

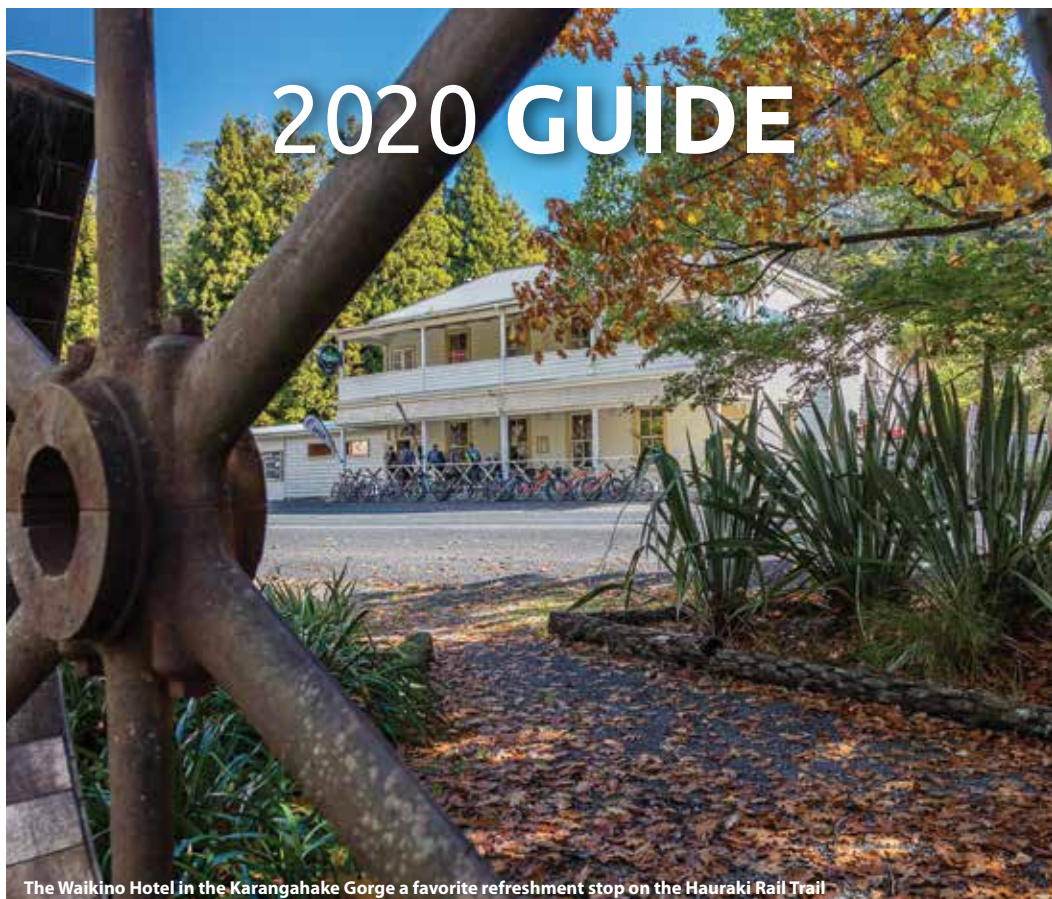
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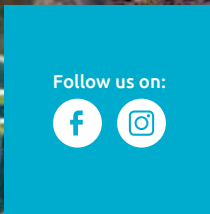
HAURAKITM

RAIL TRAIL

2020 GUIDE



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Section D: Paeroa to Te Aroha - 23 kms

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Section E: Te Aroha to Matamata - 37 kms

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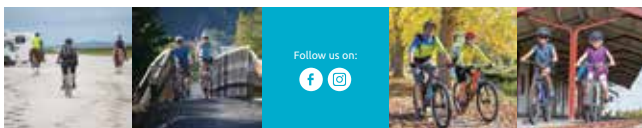
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Our next community project is a wildflower project that will cover several kilometers of trail. A \$50 donation will buy 40m² of wildflowers.

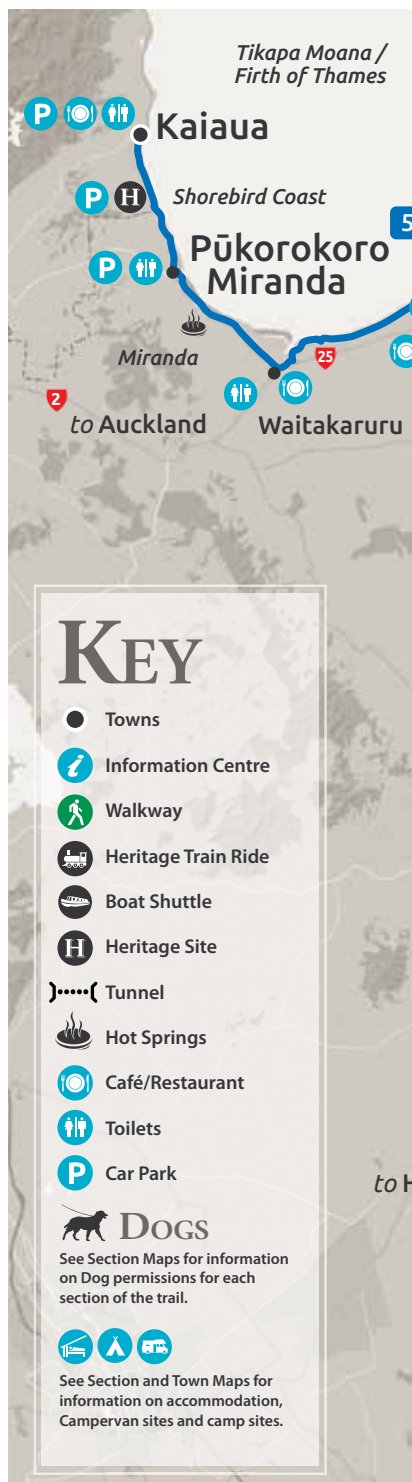
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Kia Ora and haere mai

Well done for picking up your free 2020 Hauraki Rail Trail guide - we know you're in for a great ride with us.

Our little team of locals at Cycle Guides New Zealand has put together this guide to help you get the most the communities you'll cycle through on the Hauraki Rail Trail.

From the Shorebird Coast and Hauraki Plains through Thames and Kopu, Matatoki, Paeroa, Te Aroha, Karangahake, Waikino, Waihi, Waihi Beach and Athenree on the Coromandel's east coast, to Matamata and Middle Earth...we've got you covered.

Plenty is always happening to improve the trail, with beautification through native planting, the addition of local art and sculpture, and more locals setting up to showcase what we've got here in our area.

One in seven businesses along the trail have changed their offering so you get more of what you want as a user of the trail.

Our advertisers are among the most dedicated rail trail aficionados you'll find, and are always happy to share their local knowledge. After a day of adventure on the trail, put your feet up and let them take care of you!

There's something for everyone on our trail, and loads to see and do in Matamata, Thames, Te Aroha, the Shorebird Coast, Paeroa and Waihi. Day trips can be added on like a 3km ride along the Thames Coast and short walks in Te Aroha and Karangahake, to options of between 23km and 55km on the Thames-Paeroa, Paeroa to Waikino return, Paeroa to Te Aroha or Paeroa to Waihi sections. Opt for a train ride at Waikino to Waihi where you can ride the short 4km Waihi gold pit rim trail or take a trip to the surf coastline of Waihi Beach where you'll want to relax by the beach for a while. Our trail is funded by ratepayers of three local councils, and these residents have a strong connection with their heritage, the land, the forest and the sea. They welcome cyclists and visitors because, like them, you are likely to be a lover of the outdoors and of the good things in life. The use of the railway corridor for this cycle way creates a flat, wide and smooth trail that makes the Hauraki Rail Trail the easiest riding trail in New Zealand - leaving plenty of time for exploration, eateries and relaxation along the way.

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About the guide

This is just a snapshot of what's available in our districts and of course you should feel free to discover your own journey, or talk to the operators of the trail for other options at www.haurakirailtrail.co.nz.

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Things to do while you are in the Coromandel

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Driving Creek Railway



Rapaura Watergardens



Thames Goldmine
Experience



Hot Water Beach



Glass Bottom Boat
Cathedral Cove



The Lost Spring



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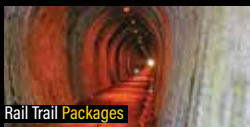
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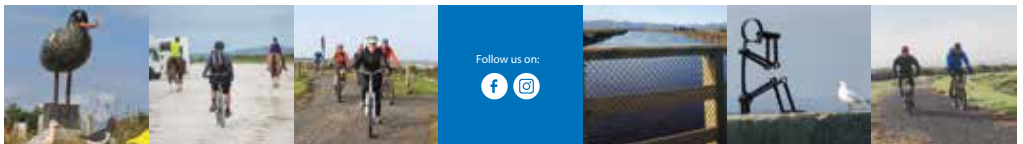
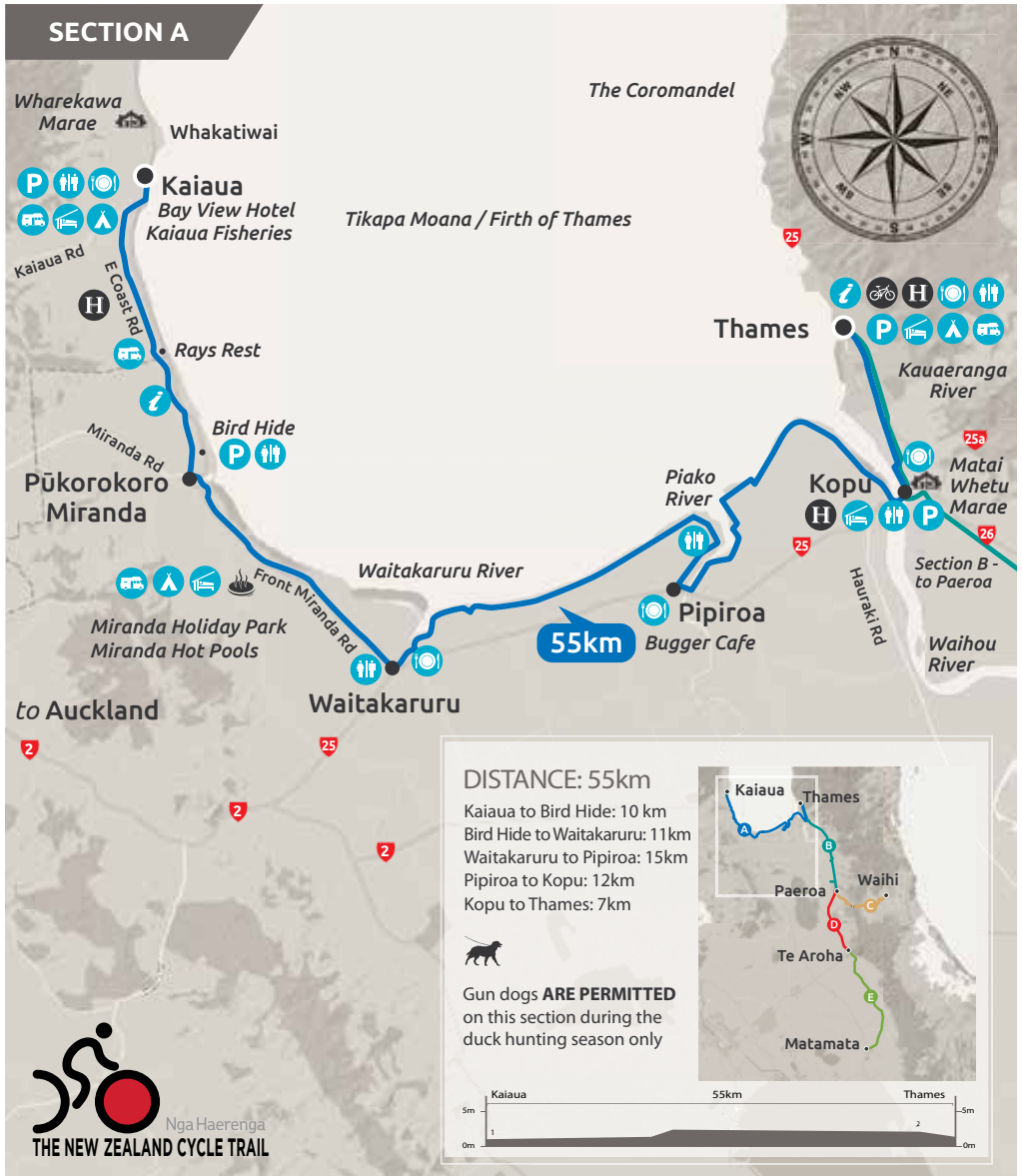
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Kaiaua to Thames

Taking in the Kaiaua Shore birds, lush farm lands and Wetlands with views to the Firth of Thames and the Coromandel.



Shorebird Coast

The farming settlements that dot the trail are fishing mad towns with a relaxed, country vibe.



As for the other major attraction of this stretch of coast, what could be more perfect for cyclists than natural hot springs? Happily, mother nature has provided them just for you...

The Miranda Hot Springs has a large 47m by 17m natural thermal hot pool, surrounded by well-kept grounds ideal for picnics and barbecues. There's hot food for sale too. The children's pool is maintained at a cooler temperature while the adult-only sauna pool sits at around 40°C-41°C. In addition, there are four private spa pools.

As you cycle further along the coast, you get a view out over the Firth of Thames and the settlement across this stretch of water. It's poignant to reflect on the words of Lieutenant James Cook in 1769 – who explored this stretch of river with botanist Joseph Banks onboard HMB Endeavour on its first Voyage of Discovery 250 years ago.

Cook named the Waihou River Thames, after the river in England.

Shorebird Coast continued

It was not long before Cook's exploration of the area was followed by a French explorer, Marion de Fresne, who brought news of the towering tree that the Maori call their King of the Forest – the Kauri – to the world. Just three years after Cook's visit, de Fresne realised the suitability of kauri for ship masts and spars. Word quickly spread, particularly within the British Navy, after this report:

"The tree that prevails most in all the forests is the olive-leaved cedar. I had cedars of this variety cut down whose trunks were more than a hundred feet long (30 metres), from the ground to the lowest branches, and fifty two feet (15 metres) in diameter...its wood is elastic, and I judged it very suitable for making ships' masts."

This brought timber merchants and then gold miners, who stripped the mountains almost bare of kauri. While the early prosperity of the Hauraki-Coromandel region was derived from timber, gold, and kauri gum industries, the early 20th century drainage and development of the Hauraki Plains led to a boom in dairy farming.

The 10km Pukorokoro-Miranda to Kaiaua leg of the Hauraki Rail Trail is on track for you to ride by March 2020, but this work was momentarily held up by...lizards.

Yes that's right – Hauraki District Council had to do a "lizard management plan" for the Department of Conservation, who are our Government's guardians of all things native, so the trail didn't disturb them.

The Pukorokoro-Miranda to Kaiaua area is a very special place as a wildlife refuge for species including not only lizards but migratory, wading and shorebirds as well as some of our rarest wetland species.

Ensuring that the unique ecology of the area isn't disturbed by trail users is a no-brainer.

With this in mind, a small section of the trail at the Robert Findlay Wildlife Reserve was off limits for trail builders until April 2020, due to the resident bittern bird population.

What is a bittern, you ask? The Australasian bittern is known as one of the most elusive and cryptic of all species according to its fans. They live in dense raupo plantings in wetlands and around the edge of small lakes. Since they're masters of disguise, they'll be hard to spot.

If you have even a smidgen of interest in birdlife, visiting the Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre is a must.

The centre is dedicated to promoting awareness of coastal ecology and the flora and fauna of this area of coastline. Founded in 1975 by the Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalist's Trust, their work includes facilitating research and education.

Thanks to these guys, you can follow the journey of migratory residents of this area, including the Pacific Golden Plovers heading off to the arctic to breed and return to us in summer, and Bar-tailed Godwits, Red Knots and many other migrants and vagrants sighted and followed by the Trust.

Locals have had a lot to do with directing where the trail goes was developed on this section, suggesting it take riders along the seaward side of the road north of the County Bridge. The bridge is in a 50kmh area with low traffic volume and has a clear line of sight from both directions, but you'll see cycle safety signs before and after the bridge, as a precaution.

COME BACK FOR MORE

Hauraki District Council, Destination Coromandel and the Rail Trail Trust have been encouraging locals to provide more offerings for trail users and a workshop held in November 2019 drew lots of interest, so plan for a return trip to explore the trail's offerings.

Got an idea of a business on the trail?

Call Rebecca Jenks at HDC on
Ph 07 862 5053.

In 2019 the council received \$80,000 towards a planned car parking and freedom camping area at Kaiaua from the latest round of the MBIE Tourism Infrastructure Fund, which helps small local councils meet needs when visitor growth puts pressure on facilities. The project has the support of the NZ Motor Caravan Association which is contributing \$10,000.

Plans for the place include day and overnight parking areas with natural landscaping, as well as picnic areas, toilets and safety bollards. An upgrade to the adjacent pirate ship play ground is also on the to-do list a bit further down the track.

Work was expected to start around April 2020.



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Miranda
Hot Springs



5 BEST REASONS TO VISIT THE SHOREBIRD COAST

- 1** The shorebird coast is an internationally significant landform. Over thousands of years, tides from the north have slowly deposited sand, gravel and cockle shells down to the shoreline resulting in New Zealand's only chenier plain (a plain made of shell and sand on marine muds).
- 2** To soothe those tired muscles after your cycle, soak up the mineral thermal waters at the Miranda Hot Springs.
- 3** Waharau Regional Park, enjoy walking through beautiful native forest.
- 4** Think like the locals and head out fishing in the plentiful Firth of Thames.
- 5** Miranda Holiday Park has direct entrance onto the Hauraki Rail Trail and its facilities include a mineral hot pool where you can soak in the knowledge that your digs are just a short walk away when you get sleepy.



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Thames

Parawai

Welcome to Thames - a heritage-rich town in the foothills of the Coromandel ranges and the retail hub for everything you might need.

Thames is the biggest of the Coromandel's townships but was once much bigger – a thriving epicentre for gold, which was found in the late 1860s, glinting in the rockface of a waterfall in the foothills of the Coromandel Ranges.

In August 2017 the town marked 150 years since the opening of the Thames goldfields in 1867, a proclamation that sparked Auckland's economic recovery at the time.

As you ride from Thames along the Hauraki Rail Trail, you'll see the sculptural work commemorating the occasion. It is a combined work by Thames carver Darin Jenkins, artist John McKeown (for the metalwork) and Tapu stone sculptor Jocelyn Pratt (for the basalt mussel shell).

More artworks are being added to the trail by the Thames Public Arts Trust.

At one point, Thames had more than 80 drinking establishments, and these days a few historic hotels remain. The Grahamstown Bar and Diner, or GBD, has catered to locals since 1869.

It's a great place to find hearty mains and a good range of wines and beers, with locals gathering here for everything from monthly sewing bees to make reusable bags, to a hub for the annual Thames Steampunk Festival in November.

Historic photos and artefacts on the walls add atmosphere and interest, but for more insights into gold heritage, the Thames Museum cnr Pollen and Cochrane St, the Thames School of Mines and Museum on cnr of Brown and Cochrane St, and the Goldmine Experience on the corner of Moanataiari Road and State Highway 25, at the northern end of Thames are ready to explore.



When Cook arrived, huge trees such as Kauri would have stood in the forests of the Coromandel, today only a fraction remain, but Thames is another base to explore walks through historic goldmining trails where the forest is regenerating and few impressively huge trees still stand.

Along the firth itself, the Coastal Walkway is a cycling and walking path that links the settlements north of Thames along the Thames Coast Rd with the town's entry point to the Hauraki Rail Trail.

Cycling on the Coastal Walkway to the start of the trail brings you past Thames Wholesale Fisheries and The Wharf Coffee House and Bar, where you can watch the seagulls and enjoy your fish and chips, with locally caught fish as fresh as it gets.

The fisheries shop sells not only locally caught fish species but kina, oysters, Coromandel mussels and homemade fish cakes. The Wharf is a great place to get a sense of the maritime history of the township, with signage here.

Pou Whenua

The carved posts on the Kopu bridge are called Pouwhenua, which mark territorial boundaries or places of significance. They can be found throughout New Zealand and their elaborate carvings tell a story. Also note the stylised waves along the sides of this bridge, broken in the middle by a waka, or canoe. The seas, foreshores and inland waterways are of enormous importance to Maori.



Jolly Good Ride

Jolly Bikes in Thames moved premises in November, with a larger cycling hub catering to cyclists with a workshop, well stocked shop, tour options, sales and rentals. These guys are e-bike specialists, and they love to share the uniqueness of Thames. They say with care you can also cycle to the beaches north of Thames, which is pretty special – especially on sunset. Find Jolly Bikes at 96 Richmond Street.

5 BEST REASONS TO VISIT THAMES

- 1 Pampering...** see Pauline and her team at Pamper Me for inside-out beauty and wellbeing products.
- 2 Historical Firth of Thames.** From the waka of the Maori to Lieutenant Cook on his first Voyage of Discovery onboard the Endeavour in 1769, the Waihou River has many stories.
- 3 Kauaeranga Valley** in the Coromandel Forest Park is on the doorstep of Thames and is an adventurer's playground worth exploring – just be sure to clean your footwear if entering the forest, to avoid the possibility of spreading Kauri Dieback Disease into the last remnants of the once-magnificent canopy of Kauri forest.
- 4 New gold.** The Saturday morning Thames markets at Grahamstown allow you to mooch for funky finds, plants, food, handmade crafts and second-hand goods. The Thames Rock Shop and other retro shops and op shops of Thames are modern-day goldmines for shoppers.
- 5 Beaches and sunsets.** Beaches are close by in Thames. Cycle up the Coastal Walkway toward Kuranui Bay and if you're here in November and December, the New Zealand Christmas tree, the pohutukawa, will be in bloom. There are also many parks like the William Hall Arboretum and Kuranui Bay; ideal for picnics and relaxing.



STEAMPUNK

THE THAMES

Steampunk The Thames Inc. is a charitable society of self-proclaimed makers and movers, doers and shakers who bring steampunk art out onto the streets of Thames whatever way they can. The idea is to celebrate the town's Victorian, industrial, scientific and technological heritage and explore its future.

"We want to encourage art education and support local artists and their public expressions of art," say the steampunk group.

"So leap aboard our express train and join in the fun."

A Steampunk the Thames festival is held annually in November where the full Steampunk costume glory goes on display in a street parade through the town, and there's music and dance performances, innovative contraptions in a 'Punk my Ride' show and Steampunk Ball.

This year the historic Kopu Bridge was opened for a special event - a Guinness World Record attempt for the most steampunks in one location. Did they do it? With 252, they were unofficial world record holders when we went to print!



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Thames to Kopu

Intrigue has been added to the flat ride out of Thames toward Kopu with the addition of public art. A giant Jandal, a penny farthing and a six metre tall toy train are among the sculptures that The Thames Public Art Trust hope will capture the imagination of the public.

At the Southern end of the Kauearanga Bridge, a sculpture by master carver Darin Jenkins brings to life an aspect of the cultural makeup of the town and tells a different story.

The sculpture was commissioned prior to the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of Thames as a goldfield, in 1867.

Two stylised figures are embracing, with the figures made of exotic cedar and native kauri timbers to represent the exotic and native makeup of Thames and New Zealand's population.

Other materials used for the locally-made sculpture also reflect the environment and how it has been used as a resource for industry, in the past or present, such as stone and steel, mussel shells and timber.

The Thames Goldfield ignited largescale industry with firms like A&G Price installing huge stampers for crushing ore, and companies like Charles Judd Ltd Engineers catering to the inventiveness and adaptability of early settlers.

One of the best examples of a restored stamper battery is to be found at the Thames Goldmine Experience. The Thames Museum and Thames School of Mines and Museum are a goldmine of information. At the Thames School of Mines, John Isdale gives his highly knowledgeable and engaging tours that bring this information to life.



Editor's picks for the Hauraki Rail Trail

- » Zoom along the trail on an emotion electric bike from Jolly Bikes.
- » Chat cheese with Kelvin at the Cheese Barn in Matatoki while sampling the organic fare.
- » Stop at Waikino Hotel for a laugh with the locals.
- » Mooch the retro shops in Paeroa, Thames and Te Aroha. Indulge your sense of smell at Amberjack in Paeroa.
- » Step back in time at Athenree Homestead.
- » Immerse yourself in thermal goodness at natural mineral waters in Te Aroha, Pukorokoro (Miranda) and Athenree.
- » Taste local fare wherever you are...and be sure to sample wines at the Karangahake Winery Estate.
- » Explore the Waihou River with Adventure Te Aroha or on the Ohinemuri Explorer.
- » Be inspired by the interactive history of the Gold Discovery Centre in Waihi.
- » Journey back in time on the nostalgic Goldfields Railway in the Waikino Gorge.
- » Discover the unique slice of rural paradise that is Bullswool Farm in Karangahake Gorge and get sustainable with a workshop at Falls Retreat.

SUBWAY
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37 Orchard West Rd Ngatea
601 Port Rd Whangamata
25 Seddon St Waihi

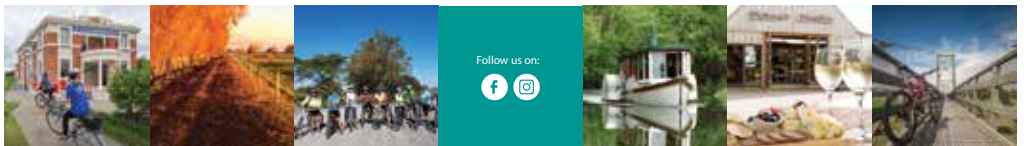
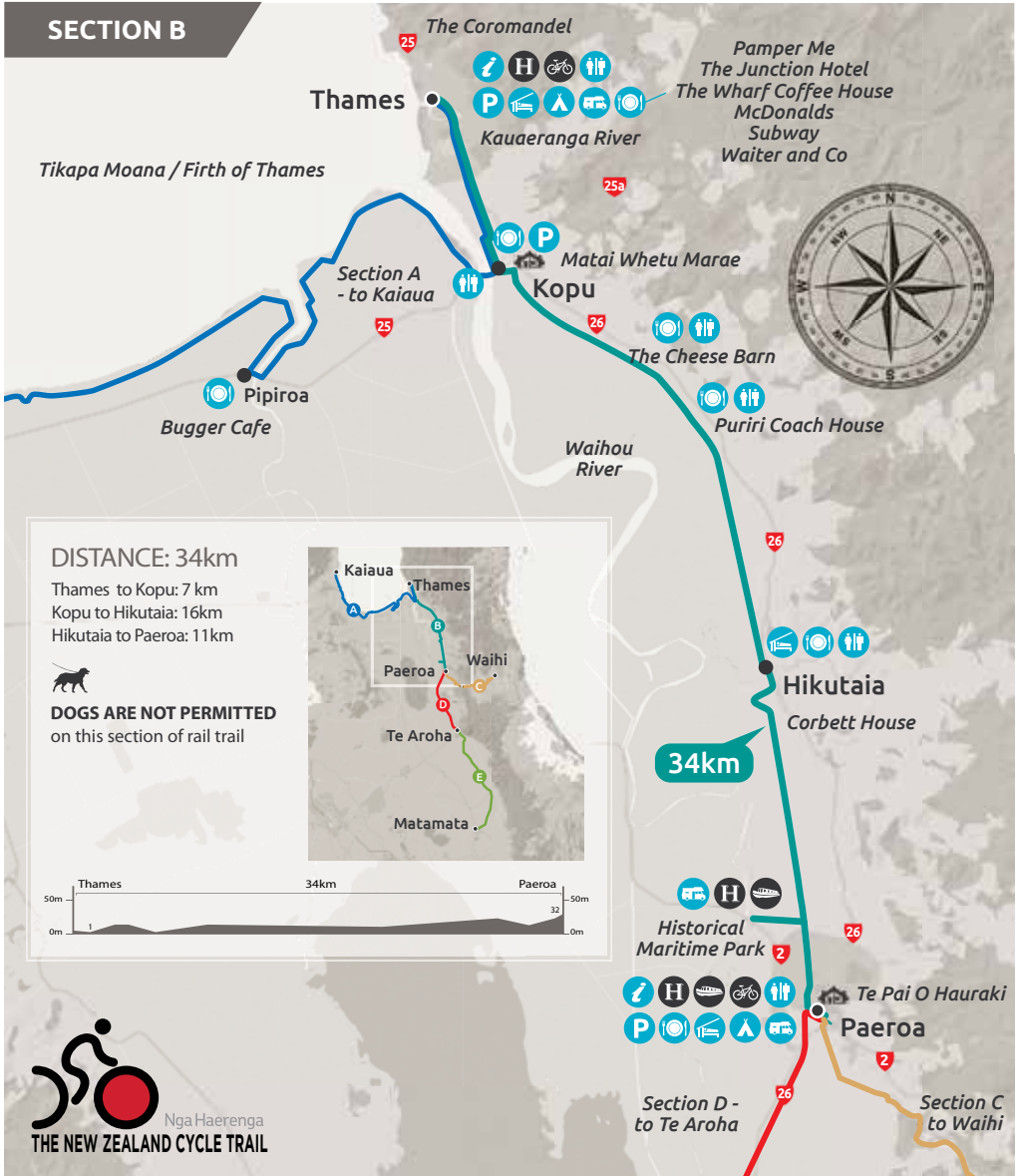


The offer below is only valid in these four stores

When you purchase any Subway Sandwich present this add and you will receive a free cookie and a medium drink

Thames to Paeroa

Cycle through lush farm land, passed small towns with a few glimpses of the Waihou and Ohinemuri Rivers arriving at the famous giant L&P bottle.



Kopu to Paeroa

After departing from the historic Kopu Bridge (where the world record gathering of Steampunks was held successfully in November 2019) you'll find a pleasantly flat ride with wide open fields and the smells and sights of farming.



Rolling green pastures and rural smells and sights? You'll get plenty of this around here. If you're feeling like taking it easy you can hire an e-bike from Jolly Bikes in Thames or Paeroa.

Approximately 11km south of Thames in the direction of Paeroa lies the Cheese Barn Cafe at Matatoki, a working cheese factory and licensed café surrounded by specimen trees and farm animals.

continued...



Photo credit: Kathy Bland



Allowing others to experience the tranquility and special ambience of an historic 1920s rural home, ex-dairy farmers Anja and David Corbett have opened their doors to heritage-listed Corbett House on the main highway towards Kopu, in the rural hamlet of Hikutaia.

David's Grandfather's auntie – Julia Corbett - had the five bedroom house built in the 1920s to keep her nine children away from the successful tavern that she ran. David says his astute great, great, great aunt – did we get this right? - did a roaring trade with her Pioneer Tavern and had the beautiful home built some distance away from the pub.

Says David: "Hauraki District was dry with the prohibition and Thames was not, and the boundary is only a few hundred metres from us. Karangahake and Waihi customers would stop at the Hukutaia Station and the story is that they would literally run to the pub because it was the closest source of beer."

Guests are accommodated in one of three rooms upstairs and share two bathrooms



between them, and their Corbett House drinking experience is as refined as Julia Corbett would have thought proper. The quiet, private rear deck looks across to the river and hens roam freerange on gardens leading to paddocks, providing eggs for guests' breakfasts in the morning.

With its rose gardens in bloom in spring and summer and the soft light of winter through the grounds in winter, a stay in Corbett House is an authentic, hospitable country immersion that Anja and David provide.

Kopu to Paeroa continued

With NZMCA-friendly parking, owners Kelvin and Cathy Haigh have a café and delicious range of cheeses made inhouse by cheesemaker Kelvin. The Cheese Barn is the 'home of champion award-winning organic cheese since 1994' and it continues to bring cyclists by the rail trail-load.

Their organic certified cheeses, yoghurt and butter is still made on-site using locally sourced milk from grass-fed cows not far from the cheese barn, which means these products are suitable for people on the Paleo diet.

The Cheese Barn at Matatoki has always been a major highlight of the cycling experience in this section of the trail.

Car enthusiasts also make regular stops here while touring. The beautiful big old trees and baby animals in the paddock next to the barn make it a place that children love coming to, because they can free range and feed the animals.



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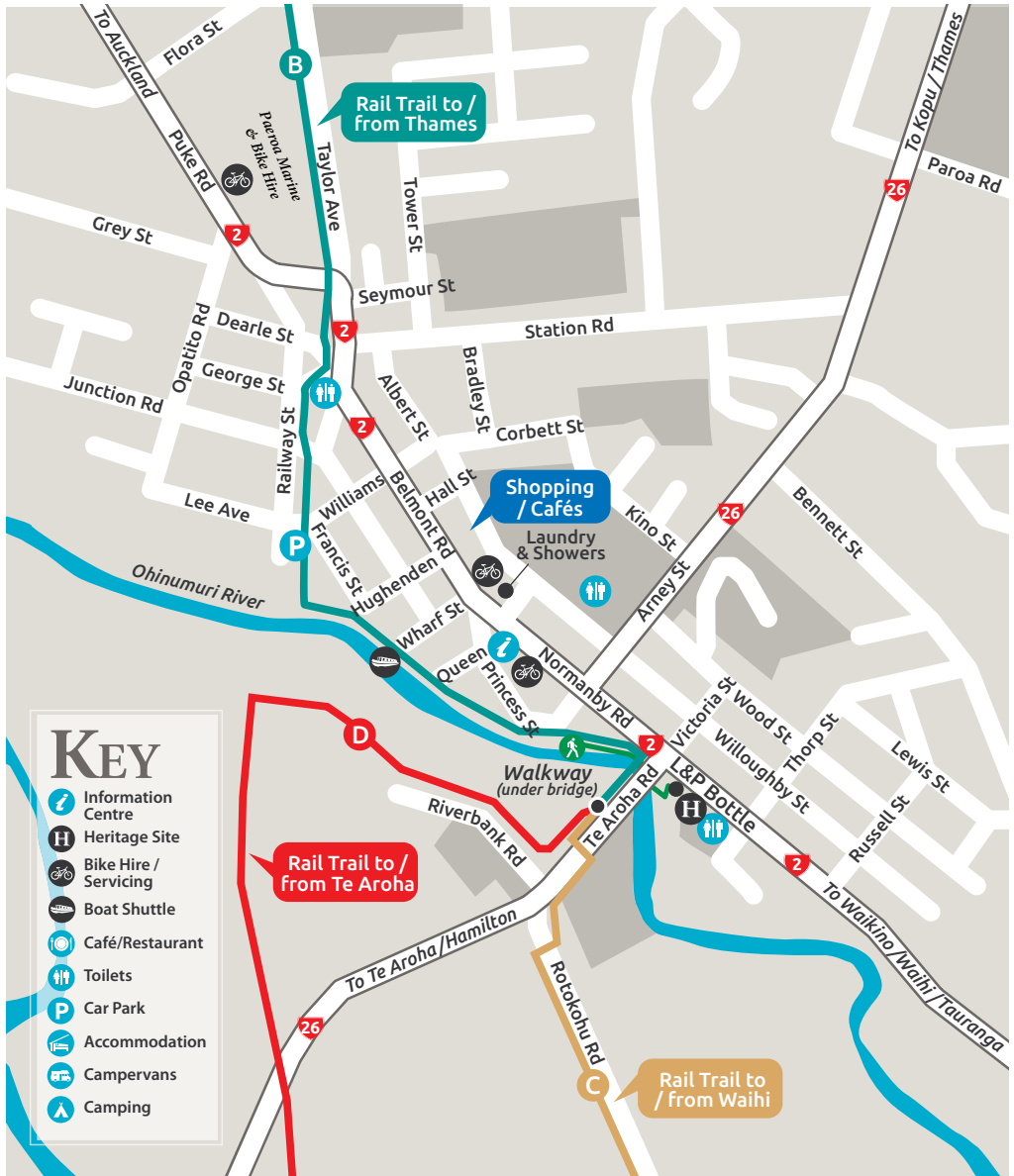
Hikutaia village is located just 200 metres from the Hauraki rail trail.



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For information on Places to Dine,
 Accommodation and Things to See
 & Do in Paeroa visit...

www.haurakirailtrail.co.nz



Paeroa



Paeroa calls itself the best little town in the middle of everywhere, and it's perfectly positioned with Hobbiton to the south and is the start to the most popular section of the Hauraki Rail Trail – into Karangahake and Waikino.

It feels like everyone is friendly in Paeroa and they'll share their local tips about the places to eat, swim, fish or where to check out the best Christmas lights - all in exchange for a big smile and some manners.

If you're looking for some retail therapy after your cycling adventures and it's antiques you're after, this Waikato town is a treasure hunter's dream, and has labelled itself as the antique capital of New Zealand.

There's more to Paeroa than simply retro though, with live gigs at The Refinery, a great local eatery and venue in town, and a growing number of young entrepreneurs choosing to stay and make

their business here or return after short stints in the city.

The Refinery was New Zealand Café of the Year finalist – and is a modern take on a historic place; the building was originally commissioned as the National Bank Gold Refinery in 1914. As such, the massive solid concrete walls, double height stud capped with huge timber beams and Rimu roof structure certainly fitted the grandeur of purpose.

It is a large, light-filled and funky space that plays host to many top New Zealand bands providing a reason to book your rail trail ride in quieter winter months too.

continued...

Paeroa continued

Paeroa is the perfect place to quench the thirst and is home of the 'World Famous in New Zealand' soft drink, L&P, and its story is fully told on the Positive Paeroa website www.paeroa.org.nz. Essentially it began with the discovery of Paeroa's unique mineral waters bubbling from a deep underground spring.

The Paeroa spring water is a mild alkaline water with iron salts that became popular for its medicinal and thirst quenching qualities, and people began drinking the waters with a little squeeze of lemon.

One 3 One, a kitchen, bar and café on the site of the historic Father's Tavern at 131 Normanby Rd is another option for a pit stop. A wall of historic

photos shows Paeroa's early years as a thriving transport and distribution centre. Although the original Father's Tavern is gone, the bar and doors at One 3 One feature original rimu timbers from the old pub and give the place a rustic touch to an otherwise spacious and modern interior.

One of our favourite cafes in the town and a supporter of the rail trail guide is Courtyard Café, which serves the most incredible smoked fish pies among its selection of breakfast and lunch food, and there's plenty of room in the rear courtyard for a group of friends to gather and replenish energy.



The 27th Annual Paeroa Highland Games & Tattoo is on Saturday 8 February 2020 at the Paeroa Domain. What started out as a small Pipe Bands Competition has grown over the years, and today is a fully-fledged Highland Games, one of only seven such Scottish gatherings in New Zealand, and the only one in New Zealand to hold an Evening Tattoo.

This celebration of Scottish culture is attracting interest throughout New Zealand as well as internationally. Attendance numbers have shown steady growth to a record 8,000 in both 2013 and 2015. It is now a major undertaking by a small team of passionate volunteers who believe in putting something back into the community in which they live.



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Paeroa continued

While in Paeroa, consider **Valley Tours & Transfers** which operate an air-conditioned 11-seater modern van with the capability of transporting 10 – 12 bikes along the length of the Hauraki Rail Trail or other cycle trails. They also have a fully covered luggage trailer for longer journey's if transferring groups to differing destinations.



5 BEST REASONS TO VISIT PAEROA

- 1** Visit the Paeroa Historical Maritime Park and Museum and consider a river boat ride on the paddle boat Tamati.
- 2** Consider a spot of trout fishing in the Ohinemuri – see the Paeroa i-SITE for this and other things to do in nature around Paeroa.
- 3** Do the touristy thing and get your obligatory photo in front of the giant L&P bottle.
- 4** Attend the Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo for a wee dram and to cheer on the Scots competing in the events.
- 5** Get active in child-friendly Paeroa with a BMX pump track, to skateparks, to throwing a rugby ball in Paeroa Domain.

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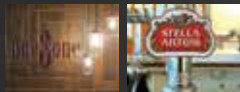


Restaurant • Cafe • Bar



WELCOME TO ONE 3 ONE BAR KITCHEN CAFE

In the site of the old Fathers Tavern One 3 One Bar Kitchen Cafe offers style, comfort and a classic menu and wine list with service that is second to none in Paeroa. If your looking for somewhere to go for a casual drink or meal then this is the place for you. With its amazing copper bar and stylish interior it is a great place to spend time. We offer a great range on tap, a wine list to suit all tastes and a menu with a wide selection of amazing food. We also have a modern stylish gaming room.



So if you are stopping in Paeroa there is no place better to go than
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Bikes can be hired at the following:

Paeroa Depot at 6 Wharf Street

Ph 021 525 515 or Ph 07 862 6911,

Waikino Station Café, Waihi Train Station, Matamata and delivered to start anywhere along the trail.

e: info@hrtrail.nz or visit

w: www.haurakicycletrail.co.nz

A Karakia or Prayer

A karakia is a prayer, and the following karakia was told to Governor Sir George Grey and his cohort upon arrival at the Te Aroha hot springs in 1846. Their Maori guide threw a fern branch into the spring and repeated the words of the karakia called Tupuna Whenua, which was used by people on the first arrival at a strange place, and said to appease the spirit of the earth who would otherwise be angry at this intrusion.

Tupuna Whenua*

I arrive where an unknown earth is under my feet,

I arrive where a new sky is above me,

I arrive at this land

A resting place for me,

**Oh spirit of the Earth the stranger humbly
offers his heart as food for thee.**



If you require a shuttle service for yourself or a group, or if you need your cycles and luggage transferred, we are here to help. If you just want to explore the district with a tour, Valley Tours & Transfers will help make your experience something to remember.

Proud to be a partner of the Hauraki Rail Trail.



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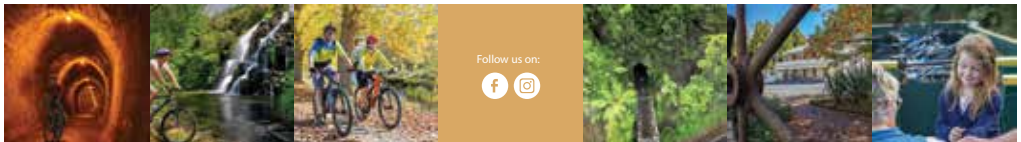
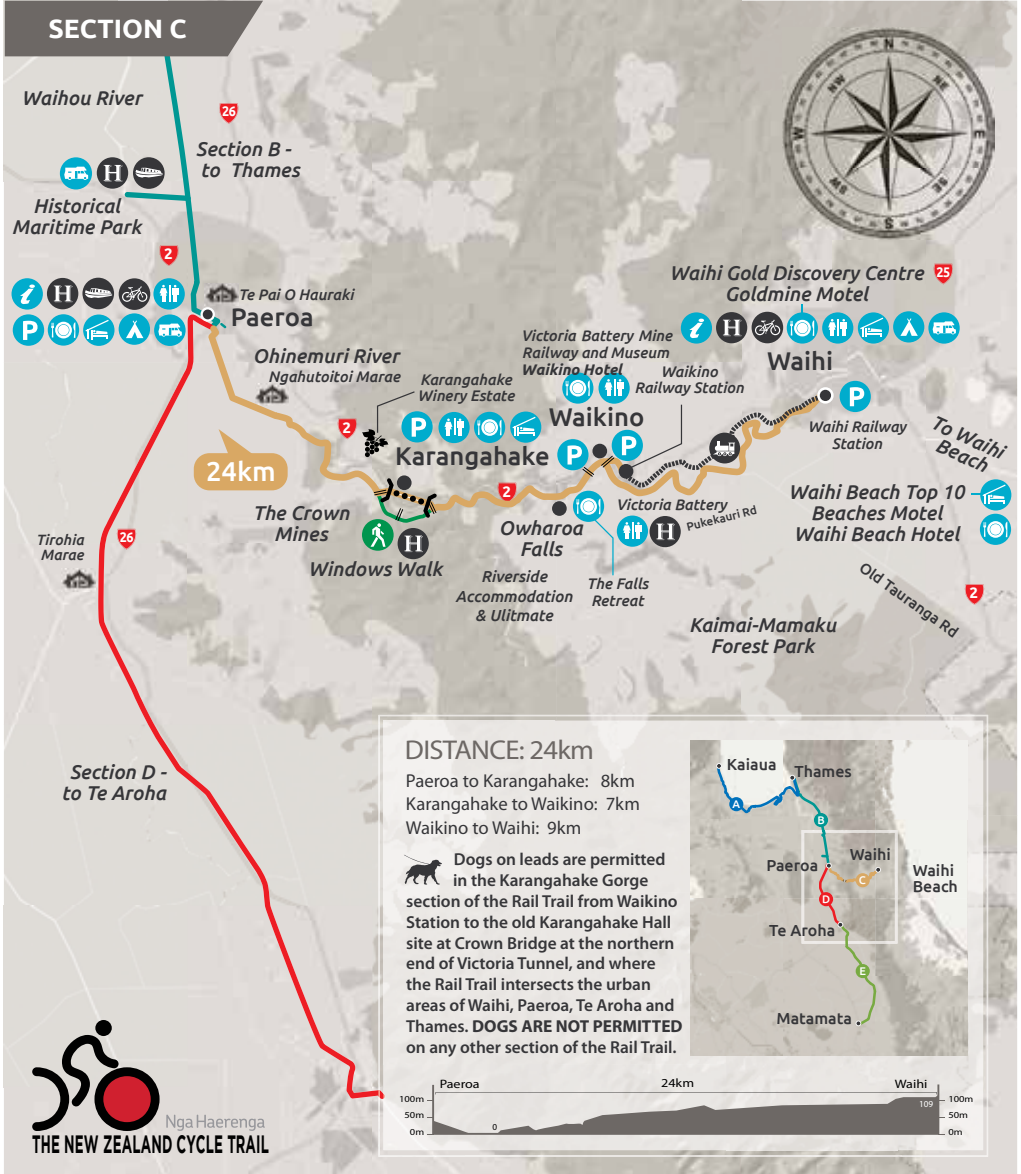
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Paeroa to Waihi

A stunning trail through the Karangahake Gorge including bridges, bush clad mountain views and an 1100 metre long train tunnel.



Karangahake Winery Estate

Formerly the Ohinemuri Winery, the Estate is located in the Karangahake Gorge on SH2 between Paeroa and Waihi, and within an hour and half of Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga and Rotorua.



The Winery and Restaurant are couched in a native bush and formal garden setting above the Ohinemuri River. A 160m track leads from the Hauraki Rail Trail to the Restaurant and Cellar Door, making the Estate a great place to stop and “Rest & Refresh” after a long drive or hard peddle!

Although the name and ownership have changed, the Restaurant serves the same great food lovingly prepared by the same great chefs, and the same fantastic wine had-crafted by the same talented Winemaker (Horst).

The new owner, Chantelle, is dedicated to preserving the same wine, food, service and ambience that regulars have come to know and love, while at the same time serving up her own country style fruit wines, ports and schnapps, hand-crafted in small batch vats on the property.



Cyclists are welcome to use the Estate car park and easy access to the trail, if they are coming in for lunch before or after their ride.

Ph: 07 862 8874 | Mob: 022 108 5142
Email: chantelle@forbiddenfruitwine.co.nz
Web: www.forbiddenfruitwine.co.nz

Karangahake and Waikino



Karangahake Gorge Historical Walkway is situated on State Highway 2 between Paeroa and Waihi. The walkway follows part of the old railway line that ran between Paeroa and Taneatua. The line was closed in 1979, allowing the public access to historical sites associated with gold mining from the 1870s through to the 1950s.

An absolute highlight of the Hauraki Rail Trail is your cycle through the sheer cliffs of the Karangahake Gorge where you will marvel in the scenery and discover a community rich in history.

The name Waikino means harmful waters, reflecting the knowledge of local Maori who knew that this narrow gorge can swiftly become a raging torrent.

Your cycle journey on this section of trail takes in the Karangahake Gorge Historic Walkway, with the popular Windows Walk which features mining relics and 'windows' out to the river below.

These former mine tunnels are an alternative gentle form of exercise that gets you off the saddle for a while.

It is difficult to imagine that the area was home to tonnes of industrial machinery - causing a din alongside the shouts of hundreds of miners grafting away - because it is now so peaceful, demonstrating the heartening ability of nature to heal through time.

The first cyanidation plant in the world was established at the Crown Mine at Karangahake, in 1889. By 1892 there were six cyanide plants on the Ohinemuri Goldfield, depositing tailings containing cyanide directly into the Ohinemuri River from various mining operations.

From here journey crosses over the Ohinemuri River Bridge 2, down a 160m track from the rail trail to the Karangahake Winery Estate where you can treat yourself to a range of tastings.

From here, strike off through the 1km Karangahake tunnel which was built as a crucial road rail line linking both sides of the gold rich Coromandel range (a torch or cellphone light is useful here).

Emerging from the dark of the tunnel is an absolute experience. Peacefully secluded from road noise, the immensity of nature is awe-inspiring. You're now cycling adjacent to the river and can take short detours to view signposted waterfalls.

Across the road find the award winning Bistro at The Falls Retreat, which offers boutique accommodation, delectable food and which has focused on providing a variety of experiences where you can learn about sustainability and horticulture.

Plan time to visit The Victoria Battery Tramway Society's Victoria Battery Mine Railway and Museum which is fun for kids and adults alike. Take a ride on the diesel train and put your hard hat on for an underground tour with one of their knowledgeable guides. For a real insight, allow time to talk to the characters who volunteer their time keeping everything operating and have a wealth of knowledge on the history preserved here.

The Waikino Tavern is a landmark institution accessed over a bridge off the trail. Since 1897, the hotel has gone through fires, floods and prohibition which can all be learnt about while you rest those muscles and have a well-deserved pub meal among the locals. Discover the history of the hotel which is just as windy as the road it sits upon. Head to www.waikinohotel.nz to find out what is on offer.

Karangahake;

Karanga-hake: the alerting call from the other side. Local tribes were often attacked from the east, so guards were placed on hills along the river and sounded wooden gongs to alert the local people of approaching enemy. Source: DOC.



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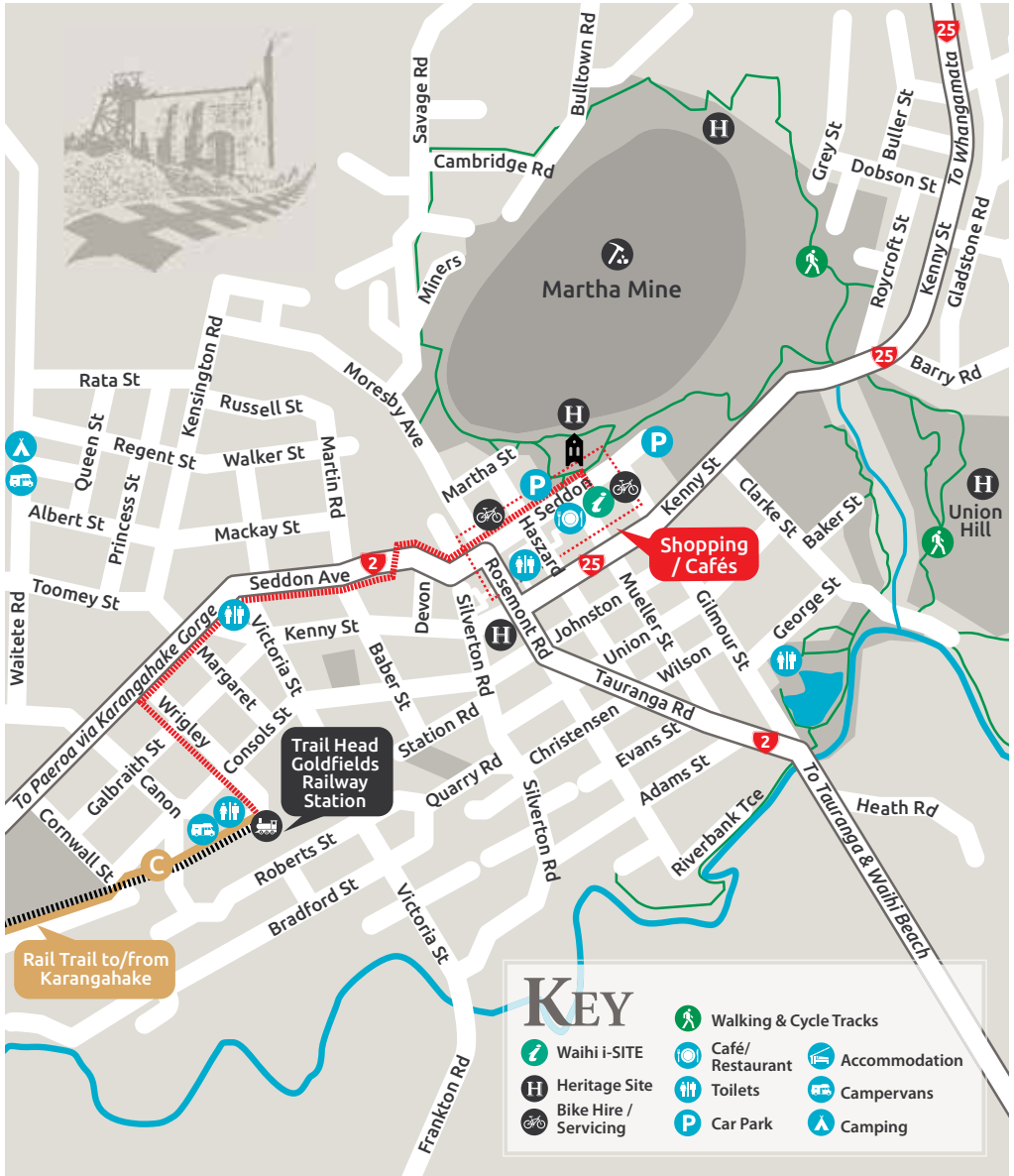


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Waihi

Waihi is the Most Beautiful Small Town in New Zealand' - and that's a fact.



The town won the award from Keep New Zealand Beautiful in late 2019, and with Karangahake Gorge at one entrance and the Pacific Ocean community of Waihi Beach at the other, it's a destination town that's worth planning some time to linger in.

The Hauraki Rail Trail here steers you through the heritage and natural heritage – the native bush and beaches of this area – while the arty town of Waihi is loaded with things to see, do and eat.

In Waihi, find the works by artists and craftspeople who gain their inspiration from the natural beauty of the area and warmth of the community.

Gold was first discovered in Waihi in 1878 and a character by the name of Billy Nicholl got the industry rocking and rolling.

The stories of characters like Billy have been embraced by the town, which has bronze sculptures in the main street, manicured gardens, street flags and well-maintained historical buildings.

Palm Motel | Waihi

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Waihi continued

The remains of a Gothic-style Cornish Pumphouse that was based on a design used in the tin mines of Cornwall, England is prominent in the town. Its job was to house the steam engines that drove the huge pumps that kept the Martha Mine in the centre of town from flooding.

For the best place to read up about the history of Waihi and of gold in general, a visit to the award-winning Waihi Goldmine Discovery Centre is a must-do.

Modern-day goldmining remains a major employer of the town's population and operators OceanaGold are focused on underground mining these days. The Martha Pit walkway around the rim of the massive mining pit – now closed – is jaw dropping, and a good cycle or walk.



Waihi locals love their bike riding – and if you're looking for a fun group to join, why not contact the Waihi 50 plus Cycle Group. They can be found on Facebook and are a superbly friendly group who don't mind a dress-up or two.

5 BEST REASONS TO VISIT WAIHI

- 1** Waihi Gold Discovery Centre - a highly interactive 'new-age' visitor experience that won the recent Museums Aotearoa "Best Visitor Experience" award – is a must-do in Waihi.
- 2** October is a great time to visit Waihi with all sorts of events and activities lined up with GO Waihi's Goldfest in association with OceanaGold. From Art Waikino to school holiday activities, the Great Train Robbery to a Vegetarian Festival, there's something to suit most tastes.
- 3** The township has adopted the name 'Waihi - Heart of Gold' and for any visitor, a walk along the Pit Rim Walkway to view the town's vast Martha open pit mine – quite literally a humungous hole in the earth - will make you stand still in awe. Guided tours are also available – see the Waihi Gold Discovery Centre.
- 4** You're just minutes from some of the most splendid outdoor walks and adventure you'll find anywhere. Just south of the Hauraki Rail Trail toward Waihi there's the excellent walk and stay overnight on the Waitewheta Tramway Walk. Follow an old tramline (1898 - 1928) on a relatively flat track through the spectacular Waitawheta Gorge - with interpretation panels as well, it's a great option for kids. Visit the DOC website www.doc.govt.nz.
- 5** The Waihi Arts Centre and Museum was set up in 1962 and taught cooking and woodwork to students...Today people love to view the collections and get help tracing their own family history.



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Waihi

NZ's Most Beautiful Small Town - 2019



i-SITE

Visitor
Information

Whether you're cycling the Hauraki Rail Trail, exploring our gold mining heritage, walking in the magnificent bush-clad hills of the Karangahake Gorge, or just relaxing on the white sand of Waihi Beach, the Waihi region is a great area to experience real New Zealand.

Take a well-earned break

What better way to round off your day than to sit and relax with good coffee, good food and good friends in Waihi's 'most beautiful' town centre. Once refreshed and refuelled, wander the quiet streets to unlock windows into our pioneering past and get a taste of our unique and intriguing stories. To discover more you must visit the award-winning Gold Discovery Centre and our innovative Waihi i-SITE.



now Martha Mine, and just a decade later Waihi boasted a population three times that of Hamilton. The mighty Martha Mine had quickly become one of the most important gold mines in the world. Today, Waihi's huge working open pit gold mine is only metres from the centre of town and you can walk right to the edge and look hundreds of meters down into the chasm.

Waihi's local trails

Extend your Hauraki Rail Trail experience by exploring Waihi's local mountain biking and walking trails. We have something for everyone.

Gold Mine Pit Rim Walkway / Cycleway

If you're after a spectacular, 'must see' walk or ride to compliment your Hauraki Rail Trail experience, then the Pit Rim Walkway is perfect.

Gold fever

It was the quest for gold that first brought Europeans to Waihi in numbers. In 1878 gold-bearing quartz was discovered on Pukewa Spur,

The Cornish Pumphouse (c1904)

This Waihi icon stands as a photogenic landmark at the top of Waihi's main street.

A relic of Waihi's golden past, it is the only concrete Cornish-style Pumphouse in the Southern Hemisphere.

In 2006, as modern mining expanded, the 2000 T, Cat. 1 heritage building was moved 300 m west from its original location to its current home.

A range of great bikes is available from Waihi Bicycle Hire, located at the Waihi i-SITE.



Join the trail opposite the Waihi i-SITE, under the shadow of the Cornish Pumphouse where it rises gently to the edge of the gold mine for your first glimpse into the open pit. The gravel path continues clockwise around the western end of the mine before the 4 km loop brings you back to the i-SITE via interesting heritage features, bush and scenic parkland. Interpretative signs along the way will give you interesting insights into Waihi and the gold mine.



Union Hill Heritage Walkway and Mill Stream Walkway

This peaceful walk can be accessed from the Pit Rim Walkway by crossing Kenny Street and following the mine conveyor. The 1.5 km trail leads you

through the historic Waihi Battery site where you'll find yourself surrounded by a fascinating collection of historic mining features.

The trail can be done as a short loop, returning via the Mill Stream Walkway, or used as a link between the Pit Rim Walkway and Gilmour Lake or the Black Hill MTB track and walking trails.

Gilmour Lake and Black Hill MTB Trails

After feeding the ducks, walking the loop track or enjoying the playground at Gilmour Lake, take a peaceful walk or cycle upstream along the banks of the Ohinemuri River. The 5 km riverbank loop track leads you around Black Hill through native bush, farmland and hundred year old oaks.

But if it's a more challenging mountain bike experience that you're looking for, then the grade three Black Hill Track can deliver that too. Ride to the end of Clarke Street, cross the stile to your left, and follow the yellow markers for a 10 km loop of sweet single track action through pine forest and native bush. This track guarantees to get your heart pumping.

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5 BEST REASONS TO VISIT WAIHI BEACH

Surf the waves – rent a board or take a lesson. The waves are suitable for all levels and for the more experienced surfer, you're sure to find a peak without crowds.

Walk or stand up paddle around the coast north of Waihi Beach to Orokawa Scenic Reserve for pohutukawa-fringed beaches and uncommon remnants of New Zealand coastal forest. At the northern end of Orokawa Bay via a track is Homunga Bay, with its dense pohutukawa forest, beauty and seclusion.

Enjoy the laid-back vibe of the Waihi Beach Hotel for morning coffee by the sea, or live music on a Saturday night or a Sunday jam session.

The Waihi Beach Sunday Market happens every Sunday in summer from Labour weekend until Easter opposite the Waihi Beach Hotel between 9am and 1pm and is a Sunday tradition for locals where you can buy fresh produce from around the area plus a range of goodies that are often home made.

Explore the southern end of the beach where you'll find the secluded swimming at Anzac Bay.

Athenree

At the southern end of Waihi Beach is Athenree. The Athenree Hot Springs and Holiday Park is a 10-minute drive from Waihi Beach, and also handily located just 15 minutes' drive from the towns of Waihi and, to the south, Katikati.

This small coastal settlement on Tauranga's inner harbour overlooks an expansive estuary which runs for several kilometres inland, making it a quiet and peaceful alternative to the surf beach. The holiday park is opposite a large grassy reserve on the water's edge, giving it a tranquil, park setting with magnificent mature puriri trees and an abundance of native birds.

At low tide it's possible to walk right across the estuary (which is only 100m or so wide) to Waihi Beach.

Athenree Homestead

Athenree Homestead plays an important part in reflecting the early history of Ulster settlement in Katikati and Athenree where Hugh and Adela Stewart were the first settlers developing their farm and house in 1878.

5 reasons to visit Athenree

Athenree Homestead, gardens and café are an easy 2-3 hour leisurely visit to step back in time to the way of life for early pioneer settlers in New Zealand.

Soak in the natural hot springs at Athenree. The pools are fed from an underground aquifer 250 metres deep - mineral water is pumped constantly through the pools and the volumes are replenished every 3-4 hours.

Beaches...there are many beautiful beaches nearby that are perfect for swimming and exploring.

If history is your thing, combine your trip to the Athenree Historical Homestead with a visit to the Waihi Museum in Waihi

Katikati Bird Park is a drive from Athenree if you're headed toward Tauranga, and you can see native birds in a tranquil setting with 1.5km of paths.



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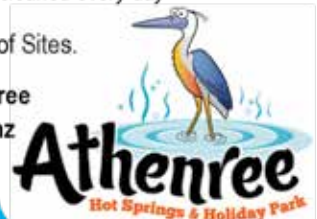


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Paeroa to Te Aroha

Leaving Paeroa you cross over the Ohinemuri River, following the old train track formation through lush farmland, with views of Mt Te Aroha and the Kaimai Ranges.

SECTION D

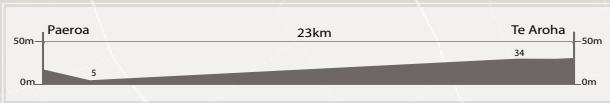


DISTANCE: 23km

Paeroa to Tirohia: 6 km
 Tirohia to Mangaiti: 9 km
 Mangaiti to Te Aroha: 8 km



DOGS ARE NOT PERMITTED on this section of the Rail Trail.



Section B - to Thames

Paeroa

Courtyard Café
 McDonalds Paeroa
 Paeroa hotel
 The Refinery
 One Three One
 Fantail Lodge
 Villa

Section C - to Waihi

Tirohia Marae

Tirohia

Waihou River

Pae Ahi Marae

Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park

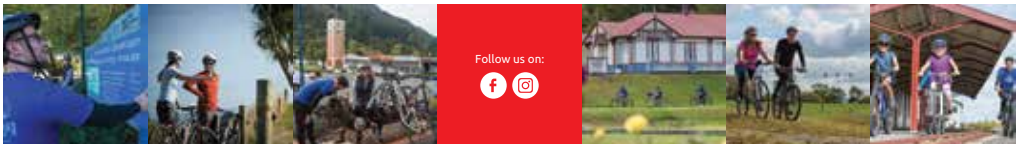
Mangaiti

23km

Te Aroha

Mount Te Aroha

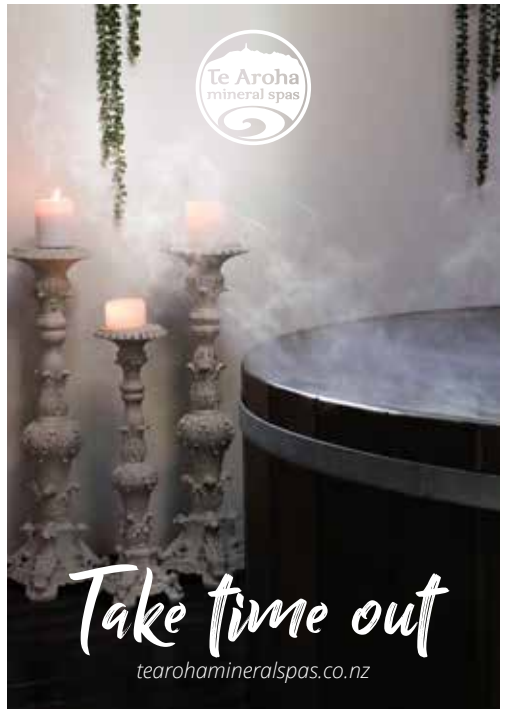
Section E - to Matamata



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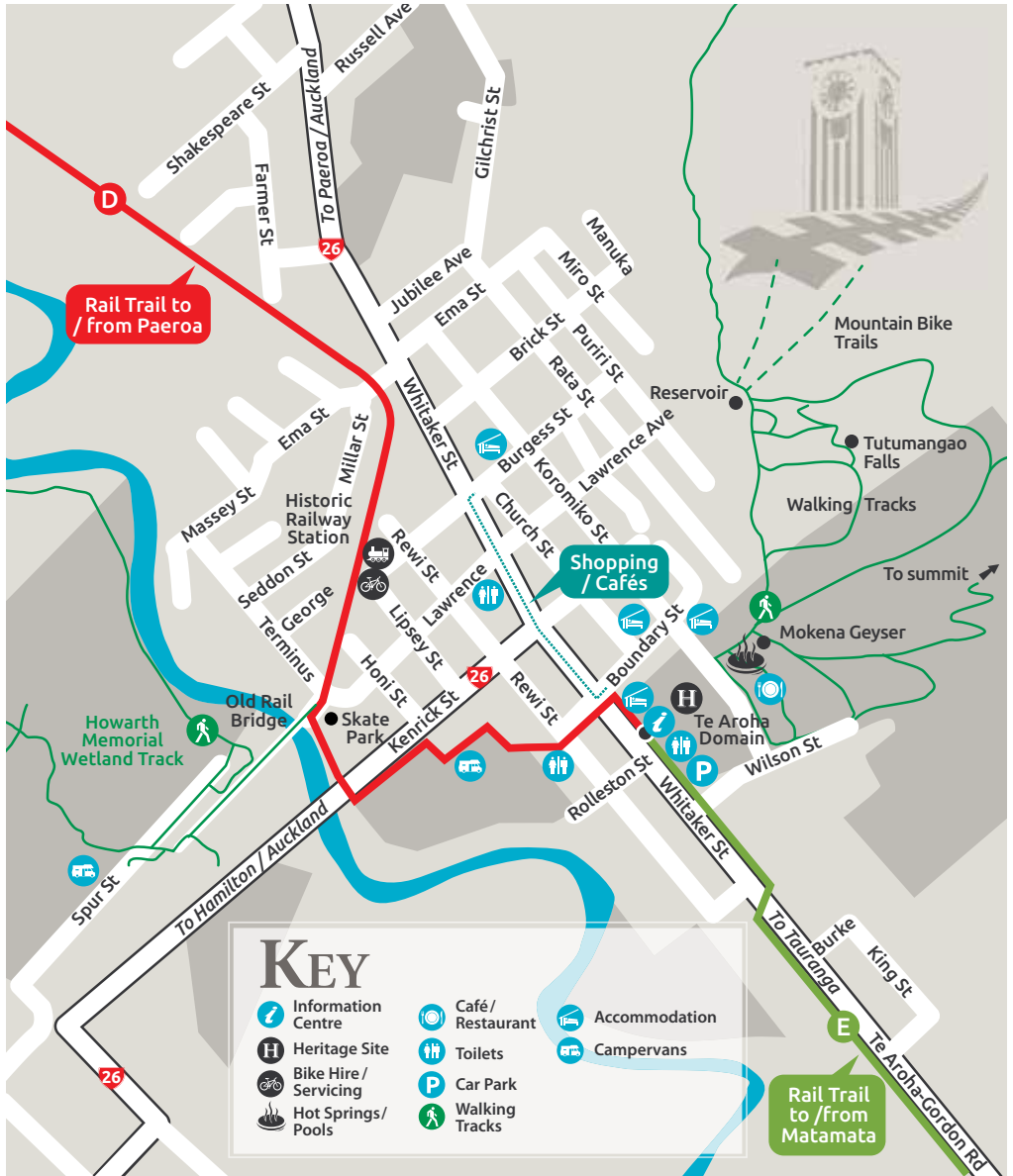
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For information on Places to Dine,
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Te Aroha

Te Aroha provides the perfect base for those cycling the 160km Hauraki Rail Trail



A highlight of the township is its natural mineral spas. Renowned for health-giving properties, Te Aroha Mineral Spas are the perfect way to relax those tired muscles after an active day of hiking or biking, or simply an added touch

of indulgence to your stay. Treat your loved one to a romance package, or get pampered with one of the many beauty treatments available.

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Te Aroha continued

the warm footbath or watch the world's only hot soda water geyser erupt. All of these gems can be found in the Edwardian Domain the town is famous for.

Te Aroha was originally an Edwardian spa town, which prospered during the gold rush days. The area's rich gold mining heritage is now on show at the Te Aroha Museum or can be explored via the numerous tracks in the Waiorongomai Valley. The Heritage Trail provides a great option for those interested in local history.



The township has a romantic bygone era feel, with delightful scrap metal sculptures down the streets created by local artists. Quaint old cottages lovingly restored serve as quaint boutique accommodation should you wish to stay and enjoy life at a slower pace.

For people wanting to swap bike power for foot power, there are an abundance of hiking/walking tracks for people to take advantage of. Some of these are ideal for families with young

children, such as around the picturesque Domain or Howarth Memorial Wetlands. If you want to challenge yourself, stretch your legs on the lower or upper Domain or if you have a day to spare, hike up the Te Aroha mountain, a vertical climb with stunning views awaiting you at the summit. Take a short detour on your way up and find the Tutumangoa waterfall.

Te Aroha is the perfect place to play, explore or relax.

5 BEST REASONS TO VISIT TE AROHA

- 1 Ride through the region:** The historical Hauraki Rail Trail and iconic Mount Te Aroha trails are worth the effort.
- 2 Te Aroha Mineral Spas:** Relax in the silky-smooth mineral water spas or indulge in luxurious spa treatments.
- 3 Walking Trails:** Waiorongomai Valley, Mount Te Aroha, Howarth Memorial Wetlands, Tutuamango Falls and many more. Visit www.tearohanz.co.nz or pop in to the local i-site to get expert local knowledge. Ph 07 884 8052.
- 4 Mokena Geyser, Te Aroha Domain:** The only natural hot soda water geyser in the world.
- 5 Swim Zone Te Aroha:** Make a splash in the heated leisure pools or soak in the bubbling spa set at the base of Mount Te Aroha.

Local's Tip

For those up for a challenging hike, the Mount Te Aroha Summit is reached by a two and a half hour hike from the town and provides wide views of the Waikato plains, Mount Ruapehu, and the Bay of Plenty coast. Gentler tracks can be found around its wide base.



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Te Aroha to Matamata

An unexpected journey past goat, dairy and thoroughbred farms, with views to the Wairere Falls and the Firth Tower to Hobbiton (Matamata)

SECTION E

Section D - to Paeroa



Te Aroha

The Nunnery accommodation
Te Aroha Motel
Te Aroha Holiday Park

Mount Te Aroha



Te Aroha West

The Old Forge

Kaimai-Mamaku
Forest Park

Manawaru

37km

Wardville

Wairere Falls

Waharoa



Matamata

Home of the
Hobbiton Movie Set

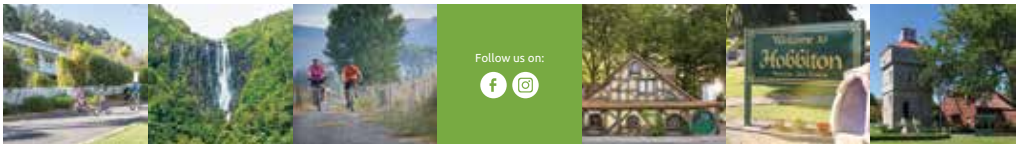
Firth Tower Museum

DISTANCE: 37km

Te Aroha to Manawaru: 11 km
Manawaru to Wardville: 10 km
Wardville to Matamata: 16 km



DOGS ARE NOT PERMITTED on
this section of the Rail Trail.



Follow us on:



Kelvin Forsman of Adventure Te Aroha grew up exploring the Waihou River and he's returned to this special place after guiding people on rivers in Queenstown, Rotorua, Australia and even Japan. "I've used the river since I was 10, tubing, rafting, kayaking." Trips are made on kayaks and SUPs, and Kelvin had a transformative experience reflecting on the effect that the serenity of his home river has on people.

"I've noticed in comparison to the rafting in places like Queenstown, that everyone is really chilled afterward. By the time they finish they're usually quite hungry and ready for a hot spa, but the river really does chill you out."

The Waihou has a history with the twists and turns of Maori and European settlement and industry, and remains a focal point for the town with outriggers, waka ama (canoes), small craft, jetboats and jet skis plus a large population of both rainbow and brown trout that can be fished by license from the Te Aroha I site.

"Eighty-three-year-olds and four-year-olds have made their way down the river on the tour when there's someone in the group who's very capable, and it's great that a lot of families come. "The Waihou is an asset for the town."



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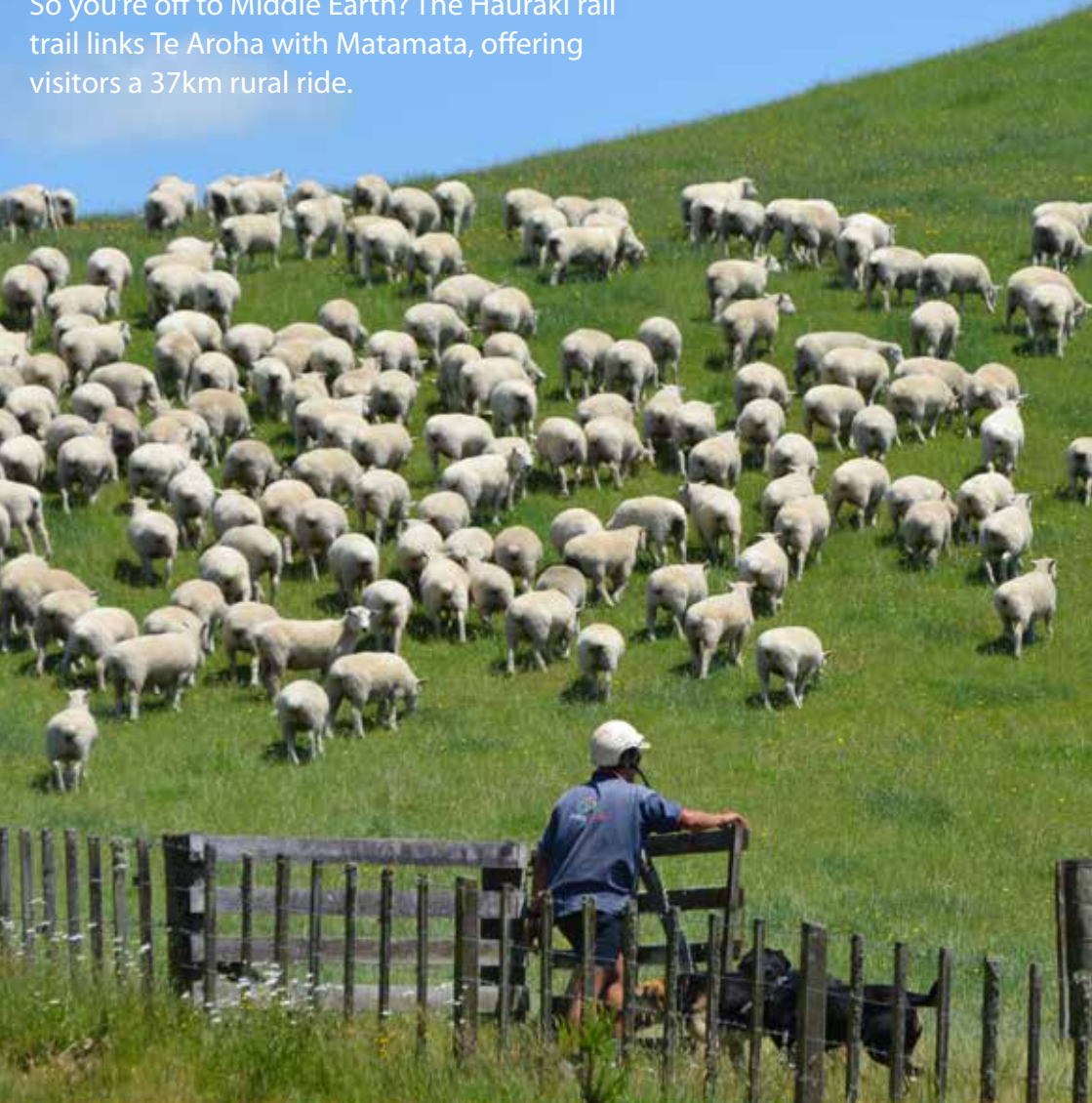
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Matamata/Hobbiton

So you're off to Middle Earth? The Hauraki rail trail links Te Aroha with Matamata, offering visitors a 37km rural ride.



Riding a rail trail on this section gives you time to reflect on the following fun fact: A small railway station in the middle of the plains is how the town of Matamata was born 130-odd years ago.

To the stream of visitors who frequent the movie set where *The Lord of the Rings* and *Hobbit* Trilogies were filmed, Matamata is much better known as Middle Earth. In fact, Matamata means 'headland'.

This was the name of a new pa established in 1830 by Te Waharoa, the Ngati Haua chief, on a ridge of high ground projecting into the swampy valley of the Waitoa River.

Rural in nature, it is a bustling township that's been enlivened by the 'world's only living movie set – Hobbiton.

Tourists appear to be more numerous than sheep on this 1250 acre working

farm owned by the Alexander family. But don't be alarmed – guided tours around the 39 hobbit holes and Green Dragon Inn are kept to small groups rather than large herds.

As such, you'll need to book a month in advance if hoping to visit from December to March (and the best time according to our guide on tour, is mid-Spring).



Te Waharoa on the Wairere Track

Many of the walking trails through native bush and ridges of the Coromandel follow in the ancient trails of Maori, who would travel from the coast back inland in winter months, after excursions to gather seafood (kai moana) on the shores of the Coromandel's east coast. The shores of Tauranga district were a source of seafood for the tribe Ngati Haua. At times, the chief Te Waharoa lived here, mainly in his pa at Omokoroa, directly across the ranges from Matamata by the Wairere track. The 153m cascading Wairere Falls are viewed from the Wairere Falls track, traversing beautiful, diverse natural scenery.

See www.doc.govt.nz.

Sources: *Te Ara Encyclopedia of New Zealand* & www.matamatanz.co.nz.

The house with no nails



FOR GUESTS WHO WANT MORE THAN JUST AN ORDINARY BED AND BREAKFAST PLACE TO STAY OVERNIGHT, THERE IS SOMETHING UNIQUE JUST ALONG THE TE AROHA TO MATAMATA LEG.

A labour of love created this unique accommodation in the middle of paddocks with spectacular views to the foothills of the Kaimai Range. The house – Jen and Dewi Roberts’ home – was handcrafted using construction methods dating back to the 10th century. And, yes, indeed no nails were used in the timber framing, with the network of posts, beams, rafters and braces interlocked and

secured by large, hand-hewn oak pegs. These features remain exposed for guests to marvel at and mull over.

A house with a story

The housewithnonails comes with an extraordinary story. It starts with Cyclone Bola back in 1988, which provided the timber: 25 cubic metres of macrocarpa and poplar, plus oak pegs for what began as a couple’s dream house in the country. All the timber was hand-hewn by Dewi in a neighbour’s workshop, with a good old-fashioned community “barn-raising” of the frames in 1992.

Rooms on two levels offer spacious accommodation for up to 16 guests, featuring five different room options suited to couples or larger groups. Each room is different. The “country chic” interior oozes a natural, handmade aesthetic with a mix of raw materials carefully curated to create an utterly interesting homestay experience. There is lime, wood and stone; concrete and copper; all complemented with furnishing dressed with linen, velvet and wool. Every room has braced handcrafted doors with forged ironmongery and dressing gowns on the door.

“It’s a celebration of the beauty of raw materials”, says Jen. “Sleep in rooms made of local trees. Feel the lime plaster. Smell the tannin. It’s sensual and soothing. We want our guests to feel at home, not like in a hotel.”



Hosts who create memorable stays

Jen loves to cook. She creates candle-lit, intimate gatherings with passion, facilitating fun conversations and memorable visits for guests at housewithnonails. Her warm and welcoming personality makes everybody feel at ease the moment they set foot in the house. Many guests say it's magic.

Dewi is the maker of the timber-framed house. He felled the local trees. He chipped away at the beams and persevered when he was alone in the workshop at night week after week. He used a mallet and chisel turning trees into timber and timber into a magnificent home. Guests can talk to the craftsman about how the timber was carefully fitted, joined and secured with only pegs. The name carved into one of the main beams, Pen Saer Loft, means Master Carpenter's Barn.

One thing Jen and Dewi - and many of their guests - particularly enjoy and what sets them apart from other accommodation providers is learning about each other. Would you enjoy

sharing the day's experiences with fellow guests in the spacious main lounge or outdoors by the fire pit? Or fancy getting involved, e.g. cooking together? Maybe your favourite dish? Or preparing a meal from a different country when a foreign guest stays at the same time and would like to take the lead in the kitchen? Or helping to fire up a BBQ at their Argentinian style outdoor Asado grill? A culinary exchange often leads to a unique cultural exchange.

Some guests just want a quiet space to put their feet up and unwind, with a wholesome country breakfast to get them going for the next day of cycling.

All beds at housewithnonails are guaranteed to give guests a good night's rest, maybe after watching a stunning sunset from their window. Those who fancy a relaxing outdoor bath can even soak in a zinc tub under the stars before calling it a day.

Jen and Dewi will provide exactly the experience their guests are after. Rustic, authentic and unique.



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5 BEST REASONS TO VISIT MATAMATA

- 1 The Green Dragon Inn, Hobbiton** – You will visit this atmospheric pub as part of a Hobbiton tour and feel submerged into the life of Hobbiton’s residents, who gathered here to catch up on Middle Earth gossip. The beer, or ginger beer, is thirst quenchingly good after a spring or summer walk around the gardens and hobbit holes of this wonderland.
- 2 Hot springs** – Take your pick from thermal springs at Okoroire hotel or the kiwiana experience of Opal Hot Springs
- 3 Wairere Falls** - The Department of Conservation Wairere Falls track takes walkers through diverse native bush and besides the spectacular 153 m high falls, there are river falls and cascades, a fine grove of nikau, pūriri and kohekohe trees, and an upper section of track through tree ferns and totara in native forest. See www.doc.govt.nz for details.
- 4 Firth Tower Museum** – which was built in 1882 by Josiah Clifton Firth to provide a lookout over the country side. It was also used as the estate office and sleeping quarters for single men. The tower stands on rising ground commanding an extensive view of the surrounding country. Visit to see exhibits and displays of the Matamata Historical Society, and archives of the Matamata area at the Heritage Centre.
- 5 The Blue Spring at Te Waihou Walkway** – A drive from Matamata to Putaruru you’ll find the Blue Spring, internationally acclaimed with water so pure it supplies around 60 per cent of New Zealand’s bottled water. It is fed from the Mamaku Plateau where the water takes up to 100 years to filter through which makes it so pure and clean that it produces a beautiful blue colour while being virtually clear. See www.hamiltonwaikato.com



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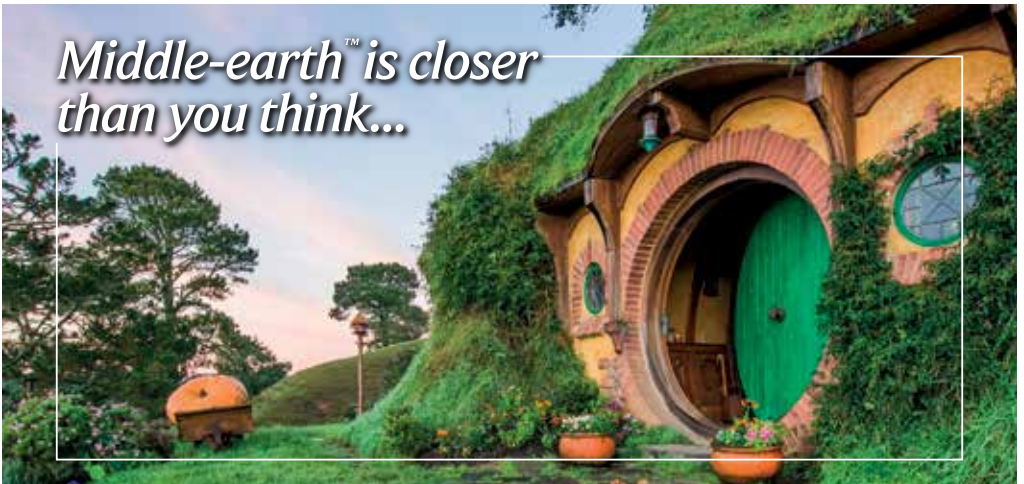
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