

Destinationz

Connecting New Zealand **Winter 2025**

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Milky Way Glowworm Cave

See and learn about world-famous glowworms in this pristine cave filled with crystal formations. Several guided tours daily. Booking online is best to secure a spot.

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09 430 2722

waipucaves@gmail.com

visit www.milkywaycave.nz or scan:



**Motorhome and tent
sites available!**



***Scan here for
our location:***



Note: this is a time exposure photograph, showing glowworms brighter than normal.



Top of the North

Winterless north



Hundertwasser Art Centre, Whangārei.

Photo by Miles Holden.

Escape the cold and fly to the winterless north for your mid-year holiday. Whether you choose to venture east or west, or you're keen to do a full loop, Te Tai Tokerau Northland is as close to summer as you'll get without leaving Aotearoa.

To the east are Northland's best-known hotspots. Whangārei offers plenty to see and do for travellers of all ages and interests. As the region's biggest city, it's chocka with eateries, boutiques, museums, art studios and galleries, and family-friendly activities. Enjoy cultural tours, meet the native fauna, and visit Whangārei Falls.

Further up the region is the Bay of Islands. Steeped in history, this area is home to Russell, Paihia, Kerikeri, the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, and some of Aotearoa's most fascinating stories.

Cape Reinga / Te Rerenga Wairua, the northernmost tip of New Zealand, is just a hop, skip, and a jump up the coast. From here it's easy to scoot down the west coast to visit Te Oneroa-a-Tōhē / Ninety Mile Beach; Waipoua Kauri Forest, home to kauri tree Tāne Mahuta; and Dargaville, a charming town on the banks of the Northern Wairoa River.

Follow summer vibes to Northland this winter.

Tick tock




There is no time like the present to explore Claphams National Clock Museum in Whangārei. A museum dedicated to the history of time itself, this fascinating place offers entertaining and educational experiences for the whole whānau.



As one of the largest and most historically significant collections of clocks in the Southern Hemisphere, Claphams National Clock Museum is home to over 1400 timepieces, from ancient sun, sand, and water methods to some wacky and wonderful clocks of today. Many of the exhibits belonged to inventor, entertainer, and practical joker Archibald Clapham, who effectively gifted his enormous collection to the local council in 1961. Today, the display has grown to encompass more rare and notable pieces.

Visitors can explore the museum themselves or pre-book a guided tour by contacting the friendly team through the website or by phone. Learn about the history of recording time, have a peek at the inner workings of different types of clocks, and enjoy some Archie Clapham surprises along the way. Children can play the Clock Hunt game to keep them actively engaged.

Give a second, a minute, or even a few hours of your time to Claphams National Clock Museum.



Tuesday to Saturday
10am to 4pm
Phone:
09 434 8214

Come and see NZ's largest collection of Packard motor cars, also discover motor bikes, trucks, military vehicles and so much more. Old Dairy Factory, Maungatapere, 12 kilometers from Whangarei.

1146 State Highway 14, Maungatapere, Whangarei
www.packardmuseum.co.nz



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Te Aro, Wellington.

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Welcome to Destinationz

New Zealand is breathtaking. You can see it in photographer Rachel Gillespie's stunning shot of The Church of the Good Shepherd at Lake Tekapo on our cover. Located within the Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve – the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere – the stargazing here is nothing short of spectacular. But that's not the only astronomical advantage Aotearoa affords us. We have nine certified International Dark Sky Places, which should give you an inkling of what you might see when you look up: jaw-dropping inky canvases speckled with stars and steeped in wonder.

Look north, too, for winterless beaches, east for fertile plains, south for snow-capped mountains, and west for wild coastlands teeming with wildlife. Day or night, rain or shine, wherever you turn, Te Ika-a-Māui and Te Waipounamu have it all.

Destinationz is designed to help you explore the wonders waiting right outside your backdoor. With our very first edition out in winter 2015, we're proud to celebrate our 10th birthday. And because *Destinationz* is a biannual publication, the edition you're holding is our 21st... bring out the yard glasses, we say!

This year, we're thrilled to have expanded our Auckland section and to have sent our travel journalist Maddi to WOMAD, Taranaki's World of Music, Arts and Dance festival. Check out her experience piece on page 32 and 33 to find out why she thinks the M could also stand for Magic. Welcome to our majestic land of the long dark skies.

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Published by:

Empson Publishing Ltd

PO Box 15163,

Miramar 6243

Sales Executive:

Andy Nguyen

Ph: 04 801 1113

andy@regionalnews.kiwi

Sales Executive:

Sarah Collins

Ph: 04 801 1111

sarah@regionalnews.kiwi

Sales Manager:

Frances King

Ph: 04 384 5179

frances@regionalnews.kiwi

Editor:

Madelaine Empson

madelaine@regionalnews.kiwi

Journalist:

Alessia Belsito-Riera

alessia@regionalnews.kiwi

Contributing sales by:

Trish Smith

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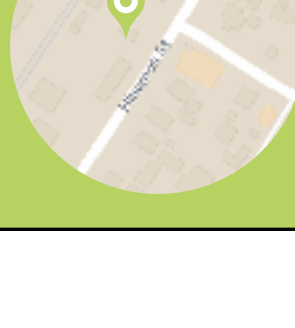
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Wynyard Quarter.



INTERNATIONAL ART CENTRE

Established in 1971 International Art Centre is situated in the heart of Auckland's historic Parnell. For the last fifty years the gallery and auction house have exhibited, sold and promoted works by leading New Zealand and International artists. As New Zealand's most experienced fine art auction house, International Art Centre provides the highest standard of customer service, research and presentation of Historical, Modern and Contemporary Art. The Gallery represents over 30 leading professional artists from New Zealand and beyond.

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Auckland

Indulge in incredible



Nothing in Auckland is more iconic than the Sky Tower. Standing 328 metres tall along the city's skyline for almost 30 years, the landmark location isn't just a beautiful sight – it offers panoramic, 360-degree views up to 80 kilometres over Tāmaki Makaurau from its three observation decks.

From 186 metres above the city, you'll be able to spot key landmarks, the 53 volcanoes and other hotspots around New Zealand's big smoke, plus catch the SkyWalkers and SkyJumpers preparing for their thrilling adventures. The Main Observation level and the Sky Deck are fan favourites, while The Lookout on level 53 provides a space for visitors to linger longer and sit back with a Lewis Road Creamery ice cream to soak in the breathtaking views.

For an extended Sky Tower experience, visit SkyBar and Orbit 360° Dining. As New Zealand's highest cocktail lounge, SkyBar sits 182 metres above the ground, offering sunset views for aperitivo hour. Orbit 360° Dining on the other hand is a unique Kiwi-inspired brasserie where the dining room rotates once every hour to give diners the experience of a lifetime.

Live the high life and indulge in the incredible at the Sky Tower.

Indulge in incredible



Gather the pups and scurry along to *Hairy Maclary's Greatest Hits*, an interactive show from Auckland Philharmonia celebrating New Zealand's favourite pooch.

Jan Bolton's brilliant musical creation of Lynley Dodd's treasured stories of Hairy Maclary, and his friends from Donaldson's Dairy, are brought to life on stage with a programme featuring the likes of *Hairy Maclary and Zachary Quack*, *Scarface Claw*, and *Slinky Malinki*, *Open the Door*. Little and big Kiwis alike will dig this interactive fur-filled music adventure at Auckland's Bruce Mason Centre on the 26th of July.

With effervescent singer and storyteller Jackie Clarke leading the pack, accompanied by Auckland's professional orchestra conducted by Reuben Brown and the National Youth Theatre Children's Chorus, this magical concert will provide barks and laughs aplenty for the whole whānau.

"It's an absolute blast to sing these iconic stories featuring Hairy Maclary and all his rascalion canine pals," Clarke says. "I'm especially pleased that Scarface Claw and Slinky Malinki get a cameo too, because after all what is a dog without a cat!"

Get your paws tapping and clapping for *Hairy Maclary's Greatest Hits*.



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Auckland

Shop till you drop



When visiting the big smoke, spend a day living your best city slicker life by bopping around the centre city. Here, you can shop till you drop and taste all kinds of yummy treats along the way.

Right in the heart of Auckland's bustling downtown precinct is Commercial Bay, New Zealand's premier shopping, dining, and entertainment destination. The carefully curated, thoughtfully designed NH Architecture and Warren and Mahoney location totals 16,500 square metres, spans three levels, and features everything from global flagships and international and local fashion designers to cosmetics, health and beauty, lifestyle brands, and more.

On the ground floor, city shoppers will find all the flagship storefronts along Queen Street, including designer labels, while the main laneway is home to some of the best international fashion brands. Little Queen Street on the other hand features a collection of Kiwi fashion designers.

Level one combines established brands with emerging labels for those looking to stand out with their style. The largest food and beverage court in the country occupies level two and spans an entire city block that features waterfront views.

Blast off!



Since the beginning of time, humans have always been fascinated by the heavens, so why not explore them at Stardome! There are loads of exciting adventures the whole family can enjoy.

Stardome has been sharing a love of space from One Tree Hill in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland since 1967, operating as a place of exploration, research, and the sharing of knowledge for professionals and visitors alike. The Stardome facilities offer cutting-edge planetarium technology coupled with expert personalised assistance from astronomy educators.

There are activities, events, and educational opportunities galore. From a revolving gallery and exhibit area to seasonal shows, music and laser productions, interactive displays, sci-fi movie nights, and more, there is always something out of this world happening.

Tamariki, rangatahi, and parents alike can learn about all things space through planetarium shows, science demos, and a wide variety of regularly scheduled events. If you're looking for an engaging and educational way to teach your little ones about space, history, science, and more, then Stardome is an excellent place to discover the secrets of the universe.



Auckland

Auckland's interactive museum



Discover the wonders of innovation at MOTAT – Auckland's Museum of Transport and Technology.

Embark on an unforgettable journey through the past, present, and future at Auckland's Museum of Transport and Technology (MOTAT). Whether you're a science and technology enthusiast or simply looking to spark curiosity in the innovators of tomorrow, MOTAT is packed with discovery and adventure.

This hands-on, minds-on museum is a place for the whole whānau to explore, learn, and be inspired. Spread across two sites in central Western Springs – the Aviation Hall and the Great North Road location – MOTAT showcases a captivating blend of history, innovation, and imagination. The Aviation Hall celebrates the story of flight, while the Great North Road site, built around a historic beam engine pump house, highlights everything from communication technology to classic cars.

Don't miss Te Puawānanga Science and Technology Centre. Winners of the International Exhibition of the Year Award at the 2025 Museums + Heritage Awards in London, this immersive space weaves together the everyday wonders of science, art, technology, and mathematics through rich storytelling and interactive exhibits. It's divided into three unique zones.

Te Tumu is a nature-inspired play space for under-fives, encouraging climbing, crawling, and hands-on exploration.

Te Puku is the 'belly' of discovery, where you can engage with fun, interactive experiences exploring light, energy, matter, and more.

Te Waha, a space for budding innovators, features science demonstrations, collection displays, and self-led design challenges.

There's even more to explore throughout MOTAT. Wander through the historical village at Great North Road or relax with a picnic on the inviting lawn. Hop aboard a heritage tram for a scenic ride between the two museum sites – a free tram service beloved by all ages. Step into Te Kōtiu, the award-winning immersive digital experience at the Aviation Hall, where the skies of Aotearoa come alive with breathtaking stories.

With a dynamic mix of permanent displays, rotating exhibitions, and a full calendar of events, MOTAT is a vibrant hub of learning and play. Open daily from 10am to 4pm, it's the perfect destination to fuel curiosity and spend an inspiring day or even your whole winter break.

Plan your visit today at www.motat.nz

A promotional banner for MOTAT. On the left, the MOTAT logo is displayed with the tagline 'Science + Tech + Play'. Below it, the text 'DISCOVER MORE' is written in large, bold, pink letters. Underneath that, 'TE PUAWĀNANGA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE' is written in white. At the bottom left, a pink button says 'EXPLORE TODAY' and 'MOTAT.NZ' is written below it. On the right, there is a photograph of a young boy interacting with a large, circular, interactive display that shows a complex mechanical or scientific structure. In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for the 'Museums+ Heritage Awards' with a red cross symbol, and a red banner below it that says 'Winner 2025'.

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Gisborne



***Eastwoodhill National Arboretum.
Photo by Escape Video.***



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Gisborne

Summer state of mind



Tolaga Bay Wharf. Courtesy of Escape Video.



Maunga Hikurangi.

Summer doesn't end in Tairāwhiti Gisborne. The weather may get a bit colder and the days a bit shorter, but that summertime state of mind keeps the atmosphere feeling warm and golden all year long. If you're keen to escape winter, there are few places in the country quite like Gizzy.

A place steeped in culture and legend, Gisborne played a crucial role in Aotearoa's early history. The Māori migratory waka *Horouta* first landed in Tairāwhiti, which is also where Captain James Cook made his first New Zealand landfall in 1769. Uncover the rich history of the land by visiting iconic locations, local museums, and galleries. It's a great way to make school holidays both enriching and engaging for your tamariki and rangatahi and to spend any rainy days indoors.

If it's adventure you're after, then Gisborne is just the place. Embrace the great outdoors on an off-road ATV tour through native bush and rugged terrain. Nature lovers can tour the reef and meet mammoth stingrays, which is fun even if the ocean is cold since you'll be wearing waders. Opt for a waka excursion to learn about Polynesia's navigational history and techniques first-hand. Experience the magic and freedom on a railbike ride along disused railway lines. Bundle up on a cosy night and catch a movie at one of the coolest cinemas in the world.

Even if the water is cold, there are plenty of ways to spend time on the sea. With a trusty wetsuit you can still dive beneath the waves to encounter the creatures of the deep or even sign up for surf school. You can also charter a fishing boat so you can enjoy the salty air without having to take a cold plunge. Gisborne's long sandy beaches will be less busy in winter; enjoy it all to yourself and take a long walk, go rock pooling with the little ones, or saddle up for a horse trek.

Three rivers converge on Gisborne's doorstep too. Here you can catch some fresh fish to cook for dinner on the barbecue. Otherwise, take the tamariki to the heated indoor pool to splash about while you relax and unwind poolside.

Don't forget to take your tastebuds on a trip and explore Gisborne's gastronomic scene. This bountiful region grows beautiful produce by the bucketload and has no shortage of incredible chefs to turn it into a delectable dining experience. The kaimoana is fresher than fresh and cooked to perfection by locals.

Escape the winter blues in Tairāwhiti Gisborne.



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tairawhitigisborne.co.nz

Gisborne

A taste of history



Embark on a fascinating adventure from within Tairāwhiti Museum. This exceptionally curated space gives visitors and locals of all ages the opportunity to discover the arts, history, and culture of this beautiful region.

The museum houses large collections of fine art, photography, and Māori taonga, displayed in semi-permanent and short-term exhibitions. With a regularly changing programme of exhibitions, there is always something new for locals to see. Plus the café and gift shop are perfect for browsing and enjoying a warm cuppa.

Meanwhile, visitors will particularly love the wheelhouse and captain's cabin of the *Star of Canada* as well as Wyllie Cottage, the oldest European-style house in the area. Today, the 1872 structure has been restored to give visitors a glimpse into what life may have looked like at the turn of the 20th century.

Tairāwhiti Museum is committed to developing Gisborne's identity and community by bringing art exhibitions, education programmes, and events to Gisborne year-round. The activities extend beyond the displays – find your next adventure and keep up to date with new exhibitions at www.tairawhitimuseum.org.nz

Serene beauty



As a sanctuary for threatened and endangered flora, Eastwoodhill Arboretum is beautiful no matter the time of year. In fact, winter is the best time to explore the breathtaking landscape as the more subtle textures, patterns, and forms emerge.

As New Zealand's national arboretum, Eastwoodhill has an immense collection originating from 81 countries and six continents. The 135-hectare grounds are home to over 25,000 species of exotic and native trees, shrubs, and climber plants. When it comes to threatened and endangered flora, the arboreal ark contains over 15,000 specimens and 2300 species.

Upon arrival, grab a map from the visitor centre – with more than 15 spaces you'll want to get the lay of the land. Whether you're bringing the family out for a picnic, having a romantic visit with your partner, or seeking some solo serenity, Eastwoodhill is the perfect place to while away the day. If you can't bring yourself to leave, don't! Spend the night in one of the onsite rooms or in your own self-contained camper for an evening immersed in nature.

With leaves littering the ground this time of year, make sure to take the leap and discover the magic of Eastwoodhill.

Tairāwhiti Museum & Art Gallery
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Tairāwhiti Museum & Art Gallery
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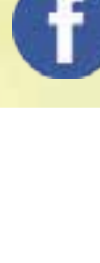
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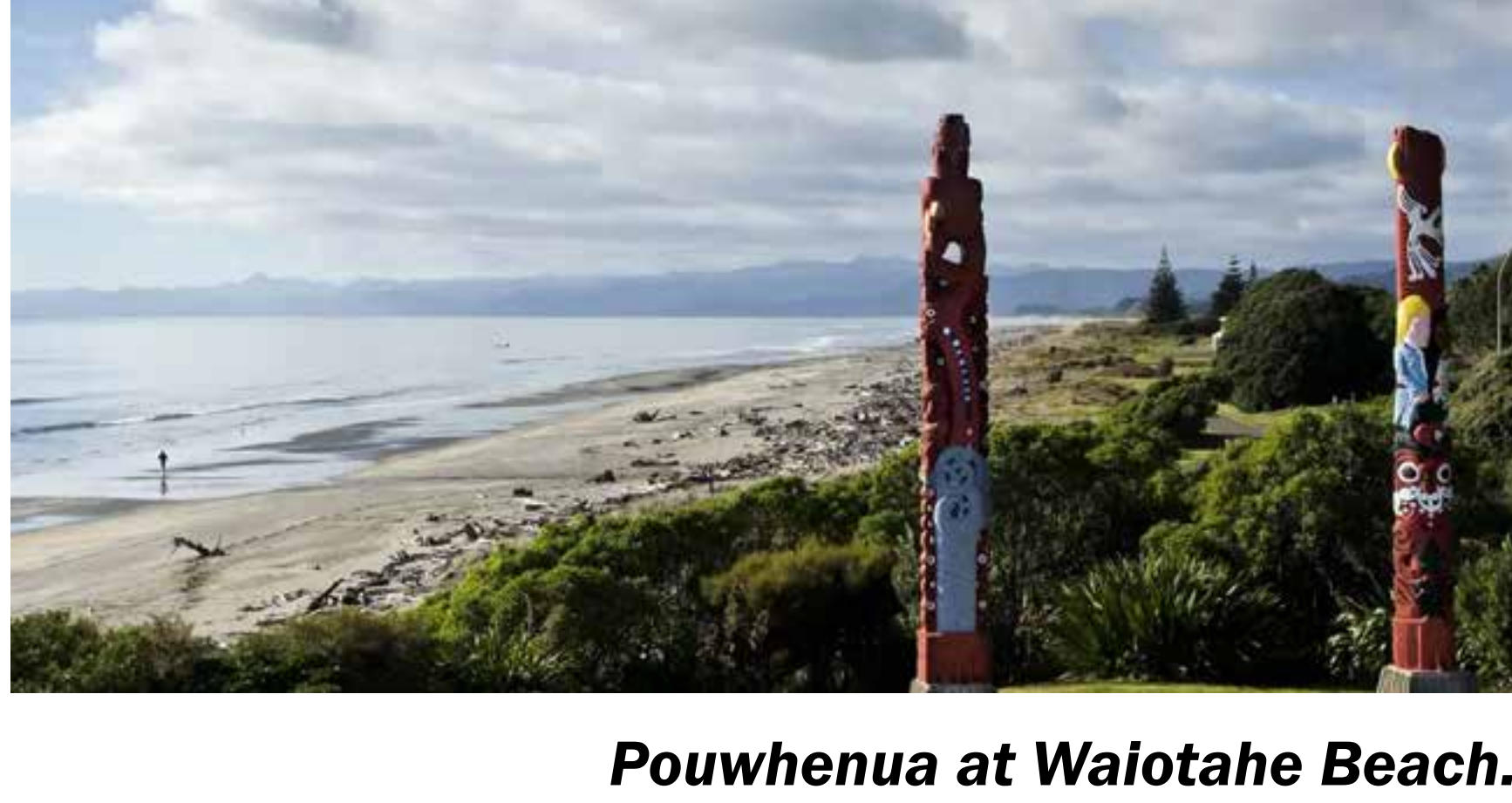
eastwoodhill.org.nz | spacetoco.com



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Gisborne – Ōpōtiki – Whakatāne

Opt for Ōpōtiki



Pouwhenua at Waiohau Beach.

Photo by Ōpōtiki isite.

For a winter holiday with a nature focus, head east to Ōpōtiki, a charming town in the Bay of Plenty situated within easy access of everything this region has to offer.

The town is filled with forest life, including Hukutaia Domain, which has one of the finest collections of native plants in New Zealand and a sacred pūriri tree named Taketakerau that is more than 2000 years old. Other recreational facilities like playgrounds, reserves, restaurants, museums, and historical sites showcase Ōpōtiki's heritage and social culture.

If you're up for a cycle or hiking adventure, the nearby Motu Trail network skips past beaches, waterfalls, bush, and more. Meanwhile the Marawaiwai Track is an easy 30-minute stroll through kahikatea forest that features two bridge crossings and is ideal for all ages and abilities.

Just because it's winter doesn't mean you can't spend time on the water. Ōpōtiki is close by to some great fishing spots and plenty of charter services. You can also go jetboating on the nearby river, regardless of weather, and go hunting in the dense forests.

Ōpōtiki is the perfect place for adventurous spirits.

Fins and fun



Aotearoa is one of the top fishing destinations for both fresh and saltwater catches, and Whakatāne is one of New Zealand's best fishing destinations.

Yellowfin, skipjack, and albacore tuna, shark, and marlin all abound just offshore. Charter a boat and sail the seas – by packing lunch you can spend the whole day out on the water and maybe even catch dinner.

Surfcasting off Ōhiwa Harbour or Ōtarawairere Beach is a great alternative if you don't have your sea legs. Alternatively, take your friends and family to the Whakatāne River if you'd rather tuck into freshwater fish like trout.

You can get everything you need for a day of fishing at Iceman Whakatane. Located in one of the historic fishing sheds on the Commercial Wharf, the store has a unique look and feel that immediately immerses customers into fishing culture and tradition. Inside is the biggest and best selection of bait, ice, and tackle. You can even hire a rod for the day if you're an amateur or shop the extensive range of specialised tackle if you're an aficionado.

Get kitted up for fishing and fun at Iceman Whakatane.





We are located on the banks of the Waioeka River adjacent to the town wharf and boat ramp. The nearby Waiohau and Hukawai beaches are popular for fishing, swimming and surfing. Relax in a rural setting, only 200m from the Ōpōtiki town centre with a range of cafes, restaurants and shops. Enjoy a dip in our swimming pool, kayak along the river, fish from the wharf or enjoy a native bush walk. Our accommodation ranges from park motel to cabins to suit every budget, along with plenty of spacious power and tent sites.

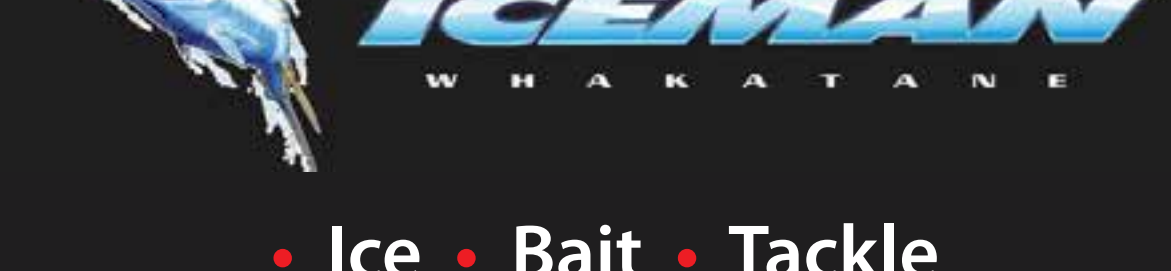
39 Potts Avenue, Ōpōtiki | Ph: 07 315 6050
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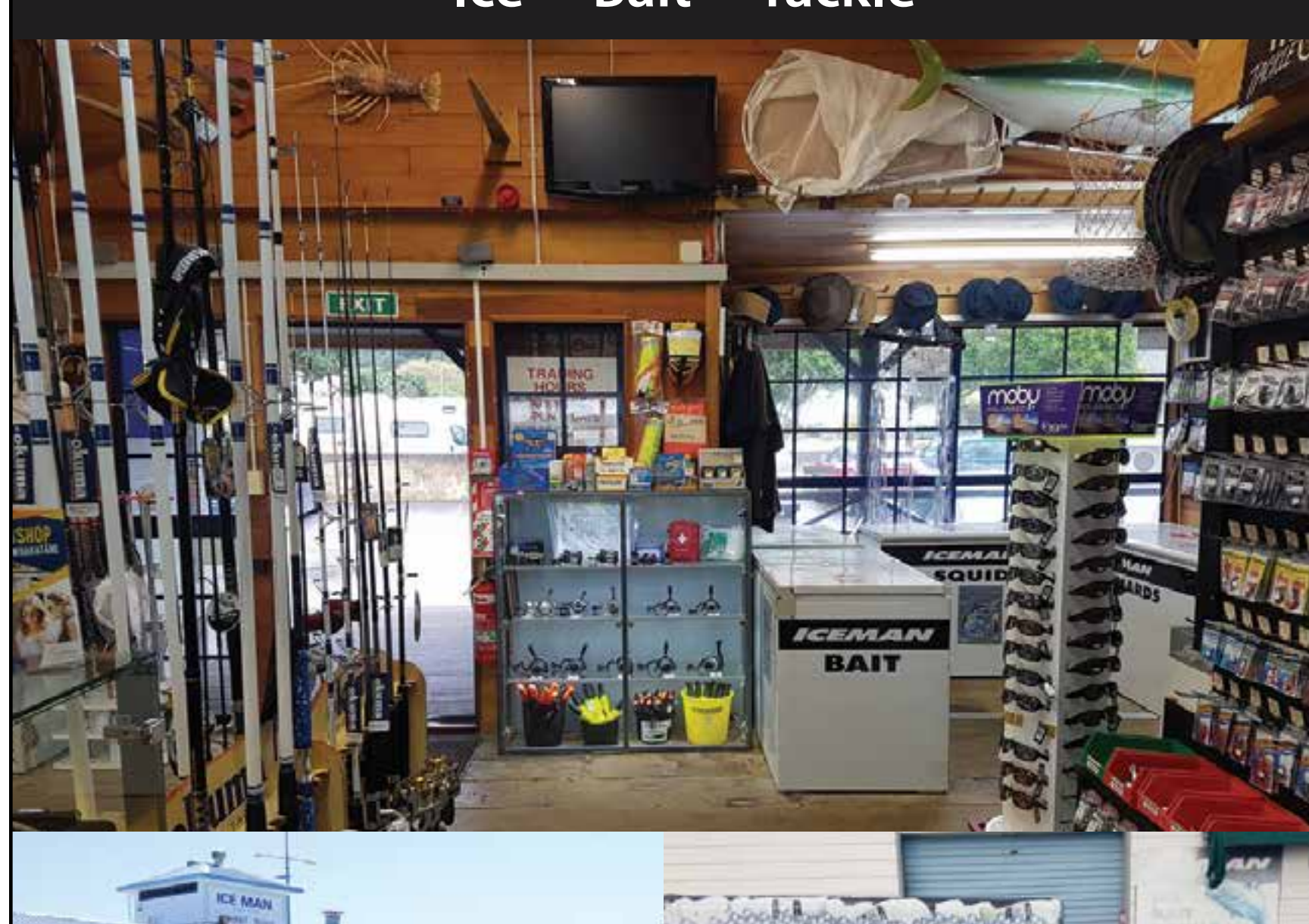




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Kawerau

Crack into Kawerau



Tucked away amongst the pine forests and nestled in a bend of the Tarawera River is the quaint town of Kawerau, with the picturesque Pūtauaki maunga (Mount Edgecumbe), a dormant volcano cone, rising up from the Bay of Plenty plains. Poised between Rotorua and Whakatāne, and just a hop, skip, and a jump from the coast, Kawerau has plenty of fun in store for you.

Choosing a base from which to explore the area is easy. Firmin Lodge is a refurbished and modern accommodation situated amongst trees and parkland alongside the Tarawera River. With 10 dormitories, Firmin Lodge sleeps 60 guests, has tables and chairs to seat 130 diners, includes a commercial kitchen and offers accessible bathroom facilities, making it the perfect base for large group outings to all the nearby attractions. Cyclist, hiker, or nature enthusiast, follow any of the seemingly endless nearby walking trails into the wilds to enjoy a day immersed in nature.

Once you've settled in, get out exploring as soon as possible! Tarawera Falls are some of the most spectacular in the Bay of Plenty. The Tarawera River plunges 65 metres down a sheer cliff, cascading down bush-lined rapids. The high cliffs are thought to be the eroded end face of an ancient lava flow that poured from Mount Tarawera about 11,000 years ago. There are loads of other trails around as well, whether you're keen for a leisurely stroll along Stoneham Walk, a tramp or trek along the Tarawera River, or a walk and a picnic in the Monika Lanham Reserve.

While in Kawerau, give adventure kayaking or rafting a go, and test out New Zealand's only purpose-built whitewater slalom course. In addition to enjoying the natural local swimming spots, the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre is a free, heated pool complex with options the whole whānau can enjoy. There are many fishing opportunities close by as well. Lake Tarawera boasts beautiful water year-round while Lake Rotoma is over 80 metres deep in places and crystal clear. Check out the natural hot springs scattered around Kawerau as well.

Once you've enjoyed natural adventures, go on a historical foray at the Sir James Fletcher Kawerau Museum to get a glimpse into some of the district's local legends and tales.

Spend your upcoming holiday exploring Kawerau and everything this beautiful town has to offer.



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Rotorua

New and improved



At Lakeview Golf and Country Club, spectacular views are par for the course!

The 18-hole golf course is punctuated by undulating fairways and challenging greens, breathtaking views over Lake Rotorua and exciting hazards like bunkers and bush-clad gorges. Challenging and full of surprises, a day on the links at this unique par 71 course is fun for both amateurs and professionals.

While the new clubhouse is the perfect place for a treat at the café after a round of golf, or a drink with mates at the end of the day, it's also available for hire for weddings, birthdays, funerals, work functions, conferences, and more.

After burning down in 2020, the clubhouse was rebuilt as a multi-purpose building that could serve as a community hub for locals and visitors, golfers and non-members alike. The new centre can host up to 150 people for functions and overlooks the lake, Mokoia Island, and the surrounding countryside. Picturesque and complete with any and all amenities needed for catering and hosting, the clubhouse is perfect for whatever event.

Immerse yourself in Rotorua's environment and community at Lakeview Golf and Country Club.

A new frontier



Step into a world of magic and illusion at Rotorua's 3D Trick Art Gallery. Enhancing your holiday with unparalleled thrills and excitement, this immersive experience is designed to captivate visitors of all ages.

Nestled within the picturesque grounds of Rotorua Heritage Farm, the 3D Trick Art Gallery stands as the sole establishment of its kind in New Zealand. Boasting over 50 larger-than-life, hyper-realistic 2D paintings, this gallery transcends conventional art forms, transforming static images into dynamic, three-dimensional masterpieces through the lens of your camera.

Jump in and become part of the illusions. Evade the clutches of a colossal crocodile, outmaneuver a great white shark, or navigate the tentacles of a goliath octopus. Traverse towering mountains, plunge beneath thundering waterfalls, or embark on a lunar expedition. From the serene canals of Venice to the icy expanses of a glacier, the possibilities for adventure are endless.

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Fun facts

Oamaru hosted the largest gathering of steampunks in the world in 2016.

Kapiti Island is one of New Zealand's oldest and most important nature reserves, becoming a place for nature conservation in 1897.

Martinborough's founder John Martin set out the first streets in the pattern of the Union Jack.

Auckland has more than 50 volcanoes dotted around the city.

Thames was formed by joining the historic towns of Grahamstown and Shortland.

Gisborne is the first city in the world to see the sun each day.

Feilding has won New Zealand's Most Beautiful Town award 16 times.

Great Barrier Island was the first place in the world to use pigeons to deliver mail using postage stamps. To this day the island is completely off-grid.

Waipu was settled by Scottish highlanders and still celebrates their identity, culture, and history.

The Catlins' Tumu Toka Forest is thought to be the only place in the world where a direct descendent lies so close to its petrified counterpart, which is 180 million years old.

Turangi is a fishing paradise. In the 1920s, American author and adventurer who wrote Tales of the Angler's Eldorado: New Zealand about chasing trout of mythic size here.

Oamaru



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Wellington



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Tuatara kaitiaki: Ngāti Koata | Photo credit: Janice McKenna

Wellington

Enter a magic world



Misty Valley. Photo by Brendon Doran.



Kākāriki. Photo by Ian Thomas.

Only minutes from the centre of Wellington, a lush native forest sits waiting for you to explore. Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne is a 225-hectare ecosanctuary located in a hidden valley surrounded by the world's first predator exclusion fence. This special fence keeps mammalian predators out, providing rare and threatened native species with a safe place to call home.

These species have been reintroduced as part of Zealandia's 500-year vision to restore the valley. Some species have even begun spreading out into Wellington, creating one of the only cities in the world where bird biodiversity is increasing. The award-winning sanctuary provides the opportunity to get up close with these rare and endangered species living wild just two kilometres from downtown Wellington.

The 8.6km fence surrounding the sanctuary creates a feeling of stepping back in time as you enter through the protective gates. The innovative design prevents all kinds of non-native species entering and stops any climbing, digging, and jumping animals from getting inside.

The safe sanctuary inside the fence is full of treasures to discover. Curious kākā fill the air with their whistling sounds, takahē roam the valley hills, and rare hihi/stitchbird flit among tree branches with a flash of yellow. A day tour with our experienced guides is the best way to take in the sights and sounds of this regenerating native forest. They'll teach you how to spot even the rarest of species so you can share your discoveries with others next time you visit.

At night, get close to the iconic species of Aotearoa. Kiwi are heard and seen rustling through the undergrowth, ancient tuatara venture out of their burrows, and glow worms put on a majestic light display. Explore the sanctuary by torchlight on a night tour to see these creatures that only come out at night.

If you'd rather explore at your own pace, you can roam freely along the winding trails. Whether you're exploring with friends or family, Zealandia is a magical experience for all ages and abilities.

With 32km of trails, an onsite café, day tours, night tours, and amazing wildlife, there's plenty to see. Don't sit on the fence – plan your visit today by heading over to www.visitzealandia.com



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Wellington

A downtown haven



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Crystals can be used for healing and manifesting and can also support spiritual growth and transformation. Owner Susan Cameron sources high-quality products that have been mined through natural and sustainable practices and that bring the right energy into the store.

More than just a retail store, The Capricorn Spirit offers holistic healing services, including chakra realignment, crystal healing, oracle and tarot card consultations, crystal grid consultation, and in-home or in-store crystal consultations.

The Capricorn Spirit hosts regular events and ceremonies and offers classes and workshops where you can learn more about using crystals and their properties. Pendulum workshops, introduction to chakras, crystal grid, and sacred geometry are some of the available options.

With a huge range of crystals, tumblers, and more, The Capricorn Spirit can connect visitors to whatever they may need or desire.

A must-see museum



Photo by Rob Suisted.

Katherine Mansfield House & Garden is the perfect way to encounter the life and work of internationally acclaimed Modernist writer Katherine Mansfield for the first time, or to honour her if you're already a fan.

Visitors to the house are often surprised by the adventurous life she led. Growing up in a respectable family in colonial New Zealand had a profound influence on Katherine and some of her best-known stories, such as *The Garden Party*, are set in Wellington. Her journals and letters evoke a passionate individual dedicated to her craft, who was determined to forge her own path. Katherine's writing is still being read around the world today and inspiring people of all ages.

Lovers of art and design will find incredible pieces of furniture and richly patterned wallpaper that illustrate the interior trends of the late 19th century. Activities to encourage children to explore the house mean there is something to enjoy for all ages. The house hosts regularly changing exhibitions, often highlighting aspects of Mansfield's life or celebrating local creativity. The garden is a lovely spot to pause and relax before discovering more of what Wellington has to offer as the creative capital!

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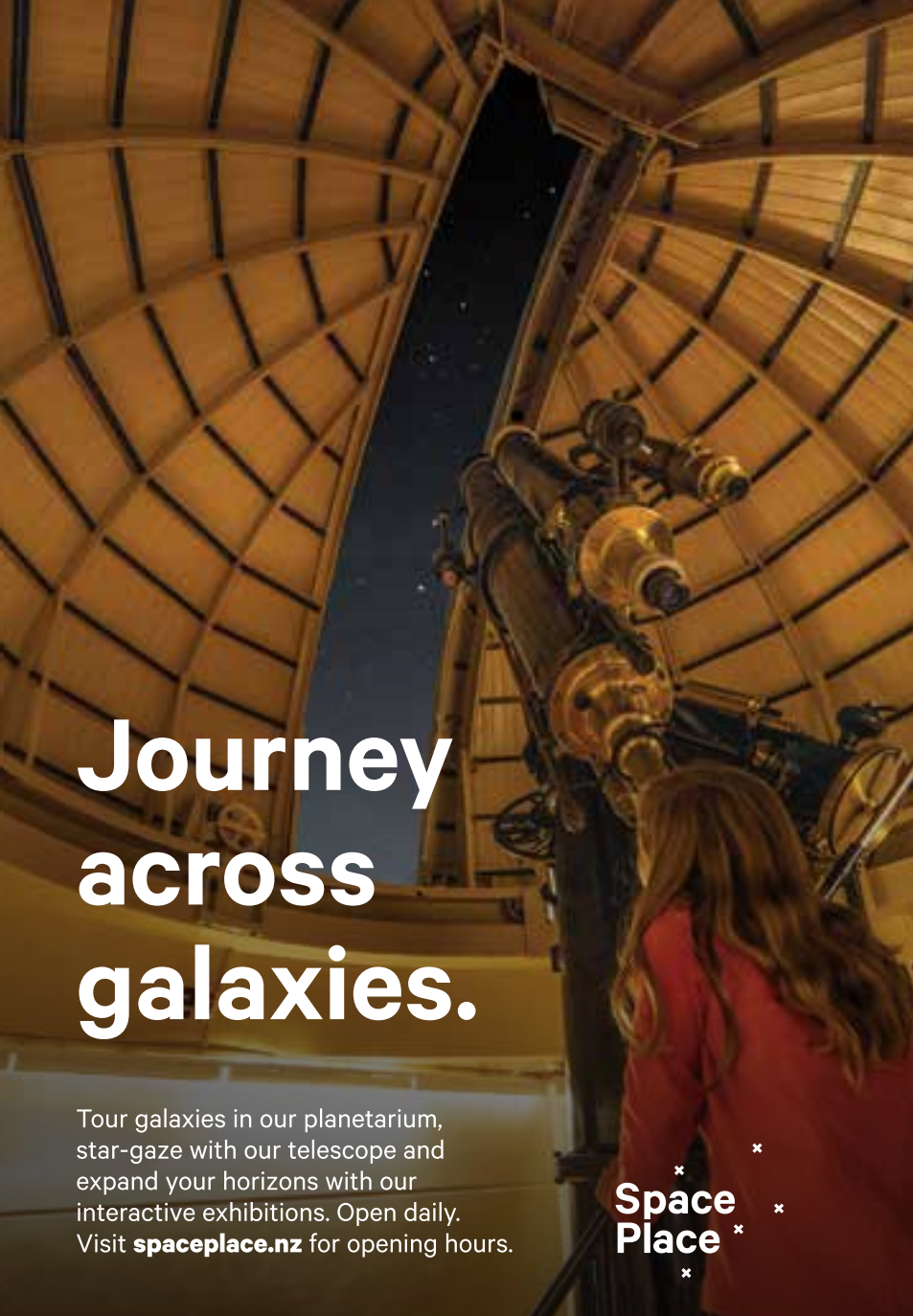
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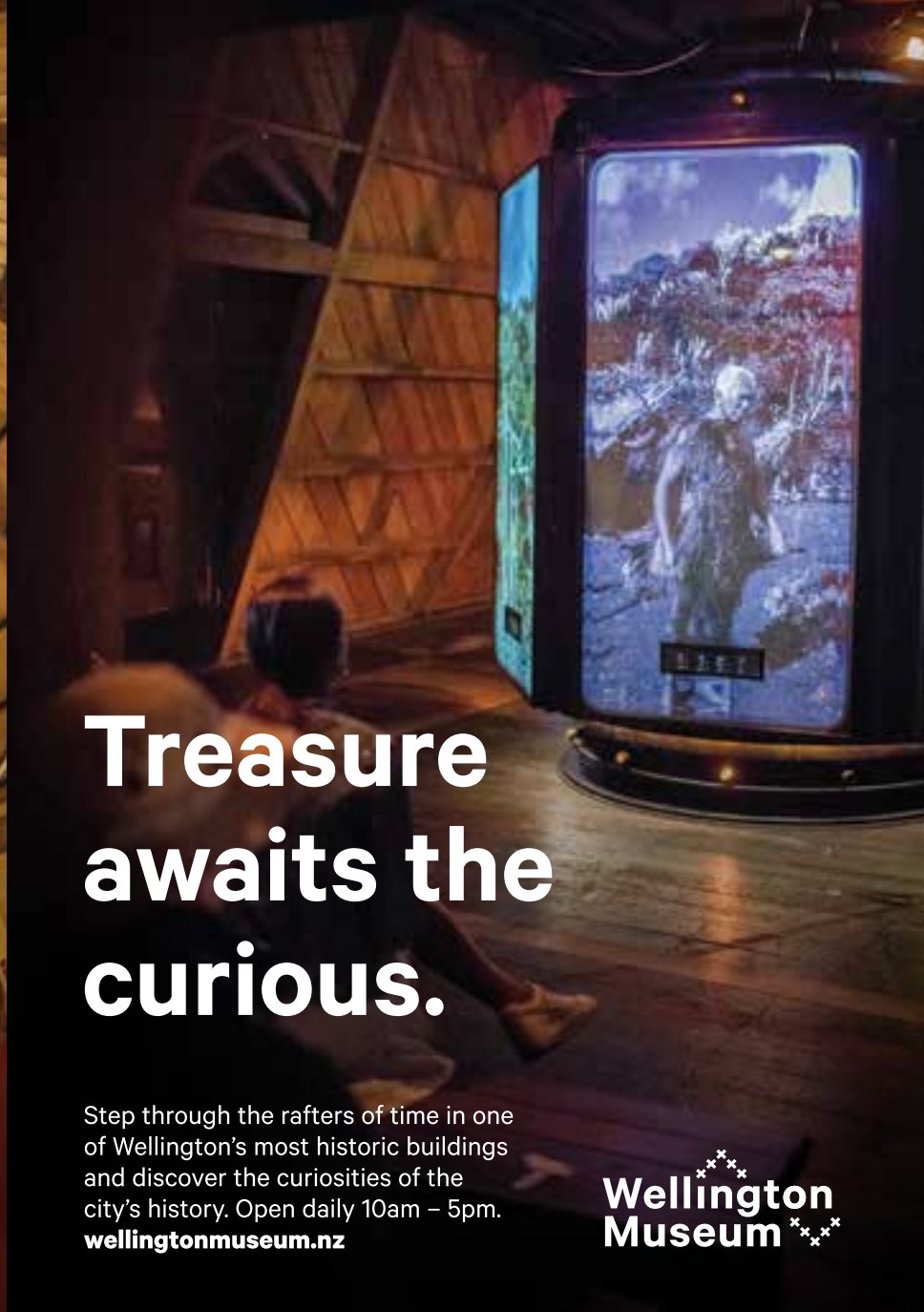
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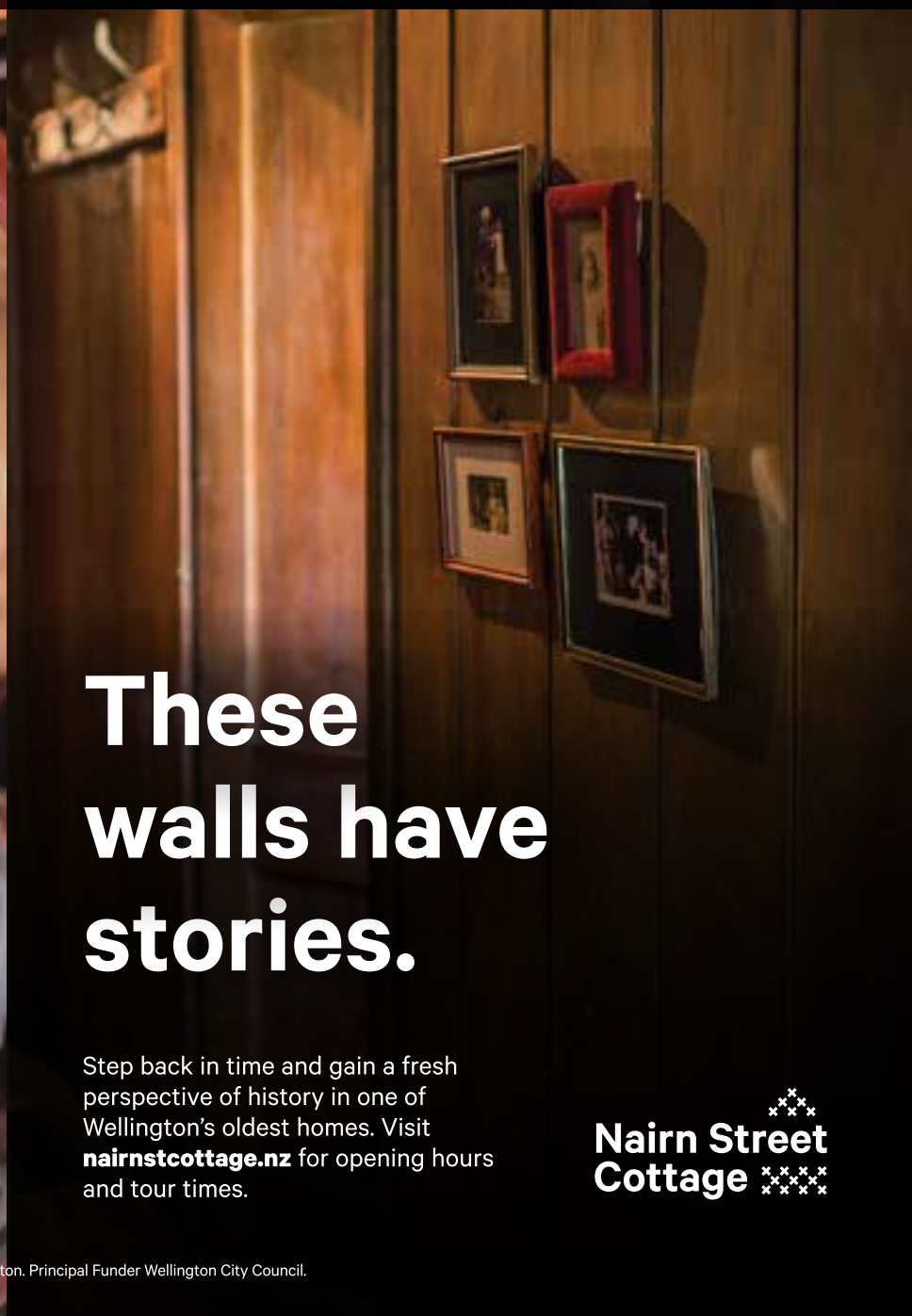
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Escape winter with Space Place's Take a Red Rocket to Space combo. Enjoy 20 percent off a return trip on the Wellington Cable Car and general admission to the epic science museum until the 30th of October.

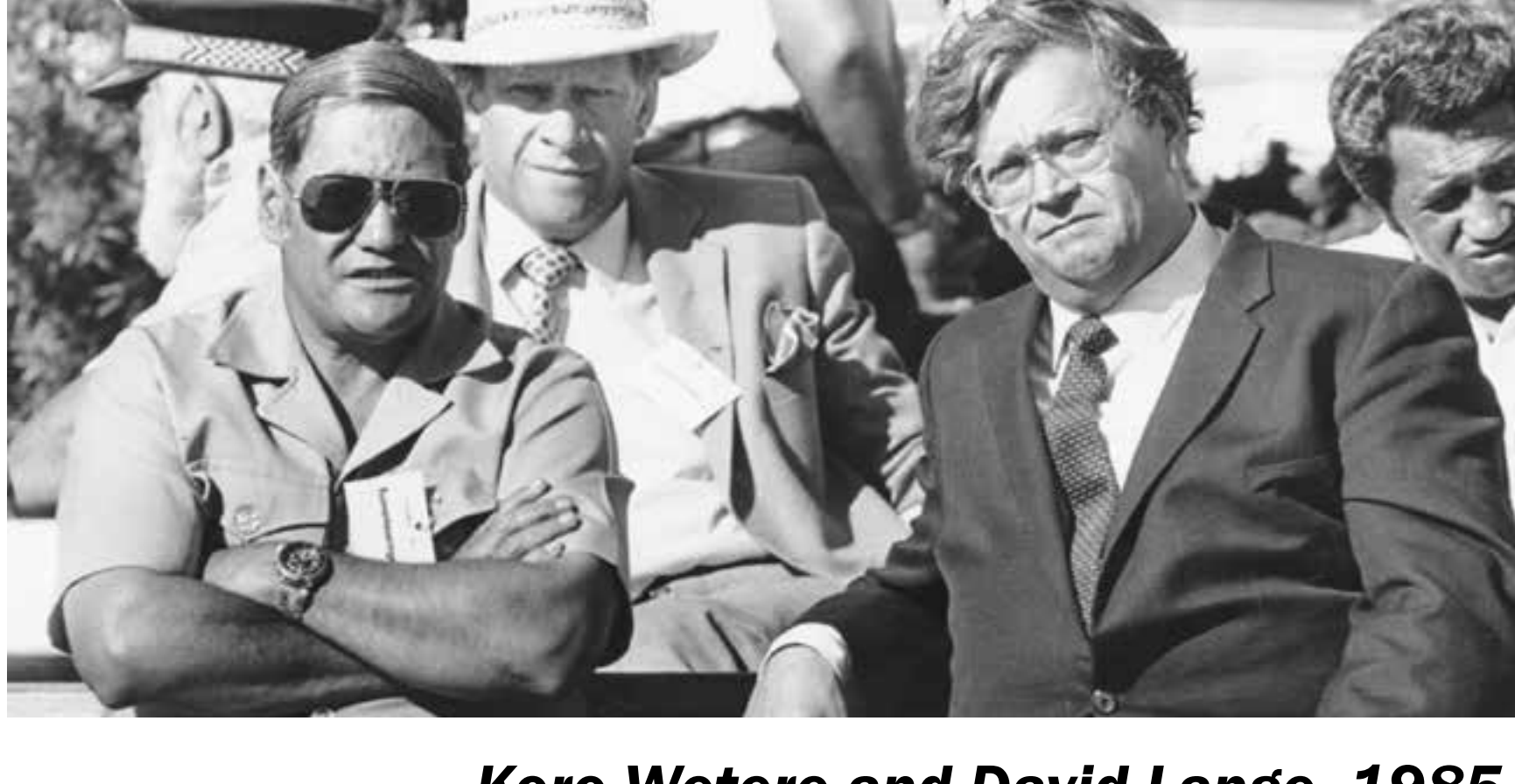
Space Place connects you to the skies. The recently renovated exhibits are a fantastic introduction to mātauranga Māori, the Indigenous knowledge and worldview. Discover how stars were used to navigate oceans, the significance of Matariki, and the Māori creation story. There's plenty for tamariki to see and do too. Feel the rumble of a rocket launch, touch a moon rock, and help Māui slow down te Rā (the Sun).

Your visit to Space Place includes the planetarium, an immersive dome-shaped theatre screening educational and art-based films. Your show might also include a live star talk, featuring stories and star maps of our southern skies.

Exit through the gift shop featuring a range of space oddities like tamariki science experiments, puzzles, and dad-joke t-shirts. You can even adopt a star for the ones who brighten your life.

Visit on a clear night and explore the stars with telescope viewings. Plan your visit at spaceplace.nz

History for everyone



Koro Wetere and David Lange, 1985.

Courtesy of NZME.

Take cover from Wellington's wind and learn about the region's unique climate and character at Te Waka Huia Wellington Museum. Open daily between 10am and 5pm, the award-winning museum promises a bit of history for everyone.

Touring exhibition *He Kura Toi Tangata: 50 Years of the Waitangi Tribunal* is now on display until the 25th of September. Featuring 50 images and newly displayed taonga, this exhibition was developed by the Waitangi Tribunal and traces key moments, landmark cases, and its influence on Aotearoa New Zealand.

The museum has four floors of local taonga and stories. Get up close to the main wheel of *TEV Wahine*, the ship at the centre of the 1968 disaster. Watch Māori legends come to life, compare your shoe size with Steven Adams' basketball boots, and listen to local UFO reports.

Make the most of your visit with a Cup of Curiosity Tour, where Wellington Museum spills the tea on the history and quirks of the capital. For international visitors, guided tours are just \$3 extra with museum admission.

Wellington Museum is open daily, with free entry for New Zealand residents. Learn more or book a tour at wellingtonmuseum.nz


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SOUTHWARD CAR MUSEUM



No visit to Kapiti is complete without time spent at Southward Car Museum, Otaihanga Road just off the new Expressway. Over 400 different vehicles on display. Spend time in the museum or just relax and have a coffee in the coffee shop amongst automotive history.

A petrolhead's haven

Do you love the grunt of an old V8, the slick lines of a classic American muscle car, or the innovative engineering of a vintage Bugatti? Then you need to get yourself to the Southward Car Museum, home to over 400 vehicles.

The museum is the most comprehensive privately owned collection of cars in the Southern Hemisphere. At its core is the hard work of pioneering marine engineer and speed enthusiast Sir Len Southward, who founded it in 1978.

Among the hundreds of historical machines on the museum floor is Hollywood legend Marlene

Dietrich's Cadillac, a DeLorean just like the one made famous in Back to the Future, and even the first car that ever came to New Zealand – an 1895 Benz.

The Southward Car Museum also has fantastic spaces to host your next conference or meeting, and of course there's the Southward Theatre, which brings many incredible concerts and shows to the Kapiti region.

What could be better than grabbing a drink and snack from the on-site coffee shop and relaxing in the inside or outside seating areas before a leisurely stroll through transport history.

www.southwardcarmuseum.co.nz

Kapiti-Horowhenua



***Kohekohe Track, Hemi Matenga Scenic Reserve.
Photo by Captured By Friday Photography.***



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Kapiti-Horowhenua

Fizzing Foxton



Manawatu Estuary Bird Sanctuary.



De Molen.

Foxton is a vibrant little country community with a surprising twist, smack dab in the heart of Horowhenua. A special place just a 90-minute drive from Wellington, this town is a meeting point between worlds, where history and art mix and mingle, and tradition two-steps with innovation.

In the middle of Main Street is Foxton's cultural hub, inhabited by Te Awahou Riverside Cultural Park with its award-winning centrepiece Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom. Take a stroll through this modern creative facility with a stylish art gallery and two museums that tell the stories of mana whenua and Dutch immigrants, side by side with tales of Foxton's early days and flax industry.

Also recounting Foxton's multi-ethnic past are the murals dotted throughout the centre. The Foxton Mural Committee was formed in 1992, and now there are over 30 murals depicting the history of the district and settlement. The town could be considered Aotearoa's largest permanent outdoor art gallery – everything is within walking distance in Foxton, so see if you can spot them all!

Sharing the space with the cultural park is De Molen, Foxton's 17th-century working replica of a Dutch windmill. Built in 2003, the windmill has been grinding away ever since, with a café filled with fresh Dutch treats waiting to be gobbled up. Visitors can take a peek behind the scenes at the working parts inside and climb to the top to spy a bird's-eye view of the town, plus panoramic views stretching from the mountains to the sea.

Foxton's natural beauty is also worth exploring. Cycle or walk along the Manawātū River via Te Awahou Boardwalk. Explore the recreational paradise that is Foxton Beach – think horseback riding, surfing, and four-wheeling. Check out the wakeboarding park too, where you can water ski, paddleboard, and more. Down in Foxton Beach you'll also find a state-of-the-art park with a playground, picnic table, sport zones, a skatepark, and more. Just behind it is the Manawatu Estuary Bird Sanctuary. As a feeding ground for migratory and native birds from across New Zealand and the world, over 93 species of birds have been identified in this wetland of international significance.

Foxton is fizzing with culture and creativity, heritage and history, nature and never-ending fun. Take a jaunt up the coast and discover how fantastic Foxton can be!

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Kapiti-Horowhenua

Full steam ahead



Can you think of anything more exciting than bundling the family onto a heritage train and adventuring around the North Island on an adventure back in time?

Based in beautiful Paekākāriki on the Kapiti Coast, Steam Incorporated offers heritage rail excursions on original, restored carriages hauled by vintage locomotives that date as far back as the 1910s and as recently as the 1960s. From short trips to multi-day excursions that navigate the railway lines of Aotearoa, this is a rare opportunity to experience travel from a different era and show a new generation parts of our history.

Steam Incorporated was born in 1972 with the goal of rebuilding and maintaining heritage railway equipment to the high standard required for main-line operation. The society's focus is on the restoration, maintenance, and continued operation of this heritage rail equipment. Having capability all over the North and South Island, Steam Incorporated presents New Zealand's public with a look at a bygone era.

Steam Incorporated has established itself as a leading rail operator in the heritage scene, etching its name into key events throughout social calendars across the motu, such as Whanganui's Vintage Weekend, Napier's Art Deco Festival, New Plymouth's Americarna showcase, Carterton's Daffodil Festival, and Woodville's famed Mad Hatters Market Day. The society's regular programme of excursions includes unique and insightful day excursions all over the lower North Island, immersing travellers in the depths of our emerald, undulating landscape.

As well as running regular journeys and tours, with Steam Incorporated, you can even charter a train for all kinds of occasions, including weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, and corporate events. Hire a single carriage on one of the established excursions or a whole train with a bar, service area, and seating for up to 600 guests. How's that for a unique event idea?

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Taranaki



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Experience WOMAD Taranaki

What a world of magic

by **Madelaine Empson, travel writer**



Maddi.



Ruth and Maddi in the

Kidzone.



Fun at the Kidz Parade.

On a sunny Friday at lunchtime, my friend Toula and I set off for WOMAD, Taranaki's World of Music, Arts and Dance festival. It would be my third time attending and Toula's first, so in the car, I tried to describe it by throwing out adjectives like colourful, welcoming, and energising. None of them really come close to capturing the vibes, but more on those later!

First, it was time for me to forget to tell Toula we needed petrol. We were already powering up Transmission Gully by this point, so a wee diversion was in order. What a fun adventure! Cutting it very fine, we made it to a small-town petrol station on an empty tank, then back onto the Kāpiti Expressway for smooth cruisin' from thereon out. Probably because Toula was driving, not the girl who still manages to live up to her childhood nickname.

Crash Maddi and Toula pulled into New Plymouth and parked up at the most perfectly located accommodation, Pukekura Motor Lodge, which I'd highly recommend if you're in town for WOMAD, any event at the New Plymouth Raceway (which is just across the road), or simply for its proximity to everything. You can walk into town in under 20 minutes or drive there in under five from this well-appointed, sparkling-clean motor lodge.

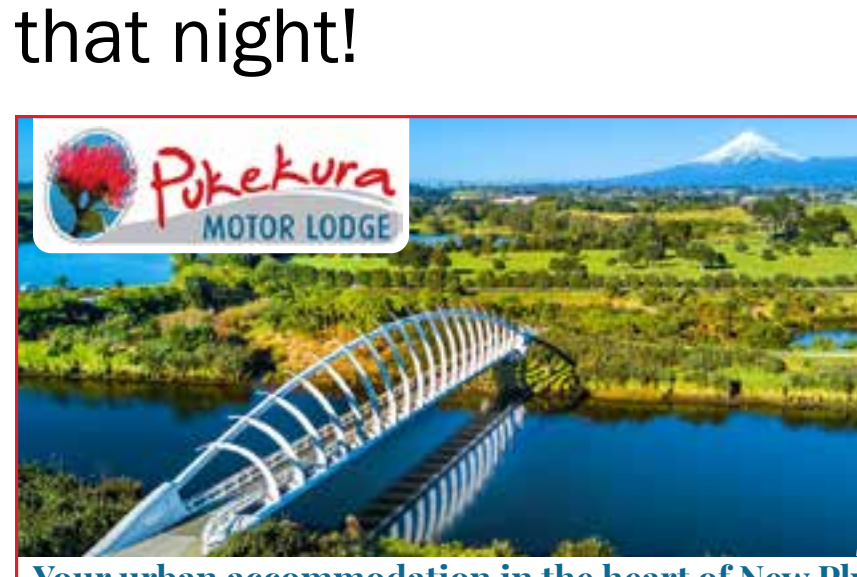
We met the warm and welcoming head housekeeper Shaleigh at reception, who showed us through our modern, light, and spacious one-bedroom unit. It was the best kind of tour – quick but thorough and filled with good yarns. Once we popped our bags down and grabbed our evening gear, it was time for a picturesque walk through Pukekura Park to catch the first act of the night and a favourite of mine, English and New Zealand alt rock and indie band The Veils.

The Veils are fronted by Finn Andrews and can really go off, filling grotty bars and grand concert halls alike with the kind of noise grunge that makes you stomp with stank face, or brooding ballads that catch you breathless, mouth agog, hand clutching your chest. Their set with NZTrio: Amalia Hall (violin), Ashley Brown (cello), and Somi Kim (piano) was an inspired combination. Stripped back with stirring strings, this was one heck of a festival opener. "Overjoyed to be thawing themselves in the warm glow of Aotearoa once more", The Veils performed classics from their back catalogue in tandem with new tracks from their seventh album *Asphodels*, so named for the Ancient Greek flower of the Underworld. A lovely moment came midway through the set when Finn told the fizzy crowd that his daughter was here and hearing Daddy sing for the very first time. The camera then panned down to the audience, where we watched the little girl – who must've been no older than three – look up and spot Finn, pointing and gabbling with excited recognition. Such a sweet start!

As the sun started to set, neon, UV, and LED lights flickered on across Brooklands Park – it was time for the Friday night dress-up contestants to strut their stuff! Everywhere Toula and I looked, we saw metallic moons and sparkling suns, radiant rainbows and beautiful, buzzing bees, birds, and butterflies. I have to confess, I totally forgot about the costume comp – this year themed Skies of Wonder – so thought that everyone was just turning it up for the joy of it! That's not wildly off base: we did see a number of light-up costumes throughout the rest of the weekend too, but nothing quite as magic as this fab Friday fiesta.

Closing out the first night of the festival with a bang was Protoje & The Indignation at the Bowl Stage. Blending hip-hop, soul, and jazz into his native reggae and dancehall, Protoje has collabed with the likes of Alicia Keys and Wiz Khalifa. Toula and I vibed hard to this set and, judging from the ecstatic crowd vibrating around us, so did everyone else. The atmosphere was electric, the Jamaican reggae joyous. And the moon? A partial eclipse!

One quick and pretty walk through Pukekura Park later and we were back at Pukekura Motor Lodge, where we were out like lights. Saturday dawned scorching and by lunchtime, we'd set up on the grass at the Gables Stage in time for one of Toula's festival favourites, Black Comet. Led by the instantly recognisable velvet voice of Laughton Kora (of Kora, L.A.B, and Fly My Pretties fame), Black Comet graced us with their galactic grooves and funk in this surprise encore performance just before boarding a flight to Auckland for another gig that night!



Your urban accommodation in the heart of New Plymouth

Situated just 1.5 km to the City Centre, Pukekura Motor Lodge is 500m from the natural beauty of Pukekura Park, Bowl of Brooklands and TSB Stadium, and 10km from New Plymouth Airport.

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Experience WOMAD Taranaki



Fierce at the Kidz Parade.



Abby Fleur and her magical WOMAD jellyfish.



Face painting in the Art Zone.

at every turn, clean toilets in strategic locations, plenty of recycling stations supporting the zero-waste ethos, and vibrant volunteers ready to answer every question under the sun. Within the Global Village, we delighted in treats and trinkets, fashion and food spanning Spanish to South Indian and more, demolishing the dosa from Arranged Marriage and the bún thịt nướng Vietnamese noodle salad from The Skewerz. The Tui Ora manaaki tent was also a standout, with tea and comfy armchairs for those wanting a quiet space to chill and watch live Māori wood carving (shoutout to Meka Mauriri of Matariki Whakairo) right by Te Paepae, the home of WOMAD's artist workshops. Another place that impressed was the Kidzone, which we visited with my friend Ruth and her nephew Alasdair, who had made a rather fly set of nunchaku at the arts and crafts station. With a massive playground, face painting, cool workshops on offer, ice cream galore, and more fun to be had, it's clear to see why this family-friendly festival is so beloved by all ages. I was surprised and delighted to learn that children under 12 can go free, with one per grownup ticket holder.

Putting the M in WOMAD, our final night was filled with back-to-back music. We were part of the huge turnout for Aotearoa indie rockers The Beths, whose Sunday set stunned – especially with the giant fish head they brought with them onto the Bowl Stage. A quick Reddit search reveals this is “a kingfish – I guess, maybe named Blue”. While I suspect Blue is the mascot brought to life from the cover of their third and latest album, *Expert in a Dying Field*, I'm also inclined to agree with the Redditor who declared the fish to be “a member of The Beths” and was promptly thanked by the rest of the community for clarifying.

That night we saw one of my favourite acts, Queen Omega, who brought such a soulful energy to the Gables Stage. Hailing from Trinidad and Tobago and nicknamed Queenie by her fans, Queen Omega has slayed at some of the world's biggest reggae festivals. Hail!

While not amongst the original lineup, MY BABY was next up, stepping in at the Brooklands Stage as one of the penultimate acts of the fest. I had interviewed this Dutch-New Zealand trio twice but hadn't seen them live and was always intrigued by their music, described as ‘psychedelic blues-trance rave’. Bathed in a red and blue glow, the crowd crackled along as hazy lasers beamed down on this pulsating act.

And, finally, at 9pm on the Gables Stage, CHAIL. There's no better way to describe this Aotearoa artist and producer, who sung in Farsi and was nominated for five 2025 Aotearoa Music Awards at the time of press, than cool. So cool it makes you nearly want to cry. Honestly, I reckon no one will ever be as cool as her. Mesmerising, meteoric, and dressed all in red, she wove Persian rhythms together with punchy beats, electronica, and rap as she announced to the crowd that her parents were in the house. Cue collective whoop!

Crashing from all that glorious adrenaline and with faces sore from smiling, we slept as deep as you can imagine. After a smooth checkout the next morning and a chill drive home (no incidents or near-misses to report), I asked Toula what she thought of it all. She told me it wasn't just her first WOMAD, but her first family-oriented festival – and to her surprise, she preferred it over R18 events.

“It was beautiful to see both adults and kids in absolute awe of everything WOMAD had to offer”, she said. “I really loved how much effort the organisers put into making it a safe environment for kids, including a dedicated Kidzone. In turn it also made it a really friendly and safe environment for the adults too.”

Overall, she hadn't been sure what to expect and was “sincerely overwhelmed by how awesome it was”, adding Brooklands Park was the perfect venue.

“I loved how many different stages, markets, and food stalls there were to explore as well as being able to experience a massive range of music genres presented by bands from all over the world. It was truly beautiful.”

Couldn't agree more!

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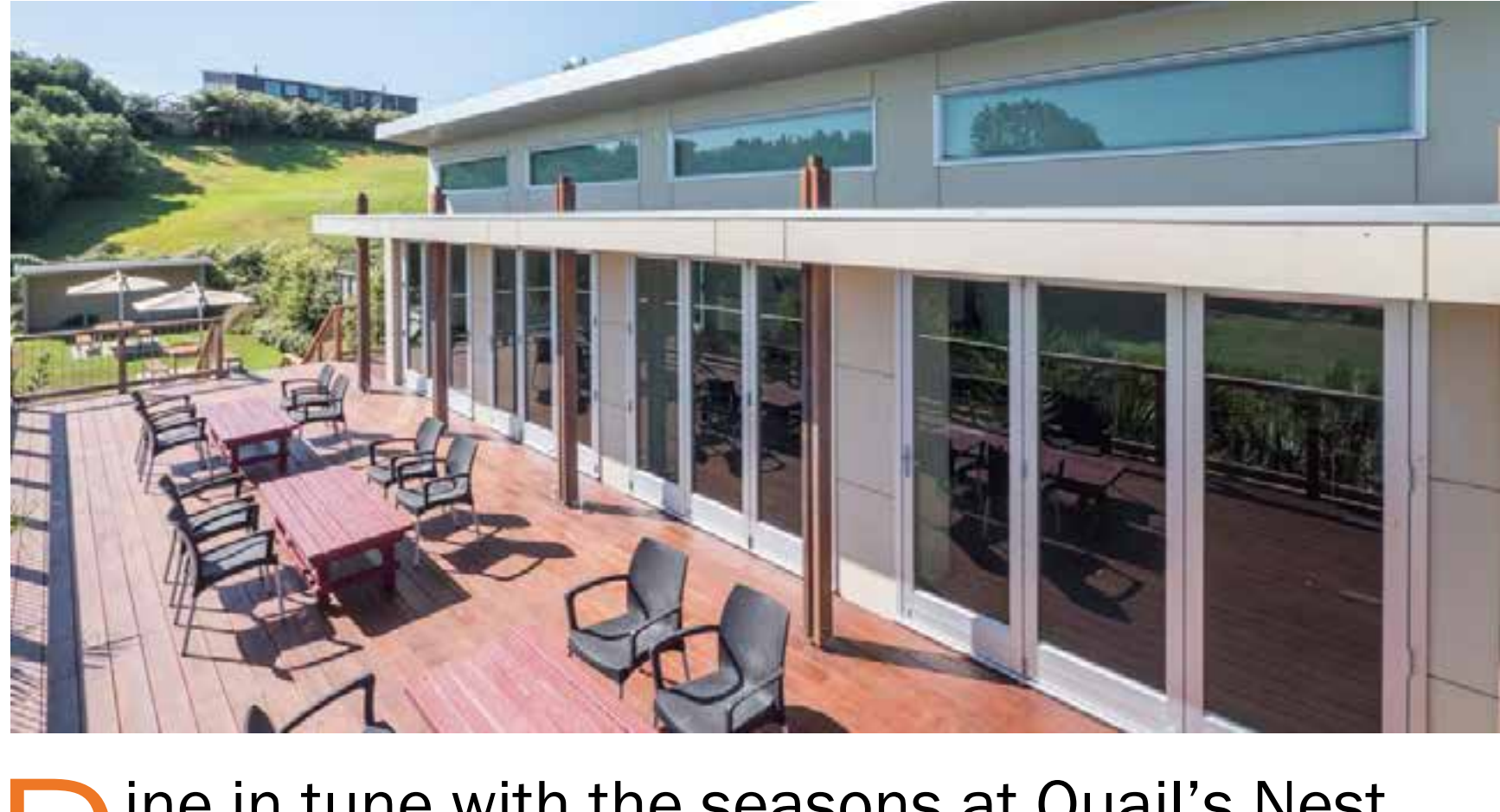
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Taranaki

Overflowing with ambiance



One of the best-kept secrets in the One Burgess Hill estate just outside New Plymouth, this breakfast, lunch, and dinner venue is where modern dining and Mother Nature converge. Quail's Nest Eatery is perched overlooking the

Waiwhakaiho River valley. Featuring views for miles, seamless indoor-outdoor flow, and a relaxed vibrancy, the restaurant is overflowing with ambiance. Plush outdoor seating and a 100-square-metre covered deck overlooking the natural paradise surrounding the estate make Quail's Nest Eatery the ideal spot to have a glass of wine while mulling over the sunset, a midday treat in the cool shade, or a hearty breakfast to get you going. You can even bask in the sun on the manicured lawn with a cocktail and play games with friends, whānau, or perfect strangers.

The ever-changing menu is crafted with seasonal produce, infused with a hearty drop of Taranaki flair, and made from locally sourced ingredients grown right here in the fertile Aotearoa soil. Peruse the sassy wine list and zestful drinks menu to find the perfect beverage to complement your meal.

The epitome of cosy sophistication, settle into Quail's Nest Eatery.

Real gardens for real people



presented for the 21st time in 2025. This year, we are excited to share with you over 40 gardens and places of interest throughout the region. We offer a large variety of gardens that range from

picture-perfect to practical and achievable. This spectrum is chosen by design. We want you to go away brimming with inspiration and the knowledge that you too can create your own garden of delight regardless of the time, money, or space you have at hand.

Just as important as the gardens are the gardeners behind them and the Taranaki Garden Trust seeks to celebrate their passion and achievement. That's why we encourage you to meet the gardeners, share their stories, and learn from their experiences.

We're committed to keeping things personal and accessible. Entry to any of our gardens is \$2, as it was when we started 21 festivals ago.

We thank you for your support and invite you to discover, share, and enjoy our real gardens for (and by) real people from Friday the 31st of October to Sunday the 9th of November.



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Taranaki

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Mount Taranaki. Photo courtesy of Taranaki Content Library.



Pukekura Park. Photo courtesy of Taranaki Content Library.

The world-famous Mount Taranaki is picture perfect when dusted with snow – in fact, you can even ski the beautiful maunga – but that’s not the only thing that makes Taranaki a fantastic winter holiday destination.

The most picturesque way to enter the region is by driving along Surf Highway 45. Dotted with quirky seaside towns and framed by rolling breakers, you’ll glimpse surfers all year round catching waves and carving it up out in the ocean. If you bring a wetsuit and board along, you could even join them – it’s the best place for it since Taranaki clocks more sunshine each year than any other region in New Zealand.

If you favour a wilder approach, journey down the Forgotten World Highway (SH43) through gorges, river basins, and national parks. Taranaki is filled to bursting with beautiful landscapes, tracks and trails, and scenic viewpoints. Whether you’re keen on biking, hiking, or a simple and easy stroll, the options are endless. Even if it’s a bit too rough to hike up Mount Taranaki in the winter, there are heaps of other jaw-dropping spots to discover in Egmont National Park and beyond.

After exploring the wild heart of this remarkable region, spend the rest of your stay in New Plymouth, Taranaki’s cultural and social hub. From world-class museums and galleries to eateries and cafés serving up food from around the globe, boutique shopping and creative workshops to local and visiting shows, Ngāmotu always has something brewing and plenty to see and do.

Just because you’re in the city doesn’t mean you’ll no longer have access to nature. Pukekura Park at the centre of New Plymouth is a botanical wonderland overflowing with local and exotic flora. You’ll even be able to glimpse Mount Taranaki rising up over the trees, the iconic red bridge, and the lake at the centre of the park. The Coastal Walkway skirts along the beautiful beaches and is dotted with art installations, some by the famous Len Lye. The walkway leads from the fringes to the centre and makes for the perfect place to enjoy an evening stroll and the sunset before your dinner reservation.

Nature or city, adventure or leisure, Taranaki has been voted one of New Zealand’s favourite regions for a reason.




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South Taranaki

Stories and memories of the past and present



Photo by Richard Wotton.



The modern, welcoming Aotea Utanganui Museum of South Taranaki plays an active role in the community, while striving to achieve excellence in research, curatorship, and preservation. The exhibitions embrace the digital age with technological creativity and innovation.

Several permanent exhibitions are available for the first-time visitor. *Oral Histories of South Taranaki* is mounted within the permanent gallery space utilising a sound dome and interactive television that plays 51 stories from our South Taranaki communities. Through spoken word, stories and memories of the past and present are preserved as intangible heritage.

Turuturu-mōkai tells the ancient story of the pā site located inland from Hāwera. It is displayed in the foyer with two carved pou by Henare Toka, the original tohunga whakairo who carved the Goodwill Post at Turuturu-mōkai in 1938.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the South Taranaki Land Wars exhibition is mounted in the Livingston-Baker Reading Room. Alongside the nine copies of Te Reo versions of Te Tiriti is the translation by Hugh Kawharu and the Land League Letter penned by the Chiefs of Taranaki in 1854. *The Land Wars* tells of the debilitating diseases brought to these shores by settlers and colonists; the start of trade in the area between Pākehā and Māori; and the resultant greed for more land from local Māori, which culminated in wars being fought to control the commercial assets of Māori land.

The returning visitor will be thrilled to learn that after two years of building, then installation, the *Agricultural and Transport* exhibition and storage facility on Richmond Street is now complete and available to view by appointment.

Waterways: Ngā Awa o Taranaki ki te Tonga – Hoea te Waka is mounted in the temporary gallery of the museum. It is a continuation of the 2023 *Waterways* exhibition about the region's rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands. The exhibition tells the story of a waka tīwai and its 40-year journey from Waitōtara, to Waverley, to the Wairarapa and eventual return home. Mini-documentaries from the local hapū are playing in the exhibition, talking about their relationship with ancestral waterways. This exhibition was made possible with funding from Taranaki Regional Council.

Call into Aotea Utanganui Museum of South Taranaki, located on State Highway 3 in Pātea. Listen to our rich history and learn about what makes this region a popular tourist destination.

AOTEA UTANGANUI

MUSEUM OF SOUTH TARANAKI

EXHIBITIONS | EVENTS | CINEMA | LEARNING

WATERWAYS

Ngā Awa o Taranaki ki te Tonga

The Rivers of South Taranaki

Waterways: Ngā Awa o Taranaki ki te Tonga – Hoea te Waka

Maunga Taranaki is the well-spring of our region. From his majestic slopes, and those of the surrounding ranges, flow rivers and streams that stretch across the district, into the Tasman Sea. *Waterways – Ngā Awa o Taranaki ki te Tonga* explores the effects human activity has had on the environment; especially since water is an important resource for industry, agriculture, and recreation in South Taranaki.

Season: 2024-25

127 Egmont Street, Patea
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South Taranaki

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With seven towns and several smaller rural and coastal communities, South Taranaki is full of surprises. With surf beaches, art-filled villages, historic landmarks, scenic parks, and welcoming cafés, there's something here for everyone. At the heart of it all is Taranaki Maunga – an ancestral mountain recognised as a living entity with legal personhood. This reflects the deep spiritual connection between the eight iwi of Taranaki and the maunga, ensuring its care for generations to come.

Follow Surf Highway 45 to discover laid-back coastal gems like Ōpunakē where creativity flows. Browse galleries and studios, catch some waves or a film at a lovingly restored movie theatre, or wander the Clifftop Garden and Loop Trail. Hungry? You'll find satisfying boutique cafés on the main street.

Hāwera is home to the award-winning Tawhiti Museum, where New Zealand history comes alive through handcrafted dioramas and the immersive Traders & Whalers boat ride – created with help from Wētā Workshop. Afterward, unwind at one of our many modern eateries. There are galleries and public art for all kinds of art enthusiasts to peruse. For something truly different, don't miss KD's Elvis Presley Private Museum.

Inland, Eltham invites you to explore heritage buildings, the famous cheese factory, and unique vintage stores. Down south, Waverley offers dramatic black-sand beaches and local artists' studios. Nearby, Pātea offers the Aotea Utanganui Museum, a treasure trove of local Māori and settler heritage.

Want a stress-free way to explore? Trip-To transforms your visit into an adventure. Choose from a selection of trips on the game-based app and be prompted to your next destination by solving a series of playful puzzles or completing fun activities. Visit www.trip-to.co.nz to start your quest.

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Getting here is easy: just an hour's drive from New Plymouth or Whanganui, or a scenic 3.5-hour trip from Wellington. Head to www.southtaranaki.com or drop by the South Taranaki iSite Visitor Centre in Hāwera to plan your visit.



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Whanganui



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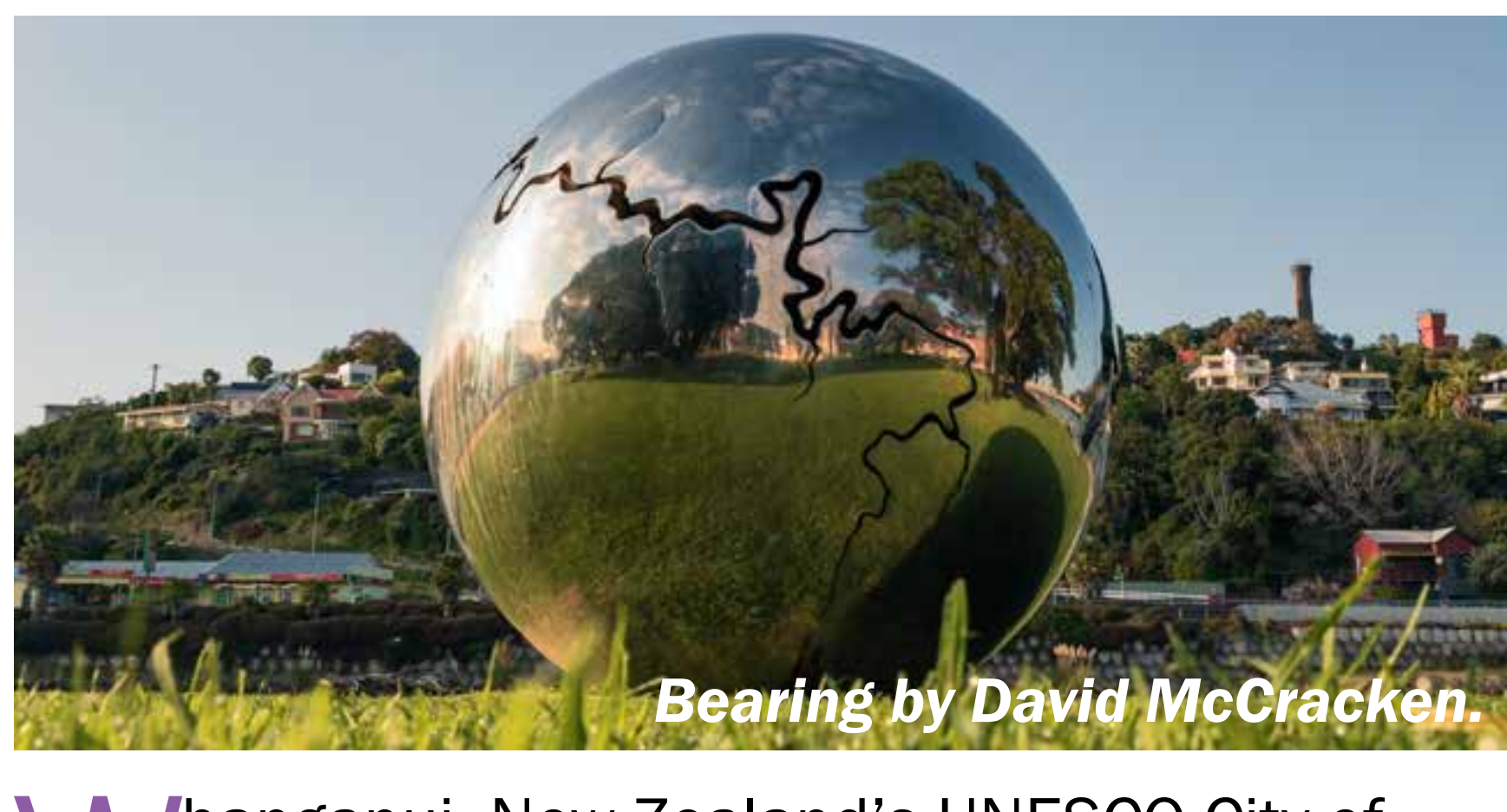
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Whanganui

A land of plenty



Whanganui, New Zealand's UNESCO City of Design, has artists filling every nook and cranny of its beautifully preserved Art Deco centre. Dotted in between cool cafés, exceptional eateries, classy cocktail bars, and hip hangout spots are countless designers, makers, creatives, and art students working at their craft. The city has studios and galleries galore – from flax weaving to glasswork, costume making to film studios, jewellery to fine arts, and so much more.

This pride of place and creative spirit extends to Whanganui's entertainment and gastronomic scene as well. Locally produced veggies, fruit, and animal products fuel delicious farm-to-table restaurants and cafés, bars and eateries. The local events calendar stays constant even in winter, with shows from local performers, artists, and musicians happening most weekends.

As for Whanganui's natural pursuits, the region is blessed with a beautiful and very accessible landscape begging to be explored by foot, bike, horseback, or even boat. From beaches to bush, gardens to river gorges, families, adrenaline junkies, and nature lovers will be kept busy in Whanganui.

Bee happy



Whether you're travelling up the country to explore the wild heart of Te Ika-a-Māui or you're making the trek south to Wellington or across the Cook Strait to Te Waipounamu, odds are you'll be driving through Sanson and past Himatangi Beach. Not to mention swathes of bush, stretches of rolling hills, and over hill and dale.

Along the way is Waireka Honey, a bright yellow bungalow dedicated to all things bee. The shop stocks a huge range of native New Zealand honey products, including skincare, sweets, wellness supplies, novelty items, beekeeping equipment, and, of course, honey.

Waireka Honey also has a massive selection of meads, an alcoholic beverage made from fermented honey. Whether you want to sample it yourself or give it as a gift, the unique flavour is delicate and syrupy. Be sure to check out the range of liquors and fruit wines available as well.

Tamariki will love peering into the live observation hive. Chocka with busy bees, it's easy to become transfixed by the goings on within the hive – especially if you have one of the legendary honey or fruit-based ice creams in hand!




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Whanganui

A hub for creativity and collaboration



New Zealand Glassworks – Te Whare Tūhura O Te Ao (NZG) is the national centre for glass in NZ and is an incredibly important part of the artistic community in Whanganui and Aotearoa. Located in one of New Zealand's most historic and culturally significant regions, NZG is a dynamic and innovative hub for glass artists and visitors from around the country.

NZG is an exciting and interactive facility that is the only open-access glass studio in the country, providing professional artists with access to state-of-the-art equipment needed to create new and innovative glass pieces. NZG offers a unique opportunity to see professional artists at work, providing an environment for members of the public to learn about the techniques, precision, and artistry involved in creating pieces from glass. The facility offers regular workshops, demonstrations, and exhibitions, inviting visitors to learn about the history of glass and how to create their own pieces.

Through these programmes, NZG has become a hub for creativity and collaboration, bringing together artists from different disciplines and levels of experience. The facility offers a unique space for artists to share ideas, techniques, and knowledge, and to learn from each other, resulting in a vibrant and dynamic glass community.

Overall, NZG is a vital part of the artistic community in New Zealand, providing a space for collaboration, creativity, and development of new techniques in the field of glass. It is an exciting and dynamic facility that invites people of all ages and backgrounds to learn about and experience the beauty and artistry of glassmaking. With its commitment to sustainability, innovation, and collaboration, NZG is set to continue playing a vital role in the growth and development of the art of glassmaking in New Zealand for many years to come.

Whether you are an artist, collector, or glass enthusiast, NZG is the perfect destination. Come and experience the magic of glass in one of New Zealand's most vibrant and historic regions.

We are open seven days a week from 10am to 4:30pm and only closed on public holidays. For more information and to check out our online events calendar, visit www.nzglassworks.com. We look forward to welcoming you to NZG.

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New Zealand
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Te Whare Tūhura o Te Ao



Authentic EXCEPTIONAL



Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery.



Nestled at the mouth of her namesake's awa, verdant forests cloaked around her shoulders and a string of black and gold-sand beaches draped around her neck, Whanganui is a picturesque river city on the west coast of Te Ika-a-Māui. Recognised for its historic and contemporary contributions to art and creativity, New Zealand's only UNESCO City of Design has so much to discover – from history and heritage to art and adventure, culture and cuisine, with a vibrant events calendar to boot.

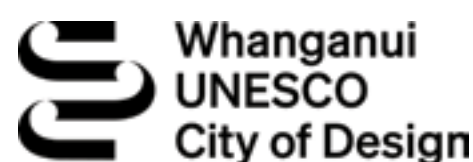
Arts aficionados will find their bliss here. Peppered Whanganui's beautifully preserved heritage city centre and its surrounds are studios, museums, and galleries spanning jewellery to fine arts, flax weaving to glasswork, costumiers to filmmakers, and so much more. Standing pride of place at Pukenui, Queen's Park is the beloved Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery.

One of Aotearoa's oldest and grandest galleries, Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery has undergone restoration, earthquake strengthening, and unveiled its stunning new extension Te Pātaka o Tā Te Atawhai Archie John Taiaroa. Reimagined by architects Warren and Mahoney in a codesign partnership with Whanganui iwi, this dedication to respected kaumātua Sir Archie Taiaroa KNZM is a space for the storage and sharing of knowledge, experience, and wisdom from one generation to the next. Its bounty for the senses asks us to meditate on what we hear, how we see, and why we feel.

Opened in 1919, the lovingly restored gallery was gifted the name Te Whare o Rehua, or House of Inspiration, by local iwi in 1995. A fitting title for the heritage building, which houses a collection of more than 8000 items of significance that traverse four centuries of European and New Zealand art history.

Perfect for family escapades, weekends with friends, or romantic getaways with the one you love, Whanganui's magic lies within those who call it home. Community and connection form the city's lifeblood. Whether you're paddling the river on a guided tour or cruising its emerald waters on a paddle steamer, perusing the locally run boutiques or dining on plates from its fertile plains at an award-winning eatery, you'll find manaakitanga at every turn. That hospitality will warm your bones in winter and your soul all year round as it beckons you back time and time again.

One thing's for certain: Whanganui's indelible impression will remain stamped on your heart forever.



Hawke's Bay



*The National Aquarium of NZ.
Photo by Molly Rose Nilsson.*



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Top 8 family attractions in Hawke's Bay



Par2 Minigolf

panoramic views of the coast of Hawke's Bay while you compete on one of two courses: Pacific Pro-Am or Deco Drive. The former is a quintessential minigolf course, full of wacky angles, tricky water hazards, and tree obstacles. Deco Drive is a complex course with organic curves and harsh slopes.



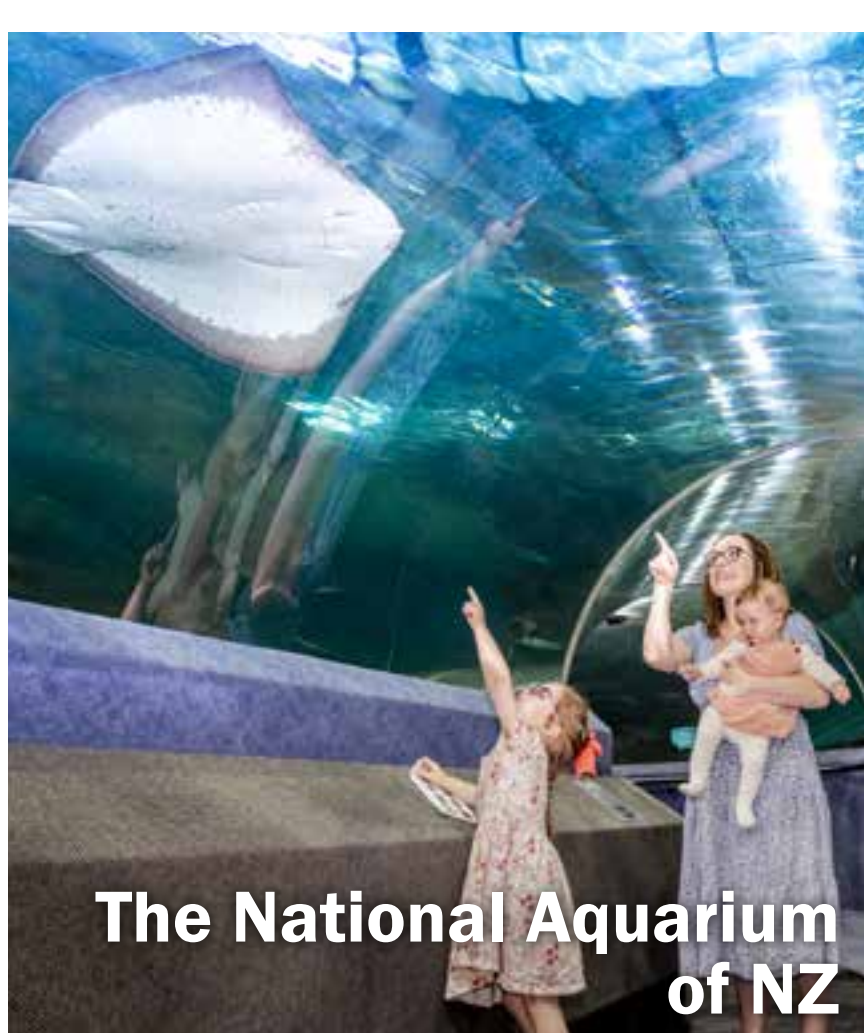
MTG Hawke's Bay

The museum's collections tell historic stories of the region and beyond, including the 1931 earthquake that devastated the region and the legacy of art deco architecture that is still celebrated today. Their fabulous shop also sells a range of beautiful cards, gifts, books, and mementos.



Faraday Museum of Technology

Ignite your imagination at the Faraday Museum of Technology, where hands-on adventures await visitors of all ages! Discover interactive exhibits where you can touch, play, and explore the wonders of science, technology, and history in exciting ways. From historic appliances and engines to energy sources and games, there's so much to see and uncover. A magical place where history comes to life anew, the Faraday Museum of Technology offers an experience you won't forget that's perfect for families and anyone with a curious mind!



The National Aquarium of NZ

The National Aquarium of New Zealand is home to saltwater, freshwater, and land animal exhibits from New Zealand and around the world. The 1.5-million-litre Oceanarium, which you can experience with a walk through an underwater viewing tunnel, showcases the variety of aquatic species that exist in Hawke's Bay, including stingrays, kingfish, hāpuku, snapper, and more. Watch the famous little penguins feed and play in the Penguin Cove, and connect with native wildlife like tuatara and kiwi.



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Visitor Information

NAPIER

Top 8 family attractions in Hawke's Bay



Kennedy Park

Located near the heart of Napier, Kennedy Park is an accommodation option that's fun for the whole whānau. There is so much to do onsite that you'll be tempted to spend entire days on the premises. Kids and adults will love the heated swimming complex, basketball half court, and giant outdoor chess board. Stroll the gardens or relax at the café while the tamariki let loose at the adventure playground and on the colourful jumping pillow. Spend time in the games room playing pool, table-top games, or air hockey together as a family.



Hawke's Bay Farmyard Zoo

Known for its unique atmosphere, Hawke's Bay Farmyard Zoo provides a safe, clean environment with informative signage, limestone walkways, and a picnic area to accommodate large groups such as birthday parties and work functions. The animals at the zoo include pigs, sheep and calves, ostriches, alpacas, turtles, peacocks, and many more, and kids will have the opportunity to get up close and feed some of them. With a playground, train rides, and pony rides available, the hardest part will be getting the family back into the car.



Napier Aquatic Centre

You don't have to wait for hot summer days to enjoy a day in the water. Napier Aquatic Centre is open year-round for water-based exercise and fun. Three pools means everyone can jump in – choose from the five-lane 25-metre lap pool for walking and lane swimming, the disability-friendly six-lane Ivan Wilson Pool, or the learners' pool complete with toddler pool and mini waterfall. The complex also features waterslides, a spray park open from October to March, a beautiful outdoor area, and relaxing spas. Jump in and have fun!



Ocean Spa

Ocean Spa is Napier's premier heated pool and fitness complex located on Marine Parade. Boasting open-air, heated, and chlorinated pools and spas with panoramic ocean views, visitors can enjoy a range of options from the toddler pool to therapeutic pools with water fountains and pool jets. Visitors can unwind in spacious outdoor spa pools and refuel with a coffee or bite to eat at Bach Café. Centrally located, Ocean Spa is the perfect spot to relax and re-energise, rain or shine.



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Hawke's Bay

Beautiful, bountiful, breathtaking



Te Mata Peak. Photo by Kirsten Simcox.



Cape Kidnappers. Photo by Gannet Safaris.

Whether you're in the market for family fun or a romantic rendezvous, Hawke's Bay is one of Aotearoa's most multi-faceted regions. With its sunny climate, luscious food and wine, and incredible natural landscape, you'll fall in love at first sight.

Explore the landscape by bike to take in as much as possible. The well-maintained tracks are suitable for all levels and pass by plenty of picturesque panoramas. For a more immersive experience, lace up your walking shoes and embark on a nature adventure. The Bell Rock Loop Track is particularly rewarding – from the top you can spy Māhia Peninsula, Te Kooti's Lookout, and the Kaweka mountain range. Blowhard Bush Reserve on the other hand is home to mysterious limestone passageways, distinctive red-brown soil, and native birdlife. Te Mata Peak, behind Havelock North, gives 360-degree views of Hawke's Bay and is steeped in Māori legend, while Cape Kidnappers is an outstanding bird-watching destination complete with the biggest gannet colony in the world and dramatic, rugged coastal views.

Check out the settlements in this region for their unique architecture. Rebuilt after a devastating earthquake in 1931, Napier is one of the most beautiful cities in New Zealand, and an Art Deco, candy-coloured playground brimming with historical activities. Start with a self-guided or guided tour of the city. You'll love learning about the local history through architecture. Fill up on delicious treats from some of the local eateries before topping off your day with a stroll along the parade to watch the sunset.

Hastings is like a smaller, more laid-back version of Napier. Inland and surrounded by bountiful fields of fresh fruit and veggies, it's chocka with signature shops, farm-to-table eateries, art studios, and beautiful boutique accommodation options.

Named a Great Wine Capital of the world in 2023, no trip to this region is complete without wine tasting, so find a cellar door – or several – and while away a heavenly Hawke's Bay day. The region is known for its relaxed yet attentive Antipodean hospitality, where whānau-run estates make visitors feel right at home. With the 2025 grape harvest having just wrapped up, you may even get to sip and savour fresh bottles. World-class wining and dining pairs perfectly with the region's cycle trails – tour the wineries by bike for a vino visit like no other.

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Fensham Reserve, Carterton. Photo by Jack Austin.



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Wairarapa

Slice of paradise



Sunny skies and sparkling seas, glimmering forests and rolling pastures await in Wairarapa. Filled with known treasures and hidden gems alike, this region is a fusion of grass-roots businesses and luxury establishments, cultural capers and natural wonders, adrenaline-amping activities and relaxing experiences.

Wairarapa's biggest calling cards are the bush, beaches, and beauty that Aotearoa is known for. Miles of rugged coastline and long sandy beaches perfect for long strolls and sunset picnics are flanked by swathes of wild bush in which visitors can find cascading waterfalls, coursing rivers, towering cliff faces, and dense remnants of ancient forests of gnarled trees. Native flora and fauna abound in this region, with several wildlife sanctuaries and reserves providing a haven for our protected and endangered creatures.

Whether you like to explore on foot, by bike, in a four-wheel drive, or even on horseback, Wairarapa's tracks and trails are easily accessible and well delineated. The extensive network is perfect for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and abilities. What's more, you'll never be too far from civilisation thanks to the towns dotted throughout the region.

The townships of Wairarapa appear as if by magic between tracts of manicured farmland and forest belts. Each one is chocka with character, yet has its own personality, style, and atmosphere. Masterton offers big-city business with a country edge – as the biggest settlement in the region, it has great eateries and any and all shops or services you could want. Carterton enjoys a thriving social calendar thanks to the many artists that call it home. Featherston is known for its antique stores, bookshops, and specialty eateries, and is the perfect place to while away an afternoon perusing the shops. Greytown is refined and elegant, with heritage buildings and unique boutiques scattered throughout the centre. Martinborough is the wine hub of the region and characterised by a touch of luxury.

Wherever you go in Wairarapa, there are some things that you'll find everywhere: delicious cuisine made from the finest and freshest local ingredients, picturesque postcard-worthy scenery, and, come nightfall, twinkling stars. In fact, Wairarapa has recently been recognised as an accredited International Dark Sky Reserve. On a clear, crisp winter night, turn your gaze to the heavens and you'll know you've found paradise on Earth.

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Wairarapa

Shear success



Nicki Gutter.

From the dreams and aspirations of a few enthusiastic farmers many years ago, the greatest shearing and woolhandling competition in the world was born. Held annually at Masterton's War Memorial Stadium, Golden Shears traces its beginnings back to 1958, when Laurie Keats, Iain Douglas, and Graham Buckley toyed with the idea of organising a shearing competition in Wairarapa.

By 1960, the name was chosen and in 1961 the inaugural Golden Shears saw massive crowds that surpassed all expectations. The competition fierce and uncompromising, Golden Shears quickly became a household name, thrusting shearing onto the world stage and into the realm of professionalism, growing each year into the epic event it is today.

In 2026, New Zealand will hold the 20th Golden Shears World Shearing and Woolhandling Championships at the home of Golden Shears in Masterton. The event is expected to be held over four days from March the 4th to the 7th in conjunction with the Golden Shears International Shearing and Woolhandling Championships at the War Memorial Stadium.

Golden Shears was built on a dream that you can still experience today.

Immersive time capsule



The popular Cobblestones Museum and Heritage Village is an immersive time capsule that gives a glimpse into the characters, lives, and stories of Wairarapa's early history.

Discover the resilience of early Wairarapa families facing the challenges of starting anew and walk in their footsteps as you explore the original Victorian cottage.

When standing in the historic Hastwell stables it's easy to imagine the horse-drawn stagecoaches thundering in on the original cobblestones still in existence today.

Enjoy the simplicity and charm of a Victorian church, stroll through the park-like grounds, or indulge in a picnic lunch on the village green.

Children will love hand pumping water, exploring the Victorian school, checking out the fire engine, or trying out the stocks and jail.

Explore the historic hospital, woolshed, and printer's workshop, as well as the agricultural, sawmilling, and dairy displays.

Cobblestones is so much more than a museum. It's a great break from a busy weekend or a fun pitstop along your journey. To find out about special events, open days, and opening hours, check Cobblestones Facebook page or our website at www.cobblestonesmuseum.org.nz



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Wairarapa

On your doorstep



Mawley Holiday Park is a home away from home in Wairarapa. A perfect base from which to explore everything the region has to offer, the beautiful grounds feature a range of accommodation options to suit every traveller.

Nestled in a sheltered, peaceful setting on the banks of the Waipoua River, Mawley Holiday Park is punctuated by specimen trees and wide-open spaces. Guests can enjoy the BBQ area, which sits alongside a communal kitchen featuring ranges, gas hobs, a microwave, fridge/freezer, and power points. There are also plenty of bathrooms and a lounge area offering access to TVs, a library, and dining spaces. The onsite playground provides hours of entertainment for little ones, while the Trust House Recreation Centre just down the road has heated pools, spas, and a hydroslide.

There is room for campervans and tents on both powered and unpowered campsites. Cabins and self-contained units are also available – simply choose how many beds and what facilities you'd like. Enjoy views of the Tararua Ranges and early-morning birdsong throughout.

With heaps to see and do on your doorstep, you'll never want to leave.

Wine and dine in the vineyard



Moy Hall Vineyard is located on Martins Road in Martinborough, also known as the wine capital of Wairarapa.

Relax at Moy Hall while you enjoy share plates featuring the season's freshest local produce, matched with a selection of wines grown on-site. The lunch menu changes throughout the year depending on the creative whim of the chefs.

At Moy Hall, the quality starts with healthy and sustainably farmed soils and vines. You can hear all about what makes them stand out by visiting their Scottish-inspired long house for a wine tasting. The winemaker is often there to greet you, or one of the friendly team will talk you through the range of wines. Moy Hall produces single-estate vineyard wines that capture the unique character of the vineyard block and the seasonality of each vintage. Their sauvignon blanc, riesling, pinot gris, viognier, rosé, pinot noir, and syrah are available from their cellar door, online, or through the wine club.

Moy Hall Vineyard is open six days from Friday to Wednesday, with extended hours on Saturdays. Drop in for a tasting or an al fresco lunch in the fresh country air. Book online at www.moyhall.nz







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NORTH ISLAND
Te Ika-a-Māui

SOUTH ISLAND
Te Waipounamu

WELLINGTON

Areas covered in this issue:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| ○ Top of the North | ○ Hawke's Bay |
| ○ Auckland | ○ Wairarapa |
| ○ Gisborne | ○ Chatham Islands |
| ○ Ōpōtiki | ○ Kaikōura |
| ○ Whakatāne | ○ Canterbury |
| ○ Kawerau | ○ Mackenzie District |
| ○ Rotorua | ○ Nelson-Tasman |
| ○ Wellington | ○ Motueka |
| ○ Kapiti-Horowhenua | ○ Golden Bay |
| ○ Taranaki | ○ Otago |
| ○ South Taranaki | ○ West Coast |
| ○ Whanganui | ○ Southland |

Chatham Islands

No pests please



Being almost 800 kilometres away from New Zealand, the Chatham Islands are among the most remote places in the world. This makes their ecosystem incredibly unique, with endemic and native species of flora and fauna found only here and nowhere else on the planet.

The initiative No Pests Please was developed in recognition of the fact that pests of all shapes and sizes have already arrived on the Chatham Islands and caused significant damage, both to the ecology and economy. It's essential that pests currently on the Chatham Islands don't spread to other outer islands as the impact on agriculture, the marine industry, and the environment would be disastrous.

When visiting the Chatham Islands, it's important to do your part to help protect the delicate ecosystem by minimising the chance of tracking in pests or other non-native species. This includes both animals and plants. Before embarking on your trip, thoroughly clean any gear, supplies, luggage, or containers – tents, bedding, clothes, boots, and even socks can host a stowaway.

If a pest is discovered, destroy or contain it and contact a biosecurity officer at info@chathamislands.govt.nz.

Tailor-made for you



Though the Chatham Islands are small, there is so much to see and do that planning your visit may be a bit daunting. From nature to culture, on-the-water fun to land-lubber activities, you could easily spend seven days on Chatham Island and still have more to explore. It's important to choose a good base to rest during your trip too.

Nestled on the shores of glorious Waitangi Bay, Hotel Chatham is the very best choice for your accommodation and Chatham Islands adventure. From accommodation, airport transfers, and rental vehicles to great cuisine and restaurant and bar facilities, they offer everything to make your visit to this unique archipelago fun, stress-free, and the trip of a lifetime.

Your host Toni Croon has tailored Hotel Chatham's very own diverse and fully inclusive guided tours and activities to give you access to private lands, hidden treasures, unforgettable experiences, and breathtaking scenery. And they are all led by locals for fair dinkum island experiences. All inclusive and with plenty of options for all kinds of travellers, each stay will be tailored to suit your individual interests. So, book your stay at Hotel Chatham today and let the adventure begin.



chatham islands council

No pests please

Help keep our Islands unique by checking your belongings for any contaminants before arriving in the Chatham Islands.

CHECK CLEAN DRY

Footwear
Outdoor clothing
Dive gear
Camping and sports equipment

Contamination might include seeds in your socks and clothing, marine pests on dive gear, mud on boots or ants in your backpack.

Please don't bring animals, plant material, bees or raw comb honey, unless you have contacted a Chatham Islands Biosecurity Officer for advice first.

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Chatham Islands

Feed your soul



Basalt Columns.



Tommy Solomon Statue.

Mystical and miles away from mainland New Zealand, the Chatham Islands offer an escape like no other and an adventure through time and space to a world of wonder. From the sandy shores and windswept peaks, gnarled forests and charming villages, visitors will encounter echoes of a turbulent past while catching glimpses of a collective and collaborative future where nature and culture seamlessly coexist. An unparalleled destination for nature nuts, history aficionados, and adrenaline junkies alike, the Chatham Islands are a world away yet can be reached in roughly two hours from Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch.

Once you disembark at the airport, there are endless activities to choose from between the islands Chatham and Pitt – from fishing and diving to hunting and horseback riding, hiking and biking to sampling the local cuisine, there is something for every kind of traveller on these remote islands.

When visiting the Chathams, you may want to consider an eco-focused itinerary. From ancient forests to native and endemic species, these isles enjoy an incredibly unique and diverse natural environment. Explore the basalt columns and 90-million-year-old fossils – there are over 700 recorded archaeological hotspots, including middens and occupational sites. Hike through Henga Scenic Reserve, Nikau Bush Conservation Area, Admiral Gardens, and Taiko Trust Reserve, where you'll encounter unique species of flora and fauna. Going on bushwalks or coastal tracks are must-dos, whether that's by foot or on horseback!

To boot the Chatham Islands offer an abundance of cultural and historical attractions. Wander the museum, local art galleries, and private studios, as well as the 11 registered historic places. Port Hutt is a small beach settlement with a picturesque bay and a beached WWII minesweeper. Kōpinga Marae promotes the Moriori cultural, linguistic, and artistic revival. Include Hāpūpū/J.M. Barker National Historic Reserve on your itinerary. One of only two New Zealand historical reserves, it features remnants of rākau momori or Moriori memorial tree impressions, perfectly aligning history and culture with nature – just like the Chatham Islands themselves.

There are plenty of places to stay both in the townships and dotted around the island. Whether you prefer to stay connected or you're keen to hunker down off-grid with a jaw-dropping view, you'll be hard pressed to find a place that isn't warm, welcoming, and wonderful. Feed your soul and free your spirit in the Chatham Islands.



A LAND APART!

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Your family in the sky
to whanau i te rangi

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Kaikōura

Celestial symphony



On a clear night in Kaikōura, the sky comes alive in a way that feels almost otherworldly. Away from the glare of city lights, this small coastal town nestled onto the eastern coast of New Zealand's South Island offers a front-row seat to one of the most awe-inspiring natural spectacles: a truly dark sky.

As the sun dips below the horizon and the last rays of light fade from the Pacific Ocean, Kaikōura's sky unveils its hidden universe. The Milky Way spills across the heavens in a cloud of shimmering light, constellations stand out in crisp detail, and planets become easily visible to the naked eye. It's not just a visual feast – it's a reminder of our place in the cosmos.

This region's unique combination of ocean and alpine landscapes gives the experience a kind of magic that is hard to describe and harder to forget. You can stand near the shimmering seashore and see the night sky reflected in the water, or gaze upward from the foothills where the stars seem almost close enough to touch.

In September 2024, Kaikōura was officially designated an International Dark Sky Sanctuary by DarkSky International (formerly the International Dark-Sky Association), making it one of only a handful worldwide. This achievement was the result of years of work by the Kaikōura Dark Sky Trust – a passionate community-led group committed to preserving the purity of the night sky through advocacy, education, and collaboration with local iwi, residents, and stakeholders.

Beyond the science and beauty, there's a spiritual dimension. Matariki, the Māori New Year, is observed with reverence here, and the reappearance of the Pleiades star cluster in the dawn sky carries stories, memories, and meanings passed down through generations.

Stargazing in Kaikōura is not a commercial transaction; it's a deeply personal encounter with nature and time. Whether lying on a blanket under a glittering sky or quietly watching shooting stars streak above the Seaward Kaikōura Ranges, visitors often leave with more than photos. In fact, they take with them a renewed sense of wonder.



In a world increasingly lit by artificial glow, Kaikōura reminds us of the stories written in starlight and why it matters to keep that darkness sacred.





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Canterbury – Mackenzie District



Orana Wildlife Park. Photo by Kim Free.



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Canterbury

Adventure awaits



New Zealanders have never shied away from adventure. From sailing the high seas while blazing towards a faraway land to climbing snowy peaks in record-setting feats, bungee jumping off bridges to skydiving from high above the clouds, doing daredevil activities is in our blood. If you're a bit of an adrenaline seeker yourself, visit Christchurch Adventure Park. Here, you, your friends, and your whānau can get the rush of a lifetime on New Zealand's longest and highest ziplines.

The zipline experiences at Christchurch Adventure Park are special. Offering spectacular views over the garden city, the full tour takes two and a half hours and features four ziplines. The first zip line is 490 metres long and has the best view, while the second sits at 430m and prepares you for the next step up. The second half of the tour is where you get into record-breaking territory. Number three is the highest zipline in New Zealand at a staggering 150m above ground. Number four, dubbed The Long Ride, is the longest in Aotearoa at a whopping 1.1 kilometres! Once you feel the wind in your hair and see the beautiful plateau below, you'll be hooked on the feeling that washes over you when you're whizzing through the air.

If you're short on time, you can opt to just try out The Long Ride with an experience lasting one and a half hours. If you're a flying fox veteran and keen for something a bit different or are always up for unique activities, book in for the nighttime zipline experience. Race through the forest in the dark and catch glowing panoramas of the city skyline on a tour lasting two and a half hours and featuring all four flying foxes.

Christchurch Adventure Park is rated awesome by people of all ages. As long as you fit the height, weight, and health requirements and can walk the short distance between the zip stations, you're good to go.

Christchurch Adventure Park is the perfect place to indulge your adventurous spirit. And nothing warms you up on a cold winter's day like getting your blood pumping on an adrenaline-inducing activity. Whether you want to chase the thrill and add something new to your bucket list, or you're simply seeking to step out of your own comfort zone, Christchurch Adventure Park is safe, supportive, and so much fun. Come rain or shine, book in for an experience that's guaranteed to leave you smiling from ear to ear.

Adventure Starts Here

Home to **New Zealand's highest & longest** ziplines!

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Book Now

Canterbury

The southern capital



There is a reason Christchurch is affectionately known as the garden city, and with the sheer amount of greenery dotted throughout the centre and its surrounds, you'll have wandered into a wonderland come spring. Hagley Park provides over 400 acres of open meadows, mature woodlands, a golf course, and various ball game courts, while the Botanic Gardens at the heart of Christchurch are among the best in the world. Don't miss the opportunity to visit New Regent Street, New Zealand's most beautiful street, while in town.

There's no shortage of cultural enrichment in Ōtautahi. From heritage parks and museums to science centres and galleries, this corner of Aotearoa has plenty to see and do. As for the gastronomic scene, take your pick from excellent eateries, bustling bars, cute cafés, and delicious dining experiences. The nightlife is always popping, with international and local concerts, shows, and events making up the busy events calendar.

For the adventure seeker, Christchurch has fun activities both indoors and out. From adrenaline-fuelled escapades to leisurely excursions, explore the natural beauty of Canterbury with day trips to the nearby coast or mountains.

Orana Wildlife Park



Orana Wildlife Park provides amazing opportunities for people to connect with wildlife. See New Zealand's only gorillas, eyeball mighty rhino, hand feed the majestic giraffe, observe curious kiwi, encounter mischievous kea, see the stunning cheetah, tiger, and playful otters. With 12 scheduled presentations daily, visitors can enjoy the antics of our meerkats, Tasmanian devils, friendly farmyard creatures, monkeys, and more!

Visitors can board our Safari Shuttle for a tour of the zoo, join our walkabout guides, or explore the park at leisure. Orana's adventure playground is fun for young and old, especially the 50-metre flying fox! The wildlife-themed shop is stocked with fabulous gifts for any occasion.

Orana is operated as a registered charity, heavily relying on gate takings to operate. We separately raise 100 percent of funds for all developments, animal transfers, and involvement in key conservation programmes. Park staff are proud to make genuine contributions to breed-for-release recovery programmes for threatened indigenous wildlife such as kākāriki karaka (Aotearoa's rarest parakeet). By visiting the zoo, you are directly supporting our conservation work.

Visit www.oranawildlifepark.co.nz



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Nelson-Tasman



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Nelson – Motueka

Ask for adventure



If you're an adrenaline seeker, Cable Bay Adventure Park is as exhilarating as they come. Just a 15-minute drive from Nelson and chocka with all kinds of fun activities for all ages, abilities, and interests, embark on epic excursions through almost 400 hectares of native forest.

Whether you're with friends, whānau, or you're flying solo, Cable Bay Adventure Park has something for everyone. Leisure lovers will leave refreshed after ambling the extensive trail network through the native bush, glimpsing 2000-year-old trees and chirping birds along the way. Follow up your stroll with a warm drink and delicious meal at Base Café – while there, you can even pet the farm animals and feed the endemic eels that call this wonderful park home.

Quad bike tours traverse native forests and farmland and lead up to magnificent coastal viewpoints. The climbing wall has four stations all at eight metres high and heaps of routes. But the fun doesn't stop there. Have a go on one of the world's longest flying foxes, suspended high above the canopy. Or get the whole group involved in a round – or two – of paint ball.

Stay and play all day at Cable Bay Adventure Park.

Future-proofing your holiday



The beauty of Nelson Tasman continues to astound visitors and residents alike; the trick is not to take it for granted. As sustainability has been embraced by the world, and the concept of kaitiakitanga – guardianship and protection of the land – has taken hold, the fragility of our backyard has become clearer.

Tāhuna Beach Holiday Park, one of New Zealand's largest holiday parks, started down the sustainability path in earnest around three years ago, educated and assisted by several tourism industry organisations and Nelson City Council. Educational programmes for guests, marine exploration days for schools, and conservation events such as the annual Tāhunanui Beach clean-up reinforce the holiday park's commitment. On-site, 4000 native trees have been planted along with water-saving irrigation and a mulch-producing green waste chipper. Other waste reduction efforts include comprehensive recycling, composting, repurposing materials, and introducing solar hot water and motion-sensor lighting for the communal shower blocks.

Tāhuna Beach Holiday Park holds a Gold-level Qualmark for Sustainable Tourism as it works to continue delivering classic Kiwi beachside holidays long into the future.

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Golden Bay

Golden getaway



Te Waikoropupū Springs.

Known as a place where crystalline waves collide with long sandy beaches, Golden Bay is a sunny hotspot that's a dream come true to ocean-lovers. This slice of paradise is wonderful in winter too thanks to a mild microclimate that experiences warm days even during the colder months.

Quaint towns provide the perfect place to hole up for a weekend getaway, with eateries, cafés, farmers markets, art studios, and museums to explore during the daytime. Enjoy a holiday away from the hustle and bustle of city life in a place where time moves slower, and the simple pleasures are what matter most.

This area is chocka with natural wonders. Abel Tasman National Park is quieter during these months and just as beautiful – grab your kayak or hiking boots and explore one of Aotearoa's calling cards. Te Waikoropupū Springs boast some of the clearest waters in the world. Tākaka Hill is the best place to catch a sunset. Go caving in the Ngarua Caves to glimpse crazy geological formations. Wharariki Beach is punctuated by natural arches, caves, and sand dunes that you may well have all to yourself this time of year.

Perfect paradise



Farewell Spit. Photo by Bare Kiwi, courtesy of www.nelsontasman.nz

Tucked into the top of the South Island is beautiful Collingwood. Plan a winter getaway and you'll find this picture-perfect place is paradise on Earth.

Just two hours from Nelson and fitted with a selection of beautiful boutiques, gorgeous galleries, marvellous museums, authentic accommodation, and excellent eateries, Collingwood is a small albeit mighty destination for leisure-lovers. There are plenty of historical sites to explore as well – discover the town's exciting past in the museums or wander through the old cemetery.

Nature nuts will enjoy Collingwood too. The town's calling card is Farewell Spit, a narrow stretch of beach that has been a protected bird sanctuary since the 1930s. Over 90 species call this Wetland of International Importance home. Visitors can explore this unique location by four-wheel drive safari, bus, and even horseback.

Embark on numerous hikes and walks from Collingwood. After all, it's considered the gateway to this region's natural landscape. Kahurangi National Park is stunning no matter which ambling path you choose, while the famous Heaphy Track winds through the full gamut of Kiwi environments.

Collingwood HOLIDAY PARK golden bay

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South Island hotspots

Otago



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Otago



Boiler Point. Photo courtesy of DunedinNZ.

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Otago

Bountiful and beautiful



Cromwell Heritage Precinct. Photo by Bella Harrex.

Nestled into the shores of Lake Dunstan and with The Remarkables as a backdrop sits Cromwell, a jewel in the crown of Te Waipounamu. The scene of a gold rush in the 1860s, its rich history is accentuated by remnants of gold fields and a heritage precinct filled with boutiques, art galleries, and cosy cafés. The old main street has been preserved in its original condition from the 1880s – it's a step back in time complete with stone buildings, barns, and shops.

While Cromwell was established by gold miners, fruit is its treasure today. With a reputation for fine wine and dining, it is home to award-winning wineries, so be sure to get your fill of that famous Central Otago pinot noir.

If you're itching to get active, biking, hiking, and snow sports are the activities to choose in winter. Cromwell's many trails are suitable for all levels of trampers and cyclists, while the mountains framing the town are home to some of the best slopes in the country.

Renowned for its dark skies, Cromwell is also famous for its Southern Lights display, which just so happen to be best spotted in winter.

Pedal through paradise



The beautiful trails, sweeping landscapes, and picturesque vistas of Central Otago are best explored by bicycle. Bike It Now! provides bike and e-bike retail, hire, workshop services, and self-guided tours in the region, so you can get pedaling on the adventure of a lifetime.

With locations in Clyde, Cromwell, and Wānaka, Bike It Now! offers door-to-door pickups from Queenstown and drop-offs leaving Clyde each day, which gives the passionate and customer-focused crew the opportunity to share the area's history.

Whether you're keen to jump into some of New Zealand's Great Rides, or you'd rather coast down the less-beaten tracks, Bike It Now! has a range of options to suit all levels, interests, and timeframes.

Choose from short single-day trips, two-day adventures, three-to five-day excursions, and six to 10-day experiences ranging from Grade 1 all the way up to Grade 3, depending on the course. Mix, match, and combine popular tracks like the Lake Dunstan Trail, Otago Central Rail Trail, Roxburgh Gorge Trail, and Clutha Gold Trail with local routes to craft a tailored adventure.

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Otago

Something southern



Tunnel Beach. Photo courtesy of DunedinNZ.



The Octagon. Photo courtesy of DunedinNZ.

If you fancy a trip to Scotland but don't want to make a trek to the other side of the world, book a flight to Ōtepoti Dunedin – it's reminiscent of the British Isles, exceptionally beautiful, and chocka with things to do come rain or shine.


Founded by Scottish immigrants, the city's history can be traced back to the 1800s, though Māori iwi have been settled in these parts since much longer ago. Echoes of Caledonia can be seen in the architecture and the atmosphere, which at times when the mists roll in can appear rather Dickensian. Visit some of the heritage homes, wander the historic centre, or check out Larnach Castle to feel truly transported to a time gone by.

As a designated UNESCO City of Literature, writers, books, and words abound. Visitors can venture into libraries and bookshops on a rainy Dunedin day or embark on the Literary Walking Tour on a crisp winter morning. Academic pursuits don't stop here in Ōtepoti – as a university town, museums are everywhere and contain everything from settler stories and natural history to sports paraphernalia, maritime memorabilia, and bizarre and macabre artefacts. The art, music, and entertainment scene is also popping thanks to the students.

The Dunedin Street Art Walk includes more than 50 murals dotted throughout the centre, while restaurants, bars, theatres, and venues host local acts and world-class creatives alike showcasing their musical, artistic, or theatrical talents.

Nature nut? Animal aficionado? Landscape lover? Dunedin is the wildlife capital of New Zealand for good reason. The coastal terrain of Otago Peninsula, secluded beaches, and bush-clad hills are the perfect habitat for all manner of creatures of wing and water. Go sightseeing yourself, book a tour at one of the sanctuaries, or sail across the harbour. There are so many natural wonders in Ōtepoti's surrounds – think stargazing, the Okia Reserve pyramids, the famous Tunnel Beach, and more. This time of year is also the best to see Aurora Australis, the Southern Lights. Visitors can explore the landscape through biking, hiking, sailing, or riding, and if you'd rather sit back and relax, there are plenty of guided tours to choose from too.




This is just the tip of the Dunedin iceberg. Make like a penguin and head south to discover a winter wonderland.




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Quest Dunedin offers a springboard for visitors to explore stunning landscapes, street art, and boutique breweries – just like a local. Famous for its wild beauty and Scottish and Maori heritage, immerse yourself in the rugged scenery of the Otago Central Rail Trail, drink up a local beer at Emerson's or Speights, or marvel at historical buildings like Larnach Castle.

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Otago

A sanctuary for giants



The Royal Albatross Centre gives visitors viewing access to the world's only mainland breeding colony of northern royal albatross. Located at Taiaroa Head Nature Reserve, the headland of the Otago Peninsula, albatross find a sanctuary to raise their young.

Royal albatrosses, toroa, are one of the biggest sea birds. A graceful giant, their wingspan exceeds three metres. Their breeding season takes an entire year, so there is always something to see at the colony. Though they fly an estimated 19,000 kilometres per year and spend over 85 percent of their life out at sea, northern royal albatross are endemic to New Zealand.

At the Royal Albatross Centre, visitors can view the colony from the observatory and learn all about them on guided tours. Your guide will take you through the birds' fascinating story before leading you on a short walk uphill to the observatory to see them rearing their young.

Hidden underneath the colony is a military fort established in the 1880s in response to fear of Russian invasion. Optionally added onto the albatross tour, your guide will walk you through the tunnels to see the Armstrong Disappearing Gun and learn about the headland's human history.

Warm your soul



Going south in winter definitely means you'll be up against colder temperatures, but there are plenty of activities to do in Dunedin regardless. One of the best ways to warm up is to take a tour of a brewery or distillery to sample a nip of something that will restore the warmth in your soul.

As a boutique distillery located in the heart of central Dunedin, No. 8 Distillery's products are intrinsically linked to the Otago Peninsula's unique environment. They champion sustainability and draw inspiration from the natural, urban, and social landscape they call home, bringing to life award-winning gin, vodka, ouzo, rum, absinthe, and liqueurs.

Tours delve into the history of No. 8 Distillery and the famous family recipes. Learn how your favourite spirits are created and wander through the production facilities. Along with tours, you can also sign up for make-your-own-gin workshops and seasonal botanical foraging sessions where you'll learn the ways of a master distiller looking for ingredients to add to the latest gin creations.

Of course, you can also take part in tastings – the most fun way to warm up on a cold Dunedin winter's day.

See the underground Fort Taiaroa and its fully restored Armstrong Disappearing Gun from 1886.



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OTAGO



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West Coast

Calling all time travellers



Shantytown Heritage Park is a living, breathing 19th century time capsule that holds the secrets of the West Coast's gold rush history by blending educational opportunities with family activities.

Located just off State Highway 6 between Hokitika and Greymouth, this historically accurate village comprises 30 replicas of vintage buildings, each one based on a building that existed as far back as 1860. Discover Groom's Butchery, the BNZ, and Hannah's shoe store, along with many others. The structures contain trinkets and curiosities in the thousands, with the open-air museum holding a collection of roughly 10,000 objects, 2000 photos, and 1000 archives.

Little ones can whizz along on the playground's flying fox, search the park during a tricky treasure hunt, and munch on old fashioned treats from King Dick's Cafe or the Beehive Store. Dress in period costume for an old-timey photo. Send a postcard from the Post Office to receive an official Shantytown postmark. Catch the heritage train to Infants Creek sawmill where you can take a stroll to the claim and sluice area to pan for gold.

An adventure wonderland for little and big kids alike, travel through time at Shantytown.

Above and beyond



Reefton. Photo by Stewart Nimmo.

Reefton's history dates back to the gold rush, when prospectors intent on getting rich quick founded the outpost in the 19th century. Today, this quaint township is chocka with history and speckled with heritage buildings that harken back to a time gone by.

Whether you're seeking a peaceful holiday or an adventure-packed getaway, The Nurses Home is a centrally located accommodation that's well connected to everything the West Coast has to offer.

Inaugurated in 1949, this property once served as accommodation for the nurses and staff of Reefton Hospital. Today, it stands as a beautifully refurbished retreat.

On the ground floor of The Nurses Home, guests will have access to a large communal kitchen and comfortable dining and lounge area that opens up onto the manicured courtyard and gardens. The upper floors each feature two spacious shared bathrooms and a variety of options ranging from single and twin to queen rooms and suites, plus spacious one-bedroom and family apartments.

Each option enjoys complimentary WiFi, tea and coffee, and bed linen, duvets, and towels to ensure your stay at The Nurses Home ticks every box.



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West Coast

A hankering for Hokitika



At the heart of the wild and wondrous West Coast is Hokitika – nestled at the mouth of the Hokitika River, looking out over the tumultuous Pacific Ocean, with a shawl of emerald and ivory mountains at her shoulders.

Natural beauty abounds in Hokitika's vicinity. From long, sandy beaches to cascading waterfalls, azure glacial lakes to deep gorges slicing through the Earth, outdoor enthusiasts will enjoy tramping, biking, and all-round exploring. There are plenty of adrenaline-inducing activities to partake in as well. Lake Kaniere Scenic Reserve is characterised by a solemn but breathtaking beauty, while the Glow Worm Dell is the perfect after-dark activity for those with little ones.

Beautiful and quirky with history, culture, experiences, and a steady events calendar to boot, Hokitika is a place the whole whānau will love. Start your excursion downtown, perusing the boutiques, meandering through the museums and galleries, and sampling some adventurous West Coast kai from the many restaurants and cafés.

Head to the seashore to catch a spectacular sunset behind the iconic driftwood sign. Don't forget to snap a picture, framing your Hokitika memories forever.

Wild at heart



Relax and recharge on the West Coast, a wild and wonderful region home to some of the South Island's most breathtaking scenery, exhilarating activities, and charming towns. Hokitika is central to everything this rugged region has to offer, and nestled right in the centre of town is Hokitika Fire Station Boutique Accommodation.

Located in the original 1866 fire station, each self-contained apartment is named after a former fire chief and has its own flair and feel, accented by original brickwork, historic photographs, and firefighting memorabilia. As the only Qualmark five-star accommodation in central Hokitika, it goes without saying that each and every apartment offers charm by the truckload, plus air conditioning and air purifiers for a deeper sleep.

Sleeping 1 to 22 guests, the Fire Station is perfect for group bookings and romantic rendezvous alike. Sit back and relax next to the fireplace on the outdoor patio, perfect for catching those famous Hokitika sunsets and starry skies.

Just outside, you'll find Hokitika's bustling hub chocka with boutiques, museums, galleries, and eateries. Whether you're keen to stay in or explore, the Fire Station offers the perfect staycation.



Boutique accommodation in the heart of Hokitika

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Southland

Next stop, Antarctica!



Burt Munro Statue, Queens Park, Invercargill.
Photo courtesy of Great South.



Waipapa Point Lighthouse. Photo by Sam Deuchrass.

As Aotearoa's southernmost city – and one of the southernmost in the world – Invercargill offers activities and adventures aplenty, regardless of the weather or season.

New Zealand's classic motoring capital boasts an impressive vintage truck collection, a world-class display of over 300 motorcycles and artworks, a digger theme park, and a public tribute to the legend of speed himself, Burt Munro. Oreti Beach was a key filming location for *The World's Fastest Indian*, which tells the story of Munro's extraordinary life and offers opportunities to drive along the sand just like the Kiwi legend himself would have done when training to break the under 1000 cc world record. At 32 kilometres in length, Oreti Beach offers all kinds of fun to motorheads and nature lovers alike.

Waihōpai has a vibrant centre characterised by beautiful buildings filled with shops, galleries, museums, eateries, and cafés. Speaking of kai, while in the neighbourhood take a trip to the nearby town of Bluff, world famous for its fresh, delicious oysters. The charming village at the end of the peninsula is less than a 30-minute drive from Invercargill, making it the perfect day trip. After filling up on oysters, take a walk through Motupōhue Adventure Park, which features over 10 kilometres of walking and mountain biking trails across the beautiful Bluff Hill. At the top, you'll be rewarded with sweeping views... next stop, Antarctica! Snap a picture under the Stirling Point signpost, which marks the beginning of SH1, to commemorate the day.

You don't have to travel far to get your nature fix in Invercargill. Within the city there are several parks and gardens, including the sprawling 80-hectare Queens Park, which features beautifully kept grounds, art monuments, an aviary, and more. Surrounded by wetlands, long sandy beaches, and native bush, Invercargill is begging to be explored on foot, by bike, or on horseback. Find more nature fun along the one-hour-return Estuary Walkway, or within Thomsons Bush reserve.

Known as the city of water and light, Invercargill is famous for seeing the Aurora Australis. The Southern Lights are at their peak between April and September and can often be glimpsed as bright pink and green shimmers dancing in the inky deep of the heavens above. Set up on Oreti Beach at night for a show of shimmering stars and something spectacular.

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Southland

Nature at its most authentic



Beyond the buzz of Queenstown, Fiordland offers a raw, authentic New Zealand experience. Te Anau isn't just a base – it's the start of something epic. From here, embark on authentic wilderness explorations. Experience the great fiords of Milford Sound/Piopiotahi and Doubtful Sound/Patea, tackle one of the Great Walks, paddle across mirror-like lakes, or venture into glowworm caves. The journey begins right on our doorstep and extends all the way around Murihiku and beyond.

After a day full of adventure, indulge in the rich culinary offerings of our region. Murihiku Southland is a food lover's paradise, and you'll find some of the best in Fiordland – from succulent lobster to famous meat and game. No matter if you're a seafood enthusiast or prefer farm-fresh produce, there's something for everyone. Experience the joy of doing more, eating well, and sleeping peacefully under our stunning night sky.

Keen for some real peace and quiet? Ditch the crowds and dive into the wild across Fiordland. This region offers a sanctuary for those seeking solitude and natural beauty. Easily accessible from Queenstown or Invercargill, Fiordland is the true essence of Aotearoa – year-round, off the beaten path, and deeply unforgettable.

Ticket to paradise



People come from all over the world to visit Fiordland. Since this incredible natural wonder is in your backyard, why not see it for yourself? One of the most spectacular and immersive ways to experience this bucket-list destination is by boat. Cruise through Doubtful Sound or opt for a multi-night discovery cruise with Fiordland Expeditions.

From the boat, you'll have an unimpeded view of the scenery, which was carved by glaciers over the course of 100,000 years. Glimpse glassy waters reflecting towering peaks, waterfalls cascading hundreds of metres into black fiords, and ancient rainforests draping the cliffsides in a cloak of gleaming emerald – just as they did thousands of years ago. Even in winter, the mists and feathered rain will only add to the atmosphere.

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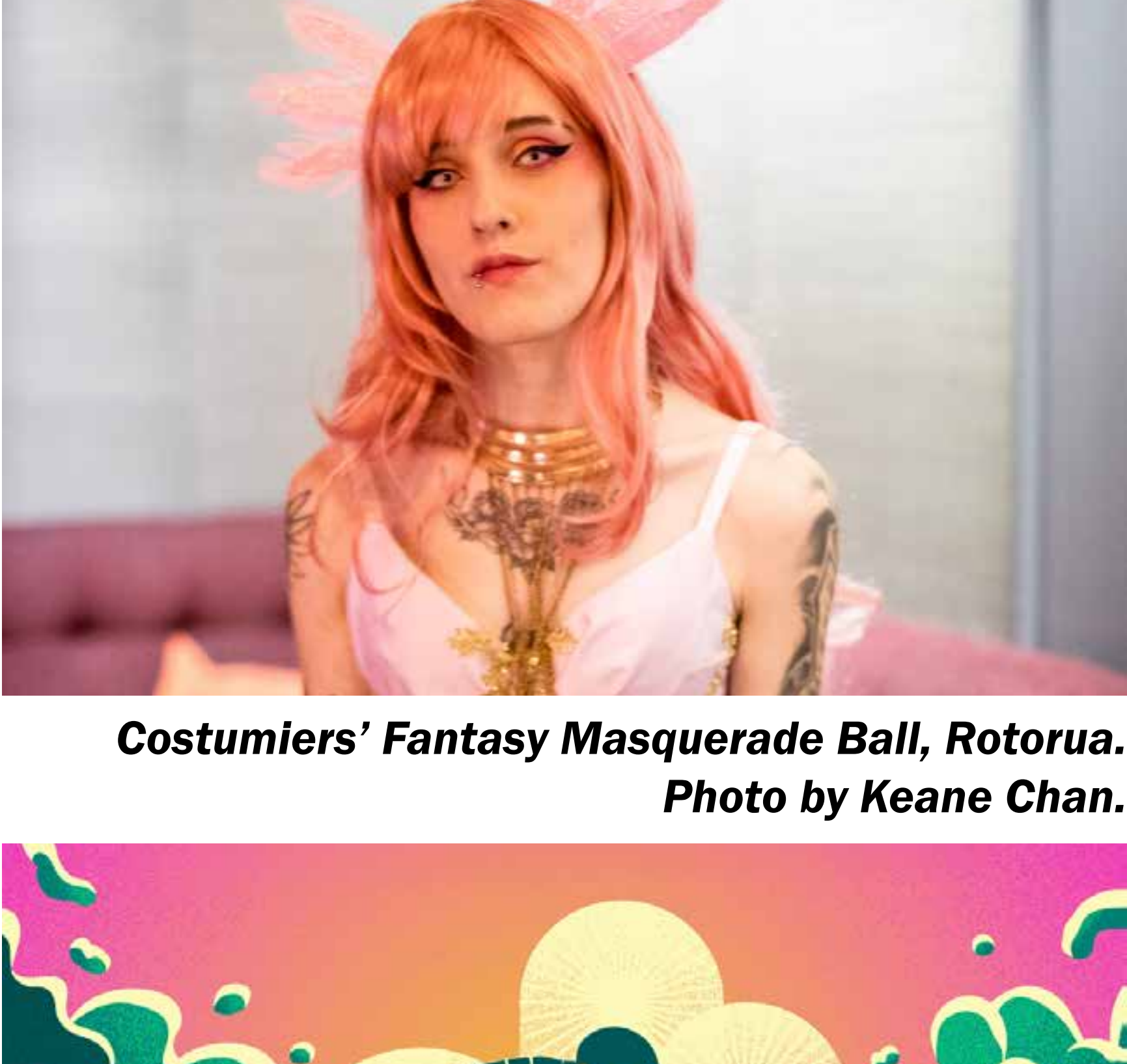
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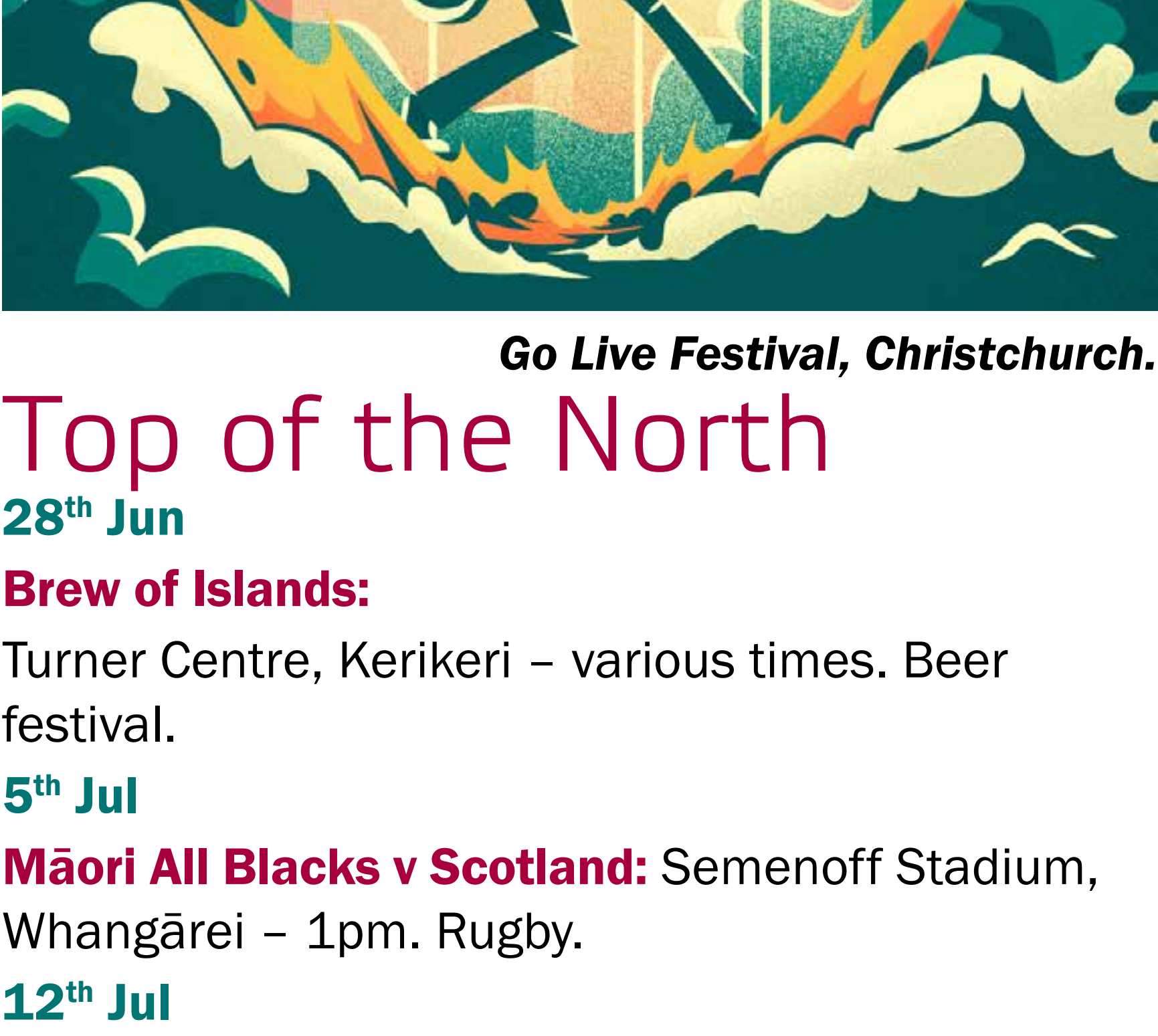
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What's on



Costumiers' Fantasy Masquerade Ball, Rotorua.
Photo by Keane Chan.



Go Live Festival, Christchurch.

Top of the North

28th Jun

Brew of Islands:

Turner Centre, Kerikeri – various times. Beer festival.

5th Jul

Māori All Blacks v Scotland: Semenoff Stadium, Whangārei – 1pm. Rugby.

12th Jul

Sandbox Fandom Festival:

Forum North, Whangārei – 10am. Convention.

11th-12th Oct

Whangārei Maritime Festival: Whangārei Town Basin, Whangārei – 10am.

Auckland

24th-27th Jul

The Auckland Food Show:

Auckland Showgrounds, Epsom – 10am.

26th Jul

Auckland Philharmonia – Hairy Maclary's

Greatest Hits: Bruce Mason Centre, Takapuna – various times.

Concert.

19th Aug-7th Sep

Mary: The Birth of Frankenstein:

ASB Waterfront Theatre, Auckland CBD – various times. Theatre.

11th-12th Oct

Auckland Asia Festival:

Auckland Showgrounds, Epsom – 10am.

24th-27th Oct

Spring Auckland Armageddon Expo:

Auckland Showgrounds, Epsom – various times. Pop culture convention.

29th Nov

The Others Way:

Karangahape Road, Auckland CBD – 5pm. Music festival.

Gisborne

26th Oct

Te Tairāwhiti Arts Festival:

Various locations and times in Gisborne.

26th Oct

First Light Wine & Food Festival: Matawhero Wines, Gisborne – 12pm.

Rotorua

5th Jul

Costumiers' Fantasy Masquerade Ball:

Millennium Hotel, Rotorua – 6:30pm.

9th Aug

Run the Forest: The Redwoods, Rotorua – 8am. Run.

24th-26th Oct

Whaka 100 MTB Marathon: Waipa Carpark, Rotorua – various times.

Mountain bike race.

14th-16th Nov

Rotorua Festival of Gardens: Palmers Rotorua, Rotorua – 9am.

Wellington

27th Jun

Battle of the Bands 2024 National Championships:

Valhalla, Wellington Central – 7:30pm. Music competition.

29th Jun

Gazley Volkswagen Wellington Marathon:

Sky Stadium, Wellington – 7:30am.

29th-31st Aug

The Wellington Food Show 2025: Sky Stadium, Wellington – 10am.

6th Sep-5th Oct

Blossom Valley: Aston Norwood Gardens, Upper Hutt – various times. Cherry blossoms.

18th Sep-5th Oct

World of WearableArt™ Show: TSB Arena, Wellington Central – various times.

Kapiti - Horowhenua

1st-2nd, 8th-9th Nov

Kāpiti Coast Art Trail:

Various locations and times in Kapiti.

15th Nov

Strawberry Festival:

Kapiti Primary School, Paraparaumu – 9:30am.

29th Nov

Foxton Christmas Fair:

Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton – 10am.

6th Dec

Kapiti Food Fair:

Mazengarb Reserve, Paraparaumu – 10am.

Taranaki

19th-22nd Jun

TSB Festival of Lights:

Various locations and times in New Plymouth.

13th Jul

Cape Egmont Half Marathon: Taranaki Coastal School, New Plymouth – 8am.

7th-9th Aug

Dracula's: Sanctuary:

TSB Theatre, New Plymouth – various times. Theatre.

31st Oct-9th Nov

Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival: Various locations and times in Taranaki.

15th-16th Nov

Coastal Five: Ngāmotu Beach, New Plymouth – various times. Run.

29th-30th Nov

NZ Tattoo and Art Festival:

TSB Stadium, New Plymouth – 11am.

Whanganui

13th Sep

The Mudder: Rangitikei Farmstay Woolshed, Marton – 8am. Multisport.

15th Nov

Plumber Dan Duck Race:

Taupo Quay, Whanganui – 9am. Rubber duck race.

Hawke's Bay

18th-20th Jul

Winter Deco Weekend

Art Deco Centre, Napier – various times. Vintage festival.

30th-31st Aug

Hawke's Bay Yoga Festival:

Napier Conference and Event Centre, Napier – various times.

25th Oct

Bay Skate BMX Competition:

Bay Skate, Napier – 10am.

8th-9th, 15th-16th Nov

Hawke's Bay Arts Trail:

Various locations and times in Napier.

22nd Nov

Harvest Hawke's Bay Food & Wine Festival:

Tuki Tuki Valley, Hastings – 11am.

29th-30th Nov

Bowl & Street:

Bay Skate, Napier – 10am. Skateboard Competition.

Wairarapa

27th Jun-26th Jul

Festival of Christmas:

Various locations and times in Greytown. Midwinter festival.

16th Aug

Wairarapa Garden Fiesta:

Clareville Showgrounds, Carterton – 9am. Garden festival.

14th Sep

Carterton Daffodil Festival:

Various locations and times in Carterton.

19th-21st Sep

Martinborough Music Festival: Martinborough Town Hall, Texas Street – various times.

1st Nov

Round The Vines:

Martinborough Square, Martinborough – 8am. Run.

22nd-23rd Nov

Pūkaha Wairarapa Garden Tour: Various locations and times in Wairarapa.

Chatham Islands

12th-17th Aug

Chatham Islands Festival of Science: Various locations and times.

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What's on Kaikōura – Top of the South

19th Jul

Talents & Treasures Auction Soirée: Connect Blenheim, Blenheim – 7pm. Live auction.

10th Aug

Woodbourne Half Marathon:

RNZAF Base Woodbourne, Blenheim – 9am.

24th Aug

Tussock Run: Seddon School, Blenheim – 9am.

31st Aug

Cycling New Zealand National Cyclocross

Championships: Aunstfield Estate, Blenheim – 7am.

17th-21st Sep

Kaikōura Hop: South Bay Parade, Kaikōura – various times. Car show.

27th Sep

Marina 2 Marina: Picton Foreshore, Picton – various times. Run.

2nd-3rd Nov

Kaikōura Races:

South Bay Parade, Kaikōura – various times.

Horse racing.

Canterbury – Mackenzie District

2nd-6th Jul

La bohème:

Isaac Theatre royal, Christchurch – various times. Opera.

5th Jul

Circus Shenanigans:

Roy Stokes Community Hall, Christchurch – 1pm. Circus.

10th Jul

CSO & Roza Present: Matariki: Christchurch Town Hall, Christchurch – 10am, 11:30am.

Classical music.

2nd Aug

The Midwinter Session:

Wolfbrook Arena, Christchurch – 1pm.

Winter festival.

16th Aug

NZ Choral Federation Big Sing Cadenza: Sacred Heart Basilica, Timaru – 7pm. Choral festival.

23rd Aug

Go Live Festival:

Christchurch Town Hall, Christchurch – 7pm.

Music festival.

6th Sep

Hakatere Noodle Festival:

Baring Square East, Ashburton – 5pm.

Food festival.

12th Oct

Butterfly Fun Run 2025:

The Groyne, Christchurch – 9am.

25th Oct

Meridian Twizel Hard Labour Weekend:

Morrison Terrace, Twizel – 8pm. Multisport.

30th Oct-2nd Nov

Hurunui Garden Festival:

Various locations in Hurunui – 9am.

Nelson- Tasman

4th-5th Jul

Nelson Adventure Film Festival:

The Suter Art Gallery Te Aratoi o Whakatū, Nelson – various times.

17th-26th Jul

My Fair Lady: Theatre Royal Nelson, Nelson – various times. Theatre.

27th Jul

Midwinter Swim and Duck Race: Kaiteriteri Beach, Motueka – 11am.

6th Sep

The Last Night of the Proms: Theatre Royal Nelson, Nelson – 7pm.

Concert.

23rd Oct-2nd Nov

Nelson Arts Festival:

Various locations and times in Nelson.

1st Nov

NZ Cider Festival:

Founders Park, Nelson – 1pm.

2nd Nov

The Nelson Half:

Saxton Field Sports Complex, Nelson – various times. Run.

Otago

21st Jun

Queenstown Mardi Gras:

Queenstown Events Centre, Queenstown – 2pm. Music festival.

27th-28th Jun

Dunedin Midwinter Carnival 2025: Wings of Wonder:

First Church of Otago, Dunedin – various times. Carnival.

19th Jul

Larnach Castle Winter Ball:

Larnach Castle, Dunedin – 7:30pm.

2nd Aug

Light Up Winter:

Anderson Park Rose Garden, Cromwell – 4pm. Festival of lights.

15th-24th Aug

Winter Pride:

Queenstown – various times. Pride festival.

9th-14th Sep

Snow Machine Festival:

Remarkables Ski Field, Queenstown – 12pm. Music festival.

18th-27th Sep

Jesus Christ Superstar:

Regent Theatre, Dunedin – various times. Theatre.

26th-28th Sep

Alexandra Blossom Festival: Centennial Drive, Alexandra – 5pm.

West Coast

14th Sep

Kevin Bloody Wilson Aussie Icon Tour:

Regent Theatre, Greymouth – 7:30pm. Comedy.

Southland

20th Jun

Kāhui Whetū:

Gore Gardens, Gore – 5pm. Māori New Year celebration.

19th-26th Jul

Riversdale Arts Mixed Media Exhibition:

Riversdale Community Centre, Riversdale – 11am.

18th-22nd Aug

Miharo Murihiku Polyfest:

ILT Stadium Southland, Invercargill – 9am. Cultural festival.

4th Oct

Rakiura Challenge Trail Run: Rakiura National Park, Stewart Island.

Sports.

17th Oct

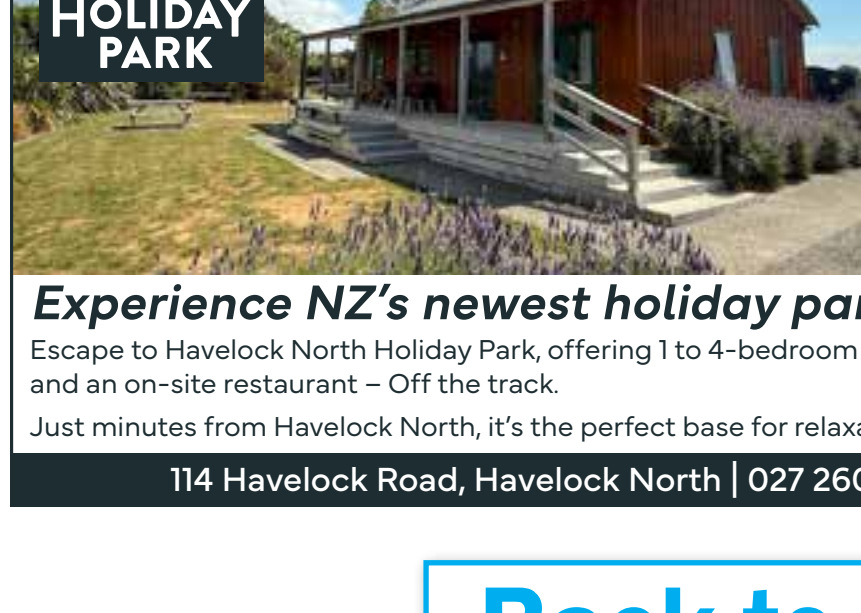


Hokonui Culture Feast:

MLT Event Centre, Gore – 5:30pm. Music, food, and performance.

24th Oct

Stabicraft Te Anau Manapouri Fishing Classic:

Te Anau Rugby Grounds, Te Anau – various times.

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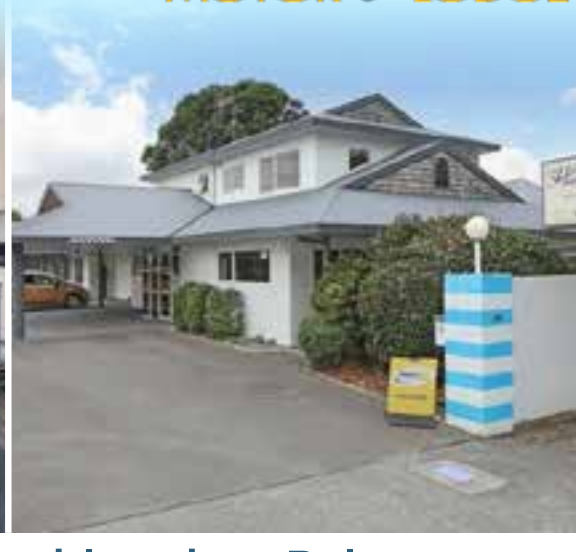
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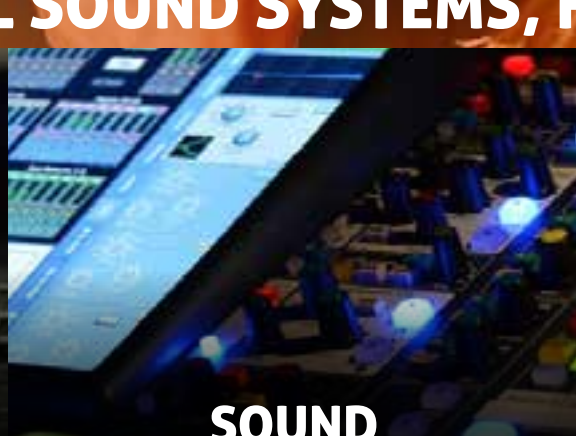
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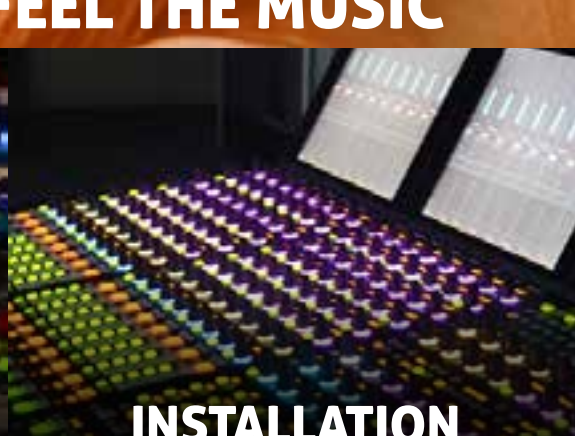
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