

YOUR FREE COPY



HAURAKI[™] RAIL TRAIL

OFFICIAL GUIDE

*every day a
different journey*



Ngā Haerenga
**GREAT
RIDES**
OF NEW ZEALAND



BE
PREPARED



DRIVE
CAREFULLY



KEEP NZ
CLEAN



PROTECT
NATURE








SHOW
RESPECT

FREE ADULT CYCLE SKILLS COURSES!



Group sessions with maximum number of 12, booking is essential!

-  You will need a road worthy bike and an approved helmet
-  Learn what 'Pedal ready' means

-  How to stay safe when you are cycling
-  What to look for to check your bike
-  Designed for adults who can ride a bike

Bikes and E-Bikes

Courses run at all East Waikato towns


Give us a call and put your name down for one of our FREE Cycle Skills Courses today!

Enjoy the Journey




Phone **Thames-Coromandel District Council** on **07 868 0200** to book your space!

Road Safety IS **EVERYONE'S** Responsibility



ADVENTURE

BIKE HIRE & SHUTTLE



We bring the bikes to you..
WAIHI • PAEROA • THAMES • TEAROHA • MATAMATA • MIRANDA








Helmets and comfy seat included!

WE HAVE A GREAT RANGE OF ADULTS & KIDS BIKES TRAIL WIDE SERVICE • PACKAGES • MULTI DAY TOURS

 027 398 2866 adventurebikehire.co.nz

Contents

- 02 Plan, Prepare, Pack
- 03 Welcome & FAQ's
- 04  **Section A** Kaiaua to Thames
- 05 The Shorebird Coast
- 06 Kaiaua Town Map
- 07 What The Flood?
- 08 Bugger Café
- 09 Thames Town Map
- 10 A&G Price Foundry in Thames
- 12 Thames Public Art Trust
- 13  **Section B** Thames to Paeroa
- 14 Matatoki Cheese Barn
- 15 Corbett House
- 16 Wanderlust Solo Women Tours
- 17 Classic Boat Regatta
- 18 Paeroa Town Map
- 19 Bullswool Heritage Farm
- 20 Cyclone Gabrielle – You Bad Girl!
- 22 Traps & Trees
- 23 Choose Your Ride
- 24 **Full Trail Map** (Pull out Map)
- 27 **Distance Chart** (Pull out Map)
- 29  **Section C** Paeroa to Waihi
- 31 Stepping Back in Time
- 32 Kerepehi School Adventures
- 33 Waihi Town Map
- 34 Trail Angel - Derrick Rowe
- 36 Waihi Extension
- 37  **Section D** Paeroa to Te Aroha
- 38 It's more fun riding with friends
- 39 Te Aroha Town Map
- 41 Mt Te Aroha
- 42 Ngā Haerenga Great Rides NZ
- 43  **Section E** Te Aroha to Matamata
- 45 Transformation of Farming
- 46 Matamata Town Map
- 47 Magical Matamata
- 49 Explore the Mighty Waikato

Cover photo courtesy of Riverside Adventures

Published (Nov 23) by: Hauraki Rail Trail Charitable Trust
101 Normanby Rd, Paeroa, 3640. www.haurakirailtrail.co.nz
To order more copies contact sales@haurakirailtrail.co.nz





plan, prepare, pack

Packing the right gear, snacks, and tools can be the difference between a fun day out on the trail or a long walk back to the car. Risk can be reduced through careful planning and good decision making. So our hot tips for making your adventure safe and fun are as follows:

Plan your trip:

Seek local knowledge, plan your route and the time you can reasonably expect it to take. The Hauraki Rail Trail is well signposted but we advise carrying our pull-out map with you for guidance.

Check the Hauraki Rail Trail website 'Trail Status' for track closures before you leave home.

Tell someone your plans:

Leave a date or time to raise the alarm if you haven't returned. We recommend that you ride with others.

Be aware of the weather:

Weather on and around the Hauraki Rail Trail can be changeable. Always check the weather and be prepared for unexpected changes.



What to pack:



Know your limits:

It's your responsibility to enjoy and maximise your riding experience. To minimise risk always ride within your physical limits and ability.

Wherever you're headed, give yourself a little peace of mind and **plan, prepare** and **pack** to get the most from your ride.

With your research done, now it's a question of what to pack. We've put together a handy list of the basics to help you prepare for your ride.

Welcome



Nau Mai, Haere Mai, and the warmest welcome to the Hauraki Rail Trail.

The Hauraki Rail Trail is proudly one of the easiest of the 23 Great Rides of New Zealand. Known in Te Reo Māori as *Ngā Haerenga* ('The Journeys'), the Great Rides are as diverse as they are beautiful.

This year's brochure is jam-packed with some great new features, such as our Trail Angel section where we celebrate a local hero, who donated his time and skills to make the Trail a better place for everyone. There's lots of good news on the horizon, with trail improvements making progress.

The handy pull-out map in the centre of the brochure is a convenient way to have all the info you need to stash in your panniers. Just as a heads up, the two most common things riders tell us affects their day in the saddle is lack of food and water, and equipment failure. So before you head out on the Trail, check the mechanics of your bike, and pack a puncture repair kit, a filling lunch, and some water.

Have you ever wondered what a herd of stampeding elephants would do to a Trail? Check out our story on page 20 for the answer!

Keep an eye out for our handy QR codes. You can use these to find more information about the Trail, check for closures, watch a video, or join a cycling group. Sit back with a drink, and listen to local Keith Austen retell one of his humorous poems from his book *Bullswool & Barbed Wire*. Stay shiny side up everyone, and I look forward to seeing you out on the Trail soon!

Ngā Mihi Nui
Di Drummond, CEO

KNEEDZ MASSAGE THERAPY

Tara Larking
Massage practitioner.
BTSM & MNZ registered

Therapeutics
Sports/ Deep Tissue
Onsite Chair
Relaxation/ Swedish
Neuromuscular
Pregnancy & Infant
Gerontology

607 Mackay St,
Thames.
66 Pipiroa Rd,
Ngatea.
021 157 7442

FAQS

What level of fitness and skill do I require for the Trail?

The Hauraki Rail Trail is suitable for all fitness levels, ages and skill levels. As a Grade 1 cycle trail it is predominantly wide, flat and smooth. Great for learning new skills, and beginner riders.

Are motorbikes, e-bikes or scooters permitted on the Trail?

Motorbikes are not permitted. This includes any e-bike or scooter larger than 300Watts (300W).

Are Dogs permitted on the Hauraki Rail Trail?

Dogs are not permitted on the Hauraki Rail Trail where it passes through farmland. The Department of Conservation area in the Karangahake Gorge welcomes dogs, but please keep them on a lead at all times and don't forget your 'doggy doo' bags.

How wide are the cattle-stops and bridges along the Trail?

The Trail at its narrowest is 1100mm wide (bridges), making the Trail accessible to most users.

Are there toilets along the Trail?

Yes, there are many toilets on or near the Trail. Check out our distance chart on page 27 in the pull-out feature for toilet locations.

Is there transport to get to and from my vehicle?

Yes. We recommend you book a shuttle to take you to the beginning of your ride, so when you return to your car, you don't need to wait to move onto your next adventure. See page 26 for Shuttle providers.

Want to know more?

You can visit our website at www.haurakirailtrail.co.nz or use the QR code



5 Fraser Street, Paeroa
Phone: 07 212 8742
E: info@fordv8parts.com

Opening hours: 8.30am - 5.00pm weekdays,
Saturday 8.30am - 1.00pm

www.fordv8parts.com

ORDER ONLINE: SHOP.FORDV8PARTS.COM

NEON EFFECT
man cave & brand logo neons

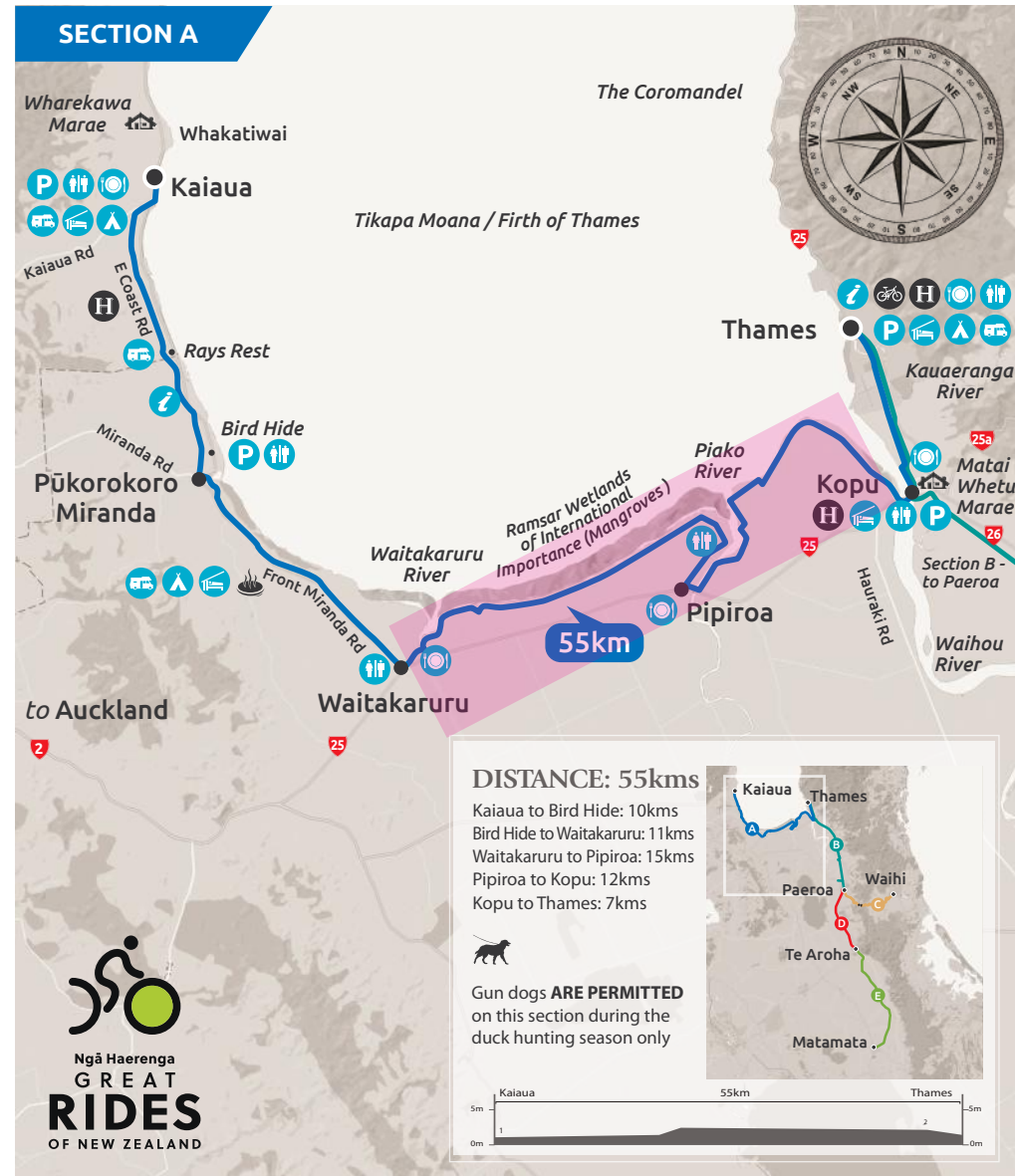
Classic Neon Signs & Clocks

THE PERFECT GIFT

www.neoneffect.co.nz

Kaiaua to Thames

The sleepy seaside town of Kaiaua is the starting point at the Northern end of the Trail. Following the footsteps of Te Aho, a young Māori warrior who ran this path centuries ago, the Trail hugs the shoreline for 7kms before heading inland towards Waitakaruru. From here, marked in pink on the map, the Trail is currently undergoing works by Waikato Regional Council on the stop-banks, so check the website before you ride as it may be closed.



Key Information:

Distance: 55kms (5-6 hours)

Fitness: All Levels

Skill: All Levels

Traffic: Light to Moderate

Grade: 1

Trail Status:



Please Note:

- Phone coverage is generally good
- Gun dogs are permitted on this section during the duck hunting season only
- All dogs are allowed between Kopu and Thames on leash



Image: Kivi Way Of Life Photography

Highlights include:

- Experience and learn about precious birdlife along the Shorebird Coast
- Expansive shoreline, landscapes and rural tranquility
- The great choice of camping opportunities including freedom camping

The Shorebird Coast

The 'eagle-eyed' amongst us will notice an anomaly with signage calling the area the Seabird Coast. The many Kuaka (Godwits), Kohutapu (Sandpipers), and Tōrea (Pied Oystercatchers) are actually Shorebirds. A major distinction of Shorebirds is they do not have webbed feet, as they don't intend to go swimming. This is part of the reason why the Kuaka have to fly such incredible distances from the Arctic to New Zealand.



The epic 12,000km journey made by some of New Zealand's favourite migratory birds from the Arctic to the Coromandel has become a lot safer. The flyway is recognised by UNESCO, with parts of China's Yellow Sea and the sanctuaries it provides for migratory birds considered a World Heritage site.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) recently acquired the Robert Findlay Reserve at Miranda, providing increased protection to the conservation of migratory Shorebird habitat in New Zealand. The reserve incorporates two of the most important high tide roosts for Shorebirds in the Tikapa Moana. Its creation

is a real credit to the work undertaken by the Pūkorokoro-Miranda Naturalist Trust.

Take the time to drop in or stay at the Pūkorokoro-Miranda Shorebird Centre. Entry is free, but donations are appreciated and support the hard mahi of the dedicated conservationists. The best time to see the birds is at high tide or 2 hours either side. At low tide, the Shorebirds walk out onto the exposed mudflats to feed, and when the tide comes in they gather in great numbers above the high-tide mark. You can hire binoculars from the Centre to make the most of your visit to see the birds.



Pūkorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre

Shorebirds are here all year round with peak times September-March. We are a centre for information, education and research on shorebirds.



Bird hides
Best bird viewing is 2hrs either side of high tide.



Plan your trip
Our website has information on latest sightings.



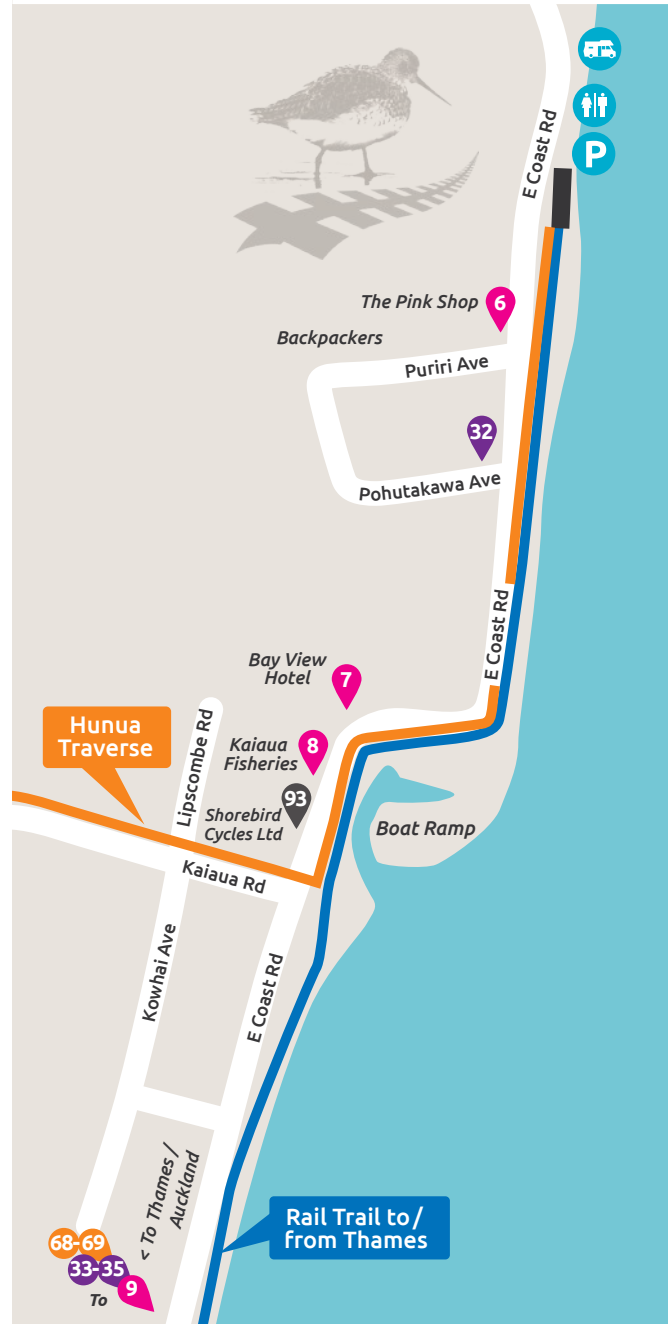
Stay with us
Self contained units or bunkrooms for hire. Plus a bookshop

283 East Coast Road, Pūkorokoro Miranda
 Open 7 Days 9am – 5pm (excl Xmas Day)
 Ph 09 232 2781

shorebirds.org.nz

Kaiaua

This picturesque seaside town boasts a stunning coastline, beautiful parks, a local market, and expansive views of the Firth and Coromandel Ranges.



Dine & Drink

- 6 The Pink Shop
999 East Coast Road, Kaiaua
- 7 Bay View Hotel
943 East Coast Road, Kaiaua
- 8 Kaiaua Fish n Chips
939 East Coast Road, Kaiaua
- 9 Miranda Farm Shop, Café & Gallery
1107 Miranda Rd, Miranda

Places to Stay

- 32 Sea Urchin Cottage
4 Pohutukawa Ave, Kaiaua
- 33 Pūkoro-koro-Miranda Shorebird Centre
283 East Coast Road, Miranda
- 34 Miranda Holiday Park
595 Front Miranda Rd, Miranda
- 35 Miranda Homestead B&B
397 Front Miranda Rd, Miranda

Things to See & Do

- 68 Miranda Farm Gallery
1107 Miranda Road, Miranda
- 69 Pūkoro-koro-Miranda Shorebird Centre
283 East Coast Rd, Miranda

Bike Hire

- 93 Shorebird Cycles
933 East Coast Road, Kaiaua

Shuttles See Shuttle services on page 26

What the Flood?

These stop-banks are important and form part of a major flood protection network protecting the Hauraki Plains.



It's called the Hauraki Rail Trail, but 43 kms of it, between Kopu and Kaiaua, is on top of flood protection stop-banks.

These stop-banks are important and form part of the two major flood protection schemes in the Hauraki Plains, the Piako River Scheme and the Waihou Valley Scheme.

Without the stop-banks, much of the Hauraki Plains would be underwater each high tide, so they provide vital protection to residents, properties, businesses, roads and services, as well as giving cyclists something to ride on.

The stop-banks are basically engineered mounds of earth designed to withstand a certain storm intensity. As earth settles over time, the stop-banks require maintenance to keep them at their original height. The foreshore between Kopu and Waitakaruru are being raised, and parts of the foreshore trail will be closed until the upgrade is done.

Be sure to check Hauraki Rail Trail website for the up to date closures and openings.

We look forward to welcoming you back when the trail is reinstated.



FORESHORE STOP-BANK UPGRADE

Funded: \$1.92m by MBIE
Total project cost: \$3.1m
Project duration: 3 years
Expected completion: 2024

This project will see the upgrade of the foreshore east and west stop-banks to design standard. These stop-banks, constructed in 1961, provide coastal and flood protection to the pastoral land between the Waihou, Piako and Waitakaruru rivers.



SHOREBIRD CYCLES
Bike Hire & Shuttle



- Half, single or multi-day e-bike and mountain bike rental.
- Selection from the latest Merida and Marin e-bikes.
- Located 55 minutes from Auckland, at the perfect starting point for the Hauraki Rail Trail and the Hunua Traverse.
- Shuttle transport options available.
- Tailored packages for any type of adventure.
- Close to Pūkoro-koro Miranda Shorebird Centre, Miranda Hot Pools, Waharau and Tāpapakanga Regional Parks.

Book your trip now at:
www.shorebirdcycles.com
+64 21 243 0513

BUGGER

There has never been a more appropriate word to describe the year the Bugger Café at Pipiroa has experienced. Cyclone Gabrielle closed State Highway 25A, reducing passing traffic, and the closure of the stop-banks on either side due to the Waikato Regional Council works, left the café stranded in no-mans land. Heman and his team are battling through and are still very much open for business. **Make a point of dropping in on your travels for some of the best coffee our Trail has on offer.**



MIRANDA HOLIDAY PARK Easy access to the Hauraki Rail Trail from the park

HOT THERMAL MINERAL POOLS ONSITE FOR GUESTS

APARTMENTS • CHALETs • STUDIO/FAMILY UNITS
BACKPACKERS • POWERED & NON POWERED
CAMPING SITES • MOTORHOME/CARAVANS

• Dog friendly with purpose built fenced sites available

595 Front Miranda Road Ph: 07 867 3205
 Em: stay@mirandaholidaypark.co.nz
www.mirandaholidaypark.co.nz

Miranda Homestead
BED & BREAKFAST
 Catering for Cyclists

The Hauraki Rail Trail passes the gate. King and Queen twin room. Spacious car parking, secure garage to leave bikes overnight, powerpoints for charging ebikes. Drying rack for wet clothes. Continental or cooked breakfast. Cold drinks on arrival. Fish n Chips and Kaiaua pub - 12kms.

Your Host: Ellie ellie.vette@hotmail.com
Ph: 021 866 332
 397 FRONT MIRANDA ROAD, MIRANDA

Take your Pick - these Motels are side by side (just enter from different streets)

Top 4 facilities provided by both Rolleston Motel & Avalon Motel

- In Thames right on the Hauraki Rail Trail and at the gateway to the Coromandel
- Outdoor swimming pools
- Spa/Hot Tub
- Secure under-cover bike storage

105 Rolleston St, 07 868 8091 rolleston@wenzelmotels.co.nz
 or
 104 Jellicoe St, 07 868 7755 avalon@wenzelmotels.co.nz

Thames

Historic Thames township offers many museums, cafés, boutique shops and community art in a charming colonial setting.



Information & Bookings

1 JollyBikes
 96 Richmond St, Thames
 Phone: 07 867 9026

Dine & Drink

- 11** Kopu Café
 101 Kopu Road, Kopu
- 12** The Wharf Café Bar
 Shortland Wharf, Thames
- 13** Burton's on Pollen
 444 Pollen Street, Thames
- 14** Gastronomics Café Restaurant & Bar
 428-430 Pollen St, Thames
- 15** The Cheese Barn & Farm Park
 4 Wainui Road, Matatoki

Places to Stay

- 36** Dickson Holiday Park
 Victoria Street, Tararua
- 37** Tuscany on Thames Motel
 200 Jellicoe Crescent, Thames
- 38** Avalon Motel
 104 Jellicoe Crescent, Thames
- 39** Rolleston Motel
 105 Rolleston Street, Thames
- 40** Lady Bowen B&B
 506 Brown Street, Thames

Things to See & Do

- 70** Thames School of Mines
 101 Cochrane St, Thames
- 71** The Aviator Experience
 705 Pollen Street, Thames
- 73** Kauaeranga Valley Walks
 Kauaeranga Valley, Thames

Bike Hire/ Servicing & Tour Services

94 102 JollyBikes
 96 Richmond St, Thames

Retail / Other

109 Read Bros Hardware
 308 Pollen Street, Thames

A&G Price Foundry in Thames

The rail line from Morrinsville to Thames, which opened in 1898, brought huge opportunities to both towns. The A&G Price story is just one example of the early Thames businesses which thrived because of the railway.

In 1867, brothers Arthur and George Price set up an engineering company in Auckland making flax-stripping machines. Four years later they turned their attention to the gold-mining industry and opened a foundry and engineering works in Thames. Here they cast any large parts they needed and manufactured ore stampers, crushers, steam engines, boilers, timber jacks, and Pelton wheels – all designed or modified by the brothers. It was not long before they won their first contract to manufacture railway carriages and in 1885 the company began building small steam locomotives for the gold mines.

In 1898, the new railway line terminated at the A&G Price Foundry, giving the company scope to expand their empire. In 1903, they won a contract from the New Zealand government to build 12 full-sized class Wf steam engines and many more railway contracts followed. The first steam engine to travel from Wellington to Auckland in 1908 was built by A&G Price.

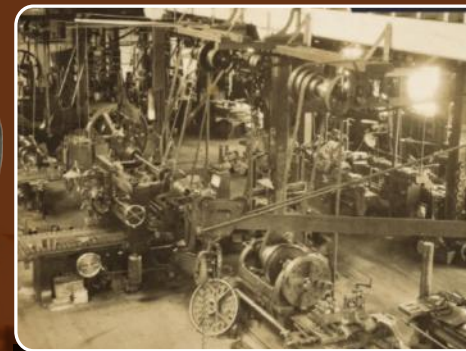
In 1923, the government began using their own workshops to build locomotives and no more government contracts went to A&G Price after 1927. But far from causing the company to decline, it continued to innovate and expand its interests. Today it is still here, despite some difficult times, casting parts (including overseas contracts for railway carriage parts) and carrying out technical refurbishments for numerous industries. Prices won several key contracts on the ANZAC frigate upgrades, and many of the America's Cup yachts have keels manufactured by Prices.

The first engine used on the completed Main Trunk Railway between Auckland and Wellington. *Photo credit: J A Terry Collection*



Pic: John Fitzgerald collection

All engines fitted with a maker's plate.



The A&G Price machine shop. C1890s



One of over 200 train engines made by A&G Price Ltd, outside the A&G Price factory. *Photo credit: John Fitzgerald collection*



The 100th engine made by Prices for the New Zealand Government Railways: *Photo credit: Thames Museum*

Visit us for all your indoor and outdoor supplies!

READ BROS.
EST. 1867
Hardware

www.readbros.co.nz
308 Pollen St, Thames 07 868 6608

Whether it's for your garden, cooking, building, fishing, scuba diving or just a picnic in the sun, we'll have what you need!



The Chef & The Butcher invite you to check out our Lunch Bar Catering for any event large or small, in-house or out

404 Pollen Street, Thames
Phone 022 380 9735
<https://burtoncatering.co.nz>









KAUAERANGA VISITORS CENTRE

THE GATEWAY TO EXPLORING THE COROMANDEL FOREST PARK.

The DOC Visitor Centre is located at the end of the Kauaeranga Valley Road, Thames.


Enjoy adventures & discover our beautiful outdoors.






Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai







Nationally significant Thames School of Mines



Opening Hours
Wednesday - Sunday
10.00am - 4.00pm

Guided Tours
10.30am, 11.30am,
1.30pm and 2.30pm

Bicycle racks are available

HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND
101 Cochrane St Thames 07 868 6227

THAMES PUBLIC ART TRUST

When the Trust met Rob Johnston in 2017, one of the first discussions our CEO had with Rob was about his concept for an Arts Trail along the length of the Hauraki Rail Trail. Soon after, Rob teamed up with the Thames Public Art Trust (TPAT), and a competition was held with 48 entries received.

Four sculptures were selected, The Speeding Train was the overall winner, and Jandal on the Mandel (a seat) the Utilitarian Work selection. In addition, there were two People's Choice works selected, Miners' Gates and Weave Your Way to Thames. Jandal On The Mandel was the first sculpture to be installed, with the 'pa'



like surrounds made from the slats of unused bench seats. Today there are several installations between Kopu and Thames, with more artworks around the township itself, offering additional points of interest along the Trail.



The friendly place to stay

DICKSON HOLIDAY PARK
Ph: 07 868 7308
dicksonpark.co.nz

- Self-contained flats, cabins, caravans, sites and backpackers
- 3.5km north of Thames CBD

THAMES, COROMANDEL PENINSULA

Upgrade your journey with a stay surrounded by lush bush and birdsong, enjoy our pool and spaces

Jolly Bikes.co.nz

Rental, transport, e-bikes, tour bikes
Great all inclusive packages
Single & Multi day

Thames, close to HRT start
96 Richmond St, 07 867 9026

Thames to Paeroa

This richly historic area was once only accessible via the Waihou awa (river). Following the old railway line out of Thames township, the Trail promises lush farmland and impressive views of the Hauraki Plains and forested Kaimai Ranges. The Thames School of Mines and Cheese Barn at Matatoki, are well worth a stop. Drop into the Historical Maritime Park to enjoy a river cruise, which includes refreshments and access to the Park & Museum.

SECTION B

DISTANCE: 34kms
Thames to Kopu: 7kms
Kopu to Hikutaia: 16kms
Hikutaia to Paeroa: 11kms

DOGS ARE NOT PERMITTED
on this section of rail trail

34km

Ngā Haerenga GREAT RIDES OF NEW ZEALAND

Key Information:

- Distance:** 34kms (3-4 hrs)
- Fitness:** All Levels
- Skill:** All Levels
- Traffic:** Light to Moderate
- Grade:** 1
- Trail Status:**



Please Note:

- Phone coverage is generally good
- Dogs are not permitted on this section, except where the trail intersects the urban areas of Thames and Paeroa



Highlights include:

- Thames township
- Gold-mining history
- Historic Kopu Bridge
- Matatoki Cheese Barn
- Rural tranquility and views of the Hauraki Plains and Coromandel Ranges
- Historical Maritime Park
- Antique shopping
- Giant L&P Bottle

A bit Cheesy!

One of our greatest treasures nestled in the countryside along Section B is the Matatoki Cheese Barn. Established in 1994, owners Cathy and Kelvin Haigh have produced many award-winning cheeses, and the eclectic Café is full of memorabilia. This year, the team were the recipients of three new Cheese Awards, so linger longer and grab a beautiful cheese platter for a leisurely lunch, or takeaway a homemade Gelato or Sorbet, to keep you cool on your ride. The café now has a BYO licence, so tuck a bottle of your favourite wine into your travel kit for a great afternoon in the sunshine.

The fabulous animal farm onsite has alpacas, rabbits, guinea pigs,



chickens, budgies, quails, canaries and goats, offering great entertainment for the whole family. They're open Monday to Sunday 9.00am - 4.00pm (cafe closes at 3.00pm) with cooked breakfast available Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9am until midday. With the Historical Maritime Park, and the townships of Thames, Hikutaia, and Paeroa to explore, it's a fun and manageable day-ride.



Studio, 1 & 2-brm units, All units have hush glass, heat pumps/air-con, cooking facilities, dbl spa baths (except 2 access units), free high-speed fibre WiFi, 50+SKY, pool, free parking, guest laundry & bike storage. Being environmentally friendly is very important to us.

Book Direct for Best Rates

200 Jellicoe Cres, SH 25, Thames • +64 7 868 5099
Reservations: 0800 559 560
E: book@tuscanyonthames.co.nz
www.tuscanyonthames.co.nz



Corbett House



Corbett House, or *The Big House* as its known locally, is situated in the peaceful rural village of Hikutaia, just a 20-minute drive from Thames and 1.5 hours drive from Auckland.

Surrounded by a hectare of lush farmland, the Heritage Category B Arts and Crafts style house was built in the early 1920s and is ideally located for day trips biking from Kaiaua, Waihi or Te Aroha. After many years admiring the house, hearing about its history, and thoughts of ownership, David and Anja Corbett bought the house in 2018. It was the first time Corbett's had lived in the house for 40 years.

There is a family connection through David's Grandfather, who was sponsored to emigrate to New Zealand with the help of James and Julia Corbett. You can't separate the history of this house from its connection to the Pioneer Tavern which the Corbett's ran for 60 years. The prosperity of the tavern helped fund the design and construction of *The Big House*, which was finally completed in 1925 when electricity came to Hikutaia.

Since living at the house, David and Anja have completely renovated the kitchen, while respecting the authenticity and aesthetic, and built a large American

style Barn at the rear, where guests can view their vintage truck and collection of classic cars. There have also been landscaping projects, and a leased Church next door is used as a Wedding Chapel.

CORBETT HOUSE
HERITAGE B&B | WEDDING VENUE



Boutique accommodation in a breathtaking historic rural landscape

Built in the 1920's, this Heritage Arts & Crafts style home offers:
Full cooked breakfast / Outdoor pool / Cedar hot tub / Extensive gardens
Free WiFi / Large living areas / 12ft billiards table / Function Hire
Ask us about our discounted Rail Trail packages

Hikutaia is located just 200m from the Hauraki Rail Trail
corbetthouse.co.nz | 8088 SH 26, Hikutaia | Ph 07 8624 753

Situated in the peaceful rural village of Hikutaia

Wanderlust

SOLO WOMEN TOURS



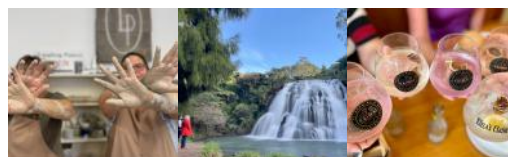
Gina Cambridge is a long-time local to the breathtaking Coromandel Peninsula, in particular, the Paeroa area, where she grew up. She's a passionate traveller, and having undertaken many solo global adventures, Gina subsequently created her own local, boutique women only retreats - Wanderlust Solo Women Tours.

Coming out of a long-term relationship at 40, Gina filled a backpack and headed to Europe with a one-way ticket, little money and plenty of determination. This experience transformed her life, and inspired her to reach out and help other women going through their own life challenges.

Gina grew up playing on the old railway tracks and ruins which now make up the Trail, and her local knowledge plays a big part in providing authentic travel experiences. Gina joined the Trail as an Official Partner to support our community, alongside many of the local businesses she supports that make up part of the Trail experience.

The small, women-only groups allow for an intimate experience, spontaneity and connection. It's an opportunity to try new experiences in a fun and safe environment. The goal is to empower women and build confidence and friendships through travel. Guests may start off as strangers, but leave with a close circle of new-found friends.

Gina's guests enjoy local gems from a locals perspective, and hear stories about the area and history, exploring some of her favourite spots. At Laughing Pottery, there's a chance to get creative, followed by boutique gin at the Waikino Hotel, or fresh produce at the Falls Retreat. You don't have to be single either, so whether you're coming with a couple of girlfriends, leaving your spouse at home, or rocking it solo, Gina welcomes you just as you are.



The ideal destination for your

Earthbridge

— Eco-Bed & Breakfast —

Hauraki Rail Trail experience

- Private eco cottage - sleeps up to 5 guests
- Outdoors wood fired bath, gas pizza oven
- Bush and river walks
- Private swimming hole
- Massage by appointment
- Delicious organic breakfast supplied daily



Hikutaia, Komata **email** tim@earthbridge.co.nz
ph 027 558 0246 **web** www.earthbridge.com

Classic Boat Regatta

Easter weekend in 2022 saw a flotilla of twelve classic launches make their way from Waitematā Harbour to the Historical Maritime Park in Paeroa, once New Zealand's most inland port.

The stunning and picturesque Historical Maritime Park grounds are adjacent to the Waihou River, where cruises, events and weddings are hosted. Visitors to the Park can explore the Museum and take a scenic cruise to Paeroa. It's a fantastic outing for families, senior citizens, schools and tour groups and is a great spot for cyclists to detour for a picnic and explore the grounds, so be sure to put this *Must Do* destination on your list.

The regatta included opening the swing span of the old Kopu Bridge, which stopped traffic as onlookers crowded to see the old boats pass through. The launches were from the Woodies Classic Yacht Association of New Zealand and berthed at the Maritime Park for boating enthusiasts to take a closer look. The boats made their voyage from Auckland, crossing the Hauraki

Gulf and cruising over 25 kilometres up the Waihou and Ōhinemuri Rivers.

The Maritime Park is hosting the Hauraki Rail Trail Cycling Festival on 6 April 2024. Participants can look forward to organised rides, giveaways, music, food and the amazing night-light display the Park is so well known for. The Park is also famous for its annual Christmas Light Show.



Scan the QR Code to watch a short film about the Xmas event.



Museum Park History River Cruises Camping



📍 689 SH2, Paeroa ✉ hmp@outlook.co.nz
 📞 07 862 7121 or 027 410 7977
 🌐 historicmaritimepark.co.nz

one3one Restaurant Café & Bar

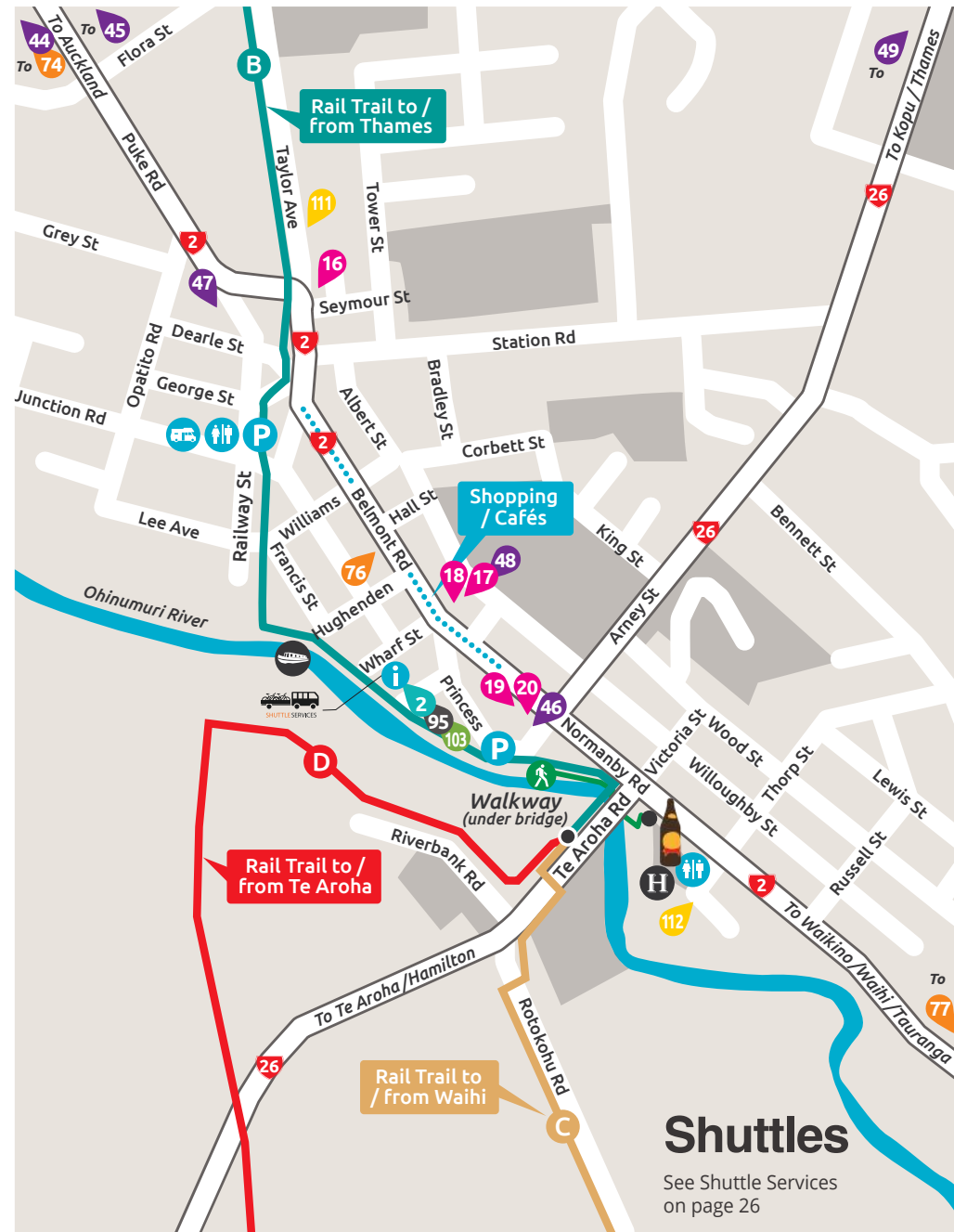


🕒 Open 7 days a week from 10am
 📍 131 Normanby Rd, Paeroa 📞 07 862 7273

✉ reservationsone3one@gmail.com 🌐 www.one3one.co.nz 📘

Paeroa

Paeroa is central, with bike hire, shuttle services, eateries, accommodation, and many antiques and collectables shops. Drop into the Info Hub for a map of the town's Heritage Trail.



Information / Bookings

- 2 Paeroa Information Hub
6 Wharf Street, Paeroa
Phone: 07 862 8636

Dine & Drink

- 16 Paeroa Café Bar & Restaurant
2 Seymour Street, Paeroa
- 17 The Refinery Coffee Shop
5 Willoughby Street, Paeroa
- 18 Courtyard Café
72 Normanby Road, Paeroa
- 19 Subway Paeroa
Normanby Road, Paeroa
- 20 One 3 One Bar & Restaurant
131 Normanby Road, Paeroa

Places to Stay

- 44 Historical Maritime Park
(Campervans) Puke Rd North, Paeroa
- 45 Paeroa RV Centre
10 Coronation Street, Paeroa
- 46 Pedlars Motel
2A Arney Street, Paeroa
- 47 Paeroa Motel
2 Puke Road, Paeroa
- 48 The Refinery
5 Willoughby Street, Paeroa
- 49 Racecourse Motel
68 Thames Road, Paeroa

Things to See & Do

- 74 Historical Maritime Park / River Cruises
6894 State Highway 2, Paeroa
- 76 The Paeroa & District Historical Museum
37 Belmont Road, Paeroa
- 77 Bullswool Heritage Farm
240 Rahu Road, Karangahake

Bike Hire / Tour Services

- 95 Hauraki Bike Hire
6 Wharf Street, Paeroa
- 103 Valley Tours & Transfers
Wharf Street, Paeroa

Retail / Other

- 111 BuildLink Paeroa
Taylor Avenue, Paeroa
- 112 Ajay's - V8 Parts / Neon Effects
5 Fraser Street, Paeroa

Shuttles

See Shuttle Services on page 26

Barbed Wire & Bullswool



Paeroa might be at the hub of the Hauraki Rail Trail, but just to the side is a wonderful farm park worthy of time off the bike. Bullswool Heritage Farm is not directly accessible from the Hauraki Rail Trail, but it's a short drive from Paeroa towards the Karangahake Gorge. Home to three generations of the Austen family, the farm has a diverse and interesting array of rare breed farm animals, several working farm museums, outdoor displays, and an award-winning Native Bird Reserve. The Park has been named as one of the AA's 101 Must Do's for Kiwis, voted one of The Coromandel's best visitor attractions, and is a Pride of New Zealand Award winner for its conservation work.

The Farm has been named as one of the AA's 101 Must Do's for Kiwis

regularly reprinted. Curl up on a comfy chair in Bullswool garden, and be charmed by stories of New Zealand's rural past. You can read or listen to recordings of Keith reading his poems. Hear how *The Bludger* got his come-uppance in *The Bludger and the Shearing Gang*, how the course of true love does not run smooth in *The Brief Courtship of Samuel Phipps* and of the

But if you dig a bit deeper, you'll find this place inspired the wonderful works of Keith Austen, and his book of poems *Bullswool & Barbed Wire*. Set in the 1950s, this humorous collection of poems has been immensely popular since its first publication, and is

powerful bond between farmers and their animals in *Fred and Old Snap*.

Keith's popular collection of poems have featured on TVNZ's Country Calendar, Pacific Radio, Radio NZ and Prime TV. His book *Bullswool & Barbed Wire*, includes delightful illustrations by Malcolm Evans, of Edna fame, New Zealand's Cartoonist of the year in 1999. Keith's family now live and work the farm, and have the same twinkle in their eyes for fun and adventure. Who knows, you may even fall in love with this place like we did. Remember to pack a delicious picnic and good walking shoes!



Click on the QR code to hear Keith recite one of his poems, *It's still a rabbit*.





ADJACENT TO THE HAURAKI RAIL TRAIL IN PAEROA, WITH RIDE OPTIONS TO WAIHI, THAMES OR TE AROHA

- Stay multi nights & enjoy cycling all 3 sections
- Luxury first rate lifestyle accommodation
- Secure lock up facility for bikes
- Free onsite parking
- Walking distance to Restaurants, Cafes & Bars

2A Arney Street, Paeroa 07 862 8788 0800 579 645
email: stay@pedlarsmotel.nz www.pedlarsmotel.nz



Cyclone Gabrielle

You Bad Girl!

Floods have long been an issue on the Hauraki Rail Trail Network. The Hauraki Plains are flat, low-lying, and dissected by the Piako and Waihou rivers. Run off from the Kaimai Ranges, which are prone to intense rainfall, rapidly fills the Ohinemuri River within the narrow Karangahake Gorge before surging out onto the flood plains. To add to the woes, high tides caused by the low pressure system push back on the river, forcing water levels to rise even faster. It's a recipe for disaster.

On 14 February 2023, hot off the heels of Cyclone Hale (29 January 2023), Cyclone Gabrielle struck New Zealand, wreaking havoc throughout the North Island. Winds peaked at 165km an hour and eleven people across New Zealand lost their lives as a direct result of the storm.

Overnight we observed with trepidation, as the water level monitor at Queens Head within the Karangahake Gorge rose from a normal level of 0.3m, to a massive and enraged 7.8m at its peak, with water flow increasing to 480 cubic metres per second. That's the equivalent of over 50 African elephants stampeding through the river every second! The Trail between Waihi and Waikino had been demolished. There weren't just

potholes, but massive waist deep gauges. In other areas, whole sections of the Trail were washed away, and sand build-up was well over a metre deep.

Kaiaua experienced storm inundations that stripped away the surface in hundred metre stretches. Everywhere the Trail was damaged. The stop-banks did their job and largely protected Paeroa, but the Historical Maritime Park that sits within the catchment area had water rise to its rooftops.

The great team at the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment, along with our Council partners, and even the public rallied together. We raised over \$2million which enabled us to start work to get the surface to a point where we could safely reopen. Two months later, we were able to remove the closed signs at Waihi and Waikino.

Works will continue into 2025 to repair the damage, and while there will be some disruptions, we encourage you to come and enjoy our fantastic Trails and wonderful hospitality. The Trail is still a pleasure to ride, albeit a little lumpy and bumpy while we work hard to get it back into shape. Some of our riders have said they are enjoying it that way!



Check the website for any closures before you ride, or scan our QR codes found here and throughout the Network for any changes.



LAUNDROMAT

- Self Service Laundry
- **Hot Showers, basins & mirrors** (Paeroa only)
- Cashless Payment - we accept: Eftpos, Credit Card, Apple or Google Pay
- Open 7 days: 7am-8pm
- Bike stands outside Laundromats

PAEROA 3 Mackay St	WAIHI 2 School Lane	WAIHI BEACH 'In the Village'
------------------------------	-------------------------------	--

Enjoy luxury accommodation after your ride, at Orokawa Bay Retreat.

Relax and revitalise with friends. The Retreat sleeps up to 8 guests in 4 rooms, with stunning views and a superb outdoor hot tub.

orokawabayretreat.com | Ph: 021 272 0833



- Relax in our natural thermal, hot mineral pools - open to the public
 - Our superb waterfront location offers peace and tranquility
 - Accommodation incl; Chalets, Motel, Cabins & Camping Sites
 - A safe family environment
- bookings@athenreehotsprings.co.nz



1 Athenree Rd, Athenree | Ph (07) 863 5600 | athenreehotsprings.co.nz

THE PERFECT BASE FOR YOUR CYCLING ADVENTURES

68 Thames Road, Paeroa. Phone: 07 862 7145 racecoursemotel@extra.co.nz

- Studio to family units '10 units refurbished in 2023'
- Quiet & peaceful location
- Close to all amenities
- Patio and BBQ area
- Parking on-site for each unit
- Free WiFi

Buy Better Build Better

Location
10 Taylor Ave
(next to the Trail)

Hours
Mon-Fri: 7:30am - 5pm
Sat: 8.00am - 1pm

Contact
07 862 8775
buildlinkpaeroa.com

Unleash creativity with our Timber and Hardware Store: top-notch timber, tools, paint and expertise for your trade or DIY visions. Your projects, elevated.

Traps & Trees

The 160km Hauraki Rail Trail lends itself to much more than cycling. The Trust has partnered with three organisations, HELP Waihi, Trees for Survival and Thames Valley Deerstalkers, to improve the biodiversity of the land which the Trail traverses. We call it our 'Traps and Trees' programme.

Habitat Enhancement and Landcare Partnership Waihi Inc., appropriately known as **HELP Waihi**, was originally established by people representing the local section of Forest & Bird, Newmont Waihi Gold, and local schools. Established in 1997, HELP Waihi projects improve the local natural environment of the Waihi area and beyond. This includes a successful partnership with the Hauraki Rail Trail, raising over \$170,000 for ecology improvements along the Trail.

For over thirty years, the **Trees for Survival** Charitable Trust has worked with over 150 schools and local communities across New Zealand, to grow and plant native trees along waterways and environmentally at-risk sites. Their environmental education programme provides a hands-on opportunity for school children to make a practical difference to their environment. They also learn about conservation, revegetation, wetland restoration, protecting stream water quality and creating habitat for our native wildlife.

In August 2022, six schools joined Trees For Survival and HELP Waihi out on the Trail. They planted nearly 3,000 native plants. The trees planted will provide shelter, and a lasting legacy that future Trail users can be proud of.



and pursuits. The more recent development has been the partnership with the Hauraki Rail Trail, building and installing over 500 traps between Waihi and Thames.

TVDA members have made, assembled, and laid out all of these traps, which are maintained, monitored and cleared fortnightly. Volunteer members love seeing the excellent results of increased wildlife - native birds, reptiles, frogs and insects that occur so quickly by removing rats, stoats, weasels, ferrets and hedgehogs.

Keep up the good work everyone, it's very much appreciated!



2 Puke Road, Paeroa, New Zealand
PH: 07 280 2510
bookme@paeroamotel.co.nz
www.paeroamotel.co.nz



The third partner to our Traps and Trees Programme is the **Thames Valley Deerstalkers Association (TVDA)**. TVDA is one of New Zealand's most long-standing deerstalking clubs, and has members from preschool through to those long since retired. A strong focus is the conservation work which complements other outdoor and recreational activities

Choose your ride

Day Rides:

Section A: Kaiaua to Thames - 55kms (5-6 hours)

Taking in the Kaiaua Shorebirds, lush farm lands and Wetlands with views to the Tikapa Moana and the Coromandel. See more on page 4.

Section B: Thames to Paeroa - 34kms (3-4 hours)

Cycle through lush farm land, past small towns with a few glimpses of the Waihou and Ohinemuri Rivers arriving at the famous giant L&P bottle. See more on page 13.

Section C: Paeroa to Waihi - 24kms (2-3 hours)

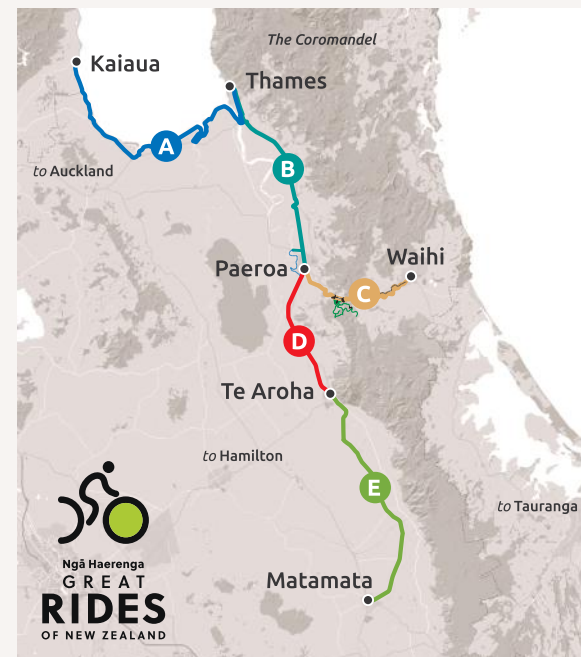
A stunning trail through the Karangahake Gorge including bridges, bush clad mountain views and an 1100 metre long train tunnel. See more on page 29.

Section D: Paeroa to Te Aroha - 23kms (2-3 hours)

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. See more on page 37.

Section E: Te Aroha to Matamata - 37kms (2-4 hours)

An unexpected journey past goat, dairy and thoroughbred farms, with views to the Wairere Falls, and the Firth Tower to Hobbiton (Matamata). See more on page 43.



Journey along the Hauraki Rail Trail, one of New Zealand's oldest railway corridors. Dating back to 1898, the Trail travels through some of New Zealand's most beautiful countryside and townships steeped in history.

Multi-day Rides:

3 Day (Advanced)

Are you a speed demon or short for time? This ride is for fit and experienced cyclists on a tight schedule, head down and pedals cranking. There's no need to miss out on anything, just pack it all into three days. Ride it like you stole it, and tick the entire Hauraki Rail Trail off your list. With great options for overnights, there's every opportunity to soak up the best the region has to offer.

5 Day (Cruising)

Stay and play for longer in our magical region and make the most of all of the attractions and activities along or near the Trail. Take a break, escape, and adventure. The five Sections of Trail vary in length from 23km to 55km, which means you can comfortably tick off one Section each day. With good preparation, research, and planning, a self-guided ride offers freedom and independence. You can ride at your own pace, take extra photos, and laze for longer over lunch.



Information/Bookings

- JollyBikes**
96 Richmond Street, Thames
Phone: 07 867 9026
 - Paeroa Information Hub**
6 Wharf Street, Paeroa
Phone: 07 862 8636
 - Waihi isite**
126 Seddon Street, Waihi
Phone: 07 863 6715
 - Te Aroha isite**
102 Whitaker St, Te Aroha
Phone: 07 884 8052
 - Matamata isite**
45 Broadway, Matamata
Phone: 07 888 7260
- Great Rides APP**
Download from Apple Store or Google Play

Dine & Drink

- The Pink Shop**
999 East Coast Road, Kaiaua
- Bay View Hotel**
943 East Coast Road, Kaiaua
- Kaiaua Fish n Chips**
939 East Coast Road, Kaiaua
- Miranda Farm Shop, Café & Gallery**
1107 Miranda Road, Miranda
- Bugger Café**
1492 SH 25, Pipiroa
- Kopu Café**
101 Kopu Road, Kopu
- The Wharf Coffee House & Bar**
Shortland Wharf, Thames
- Burton's on Pollen**
404 Pollen Street, Thames
- Gastronomics Café Restaurant & Bar**
428-430 Pollen St, Thames
- The Cheese Barn & Farm Park**
4 Wainui Road, Matatoki
- Paeroa Café Bar & Restaurant**
2 Seymour Street, Paeroa
- The Refinery Coffee Shop**
5 Willoughby Street, Paeroa
- Courtyard Café**
72 Normanby Road, Paeroa
- Subway Paeroa**
Normanby Road, Paeroa
- One 3 One Bar & Restaurant**
131 Normanby Road, Paeroa
- The Falls Retreat**
25 Waitawheta Road, Waikino
- Waikino Hotel**
8541 State Highway 2, Waikino
- Waikino Station Café**
33 Cadman Street, Waikino
- Waihi Memorial RSA**
13 Seddon Street, Waihi
- Flat White Café and Bar**
21 Shaw Road, Waihi Beach
- Domain Cottage Café**
Te Aroha Domain, 102 Whitaker St, Te Aroha
- Ironique Café and Bar**
159 Whitaker St, Te Aroha
- The Duck & Cover Bar & Restaurant**
174 Whitaker Street, Te Aroha
- The Old Forge Kitchen**
9 Alexandra Rd, Te Aroha West
- Café 77**
420 Manawaru Rd, Manawaru
- Merchant of Matamata**
44 Broadway, Matamata

Places to Stay

- Sea Urchin Cottage**
4 Pohutukawa Ave, Kaiaua
- Pūkoro-Miranda Shorebird Centre**
283 East Coast Road, Miranda
- Miranda Holiday Park**
595 Front Miranda Rd, Miranda
- Miranda Homestead B&B**
397 Front Miranda Rd, Miranda
- Dickson Holiday Park**
Victoria Street, Tararu
- Tuscany on Thames Motel**
200 Jellicoe Crescent, Thames
- Avalon Motel**
104 Jellicoe Crescent, Thames
- Rolleston Motel**
105 Rolleston Street, Thames
- Lady Bowen B&B**
506 Brown Street, Thames
- Onetai Estate**
209 Onetai Road, Hikutaia
- Corbett House B&B**
8088 State Highway 26, Hikutaia
- Earthbridge Eco B&B**
812 Maratoto Road, Komata
- Historical Maritime Park***
(Campervans) Puke Rd North, Paeroa
- Paeroa RV Centre**
10 Coronation Street, Paeroa
- Pedlars Motel**
2A Arney Street, Paeroa
- Paeroa Motel**
2 Puke Road, Paeroa
- The Refinery**
5 Willoughby Street, Paeroa
- Racecourse Motel**
68 Thames Road, Paeroa
- Hauraki Experience**
89 Terrace Rd, Karangahake
- The Falls Retreat**
25 Waitawheta Rd, Karangahake
- Palm Motel Waihi**
123 Parry Palm Avenue, Waihi
- Shunters Cottage**
Wrigley Street, Waihi
- Goldmine Motel**
6 Victoria Street, Waihi
- Trailblazers Studios**
33 Union Street, Waihi
- The Barn Bed & Breakfast**
3 Symonds Street, Waihi
- Orokawa Bay Retreat**
28 Poets Corner Road, Waihi
- Waihi Camp & Cabins**
6 Waitete Road, Waihi
- Waihi Beach Paradise Resort**
24 Broadway Rd, Waihi Beach
- Te Aroha Accommodation Central**
Terminus Street, Te Aroha
- Te Aroha Holiday Park**
217 Stanley Road, Te Aroha
- Community View S/C Campervan Park***
420 Manawaru Rd, Manawaru
- The Old Church**
427 Manawaru Rd, Manawaru
- House with No Nails**
80 Waghorn Road, Wardville
- Firth Tower Reserve - Campervan Park***
266 Te Aroha Road, Matamata
- Tower Road Motel**
108 Tower Road, Matamata
- Broadway Motel**
128 Broadway, Matamata

* Self contained motorhomes, campervans and caravans ONLY

Things to See & Do

- Miranda Farm Gallery**
1107 Miranda Road, Miranda
- Pūkoro-Miranda Shorebird Centre**
283 East Coast Rd, Miranda
- Thames School of Mines**
101 Cochrane St, Thames
- The Aviator Experience**
705 Pollen Street, Thames
- Kauaeranga Valley Walks**
Kauaeranga Valley, Thames
- Historical Maritime Park**
6894 State Highway 2, Paeroa
- HMP River Cruises**
6894 State Highway 2, Paeroa
- The Paeroa & District Historical Museum**
37 Belmont Road, Paeroa
- Bullswool Heritage Farm**
240 Rahu Road, Karangahake
- Karangahake Gorge Walks**
See www.doc.govt.nz
- Owharoa Falls**
Waitawheta Road, Waikino
- Victoria Battery Tramway & Museum**
Ohinemuri River, Waikino
- Goldfields Railway Inc**
38 Wrigley Street, Waihi
- Waihi Gold Discovery Centre**
126 Seddon St, Waihi
- Waihi Martha Mine Pit Rim Walk**
Martha Street, Waihi
- Waihi Art Centre & Museum**
54 Kenny Street, Waihi
- Swim Zone Te Aroha**
The Domain, Te Aroha
- Te Aroha Mineral Spas**
The Domain, Te Aroha
- Te Aroha Museum**
The Domain, Te Aroha
- Community View - Climbing Wall**
420 Manawaru Rd, Manawaru
- Heritage Centre at Community View**
420 Manawaru Rd, Manawaru
- Firth Tower Museum**
266 Te Aroha Rd, Matamata
- Swim Zone Matamata**
10 Meura Street, Matamata
- Hobbiton Movie Set Tours**
501 Buckland Road, Hinuera

Bike Hire

- Shorebird Cycles**
933 East Coast Road, Kaiaua
- JollyBikes**
96 Richmond Street, Thames
- JollyBikes**
96 Richmond St, Thames
- Hauraki Bike Hire**
6 Wharf Street, Paeroa
- Adventure Bike Hire**
Waihi, 027 398 2866
- Waihi Bicycle Hire & Shuttles**
126 Seddon St, Waihi (i-SITE)
- Riverside Adventures**
396 Horahora Road, Piarere
- Venture Scooters e-Bike Conversions**
601 Landsdowne Rd, Walton

Bike Servicing

- JollyBikes**
96 Richmond St, Thames
- The Cycle Fixery**
8 First Ave South, Waihou
- Waihi Bicycle Hire - Tours**
126 Seddon St, Waihi
- Waihi Gold Discovery Centre**
126 Seddon St, Waihi
- Biking Hiking Shuttles**
651 Te Aroha Gordon Rd, Te Aroha
- Riverside Adventures**
396 Horahora Rd, Piarere
- R and R Adventures**
Auckland. Ph: 021 748 067
- Wanderlust Solo Women Tours**
www.wanderlustsolowomentours.com

Tour Services

- JollyBikes**
96 Richmond Street, Thames
- Valley Tours & Transfers**
Wharf Street, Paeroa
- Hauraki Experience**
89 Terrace Rd, Karangahake
- Read Bros Hardware**
308 Pollen Street, Thames
- Kneez Massage Therapy**
6-7 Mackay Street, Thames
- BuildLink Paeroa**
Taylor Avenue, Paeroa
- Ajay's - V8 Parts / Neon Effects**
5 Fraser Street, Paeroa
- Go Waihi - Business Assn**
26 Rosemont Road, Waihi
- Self Service Laundromats**
Paeroa, Waihi, Waihi Beach

Retail & Other

- Shorebird Cycles**
All Sections
Phone: 021 243 0513
- Waihi Bicycle Hire - Shuttles**
All Sections
Phone: 07 863 9015
- Biking Hiking Shuttles**
All Sections
Phone: 021 065 3382
- Valley Tours & Transfers**
All Sections & Airport transfers
Phone: 027 549 6357
- Riverside Adventures**
All Sections
Phone: 0800 247 448

Shuttles

- Adventure Bike Hire Shuttles**
All Sections
Phone: 027 398 2866
- Waihi Bicycle Hire - Shuttles**
All Sections
Phone: 07 863 9015
- Biking Hiking Shuttles**
All Sections
Phone: 021 065 3382
- Valley Tours & Transfers**
All Sections & Airport transfers
Phone: 027 549 6357
- Riverside Adventures**
All Sections
Phone: 0800 247 448



Victoria Battery Tramway Society Inc.
Waikino, Waihi

TRAMWAY MUSEUM

HISTORIC VICTORIA BATTERY SITE
WAIKINO, WAIHI





VICTORIA BATTERY TRAM RIDES **MUSEUM** **KILN TUNNEL GUIDED TOURS**

Open Weekends & Public Holidays 10am-3pm Eftpos available

• Group Tours & Info E: info@vbts.org.nz www.vbts.org.nz •



Travel back in time and enjoy a ride on a heritage train

- Journey between Waihi and Waikino in the Karangahake Gorge
- Includes an outdoor carriage that accommodates bikes
- Ride one way on the train and cycle back or travel both ways
- A great experience for all ages
- View our website for timetable & pricing or to [Book Online](#)



38 Wrigley Street, Waihi
Em: goldfieldsrailway@xtra.nz www.waihirail.co.nz

WAIKINO STATION CAFE

- Delicious country fare
- Quality espresso and teas
- Great service - with a smile
- Licensed

Step back in time and enjoy!

PH 07 863 8640
Karangahake Gorge, SH2, Waikino

[waikinoStationCafe](http://waikinoStationCafe.com)




BIKING HIKING SHUTTLES

'Let us take the hassle out of planning your next biking or hiking adventure'

- We cover all five sections of the Hauraki Rail Trail
- We offer Hiking Shuttles for Kaimai Ranges as well

021 065 3382 bikinghikingshuttles@gmail.com
www.bikinghikingshuttles.co.nz

Biking Hiking Shuttles
5.0 ★★★★★
Based on 56 reviews
powered by Google

[review us on Google](#)

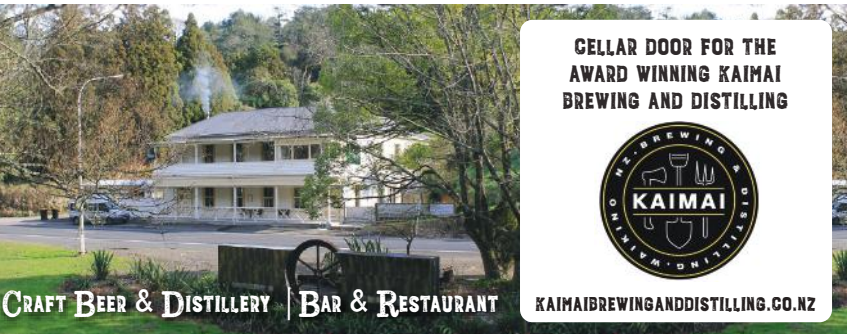



WAIKINO HOTEL BAR & KITCHEN


Open Daily from 12pm
Ph. 07 863 8381

HEARTWARMING HOSPITALITY IN THE WILD KARANGAHAKE GORGE. WAIKINO HOTEL BAR AND KITCHEN OFFERS THIRST QUENCHING BEVERAGES AND HOMESTYLE SOUL FOOD.

8541 STATE HIGHWAY 2 | [WAIKINOHOTEL.CO.NZ](http://waikinoHotel.co.nz)



CELLAR DOOR FOR THE AWARD WINNING KAIMAI BREWING AND DISTILLING



KAIMAI BREWING AND DISTILLING
KAIMAIBREWINGANDDISTILLING.CO.NZ

CRAFT BEER & DISTILLERY | BAR & RESTAURANT



Stepping Back in Time

Stepping back in time has never been easier than a ride by bike or train, between Waihi and Waikino.

The impressive Railway Station in Wrigley Street, is the only ex-New Zealand Railway site that still contains its original buildings which are classified Category II by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. Goldfields Railway Inc manages the popular train ride, catering for history buffs, railway enthusiasts, and visitors to the Hauraki Rail Trail. The 30-minute journey takes passengers from Waihi through to Waikino (or vice versa) at the eastern end of the Karangahake Gorge, and offers a unique experience to learn about the area's history.

Arriving at Waikino, you would think the station that now houses a café, has been there forever. The building that now occupies the site was moved there from Paeroa in 1990. Waikino became central to the gold mining industry in the late 1800s with the construction of the Victoria Battery. The 1890 census recorded five people of European decent living in Waikino. By 1906, the population had reached almost 2000.

The Victoria Battery is a short 1km ride from Waikino Station. Construction of the Victoria Battery began in 1897 to crush ore from the Martha Mine. Drawn by steam locomotives, 40 skip wagons each loaded with 1½ tonne of quartz ore were hauled to the Battery site, and there would be 14 trains daily. Once completed it was the largest quartz crushing plant for gold extraction in Australasia. About 200 people on average, were employed at the Battery whilst in operation.

The Waihi-based Martha Mine closed in 1952, however work continued at the Battery until 1955. The ruins are now managed by the Department of Conservation. Today visitors can explore the relics of the 'Old Processing' site or take a tour in the Tram pulled by old mining engines. Its worth the trip up the hill to take a tour of the Museum to hear and see a visual history of the site in the Old Transformer Building. There are also unique tours which view the only underground roasting ore kiln's tunnel in New Zealand.

The 1.2km tramway winds its way from Transformer House past the remnants giving passengers a glimpse of what might have been and runs a couple of days each week. Transformer House now houses an amazing collection of photos and artefacts, bringing together the stories and images that tell the story of the Victoria Battery and its importance to the life and development of Waikino and Waihi.

Both the Victoria Battery and Goldfields Railway are looking for volunteers to help run their operations.

Contact info@haurakirailtrail.co.nz for more information.

KEREPEHI SCHOOL adventures

As adventures go, bike rides and overnight camping are at the top of the list. Recently the entire Kerepehi School headed to Karangahake Gorge. The overnight stay at Waitewheta Camp amounted to a whopping 72 children aged 5 -13 years, and 22 adults. The older children rode from Paeroa to the Victoria Battery and Museum, and it was incredible to see 54 children on bikes exploring the Rail Trail.

The Thames Seagull Centre donated bikes and spent time checking the student's own bikes. Ngatea School lent an additional fifteen bikes and twenty helmets to support the ride. To ensure a safe and fun trip, the Council-funded initiative of Safe Cycling gave lessons on bike safety and checked helmets fitted correctly.

The two-day extravaganza included visits to Bullswool Heritage Farm, Victoria Battery Tramway and Museum, Goldfields Railway, and Waihi Gold Discovery Centre. What legends!



SPIKE'S BRICKS & MODELS
 Lego Museum located in the centre of Waihi
 (a must visit for any true Lego fan!)
 A collection and interactive display
 fun for everyone, young & old
 25 Hazard St, Waihi
PH 0274 515 706
 Spike's Bricks and Models

Palm Motel Waihi
 Relax at Palm Motel Waihi
 - where your comfort is a priority
 123 Parry Palm Ave, Waihi 07 863 8461

Our Facilities

- Swimming Pool
- Spa
- Sky TV
- Free Wi-Fi
- BBQ & Gardens
- Bike Storage

300m from Trail

Goldmine Motel
 WAIHI, NEW ZEALAND
 10 Spacious, warm and comfortable units with modern amenities
 A short walk to Waihi CBD cafés & restaurants
 Smart TVs, Unlimited WI-FI
 Perfect 'base' for your adventure on the Hauraki Rail Trail

6 Victoria Street, Waihi 3610 Ph 07 863 7111 Email info@goldminemotel.co.nz Web www.goldminemotel.co.nz



Waihi

Waihi was known as New Zealand's 'Heart of Gold'. Its gold mining history spans three centuries and the local open-pit mine is fully operational. Visit the Gold Discovery Centre which makes the gold heritage come alive. Then cross the street to view the Martha Mine.



Information & Bookings

3 Waihi isite
 126 Seddon Street, Waihi
 Phone: 07 863 6715

Dine & Drink

24 Waihi Memorial RSA
 13 Seddon Street, Waihi

Places to Stay

- 52 Palm Motel Waihi**
123 Parry Palm Ave, Waihi
- 53 Shunters Cottage**
Wrigley Street, Waihi
- 54 Goldmine Motel**
6 Victoria Street, Waihi
- 55 Trailblazers Studios**
33 Union Street, Waihi
- 56 The Barn Bed & Breakfast**
3 Symonds Street, Waihi
- 57 Orokawa Bay Retreat**
28 Poets Corner Road, Waihi
- 58 Waihi Camp & Cabins**
6 Waitete Road, Waihi

Things to See & Do

- 81 Goldfields Railway Inc**
38 Wrigley Street, Waihi
- 82 Waihi Gold Discovery Centre**
126 Seddon Street, Waihi
- 83 Waihi Martha Mine Pit Rim Walk**
Martha Street, Waihi
- 84 Waihi Art Centre & Museum**
54 Kenny Street, Waihi

Bike Hire / Tour Services

- 96 Adventure Bike Hire**
Waihi, 027 398 2866
- 97 Waihi Bicycle Hire - Tours & Shuttles**
126 Seddon Street, Waihi isite
- 105 Waihi Gold Discovery Centre**
126 Seddon Street, Waihi
- 106 Waihi Gold Discovery Centre**
126 Seddon Street, Waihi

Shuttles

See Shuttle Services on page 26

Where would we be without Community?

A project as large and long as the Hauraki Rail Trail needs countless contributors to make it happen and keep it running. Financially it needs national support to get it off the ground and regional support to keep it maintained. But it also needs community support to instigate and help with improvements to the Trail. We call our community supporters Trail Angels.

Trail Angels are our very best friends on the Hauraki Rail Trail. This year we are celebrating **Derrick Rowe**, keen cyclist, outdoor enthusiast, Epiphyte hunter and all-round good guy! Didge, as he is affectionately known sadly left us earlier this year, but not without being an honored member of our Trail Angel network.

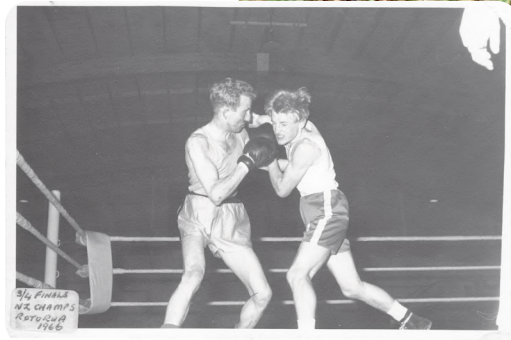


Didge was a very special character, he loved life and never did anything by halves. As a young man, he won his weight class at the NZ Boxing championships. Over sixty years later, in his 80's, Didge was regularly seen riding the Trail, either with Thames 50+, or undertaking his own working bees to clear rubbish, or hawthorns. His passionate nature extended beyond cycling, where he became an expert of Epiphytes, travelling widely in the Pacific to document and research these plants. He was well-respected in Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands, and also Queensland for his expertise on these plants.



Moving to Kopu in his retirement gave Didge easy access to the Hauraki Rail Trail, Didge rekindled his joy of cycling, and clocked up over 8,000kms of cycling pleasure, well into his 80's. He was an active member of the Thames 50+ Cycling Group, and loved the social connection, shared adventures, and good times. Following several surgeries, Didge claimed the Trail was key to his recovery. His regular reports to the Trust made him a trusted friend, and valuable source of knowledge. He assisted at events like Tour Aotearoa, handing out bottled water to thirsty cyclists, and making

deliveries of water to where it was needed. Didge recalled the old cattle-stops, and was pleased to see all 107 of them replaced. His regular calls into the HRT office were always welcomed, and he became a good friend. Didge encouraged everyone to make the effort to enjoy every day. "If you're a cyclist, keep enjoying, and if you're not hooked, get out on the Trail and give it a go!"



The Hauraki Experience

Rail Trail Cycle Tours and Hospitality

haurakiexperience.co.nz



Experience the beauty of the Hauraki Rail Trail, from the heart of the Karangahake Gorge.

An experience that'll leave you wanting more. Artist-inspired accommodation and catering with attention to detail.

A relaxing rural setting in Waihi



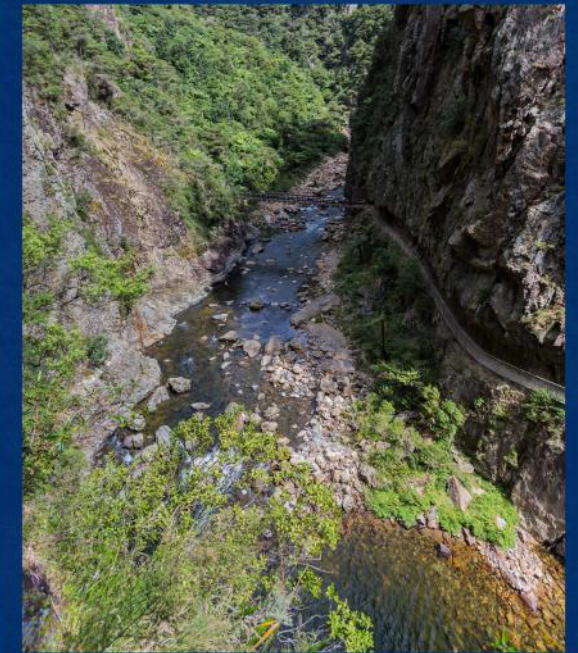
Log cabins, family units, cabins and spacious tent sites. Backpackers welcome.

6 Waitete Road, Waihi 07 863 7654
email: info@waihicampandcabins.nz
<https://www.waihicampandcabins.nz>



/Real Locals

with in-depth knowledge



/Real supporters of the Hauraki Rail Trail & Our Community

Keeping the 'Real' in Real Estate

Paeroa / 54 Belmont Road / 07 862 7888
Ngatea / 33 Orchard West Road / 07 867 7800

/Richardsons

Real Estate Ltd MREINZ
Licensed REA2008

richardsons.co.nz

Waihi Extension

Creating a safe and scenic route for cyclists to explore Waihi and its CBD

Hauraki District Council is investing \$1.47million to connect the Waihi Railway Station to the Waihi township via the Ohinemuri River. The vision is to create something special for the community and expand upon the unique experience for visitors to the area.

The extension will increase accessibility to cycle or walk alongside the river, passing through the delightful Gilmour Lake Reserve, then flow into the top end of the Waihi Township, culminating at the Waihi isite.

When complete, the new trail will cater for both short and long rides. Trail users can start at the trail head in Waihi and continue on to Waikino to catch the train back, or travel much further afield across the 160km long Trail. To make things easy, riders can catch a shuttle back to Waihi from almost anywhere

on the Network. Families will be able to do shorter rides of the trail in town. It also safely connects to the playground at the Gilmour Reserve, and takes riders on a journey past some of Waihi's mining history.

The project has been undertaken with the community in mind, giving access to areas that were once largely hidden. The quality of the existing tracks have been vastly improved. We still have some work to do before it will be fully connected end to end, so keep an eye on our website for updates and opening celebrations.

Feedback from the community and stakeholders has been incredibly positive, in particular with regard to accessibility for those in wheelchairs or with limited mobility. The wide concrete path and board walks safely navigate tree roots and what used to be uneven ground. This opens up a beautiful section of Waihi for those who were previously unable to explore these areas.



GOLD DISCOVERY CENTRE
GET INSIDE THE FENCE & GET THE INSIDE STORY

waihi gold mine tours
waihi gold experience

Learn about Waihi's fascinating gold story that began in 1878 and still continues today...

golddiscoverycentre.co.nz

waihi bicycle hire
E-bikes | Comfort Bikes
Tours | Shuttle Service

- ✓ Hauraki Rail Trail
- ✓ Karangahake Gorge
- ✓ Old Train Tunnel
- ✓ Owharoa Falls
- ✓ Victoria Battery
- ✓ Waikino Station & Cafe

You'll find us at the **isite**
126 Seddon St.
WAIHI
07 863 9015

Paeroa to Te Aroha

Heading south, this leisurely section passes through lush Waikato farmland dotted with dairy cows and farm animals. The Kaimai-Mamaku Ranges and Mt Te Aroha (952m - The Mountain of Love), and expansive views over the Hauraki Plains are a feast for the eyes. Pack your togs and make the most of Te Aroha Mineral Spas. It's a great way to soothe pedal weary muscles at the end of a ride.

SECTION D

DISTANCE: 23kms
Paeroa to Tirohia: 6kms
Tirohia to Mangaiti: 9kms
Mangaiti to Te Aroha: 8kms

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

Ngā Haerenga GREAT RIDES OF NEW ZEALAND

Key Information:

Distance: 23kms (2-3 hours)

Fitness: All Levels

Skill: All Levels

Traffic: Light to Moderate

Grade: 1

Trail Status:



Please Note:

- Mobile phone coverage is good.
- Dogs only permitted where the trail intersects at Paeroa/Te Aroha.

Highlights include:

- Leisurely riding beside the Kaimai Ranges
- Views of Mt Te Aroha
- Country landscapes and farm animals
- Soak in the Te Aroha Mineral Spas
- Adrian Worsley sculptures





It's more fun riding with friends

Regardless of age or fitness, everyone can enjoy the freedom, fun and health benefits of biking. Cycling is ideal to improve strength and balance, has low impact on joints, and many of us will cycle well into our 70's and beyond. Whether you're rusty, or want to ride more regularly, here's our tips.

Ride in a group - Biking is a social activity, so encourage friends or join a club to improve skills, and meet like-minded cyclists to ride with. Touch base with a few local cycling groups to find out which one suits your style.

Fuel up - Ease in and improve endurance and skill by listening to your body, gradually increasing distance, effort and speed. Eat to sustain your ride and carry water to stay hydrated.

E-Bikes - e-Bikes are popular for senior or injured riders, and can make up for lack of strength or stamina. Start small and build up to more challenging routes as you become comfortable, confident, and technically able.

Try something new - Adventure on each other's favourite sections. Biking with friends offers support and encouragement to meet new goals. Places you might not tackle alone become achievable for your group.

Plan and prepare - Seek local knowledge, plan your route, and tell someone your plans. Always check the weather and be prepared for changes.

Join a Local Cycling Group - Use your smartphone camera to scan the QR codes to find out about one of our local cycling groups.



Waihi 50+
A fun social group who bike and enjoy coffee enroute. You can find the calendar of rides on their website.

the start of the Hauraki Rail Trail in Thames (near Shortland Wharf).



Katikati Greyhounds
The Group caters for cyclists on fat tyres who want to explore the trails in the wider local area.

the start of the Hauraki Rail Trail in Thames (near Shortland Wharf).



Thames 50+
Rides leave on a Tuesday and Saturday at 8.45am at the start of the Hauraki Rail Trail in Thames (near Shortland Wharf).

the start of the Hauraki Rail Trail in Thames (near Shortland Wharf).



Katikati Whippets
This social cycle group meet on Sunday mornings to explore trails around Katikati and Waihi.

Sunday mornings to explore trails around Katikati and Waihi.

MELOYELO E-BIKES ARE IDEAL FOR THE HAURAKI RAIL TRAIL

Contact me to arrange a free test ride. It's simple, no hassle and fun! Financing available.

LUEN WONG 021-818-800
COROMANDEL@MELOYELO.NZ

meLOYELO EBIKES

Te Aroha

This quaint rural township has a lovely domain, great walkways, art and cafes. Look out for the quirky art installations.



Information & Bookings

- 4** Te Aroha isite
102 Whitaker St, Te Aroha
Phone: 07 884 8052

Dine & Drink

- 26** Domain Cottage Café
Te Aroha Domain, 102 Whitaker St
- 27** Ironique Café and Bar
159 Whitaker St, Te Aroha
- 28** The Duck & Cover Bar & Restaurant
174 Whitaker St, Te Aroha
- 29** The Old Forge Kitchen
9 Alexandra Rd, Te Aroha West
- 30** Café 77
420 Manawaru Rd, Manawaru

Places to Stay

- 60** Te Aroha Accommodation Central
Terminus Street, Te Aroha
- 61** Te Aroha Holiday Park
217 Stanley Road, Te Aroha
- 62** Community View - S/C Campervan Park*
420 Manawaru Rd, Manawaru
- 63** The Old Church
427 Manawaru Rd, Manawaru
- 64** House with No Nails
80 Waghorn Road, Wardville

Things to See & Do

- 85** Swim Zone Te Aroha
The Domain, Te Aroha
- 86** Te Aroha Mineral Spas
The Domain, Te Aroha
- 87** Te Aroha Museum
The Domain, Te Aroha
- 88** Community View - Climbing Wall
420 Manawaru Rd, Manawaru
- 89** Heritage Centre at Community View
420 Manawaru Rd, Manawaru

Bike Servicing

- 100** The Cycle Fixery
8 First Ave South, Waihou

Tour Services

- 107** Biking Hiking Shuttles
651 Te Aroha Gordon Rd, Te Aroha

Shuttles

See Shuttle Services on page 26



tearohamineralspas.co.nz



swimzonepools.co.nz

Mt Te Aroha

From almost everywhere on the Hauraki Rail Trail, you can see the Te Aroha maunga (Mt Te Aroha). Standing at 952 metres tall, Mount Te Aroha is the highest point on the Kaimai-Mamaku Range.

The Kaimai Mamaku Forest Park stretches for 70 kilometres from the Karangahake Gorge near Waihi to the Mamaku Plateau near Rotorua. It forms a natural barrier between the Waikato and Bay of Plenty regions. Te Aroha maunga is sacred to not only the people of Ngāti Tumutumu but many surrounding iwi as well. The maunga and ngahere (forest) is an important part of the community as a whole.

Kaitiakitanga is a term used for the concept of guardianship, for the sky, the sea, and the land. A kaitiaki is a guardian, and the process and practices of protecting and looking after the environment are referred to as kaitiakitanga.

The lasting impacts of mining and global warming are not lost on the people of Ngāti Tumutumu.

They are creating something sustainable for all future generations through conservation efforts based around removing pest plants from the western side of Mt Te Aroha and the on-going management and maintenance of these.

Tumutumu's long-term goal is to restore the ngahere to what it previously was, with a flourishing native plant and bird life. This conservation project on the western face includes the walking tracks south towards Wairongomai Valley and across the summit. Today, the Ngāti Tumutumu Trust has its offices at the Te Aroha Railway Station, and the Trail passes through land owned by Tumutumu at this site

An important part of this kaupapa is to provide employment opportunities for Ngāti Tumutumu whānau members to return home to live and work in Te Aroha.



The perfect stop off point for that coffee, refreshing drink, snack, or lunch
 Outdoor seating with views of Te Aroha mountain
 Gifts and pantry goods for sale
 Closed Monday & Tuesday



A modern spacious licensed Café, Restaurant, Function Centre and Catering Business right on the Hauraki Rail Trail at Te Aroha West

9 Alexandra Road, Te Aroha West 3391 Ph 07 884 8338
 Email: info@theoldforge.co.nz www.theoldforgekitchen.co.nz

Ngā Haerenga Great Rides of New Zealand

Known in Te Reo Māori as Ngā Haerenga ('The Journeys'), the 23 Great Rides of New Zealand are as diverse as they are beautiful. Serving up an irresistible blend of scenic grandeur and striking natural wonders, alongside rich culture and heritage, exciting outdoor activities, and delicious food and wine. There's no better way to enjoy and explore New Zealand.

The Great Rides of New Zealand offer rewarding rides for all ages, abilities and interests. Showcasing some of the country's most amazing landscapes, the Great Rides are an exciting and environmentally sustainable way to reach must-see sights and activities, as well as delicious food and wine. See the best of New Zealand by bike, and explore, and share special times with family and friends.

Whether you're looking for a weekend adventure or an active holiday, to challenge yourself, or relax, restore and re-energise, there's endless adventures across the whole country from Northland to Southland, with cycling holidays and experiences to suit everyone. Many are easily accessible, with plenty of short, leisurely options, great food, accommodation and bike-friendly services to keep things simple and the focus on fun.

Scan the QR code to find your Great Ride



The Great Rides App is the only App designed for all of the Great Rides of the New Zealand Cycle Trail Network. It's free from the App stores and also works offline. It currently has over 1,500 pages of content. You can also find bird calls, plant identification, stories for each trail, and its simple layout makes it easy to browse, and view photos and location maps.

The App was created by passionate rider and cartographer, Gary Patterson. It took six months to ride all 23 trails and another six months to build the content for the App. Gary has also walked all the Great Walks of New Zealand and most of the private tracks and built the Great Hikes App, which is a Must Have App for outdoor enthusiasts.

KEVIN SMITH KERBING LTD

Specialists in machine-laid Kerb & Channel & all Concrete Work

Based in Paeroa we cover the Coromandel Peninsula, Waikato & South Auckland

027 493 5463

kskerb@gmail.com

www.kevin-smith-kerbing.com

NGĀ HAERENGA NEW ZEALAND CYCLE TRAILS

23 GREAT RIDES

Ngā Haerenga GREAT RIDES OF NEW ZEALAND

WESTERN ISLAND TRAILS

- 1. QUAKAROANUI TO KAIKARUWA CYCLE TRAIL
- 2. QUAKAROANUI TO KAIKARUWA CYCLE TRAIL
- 3. QUAKAROANUI TO KAIKARUWA CYCLE TRAIL
- 4. QUAKAROANUI TO KAIKARUWA CYCLE TRAIL
- 5. QUAKAROANUI TO KAIKARUWA CYCLE TRAIL
- 6. QUAKAROANUI TO KAIKARUWA CYCLE TRAIL
- 7. QUAKAROANUI TO KAIKARUWA CYCLE TRAIL
- 8. QUAKAROANUI TO KAIKARUWA CYCLE TRAIL
- 9. QUAKAROANUI TO KAIKARUWA CYCLE TRAIL
- 10. QUAKAROANUI TO KAIKARUWA CYCLE TRAIL

SOUTHERN ISLAND TRAILS

- 11. QUAKAROANUI TO KAIKARUWA CYCLE TRAIL
- 12. QUAKAROANUI TO KAIKARUWA CYCLE TRAIL
- 13. QUAKAROANUI TO KAIKARUWA CYCLE TRAIL
- 14. QUAKAROANUI TO KAIKARUWA CYCLE TRAIL
- 15. QUAKAROANUI TO KAIKARUWA CYCLE TRAIL
- 16. QUAKAROANUI TO KAIKARUWA CYCLE TRAIL
- 17. QUAKAROANUI TO KAIKARUWA CYCLE TRAIL
- 18. QUAKAROANUI TO KAIKARUWA CYCLE TRAIL
- 19. QUAKAROANUI TO KAIKARUWA CYCLE TRAIL
- 20. QUAKAROANUI TO KAIKARUWA CYCLE TRAIL

NORTH ISLAND TRAILS

- 21. QUAKAROANUI TO KAIKARUWA CYCLE TRAIL
- 22. QUAKAROANUI TO KAIKARUWA CYCLE TRAIL
- 23. QUAKAROANUI TO KAIKARUWA CYCLE TRAIL

GREAT RIDES OF NEW ZEALAND

Te Aroha to Matamata

Relax and make the most of this simple journey past goat, dairy and thoroughbred farms. As you approach Matamata look out for the majestic Wairere Falls - the highest waterfall in the North Island. Stop at the Firth Tower to enjoy the tranquil gardens and explore the museum displays. A visit to Hobbiton Movie Set is a Must Do. Take a Tour, feast like a Hobbit, and enjoy a tippie at the Green Dragon Inn.

SECTION E

DISTANCE: 37kms

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

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

Ngā Haerenga GREAT RIDES OF NEW ZEALAND

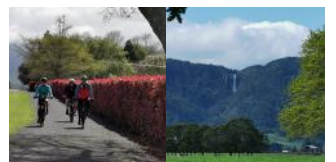
Key Information:

- Distance:** 37kms (2-4 hours)
- Fitness:** All Levels
- Skill:** All Levels
- Traffic:** Light to Moderate
- Grade:** 1
- Trail Status:**



Please Note:

- Mobile phone coverage is good.
- Dogs only permitted where the trail intersects at Te Aroha/Matamata.



Highlights include:

- A leisurely ride through lush Lush Waikato farmland and horse studs
- Historic Firth Tower Museum and Gardens
- Stunning Wairere Falls and 5km walking track
- Hobbiton Movie Set Tours or a tippie at the Green Dragon Inn

RIVERSIDE ADVENTURES WAIKATO

Looking for your next Hauraki Rail Trail adventure?

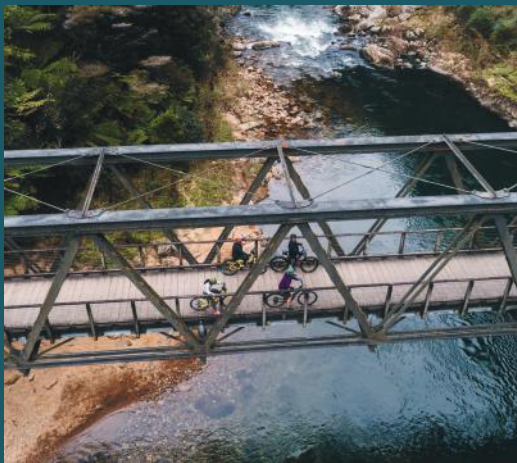
- BIKE & E-BIKE HIRE
- SHUTTLES
- CUSTOM PACKAGES
- LUGGAGE TRANSFERS
- VEHICLE RELOCATION
- ACCOMMODATION
- OTHER ACTIVITIES
- EXTRA DAYS ON OTHER TRAILS

Let our experienced team help you out - get in touch!

Bookings: info@riversideadventures.co.nz
0800 287 448



www.riversideadventures.co.nz



Transformation of Farming

The mild climate makes the Waikato ideal for pasture-based farming. Farming practices are changing, and we are seeing land which was once the domain of the dairy industry being transformed for other productive uses such as goat farms.

Along Section E of the Hauraki Rail Trail, we have seen the conversion of dairy farms into 'cut and carry' goat milking operations. Goats are mainly farmed for their milk, which is a valuable export item and processed into infant formula, with a small amount made into goat cheese.

Goat farms have plenty of flat, mowable land so farmers can easily cut and carry the grass or other fodder such as lucerne to the goats contained in large shelters. You can spot these farms by how manicured they look. Goats are sensitive animals with peculiar feeding habits, and are fastidious about cleanliness and like frequent changes to their feed. The fresh-cut pasture system for goats makes New Zealand unique in the world, as most farmers offshore allow the goats to forage.

Goat farming is a circular operation, with effluent scraped out of the sheds which then is composted before spreading back onto the land.

Also present along the southern section of the Trail is some of New Zealand's richest horse studs. Their beautifully maintained

'Red Robin' hedgerows and rows of cherry trees are a sight to behold. The Waikato Stud which borders the Trail was founded in 1967, when billionaire oilman Nelson Bunker Hunt from Texas purchased the then Matamata dairy farm which comprised 188 hectares. Bunker Hunt prior to that time had been very successful in purchasing New Zealand-bred fillies which he had taken home to the USA for racing and breeding. Today the Waikato Stud comprises of 688 hectares and is one of the most successful horse breeding studs in Australasia.



SECTION E: Te Aroha to Matamata



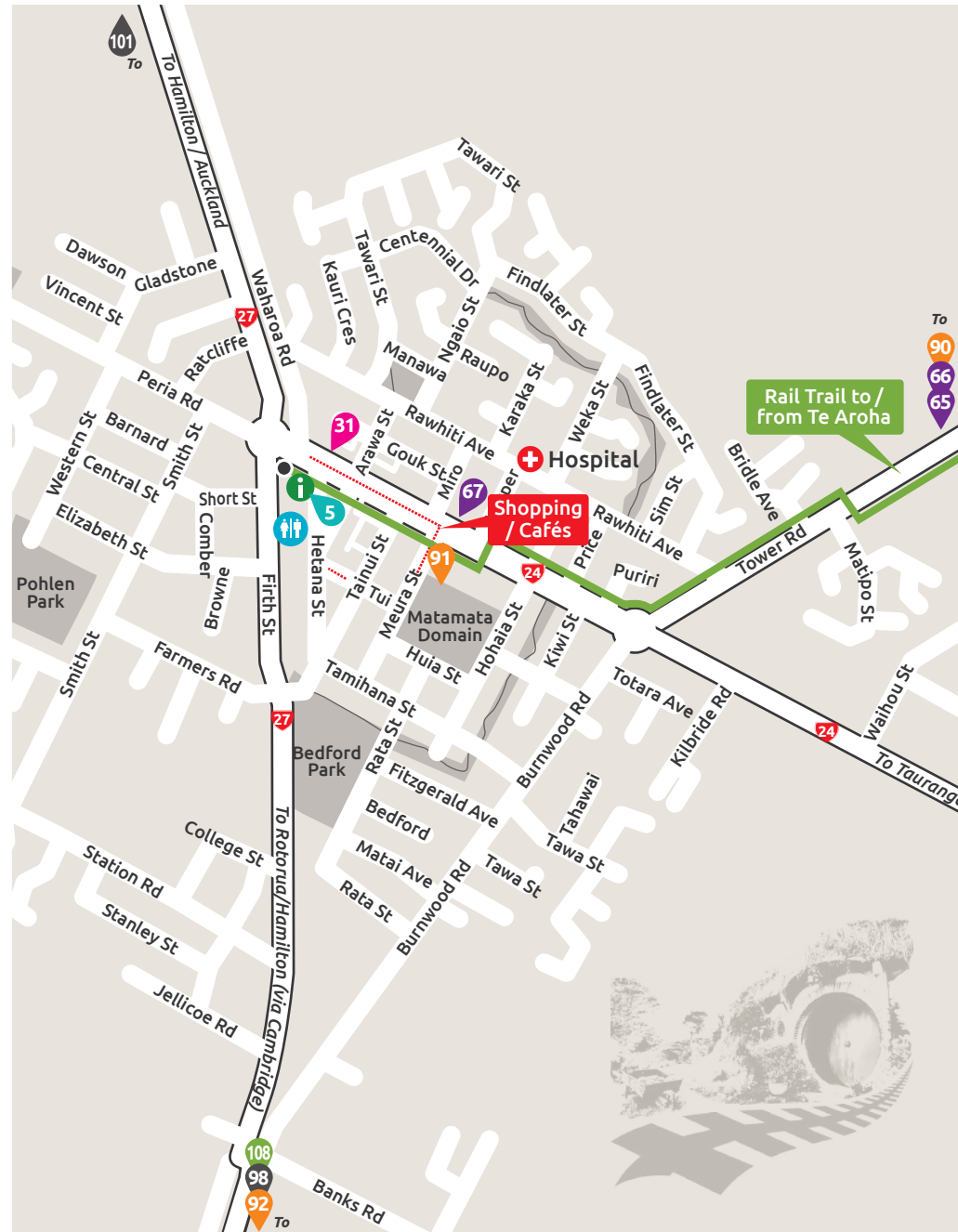
For the best value e-bikes and e-bike conversions all made to suit you!



601 Landsdowne Road, Walton. Phone 021 111 5400
em: info@venturescooters.co.nz venturescooters.co.nz

Matamata

Matamata offers walking, golf courses, and extensive cafes and accommodation. The unique Visitor Centre is a fantastical nod to Hobbiton, where you can book Tours to the enchanting village.



Information & Bookings

5 Matamata isite
45 Broadway, Matamata
Phone: 07 888 7260

Dine & Drink

31 Merchant of Matamata
44 Broadway, Matamata

Places to Stay

65 Firth Tower Reserve - Campervan Park
266 Te Aroha Road, Matamata
66 Tower Road Motel
108 Tower Road, Matamata
67 Broadway Motel
128 Broadway, Matamata

Things to See & Do

90 Firth Tower Museum
266 Te Aroha Rd, Matamata
91 Matamata Swim Zone
10 Meura Street, Matamata
92 Hobbiton Movie Set Tours
501 Buckland Road, Hinuera

Bike Hire / Tour Services

98 Riverside Adventures
396 Horahora Road, Piarere

e-Bike Conversions

101 Venture Scooters e-Bike Conversions
601 Landsdowne Rd, Walton

Shuttles

See Shuttle services on page 26



Magical Matamata

The head of the Trail is in Matamata, a rural town that is central to the Golden Triangle of Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga.

Large trees line Matamata's main street, and it offers a range of walking options, golf courses, and an extensive selection of shopping, bars, restaurants, and accommodation, making it a great place to unwind or stay after riding the Trail.

Matamata isite operates out of a Hobbit-style Gatehouse, paying homage to the Lord Of The Rings Trilogy, some of which was filmed on a nearby farm. This became the internationally renowned Hobbiton™ Movie Set, offering daily tours and special annual events including International Hobbit Day and the Middle Earth Halfling Marathon. Both events, and the movie-set tour can be booked at the isite.

Celebrate the end of your ride at the Merchant of Matamata, a modern provincial pub offering great food and locally brewed craft beers and ciders.

Check out the International Hobbit Day Festival



Below: 'Hobbiton™ Movie Set'



A spectacular horse sculpture crafted by Adrian Worsley, stands proudly in the middle of the town. Driven by community group Keep Matamata Beautiful and funded by private donations/sponsorship, the horse reflects Matamata's proud horse racing history. The sculpture warrants closer inspection as it is sculpted from an eclectic array of scrap metals.



HOBBITON
• MOVIE SET •

Explore the enchanting village of Hobbiton

Tours depart daily from The Shire's Rest™ 501 Buckland Road, Hinuera or Matamata isite, 45 Broadway, Matamata

Ph: 07 888 1505 | HOBBITONTOURS.COM

TM MEE lic to RST

BROADWAY MOTEL

A Home Away From Home

Centrally located in Matamata with easy access to local attractions. We have multiple accommodation options and provide secure bicycle lockup facilities.



Our Facilities Include:

- Free Parking
- Free WiFi
- Private Spa
- Playground
- Swimming Pool
- Gas BBQ
- Guest Laundry
- Close to Fitness Centre
- Close to Town

128 Broadway, Matamata 3400 Ph 07 888 8482 0508 128 128 Em broadwaymotel@xtra.co.nz



www.broadwaymatamata.co.nz

The Mighty Waikato

Where magic runs deep

Explore The Mighty Waikato

a place of natural beauty, powerful history, and out-of-this-world experiences.

Go underground and experience the subterranean wonders of the Waitomo Caves where glowworms sparkle, stories of exploration are told and there is black water rafting, abseiling and zip-lining to thrill. Movie buffs will delight in the 'real Middle-earth' at Hobbiton Movie Set, near Matamata, as seen in *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* trilogies.

Get outdoors with a range of natural attractions to be explored, including the iconic Waikato River. The bohemian town of Raglan is famous for its left-hand surf break, rugged black sand beaches and culture, while a range of protected parkland and mountain ranges offer fantastic walking, hiking and cycling trails.

Nourish the soul with a soak at the Te Aroha Mineral Spas, or meander through the award-winning Hamilton Gardens, where historically important garden styles from the farthest reaches of the world have been recreated.

Foodies are spoilt for choice with an assortment of experiences including award-winning eateries, microbreweries, artisan producers, farmers' markets, and orchards where you can pick your own.

Movie buffs will delight in the 'real Middle-earth' at Hobbiton Movie Set

For arts and culture there are a number of galleries and studios throughout the region as well as museums and heritage centres.

Always far from the ordinary, the Waikato

is a magical place to play, relax, connect and explore – a welcoming region where the people keep it real – and experiences become unreal.

Explore the magic of the mighty Waikato

Renowned for its natural beauty, powerful history and out-of-this-world experiences, the Waikato has a wealth of world-class attractions with Middle-earth movie magic, natural wonders and underground adventures all on offer.

Visit waikatoz.com





swimzonepools.co.nz



firthtower.co.nz



Paeroa Information Hub

We have moved to 6 Wharf St

Same great people, Same great service - Just closer to the Trail & better parking too! Call in to see us next time you are passing.



AA

6 Wharf Street, Paeroa 3600. Ph: 07 862 8636 em: pae.info@xtra.co.nz



• WELCOME TO •

A CAFE IN THE HEART OF MANAWARU

Located at the old Manawaru Dairy Factory, right on the Hauraki Rail Trail half way between Te Aroha and Matamata.



CYCLIST FRIENDLY

A wide range of bike racks, a bike tool kit and air compressor



GREAT FOOD & DRINK

A wide range of café food and coffee. Comfortable seating indoors and outdoors



FREE WI-FI

Free Wi-Fi so you can check your emails



MOTORHOME CAMPING

Community View Camping - self contained motorhomes, campervans and caravans



CLIMBING WALL

Onsite Event Centre complete with climbing wall.

