a mid-west wander

Your guide to discovering Taranaki, Whanganui, Rangitikei, Manawatu & Horowhenua
Welcome to the Mid-West

Traversed by stunningly-scenic touring routes, the mid-western region of the North Island is filled with adventure and destined for discovery. From the expansive beaches of Horowhenua to the dynamic heartland of Manawatu, the rich creative fabric of Whanganui to Taranaki’s mountain to sea landscape, there’s much to explore.

From mountain to sea, with countless museums, gleaming galleries, glorious gardens and epic events in between, Taranaki is a little bit out there. The region was recently judged one of the best in the world to visit by travel experts Lonely Planet.

Voted one of NZ’s Top 10 Destinations in 2016 by Experience OZ and NZ, there is plenty to see and do in Whanganui. A rich history of early Māori and European settlement, the Whanganui River weaves a tapestry of stories around the town and country. Whanganui is home to a combination of authentic arts and heritage and cultural activity not found anywhere else in New Zealand.

While State Highway 1 runs through the heart of Rangitikei, it is the many journeys beyond the main road that make this part of the country memorable. The landscape moves from central plateau to wild west coast, and includes untouched gems including the Mokai Gorge, Papa Cliffs, and Rangitikei River – all offering world class adventure destinations, whether on foot, water, or horseback. Welcoming towns Taihape, Marton and Bulls make Rangitikei the perfect base for a mid-western adventure.

Manawatu is the perfect place for an authentic kiwi experience, offering a playground of adventure and discovery in the heartland of New Zealand. Explore awe-inspiring rural landscapes, scenic touring routes, as well as the indulgences and conveniences of Palmerston North city with its excellent museums, arts, culture and fantastic cafés at your fingertips.

Whether you’re into succulent fresh produce and inspired cafes, endless coastlines to wander or mountain forests to explore – Horowhenua has it all. Perfectly placed between the major centres of Wellington and Palmerston North, it’s easy to see why Horowhenua has become a tourist destination.

Over the following pages you’ll get a glimpse of what this dynamic part of the country has to offer, but for the real story, pack your sense of adventure and head west.

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Touring routes

The mid-west North Island is the ultimate road-tripping destination. From forgotten worlds to scenic routes, a number of great drives offer everything from rivers to sea, vibrant cities to the rural heartland, and valleys to mountains.
The Forgotten World Highway

Tracing ancient Maori trails and pioneering farm tracks from the central North Island to Stratford in Taranaki, the 155km Forgotten World Highway is New Zealand’s oldest touring route.

The Forgotten World Highway lives up to its name – you’ll encounter little traffic and a landscape that veers from rural to untouched and back again. Traverse natural saddles and pass through the gravel-surfaced Tangarakau Gorge before reaching the Republic of Whangamomona, which first settled in 1895 and had 300 residents at its peak. Now home to around 30, the village is centred on the Whangamomona Hotel, which offers hearty meals. Whangamomona declared itself a republic in 1989, complete with its own election, passport (get yours from the Hotel) and Republic Day held every second year in January – next up in 2019. Note, though, that there’s no petrol or other supplies available between Taumarunui and Stratford. The Forgotten World Adventures rail cart excursion, and new pedal-powered option, is opening this unique area to new visitors. Pick up a copy of the Forgotten World Highway Touring Route Guide from a Taranaki i-SITE Visitor Centre or download from www.visit.taranaki.info
The 105km Surf Highway 45 traces Taranaki’s coastline from New Plymouth to Hawera, following a path well worn by intrepid surfers in their hunt for the perfect wave.

‘The Coast’ is home to more than just surf, with cosy cafes, art and craft studios and eclectic shops in the small towns along the route. There are plenty of opportunities to tap into the area’s history, from the substantial Koru Pa inland from Oakura to the wreck of the SS Gairloch at the end of Timaru Road to Te Ngutu o Te Manu, once the base of revered Māori warrior Titokowaru, and the Cape Egmont Lighthouse and nearby museum. Back Beach, Oakura, Opunake, Kaupokonui and Ohawe all offer the chance to wander on a sandy beach, swim, or fish, and there are countless surf breaks in between. Pick up a copy of the Surf Highway 45 Touring Route Guide from a Taranaki i-SITE Visitor Information Centre or download from www.visit.taranaki.info
Manawatu Scenic Route

A scenic alternative to the long, major highways between Taupo and Wellington, explore the Manawatu Scenic Route between Mangaweka and Palmerston North city, and experience an off-the-beaten track journey made up of stunning scenic landscapes, from white cliff gorges to lush green valleys, rolling hills and pristine native bush – there's so much more than meets than eye along The Country Road.

Enjoy local hospitality and overnight parking at the country pubs, freedom camping for self-contained motorhomes along the way and chat to the locals to find out the best swimming spots, view points and glow worm caves.

Bush walks and wetlands abound, bespoke heritage collections await your discovery and an award winning cheese maker tucked away in Pohangina Valley gives you all the reason you need to take the scenic route on your journey.

From Mangaweka in the north, down through Rangiwhaia and Apiti, winding across the Pohangina Valley, through Ashhurst and on to Palmerston North, finish your journey with a trip to the coast and enjoy the award winning Himatangi Beach Holiday Park, fish and chips at sunset and a dip in the sea.

Pick up a copy of The Country Road experience from your nearest I-SITE, or along the way.

www.ManawatuNZ.co.nz/scenic-journeys
Whanganui River Road

The Whanganui River and Whanganui River Road are two inter-related journeys. The road which follows the lower reaches of the river from Whanganui to Pipiriki is the only scenic driving route alongside a river in New Zealand, with such richness of cultural and natural heritage. Travelling the scenic Whanganui River Road to Pipiriki takes a leisurely two-four hours depending on your choice of stops and photo opportunities. There are stunning views of the river along much of the road's length. This is an authentic journey back in time with local iwi heritage, remnants of early European settlement and historic landmarks.

Along the way look out for St Mary’s Church at Upokongaro famous for its unusual 3-sided spire. Stop at the Aramoana Summit at 230 metres above sea level to look down the river and out to Mount Ruapehu. Don’t miss the amazing Oyster Cliffs on the side of the road where layers of fossilised oysters lined sea beds and can now be seen.

Travel through the historic and beautiful marae and villages of Ātene, Koriniti and Matahiwi – please seek permission before entering.

Kawana Flour Mill is a small restored building and museum. Rānana is the next community as you travel through to Jerusalem, home to two historically famous figures, Mother Mary Joseph (Suzanne Aubert, whom the Pope has declared ‘venerable’, the first step in the canonization process to sainthood), and acclaimed New Zealand poet James K. Baxter. Jerusalem (Hiruharama in Maori) is home to a century old Catholic church and convent built in the 1890s. The church features a beautifully carved alter of Maori design and kowhaiwhai panels adorn the walls. Once the home of an orphanage, the convent today hosts retreats and offers accommodation. On a clear day the approach to Jerusalem offers a stunning photo opportunity with the settlement reflected in the river!

Then before you know it you’ll be at Pipiriki 79km from Whanganui and our gateway to Whanganui National Park and the famous Bridge to Nowhere.

Go to www.visitwhanganui.nz or visit the Whanganui i-SITE for more information.
Horowhenua Experience

Horowhenua is a fantastic connector, with Wellington to the south and Palmerston North to the north. But it’s the secrets of our side roads which are most worth exploring.

Veer off State Highway 1 to experience our many coastal communities. With its Bohemian feel, Waikawa Beach is renowned for whitebaiting and its sheltered waters. Waitārere Beach, one of the best-kept secrets of the North Island’s west coast, is the place to go when you want to get away from it all. Wide and sandy, Waitārere Beach offers plenty of room for all your favourite beach activities and a great fishing spot.

Experience a RAMSAR-protected international wetland when visiting iconic Foxton Beach. Situated at the mouth of the Manawatu River, the wetland regularly draws avid bird watchers from around the country and overseas, to witness the annual migrations of Godwit, Wrybill, Caspian Tern and Royal Spoonbill.

Diverting from State Highway 57 you’ll find the truly hidden gem of Mangaore Village, tucked into the foothills by the Mangahao Reservoir Dams built in the early nineteenth century to provide power for the first time to the lower North Island. With historic homes dating back to 1922, and historic bush walks with glow worms and native wildlife – there is plenty to see and discover.

To the east you will find the perfect adventure playground in the Tararua Forest Park, which offers a variety of tramping, walking, hunting and mountain biking opportunities for all ages and abilities. It is part of the national Te Araroa Walkway network.

Go to www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Places-Events or visit the Foxton or Levin i-SITE for more information.
Taranaki
legendary
Last year Taranaki was judged the world’s #2 regional destination by Lonely Planet, who called it New Zealand’s ‘untouched gem.’ From the empty beaches of the Surf Highway to the summit of the picture-perfect mountain, it’s a great place to explore from the comfort of your motorhome.

World-class contemporary art galleries, spectacular alpine hikes, marvellous museums of almost everything, glorious gardens, myriad short walks – from coastal to alpine – and a wonderfully welcoming café culture make Taranaki a great destination, and an exciting events calendar will give you the reason to head back to Taranaki if it’s been a while since your last visit.

And then there’s Mount Taranaki: brimming with short and long walks and the backdrop to fantastic photos of your adventures. Now is the time to explore Taranaki and discover everything the region has to offer, and see just why Lonely Planet were so inspired.

The Pouakai Crossing one-day walk isn’t for the faint hearted or under-prepared, but it will lead you to spectacular landscapes and vistas like this – the summit of Mount Taranaki reflected in the Pouakai Tarns.
1. GOVETT-BREWSTER ART GALLERY/LEN LYE CENTRE
From the shiny stainless steel façade to the kinetic sculptures inside, be inspired by this stunning contemporary art gallery showcasing the works of Len Lye (1901-1980). The gallery is one of many throughout the region showcasing the best of local, national and international art.

2. HOLDEN MUSEUM
The amazing Hillsborough Holden Museum is a private collection of Holdens and Holden memorabilia like no other. Dozens of vehicles are just the start – there’s even an 18-hole mini-putt course modelled on the legendary Mt Panorama race track, and plenty of parking for motorhomes.

3. GLORIOUS GARDENS
Taranaki boasts many gardens worthy of celebration. From rhododendron filled Pukeiti to inner city Pukekura Park or Te Kainga Marire, an oasis of native plantings, there is something for every green fingered traveller to enjoy.

4. THE FASCINATING AND QUIRKY
For experiences you won’t get anywhere else, try the following – Climb the Hawera water tower, see NZ’s largest taxidermy museum, relax in 29,000yr old mineral water at Bonithon Spa, join Captain Chaddy aboard his restored English Lifeboat or reminisce over the unbreakable toys at the Fun Ho toy museum.

5. STROLL, WALK OR HIKE
Explore New Plymouth’s 13km award winning coastal walkway, journey to Lake Rotokare which abounds in wildlife, or head up the mountain where you can choose from easy board-walked strolls through the Goblin Forest to crystal clear Wilkies pools or the vista filled day-long Pouakai crossing.

6. PARADISE FOR GOLFERS
With over 20 courses featuring everything from perfectly manicured greens to more rugged landscapes with both water and stock hazards – every golf handicap is catered for.

7. A TURBULENT PAST
Visit Aotea Utanganui in Patea, Pioneer Village in Stratford, Tawhiti Museum in Hāwera or Puke Ariki in New Plymouth to learn the fascinating history of our early settlers. You can even book a historical walking tour at the Puke Ariki i-Site.

8. CAFÉ CULTURE
Sample creatively prepared local delicacies at an up-market urban eatery, the freshest organic produce from a cosy coastal café, or visit our Seaside or Farmers markets and don’t leave without sampling some of the best coffee you’ll ever have!

9. WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE
From swimming spots to epic surf, stand-up paddle boarding to fly fishing, Taranaki offers endless opportunities to get wet.

For information, or guides on all these and more visit www.visit.taranaki.info.
**epic events**

**AMERICARNA**  
A celebration of American cars culture and family fun.  
When: Feb/Mar  
www.americarna.com

**BDO ROUND THE MOUNTAIN CYCLE CHALLENGE**  
Take part in one of New Zealand’s premier road cycling events.  
When: Jan  
www.cyclechallenge.co.nz

**ITU SPRINT DISTANCE TRIATHLON**  
See the world’s best triathletes in action.  
When: March  
www.itunewplymouthtriathlon.co.nz

**NZ TATTOO AND ART FESTIVAL**  
Australasia’s biggest tattoo event with entertainment, stalls and food.  
When: Nov  
www.nztattooart.com

**POWERCO GARDEN SPECTACULAR AND TARANAKI FRINGE GARDEN FESTIVAL**  
More than 120 gardens are open across these two distinct festivals.  
When: Oct/Nov  
www.gardenfestnz.co.nz  
www.taranakigardens.co.nz

**TARANAKI ARTS TRAIL AND OAKURA ARTS TRAIL**  
A rich variety of artists open their studios for public viewing.  
When: June/November  
www.taranakiartstrail.co.nz  
www.oakuraarts.co.nz

**TSB FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS**  
A wonderland of lights, displays and events in the iconic Pukekura Park.  
When: Dec/Jan  
www.festivaloflights.co.nz

**TARANAKI STEELFORMERS ROUND THE MOUNTAIN RELAY**  
Get a team together and walk or run the 150kms around the mountain.  
When: Nov  
www.mountainrelay.co.nz

**JETSPRINTS**  
An exciting face-paced, octane-fuelled event at the Methanex Aquatracek.  
When: Feb/April  
www.naki500jetsprints.kiwi

**WHANGAMOMONA REPUBLIC DAY**  
A fun-filled day of country-style entertainment in this self-declared republic.  
When: January 2019  
www.whangamomonahotel.co.nz

**WOMAD**  
Three days of music and culture from world music superstars.  
When: March  
www.taft.co.nz/womad

**SO MUCH MORE...**  
There is always something happening in Taranaki. Check out the website below for information on markets, beach carnivals, concerts and theatre shows, parades, stock cars, sporting tests (hockey, rugby, league, cricket, basketball, netball...) marathons, family fun days and lots more.

Check out the regional website for the latest information:  
www.visit.taranaki.info
Whanganui was recently rated one of New Zealand’s Top 10 destinations by Experience Oz & NZ, a leading online travel booking site highlighting the best of regions. For decades Whanganui has been one of the North Island’s adventure playgrounds for all sorts of activities given the climate, the beaches (yes, we have 3 and are a coastal city), the wonderful Whanganui River and the Whanganui National Park.

Whanganui is also very central and easily accessible. Whanganui is a 2 ½ hour drive North from Wellington, 1 ½ hours from Tongariro National Park or an hours flight from Auckland. The city’s heritage is obvious when visiting - from the stunning architecture and buildings to the Durie Hill Underground Elevator and Memorial Tower, numerous marae and taonga (treasures) in the Whanganui Regional Museum.

Whanganui has a significant arts reputation with artists, art collections, music and performance groups and clubs. On a regular weekend several galleries and studios are within walking distance of the River Traders, Whanganui’s market by the river held every Saturday morning rain or shine. You’ll find a lot to see and do here. So, if you haven’t been to Whanganui, it’s time to plan a visit.
WHANGANUI
ALL YOU NEED (AND THEN SOME)
1. DURIE HILL WAR MEMORIAL TOWER & ELEVATOR
Sixty-six metres high, the Durie Hill Elevator was built in 1919 and is NZ’s only public underground elevator and unique in the Southern Hemisphere! A pedestrian tunnel leads to the elevator and at the top are panoramic views of the Tasman Sea, Mount Ruapehu and Mount Taranaki. Right next to the elevator tower is the fantastic War Memorial Tower, which, when climbed, will offer an amazing vista of the city! These are the places for your selfie! One of the top things to do in Whanganui!

2. RIVER TRADERS, WHANGANUI’S MARKET BY THE RIVER
The Whanganui River Traders Market is an eclectic mix of art, plants, food, crafts and much more! This busy weekly market is located on the downtown Whanganui riverbank where, historically, Māori traded their produce and happens every Saturday morning from 9:00am – 1:00pm, rain or shine! Shoppers can buy colourful art and craft, fresh garden plants and products, mouth-watering home baking and preserves, flavour-filled organic fruit and vegetables and a range of other goods. Be sure to visit the Whanganui i-SITE Visitor Centre nearby for things to do in Whanganui!

3. ST PAUL’S MEMORIAL CHURCH, PUTIKI
St Pauls Anglican Memorial Church in Putiki, Whanganui, is one of the most intricately and beautifully decorated Churches in Aotearoa, New Zealand. This unique building is adorned with fascinating Māori tukutuku (weavings) and lattice designs which speak of the history of the church and the area. The church site itself dates back to 1842, and several actual buildings have been constructed on this site over the years. The current church dates back to 1936 and is a thing of wonder to behold. Book a guided tour, see the building, and hear the story from local guides steeped in the knowledge of this historic treasure! Put this on your list of things to do in Whanganui!

4. PADDLE STEAMER WAIMARIE
The Waimarie is a unique turn-of-the century paddle steamer and the only operating coal-fired paddle steamer in NZ. She arrived in Whanganui in 1899 and has been fully restored to her original condition. Moored on the banks of the river near the Waimarie Centre, she celebrates the riverboat era of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Looking for a bit of history on your list of things to do in Whanganui? Then enjoy stepping back in time and take a leisurely cruise on the mighty Whanganui River!

5. SARJEANT GALLERY
With dynamic and regularly changing exhibitions set in a sleek contemporary space within an historic warehouse, the Sarjeant Gallery is a “must see” in your journey of discovery through the Whanganui region. The gallery’s shop specialises in exclusive gifts including jewellery, objects and glass.

The Sarjeant Gallery holds more than 5,500 artworks with a comprehensive NZ art history from the 1840s to the present day. Currently located at the Sarjeant on the Quay and in the Whanganui i-SITE Visitor Centre where you can find more Things To Do In Whanganui!
epic events

CEMETERY CIRCUIT STREET RACES
Of international fame and run for the first time in 1951, this event captures the hearts and minds of motorcycle enthusiasts everywhere! Formula 1, BEARS, classics and side cars, international and national legends, this street circuit is one mile long with eight corners, two railway crossings, an over-bridge and blind S’s beside the old Whanganui cemetery. If you have just a sniff of petrolhead in you, you won’t want to miss this. Held every year on Boxing Day (26th December) – one of the top events in Whanganui. When: Boxing Day, December www.cemeterycircuit.co.nz

NZ MASTERS GAMES
This nine-day event comprises more than 55 different sports and 2,400 individual events as well as nightly entertainment. Alternating between Whanganui and Dunedin each year and with offerings for ages 20 and up, the NZ Masters Games attracts competitors not only from all over New Zealand, but also from more than 20 countries internationally. A great time and great place! When: February (biennial event – check website for details) www.nzmg.com

ARTISTS OPEN STUDIOS
In late March, visit over 60 studios and galleries and over 150 artists studios with outstanding examples in glass, furniture, printmaking, ceramic, jewellery and painting. It’s the best trail in New Zealand with studios nestled along the banks of the serene Whanganui River, or hidden in the hills in a huge old brick kiln. Great art, great prices and great experiences – The best showcase of many art events in Whanganui! When: March/April www.openstudios.co.nz

VINTAGE WEEKEND WHANGANUI
If you’re a vintage enthusiast or just yearn for yesteryear you must come to the Vintage Weekend, Whanganui’s premiere heritage event. Spread over three days, during Wellington Anniversary Weekend in January, we guarantee you will be transported to a bygone era! Music abounds at the Caboodle and the Soapbox Derby sees home-made carts racing down an insane slope. Dress-ups, markets, bands, food and wine – it’s a few days of old-time fun and tomfoolery for all! One of the top events in Whanganui. When: January www.vintageweekend.co.nz

WHANGANUI LITERARY FESTIVAL
A vibrant writers and readers’ festival held every second year attracting and hosting national and international guests. Bus tours, writers talks, poetry and book groups and fairs all to satisfy avid readers held in iconic venues throughout the city. Get your nose out of your latest book and come and join us for a really special event! When: September (biennial event – check website for details) www.writersfest.co.nz

WHANGANUI OPERA WEEK
In support of the residential NZ Opera School held in January every year, young opera singers have the opportunity to develop their abilities with tutors of international standing. Public events include Master Classes, lunchtime and evening recitals and a gala concert. Who knows, you may be lucky enough to hear the next Pavarotti or Dame Kiri…! When: January www.langanuioperaweek.co.nz

For more information and details on any event, attraction and activity please see www.visitwhanganui.nz
Often overlooked, the Rangitikei District is situated in the Central North Island with State Highway 1 running through its heart. A large district of some 4500 square kilometres, the Rangitikei landscape covers areas from the central plateau all the way down to the west coast beaches of the South Taranaki Bight. With a population just shy of 15,000, the district is home to many untouched landscapes such as the Mokai Gorge, Papa Cliffs, and Rangitikei River – all being world class adventure destinations, whether on foot, on water, or on horseback.

With townships conveniently located on or along the main highways, and the district being central, it is the perfect place to base yourself out of on this Mid-West adventure. It’s easy to see why we are known for our satellite towns – it’s only half an hour to both Whanganui and Palmerston North, or just over two hours to Wellington or Taupo. Whether you’re after your next outdoor adventure, a patron of the arts, or enjoy the slower pace of life; the Rangitikei is a place you’ll want to explore.
1. SCENERY ON THE WATER
There’s many ways to explore the amazing array of scenery here in the Rangitikei. Whether you’re after an adrenaline packed or relaxed adventure the district can cater for you. Witness remarkable landscapes on raft, wooden dories, or kayaks! We guarantee our providers will give you the most rewarding, interesting and enjoyable day or overnight adventure experience you’ve ever had. With two main providers, take a look at what is on offer and start planning your adventure today.
www.rivervalley.co.nz
www.mangaweka.co.nz

2. SCENERY BY HORSEBACK
To access the districts most amazing scenery and sunsets the team at River Valley provide a range of horse trekking and accommodation packages – allowing you to lose yourself in our breath-taking wilderness for days! Trekking through the ranges, gorges and along the river, you’ll have a unique and diverse experience no matter if you are a beginner or an advanced rider.
www.rivervalley.co.nz

3. MANGAWEKA ‘YELLOW CHURCH’ GALLERY
A cultural icon of the Rangitikei, and situated on State Highway One. We recommend a visit to resident artist & photographer Richard Aslett’s gallery of local and international artworks. This quirky gallery hosts dynamic and regularly changing exhibitions of paintings, ceramics, wood-turning, curios, plus is home to the infamous biennial Fakes & Forgeries exhibition. Open weekends, most other days and by appointment we know you’ll enjoy this unique stop off.
www.freewebs.com/mangawekagallery

4. DUDDINGS LAKE
This motorcamp & picnic park is set back from State Highway 3 in a peaceful rural setting and is enjoyed by many of the regions locals and visitors. The lake is great for swimming, boating, jet-skiing and water skiing. Fishing is permitted as the lake is stocked with trout and has a good population of perch. The campground is located next to the lake and has powered and non-powered sites for tents, campervans, caravans. There is a 2km walkway around the lake planted with native trees and great views of birdlife at the upper end.
www.duddinglake.nz

5. WALKS & HIKES
On your journey along the Te Araroa trail, the trip via Bulls to Fielding offers views of our awa (the Rangitikei River) and takes in some of the districts famous pastoral landscapes. For a day trip the Whitecliff Boulder track is a must do. Somewhat like a scene from Lord of the Rings, this track is set amongst magical and extremely intriguing boulders that are naturally occurring ‘cannon ball’ concretions made from mudstone. It’s just another thing that makes the Rangitikei a unique and wonderful place to visit.
www.whitecliffsboulders.co.nz
www.rangitikei.com
**HARVEST FAIR**

Come and celebrate the harvest season in true country fashion. With over 160 quality stalls every year it is definitely a day to bring the family to celebrate the harvest. It is a day where you will get everything you would expect at a Harvest fair: good food, cooking competitions, great stalls, fun entertainment and activities – plus then some things you wont expect! Marton is the malting capital of New Zealand! Therefore it is only fitting we have an annual Home Brew Competition. Originally, Marton was set up a few miles down the road, until someone suggested it should be a dry town, so many rebellious locals uplifted all their belongings and moved the town further up the road – making this an event for the rebels and a top event in the Rangitikei.

When: 25th March 2018

rangitikei.com/marton.html

**TAIHAPE GUMBOOT DAY**

Every year at the start of March, Taihape celebrates being the gumboot capital of the world. This full day iconic family event celebrates the best things about rural life in New Zealand. Taihape Gumboot Days feature event funnily enough is Gumboot Throwing, with the later part of the day showcasing the North Island Championships of Gumboot Throwing. It’s a free event for family activities, entertainment, art and crafts, bouncy castles, face painting, obstacle courses, as well as an array of locally sourced food. Come along, and who knows, you may end up a gumboot throwing champion!

When: Early March, Annually

www.taihape.co.nz/whats-on

**AWASTONE SUMMER SESSIONS**

Every Sunday during the summer, Awastone Riverside Camping hosts various musicians playing live along the Rangitikei River and under our version of the Grand Canyon (the stunning Papa Cliffs with faces up to 200 metres high). Whether freedom camping or tenting this unique campground literally has all the facilities and activities to make your visit/stay a joy.

When: 4-9pm on Sunday, March the 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th and April 1st 2018

www.mangaweka.co.nz

**ART FOR ARTS SAKE / WEAR-A-BULL ARTS**

From mid-August till the start of September, the Bulls Community Town Hall hosts the works of both local and national arts culminating in the World of Wearable Arts show on the 1st of September. This annual event is a celebration of all forms of art – with a number of free activities and tutorials available (such as photographic and painting) so you too can express your artistic side. Open daily from 10am-4pm, there will definitely be something that grabs your interest.

When: 17 August – 1 September 2018

rangitikei.com/events.html

**COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Marton hosts NZ’s largest Country Music Festival featuring both national and international top country music artists. Over the last 13 years it has become a major event on the Rangitikei Calendar; looked forward to by artists and public alike. The venue itself has plenty of room for parking of motor homes and camp sites so be sure to book in advance to secure your campsite and tickets.

When: February 18-20 2019

martonfestival.nz
Manawatu

an adventure awaits you

Palmerston North City and Manawatu is located in the heart of the lower North Island, with dramatic landscapes sweeping from the Ruahine and Tararua mountain ranges, the picturesque Pohangina Valley, the Manawatu River and majestic gorge, and out to the west coast beaches of Himatangi and Tangimoana – it’s truly an outdoor playground ripe for adventure, discovery and experiences.

Find out where to stop and stay
www.ManawatuNZ.co.nz/roadtrips

Travelling between Taupo and Wellington, you can make the most of the drive with unforgettable stops along the way through the Manawatu Scenic Route – a unique backcountry journey through stunning natural wonders, native bush walks and gorgeous country cafes and shops.

Whether you like to explore the great outdoors, discover quirky museums in quaint villages, enjoy vibrant street art and café culture, Manawatu has plenty to offer and will continue to surprise you time after time.

The spectacular, sweeping views at Ian McKeans Pinetum outside of Rangiwhaia in northern Manawatu is home to the largest number of conifers in the southern hemisphere.
1. SCENIC ALTERNATIVE TO STATE HIGHWAY ONE
Explore the Manawatu Scenic Route between Mangaweka and Palmerston North City, an off-the-beaten track journey made up of stunning scenic landscapes. Hike through native bush in the Ruahine Ranges, find hidden swimming holes, fish the rivers, and enjoy tasty eats at roadside cafes. www.ManawatuNZ.co.nz/scenic-journeys

2. TE APITI – MANAWATU GORGE
Experience the beauty of New Zealand’s most accessible natural playground where you can explore ancient native bush and come face to face with the legendary Whatonga sculpture. Listen to the flourishing bird song and get unparalleled views of Manawatu’s mighty wind turbines, the river, and railways from several lookout points along the way. www.TeApiti.com

3. ON YOUR BIKE
From gentle riverside trails to multi day treks, mountain trails and thrilling downhill rides, enjoy a wide range of options to suit all abilities and tyres. The Arapuke Forest Park is a mountain bike destination like no other, offering over 15km of trails from beginner to advanced at a hill top park. www.ManawatuNZ.co.nz/Bike

4. QUIRKY COLLECTIONS
Manawatu’s fascinating finds include Thomson’s Motorcycle Museum with over 100 motorcycles from around the world on display, the fantastic Colyton Clocks, New Zealand’s Rugby museum and the largest number of conifers in the southern hemisphere at the stunning Ian McKeans Pinetum. www.ManawatuNZ.co.nz/Museums

5. FRIENDLY FEILDING
With its boutique stores and cafes, free parking and charming community, Feilding has won the award for ‘New Zealand’s Most Beautiful Town’ 15 times. On a Friday, the award-winning Feilding Farmers’ Market offers local artisan products, while the iconic Feilding Saleyards has guided tours on the fascinating history of this kiwi tradition dating back to the 1880’s. www.ManawatuNZ.co.nz/Feilding

6. WALKS & HIKES
The stunning terrain of the Ruahine and Tararua Ranges offer walks and multi-day tramps for all abilities. The Sledge Track, Te Apiti – Manawatu Gorge and Rangiwahia Hut Track are ideal day walks with incredible scenery and lush native bush. In and around the city, choose from short strolls to rambling riverside pathways ripe for exploring. www.ManawatuNZ.co.nz/Walk
Palmerston North City & Manawatu hosts an exciting array of events all year round and provides plenty of overnight parking spots nearby so you can make the most of the vibrant events scene!

For more events and details head to [www.ManawatuNZ.co.nz/events](http://www.ManawatuNZ.co.nz/events)

**JANUARY**
Gravel n’ Tar Cycle Challenge – 135km of gravel and tar cycling through stunning scenery!
[gravelandtar.com](http://gravelandtar.com)

**FEBRUARY**
New Zealand Grand Prix – where the future stars of Formula One battle it out for the trophy.

**MARCH**
Festival of Cultures – a vivid celebration including a Lantern Parade and World Food & Music Fair.
[festivalofcultures.co.nz](http://festivalofcultures.co.nz)
Hilux New Zealand Rural Games – celebrate and partake in sports that built the nation along with the Running of the Wools.
[www.ruralgames.co.nz](http://www.ruralgames.co.nz)
Manawatu Walking Festival – a multi day festival of hosted walks throughout Manawatu.
[www.mwf.org.nz](http://www.mwf.org.nz)
Central Districts Field Days – New Zealand’s largest regional agricultural event.
[www.cdfielddays.co.nz](http://www.cdfielddays.co.nz)

**APRIL**
Speedway Superstock Grand Finals – action packed battle of no holds barred racing, finishing with a fireworks display.
[www.pnspeedway.co.nz](http://www.pnspeedway.co.nz)

**MAY**
Manawatu Striders Marathon & Half Marathon – enter the full, half, 10km or 5km course in this iconic event.
[www.manawatustriders.org.nz](http://www.manawatustriders.org.nz)

**AUGUST**
The North Range Trio off-road Ultra Marathon and Run/Walk – set of three off-road run/walk events on top of Tararua Ranges including an ultra marathon.
[northrangetraverse.co.nz](http://northrangetraverse.co.nz)

**SEPTEMBER**
International Spring Festival – a picturesque blossom festival celebrating diversity, and an iconic food fair.
[www.ipu.ac.nz/events.html](http://www.ipu.ac.nz/events.html)

**OCTOBER**
Feilding Wild Wild West Rural Day – the country comes to town for the best day of the year.

**NOVEMBER**
Cross Hills Country Fair – over 160 boutique stalls set amongst world-class rhododendron gardens.
[crosshillsfair.co.nz](http://crosshillsfair.co.nz)
Jenny Mair Highland Square Day – a showcase of talent from across the country and overseas.
[www.manawatuscottishsociety.com](http://www.manawatuscottishsociety.com)
Eat like a local and explore the many markets on offer weekly!
[www.ManawatuNZ.co.nz/Markets](http://www.ManawatuNZ.co.nz/Markets)

7. **WILD WEST COAST**
Himatangi Beach boasts the largest sand dunes in the southern hemisphere with a range of water activities to enjoy such as fishing and kayaking with an award-winning holiday park nearby. Also an official road, you can take in the rugged landscape of this black-sand beach from the comforts of your motorhome.

8. **URBAN EXPLORER**
In the heart of Palmerston North city, you’ll find a creative atmosphere buzzing with street art, sculptures and statues dotted throughout. With plenty of conveniences such as showers and inner-city overnight parking, you can enjoy the city’s theatres and art galleries as well as boutique shops and cafes along George Street and Coleman Mall.
[www.ManawatuNZ.co.nz/Art](http://www.ManawatuNZ.co.nz/Art)
Horowhenua
perfectly placed

With unspoilt sandy beaches, melting ocean sunsets, expansive green landscapes and friendly people, the Horowhenua District holds secrets you only dare dream about!

Bordered by the mighty Tararua Ranges to the east and the beaches of the Tasman Sea to the west, down all the side roads on offer you’ll find miles of bushwalks, gardens, rivers, lakes, parks and reserves.

Conveniently located right on State Highways 1 and 57, and the North Island main trunk railway line, the District is within easy reach of Palmerston North and Wellington.

Covering just over 1,000km², Horowhenua stretches from Himatangi in the north to just north of the Otaki River to the south and is an easy District in which to drive, cycle and walk around.

Retaining its ‘small town New Zealand feel’, and nature-based lifestyle, Horowhenua is still very much a thriving business, manufacturing and agricultural hub with all the benefits of a large city – and then some!

The District’s stunning natural environment offers something for everyone all year round, and Horowhenua’s topography has resulted in the formation of a number of unique environments.

A long sandy coastline makes for excellent family beaches and for a multitude of water sports and activities. And the Tararua Ranges provide an outdoor playground, with a fantastic range of walks, hikes and bikes, from gentle parkland strolls to multi-day treks across the tops of the Ranges.

Find out where to stay
www.horowhenua.govt.nz/motorhomes
1. EXPLORE
Whether you run, hike, or cycle, you can explore the majestic Tararua’s your way. Enjoy a picturesque ride or a multi-day trek; whatever you are after, there are a number of tracks and pathways which will appeal to all abilities and interests. www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Places-Events/Cycle-Tracks-Walking-Trails

2. TE AWAHOU NIEUWE STROOM
Foxton is home to the brand new Dutch and Maori cultural precinct – Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom. This museum preserves, shares, and makes accessible the stories and taonga of specific cultural groups: tangata whenua, early pioneers, Dutch and more recent immigrants. Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom is a destination where people can experience cultural tourism that is both authentic and interactive. www.teawahou.com

3. BOUTIQUE SHOPPING
A beautiful boutique town with plenty of character to boot, Shannon has become a destination stop for boutique shopping. There are a number of stores that sell a range of boutique clothing and jewellery. There are also other craft, homeware, clothing and retro shops to enjoy.

4. LAKE PAPAITONGA
Take a walk around Lake Papaitonga, which has historic connections with the renowned Maori chief Te Rauparaha. Lake Papaitonga is a picturesque dune lake that is a refuge for native birds. Enjoy a pleasant bush walk and some bird watching. A great destination for the family. www.doc.govt.nz

5. TRAINSPOTTING
Stop into Shannon Railway Museum and Visitor Centre to see one of the few remaining vestiges of the Wellington and Manawatu Railway Company.

6. A TOUCH OF HOLLAND
The small Horowhenua town of Foxton is home to a Dutch settlement. Stop by to enjoy Dutch cuisine and to check out the full size operating Windmill.

7. GET BLOWN AWAY
Take advantage of the beach by experiencing it stand up paddleboarding, power kiting, landboarding or kitesurfing. Wind Warriors are the only registered kitesports provider in the lower North Island. www.windwarrior.nz

8. WINE AND DINE
Horowhenua is widely known for its local food producers. You can enjoy fresh picked asparagus in spring, berries in the summer or stop by New Zealand’s most exciting new grape growing area, Ohau. Just off State Highway 1 is the Ohau Gravels Cellar Door – why not drop and take advantage of local award winning wines at special rates! www.ohauwines.co.nz
AP& I SHOW
All the fun of the fair comes to town with carnival rides and games – axemen, sheep racing, live entertainment and the Grand Parade. Make sure you bring the whole family down to enjoy the weekend.
When: January
www.levinapishow.co.nz

MEDIEVAL MARKET
Ye Olde Medieval Market will once again become a bustling village full of old-world charm. From real life knight and foot soldiers skirmishes, to paper sword battles for ye young ones. Old style activities to fiddlers, merry maidens and wicked wenches. Watch out for men in tights.
When: February
www.horowhenua.govt.nz

SUPER CHEAP AUTO SPECTACULAR CAR SHOW
Community fundraiser attracting over 400 vehicles for display each year. Bring your own special vehicle to display or just come on in and enjoy the day. There is always a great variety of cars, bikes and other machinery to see.
When: February
Contact: 06 362 7872

BEHIND THE HEDGES
Country and Lifestyle Trail. Make a date with friends and family to explore lifestyle properties showcasing the best of rural Horowhenua.
When: Biennial February/March

FOXTON EASTER FAIR
With approximately 220 quality stalls offering a multitude of products along with food stalls, there will be plenty of things to keep you interested throughout the day.
When: Easter Sunday
Contact: foxtoneasterfair@gmail.com

GREAT FOREST EVENTS
This is New Zealand’s number one off road marathon event through the beautiful Matariki Forest. Everybody can participate – Great Forest Events welcomes all ages and the events cater to all fitness levels with several different distance options available.
When: April
www.greatforest.org.nz

FOXTON SPRING FLING
With bands, wonderful food stalls featuring food from all around the world, entertainment for young and old and over 200 stalls this is the one event over Labour Weekend you don’t want to miss!
When: Labour weekend
Contact: ftda@foxton.co.nz

HOROWHENUA TASTE TRAIL
An adventure through Horowhenua’s Special food producers! From farm tours to tastings… There will be a new experience for you up every road or track on the trail. It provides a unique opportunity to get behind the scenes, and sample delicious fresh produce, directly from the source.
When: November
www.tastetrail.co.nz

HOROWHENUA COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL
Enjoy a family-friendly day out with live entertainment, gourmet food trucks, and a market providing an opportunity to buy unique Christmas presents. Also the Levin Christmas Parade.
When: December

9. NATIVE BIRD AND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
Owlcraz is a haven for wonderful creatures of many types including our NZ Owl (Morepork/Ruru) where the guides take you inside their unique purpose built home. Walk through the endangered North Island Weka enclosures or to Owlcraz farm to meet many different creatures.
www.owlcatraz.co.nz

10. CABLE WAKEBOARD PARK
New Zealand’s newest Cable Wakeboard and Waterski Park, Off the Loop has a variety of flat glassy water, ramps, and rail slides at their double laned, purpose built location. There’s something for the whole family and it’s guaranteed to satisfy riders of all skill levels!
www.offtheloop.nz
Plan your Taranaki adventure now at visit.taranaki.info

Venture Taranaki
9 Robe St | PO Box 670 | New Plymouth 4340
P: +64 6 759 5150 | E: info@venture.org.nz

Uncover the real treasures of Whanganui at www.visitwhanganui.nz

Whanganui i-SITE
31 Taupo Quay, Whanganui
P: 0800 926 426 | E: info@visitwhanganui.nz

Plan your Rangitikei adventure now at www.Rangitikei.com

Taihape Information Centre
90-92 Hautapu Street, Taihape 4720
P: + 64 6 388 0604 | E: tourism@rangitikei.govt.nz

Plan your Manawatu adventure now at www.ManawatuNZ.co.nz

Palmerston North City i-SITE
The Square | Palmerston North
P: 0800 MANAWATU
E: info@ManawatuNZ.co.nz

Feilding & District Information Centre
61 Aorangi Street | Feilding
P: + 64 6 323 3318

Plan your Horowhenua adventure now at www.horowhenua.govt.nz

Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō i-SITE
10 Bath Street, Levin 5510
P: +64 6 366 0848 | E: visitorinfo@tetakere.org.nz