



RUAPEHU

OUR GREATER OUTDOORS



Ruapehu

There's the great outdoors and then there's Ruapehu. The home of two of New Zealand's best National Parks – Tongariro National Park and the historic and spiritual Whanganui National Park. It's no surprise that Ruapehu is one of New Zealand's premier outdoor destinations with plenty of expansive unspoilt nature to explore. With an abundance of ways to enjoy the outdoors, including hiking, mountain biking, canoeing and snow sports, Ruapehu truly does have something for everyone all year round that makes for a life less ordinary.

WHERE ARE WE?

RUAPEHU

Centrally located in the North
Island of New Zealand



4 hours from Auckland or
Wellington by car



Taupo or Rotorua



Northern Explorer Train
- National Park Village
- Ohakune



Ruapehu is centrally located in the North Island of New Zealand, 4 hours from Auckland or 4 hours from Wellington by car. There is air connectivity via Taupo or you can stop in either National Park Village or Ohakune if taking the Northern Explorer train.

A wide-angle photograph of a volcanic landscape. In the foreground, two hikers, a man in a red jacket and a woman in a yellow jacket, are walking on a rocky, snow-dusted path. They are looking towards a series of bright turquoise lakes nestled in the volcanic craters. The background shows a vast, hazy mountain range under a clear sky. A semi-transparent white box on the right side of the image contains text.

Ruapehu Must Do's

- Experience the Tongariro National Park
- Ride the Sky Waka gondola
- Journey down the Whanganui River
- Enjoy a day in Taumarunui

Ruapehu Must Do's – If you had to choose then these are the top experiences! Immerse yourself in the Tongariro National Park, Ride the Sky Waka gondola on Mt Ruapehu, Journey down the Whanganui River and discover the Forgotten World.

www.visitruapehu.com/things-to-see-and-do/



Tongariro National Park

- World's first UNESCO Dual World Heritage National Park
- Iconic Chateau Tongariro Hotel
- Incredible hikes such as the Tongariro Alpine Crossing plus a huge variety of short walks
- Visit Lord of the Rings film scenes and see Mt Doom

Tongariro National Park – Located in the heart of the North Island this incredible area was recognised by UNESCO as the world's first Dual World Heritage Site due to the geological significance of its environment but also for its spiritual and cultural meaning to Maori. A must do in the park is a short walk such as Tawhai Falls which is pictured here and was also Gollum's Pool in Lord of the Rings, High Tea at the Chateau Tongariro Hotel and for the more adventurous you can tackle the famous one day hike being the Tongariro Alpine Crossing.



Tongariro Alpine Crossing – this track is considered the best one day hike in New Zealand and sits among the top ten in the World. Going with a guide is always best and because it is so popular we would recommend going in either Spring or Fall as it is not only quieter but there is also more diversity in the scenery such as some snow etc.

The track itself is 12 miles long (20km) and the total elevation climbed is 1200ft. If you have clients that want to do the track unguided this is only recommended over summer and they will need to get a shuttle to the start as parking space is limited and has a 4 hour restriction.

Many will base themselves out of National Park Village which is a 15 minute drive to the start or Whakapapa Village which is a similar distance. Ohakune is another good base being 45 minutes away and has more amenities such as supermarkets and a wider restaurant and accommodation offering.



Sky Waka Gondola

- NEW PRODUCT July 2019
- Operating year round on Mt Ruapehu
- Taking you to Knoll Ridge Chalet the highest eatery in NZ at 6600 ft
- 50 cabins each taking 10 PAX
- 10 – 12 minutes one way
- Guided options available

The **SKY WAKA Gondola** opened July 2019 and will attract a huge number of international visitors due to its incredible location on **Mt Ruapehu** in the Tongariro National Park. This is New Zealand's most technically advanced gondola and has 50 gondola cabins featuring floor to ceiling glass for breath-taking views. Each cabin takes 10 PAX with more than 2m of internal clearance. Accessibility is no issue as the gondola is wheel chair accessible and the journey itself is 10 – 12 minutes each way so is easy to fit in for those on a tight itinerary.

It runs from the top of the Bruce Road which is the Whakapapa Ski Area Base 1.1 miles (1.8km) up Mt Ruapehu to the Knoll Ridge Chalet which is the highest dining experience in New Zealand at 6600 feet(2,020m).

www.mtruapehu.com/sky-waka



The **Knoll Ridge Chalet** is home to **The Pinnacles Restaurant** where your guests can enjoy anything from breakfast, morning tea through to dinner. Exclusive options are also available upon request.

Short hikes can be done from the building itself with the best one being the hike to the Sky Line.

www.mtruapehu.com/sky-waka



Views from the Pinnacles dinning area.



Journey on the Whanganui River

- Discover the untouched side of NZ's nature
- Runs through middle of the Whanganui National Park
- Anything from a half day trip in a jet boat to a multi-day cultural guided journey in a canoe

Whanganui River running through the heart of the Whanganui National Park – Enjoy this prehistoric part of the world by boat as you meander down the sacred Whanganui River. Either take a jet boat safari to the Bridge to Nowhere or spend a little longer by enjoying a multi day journey with a Maori navigator who will share with you the unique history of what is an incredibly significant river to both Maori and Europeans.

INTERESTING FACT – In 2017 the Whanganui River was given legal personhood making it the first time legal status has been given to a natural resource in New Zealand. This means that the river has the same rights, duties and liabilities that come with personhood and the reason behind doing so comes back to respect for the river and the importance it holds for the local people.

Te Awa Tupua – ‘I am the river and the river is me.’



Whanganui National Park – Enjoying this part of the world is best done on the Whanganui River. Key products include a jet boat tour to ‘The Bridge to Nowhere’, a Cultural Guided Canoe Trip with a Maori Navigator which can be anywhere from one day to a multiday journey or freedom canoe hire. The river can be accessed from Taumarunui in the northern end of Ruapehu, Whakahoro which is in the middle reaches of the Whanganui National Park or Pipiriki in the south.

www.visitruapehu.com/explore/whanganui-national-park/



The Bridge to Nowhere – holds an interesting story relating back to the post World War era. Returned service men were given land to convert for farming as thanks for their service to the country. Only problem was it was incredibly steep and isolated.

After 30 years of perseverance both on the land and trying to improve access to the area the government changed and pulled all support. Many had to walk off the land as they could not make ends meet due to the wild nature of the place but in the mean time a bridge had been built.

While much of the area has been reclaimed by native New Zealand rainforest the bridge still remains as a reminder to the hard times endured in what is known now as the 'Valley of Abandoned Dreams'.



Discover the Forgotten World

- Taumarunui which is home of the Forgotten World is 1 hour south of Waitomo Caves and on the way to the Sky Waka and Tongariro National Park via SH4
- Ride the Forgotten World Railway with Forgotten World Adventures
- Visit NZ's largest alpaca farm with over 900 alpaca
- Lauren's Lavender Farm Café

Taumarunui – On the way to many of Ruapehu's gems this iconic rural town has a number of great stop offs to break up your journey. Interact with one of the 900 alpaca at NZ's largest alpaca farm, Nevalea Alpacas, enjoy a coffee and snack at Lauren's Lavender Farm with full bloom being between December and February and of course enjoy the Forgotten World with Forgotten World Adventures!



Ride the decommissioned railway lines of the Forgotten World Railway which was a link to the incredible 'King Country' as it is known by locals and the ports to the west in Taranaki.

The Five Tunnel tour is a half day trip departing from Forgotten World Adventures base in Taumarunui but full day and multiday journeys are also available.

www.forgottenworldadventures.co.nz



Accommodation in Ruapehu is bespoke and done with character. We do not have big hotel chains but rather iconic properties such as the Chateau Tongariro Hotel. When you stay in Ruapehu you do so for the incredible location and the great local people who are passionate about this place and have all the insider's tips and tricks on how to make the most out of your time in our slice of paradise.

We have a vast variety of hotels, motels, lodges, bed and breakfasts and self catering chalets meaning there is something for everyone.

Follow the below link to discover all trade ready accommodation and activity options.

www.visitruapehu.com/working-with-us/trade-product-guide/



The Powderhorn Chateau – located in Ohakune which is in the southern part of Ruapehu. This is a great town for those who are looking to spend some more time in the region and want to experience both the Tongariro and Whanganui National Park.

Ohakune township has a wide variety of bars and restaurants and more amenities which is good for those who wish to self cater from time to time. It is also home to one of the stops of the Northern Explorer train service with National Park Village being the other station stop in Ruapehu.



The Night Sky Cottage – an example of a more secluded option and is perfect for couples. This beautiful property opened December 2018 and is one of New Zealand's most sustainable accommodations. The incredible work done by the owners mean that the cottage is self sufficient and with little impact on it's stunning surroundings.

<https://www.nightskycottage.co.nz/>



TAUPŌ



Welcome to Taupo, imagine you have now driven 45 minutes down the road from Rotorua. You have travelled through amazing geothermal landscapes on the way and are now greeted with the largest freshwater lake in Australasia. Lake Taupo is known by Maori as the great inland sea and is the size of Chicago. At the northern end of Lake Taupo is the boutique style lakeside township of Taupo...



EXPLORING
**CENTRAL
NORTH ISLAND**
THERMAL ESCAPES HIGHLIGHT
PAKIAKEKA RAILWAY
VOLCANIC LOOP

Huka Falls is the most visited natural attraction in NZ. The sheer volume of water cascading over these falls is what makes it so spectacular, roughly enough to fill two Olympic sized swimming pools every second! Taupo has a huge range of activities on offer. For those keen on action and adventure, you can jetboat to the base of the Huka Falls or past steaming geothermal landscapes. Take a white water rafting adventure down the beautiful Tongariro River. Throw yourself off a bungy platform at New Zealand's highest water touch bungy, skydive from 15,000 feet or get behind the wheel of a V8 race car.

Or for nature and relaxation, explore The Great Lake Trail which offers over 45 miles of spectacular cycle and walking trails. Or tackle the bucket list item of New Zealand's best one day hike – the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, taking in Mt Doom from LOTR. And of course a scenic flight over the Tongariro National Park is an absolute must. Explore the geothermal wonders of Orakei Korako or Craters of the Moon, including the largest natural geyser field in New Zealand. And at the end of each action packed day there are thermal mineral pools to relax in.



Out on the inland sea of Lake Taupo, approximately 90% of the shoreline is undeveloped, with bush and towering cliffs right to the water's edge. The only way to truly see and experience what Taupo has to offer is to get out on the water with a private charter, scheduled scenic cruise, sailing trip or kayaking excursion. The Mine Bay Maori Rock Carvings stand 14 metres (15 yards) high and are one of Taupo's most popular attractions. They are only accessible by boat.

We also have unique, hands on cultural experiences, tailored to suit your client's personal interests. Forage in native forest for ingredients, then help the chef to prepare a traditional Maori inspired dinner on hot rocks. Taupo is also a world renowned trout fishery, anglers come from all over the world to fish these waters. The region is home to eight golf courses, two of which are top marquee courses, and the only Jack Nicklaus signature course in NZ – The Kinloch Club.



Lake Taupo Cruises have a new 65-foot luxury boat the Regal Flyer, which is available for large and small charters and can hold up to 70 pax for a cocktail function. We also have several private touring companies for day tours around the region, Go Explore NZ and Taupo Private Transfers are two great options.



EXPLORING
CENTRAL
NORTH ISLAND



We are home to three luxury lodges including The Kinloch Manor and Villas, Poronui and one of the world's most awarded luxury lodges, Huka Lodge. As well as 5 star Hilton Lake Taupo and a range of hotels and resorts. So whether your client wants to rough it or they want to be pampered at one of New Zealand's top luxury lodges, Taupo has something to offer.

To recap, Taupo is all about spectacular scenery – mountains, lakes, rivers, volcanoes, and incredible geothermal landscapes. It's about experiencing nature with a little bit of luxury, adventure and pampering along the way. One of the most common comments we get from visitors to Taupo is *'If only I'd known, I would have stayed longer!'* One day simply isn't enough. So help us spread the word and let them know all about what there is to do in our little slice of paradise.