

Rotorua Attractions and Activities

Few places in the world offer such a stunning array of choices in such a beautiful setting as Rotorua – and now with the direct flights from Sydney to Rotorua, it's easier to visit this great destination up close and personal.

Home to more than 14 lakes and innumerable fishing streams banked by vast tracts of native bush and forestry areas, the region that boasts an international airport is also home to the menacing majesty of volcanic valleys, geothermal activity ranging from soaring geysers to the soothing warmed waters and unique mineral muds. There's action and adventure, the quiet solitude of pristine bush walks, the ability to fish some of the finest trout waterways in the world and of course, Rotorua is home to the spiritual culture of Maori, the First Nation of New Zealand.

From the wildly exciting Tutea Falls, the longest commercially rafted drop in the world, to simply relaxing back under the expert hands of a trained spa therapist, no matter what your preference, Rotorua is the destination of choice when creating the trip of a lifetime.

With so much to choose from, there are three themes that are designed specifically for the personal preferences, you can select which theme suits you the best. They are: Thrill Me (for the adventure and adrenaline seekers), Pamper Me, (with spa therapies and hot pools to ease away the everyday stresses of life) to Free Me, for the independent freedom traveller who likes to interact with nature and be immersed in the home of Maori culture.

Which Rotorua are you today?

Let us know and we will organise an itinerary for you...

Thrill me | Rotorua

So you live for adventure and action designed to maximise the adrenalin levels? Then the Thrill Me package is the one created just for you. Come and join us as we head down the famous Kaituna River and tackle Tutea Falls on the way, the world's longest commercially rafted drop at seven metres.

Fly your way down the mountain side on a luge, or spin out on a jet boat in a specially designed waterway – you can even try freefalling or taking on rugged country on a quad bike.

Whatever spins your wheels, the Thrill Me package has plenty in store to enjoy.

Pamper me | Rotorua

Home to a number of attractions that have won global awards, Rotorua is the perfect destination when all you want to do is relax and let the stresses of the world be eased away.

The Pamper Me package has been put together specifically with you in mind. Be spoiled with one of the world-class spa therapies, experience the personal ambience of Hamurana Lodge Boutique Hotel or lie back and relax on a luxury cruise on one of our pristine lakes.

Enjoy world-class cuisine and be moved during one of our special cultural performances.

Free me | Rotorua

If the majesty of ancient forests and the natural beauty of unspoiled native bush is where you like to rebalance your life, then Rotorua is meant for you.

You can experience the natural phenomenon of geothermal activity, relax your body in the unique mineral waters of Rotorua or walk where our ancestors first arrived through an area accessible only by boat.

Enjoy in comfort how life on a farm works in New Zealand or simply walk through some of our most popular scenic spots.

Imagine snuggling into a cosy couch overlooking a stunning lake, a good book in hand and an ice-cold bottle of champagne nearby, or sinking into a huge bed so soft it feels like a giant marshmallow, with plump pillows and crisp sheets. It is now reality, welcome again to Hamurana Lodge Boutique Hotel, the perfect spot in which to escape everyday life and be pampered like royalty. Special treatment, lavish rooms and gourmet dining are guaranteed.

Rotorua is also home to an extensive range of luxury tour companies. When you've experienced everything your lodge can offer, let one of these companies whisk you away on an exclusive outing to experience the region in style. View dramatic geothermal scenery from a modern helicopter or elegant floatplane, cruise a sparkling lake on a luxury launch, shop till you drop in a variety of specialty stores, immerse yourself in velvety mineral waters or indulge in decadent body polishes or mud wraps at one of the region's exclusive spa centres.

Top it off with a sunset barbecue or picnic and a soak in a natural hot pool on a secluded beach surrounded by native bush.

The possibilities are endless, the landscape stunning, and you're limited only by your imagination... Our favourites are clearly marked by stars ★

Visitors also have a part to play in making Rotorua a sustainable visitor destination. Use these logos to help you plan a sustainable visit to the beautiful city of Rotorua:



Sustainable Tourism Charter



Qualmark Enviro-Silver Award



Green Globe

Adrenalin Pumping at Agroventures ★

Try the fastest swing from 40m towards the earth at 130kmph, NZ's one and only – Swoop; Rotorua Bungy; The jet sprint experience in the country -- Agrojet and the Southern Hemispheres' only Freefall Xtreme, wind tunnel.

Gondola ★

Skyline Skyrides will carry you to 487 metres above sea level to a stunning environment, providing panoramic views of Rotorua City, Lake Rotorua and the surrounding area.

Luge ★

Luge is a fun filled ride on a three-wheel cart. The unique braking and steering system provides the rider full control and allows you to travel as fast or slow as you wish. Choose from the three separate concrete sealed tracks wind through the redwood trees.

Zorbing

Zorb is the sport of globe riding (rolling down a hill in a large inflatable globe). It is the latest and greatest adventure activity to come out of New Zealand

Off Road

Off Road NZ offers awesome off road 4WD adventures and entertainment for adrenaline junkies, thrill seekers, vehicle enthusiasts, couples, groups of friends and the whole family.

Rafting ★

Rafting in New Zealand is at its best in Rotorua with Raftabout. It is a popular year-round activity, with trips are available on the Kaituna (grade five), Wairoa (grade five) and Rangitaiki (grade four) Rivers. Kaituna trips include the seven-metre Tutea Falls, the world's highest commercially rafted waterfall.

Hiking

You can choose from the 1 day guided walk beneath New Zealand's tallest trees, 3 day exploring to the remote Waikaremoana area, discover fascinating Maori history and incredible geology cloaked in dense rainforest, 4 day walking featuring amazing day walks through the extraordinary volcanic landscapes of World Heritage Area Tongariro National Park, and the 4 day hike on the Lake Waikaremoana Great Walk Track, through the North Island's largest untouched native forest. All the walks are professionally organised and include: Rotorua return transport; accommodation; all meals, snacks, drinks and wine; hiking equipment; gear cartage; support boat; and friendly, knowledgeable guides. Trips depart weekly over summer (November to May).

Hamurana Spring ★★★★★

Located to the north east of Lake Rotorua and Hamurana Lodge Boutique Hotel, Hamurana Spring is the deepest natural fresh water spring on the North Island of New Zealand. The healing and mystic spring emerges from a rocky area within a Department of Conservation reserve. The spring is 920 feet (280 m) above sea level and is approximately 15 metres (50 ft) deep. It produces an estimated 4 million litres of crystal clear water per hour at a fairly constant temperature of 10 degrees Celsius. The spring flows as a stream for approximately one kilometre before joining Lake Rotorua. In summer the stream is home to rainbow trout which prefer the cooler temperature of the spring water. The surrounding wildlife sanctuary plays host to many species of birds including black teal, scaup, herons and the endangered dabchick. This is a relaxing spiritual place, to calm your senses and soak up its natural beauty.

Paradise Valley Springs Wildlife Park

Relax and enjoy the freshness of this beautifully maintained park as you stroll along superb walkways which are pushchair and wheelchair friendly. The Ngongotaha Stream meanders gently through this park, attracting around 20,000 trout annually for spawning and so many animals. And kids don't forget the Pride of Paradise, the Lions. Lion feeding, held at 2.30 pm daily, is an absolute must see.

Mountain Biking ★★★★★

The most popular Whakarewarewa Forest, just minutes from the city centre, is a mountain biking heaven; an adventure playground comprising thousands of hectares of forest awaiting exploration. Californian Redwoods planted in 1901 stand guard over a network of the best cycle trails New Zealand can offer. Tracks are signposted according to difficulty and there is something for all skill levels.

Horse Riding

Horseback ride with Briars beside the Pacific Ocean and over rolling green farmland with breathtaking views of the whole Bay of Plenty and beyond. Get away from the hustle and bustle of life and ride your horse along the glistening sandy beach. Hear the sea shells crunching under hoof. Catch the ocean in one of her many moods. Smell oiled leather and heavenly horses.

Catamaran Cruising ★★★★★

Whether you have a Full Day or only a couple of hours to spare there's always a trip to suit. You can visit Hot Pools accessible only by boat and enjoy a relaxing soak morning, afternoon or enjoy at twilight. Pure Cruise

and The Tuia will no doubt be the highlight of your trip – contact your host for a brochure and update details of this number one activity in Rotorua

Fishing

Lake Rotorua is an excellent fishery holding very high stocks of both brown and rainbow trout that can be caught on a variety of methods.

Geothermal ★

You can walk at your own pace and absorb the unique features including the world famous champagne pool, geysers, bubbling mud, steaming ground, expansive vistas, huge volcanic craters and sinter terrace formations at Wai-O-Tapu, which is located 27 kilometres south of Rotorua. Please note that a guaranteed daily eruption of the Lady Knox Geyser is at 10.15am.

Volcanic ★

Waimangu Volcanic Valley is Rotorua 's premier tourist attraction and a 'must do' eco-experience during your visit to Rotorua if you are looking for an exciting attraction and sightseeing tours that include unique ecology, rare botany and fascinating geothermal features.

Hell's Gate

Stroll through the amazing, steaming, bubbling thermal park, see mud pools and hot springs and experience a taste of Maori culture. Visit the day spa, soak in hot pools, and enjoy a Rotorua mud facial or a massage incorporating traditional Maori techniques.

Polynesian Spa ★

In a picturesque, tranquil setting overlooking Lake Rotorua, you can enjoy a wonderful fusion of relaxing hot spring pool bathing, sumptuous spa and massage therapies and picturesque lake views.

Maori Culture ★

Just over a third of Rotorua's population is Maori, so the region is the best place to immerse yourself in New Zealand's indigenous culture. You can sample contemporary food infused with indigenous flavours, take in a hangi and concert or learn the region's legends (many of which are centred around Mt and Lake Tarawera) on a guided tour.

Maori Show Mitai ★★★★★

An evening at Mitai will give you an authentic introduction to Maori Culture leaving you amazed and in awe. Enter the world of Mitai- be enthralled by the natural bush setting, see warriors in traditional dress paddling a waka (ancient warrior war canoe) and don't miss your only opportunity in the Rotorua area to see glow worms. Marvel at the crystal clear water flowing directly from the earth at Fairy Springs. See your traditional meal being lifted from the ground. During our cultural performance learn about our past, carvings and ta moko tattoo art). Be captivated by the displays of weaponry and combat coupled with the grace and beauty of the poi dance and a spine tingling haka finale. Insider tips, combine with Rainbow Springs Kiwi Wildlife Park nocturne tour to see the Kiwis.

Rainbow Springs Kiwi

Wildlife Park ★★★★★

Spread over 22 acres of parkland, Rainbow Springs offers a truly unique experience, and is a must-see for anyone who wants to get to know New Zealand's wonderful environment and animals, both during the day and at night. Learn more about kiwi conservation with a visit to Kiwi Encounter. Operated by the National Kiwi Trust and located on site at Rainbow Springs, this unique scientific attraction allows you an insight into the entire process of kiwi conservation – from kiwi egg collection in the wild, incubation, hatching and then raising of the kiwi until it's ready to be released back into the wild.

Te Puia ★

Artisan in the carving and weaving schools is linked to generations of hosts who have led visitors through Te Whakarewarewa. Share with the Maori people the warmth and generosity of spirit known as manaakitanga, of caring and sharing. Harness the energy offered by geo-thermal waters for bathing, cooking and therapeutic use by local Maori to create a one of a kind lifestyle. Silica terraces, bubbling mud pools and unique vegetation sets an awesome backdrop to the world famous Pohutu Geyser. The Carving School nurtures specially chosen individuals to begin a lifetime of learning the treasured art that preserves our tribal history and genealogy. Our School of Weaving ensures the ancient craft survives for our children's children. Features: guided tours, live kiwi birds, Maori Village, Whakarewarewa Thermal Valley, mudpools, cooking pools, Pohutu Geyser, midday cultural performance, evening cultural show with hangi, education programmes, conference and incentive programmes.

Buried Village

The volcanic eruption of Mount Tarawera was New Zealand's greatest natural disaster. It destroyed the eighth wonder of the world – the magnificent Pink and White Terraces. For more than four terrifying hours, rocks, ash and mud bombarded the peaceful village of Te Wairoa. Now nearly 120 years on, the excavated village offers a firsthand insight into the devastation, chaos and mayhem that transpired on the night Mount Tarawera erupted.

Maori Village

You will approach the ancient Maori forest village of Ngati Tama and, guided by The Storyteller, you will come face to face with a revered sect of Maori warriors. You'll share in ancient ceremonies of welcome and of farewell, and experience the lifestyles and warrior traditions of pre-European times.

Museum of Art and History

Discover the great stories of the Rotorua region through innovative exhibitions and cinema experiences. Learn about the rich culture, volatile landscape and legendary figures that have shaped this fascinating region. Ideal for rainy days, the museum is located in the world famous Bath House building, an architectural icon itself; Rotorua Museum is the ideal start to your Rotorua adventure. Be thrilled by the cinema experience Rotorua Stories and enjoy a range of dynamic exhibitions.

Rotorua Aquatic Center

One of Australasia's finest Swimming Pool Centres. If you are into water sports, water recreation, aqua-fitness or just pure relaxation for yourself or your family and friends, then the Rotorua Aquatic Centre is one of New Zealand's best. The centre prides itself on service and offers world class facilities.

Springfield Golf Club

At *Springfield Golf Club*, the course measures at 5639 meters from the blue tees (championship) and 4948 meters from the yellow tees (ladies). The men's club tees (white) play 5434 meters long. Springfield is known for its extremely tight fairways (one measuring only 8 meters wide) and its vast amount of trees.

Wairakei International Golf Course ★

The region's flagship golf course is the beautiful Wairakei International Golf Course located 45 minutes south of Rotorua, not far from Taupo. This course was rated in the top 100 courses in the world by the prestigious US Golf Digest magazine in 2005, and has been described by many an international golfer as like "playing in a botanic garden". It is also consistently ranked as the favourite course of many of New Zealand's best golfers. The 6,444 metre course, off the back tees, is spread through 450 acres of park like countryside. There has been a significant amount of money spent over the last ten years on upgrading the course and its facilities. Well bunkered, and with plenty of elevation, the course is a real test of any golfer's skill. Club, trundler and cart hire.

Helitours ★

Helipro's landing concessions for both Mount Tarawera and White Island allow us access to Rotorua and the Bay of Plenty's most remarkable landmarks, combined with the rest of this areas spectacular volcanic scenery.

Skydiving ★

It takes a certain kind of person to jump out of an aircraft into thin air. It takes courage. Harnessed by space-age materials to an experienced tandem master, expect sensory overload as you step out of the aircraft door and for some 45 seconds plummet towards the ground at 200kph. Catch your experience on NZONE cam using the latest digital equipment. We recommend you commission us to shoot, edit and compile a document of your experience; yours to take away on the day with a certificate of achievement.

The Lord of the Rings

A highlight for visitors to New Zealand is a tour of the Hobbiton on Movie Set & Farm in Matamata. Rings Scenic Tours Ltd provides fully guided tours of the Hobbiton Movie Set & Farm from The Lord of the Rings trilogy. Located just one hour drive from Rotorua this is the ideal activity to enjoy as a stop-over en-route to Auckland.

Hukafalls Jet

When travelling towards Taupo, try Hukafalls Jet which offers a unique combination of excitement and natural beauty. A 30-minute thrilling jet boat ride in the hands of a down-to-earth, funny professional jet boat driver who can make a jet boat do things you would never believe

possible. The half hour of thrills, fun and excitement takes you along a beautiful river environment, lined with native bush, sheer rock cliff face and natural hot springs.

Mokoia Island Wai Ora Experiences

Offering guided tours of the sacred island of Mokoia. See native birds, flora and fauna, learn about the Maori culture how they sustained themselves on the island, taste indigenous food and perhaps bathe in the famous and natural hot spring of Hinemoa.

Lake Rotorua Cruise

Enjoy a scenic cruise with “The Lakeland Queen”- a genuine stern wheel driven paddle steamer designed with the famous Mississippi River Cruisers in mind, complimented with an international range of mouth-watering cuisine and a fine selection of beverages.

Farm Shows



The Agrodome Sheep Show is a one-hour performance. During the show you will see nineteen sheep breeds introduced onto the stage, the art of sheep shearing, sheepdog demonstrations, cow milking, bottle feed lambs and an exciting sheep auction.

Ski & Snowboarding ★

Mt Ruapehu is home to the most awesome natural skiing and snowboarding terrain in the country: huge snow filled basins, steep chutes, drop-offs and secret powder stashes. Mt Ruapehu offers something for everyone: fantastic learners' facilities, terrain parks for snowboarders and free skiers of all abilities, and the best spring skiing in New Zealand. With Mt Ruapehu conveniently located right in the central North Island of New Zealand, approximately half way between Auckland and Wellington, it is easy to get here and there are many ways of making the journey (Rotorua to Whakapapa 2hrs and 45min. more to Turoa).

Please ask your hosts for the brochures regarding these activities and attractions

Tauranga/Mount Maunganui Attractions and Activities (30-40 min)

Our favourites are clearly marked by ★

On an island of public beaches featuring beautiful weather year-round along with amazing activities like climbing Mount Maunganui, surfing, water-skiing, parasailing, wake-boarding, swimming with dolphins, whales, seals and other marine wildlife, or kayak around the harbour and glow-worms caves, the Bay of Plenty coast offers a once-in-a-lifetime escape.

The coastal Bay of Plenty, one of the country's top holiday destinations for Kiwis, offers a great mix of activities, scenic attractions, culture and top dining experiences. Whether you're after adventure, beach life or a bit of indulgence, the Bay of Plenty has all the bases covered. Located along the picturesque Pacific Coast Highway, the region is home to a beautiful landscape in which to enjoy a full range of activities year-round. Choose from water adventures like white-water rafting, kayaking, dolphin encounters, parasailing and jet boating. There's also skydiving, scenic flights, blokarting (a locally-invented land sailor), horse treks, cultural experiences, golf courses and a variety of gardens and museums to peruse.

New Zealand Surf School ★

The experience of a lifetime... SURFING is FUN and easy to learn, it's for everyone. The New Zealand Surf School was founded at Mt Maunganui in the summer of 2000 by Jim Hoare and Erica Gilbert. They provide lessons that are lead by professional and experienced instructors, who are Surfing NZ certified and hold NZ Surf Lifesaving qualifications. They teach to you your level of experience, offering group or individual tuition, from beginners to advanced. The lesson times are: 10:00am, 12:00am, 2:00pm every day, the season starts - November 1st - mid April, opposite Tay Street Marine Parade Mt Maunganui. The New Zealand Surf School offer a wide range of surfboards and wetsuits for the beginner and intermediate surfers, to hire by the hour or by the day.

Mobile: +64 (0)21 477 873

Email: nzsurfschool@yahoo.com

Website: www.nzsurfschools.co.nz

Butler's Swim with Dolphins and watch the Whales

Marine encounters, Wildlife Encounters - Tauranga, Bay Of Plenty. Experiencing eye to eye contact with wild dolphins, while they swim within a couple of metres, inquisitively checking you out, is absolutely unique.

Butler's mission while sailing on Gemini Galaxsea is to get people swimming with dolphins, however the Bay of Plenty marine environment has such diverse New Zealand wildlife that being entertained by a variety of cetaceans such as Orca, the odd baleen whale, pilot whales and false killer whales is normal. Little blue penguins are prolific around Tauranga and Mount Maunganui and usually seabirds of all varieties, albatross included in season, accompany voyages most of the day. Eco tourism requires operator responsibility and sailing using wind energy and the minimum of fossil fuels means less pollution, a cleaner wake encouraging sustainable dolphin initiated encounters.

Mobile: +64 0508 288 537

Email: taurangadolphins@clear.net.nz

Website: www.swimwithdolphins.co.nz

Dive White

Marine encounters, Wildlife Encounters - Whakatane, Bay Of Plenty. Dive White is the premier operator of White Island diving excursions. We pride ourselves on safety, exceptional customer service and simply providing outstanding diving. White Island is one of New Zealand's top dive sites giving you excellent visibility, huge amounts of fish life a chance to view volcanic terrain underwater. Dive White has the Qualmark endorsement, meaning the service you receive is professional and of a high standard. The team will enjoy showing you a piece of paradise.

Mobile: +64 (0)7 307 0714

Website: www.divewhite.co.nz

Fat Boy Charters

Salt Water Fishing, Water Activities - Mount Maunganui, Bay Of Plenty. Come and have a great day fishing and sightseeing, a day you will not forget. Spend a day out at sea; view the beautiful sights of Motiti, Plate and Mayor Islands plus other destinations in the area. Sightseeing can be carried out within the coastal limits including Mayor Island, Plate Island, Motiti Island and other great destinations which also include the harbour area. The vessel is 7.2 metres in length and carries up to six people with all marine safety authority equipment. The boat is a heavy duty alloy vessel weighing over two tonnes and equipped with a 230 horsepower diesel motor. These allow the boat to cruise at 22 knots to your destination, therefore allowing you to have more time to enjoy your passion for all types of fishing from snapper and tarakihi up to hapuku, bass and even marlin. All fishing gear can be provided from small boat rods up to rods suitable for big game such as hapuka, bass, bluenose and marlin. The boat also has a totally private toilet for any passengers.

Mobile: +64 (0)7 575 5986

Email: fatboycharters@xtra.co.nz

Website: www.fatboycharters.co.nz

The Mount ★

'The Mount' is the colloquial term of affection for the volcanic cone that rises abruptly on the long sandy peninsula known as Mt. Maunganui. This icon for lovers of sun, sand and surf, symbolises all the diverse pleasures to be had at this Kiwi holiday 'hot spot'. Things like riding the perfect wave, body-surfing the shoreline break, lazing on the beach under clear blue skies, and chatting over coffee in a street café. The main shopping street is well supplied with quality retail outlets and the harbour bridge provides a direct link to Tauranga City.

For New Zealanders 'The Mount' is synonymous with summer holidays and long lazy days on Ocean Beach. This marvellous beach continues as an unbroken stretch of sand for 15 km to Papamoa. From Mt. Maunganui's lofty summit you can see forever. To the west are the rugged Kaimai Ranges and out to sea, a faint plume of steam signals volcanic activity on White Island. On your descent, the soothing waters of a thermal saltwater

pool await. If you prefer, you can swim in the clear sheltered waters on the harbour-side beaches by the 'round the mountain' walking track.

Mt. Maunganui's action takes place on Ocean Beach where surf carnivals and special events are held regularly. There is a party atmosphere along the busy waterfront Strand where you will find a great selection of seafood restaurants, bars and cafés. Down by the port, there are many vessels offering trips and charters. You have a choice of scenic harbour cruises, fishing and scuba diving, or you may crave the excitement of reeling in a marlin. 'The Mount' is the quintessential seaside resort with an irresistible draw for people who believe that 'Life is a Beach'.

Shop, shop, shop 'Till You Drop'

Tucked behind The Strand in Tauranga, Grey Street and Devonport are the epicentre of local retail (map). You'll find numerous boutiques and chain stores in landscaped streets that are a pleasure to browse. Maunganui Road, running southeast from the foot of The Mount, is also full of good shops. A large, modern shopping centre - Bayfair - is located at the southern end of Mount Maunganui, while Bethlehem Town Centre, on the north-western approach to Tauranga, is a brand-new outdoor shopping destination and Fashion Island at Papamoa is a good place to browse the clothing chain-stores.

In the beautiful Bay of Plenty you'll discover one of the best shopping centres in the country. Over 85 of the Bayfair is situated in the seaside resort of Mount Maunganui. With its central location Bayfair offers more than shopping, a day out - a lifestyle you could easily become accustomed to.