

Haere Mai, Welcome

In your own time, explore our unique nature walks, our colourful steaming lakes and thermal pools.



THE LIVING MĀORI VILLAGE Whakarewarewa

ROTORUA NEW ZEALAND

- Kanapanapa Track (40 - 50 mins)
- Tamaheke Track (10 - 15 mins)
- Werenga Track (10 mins)
- Tuturu Track (5 mins)



- First Aid
- Public Toilets
- Rest Areas
- Lookout / Viewing point
- Civil Defence Assembly Area
- No Wheelchair access beyond this point

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ADMISSION BUILDING 2. MEMORIAL ARCHWAY 3. BRIDGE & PENNY DIVERS 4. TE PUARENGA STREAM (FLOATING BLOSSOM) 5. WHAREPUNI / SLEEPING HOUSE 6. WAHIAO / MEETING HOUSE / TOILET 7. TE KUHA HOT SPRING 8. START - WAHAROA 9. TE ARAWA ANGLICAN CHURCH 10. MUD POOLS (TE WERENGA) 11. TE PARAKIRI O TE HURUNUI 12. TURI KOTITI 13. LOOKOUT 14. HOT SPRING - TURIKORE / TURITITI | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. TE ROTO A TAMAHEKE 16. TE PUNA WAIARIKI POAKA 17. FLORA AND FAUNA INFORMATION BOARD 18. MUD POOLS 19. GREEN LAKE (ROTO KANAPANAPA) 20. LOOKOUT - GREEN LAKE 21. LOOKOUT - PŌHUTU 22. LOOKOUT - VILLAGE VIEW 23. LOOKOUT - MOKOIA ISLAND 24. LOOKOUT - HOT LAKES 25. RESTING AREA 26. WAI TARATARA POOL 27. HAERE - EXIT 28. HEIHEI POOL |
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<i>Legacy guided Village Tours</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ADMISSION BUILDING 2. MEMORIAL ARCHWAY 3. BRIDGE & PENNY DIVERS 4. TE PUARENGA STREAM (FLOATING BLOSSOM) 5. WHAREPUNI / SLEEPING HOUSE 6. RAHUI / RESERVE 7. STEAM BOX HANGI / COOKING FROM THE EARTH 8. PAREKOHURU / MURDEROUS RIPPLES 9. MAARA KAI / VEGETABLE GARDEN 10. OIL BATHS / TOP BATHS 11. WAIPURU / IMMERSE | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. PUREREHUA / BUTTERFLY 13. PŌHUTU GEYSER - LOOKOUT 1 14. KOROTIOTIO- GRUMPY OLD MAN 15. TUHOROMATAKAKA 16. GNS / EARTH SCIENCE FACILITY 17. CATHOLIC CHURCH 18. CEMETERY / URUPA 19. MAGGIE PAKAKURA / GUIDE RANGI MEMORIAL 20. PŌHUTU GEYSER - LOOKOUT 2 21. TE KŌHANGA REO 22. WAHIAO - MEETING HOUSE 23. TE MU BELL |
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See over for more information on each item of interest

Whaka

GEOTHERMAL TRAILS

powerful • healing • nature

1. TE WHAKAREWAREWATANGAOTEOPETAUĀAWĀHIAO

The full name of our village translates to 'The Uprising of the War Parties of Wāhiao'. Three centuries earlier a Warrior Chief named Wahiao gathered an army to avenge the killing of his father and the people adopted the full name for the village. The name of our village was shortened to Whakarewarewa, or simply Whaka (pronounced 'Wok-a').

2. MEMORIAL ARCHWAY

This memorial archway was erected after World War II in commemoration of our fallen soldiers and tribal members who served in the two World Wars. The inscriptions in the front of archway Te Hokowhitu a Tu, acknowledges Tu (Tumatauenga), the guardian of War. Each year on the 25th April, the ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) dawn parade is held to commemorate our fallen war heroes.

3. BRIDGE & PENNY DIVERS

Our first bridge was erected in 1885. Prior to the building of the bridge the only way the visitors could enter our village was to be carried across the river by the men, often in return for a penny. For generations, local village children have jumped from the bridge for pennies (now gold coins) tossed into the river by visitors crossing the bridge earning them the nickname "Penny Divers". This tradition proudly continues today.

4. TE PUARENGA STREAM (FLOATING BLOSSOM)

The floating blossoms refers to the yellow sulphur deposits that float and swirl as the deposits come down the stream.

5. WHAREPUNI / SLEEPING HOUSE

Traditionally natural materials, kaponga (Tree fern), were utilised to build wharepuni/homes. The first occupants of Whakarewarewa built directly on top of the geothermal area to take advantage and availability of the heat and warmth.

6. WHARE TŪPUNA / ANCESTRAL MEETING HOUSE

This house is named after our great ancestor, Wāhiao. The best of all Māori carving is saved for the Ancestral Meeting House. The carver takes pride in displaying his artistic skill and knowledge as he creates the history, whakapapa (genealogy) of his people. Without a written language, the carver tells, through carvings, the stories and legends of his people and their tribal connections.

7. TE KUHA HOT SPRING

Te Kuha hot spring has been used extensively as a cooking hot-spring due to the purity and very high temperature of the waters.

8. START - WAHAROA

Entry to Whaka geothermal trail. The Waharoa (overhead entrance) signifies a waiting area before entering a special place. It is customary to say a karakia (prayer) to bless and give thanks to Papatuanuku (mother-earth) to travel across her rohe (area).

9. TE ARAWA ANGLICAN CHURCH

After the Tarawera eruption (1886) many of the survivors who were Anglican moved to be with family living at Whakarewarewa and with them they bought the faith of the Anglican Church.

10. MUD POOLS (TE WERENGA)

This is the largest and most spectacular mud pool in our village. The mud is renowned for healing arthritis, lumbago, rheumatism and it is also said to give your skin a younger appearance. The temperature of the mud is between 80-90 degrees Celsius and has the consistency like quick sand.

11. TE PARAKIRI O TE HURINUI

Te Parakiri o te Hurinui/Spout Bath was used as a thermal bathing area where the people would bath naked. This practise still remains today in the Village.

12. TURI KOTITI / TURI KORE

Turi Kotiti / Turi Kore is one of many papa Kaianga (traditional home) that were developed across this geothermal park.

13. LOOKOUT

Jurassic landscape look-out.

14. HOT SPRING - TURIKORE / TURITITI

15. TE ROTO A TAMAHEKE

Te roto a Tamaheke has medicinal element in its waters and the Spring water was so sacred because of its healing powers, there were many battles over its control. The water was used/piped all the way into the town centre to be used at the 'Bath House' for its relaxation and healing properties.

16. TE PUNA WAIARIKI POAKA

Te Puna Waiariki Poaka temperatures are so high, this pool is still used today to remove Poaka (Pig) hair in preparation for cooking in a ground hangi pit (cooking oven).

17. FLORA AND FAUNA INFORMATION BOARD

This site is under development to showcase a range of native flora and fauna to describe how these were used in the medicinal, herbal and food preparations to early Māori.

18. MUD POOLS

Roto Opouri (Black Lake) was used as a 'healing' pool, especially for the soldiers who returned home with injuries during WWII. This mud pool was also used to soothing and relaxing Mothers prior to giving birth.

19. GREEN LAKE (ROTO KANAPANAPA)

Roto Kanapanapa was used by a high priest for performing various ceremonies. One of these ceremonies was 'embalming' bodies as the chemicals within the waters had preservation properties, before being taken to a burial site.

20. LOOKOUT - GREEN LAKE

Green Lake Lookout and rest area.

21. LOOKOUT - PŌHUTU

Pōhutu Lookout is an amazing view across this Jurassic park-like landscape. Here you can see a clear outline of a connecting 'fault-line' to the Pōhutu Geyser, known as the Te Puia Fault-line.

22. LOOKOUT - VILLAGE VIEW

Village Lookout showcases how today's village people, have adapted to live on top of a geothermal plateau.

23. LOOKOUT - MOKOIA ISLAND

Mokoia Island Lookout, if you look toward the North you may see Mokoia Island in the middle of Lake Rotorua. Mokoia depicts the true Love story of a warrior, Tutanekei and his beautiful maiden, Hinemoa who were forbidden to see each other until Hinemoa swam to the Island to be with Tutanekei.

24. LOOKOUT - HOT LAKES

Hot Lakes Lookout is an ideal site to take a most memorable photo.

25. RESTING AREA

26. WAI TARATARA POOL

An early settlement area where families built their home and lived near a specific hot pool

27. HAERE RĀ - EXIT

Haere Ra Exit, please make your way safely back to the Entry.

28. HEIHEI POOL

Te Puna Waiariki heihei (chicken plucking spring) chosen to prepare chicken which had become a staple food for Māori and because of its close proximity to the village. Meats were cooked in their own hot spring and separate to where vegetables were cooked.



Legacy guided Village Tours

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6. RAHUI / RESERVE

This area is the locality of many hot springs. The residents of the village and families of Tūhourangi, Ngāti Wāhiao utilise the resources for daily cooking and bathing.

7. STEAM BOX HANGI / COOKING FROM THE EARTH

The first inhabitants of the village discovered that, by harnessing the heat from the ground, food could be cooked. This has always been the traditional way of cooking within the village.

8. PAREKOHURU / MURDEROUS RIPPLES

This is the largest hot spring in our village and every 45 minutes to an hour the pool pulsates and the water begins to rise. After each pulsation when the water level drops, bubbles rise to the surface. This has earned the pool the nickname "The Champagne Pool". This pool is used for cooking of leaf and root vegetables and seafood.

9. MAARA KAI / VEGETABLE GARDEN

This area is where the original wharekai, or village communal dining hall named Papawharanui, stood. The Maara Kai supports the traditional communal lifestyle and the sustainability of the village. The two carved houses in the garden, called pataka, are used for food storage and are raised from the ground to deter rodents.

10. OIL BATHS / TOP BATHS

These are the village communal baths where residents bathe. The name comes from the oily texture and the mineral deposits within the water. Its healing properties were used to treat ailments such as arthritis, lumbago and rheumatism.

11. WAIPURU / IMMERSE

This pool was once used as the village copper to sterilise linen and babies' nappies before washing. It was only used for this purpose.

12. PUREREHUA / BUTTERFLY

These pools are often referred to as the local weather forecaster. They are affected by the change in the weather (atmospheric pressure). When the water level drops - we know that the weather is going to change!

13. GEYSER LOOKOUT / VIEWING PLATFORM 1

From this platform you can see three of New Zealand's most active geysers. Pōhutu is to the left, Prince of Wales 'Feathers' to the right and Kereru to the far right. Ultimately, Mother Nature determines when the geysers will erupt, however, on average they erupt at least once every hour. Pōhutu (meaning Big Splash) is the most famous and largest of all NZ's geysers and varies in height from 10 to 40 meters. Prince of Wales 'Feathers' is also known as Te Tohu (The Indicator) and is the most active of the three geysers. Kereru (meaning Wood Pigeon), on the other hand, erupts randomly.

14. KOROTIOTIO / GRUMPY OLD MAN

This is the most volatile spring gushing super-heated water to the surface. This is the only pool in the village, and Rotorua, where you can see water exploding out from the ground. In former days this pool was the main outlet for the oil baths and has a consistent temperature of 104+ degrees Celsius, but can reach 120 degrees Celsius.

15. TUHOROMATAKAKA

This house is named after our ancestor Tuhoromatakaka and was built by master carver Tene Waitere for Maggie Papakura, one of our famous guides (Guides Profile No3).

16. TE MATĀPUNA O PĀPATUANUKU / EARTH SCIENCE FACILITY / GNS

This facility offers you a source of knowledge relating to the many features of our geothermal environment and landscape, such as from Māori legends about how our people came to be living on top of the geothermal. Also learn about evolving earth sciences.

17. CATHOLIC CHURCH

This was built in 1905. Many family members of the village are Catholic and so are buried in the tombs around the Catholic Church.

18. URUPA / CEMETERY

Due to the ongoing geothermal activity underground, the bodies of those passed are placed in tombs above the ground.

19. MAGGIE PĀPĀKURA / GUIDE RANGI MEMORIAL

In the early part of last century Maggie Papakura was one of the most famous Whakarewarewa guides. She was renowned for her beauty and her wealth of knowledge about her history and people. The tomb to the right of the memorial is probably the most famous of all Whakarewarewa guides, Guide Rangi. Rangi was married to the son of Maggie Papakura, Te Aonui Dennon, who is also buried to the left of his mother's memorial stone.

20. GEYSER TERRACE LOOKOUT / VIEWING PLATFORM 2

This point is as close that you are able to get to the geysers. The small blue lake where the geyser terraces is nicknamed 'The Blueys', because of the bright blue water.

21. TE KŌHANGA REO/ LANGUAGE NEST

The Māori language was introduced into the educational curriculum in 1982 after a movement by the Māori people to the Government to retain our language. The Māori language only is spoken at Kōhanga Reo throughout New Zealand, including in the village pre-school which was established for local children. The children speak Māori commencing from the time they can talk, up to the age of 5 when they move on to Primary School.

22. WHARE TŪPUNA / ANCESTRAL MEETING HOUSE

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23. TE MU BELL

The Bell was retrieved from Te Wairoa at Tarawera in the 1980s to be a reminder of the early Colonial settlement and the importance of Christianity to Maori people.