



Matariki Pou, The Strand

ITINERARY

4-NIGHT HERITAGE & HISTORY TRAIL

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You smile*



1. DISCOVER TAURANGA

Gate Pā Battlefield

Visit the Gate Pā battlefield, a significant battleground from the New Zealand Land Wars and the only battle site in the country to be set within a city's boundaries.

The Elms | Te Papa Tauranga

The Elms | Te Papa Tauranga is one of New Zealand's oldest heritage sites. As a place of early contact between Māori and Pākehā, this historic site remains at the centre of Tauranga's history and identity today. Journey through the expansive grounds, and enjoy a guided tour of the historic house and library.

The Historic Village

The Historic Village is home to a collection of original and replica buildings from early Tauranga, set in gorgeous gardens and natural bush surrounds. These wonderful character buildings now house over 50 businesses, including shops and community organisations. We recommend a coffee at the onsite Whipped Baker (look out for the amazing doughnuts!).

E-Bike tour around Tauranga

Hire an e-bike from Day Trippers and take an e-bike tour around Tauranga Harbour. Bike over the Matapihi Rail Bridge which was built in 1924 and is still a functioning rail bridge for the busy Port of Tauranga. Continue on to historic places such as the Mission Cemetery and Monmouth Redoubt and be sure to take in the beautiful Matariki pou (carvings) on The Strand.

Stay: Clarence Hotel is a 1906 Edwardian Baroque style building that was once Tauranga's Post Office. It has now been refurbished into a boutique 10-room hotel, fine dining restaurant and funky bar and bistro.

HIGHLIGHTS

Gate Pā battlefield, The Elms, the Historic Village, e-Bike tour & luxury accommodation.





2. DISCOVER MOUNT MAUNGANUI

Enjoy a stroll around Mauao (Mount Maunganui)

One of the most Instagrammed locations in New Zealand is in the heart of the Bay of Plenty – Mauao. Walk around the base track or hike to the top of the dormant volcano for a view that will take your breath away. Standing 232m above sea level, Mauao is an iconic landmark treasured by locals.

Mauao means 'caught by the dawn' and the mountain is steeped in Māori history and mythology. Several historical pā sites (villages) have been built on this extinct volcanic cone, the evidence of which can still be seen today as you explore the popular walking tracks.

Download the Arataki Cultural Trails app for a guided tour as you walk around the base track.

Harbour cruise and e-bike tour with Te Ara Tourism

This three-hour haerenga (tour) with Te Ara Tourism includes a cruise of Te Awanui Harbour (Tauranga Harbour) and an e-bike tour on the Omokoroa to Tauranga cycle trail.

Enjoy historical and cultural story-telling and a visit to Ongarahu Pa at Plummer's Point - one of the most well preserved defensive fortifications known in New Zealand.

HIGHLIGHTS

Explore one of the most instagrammed spots in New Zealand.



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3. WONDEROUS WHAKATĀNE

Mataatua: The House That Came Home

Mataatua: The House That Came Home is an extraordinary story of a house that travelled the world before coming home to the people of Ngāti Awa in 2011. Built in 1875, it travelled to Sydney, Melbourne, London (Victoria & Albert Museum and South Kensington Museum), Dunedin and Otago before being rebuilt in its place of origin, Whakatāne, in 2011.

Marvel at the intricacy of the carved representations of the great Ngāti Awa Chiefs before two of the tribe's most famous traditions are brought to life before your eyes in Hiko: Legends Carved in Light – the award winning Mataatua visitor experience. For an extra luxurious experience, book a heli wine-tasting & picnic with Aerius Helicopters. Leaving from Tauranga Airport, take a coastal flight over the Bay of Plenty and land at the estate for wine-tasting and a decadent picnic grazing platter.

Carry on the wine theme with a stop at Finer Wines on the Katikati Main Street - their incredible selection is bound to impress you!

Ngā Tapuwae o Toi (The Footsteps of Toi)

This incredible walk will have you following in the footsteps of a mighty chief. It includes pā sites of major historic significance, superb native forest and spectacular coastal views. It is a treat for bird watchers with both seabird colonies and forest bird song to delight you.

Ngā Tapuwae o Toi encompasses the great chieftain Toi's dominion. His stronghold, Kapu-te-Rangi (Pā of Gentle Breezes), is one of the oldest known pā sites in the country.

Stay: A few doors down from Mataatua is White Island Island Rendezvous - a 4.5 star motel accommodation nestled between the Whakatāne River and a pōhutukawa tree lined escarpment. Enjoy your stay in one of the micro-village cabins and enjoy breakfast at the onsite café - a favourite amongst locals.

HIGHLIGHTS

Explore ancient coastal settlements, discover the house that came home & follow the footsteps of a mighty Chief.



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4. KOHUTAPU LODGE

Discover the oldest cave drawings in New Zealand with Kohutapu Lodge

People have been drawn to the Bay of Plenty for a millennia – we've even got the oldest cave drawings in New Zealand. Carbon-dated to 1050AD, you can see these in Murupara with the amazing guides from Kohutapu Lodge who will entertain you with stories and legends and help you discover our ancient past.

Stay: Kohutapu Lodge is nestled on the shores of Lake Aniwhenua and offers affordable camp-style accommodation. Relax and enjoy the natural surroundings and let the hosts show you the hospitality they are world-famous for.

HIGHLIGHTS

Discover NZ's oldest cave drawings - carbon-dated to 1050AD.



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