windswept harbours, giant sand dunes, an impressive 153 shipwreck sites, and many stories to tell.

The Kauri Museum at Matakohu is a must-stop in the first stage of your journey along the Kauri Coast from Auckland. It tells the story of a pioneering past through the eyes of the kauri industry. It's a hands-on experience, and you will marvel at the sheer size and history of these ancient trees.

Journey into the Waipoua Forest at night with local Maori guides who will relay their stories, so they become yours. Although many try to



The Cape Reinga lighthouse is a popular landmark.

Getting there

The Northland region stretches from Auckland up to the top of New Zealand. The Twin Coast Discovery Highway is an 800km circular touring route starting and finishing in Auckland, which navigates you past some of the landmarks such as Tane Mahuta, Cape Reinga and the Waitangi Treaty Grounds.

capture the sheer size of Tane Mahuta (Lord of the Forest) on camera, you never will — it's a see-for-yourself experience.

Your first view of the Hokianga is unexpected. After driving through a rainforest, 500m high sand dunes are not what you would expect to see. The tumultuous harbour entrance is where Kupe, the Polynesian explorer, navigated

and first landed on New Zealand shores about 2000 years ago, and it still looks very much the same today. It's a magical getaway for couples, with beach walks and visits to historic Rawene, and Kohukohu.

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

- Have a drink at the historic Horeke Hotel, which is well placed at the end of the Twin Coast Cycle Trail.

- Journey to the North Coast — a wild, untouched, remote land with a fabled sand highway, and see two seas meet at Cape Reinga.

- Go to Cape Reinga and Ninety Mile Beach. Don't miss the popular lighthouse landmark at Cape Reinga.

- Gumdiggers Park and Ancient Kauri Kingdom are great little stops along the way. See buried kauri forests that are more than 100,000 years old, and walk inside the giant ancient kauri staircase that's carved from the largest swamp kauri log ever known to have been extracted.

- Visit the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, New Zealand's premier historic site where, in 1840, New



Hokianga Harbour tells stories of Northland's history.

Zealand's founding document was signed. It is located in the Bay of Islands near Paihia.

- Stop by the new Museum of Waitangi, a modern and comprehensive showcase of the role of the Treaty of Waitangi has on the past, present and future of New Zealand.

- If you get one of the Bay's crisp winter days, take a trip out to the islands and walk one of the tracks such as Motuarohia (Robertson) and

Urupukapuka Islands, which are accessible by boat only.

- If you're seeking adventure, you can skydive, parasail, scuba dive, go exploring on a sea kayak or take a trip to the Hole in the Rock.

- Don't miss the Bay of Islands Farmers Market, run by Bay of Islands Food Group.

- Northland's only city, Whangarei, has many galleries, museums and eateries, with quayside dining at the town basin a highlight.



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AUCKLAND IS not all glass and concrete horizons, motorways and traffic jams — it is a charmingly laid-back city making the most of its beaches, parks, culture, creativity, family entertainment and grown-up fun.

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

■ Check out the exhibitions at Auckland Art Gallery, the War Memorial Museum and New Zealand Maritime Museum.

■ Auckland has sculpture trails to inspire creatives. Don't miss Brick Bay (Matakana) — an ever-changing exhibition of about 45 contemporary sculptures along a 2km trail through green pastures and towering native trees filled with birdlife.

■ New cafes and restaurants open every week in Auckland, so there is always something new to try. Join a food tour and let the professionals show you some of the best Auckland has to offer.

■ If you haven't been to Rainbow's End lately, it could be time to go back and take a look at the new attractions, including the award-winning Kidz Kingdom entertainment centre. Rainbow's End is open every day except Christmas Day.

Auckland

There is plenty to do in New Zealand's largest city, whether you are after a dose of arts and culture, food and wine or family fun



Auckland comes alive at night.

■ Auckland Night Markets — in six locations across Auckland. Sample delicacies from across the globe and soak up the atmosphere and live entertainment.

■ A visit to Kelly Tarlton's Sea

Life Aquarium will keep the whole family entertained. See the turtles to be released into the wild later this year. Or visit the world's largest Antarctic penguin colony exhibit.

■ Auckland Zoo's new African

Getting there

All roads lead to Auckland. It will take just over an hour and a half to drive from Waikato and about eight hours from Wellington via State Highway 1.

savannah is now open, including meerkat tunnels and walkthrough aviary.

■ Spend an afternoon meeting the marine wildlife of the Hauraki Gulf, one of the most biologically diverse marine parks in the world. Departs from the Viaduct.

■ Add Auckland's most ambience-rich market to your to-do list — Oratia Farmers' Market. On offer are artisan breads, fresh produce, pastries,



Kelly Tarlton's Aquarium.

free-range eggs, locally-grown macadamia nuts, fresh and cured meats, smoked salmon and cheeses.

■ Matakana Farmers' Market is held Saturday from 8am to 1pm.

EVENTS

■ Auckland Writers' Festival (May 10-15) — Booker and Pulitzer Prize-winning authors, feminist icons, literary funny men and children's writers.

■ Blue Man Group (Civic, May 24 to June 5) — combining comedy, theatre, concert and dance party.

■ All Blacks vs Wales (Eden Park, June 11) — first match of the 2016 Steinlager Series.

■ Auckland Darts Masters (The Trusts Arena, June 17-19) — the world's best darts players return to Auckland.

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Waiheke

Waiheke Island boasts great views and beaches.

Close to Auckland, blissful Waiheke Island has long been a favourite escape for city dwellers and visitors

ON THE island's landward side, emerald waters lap at rocky bays, while its ocean flank has some of the region's best sandy beaches.

While beaches are Waiheke's biggest drawcard, wine is a close second. There are about 30 boutique wineries scattered about, many with tasting rooms, swanky restaurants and breathtaking views.

The island also boasts plenty of quirky galleries and craft stores, a lasting legacy of its hippyish past.

When you've had enough of supping, dining, lazing on the sand and splashing in the surf, there are plenty of other pursuits to engage in. A network of walking trails leads through nature reserves and past the cliff-top holiday homes of the Auckland elite.

Getting there

Waiheke Island is just a 35-minute trip by ferry from downtown Auckland.

The kayaking is excellent and there are ziplines to whizz along and clay pigeons to shoot. All in all, it's a magical place and has been named one of the world's top 10 regions to visit for 2016.

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

- Join a guided tour to experience some of Waiheke's fabulous wineries. Enjoy tastings of award-winning wines and relax over a scrumptious vineyard lunch.



Sculptures overlook the water.

Waiheke Island has a Fishing Charter and Wine Tour day trip designed for a maximum of 15 people. The wine tasting segment of the tour includes stops at three vineyards and a two-hour lunch at an award-winning vineyard. The Fishing

Charter will then get you back to Matiatia Wharf at 7pm. To check availability, phone 0508-236-564.

- When you arrive on Waiheke Island by passenger ferry, take a casual 15-minute stroll from the wharf to the

valley bush walk to Church Bay, where you will find Jurassic Ridge. Jurassic Ridge is a 1.6 hectare family-owned vineyard and winery that boasts great views over the Bay, the Hauraki Gulf islands and the Auckland city skyline.

Its vines are planted over the exposed core of an ancient mountain ridge composed of 155-million-year-old rock formations (ie from the Late or Upper Jurassic period).

- Wander along Oneroa and Onetangi — two of the island's best beaches — and take a dip in the sheltered waters.

- There are lots of activities for adventure seekers on Waiheke — try archery and laser clay pigeon shooting, hire a scooter, take a scenic flight or zoom across the tree tops on a zipline.

- Check out Waiheke's fantastic arts scene, from local galleries and studios to an inspiring sculpture park. Look out for regular art events.

- Treat yourself to a stay in a luxury lodge. Cable Bay Views is in the Oneroa/Church Bay area.

enjoy!

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Coromandel

With an abundance of quality accommodation options, attractions and activities, the Coromandel is an explorer's paradise in winter

AS AUTUMN gently gives way to the freshness of the New Zealand winter, the Coromandel welcomes crisp bright mornings, mild afternoons and a gentler pace of life that's as captivating as the stunning natural environment and rich heritage.

Just 90 minutes from Auckland and yet a world apart, winding coastal roads reveal a surprise at every turn. Small vibrant communities ooze the vitality and warmth that sits at the heart of life in rural New Zealand.

There's an ease and an authenticity to The Coromandel now the fanfare of summer has passed. With warm temperatures, great people and a colourful array of

Getting there

The Coromandel is located on the Pacific Coast Highway on the east coast of the North Island, and is within an hour and a half's drive of the major centres of Auckland and Hamilton.

home-grown events, there is no better time or place. Illuminate — the Winter Festival of Lights, Festival of Mindsports, the Mercury Bay Music Festival and The Coromandel Seafood Festival are just a few of the dates on the playlist between May and July.

But what truly makes The Coromandel a special place to

visit has no fixed dates or times. There's a sense of freedom in these magnificent surroundings that eases both body and soul. Opportunities to create unique memories are everywhere.

The feeling of smallness as you lean against an ancient giant Kauri tree at the Waiau Kauri Grove on the 309 Road, the breathless wonderment standing beneath the iconic archway at Cathedral Cove, the magical isolation of world renowned New Chum beach, touched only by time and tide.

The Coromandel's attractions are many and varied and winter provides a beautifully sedate backdrop against which to enjoy them.

Whether you visit for just a few days or for a longer period of time, it's a place that invites



Gold mining in Coromandel.

you straight to its heart and is definitely good for your soul.

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

One of the best ways to get out and explore the southern part of Coromandel is by cycling the Hauraki Rail Trail. The 82km trail showcases some of the best scenery and is one of the easiest cycle trails in New Zealand. Accessible from Thames, Paeroa, Te Aroha, Waihi, Waikino and the Karangahake Gorge the Hauraki Rail trail is an easy

grade one family friendly ride. You will pass by the calm upper reaches of the Hauraki Gulf, the winding rivers that provided transport routes in days gone by, traverse lush farmlands, areas rich in pioneering history and bustling rural towns. A major highlight includes riding through the stunning Karangahake Gorge, one of the 14 wonders of New Zealand. It is also a good place to stop off and discover some of the gold found here.

Continued p7



Owharoa Falls are a couple of kilometres' drive away from the popular Karangahake Gorge.



The Karangahake Gorge showcases some of New Zealand's best scenery.

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Cathedral Cove is a must-visit.



Discover gold mining in Coromandel.



Don't miss the Firth of Thames.

Continued from p6

■ The Coromandel's golden story continues in Waihi, just a few minutes east by bike. Here, the Waihi Gold Discovery Centre connects visitors with the region's gold mining heritage through an innovative interactive experience.

■ In Waihi there is also the rare opportunity to tour one of New Zealand's last remaining working gold mines. Fitted with safety gear, you'll be taken inside the fence to see all aspects of the mining operation from the best vantage points. Combo tickets are available for both the Waihi Gold Mine and Gold Discovery Centre. Opening hours and prices are available at golddiscoverycentre.co.nz

■ The region has plenty of walks to offer. One lesser-known but beautiful and easily accessible walk is the one into Orokawa Bay, just north of Waihi Beach. Another popular walk is to be found near Tairua, on The Coromandel's eastern seaboard. The cool, calm bush of the Puketui

AS SUCCESSFUL AS THE COROMANDEL IS AT ADVENTURE, IT'S ALSO PRETTY GOOD AT RELAXATION

Valley is a favoured local's haunt. Deserted mine shafts, tunnels and vintage mining relics litter the hillsides.

■ One of the area's biggest fishing charters, Epic Adventures, cites winter as the most consistent time of the year for landing big fish. Slightly more sedate but a truly unforgettable experience is a kayaking tour through the world renowned Cathedral Cove marine reserve with Cathedral Cove Kayaks. Available all year through seakayaktours.co.nz

■ On the west coast in historic Thames, thrillseekers relish the 300m vertical descent of the daunting Sleeping God Canyon located in the Kauaeranga Valley. The CanyoNZ website describes this abseiling, sliding and jumping expedition as perhaps

the biggest, most exciting, most challenging adventure activity in New Zealand.

■ As successful as The Coromandel is at adventure, it's also pretty good at relaxation. For this, the Lost Spring in Whitianga is many people's pick. Developed around the area's underground thermal springs, this is a tropical sanctuary that feels perfectly evolved from its natural surroundings. Combining therapeutic waters with the luxury of poolside service and a range of massage and beauty treatments, this is a haven for rest and relaxation and it's easy to see why it has earned such a reputation both nationally and internationally.

■ No visit to this part of the world would be complete without sampling some of the famed local produce. The

Coromandel seafood rates right up there. In winter, the first Pacific oysters of the season will be harvested from The Coromandel fishery and begin to grace menus up and down the peninsula.

■ The dining options are plentiful, but Coromandel Mussel Kitchen, Salt Whitianga and Falls Retreat Bistro in the

Karangahake Gorge are good places to start. The region also has several microbreweries and wineries producing craft beers and wines found nowhere else in New Zealand. Several are open for tours and tasting sessions, including Ohinemuri Estate, Mercury Bay Estate and Coromandel Brewing Company.

THE COROMANDEL
good for your soul

Explore the Hauraki Rail Trail

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rural tranquility

Mataatoki Cheese Barn

Owharua Falls

gold heritage

Waikato

A geographically and culturally diverse region, Waikato has a range of activities and attractions to suit all ages and tastes

WELL-KNOWN FOR its nature-based tourism, underground adventure and experiences that are slightly off the beaten track, Waikato offers something for every traveller.

Among the treats on offer are walking and cycling trails, the Waitomo glowworm caves and the Hobbiton Movie Set.

Hamilton, the region's hub, is situated on the banks of the Waikato River and has a vibrant cafe and bar scene.

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

■ The Hamilton and Waikato region is a mecca for cyclists as it is home to three of the nation's Great Rides: The Timber Trail, Waikato River Trails and the Hauraki Rail Trail. With these three key trails and many others throughout the region, including Te Awa — The Great NZ River Ride, there is plenty of opportunity to explore on two wheels.

■ The National Agricultural Fieldays is the biggest event of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. June 15-18, 2016, Mystery Creek Event Centre.

■ Experience a slice of 'real Middle-earth' near Matamata at Hobbiton Movie Set. Take an Evening Banquet Tour and enjoy a feast fit for a hobbit plus set tour with hand-held

Waikato has plenty to offer thrill-seekers.



The region boasts the magical world of Hobbiton.

lanterns to light the way.

■ Hamilton has a vibrant restaurant and nightlife scene, fantastic and internationally-acclaimed Hamilton Gardens, extensive shopping options and a leading arts sector.

■ A subterranean playground awaits you in Waitomo, with accessible tours of the magnificent caves. It's adventure for the whole family, particularly in winter — given that the stalagmites

and stalactites are just as magical in any weather!

■ Enjoy a boat ride under a galaxy of natural stars — the glowworms shine their lights above in the world-famous Waitomo Glowworm Cave.

■ There are also a range of stunning walk tracks in the area where you can marvel at the beautiful limestone creations and waterfalls. Nearby Ruakuri offers New Zealand's longest underground walk. It's suitable for all ages and fitness levels, being pushchair and wheelchair friendly!

■ For thrillseekers, tube down an underground river and enjoy the glowworm show while black water rafting.

Getting there

Waikato is in the heart of the North Island. The largest city in the Waikato Region is Hamilton, which is about a 90-minute road trip from Auckland.

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A world of wonder awaits at the world famous **Waitomo Glowworm Caves** — only a couple of hours drive from Auckland — it's the perfect destination for a winter road trip! Enjoy a boat ride under thousands of magical glowworms and become part of over 120 years of history. Pick up a triple cave combo ticket and also enjoy New Zealand's longest underground walk through **Ruakuri Cave** (wheelchair and pushchair friendly!) and the beautiful **Aranui Cave** nearby. For those who prefer to get wet - thrill seekers will love **Black Water Rafting!**

Come for the day — or stay and play!

Visit waitomo.com to find out more



Tauranga City



Whakatane wharf

Tauranga & Whakatane

THE COASTAL Bay of Plenty sits on the pristine Pacific Coast Highway and takes in 125km of white sandy beaches.

The region encompasses a number of towns, including Whakatane, and Tauranga, New Zealand's fifth biggest and fastest-growing city.

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

■ There's plenty here for those with wanderlust. Mount Maunganui (The Mount), has long been a favourite holiday destination for Kiwis. Boasting internationally recognised surf breaks and warm ocean waters, boutique shopping and a selection of stylish cafes and cultured restaurants.

Finish the day with a relaxing soak at Mount Maunganui's hot saltwater pools or enjoy a warm sunset walk on The Mount itself.

■ Opposite the waterfront setting, enjoy the array of restaurants and bars. Sample the new Wharf St Dining Precinct, where vintage nautical decor provides romance and whimsy all year.

■ Feeling indulgent? Sample award-winning local wines at Mills Reef Winery or discover one of the region's boutique craft beer breweries and bars.

The area oozes laid-back sophistication, offering a mix of outdoor activities, scenic attractions, wildlife, culture and top dining experiences

■ The Bay of Plenty is also home to many golf courses boasting international status and views of the Pacific Ocean. Park-like Omanu Golf Course, also on the Mount Maunganui peninsula, is suitable for players of all levels.

Further afield you'll find Omokoroa Golf Club, complete with sea views, or travel along the Pacific Coast Highway to Ohope International Golf Course, in New Zealand's best-kept secret beach town.

■ Travel by boat or helicopter to Whakaari, White Island, New Zealand's only active marine volcano. Feel nature's power rumble beneath your

feet while staring into the bubbling crater. Kayak through enchanting glow-worm caves or enjoy a guided walk through native bush.

■ Visit land and marine wildlife sanctuaries such as Moutohora (Whale) Island off the coast of Whakatane, Kiwi Capital of the World.

■ Spend a day on the water with Dolphin Seafaris, spotting and swimming with the majestic creatures in their natural habitat. You might even see an orca (killer whale), regular visitors to the coast.

■ Not tired yet? How about floating water trampolines at Waimano Adventure Park;

three-wheeled land-yachts at Blokart Recreation Park; surf lessons . . . skydiving.

■ For something a little different, take to the skies with Classic Flyers NZ in an open cabin, vintage aircraft and enjoy panoramic aerial views .

■ Experience real culture from real New Zealanders. Visit cultural hub, Whakatane, and be immersed in the region's rich Maori heritage. Home to Mataatua Marae, the House That Came Home.

Your soul will be ignited by the story of a meeting house that spent 130 years travelling to museums around the world. The authentic experience

Getting there

Tauranga is a drive of about 2.5 hours south of Auckland and about 40 minutes from Rotorua. It is just over an hour's drive from Tauranga to Whakatane.

provides an opportunity for intimate engagement with the people of Ngati Awa.

Mataatua integrates history, architecture and technology in award-winning digital light show, *HIKO: Legends Carved in Light*.

■ Tauranga has plenty for art and culture buffs. Discover Creative Tauranga, the Tauranga Art Gallery, and the Cargo Shed, showcasing local and national art and crafts.



The view from the top of The Mount.

■ Stop at one of the many roadside stalls along the coastal road to Papamoa, to buy home-grown produce and fresh flowers.

■ Feel like getting outdoors? Discover Tauranga on two wheels as you enjoy more than 65km of off-road cycle trails around the CBD. Family-friendly options are in abundance, with uphill battles few and far between.

■ McLaren Falls Park lies 15 minutes outside of Tauranga's CBD and consists of a selection of short, family-friendly lakeside trails. Riders are encouraged to take a day to spend exploring the park and all its hidden spots, including waterfalls and native bush walks.

Explore an Active Volcano!



Experience amazing White Island - New Zealand's most active volcano. Cruise across the Bay of Plenty then after donning your hard hat and gas mask, journey into the crater and witness roaring fumaroles, glittering sulphur chimneys and the spectacular main vent. The voyage home often provides the opportunity for dolphin or whale watching.

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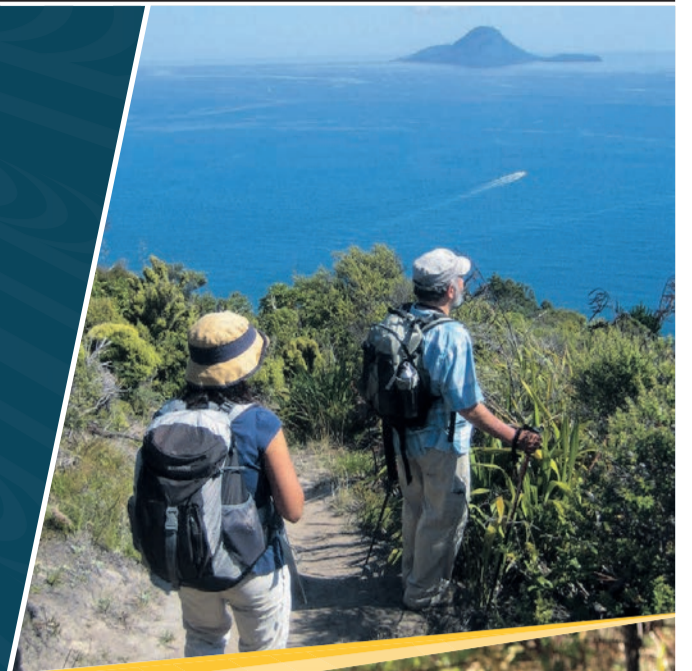


Visitor Information Centre on-site

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One of Ōhope's lesser-known gems is Ōtarawairere Bay, a 20 minute walk from Ōhope's West End Beach up and over a well-maintained track through lush native bush with stunning views. Sandy shores, rock pools and the birdsong of Tūi make this an ideal picnic location, so bring your lunch and don't be surprised if you're the only ones on the beach.

For a more leisurely pace, take a stroll along the 11 kilometre stretch of Ōhope Beach. **Take in views of New Zealand's only active marine volcano**, White Island (Whakaari) and Whale Island (Moutohorā) sanctuary, both of which can be visited if you want to get up close and personal.

Kiwi listening walks

On Friday evenings during May and June, the Whakatāne kiwi trust runs the popular kiwi night walks in the Ōhope scenic reserve.



For a different kind of stroll you can take in the Ōhope Golf Course, situated at the far end of the Ōhope spit. This fabulous links course straddles the mighty Pacific Ocean on one side and the languid waters of Ōhiwa Harbour on the other. This course is nationally regarded as one of the best, yet retains its easy-going nature and is welcoming to non-members. Also nestled near the Golf Course and Port Ōhope is the Ōhope Top Ten Holiday Park. The Park offers beachfront accommodation to suit all tastes and budgets, in addition to the range of motels and B&Bs to be found throughout the town.

Get stand-up paddle boarding lessons or take a kayak tour to explore the harbour's islands and channels. Start your day with a coffee or brunch at The Quay Café, relax with a beer and fish and chips at Ōhope Beach General Store, or wine and dine at Fisherman's Wharf Café with spectacular views of the harbour. If you're here on the first weekend of the month, the popular Ōhope Craft Market is great for a mosey around, or enjoy boutique stores like 4Arts Sake, Ruby Dunes and Cheddar Valley Pottery.

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Eastland

Take a journey out east to Gisborne, Opotiki and Wairoa, and find a mix of heritage, traditions and natural beauty



The Rere Falls are picturesque.

THE EASTLAND section of the Pacific Coast Highway, State Highway 35, is one of New Zealand's most scenic drives.

There is something special about the isolation, the sometimes stark beauty and the interesting characters you meet along the way.

There is an amazing contrast between the north and south sides of this section of the Pacific Coast Highway. The drive up the north side of State Highway 35 from Opotiki to the East Cape hugs the coastline most of the way.

The beaches and coves are starkly beautiful, mystical and spooky with their black, almost volcanic looking rocky inlets and native bush growing with wild abandon.

The Coast has a high Maori population. You'll see many marae with ornately carved gateways. Please remember to show respect as these are private property.

At Hicks Bay and Te Araroa you're in one of the most isolated parts of New Zealand but as with all of the Eastland region, there are plenty of good accommodation options.

The little church at Raukokore, perched poignantly on the edge of the world, complete with wild horses grazing on the grass in front, is one of the most photographed sights on the journey.

When you reach the most eastern point of New Zealand and start heading south towards Gisborne, the road takes you inland and the landscape transforms into lush rolling high country farms.

Opotiki, Gisborne and Wairoa are lucky enough to occupy a



The natural beauty out east is hard to surpass.

Getting there

The Pacific Coast Highway winds around the edge of Eastland on its way from Auckland to Hawke's Bay, while State Highway 2 offers a more direct route from the Bay of Plenty through to Gisborne.

beautiful, remote part of New Zealand. The natural beauty out east is hard to surpass, and it's the beaches that make this most evident from the northern gateway to the Eastland region that is Opotiki to southern gateway of Wairoa with its natural native bush.

The region is easy to navigate and surrounded by world class surf beaches, coastal scenery unique in New Zealand, quality vineyards, groves of citrus, magnificent trees and wild rivers that meander towards empty beaches.
Gisborne

enjoys some of the best weather in New Zealand. It's thanks to the high, hot sunshine hours, fertile clay loam soils and some of the most acclaimed winemakers in the country, that Gisborne is famous for producing exceptional Chardonnay, Gewurztraminer, Viognier, Pinot Gris, Merlot and Malbec.

Rich in history, Gisborne has played a crucial role in the story of Aotearoa/New Zealand's origins.

It's where the Maori migratory Waka Horouta and Takitimu first landed, and where Captain James Cook made his first New Zealand landfall in 1769.

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

- A journey out east must include a trip to the East Cape Lighthouse to experience the first sunrise in the world. It takes about 30 minutes to drive out to the lighthouse from Te Araroa and there are about 700 "easy" steps to the top. The view is well worth the climb.
- Perched above a sharp hairpin bend in Tikitiki, just north of Ruatoria, is the Tikitiki Church.

■ Continued p12



Lake Waikaremoana is a semi-circular track that can be walked in either direction. Enjoy scenic views along the way.

Eastland

Continued from p11

Built in 1924 as a tribute to those who fell in World War I, it is a stunning example of what happens when two cultures are in harmony. From the stained glass windows to the carved altar and pulpit, you will struggle to find a more beautiful and true work of art.

Legend has it that Te Ika a Maui (the North Island) was fished up by the Maori god Maui from his canoe (the South Island) and that Mt Hikurangi, just inland from Ruatoria, is the final resting place of his canoe. Mt Hikurangi holds great spiritual significance to Maori — particularly to the local Ngati Porou. A plateau near the summit of the mountain hosts a number of stunning carvings that depict the legends of Maui.

Just 30 minutes north of Gisborne, Tolaga Bay is a thriving little coastal town with a huge heart. Its pride and joy is the Tolaga Bay Wharf, lovingly restored in an epic community project when this tiny township raised millions

OPOTIKI IS A GREAT PLACE TO SLOW DOWN AND GET INTO THE MOOD OF EASTLAND

of dollars to save their wharf. You can stroll along the wharf and watched the locals fishing and jumping into the sea to cool off.

A highlight of the journey is the Eco Marine Tour at Dive Tatapouri, where the stars of the show are the gentle and graceful stingrays, some of which are as big as a dining table. As you wander out on to the reef in fisherman's waders and stand in line, your guide will tap on a plastic bucket to bring the sea life to you. The sea will be alive as reef dwellers gather around for the feed.



The East Cape Lighthouse is accessed by a walking track of some 700 steps.

Dive Tatapouri is one of only a few places in the world (and the only place in New Zealand) where you can feed stingrays in the wild, although you have to be careful the

giant kingfish don't get your offerings first. You can look, touch, feed or even snorkel with the stingrays.

Head down to Gisborne Farmers' Market on a

Saturday morning and soak up the atmosphere. Held on Stout Street opposite the museum, from 9.30am-12.30pm.

Continued p13



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Opotiki i-SITE
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Wairoa i-SITE
Cnr SH2 & Queen St
www.visitwairoa.co.nz



ANY TIME IS A GOOD TIME - OUT EAST

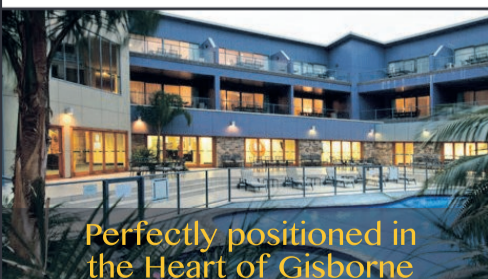
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Continued from p12

■ Opotiki is a great place to slow down and get into the mood of Eastland. There are beaches to wander, forests to explore and rivers to ride. Reflecting the area's importance for Maori, the main street of Opotiki is decorated with the works of master carvers. To get a picture of local history, you can take a guided walk with a Maori historian or visit the museum. Opotiki was one of the first places settled by Maori; it was also a centre for the Hauhau religion.

■ Hukutaia Domain, south of the town centre, has one of the finest collections of native plants in New Zealand. Admire the domain's 2500-year-old Puriri Tree, highly sacred to local Maori.

■ From Opotiki you have two choices. The first option is to travel south via the Waioeka Gorge, a beautiful river valley flanked by native forests. You can turn this into a 155km round trip by turning north again at Matawai, and returning to Opotiki on the



Take a relaxed ride along the coastal trail and breathe in the sea air.

unsealed Old Motu Coach road. The second option is to travel east from Opotiki on SH35. This is described above.

■ Even in winter you can take in the beauty of Gisborne's beaches. The many stunning beaches are well known within the surfing fraternity, with surfers from around the world visiting Gisborne to make the most of the legendary waves.

■ It's worth making a stop at the spectacular Poverty Bay

Flats. The drive to the National Arboretum at Eastwoodhill will take you through fertile countryside where much of the fresh produce grown in New Zealand comes from, not to mention the plethora of vineyards that make this a stunning drive. Just down the road Rere Waterfall is a lovely spot to swim and picnic, while for the more adventurous the Rere Rockslide is 60 metres of sheer exhilaration.

■ Wairoa is a friendly place to buy supplies before you venture into the wilds of Te Urewera. You'll love the wooden lighthouse.

■ The closest town to the beautiful Te Urewera, Wairoa, is a great place to base outdoors adventures from. If you're planning to hike, hunt or fish in the park, it's the best place to buy the food and supplies you'll need. The town is spread along the banks of the

broad Wairoa River and the riverside walk includes many interesting sites. For an insight into the district's Maori and European history, visit the local museum.

■ Wairoa offers comfortable accommodation and a choice of eating places. It's a good place to find a guide for hunting and fishing expeditions. East of the town is Whakaki Lagoon, a natural wetland where you can watch wading and sea birds.

UNSPOILED - OUT EAST

Photo: Morere, Wairoa

Gisborne, Wairoa, Opotiki

- OUT EAST
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GREAT NZ WINTER ROAD TRIP



Fly high through the forest with a canopy tour.



Rotorua is the centre of Maori culture in New Zealand.

Rotorua

The birthplace of New Zealand tourism boasts Maori culture, pristine lakes, fertile forests and activities and attractions aplenty

WHETHER YOU'RE after an adrenaline rush, something more relaxing or looking to discover the marvels of this geothermal utopia, you are sure to have an unforgettable experience in Rotorua. With activities and tours to suit all comers, this really is the perfect family, couple or group getaway destination.

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

■ As one of only six gold level mountain bike centres in the world, Rotorua has world-class trails and facilities. Whether you are a first timer looking to enjoy a peaceful ride in nature or a hard core enthusiast, we have the trail for you.

Just five minutes from downtown Rotorua a beautiful forest awaits you. Known to locals as 'The Redwoods', 5600ha Whakarewarewa Forest is an idyllic playground for walkers, hikers, horse riders and mountain bikers, with majestic stands of towering native and exotic trees.

Amateurs to experts from across the country and around the globe agree mountain biking doesn't come any better, with free access to a plethora of scenic, continually evolving forest trails.

The unbeatable blend of terrain, topography and scenery caters for all skill and fitness levels with more than 70 trails, ranging from Grade two (beginner) through to Grade six (expert).

■ If you love New Zealand's

Getting there

Near the heart of the North Island, Rotorua is less than three hours' drive from Auckland, 40 minutes south-west of Tauranga and 50 minutes north of Taupo.

native forests, then Rotorua is definitely for you. You can hike through untouched rainforest, get a bird's eye view up in the canopy or head off-road on a 4WD adventure.

■ The 18 sparkling lakes and three major rivers dotted around Rotorua make the area an aquatic paradise.

Take it all in while relaxing in a lake-edge thermal hot



Waimangu Volcanic Valley is one of Rotorua's thermal attractions.

pool, or explore the lakes at length, discovering glow-worm caves and fresh water springs by kayak. There are plenty of spots to relax and unwind lakeside with a picnic.

■ Cruise Lake Rotorua on a traditional paddle steamer or explore Lake Rotoiti with Pure Cruise on sleek 53ft luxury catamaran, Tiua. For a fun option hop on board Rotorua Duck Tours' amphibious World War II landing craft.

■ The region is a fisherman's dream, with trophy trout to be had year-round on the lakes, rivers and streams.
■ For fast-paced adventures, try the white water of the Grade five Kaituna River. Rotorua has several world-class rafting companies to take you over its 14 rapids and the world's highest commercially raftable waterfall at 7m high.

■ Continued p15

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Continued from p14

Thermal attractions are the perfect place to visit to keep cosy and warm this winter. As the natural spa capital of New Zealand, there is no better place to come and unwind than Rotorua. A myriad of spa options are in easy reach; whether you're after a simple soak in a natural bush-lined thermal stream or a full day at a luxuriously-appointed spa.

Rotorua's geothermal water, mineral-enriched muds, Maori massage and indigenous herbs play a special role in local spa culture. Return from your holiday in Rotorua invigorated, revitalised and refreshed, knowing that you've given your body the ultimate restorative treatment nature has to offer.

Rotorua is part of the Taupo Volcanic Zone, a geothermal field extending from White Island off the Bay of Plenty coast to Mt Ruapehu far to the south. Rotorua's geothermal features — volcanic crater lakes, spouting geysers, bubbling mud pools, hissing fumaroles and colourful sinter terraces — are sure to impress.

This volcanic activity has drawn visitors to Rotorua since the 1800s and remains a



Adventures are plentiful, both active (left) and breathtaking — the Skyline (below).

huge drawcard at spectacular thermal parks. These include Te Puia, where the Pohutu geyser is the star of the Whakarewarewa Valley, erupting up to 20 times a day to heights of 30m; Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland, well-known for its colourful waters and famous Champagne Pool; Hell's Gate, renowned for its mud baths; and Waimangu Volcanic Valley — the youngest geothermal ecosystem in the world.

Fight those winter blues and blow out the cobwebs with a Rotorua Canopy Tour this

winter. Fly high over mist-filled valleys in this unforgettable three-hour zipline experience through native New Zealand forest.

With colourful fungi and lush green mosses and ferns, the forest comes alive in the cooler months. The Canopy Tour is an excellent adventure all year round — rain or shine. The main rule is as long as you are warm, you will absolutely love it. If it's wet or cold they'll supply clothing to keep you nice and warm and dry!

Continued p16



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GREAT NZ WINTER ROAD TRIP



Blue Lake.



Hell's Gate.

Rotorua



Rotorua has an array of geysers.

Continued from p15

Every participant contributes to a conservation programme to restore the forest ecosystem to its natural state. Extensive efforts to remove introduced mammals are providing a safe breeding environment for native New Zealand birds and you'll see the results throughout the tour.

Rotorua is the centre of Maori culture in New Zealand,

offering genuine warmth of welcome and manaakitanga (hospitality), something the Te Arawa Maori have been providing visitors to the Rotorua region for well over 150 years.

Whether it's an encounter with a Maori guide, a hongi greeting, talking to a carver or weaver, experiencing a hangi (food cooked in an earth oven), facing a haka or hearing age-old stories, visitors will be

enriched by their Maori cultural experience. Visit RotoruaNZ.com to find out more.

EVENTS

- Targa Rotorua — Road race series, May 14-15.
- Thermatech 3D — Rotorua Multisport Festival, June 5.
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Taupo

With a stunning landscape and endless activities to keep you entertained, a visit to Taupo will leave you relaxed and invigorated

GLISTENING WHITE peaks and a landscape steeped in history. The Great Lake Taupo region has been a much-loved winter holiday destination for more than a century.

The region has developed since the pioneering days of skiing in New Zealand to become a world-class winter hotspot.

There aren't many places that are lucky enough to have ski resorts nestled within an hour's drive in a landscape full of activities and opportunities.

From late June, Taupo will be humming with winter holidaymakers who have come to cosy up by the fire in lakeside restaurants, marvel at the views of the snowy peaks reflected in the water and ski and snowboard on some of the best terrain in the southern hemisphere.

The volcanic landscape of this region has its advantages when it comes to winter; Mt Ruapehu's summit glaciers, rocky gullies and old volcanic deposits become blanketed with snow, creating a huge range of natural terrain features that form the biggest and best ski areas in the country.

Not everyone is keen to hurtle over the snow at high speed, so the region caters equally well for those looking for a more relaxing winter holiday experience.

ITS POSTCARD-LIKE VISTAS, GEOTHERMAL ATTRACTIONS AND HUGE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES ARE DRAWING PEOPLE FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE WORLD, CREATING A TOWN WITH AN INTOXICATING WINTER VIBE

Getting there

Taupo is just over three hours' drive from Auckland, down State Highway 1 and 27, and just over an hour from Whakapapa Ski Area. Turangi is 53km from Taupo.

Taupo has deservedly gained a reputation among travellers as the place to be seen in the North Island.

Its postcard-like vistas, geothermal attractions and huge range of activities are drawing people from all corners of the world, creating a town with an intoxicating winter vibe.

Social media posts from travellers to the area are dominated by selfies with stunning backdrops, backpackers on their dream OE and Kiwis doing the stuff they love.

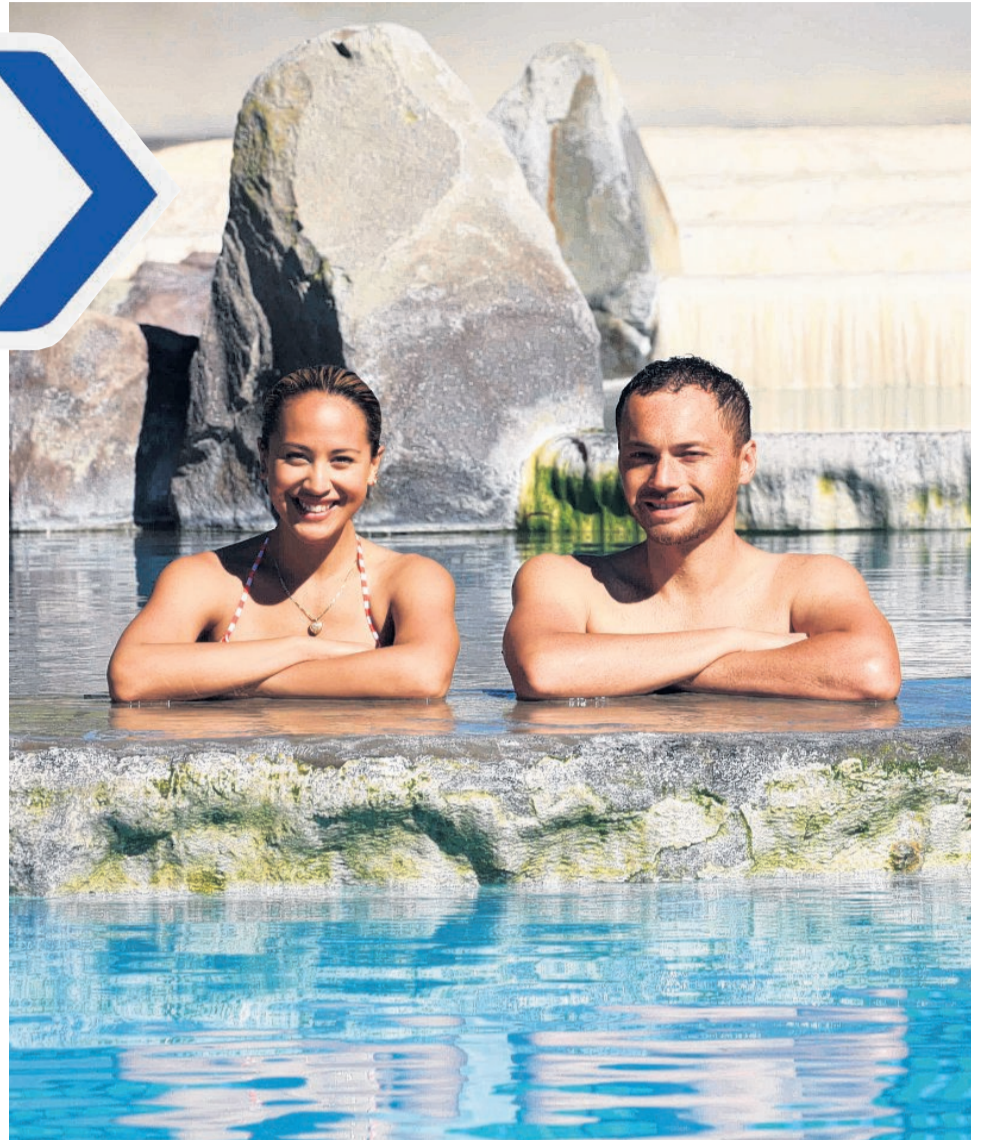
A day out in Taupo will see you have some good old winter fun. This place was, after all, voted the number one NZ destination for 2015.

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

■ Ski or snowboard one day and experience the thrills of a jet boat ride to Huka Falls the next; soak in geothermal hot pools to warm up your bones then relax by a cosy fire at one of the many top eating establishments in town.

■ At the Wairakei Terraces you can bathe in a series of hot thermal pools that are rich in minerals, situated below silica terraces. The man-made terraces are a tribute to the original terraces that once stood in Wairakei Valley, as well as the Pink and White Terraces (the 8th Wonder of the World), buried when Mount Tarawera erupted in 1886.

■ Continued p18



Take a therapeutic soak at the Wairakei Terraces.

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Take a thrilling ride on the Huka Falls Jet.

Taupo

Continued from p17

■ Taupo has emerged as a top-notch food and coffee location, its café culture and local restaurants rivalling those of major cities. Local baristas have made it their business to ensure the coffee is really good, and eateries are setting the same standards. From ethnic food to New Zealand cuisine with a strong local influence, foodies will be in heaven with the range of options available. Wine and beer lovers, too, are not forgotten. Vine Eatery and The Merchant of Taupo offer an incredible range of local and imported wines, and the Crafty Trout Brewery provides a quirky boutique brewery experience.

■ Any seasoned shopper will agree the retail options in Taupo's town centre are pretty impressive for a place of its size. Boutique shops stocking beautiful New Zealand designer and overseas fashion labels are surprisingly plentiful, and trendy homeware stores seem to be a special interest for the town. You'll also find an impressive range of hairdressers and health and beauty therapists if some indulgence is on the cards during your winter break. Parking in the town centre is free and you can often

FOR MOST, THE PERFECT WINTER HOLIDAY INCLUDES SOME KIND OF SNOW EXPERIENCE, BE IT SKIING, SNOWBOARDING, TOBOGGANING OR JUST PLAYING IN THE SNOW

park right outside the store you want to visit.

■ For most, the perfect winter holiday includes some kind of snow experience, be it skiing, snowboarding, tobogganing or just playing in the snow. Mt Ruapehu lies just a short drive from Taupo on its southern doorstep. The mountain is a magnet for experienced riders with its terrain parks and a jam-packed events calendar, but it also has to be the best place to learn to ski or snowboard in the country. With New Zealand's best value beginner packages and the country's largest beginner area, Whakapapa Ski Area is the obvious choice for making



What is a winter holiday without having a play in the snow?

your first tracks in the snow. Beginner packages include lift passes, equipment rental and lessons, with prices starting at \$115 per day for adults and \$85 for youth. Sightseeing and tobogganing are also popular activities, with chairlift rides to the award-winning Knoll Ridge Café costing \$30 for adults and \$17 for youth.

■ If you were expecting to see sleepy alpine villages where boredom sets in on bad weather days, you'll be pleasantly surprised. The number of activities, adventures and tour operators around the Great Lake Taupo region has increased significantly in recent times.

The stunning landscape of Tongariro National Park and Lake Taupo lends itself to endless outdoor activities at both the extreme and more relaxing ends of the scale.

■ The Taupo i-SITE is a great place to find out about walking trails around the region, and the Whakapapa Visitor Centre has a series of fascinating displays and two audio-visual shows depicting the volcanic, cultural and historical significance of the area.

■ Families are well catered for in the region, with activities like horse trekking, prawn fishing, mini golf and fun parks available.

■ A good soak in a hot pool seems to go hand in hand with a winter holiday, and the geothermal landscape of the Lake Taupo region provides a number of options in the area. These include the Tokaanu Thermal Pools and the Taupō De Bretts Hot Springs and AC Baths in Taupō, both of which have hydrosides to enjoy. If you would rather have a more natural hot pool experience, join the throng of backpackers at the natural hot springs in Spa Park where the Otumuheke Stream meets the Waikato River.

Continued p19

Continued from p18

■ Many say you can't leave the Great Lake Taupo region without experiencing one of the adrenalin-pumping activities it is renowned for. These range from skydiving to bungy jumping and a cliff swing, and the slightly more sedate but nevertheless thrilling Huka Falls Jet or Rapids Jet trips, which are sure to leave the kids screeching with joy.

■ It would be remiss not to mention the 200km of world-class mountain biking trails, including the Great Lake Trail, which the region now boasts. Taupo has gained the International Mountain Biking Association's Silver Level Ride Centre status, a testament to the world-class network of trails that has been built. While you might think winter conditions mean muddy trails, that's not the case in Taupo. The free-draining pumice soil stays dry all year round and makes for great winter riding. It's no problem if you arrive empty-handed, as top-of-the-line bikes and helmets can be hired from local bike shops, and road and boat transport to and from trailheads is available.

■ Taupo is known as the Events Capital of New Zealand, and the action certainly doesn't cool off over winter. The Taupo Winter Festival takes place in the July school holidays, bringing fun activities like an ice slide, lantern making, stage shows and a nighttime light trail to town. Other winter events include The Merchant of Taupo Food and Wine Expo in August and the Hoka One One series of winter running



Don't forget to stop by the Whakapapa Pinnacles when you visit Taupo in winter.

events spread throughout July, August and September.

■ Taupo has some of the most well-known natural attractions in the world where you can get the perfect photos. Huka Falls, the Mine Bay Maori rock carvings and the majestic snowy peaks of Tongariro National Park

provide amazing photo opportunities.

■ You'll be relaxed in no time when you visit one of the famous geothermal resorts for a long soak in a hot pool and have spa treatments that will leave you looking and feeling your best.

■ Experience a unique

history, interwoven with legends and stories from a time past. Discover the traditions and storytelling of Ngati Tuwharetoa, the local iwi, through fishing, hunting, bush walking and eco-cultural tours.

■ The stunning landscape of the Great Lake Taupo region is

perfect for adventure activities at both the extreme and more relaxing ends of the scale. From bungy jumping to jet boating, mountain biking and lakeside walks, there is an adventure waiting for everyone. There's a good reason it is known as Nature's Ultimate Playground.



If you are looking for a magical snowy place to go this winter, stop by Taupo.

Ruapehu

Experience a multitude of activities, tastes, sights and senses in the Ruapehu region

WHETHER you're looking for a 15-minute walk with the kids or a five-day alpine hike, the tracks in Tongariro National Park are spectacular.

Two of the Department of Conservation's Great Walks are here — Tongariro Northern Circuit and Whanganui Journey (kayak) — as well as the famous Tongariro Crossing and Ruapehu Round the Mountain or summit climb.

Lesser known tracks include Lake Rotopounamu and Lake Surprise, Taranaki Falls, Silica Rapids, Tawhai Falls, Waitonga Falls and Mangawhero river or forest, there is a trail to suit everyone.

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

■ The three volcanoes Ruapehu, Tongariro and perfect cone Ngauruhoe stand sentinel over a wondrous landscape of tussocked desert, rivers, lakes, waterfalls and native bush.

Catch a lift to the top of Mt Ruapehu and enjoy a coffee at New Zealand's highest café, explore the volcanic walks, or in winter ski or snowboard down the scenic slopes.

■ Mountain biking options range from a riverside trail and local pump track in Ohakune to the challenging and legendary 42 Traverse.

Outstanding bush-clad single track trails Ohakune Old Coach Road, Mountains to Sea and the Timber Trail are all easily accessible from the towns in the region.

■ Ruapehu's central location makes it a good base for day

Getting there

The Ruapehu Region is almost halfway between Wellington and Auckland, taking just over four and a half hours to drive to from either city.

trips to key attractions such as Lake Taupo, Waitomo Caves, Tongariro River Trail, Lake Rotopounamu, Tokaanu hot pools and Gravity Canyon.

Return in time to watch the sun set over the Central Plateau.

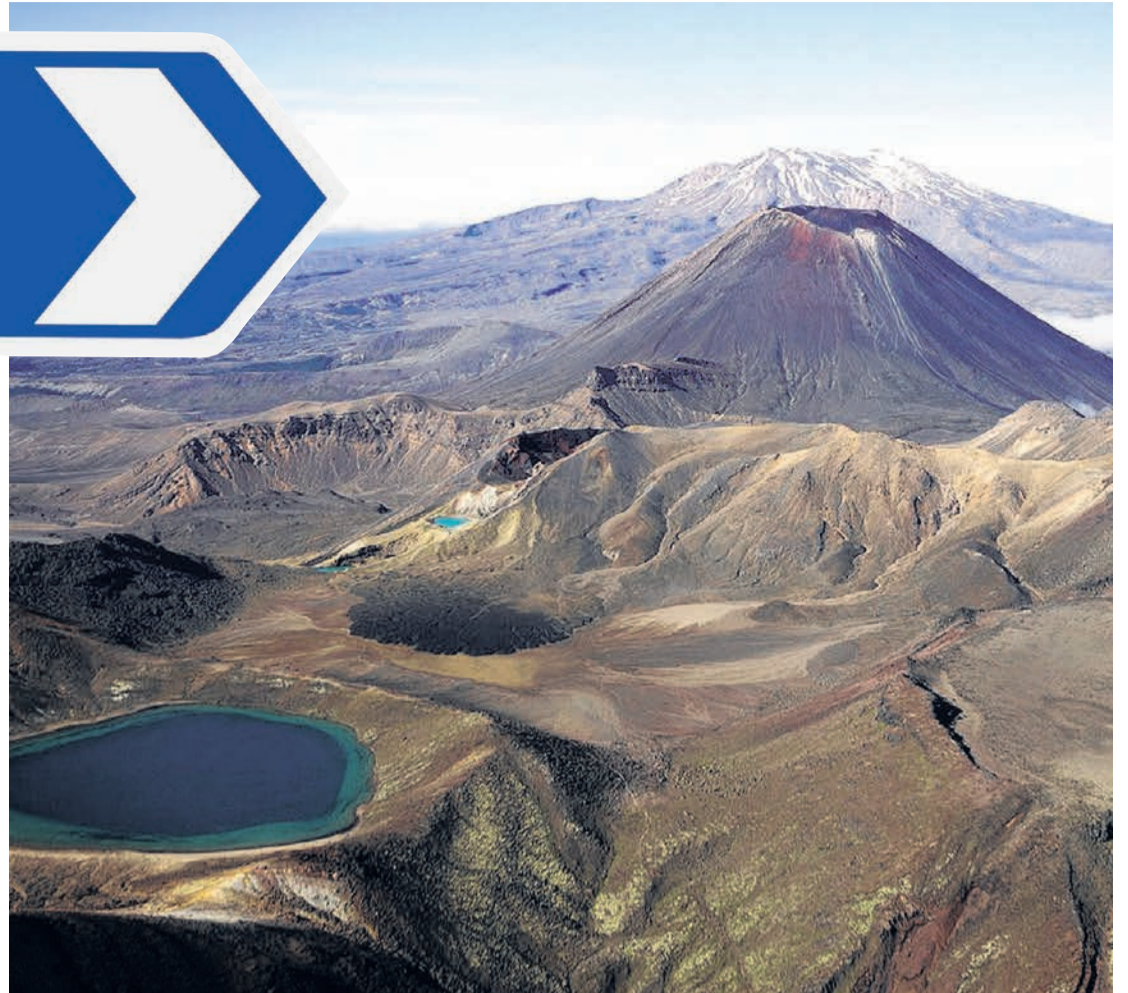
■ KiwiRail's Northern Explorer scenic train departs Auckland and Wellington for National Park three times a week and offers unique views of the central North Island.

What better introduction to the history and romance of the area than relaxing in a railway carriage watching the landscape change?

■ Mt Ruapehu is a busy ski resort and snow enthusiasts flock to Turoa and Whakapapa ski fields in winter.

■ The region is home to the Tongariro and Whanganui national parks.

Come and share the region's beauty and world-famous experiences, such as the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, Mt Ruapehu's sacred Crater



The Ruapehu Region takes its name from sacred Mt Ruapehu, which draws skiers and snowboarders.



The World Heritage Tongariro National Park is a must-see.

Lake, Whanganui River and Forgotten World Highway.

■ Grab yourself a self-driven rail cart or self-propelled rail bike at Forgotten World Adventures and travel along a decommissioned railway

(through tunnels!), discovering a remote, mysterious and highly historical rural New Zealand.

■ The region is blessed with a diverse and breathtaking alpine flora and fauna.

■ Other outdoor activities include fishing, canoeing, kayaking, whitewater rafting, scenic flights, 4WD, golf, hunting, and horse riding.

You'll be fascinated by the remarkable landscape: from volcanic formations to lush rainforests, trickling alpine streams to raging rivers.

■ There is a good range of accommodation, from luxury lodges, hotels, motels and bed & breakfasts to backpacker hostels, campsites and Department of Conservation tramping huts.

Online you'll find a wide choice of self-contained holiday homes and ski lodges.

■ Stop by the National Army Museum at Waiouru, a fascinating collection of military history. Leave yourself plenty of time to look around, clamber on tanks and learn about New Zealand's role in overseas wars.

■ For all you need to know, go to www.visitruapehu.com or phone i-sites in Taumarunui or Ohakune, 0800 647 483.

**Winter is coming.
Check the fine print to see if you are prone
to any of the following.***

*Relaxing, having fun with friends & family, enjoying great cafes & restaurants with friendly locals, walking or hiking through National Parks, biking your choice of cycle trail, playing in the snow, skiing or snowboarding, riding a horse, stand up paddleboarding, jet boating, getting away from the big smoke and snuggling up in comfortable, affordable accommodation in the pure outdoors. All just a few hours' drive from home.

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VISIT
RUAPEHU



The great outdoors is even greater in the Hawke's Bay landscape.

Hawke's Bay

Hawke's Bay has many attractions and activities, with something to suit all ages, tastes and budgets — from adrenaline-pumping adventure to a relaxing day out

PERCHED ON the east coast of the North Island, Hawke's Bay spans from Mahia in the north through to Porangahau in the south, with 360km of coastline and beaches hugging the Pacific Ocean, sweeping up the twin cities of Napier and Hastings in between.

Blessed with a warm temperate climate and ability to grow a manner of all things, it's little wonder Hawke's Bay is known as the "food bowl of New Zealand".

But that's just the tip of the iceberg — Hawke's Bay is a region of diverse and magnificent landscapes complementing the thousands of acres of farms, orchards and vineyard.

Noted landmarks include Lake Waikaremoana, Te Mata Peak and Cape Kidnappers, but perhaps most famous of all is the impressive collection of 1930s Art Deco architecture.

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

■ An autumn visit is a photographer's dream with the landscape a blaze of colour as the leaves turn all shades of gold, red, yellow and brown. There's no better way to witness the magic of colour and light than with an early morning or late afternoon walk along the tree lined trails leading to the summit of Te Mata Peak.

■ For those who are serious about running away from it all,

Getting there

Hawke's Bay is on the east coast of the North Island. Get there on the Pacific Coast Highway that links Auckland, Coromandel and Bay of Plenty. It will take about five and a half hours to drive there from Auckland.

Look no further than the inaugural Air NZ International Marathon, where the course will take you through picturesque of locations, starting on Marine Parade and finishing at Sileni Estates Winery in the heart of the



Wine and food lovers will delight in the region's gastronomic offerings.

Bridge Pa and Gimblett Gravels wine districts.

■ Art lovers should stop by MTG Hawke's Bay, which is in the heart of Napier. The museum uses its collection to tell the stories of New Zealand.

■ Winter is the season for

hunkering down, but Hawke's Bay is not dormant. The Farmers' Market in Hastings and Napier Urban Farmers' Market are packed full of seasonal goodies.

■ Continued p22



MTG Hawke's Bay tells the stories of New Zealand.



The Art-Deco heart of the picturesque city of Napier.

Hawke's Bay

Continued from p21

There are deals to be had at luxury lodges and boutique hotels for an intimate escape or a weekend rendezvous, and in June there is winter F.A.W.C.! — the Food and Wine Classic. The four weekends of June will feature 55 events set in some of Hawke's Bay's most stunning locations. Glasses of full-bodied reds and lashings of local produce will take centre stage alongside Hawke's Bay's finest food and wine stars. With a local spin on winter fare and a flurry of new vintage releases, F.A.W.C! gives plenty of reasons to get away this winter. Fine out more at www.fawc.co.nz.

The Hawke's Bay Trails are open all year round. No busy roads, just the ambient scrunch of rubber tyres on packed limestone trails that are flat, mainly off-road and easy on the legs. There are



Te Mata Peak is loaded with walking tracks.

PHOTO: Warren Buckland

three trails, 200km in total, designed for all ages and cycling abilities. Take a gentle half-hour spin along the coast or a four-day exploration of backcountry roads or

something in between. Find out more at www.hawkesbaynz.com.

There are plenty of options for mountain bike enthusiasts of all levels to enjoy great



Hawke's Bay offers endless cycling options.

riding in Hawke's Bay. Hawke's Bay is home to the country's largest mountain bike club. There are plenty of options for fun and fitness in the region's forests and hills. Dirt tracks abound for all levels of off-road enthusiast, from grade 1 to grade 5. The most popular destination is Eskdale Forest, but new areas are always being developed.

The two most popular options are the purpose-built Pan Pac Eskdale Mountain Bike Park trails, Napier, and

the shared walking/riding trails through Te Mata Peak, Havelock North.

The Pan Pac Eskdale Mountain Bike Park, 15 minutes' drive north of Napier, is one of New Zealand's largest and well regarded mountain bike parks. The local club is continually building tracks, and there are now more than 100 km of cross-country, freeride and downhill trails to explore and enjoy.

Continued p23



Te Mata Peak, HAVELOCK NORTH

Get me to
WWW.HAWKESBAYNZ.COM





Hawke's Bay is one of the main wine-producing regions of New Zealand.

Continued from p22

The Pan Pac Eskdale Mountain Bike Park is set within the Pan Pac Tangoio Forest, with 290m of elevation at the highest peak allowing tremendous views across the Bay, and plenty of scope for a huge variety of trails.

All visitors must have a Hawke's Bay Mountain Bike Club membership. Either join the club or buy a three-week visitors' permit.

Te Mata Peak behind Havelock North is loaded with walking tracks. There are a couple shared-use trails that allow mountain bikes and a designated mountain bike track heading down the main valley from the lone pine tree at the top and heading down onto the shared trails of Chambers Walk, which leads on to either the main gates carpark, or down to Tauroa Road carpark. More tracks are still being built in this area.

Napier, the Art Deco City, is world-famous for its jazz age architecture, which rose from the rubble and ashes of a disastrous earthquake and subsequent fires that devastated the city in 1931. Today, visitors from around the world delight in Napier's decorative and colourful buildings that speak of the optimism and confidence of the early 20th century and of a small Kiwi town as



Napier rose from the ruins of an earthquake to be one of New Zealand's most distinctive cities.

NAPIER, THE ART DECO CITY, IS WORLD-FAMOUS FOR ITS JAZZ AGE ARCHITECTURE

it tackled the task of recreating itself during the Great Depression.

The Art Deco Trust offers guided walking tours of Napier's Art Deco Quarter and a stylish retail shop. These guided walks are held twice daily year-round, except on Christmas Day, and are held rain or shine. No bookings are

necessary. All walkers receive an informative Art Deco Walk booklet. Complimentary refreshments and a video screening are available afterwards.

Tours depart from either The Art Deco Shop or the Napier i-SITE Visitor Information Centre. The Art Deco Shop is situated in

Tennyson St and the Napier i-SITE Visitor Information Centre is located on Napier's Marine Parade.

Central Hawke's Bay's early pastoralists created vast farming stations and built beautiful homesteads. Today that history is still on display with some wonderfully preserved historical

homesteads and gardens, many of which offer tours, afternoon teas and accommodation. Take a couple of days and dive into some early New Zealand history by visiting Central Hawke's Bay's historic homesteads, many of which have been lovingly preserved to represent an era gone by.

For those wanting to explore and experience Oruawhoro Homestead in Takapau, high tea is a must-do.

Groups are able to book lunch, Devonshire morning or afternoon teas or private dinner parties at Chapelwick Coastal Estate and Historic Chapel, Porangahau.

If you're after a bit of pampering and something a little bit special, Woburn Station Homestead in Waipukurau, which offers luxury accommodation, is ideal.

Wallingford Homestead in Porangahau can accommodate up to 12 couples comfortably.

Gwavas Garden and Homestead in Tikokino is open anytime for visitors from Labour Weekend. Gwavas has a fully equipped commercial kitchen.



Hawke's Bay has heaps of wineries. In you're in Havelock North, check out Craggy Range.

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Whanganui

WHANGANUI HAS long been one of the North Island's treasures, chosen for its natural beauty by European settlers more than 175 years ago.

It is still a beautiful place to visit and everything that made it New Zealand's fifth biggest city until 1936 remains as appealing and enjoyable as it did then.

Cycleways and boardwalks line the river and Whanganui is spoilt for parks and reserves. Bushy Park Sanctuary will delight, with the endless numbers and sounds of rare native birds and the spectacular Ratanui tree, aged over 500 years and measuring 11m around.

Paloma Gardens and the Bason Botanic Gardens are wonderful wide open spaces for exploring the different features and quirky artworks.

With one of the most temperate and settled climates in the North Island, it's perfect for meandering around the markets and cafes. With such a good climate, even winter temperatures allow for some enjoyable outside activity.

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

■ The Whanganui River, Te Awa o Whanganui, is the longest navigable river in New Zealand and an integral part of the region, having shaped the development, settlement and history of both early Māori and

This little city with a lot of soul is the North Island's heart of art. It also offers eclectic shopping, scenic cycle trails and mountain biking, heritage architecture and great cafés



Catch the tram around town.

European settlers. You can take a slow coal-fired paddle steamer cruise aboard the Waimarie, a trip to the local village Upokongaro

on the MV Wairua or select from a range of canoe/kayaking tours. Guided history tours also travel the Whanganui River Road.

Getting there

Whanganui is on the west coast of the North Island. It sits at the junction of State Highways 3 and 4, and is a two-and-a-half-hour drive north from Wellington, an hour and a half from Mount Ruapehu and just over five and a half hours from Auckland — or a one-hour flight.

■ Visit Jerusalem, home to the convent established by Mother Suzanne Aubert and later the alternative community established by poet James K. Baxter.

■ The Whanganui Regional Museum houses a rare intact moa egg and one of New

Zealand's most significant Gottfried Lindauer collections with more than 20 paintings on display, including some of the largest canvases he produced. The Taonga Māori Collection rivals Te Papa – many of the artefacts and items in the collection have been contributed from generations of Whanganui River iwi.

■ Whanganui has three coastal beaches: South Beach, for a wild West Coast experience of walking, driftwood and a 4x4 Canam tour over the dunes; Castlecliff Beach for a spot of surfing, swimming and sandcastle building; and of course the picturesque Kai Iwi Beach, with campgrounds and barbecue facilities.

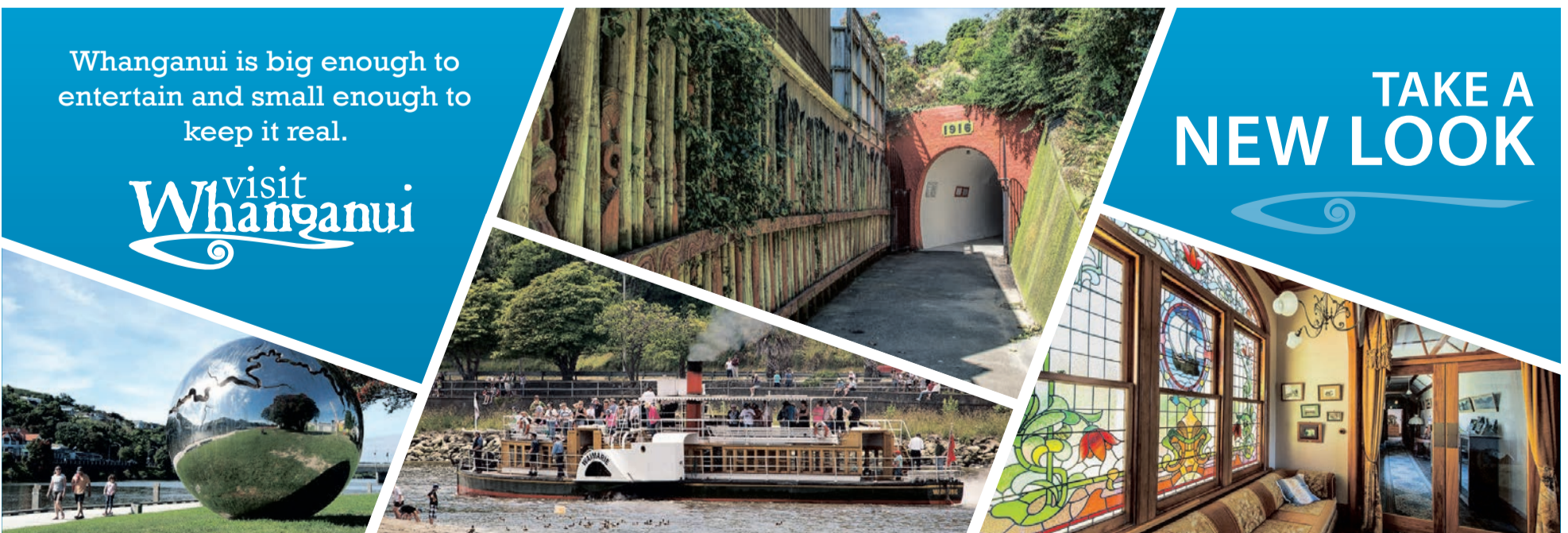
■ Whanganui has a vibrant artistic community second to none in New Zealand.

■ Continued p25

Whanganui is big enough to entertain and small enough to keep it real.

visit Whanganui

TAKE A NEW LOOK



Continued from p24

With 400 resident artists living in the Whanganui district, creativity and art is as much part of the place as the river and its heritage. The Sarjeant Gallery has an exceptional permanent collection, plus dynamic and regularly changing exhibitions in its temporary gallery on Taupo Quay. Early settlers Henry and Ellen Sarjeant bequeathed funds to acquire the collection and establish the gallery.

The River Traders market is a popular weekend attraction that has Whanganui River as its backdrop. Held every Saturday, 9am-1pm.

Home to New Zealand's largest glass art community, Whanganui attracts glass artists from both overseas and around the country. Some of New Zealand's best live here, including Katie Brown, David Traub, Lyndsay Patterson, Carmen Simmonds and Claudia Borella. Whanganui artist Lyndsay Patterson and his team produced all the glass for the Hobbit movies, from the



The Bastia Hill Water Tower is a tourist attraction.

goblets to the inkwells, and Claudia Borella's work is in Sir Elton John's private collection. Galleries and studios also

show sculpture, photography, ceramics, textiles and Maori arts and crafts.

For more information see whanganuiwhatson.nz



Whanganui has plenty to keep the kids entertained. Stop by Kowhai Park and let them burn some energy.



Try something different — give glass blowing a go.

Enjoy arts, music, the landscape and our rich heritage. Spend a weekend.

visit Whanganui

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www.oxfordfarmersmarket.co.nz



Manawatu & Taranaki

Manawatu is the perfect place for an authentic Kiwi experience, offering a playground of adventure and discovery, while Taranaki is home to countless stories and experiences



Len Lye Centre



Whatonga stands guard over the Manawatu Gorge track. PHOTOS/MANAWATUNZ.CO.NZ

PALMERSTON NORTH City and Manawatu offer a diverse landscape ripe for exploring, where you can swim in the sea, hike in the mountains and dine out in style — all in the same day.

With a legendary mountain at its heart and heaps to see and do, Taranaki makes a great road trip year-round. There's plenty to explore around the mountain, from the wild surf coast to more than 200km of walks in Egmont National Park, galleries and museums to gorgeous gardens and epic events.

ATTRACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

■ Museums, heritage collections and art galleries are prominent in Palmerston North and go hand in hand with the colourful array of cafes and dining options that will take your

taste buds on a tour of the world. New Plymouth's architecturally-stunning new Len Lye Centre, part of the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, should be your first stop.

■ Hit the ground running in Manawatu on one of the many cycling, mountain biking or walking track. Even the most avid adrenaline junkie will be satisfied, with bungee jumping, white water rafting and kite surfing on offer.

■ Whether you explore by foot, horseback or mountain bike, Te Apiti (Manawatu Gorge) is a must-see. Covered in ancient bush and home to a variety of wildlife, the gorge is steeped in legend and has many a story to tell.

Explore the walking tracks and come face to face with the sculpture of Whatonga, an ancient warrior who guards over the forest.

■ Palmerston North is home to the Regent on Broadway, a grand theatre with a full calendar of international, national and community shows. The New Zealand Ballet and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra regularly perform here.

The Globe and The Dark Room theatres offer more intimate, often home-grown, show and Centrepoint Theatre is a professional theatre company playing host to both

national and international touring shows as well as plenty of Kiwi stars.

■ Every Friday the centre of Feilding comes alive. In Manchester Square, the Feilding Farmers' Market hums with local producers offering artisan products, locally-grown goods and delicious treats.

■ For family fun, stop by Flip City, the ultimate activity for tweens (and big kids too!) with wall-to-wall trampolines and a trampoline halfpipe. Meanwhile, Daytona Indoor Raceway gives thrills and spills.

■ For thrill-seekers and adventure enthusiasts, you can't go wrong with Mokai Gravity Canyon, home to the North Island's highest bungee and a flying fox that will whip you through the canyon at speed.

— Editorial from manawatunz.co.nz

Getting there

Taranaki is halfway between Auckland and Wellington on the western coast of the North Island, and Manawatu is just over three hours' drive south-east of New Plymouth, closer to Wellington.

Visit New Plymouth

Pukekura Park

52ha of lakeside forest and formal gardens

Coastal Walkway

11km walk along New Plymouth's foreshore

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Wellington & Wairarapa

There's always something happening in Wellington, New Zealand's events capital, and nearby Wairarapa, with its off-the-beaten-track charm, has plenty to do

FROM THE first-class food fest that is Visa Wellington On a Plate to the wondrous World of WearableArt Awards Show, Wellington is a hive of activity. The capital city knows how to put on a good show.

Don't forget to stop by Wairarapa and embrace its heritage and the pleasures of fine wine. The region's five townships — Martinborough, Greytown, Featherston, Carterton and Masterton — each have a distinctive character.

Getting there

Wairarapa's right in the centre of New Zealand, and just a short hop over the hill from Wellington. It takes about eight hours to drive to Wellington from Auckland.



New Zealand's capital is a hive of activity.

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

■ Weta Workshop's Thunderbirds Are Go Behind-The-Scenes Experience in Wellington takes guests on an exclusive tour of the authentic props, models and set pieces used in the production of the hit Pukeko Pictures and ITV television show.

■ Take a leisurely bike ride on the 10km return trip Greytown-Woodside Trail which follows the original branch line that connects the town with Woodside Station.

■ When in Wairarapa, explore the wine village of Martinborough. Some of the country's best pinot noir comes from the town's family-owned vineyards.

EVENTS

■ **Visa Wellington On a Plate** — Held over the last two weeks of August every year, the event is the ultimate food festival, bringing together a variety of ingredients that combine to create a packed culinary programme that will satisfy all appetites. Now New Zealand's largest culinary festival, Visa Wellington On a Plate aims to surprise and delight diners with innovative dishes, astounding events, mouth-watering burgers and creative cocktails, as well as industry awards. Events in the past have ranged from prison food as you've never seen it before, to glow-in-the-dark ice cream.

■ **World of WearableArt Awards Show** — This two-hour spectacular takes art off the wall, on to the body and across the stage. A surreal procession of art, creativity and fantasy showcasing world-class design.



When visiting the wine village of Martinborough, be sure to enjoy a Margrain Vineyard winery tour.

■ **Featherston Camp Centenary Exhibition at Aratoi** — Make time to see this exhibition when you are in Masterton. It tells the story of the estimated 60,000 men who trained at the camp between 1916 and 1918 — a majority of the roughly 100,000 New Zealanders who served overseas during World War I. Runs until July 31.

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Challenge Yourself

Heaphy Track

Only open for mountain bikers between the 1st of May and the 31st of September, the track takes between two to three days to complete and should only be attempted by Grade 4-5 mountain bikers. Bookings are essential and can be made through the Department of Conservation website. You can start the track either from Brown Hut in Golden Bay (156 km from Nelson) or from Kohaihai on the West Coast (110 km from Westport), and remember it is not a circuit track.

The track itself is 78.4 km long, maintained by DOC, and contains numerous swing and suspension bridges. Due to its proximity to the West Coast weather can change extremely quickly, and ranges from warm humid days to cold, windy, even snowy conditions.

For further info and bookings see www.doc.govt.nz/heaphytrack

Bike the Heaphy & Old Ghost Road



As an end-to-end mountain bike ride, The Old Ghost Road is designed for fit and experienced riders capable of taking on the wilderness setting and challenges that come with that. Most tramping parties will find The Old Ghost Road comfortably achievable as a 4 to 5 day outing.

To broaden the audience and to make the experience more accessible to a wider range of appetites, a set of new

exciting packages – **Old Ghost Adventures** – has been created. Old Ghost Adventures include such options as helicopter assists to the astounding alpine tops, rustic luxury accommodation to start or end your journey, end-to-end transport shuttles or heli-hiking and even rafting the Mokihinui Gorge as the final leg of your journey.

All up, The Old Ghost Road is a love affair, a romance with the heart of the West Coast.

For more information go to: www.oldghostroad.org.nz or www.facebook.com/theoldghostroad

The Old Ghost Road - Prepare to fall in love!

The champagne cork has been popped and the ribbon cut. Years in the making, The Old Ghost Road is now fully open. With it, the Buller district can claim bragging rights to New Zealand's longest continuous single track purpose-built for mountain bikers and trampers alike. The 85km-long Old Ghost Road provides access to wilderness so epic, so dramatic and so varied, that even those most familiar with its realm still have to pinch themselves. Outdoor lovers, prepare to fall in love!

The Last Resort, Karamea, is situated at the southern end of the Heaphy Track and is the perfect place to take a relaxing break between The Old Ghost Road and the Heaphy Track. The Resort has a choice of five different accommodation options, a café, bar and restaurant facilities. To experience warm West Coast hospitality and great food in a uniquely built complex, central to great South Island tracks, The Last Resort has no equal. For more info go to www.lastresort.co.nz



Expert local knowledge combined with passion!

Adrian and Denna, of Habitat Sports, are locals with in depth knowledge of all local riding tracks and what it takes to make your journey successful. When they are not shuttling or setting up your bike, they are out traversing the tracks they love. They have all you need including local knowledge, fishing tips and the only fully qualified bike mechanic in town. Your safety is paramount - they even professionally fit every helmet they sell.

They both have a passion for the outdoors, a drive to provide you with top quality products, at great prices with expert information. **Mountain Biking** - The Buller has many tracks that you will love: the Old Ghost Road, The Denniston Plateau, Charming Creek and the Heaphy (in winter). Habitat Sports has a full work shop and fully qualified bike mechanic. Get your bike serviced or restock parts and accessories. **For more info see www.habitatsports.co.nz**

Helibike Nelson is all about mountain biking at any level. We love to take people on adventurous mountain bike rides in and around the top of the South Island, New Zealand.

Our driving force is the reward that comes from the huge grins we see on our clients faces at the end of the day, knowing we have taken them on a ride that has not only left a mark on their soul but will be a part of their memories forever.

We like to create a relaxed, fun atmosphere in our groups that feels like a group of mates on holiday. We keep our groups small enough to make sure that we can offer the best of ourselves and pay attention to the little things that make a difference.

For more information see www.helibikenelson.co.nz



Situated near the Southern end of the Heaphy Track and with a choice of five different accommodation options, café, bar and restaurant facilities, the Last Resort Karamea is the perfect place to take a relaxing break between the The Old Ghost Road and The Heaphy Track.

For Warm West Coast hospitality and great food in a uniquely built complex, central to great New Zealand tracks, The Last Resort in Karamea has no equal!

71 Waverly Street, Karamea, New Zealand
Ph: 0800 505 042
 E: enquiries@lastresortkaramea.co.nz
www.lastresortkaramea.co.nz

DO YOU LOVE THE OUTDOORS?

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GO TO PLACES FEW HAVE BEEN!

Want to ride the Heaphy or the Old Ghost Road but need help with transport, gear drops, guiding, catering or bike hire? Helibike Nelson has you covered. The experienced, approachable team at Helibike Nelson are registered Adventure Activity Operators and will ensure your Heaphy or Old Ghost Road experience is one to remember – for all the right reasons. As much or as little support as you need you can count on us.



Visit our website www.helibikenelson.co.nz
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 Tasman Bay, New Zealand
Ph: +64 3 546 6896
 E: info@helibikenelson.co.nz

Three brilliant reasons to bike THE MARLBOROUGH WINE TRAIL



1 You're exploring New Zealand's largest wine region

Nearly 80% of New Zealand's wine comes from Marlborough, making it the country's foremost wine region.

With more than 160 wineries and 37 cellar doors, touring Marlborough's famous wine trail by bike is a brilliant way to explore the homes of your favourite wines and to discover new gems. Plenty of options are available, with guided tours and independent bike hire on offer throughout the year.

While Marlborough is the natural home of sauvignon blanc, the region's wineries produce stunning pinot noir, aromatics, chardonnay and methode traditionnelle sparkling wine, providing a full-bodied taste experience for every palate.

2 The weather is brilliant year-round for biking the vines

Marlborough is New Zealand's sunniest region, and its climate year-round is simply brilliant.

When we say brilliant, we mean it – compared to the main centres, that's more than a days' worth of sunshine

per week on average than Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch. And it's not just in summer – spring, autumn and winter all consistently deliver more sunshine in Marlborough than in the main centres.

On the odd day when it does rain, though, there are plenty of options to still tour the extensive cellar doors by vehicle, sampling wine while seeing the grapes it came from grow.

3 It's tough, but somebody's got to do it

Biking among stunning vineyard vistas, sampling some of the world's top wines, dining on delicious gourmet cuisine at a vineyard café or restaurant, taking part in wine experiences and events in New Zealand's sunniest region... it all adds up to perfect boasting material for your friends back home.

Better still, bring them along and share in a brilliant time together. Add on a couple more days to explore more of the wine region, or to head to the Marlborough Sounds to relax among one-fifth of New Zealand's coastline.

Wherever you are in Marlborough, you'll be having an absolutely brilliant time.

Destination Marlborough

BIKE HIRE

Wine Tours by Bike is conveniently situated in the heart of the Marlborough wine region in the village of Renwick where you will find the greatest concentration of cellar doors, with over a dozen within a 5km radius of the Wine Tours by Bike base.

All of our biking tours are self-guided as we like to offer you the complete freedom to choose for yourselves who of the cellar doors you would like to visit whilst out here in Renwick. To ensure you make the most of your time whilst out on the bikes, we will help you plan your day based around what wines you like and how far you want to bike.

The all-inclusive package includes a choice of bikes with panniers for 4 bottles on the back and a basket on the front, a hi-vis helmet, a detailed winery map and a bottle of spring water, full backup service plus free pickup and drop-off to and from your accommodation.

Wine Tours by Bike, proud to display Certificate of Excellence and Hall of Fame awards from TripAdvisor.

"Eco friendly, cost effective & possibly THE MOST FUN you'll ever have on a bike!"

See www.winetoursbybike.co.nz

The Perfect Marlborough Retreat

Welcome to the Vintners Retreat, offering luxury accommodation in Marlborough, New Zealand. Perfect for the independent traveller, Vintners Retreat offers stylish boutique accommodation set at the top of Rapaura Road, locally known as Marlborough's 'Golden Mile' of vineyards.

Perfectly situated amongst the vines, Vintners Retreat is surrounded by wineries and vineyards, and the park-like grounds enjoy stunning views of the Richmond Ranges. We have 14 fabulous self-contained and serviced villas for you to choose from.

Each of the 14 villas are beautifully appointed, fully equipped to a high standard, self-contained and serviced daily. You have four Villa styles to choose from: Stable, Lodge, Manor or Three Bedroom Lodge. Our villas are 5 star Qualmark apartments.

Private, peaceful, only 15 minutes drive from the town of Blenheim and close to Havelock, the gateway to the beautiful Marlborough Sounds.

For information see www.vintnersretreat.co.nz



Advertorial

Vintners Retreat



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www.vintnersretreat.co.nz

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- Self-guided tours so you have the flexibility to go where you want without feeling pressured to keep up with others.

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www.winetoursbybike.co.nz



Trip Advisor
Hall of
Fame Winner

Christchurch

Take a trip to Christchurch, also known as the Garden City, and enjoy the rare chance to see a city reimagining itself

FOLLOWING THE earthquakes in 2010 and 2011, the city is rebuilding to include emphasis on world-class technology and innovation, alongside history and heritage. There are so many fantastic activities and experiences to have in Christchurch. Be inspired by the variety of things to see and do this winter.

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

■ There is plenty to inspire art lovers. Spend a day marvelling at artworks on display at the Christchurch Art Gallery, or get inspired by huge street art murals around the city. You can also see incredible new architecture — including the world's only cathedral made substantially from cardboard, at 234 Hereford Street — or take in a show at the beautifully



restored Isaac Theatre Royal. ■ If you're more of an outdoors type, hire a SPARK Bike and see the city up close.

You could explore the Port Hills tracks by bike or foot, and get stunning views over the city, mountains and sea.

Getting there

Christchurch is in Canterbury, east coast of the South Island. It takes about four and a half hours to drive there from Dunedin and about eight hours from Wellington, including a ride on the ferry to Picton.

Food keeps Christchurch going.

■ For breathtaking views, don't miss the Summit Road track. Cycle or walk up Evans Pass Road from Summer village to Summit Road and take the road left to Godley Head. Castle Hill, a small alpine village about 30 minutes' drive west of Christchurch, also has great hiking and mountain biking. ■ For something more

relaxing, wander around the Botanic Gardens and take in the amazing flora and fauna. ■ Christchurch also offers great shopping. Shop up a storm at Re:START and eat at one of the many food trucks. ■ Make Oxford a destination. Visit on a Sunday morning and check out the cafes, museums and Oxford Farmers' Market, only 40 minutes from Christchurch. ■ Christchurch has a number of boutique coffee roasteries and cafes — Black Betty Cafe, Vivace Espresso and The Lyttelton Coffee Company. ■ Check out the view from the open air deck at Dux Central, and enjoy a craft beer. ■ When it's time to wind down, head for a night out with dinner, drinks and dancing on St Asaph or Victoria Streets. And Boo Radley's — one of the city's newest bar and restaurants in one of the few remaining heritage buildings in Victoria Street.

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Take a soothing dip in the thermal pools at Hanmer Springs.

Hurunui

From rugged coastlines and sandy beaches to inland alpine villages and lush green forests, the natural beauty of the Hurunui area is overwhelming

WHETHER YOU'RE after a relaxing, indulgent break of wineries, award-winning eateries and spa treatments or a non-stop adventure of bungee jumping, jet boating, hiking, skiing, hunting and fishing – the Hurunui will give you the holiday you deserve.

You'll discover some amazing places. Enormous steel sculptures have transformed an old Waipara quarry into an incredible art gallery. Breathtaking gardens await you in Hawarden. Historic steam trains chug through the surreal limestone formations of Weka Pass while cathedral-like cliffs will stun you in Gore Bay.

The jewel in the crown is the alpine spa village of Hanmer Springs, a relaxing and tranquil spot with all of the best New Zealand has to offer – from stunning scenery to adrenaline-filled activities (including bungee jumping!). The village is also home to the country's largest natural thermal pools complex, an

Getting there

Located in the east of the South Island, Hurunui is about 45 minutes' drive north of Christchurch.

exceptionally popular attraction.

Add to that the internationally renowned wine region Waipara Valley and the Hurunui becomes a destination you cannot miss.

Best of all, it's just a 45-minute drive from Christchurch. So, get excited. The Hurunui is a holiday experience you will remember for the rest of your life.

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

■ Hanmer Springs enjoys crisp winter days and nights. Stop by and let fun and relaxation give you a great rejuvenating getaway. Two daily shuttle buses connect travellers from Hanmer

Springs to Christchurch.

During winter months, frequent snowfalls and beautiful alpine scenery are the backdrop to a great winter getaway. The Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools become a magical playground for all visitors. It is not unusual for Hanmer Springs temperatures in winter to be at or close to the national low over the July-August period, due to its inland alpine location, away from coastal influences.

■ Hanmer Springs offers many outdoor pursuits for travellers to engage in, including skiing and snowboarding, walking and tramping, mountain biking, quad biking, bungee jumping, jet boating and golf.

■ Amuri Ski Club is just 20km from the village and manages the most affordable and friendly ski area in New Zealand, with daily lessons and full ski hire for skiers and boarders. When the ski fun is over the day, who can resist a soak in the Thermal Pools to stretch and take away those aches and pains?

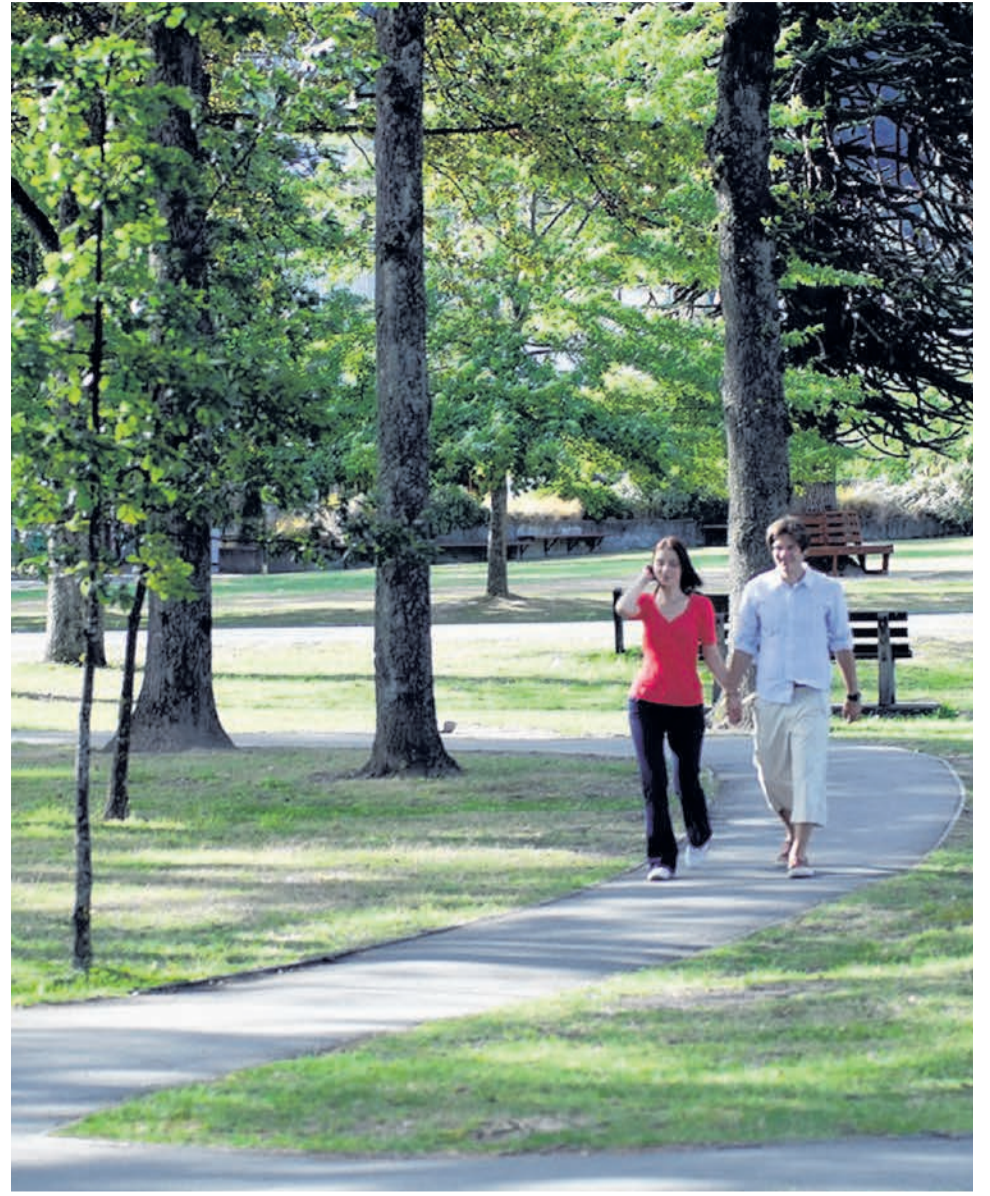


The Weka Pass Railway runs through 12.8km of limestone beauty.

■ Accommodation is always near capacity on Saturday nights, however a great alternative stay is midweek when the weekend crowds are not present. You can stroll

through towering forests without seeing another human. For those who wish to research where to stay

■ Continued p33



Continued from p32

TripAdvisor is probably the best place to start.

The Waipara Valley, just 45 minutes north of Christchurch, is worth exploring. The first thing you'll notice is acres of grapevines. This is one of New Zealand's premier wine regions, known for superb pinot noir and riesling.

Do take the time to visit one of the vineyard restaurants — they offer a dining experience like no other. Likewise, a visit to one of the many tasting rooms is a must.

Interesting forms of accommodation can be found in Waipara — you can even stay in a converted railway carriage. To add to your gourmet experience, there are olive groves, nut farms and fields of lavender.

It's a great place to stretch your legs, with a cycleway between the wineries, excellent walks and the inspiring Iron Ridge Quarry Park (a disused quarry that's been converted into an art gallery with enormous steel sculptures) all here.

Waipara is also home to the historic Weka Pass Railway, which runs on the first and third Sunday of every month.

Waipara Valley has a range of authentic food producers and farmers. From lamb and truffles to olives, this is the pantry of Hurunui. Every Saturday, you can see, taste and buy Hurunui produce at the Waipara Valley Farmers' Market in Amberley.

Amberley is a great place to experience country hospitality



Take a break with a walk in the Hurunui area.

on your journey through Hurunui. Enjoy fresh air and mountain views — golf and fishing too!

It's a relaxed rural town that is primarily a service centre for local farms and wine growers, but is also home to some of the area's best cafes and craft shops.

There are mountain views to north and south, and a minute away, Amberley Beach. The beach is seemingly endless and is an excellent place for a stroll.

Continued p34

The best place to Relax together



Hanmer Springs

Thermal Pools & Spa

Enjoy 15 open-air thermal pools, sauna and steam rooms, private thermal pools and a luxurious day spa.

Open seven days 10am – 9pm.



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Hurunui

Continued from p33

Visitors also enjoy Amberley for the country pursuits available in the area: horse riding, surfcasting, wine tasting, river fishing, farm visits and garden tours.

The Amberley Beach golf course delivers sweeping views of the sea.

Cheviot is the largest town on the coastal route between Amberley and Kaikoura and a charming place to explore.

You'll find a range of shops on the main street (State Highway 1) with all the necessities on offer, plus a host of art galleries and boutiques.

Cheviot Hill Domain, with its extensive planting of English trees, is a pleasant picnic spot in all seasons.

Nearby, Gore Bay is popular for surfing. Don't miss the Cathedral Cliffs just outside the town — they are a natural marvel.

Both the Hurunui and Waiau rivers reward fly fishermen with sea-run salmon and trout.

A Cheviot farm stay can

introduce you to the delights of sheep mustering, pony riding and other rural activities.

EVENTS

Gary McCormack and Tim Shadbolt: Stand-up comedy at its best — May 5.

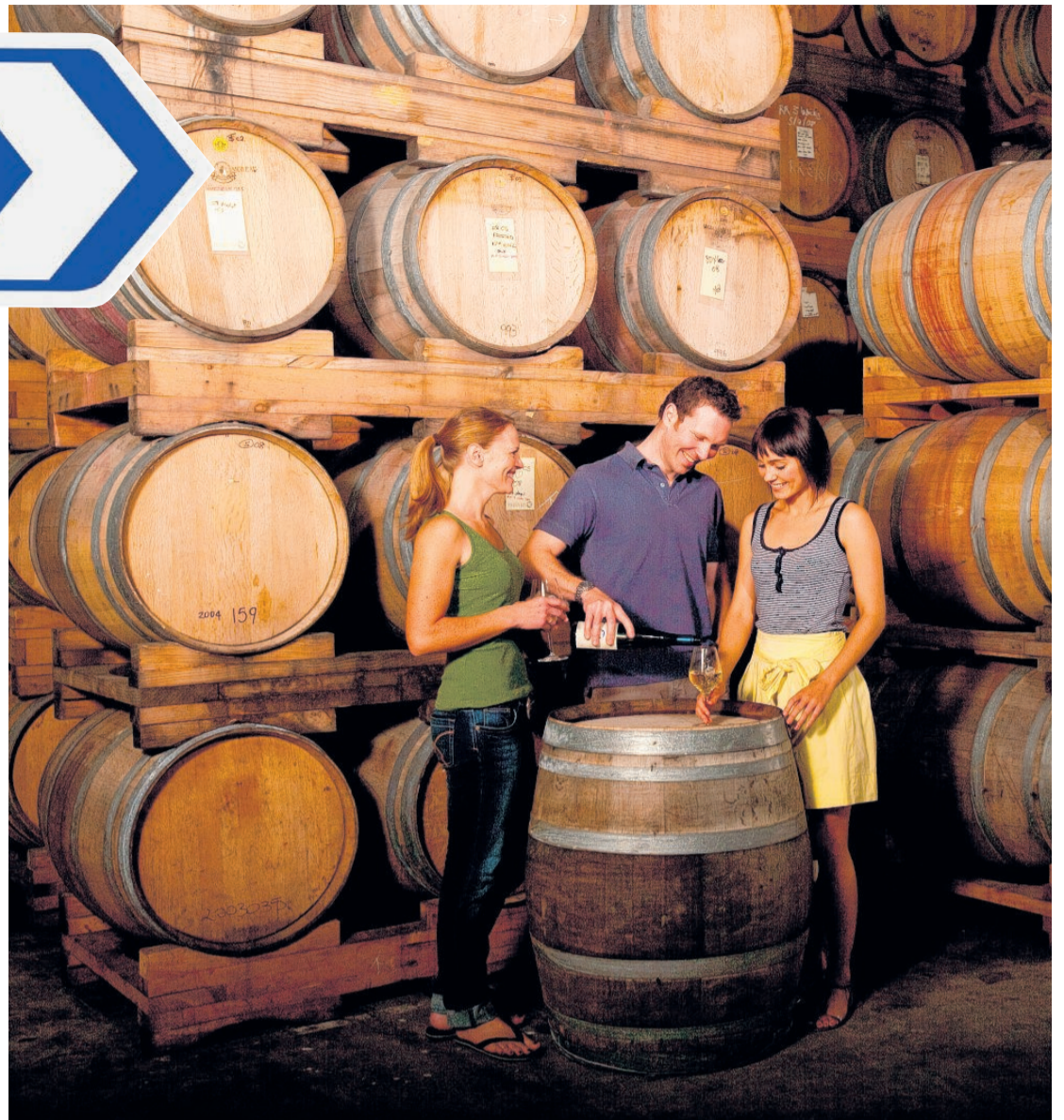
Hanmer Four Square Half Marathon — May 7.

Amuri Arts Council Autumn School — May 13-15, Hanmer Springs.

The Great Greta Valley Hunt — May 20-22, Greta Valley and Motunau Beach.

Bivouac Outdoor Mt Isobel Challenge — May 28, Hanmer Springs.

Waipara Valley is a famous wine region with several vineyards.



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Mackenzie & Mt Cook

The region boasts golden grasslands, turquoise lakes and New Zealand's highest peak. Be captivated by the scenery and exhilarated by the adventure

On a clear night, you might see the Southern Lights at Lake Tekapo.

HOME TO New Zealand's highest peak and longest glacier, the Aoraki Mount Cook Mackenzie Region provides a variety of uncrowded ski fields.

Ride the snow tube, experience back country skiing at its best and try the world's longest and steepest rope tow.

Set among spectacular alpine scenery, the Mackenzie region has unique experiences for all ages and abilities.

The quaint township of Fairlie is the gateway to the Mackenzie region and the closest township to Mt Dobson. Mt Dobson has a friendly atmosphere that offers terrain for all ages and stages.

The learner slope bathes in all-day sun with a ski school to help you find your ski legs, while the rest of the ski area is a mass expanse of wide-open groomed intermediate and advanced runs.

Tekapo and Twizel, the two closest towns to Mt Cook, are also holiday hotspots.

Getting there

The Aoraki Mt Cook Mackenzie region is in the centre of the South Island, a drive of about two and a half hours from both Christchurch and Queenstown.

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

■ An easy 35-minute drive from Lake Tekapo Village, Roundhill Ski Area is known as one of the best family ski areas in New Zealand.

Easy parking lets you ski to your car and unpack your picnic lunch. With learner, intermediate and advanced access, this is a field for everyone.

Looking for a challenge? Roundhill is home to Australasia's biggest vertical drop, the Heritage Express.

■ Continued p36 >>>



The Tasman Glacier can be viewed from the short walks that start from the Blue Lakes Shelter.

Take time to play this winter.



Mackenzie Region
New Zealand

mackenzienz.com

We'll show you GREAT salmon!



High Country Salmon has free entry to their fish feeding area which is a great family activity.

Easily located on the side of SH8, 4km south of Twizel, visitors can relax on the deck and enjoy the scenic surroundings, watching the salmon jump in their pens!

Take a break for coffee and sample some salmon inspired lunch options in the floating café - sashimi, sushi, bagels, chowder, hot pies, quiche and smoked salmon with crackers.

Also, purchase fresh salmon to take away and share! Heading home? You can order your fresh salmon products to be delivered nationwide

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Mackenzie & Mt Cook

There is plenty to do in the park, including bush walks and hot springs.

Continued from p35

A day away from the slopes is just as satisfying: relax in a café and soak up the atmosphere, enjoy a variety of short walks and many activities.

Walk to the summit of Mt John and reward yourself with a homemade cake and a great coffee at Astro Café. The 360 degree views are absolutely stunning. With the winter sun setting a lot earlier, take advantage of a stargazing tour and enjoy learning about our fabulous solar system.

A visit to Tekapo Springs should definitely be on your itinerary. Inviting hot pools to relax and soak those tired muscles, learn to ice skate or be exhilarated on the snow tube. Enjoy the local produce at the Tahr Bar & Café while you snuggle up by the open fire listening to live music. There is something for everyone.

Drive to Mount Cook Village, spend a magical night at the Hermitage Hotel and wake up in the morning to an unobstructed view of Mount Cook. Relax with a wine by the open fire while taking in the view of the glorious mountain landscape.

Enjoy a 3D theatre show, stargazing tour at the planetarium and learn about the Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve, walk the Hooker Valley walk or take an Argo up the Tasman Valley.

If you can't keep off the snow, check out the option of skiing on the Tasman Glacier, one of the longest runs available at between 8-10km.

The most western ski area in the Mackenzie region boasts its own lodge

RELAX WITH A WINE BY THE OPEN FIRE WHILE TAKING IN THE VIEW OF THE GLORIOUS MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPE.

with restaurant and accommodation facing the stunning Lake Ohau.

Just 20 minutes from the Lodge, Ohau Snow Field has spectacular views and ski options for all abilities..

New Zealand's own Sir Henry [Harry] Wigley made aviation history in 1955 when he created and piloted a world-first snow landing plane with modified retractable skis. Wigley had spent years perfecting the skis before he piloted the first ski plane from Mt Cook village to the Tasman Glacier.

Wigley was a World War II fighter pilot, mountain climber, national downhill skiing champion . . . and an astute businessman. Less than a year after the retractable ski prototype was tested, Mt Cook Ski Planes and Helicopters was up and running.

Ski some of the highest peaks in all of New Zealand and the incredible terrain of the Southern Alps with an Inflight Heli-Ski. Runs range from 5-12km in length.

Continued p37

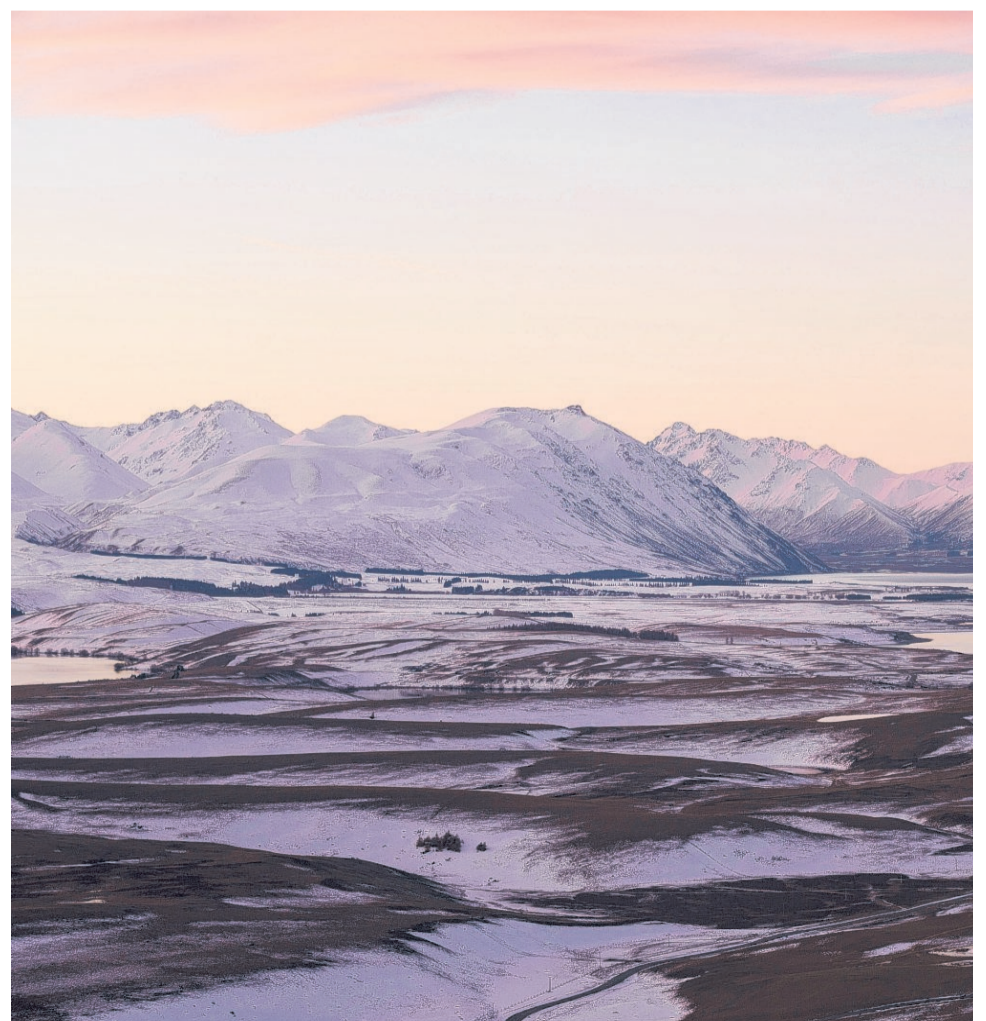
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Lake Tekapo ~ Franz Josef, New Zealand



Soak up the stunning views at Lake Tekapo.

Continued from p36

With no crowds and nothing but mountain air and fresh powder, Inflight Heli-Ski is the best place for your ultimate ski vacation.

With New Zealand's longest ski runs, Ski the Tasman is the best way to experience the Tasman Glacier. Each run is around 8-12km long and is suitable for skiers of average ability.

Don't worry about lifts because Mt Cook Ski Planes and Helicopters provides the transport. A picnic lunch and expert guide included on this day trip means you are sure to enjoy every moment of your time on the snow.

Hiking on the Tasman Glacier provides a true mountain experience. Fly into the heart of the Southern Alps with your professional mountain guide and enjoy up to 2 hours exploring the Tasman Glacier. You land at over 1000 metres above sea level amongst the towering mountains of the main divide.

Equipped with crampons or snow shoes you'll follow the steps of your professional guide as you explore the amazing ice formations and ice caves of the Tasman Glacier.

Mt Cook Ski Planes and Helicopters offers many different scenic options, ranging from a 25-minute snow landing flight to a 55-minute Grand Circle flight with multiple glacier landings and amazing views of the West Coast.

Enjoy the beautiful views of the many mountains surrounding the picturesque Tasman Valley as you fly



The Church of the Good Shepherd was built as a memorial to the pioneers of the Mackenzie Country.

through one of the most beautiful regions New Zealand has to offer.

The icebergs dotting the blue glacier lake, the Hochstetter ice fall and the cloud piercing Aoraki Mt Cook are some of the stunning views you will encounter on your journey through the Southern Alps.

The Ultimate Alpine Adventure by

Mt Cook Ski Planes and Helicopters offers the unique opportunity to experience all the company's products for the price of one.

Depart from Aoraki Mt Cook Airport in either its ski plane or helicopter. After landing high in the mountains, you will get to spend some time enjoying one of the many snow-covered

peaks that Aoraki Mt Cook National Park has to offer. You will then fly back to the Aoraki Mt Cook Airport in the either the ski plane or the helicopter.

This gives you the opportunity to enjoy the magnificent scenery of the park in both aircraft, making this flight option a spectacular once in a lifetime opportunity.

Open space... fresh powder. No lines... no crowds.

MOUNT COOK
SKI PLANES AND HELICOPTERS
BY INFLITE



Get away from the crowds for exclusive skiing experiences you will never forget.

Ski the Tasman – A 5 hour iconic experience. Be transported onto the Tasman Glacier via Ski Plane or Helicopter taking in some of the most spectacular scenery in New Zealand before enjoying 2 x 90min ski runs and lunch on top of the glaciers. Beginner and advanced skiers will enjoy the uniqueness of fresh powder, mountainous terrain, ice caves and more.

Heli-Skiing – 3, 4, or 5 runs you decide. Jump aboard our twin engine helicopter and head for some of the most spectacular remote ski runs in New Zealand. Options available for all experience levels.

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Geraldine has scenic views.

THE BOUTIQUE village of Geraldine lies at the heart of the Canterbury region, at the foot of the Southern Alps, on the east coast of the South Island. Geraldine is the gateway to the Lake Tekapo Starlight Reserve and Aoraki Mt Cook as well as the lakes in the central Mackenzie Basin.

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

- The town boasts two excellent museums: one historical, with a wealth of early settler information; and the Vintage Car and Machinery Museum, which has a collection of vintage vehicles dating back to 1905.
- Outdoor enthusiasts are spoilt for choice in Geraldine, with walking and cycling trails and geocaching locations in

Geraldine

the district. The town hosts several multisport events in autumn, including rogaining—the sport of long distance cross-country map reading.

- In winter, Geraldine is an ideal base for skiers heading to the Mount Dobson, Tekapo and Fox Peak ski areas, with all types of accommodation

and a variety of cafes.

- Take a stroll through Talbot Forest, a remnant of an ancient podocarp forest that can be easily reached on foot from the town's centre.
- Pop in to any number of artists' studios dotted round town, see an artist at work or browse the interesting and

diverse galleries around town.

- Follow the Incredible Edible trail and help yourself to some tasty and fresh free produce from the public gardens.
- Experience stunning views of the snow-capped alps as you join the locals for a bracing stroll across the Geraldine Downs.

Getting there

The country town of Geraldine lies on the scenic inland route (SH72), ideally situated just over one and a half hours' drive from Christchurch.

- Take home locally produced, award-winning cheeses after enjoying a tasting session and a tour around the boutique factory at Talbot Forest Cheeses.
- Enjoy Geraldine's clear starry skies at New Zealand's best private observatory. geraldineobservatory.co.nz
- Feel like you're million miles away from it all by meandering along the Waihi River, through the rhododendron dell or the

■ Continued p39

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Continued from p38

native bush glade. A delightful rejuvenating spot just metres from the main street.

Shop for gifts and designer clothes at the boutique shops located in Geraldine's compact and lovely Talbot St.

Sample some of New Zealand's best preserves at the Barker's of Geraldine shop in Four Peaks Plaza. After 45 years, Barker's of Geraldine is still on a corner of the original family farm. The farm is now a thriving business, making world-class jams, chutneys, syrups and condiments.

Go on a homestead tour. Many of the historic properties visited with Homestead Tours are rarely open to the public and the hosts and owners all have a different story to share.

The tours include not only interesting gardens, but native forests, farming operations, local heritage, wineries, local artists and craftspeople. For more information phone (03) 6939 366, email info@homesteadtours.co.nz or see homesteadtours.co.nz

WHERE TO STAY

You will find Peel Forest Lodge & Horse Trekking about nine minutes off the Inland Scenic Route 72 between Mt Somers and Geraldine. Peel Forest is one of the few remaining original podocarp forests left in New Zealand. The Department of Conservation reserve has lots of well-maintained walks among the totara and kahikatea trees, some more than 800 years old.

The birdlife is something that really takes people's attention when they come to Peel Forest, the chorus from the native birds is something people always talk about.

Peel Forest Lodge is set amongst this beautiful forest and offers comfortable 4.5 star accommodation, which can be either catered or self-catered. The Lodge sleeps up to 10 guests and is a wonderful place for a stopover or a few days of relaxation.

Activities include taking a



The Nukes ukulele band holds workshops at schools for children. The band will play at the Meadow Mushrooms Geraldine Ukefest in July.

leisurely horse trek through the forest and along the Rangitata River, walking in the forest, rafting down the rapids of the Rangitata River or maybe wandering around the lovely town of Geraldine.

Well sited to break up your car trip between Christchurch and Queenstown, Peel Forest is a must on your list of places to visit.

EVENT

Meadow Mushrooms Geraldine Ukefest — A weekend of concerts, workshops, music, vibrancy and joy on July 7-9, with the ukulele as the centrepiece.

The main attraction this year will be the Ukulele Showdown between The Nukes and The Big Muffin Serious Band.

Motel centrally located in Geraldine!

- 10 air conditioned units
- 3 spa bath units
- 3 two bedroom units
- ½ gig Free Wifi
- All ground level
- Self contained



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Banks Peninsula-Timaru-Waimate-Geraldine-Rakaia Gorge

Autumn Colour Tour 2017

24 - 30th April 2017

Christchurch - Tekapo - Wanaka - Queenstown

For further information on these tours please contact – Rachel & George Harper
Tel: 03 693 9366, Email – info@homesteadtours.co.nz
Website - www.homesteadtours.co.nz

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Wanaka

It's all about chilling with friends and family, taking in the views and soaking up the laid-back cruisy atmosphere

THE RELAXED yet vibrant central lakeside village of Wanaka hums with the charming après ski vibe of a genuine alpine haven.

Everything is easy. Rental gear and transport to the mountains are simple to organise, either from town or up the mountain on popular ski fields Treble Cone, Cardrona and Snow Farm. The ski fields are only 40 minutes' drive from the centre of town.

If you love to ski, love to relax and love to have fun and live life to the full, you'll love Lake Wanaka.

Local ski field Treble Cone has been voted New Zealand's best two years in a row and has the longest runs and steepest verticals in the country.

On the back of a very busy winter 2015, which was the highest visitation season since the ski field opened back in 1968, Treble Cone Ski Area has invested in a \$1 million upgrade and modernisation to the six-seater Home Basin Express chairlift. It's also replacing two grooming machines with the latest grooming technology.

Cardrona Alpine Resort is one of New Zealand's most popular ski fields for families and has a reputation for outstanding, consistent snow and great pipes. Cardrona is also home to the Audi Quattro Winter Games.

Snow Farm adds another dimension with the only cross-country ski field in the country.

Plus, the fact the South Island's mountainous spine,

Getting there

The town of Wanaka is situated at the southern end of Lake Wanaka. It takes just over one hour to drive there from Queenstown.



Treble Cone has been voted New Zealand's best ski field for the past two years.



If you want to give snowshoeing a go, head to Snow Farm's 55km of scenic trails high on the Pisa Range.

the mighty Southern Alps, runs right through the Lake Wanaka region means New Zealand's best heli-skiing

terrain is all right here. In fact, the only region in the world with more heli-ski terrain is North America!

And you know what big mountains mean? Plenty of snow, outstanding skiing and snowboarding, and views that

will blow your mind and make your feed go viral!

Continued p41

Where you wanna be!

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Wanaka
lakewanaka.co.nz

Wanaka HOTEL

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Wanaka's local ski fields specialise in stupendous views.

PHOTO: Mark Clinton, as supplied by Lake Wanaka Tourism

Continued from p40

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

It's all about having fun on the snow in Wanaka. The ski fields open in June and July. Treble Cone opens June 23 to October 2; Cardrona June 11 to October 9; and Snow Farm in July (exact date TBC).

The new Cardrona and Treble Cone three- and six-day Flexi Pass allows skiers and snowboarders to enjoy Queenstown and Wanaka's largest and best ski areas on one flexible lift pass. Explore 850ha of top skiing and snowboarding terrain.

Flexi Pass has the snow for you — gentle beginner slopes, terrain parks and half pipes, wide open groomers, challenging steeps and powder stashes. Earlybird three- and six-day Flexi Passes are valid for redemption from July 25 to the end of the 2016 season.

Is this the year you try something new and learn to ski or snowboard? Treble Cone's new Learn to Ski 1-2-FREE programme has been launched to help introduce new skiers and riders to the fun of skiing and snowboarding with real progression over three days.



There is plenty of fun to be had at Cardrona Alpine Resort.

The programme includes ski or snowboard equipment hire. If you want a bit of time off

the skis, hop on a dog sled or toboggan — or hire a fat bike and go biking on snow.



Big mountains mean plenty of snow and space.

PHOTO: Mark Clinton



Treble Cone Ski Area is undergoing an upgrade.

SNOW FARM NEW ZEALAND

- Cross Country Ski
- Snow Shoe • Fat Tyre Biking
- Snow Fun Zone • Back Country Huts
- Dog Sledding with UnderDogs NZ

The Snow Farm is your ideal winter destination! Set high on the Pisa Range, in the heart of New Zealand's South Island, we have 55km of scenic trails perfect for cross country skiing or snowshoeing. Whether you want to experience the peace and tranquility of the secluded Pisa alpine valleys, awe inspiring views of the Southern Alps and Mt Aspiring, or are looking for a day of winter family fun, we have the trails and terrain for you.



Waitaki

The Waitaki Valley is an unspoilt paradise, offering a wide range of attractions, including wildlife and limestone wonders

SURROUNDED BY stunning natural beauty and with some of New Zealand's best 19th century architecture, the district offers visitors a welcoming experience.

It is a haven for eco-tourism and wildlife, including Oamaru blue- and yellow-eyed penguin colonies, shags, seals and an abundance of birdlife.

Oamaru lays claim to being the steampunk capital of New Zealand, and it is also the finishing point of the Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail — a stunning 300km journey from the mountains to the sea.

The Waitaki journey takes you from the alps to the ocean in as little as two hours' drive.

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

■ Take your time to explore the fossil trail and other limestone wonders, while the Valley's developing wine industry is an opportunity to experience cold climate varieties while enjoying a platter of local produce.

■ At the Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony you can see the world's smallest penguins in their natural environment. Oamaru blue penguins nest close to town under the cliffs along the historic harbour foreshore. The colony is just beyond the Victorian Heritage

AT THE OAMARU BLUE PENGUIN COLONY YOU CAN SEE THE WORLD'S SMALLEST PENGUINS IN THEIR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

Precinct and within walking distance of the town centre. www.penguins.co.nz

■ Take away more than memories from the Victorian Precinct — a busy hub filled with shops, galleries, cafes, bars and restaurants. Dress up in Victorian clothing for a heritage photograph.

■ No experience is necessary to experience the joy of silent flight in a high performance sailplane. Your instructor will brief you and offer the opportunity to handle and fly the aircraft.

■ Make sure you experience the many faces of New Zealand's steampunk capital. Steampunk is an alternate history of the 19th century industrial revolution, a post-apocalyptic future during which steam power has regained mainstream use.

■ Fancy going for a cycle? The Alps to Ocean Cycle Trail (A20) is the longest cycle trail in New Zealand. At a length of 300km, the trail runs from Aoraki Mount Cook all the way to ocean, finishing at the seaside in Oamaru. The A20 is more than a cycle trail, it is 300km of attractions, dining, shopping and activities.

It's a leisurely journey with plenty of opportunity to get off the bike and discover the region. Hot springs, wine tastings, boutique shops, penguin tours, star-gazing are just some traiside diversions.

■ Make the most of winter by heading to the Ohau snowfields. Just under two hours from Oamaru, the fields

Getting there

Just three hours' drive from Christchurch, the Waitaki District extends from the Waitaki River in the north down to south of Palmerston.



The Moeraki Boulders on Koekohe Beach are a must-see.



Oamaru lays claim to being the steampunk capital of New Zealand.

are suitable for all abilities, with lessons available and good rental gear.

For the more adventurous there are great hiking trails around the tops with access to the best powder snow. Wherever you are on the mountain, the views of Lake Ohau and the Mackenzie High Country are amazing.

■ Another must-see are the Moeraki Boulders on Koekohe Beach near Moeraki. These boulders are concretions that have been exposed through shoreline erosion from the

coastal cliffs that back the beach.

■ The Waitaki District coast from Oamaru to south of Palmerston has many stunning, secluded and often unknown beaches and walks. Take the time to explore a very special coastline.

■ The Vanished World Fossil Trail self-guided trail spans coastal localities from Moeraki to Oamaru and extends inland through the Waitaki Valley. The trail has more than 20 sites related to landforms, distinctive rocks, minerals and

fossils. As you travel the Vanished World Trail you will see spectacular limestone outcrops that started out as sands settling on the sea floor containing marine life some 24 to 26 million years ago. Two trail sites show skeletons of fossil vertebrates that have been excavated and exposed.

■ When you get hungry and feel like a sip of wine, the Waitaki District will satisfy your cravings. Home to several award-winning restaurants and a growing wine industry, there is something for all tastes.

Legendary Fleur's Place at Moeraki and the multi award-winning Riverstone Kitchen are just part of what makes the Waitaki District and Oamaru a must-visit.

■ For holiday and booking information, see visitoamaru.co.nz, or contact Oamaru i-Site: ph 03 434 1656 or email isite@visitoamaru.co.nz

EVENT

■ **Fire and Steam** — A thrilling event of controlled fire, steam, sound and lighting themed entertainment for the whole family. It brings Oamaru's Harbour Street alive. There will also be live bands, music, dancers and food stalls. June 3, from 6.30-9pm, \$5 entry, under-5s free.



Come explore Oamaru & Waitaki District

Oamaru i-SITE Visitor Centre 1 Thames Street, Oamaru +64 3 434 1656 isite@visitoamaru.co.nz www.visitoamaru.co.nz

The frozen landscapes of Central Otago create a perfect playground for ice sports and an inspiration for intrepid visitors

BRING THE family and skate away the winter blues on an outdoor ice rink; luge down and around snow-covered forest trees in Naseby; and have a go at the ancient sport of curling.

And if the temperature plummets and the ice is right you might get to witness a seldom held bonspiel or curling tournament.

The chill factor also creates the wow factor and images of sparkly ice crystal hoarfrosts and the snow-covered Hawkdun mountain range will linger long.

Get out and about — remembering to check road conditions before driving — and make the most of the chilled-out landscape!

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

■ A visit to Highlands Motorsport Park is a must-do in Central Otago. Situated in

Central Otago



The chill factor also creates the wow factor in spectacular scenery.

Cromwell, only 45 minutes from Queenstown, the park offers something for everyone in the family. From driving the

fast McLaren 650s to the Jurassic Safari, Highlands Motorsport Park is a true bucket-list destination.

■ The Otago Central Rail Trail is a majestic journey in winter. You'll need to wrap up warm and book ahead for trail-

Getting there

Central Otago is New Zealand's most inland region, located in the southern half of the South Island. It takes just under three hours to drive there from Dunedin via State Highway 87 and just under two hours from Queenstown.

side accommodation.

■ There are also plenty of things to do without travelling too far. Soak up the heritage and history by visiting one of the many local museums or visitor centres; retreat with a friend or a book to one of the many cafes and eateries to smell the coffee and indulge in comfort food; or pull up a chair by the fireside, pour yourself a glass of pinot noir and enjoy the luxury of simply being.

Highlands A WORLD CLASS DESTINATION WORTH THE RIDE



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Dunedin

New Zealand's oldest city, Dunedin is well-known for its Victorian and Edwardian architecture and views of rare wildlife

DUNEDIN'S SCOTTISH settlers named the city from the Gaelic for Edinburgh, Dun Eideann, and the Scottish values of thrift and education are still in evidence.

Flashy high-rise buildings never caught on and whole streets of Victorian and Edwardian buildings are undergoing a renewal.

Clustered on the steep hills at the head of beautiful Otago Harbour, Dunedin offers visitors a wide range of experiences, from world renowned wildlife, through vibrant cultural events and collections, to fun activities for children. And within 100 metres of its main street you'll find shops, accommodation, bars, restaurants and cafes in abundance.

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

■ The city is close to the cold waters of the continental shelf, which provide a rich source of food for

Getting there

On the southeast coast of the South Island, Dunedin is about a two-and-a-half-hour drive from Central Otago.

marine mammals and seabirds. This makes for year-round viewing of wildlife on the glorious Otago Peninsula. In a day you can visit the only mainland breeding colony of albatross in the world at Taiaroa Head, watch sea lions asleep in sand dunes, delight in the antics of fur seals and, in the evening, watch the world's smallest penguins, the little blues, trudge up the beach.

■ If you're ready for a day in town you can abandon the car or camper and wander along George and Princes streets, exploring the compact inner city with its host of boutiques selling the fashion clothing



Take a tour through the recently re-developed Speight's Brewery.

of local labels such as NOM*d and Carlson, or rummage in op shops and second-hand stores for vintage treasures.

■ A 20-minute drive to the historic port town of Port Chalmers will delight the dedicated vintage shopper with its retro shops specialising in women's clothing and hats and collectable homewares, including Crown Lynn pottery.

■ If architecture is your thing, check out Larnach Castle, Dunedin Railway Station, the University Clock Tower (a favourite backdrop for capping photos), the modern University of Otago library, plus an array of 19th and 20th century buildings which have been made over for 21st century life.

■ For children, Cadbury World provides sweet inspiration, and in winter the International Science Festival, Midwinter Carnival and Puaka Matariki (Maori New Year) all offer stimulating activities.

■ When you visit Dunedin make sure you climb on board a Dunedin Railways train for a scenic train ride you will not forget. The stunning Taieri Gorge Railway is a train trip and one that should not be missed. Departing daily from Dunedin's stunning railway station, this trip encompasses scenery that is spectacular, ever-changing and unique to this part of the country and can only be seen from this train. The

live commentary gives a great insight into the building of this railway through the enormously challenging terrain and is informative and entertaining.

■ Speight's Brewery has been operating on the same site since 1876 and forms a large part of Dunedin's social and commercial history. The brewery was recently re-developed and the fully guided tour will take you through the old brewery, which has been left in original order for visitors, while also visiting our new Brew House. The tour is completed in the brewery bar with an appreciation session of a range of Speight's Beers.

Visit www.speights.co.nz for further information.



Climb on board for a scenic ride on Taieri Railway.





DUNEDIN, THE HOME OF SPEIGHT'S

WHERE TO FIND US

200 Rattray Street, Dunedin 9016, New Zealand

An easy 5 minute walk from The Octagon



SPEIGHT'S BREWERY TOUR

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e: tours@speights.co.nz

w: speights.co.nz

Cheers!
cheers.org.nz

* Speight's Brewery Tour has limited access for wheel chairs.

DUNEDIN RAILWAYS

TAIERI GORGE RAILWAY



A highlight of your visit to Dunedin is a trip on the Taieri Gorge Railway - one of the world's great train trips and one of Dunedin's top attractions.

Departing daily from downtown Dunedin into the Taieri Gorge, this trip travels through some of New Zealand's most beautiful and ever changing scenery - not to be missed.

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www.dunedinrailways.co.nz

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Southland



Take a scenic flight over to Stewart Island.

Southland is a natural playground — no matter what your passion — with a new adventure to pursue around every corner

AS NEW ZEALAND'S ultimate outdoors destination, Southland's dramatic scenery spans lush rainforests, fertile farmlands and sweeping coastlines.

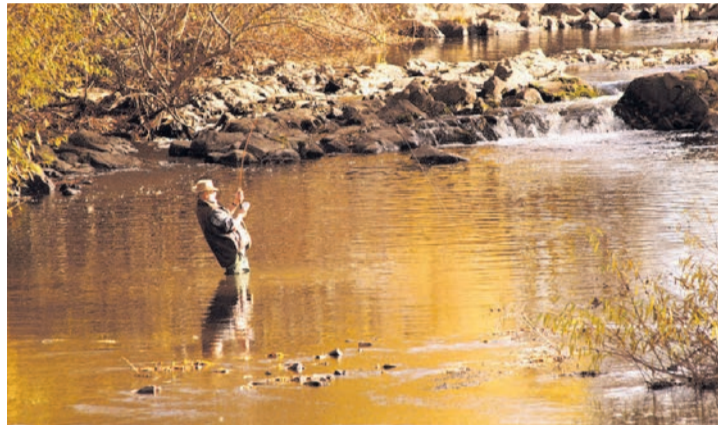
ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

- If you're following the famous and spectacular Southern Scenic Route, The Catlins is a must-see. Here you'll find a world of waterfalls, coastal walks and outstanding, dramatic scenery. This wild coastal stretch is home to an array of marine life including sea lions, Hector's dolphins and rare but distinctive hoiho, the yellow-eyed penguin.
- Invercargill, Southland's commercial hub, is full of

Getting there

Southland is the country's southernmost region, with the main centres including Invercargill, Gore, Bluff and Stewart Island. It is about a two-and-a-half-hour drive from Dunedin to Invercargill.

- grand architecture and gardens. The city is home to a wide variety of facilities and has a packed events calendar that makes it an exciting place to visit.
- No trip to Southland is complete without a stop in Bluff and taking a photo at Stirling Point.
- Culture and heritage draw a



Gore is known for great fly fishing.

crowd to the southern rural town of Gore. The town, famous for its country music, illicit whiskey-making and brown trout fishing, is also a growing hub of history,

heritage and artwork. ■ Another key stop on the Southern Scenic Route is Western Southland, which surprises with its pristine wilderness. Take a hike on the

- Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track or a jet boat trip in some of the most majestic landscapes on Earth.
- If cycling is your passion, head to Northern Southland, home to some of New Zealand's newest cycling trails and mountain bike tracks — a great way to explore this rural, high country setting.
- With 25 golf courses, plenty of tournaments on the calendar and numerous opportunities to get involved with the game, Southland is the perfect place to make the most of the sport.
- And while you are down south, don't forget Stewart Island. Take a scenic flight from either Invercargill or Halfmoon Bay to Mason Bay and see spectacular aerial views of Paterson Inlet and Mason Bay.



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Chatham Islands

The Chatham Islands, with spectacular scenery and friendly locals, is about as far off the beaten track as you can get

YOUR CHATHAM ISLANDS adventure holiday will be a journey of discovery. You will take a step back in time to how life used to be.

Prepare to be surprised as these mysterious islands yield up their secrets.

Landscapes with volcanic peaks thrusting up out of rolling peatland, forest-topped towering sea cliffs, the vast expanse of Te Whanaga, sandy beaches and the ever-present ocean.

An archipelago of 11 islands, only Pitt and Chatham are inhabited, by about 600 people.

The last major Pacific Islands to be settled, the Chatham Islands are thought to have been first occupied by Polynesians about 800 to 1000 years ago. In isolation they developed a unique culture and became a people

Getting there

Situated in the South Pacific Ocean, about 800km east of Christchurch, the Chatham Islands are New Zealand's most easterly region. Air Chathams is the only regional domestic airline that flies to the Chatham Islands. Flights depart from Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch four to six times a week.

who call themselves Moriori.

They named this island home Rekoh and developed a sacred covenant of peace, which has remained unbroken for 600 years – a world record for peace keeping.



Chatham Lake is a good spot for fishing.

The Chatham Islands were discovered by Europeans in 1791 by the English ship HMS Chatham. European settlement dates from the early 1800s with sealers, then whalers and farmers.

Later Ngati Tama and Ngati Mutunga arrived and made their home on these islands they called Wharekauri.

Merging their heritage and living together on this remote outpost; the people are the Chatham Islanders.

The Chatham Islands is the first inhabited place in the world to see the

rising sun each day.

Local time is 45 minutes ahead of mainland New Zealand and observes the same daylight savings start and finish dates.

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

- Visit heritage sites and learn of Chatham Islands' fascinating history shaped by years of isolation; Moriori, Maori, sealers, whalers, missionaries, farmers and settlers.

- See for yourself the strange and beautiful Chatham Island plants. Although some of the rare birds are protected on island sanctuaries, you can readily find others in bush, on roadsides and beaches. Walk through our forests, expansive wetlands and conservation areas. Venture to Pitt Island, even more remote and surprisingly different from Chatham Island.

- Share in the bounty of its oceans; crayfish, paua, kina and blue cod, which also help sustain the economy. Then relax and absorb the peace and tranquillity of the Chatham Islands.

- Spend some time checking out the shops. Most shops and cafes accept credit cards and eftpos, but carrying cash is also advisable. Generally prices are slightly higher than mainland New Zealand due to freight costs. A combined ANZ/Post Office is located in Waitangi (main township), cash withdrawals are available, and an ATM machine is available at the Hotel Chathams public bar.

Continued p47

Welcome to Hotel Chatham

Hotel Chatham offers a wide range of accommodation options (Hotel, Motel, B&B, Homestay, and properties that would suit backpacker or groups).

So whatever your accommodation requirements are, we should be able to meet them, long or short term.

Even better you will be greeted by friendly local staff who still offer that good old fashioned hospitality.

The Chatham Islands is New Zealand's easternmost outpost, with the dateline stretching around the Chathams, allowing the claim to fame of being the first place in the world to welcome the new day.

Visitors from European countries can return home saying they have been to the other side of the world, as the Chathams is the furthest permanently inhabited place from Europe.

The isolation of the Chathams has created a unique island lifestyle and society, many locals descend from Moriori genealogy and you can discover the rich Moriori history and culture during your stay on the Chatham Islands.

Holidaymakers wanting to relax in a friendly, laid back environment will find just what they are looking for on the Chathams, take your time as you explore the many unspoilt hidden treasures of the Chatham Islands, take a stroll over the basalt columns, a walk on the golden sandy beaches, look for fossilized shark's teeth on the shores of Te Whanga lagoon.

Visitors after a more exhilarating holiday will also be spoilt for choice, with the best New Zealand outdoors has to offer, be it scenic walking tracks, fishing in the bountiful oceans, diving in the pristine sea, getting up close to sharks in a shark cage, soaking up the local culture and heritage, or taking a cruise on a charter boat.



Hotel Chathams

LANDSCAPES WITH VOLCANIC PEAKS THRUSTING UP OUT OF ROLLING PEATLAND, FOREST-TOPPED TOWERING SEA CLIFFS, THE VAST EXPANSE OF TE WHANAGA, SANDY BEACHES AND THE EVER-PRESENT OCEAN

FISH THE CHATHAMS

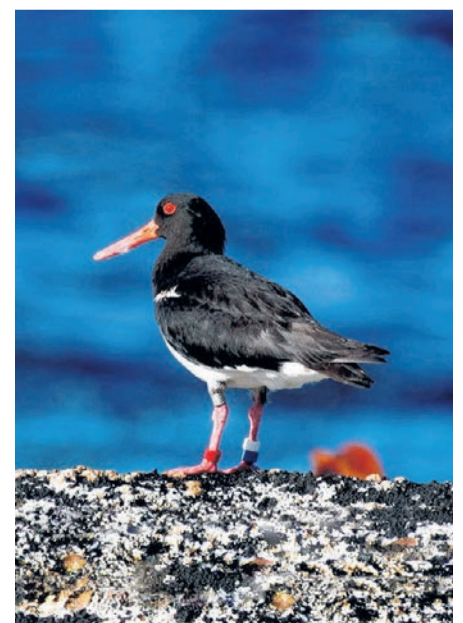
Experience and explore the raw beauty of our spectacular scenery, abundant bird life and bountiful fishing your way with our personalised scenic and fishing charters.



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Hotel Chathams Water Front Road, Chatham Islands, New Zealand, 8942

Continued from p46

The Department of Conservation has a number of walks that are public and range from a 15-minute walk to a 6 hour return walk. For more on walks see discoverthechathamislands.co.nz and download the information guide.

For further information on the Chatham Islands, contact the Chatham Islands Tourism development office: phone 0508 CHATHAMS or email info@discoverthechathamislands.co.nz.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Calling the Chatham Islands from mainland New Zealand is a standard national call. There is no cell phone coverage. High speed Wi-Fi internet is available at many locations.

Electricity is produced by diesel generators and two wind turbines. Power supply and plugs are the same as in mainland New Zealand.

The Chatham Islands has a number of options to shop and dine – a general store, fuel stations, hardware store, gift shop, art and craft shop, gallery, lodge, hotel and cafes. Most requirements are available.

Chatham Islands provides a range of comfortable accommodation options – homestay, farmstay, self-catering, backpackers, hotel, lodge motel and two marae. It is important to book your accommodation before travel. You will find your hosts friendly and helpful.

There are a number of churches on the Chatham Islands offering services and historic interest. St Augustine’s Church in Ye One has a service each Sunday and visitors are warmly welcomed.

Many places of interest are located on, or accessed over, private land, for which permission is required. On the Chatham Islands private land often extends from the roadside to the water’s edge. Most main visitor sites are signposted.

There is a Medical Centre with a resident doctor and small pharmacy. While medical care on the Chatham Islands is good, emergencies are air-lifted to mainland New Zealand. Be sure to take your own medication.



The timber and stone cottage at Maunganui in the north-west of Chatham Island was built between 1866 and 1868.



Paying respects to Tommy Solomon, the last full-blooded Moriori, who died in 1933.

Waitangi Seafoods

Chatham Islands



Waitangi Seafood’s is the Chatham Islands only locally owned and operated fish processor and exporter.

A trip to the Chatham Islands is not complete without seafood!

Door sales of the freshest and tastiest fish - chilled or frozen. Kina also available. Ready for cooking or pre-packed to take home

Phone: +64 3 305 0341

North Road, Waitangi, Chatham Islands
Email: info@waitangiseafoods.co.nz

CHATHAM CHARTERS

CHATHAM ISLAND



SPEAR FISHING • SCUBA DIVING

Hunting: Wild Sheep, Bulls, Pigs
Fishing: Max 10 passengers on FV Starkeys (52 foot)

ISLAND TOURS

Contact: Floyd Prendeville • Phone: +64 3 305 0046
Address: Waitangi - Tuku Road, Chatham Island 8942
Email: floyd.p@farmside.co.nz

Luxury Accommodation on the Chatham Islands



enquiries@awarakau-lodge.nz
www.awarakau-lodge.nz
ph 03 305 0176

Awarakau Lodge owned and operated by Greg and Rosemarie Horler caters for all variety of travellers, their specialty is small tour groups (max 12) where everyone in the group is involved and gets personal attention with the tour guide (Greg)

Free Independent Travellers also get their personal attention and advice.

The Lodge is situated on a working 524ha sheep and cattle farm on the coast of the South Pacific Ocean where it is a short stroll to the waters edge

Enjoy good hearty home cooked meals of mainly island bounty



AWARAKAU LODGE
CHATHAM ISLANDS
Ph/033050176
awarakau@farmside.co.nz
www.awarakaufarmstays.co.nz
www.awarakau-lodge.nz

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