



GREAT LAKE TAUPŌ

Free Things to Do around Great Lake Taupō

Aratiatia Rapids A huge hydro electric power station and dam. Gates open and water released daily. Signposted off SH5 approx 10km north of Taupō. Summer: 10am, 12 noon, 2pm, 4pm. Winter: 10am, 12 noon, 2pm.

Botanical Reserve An 85 acre reserve containing alpine and native plants, azaleas and rhododendrons. Gates are open daily until dusk. Situated at the top of Shepherd Road, Taupō.

Day Walks There are a number of day walks around the area ranging from 30 minutes up to full day walks. Pick up either a local brochure or the Lake Taupō Guide to Walks and Hikes brochure from the Taupō or Turangi i-SITE Visitor Centres for a small cost.

Children's Play Areas Lake Taupō region has a number of excellent children's play areas. Visit the Taupō or Turangi i-SITE Visitor Centre for details.

Drive Around Lake Taupō Approximately 160 kms around spectacular Lake Taupō, via the Western Bays Highway and State Highway One. There are plenty of beautiful picnic and swimming spots along the way.

Huka Honey Hive See bees in glass hives, sample honey products including wines, mead and watch educational videos. Honey products for sale. Open daily 9am – 5pm. Situated on the Karetoto Road, off Huka Falls Loop Road, off SH1 north in Wairakei Tourist Park, Taupō.

Huka Falls The major waterfall on the Waikato River. NZ's most visited natural attraction. Famous for the volume of water (62,000 gallons per second) that hurtles through its narrow chasm. Situated off SH1 on Huka Falls loop road north in Wairakei Tourist Park, Taupō.

Mind Junction Interactive activities for all the family. Free entry to cafe and shop; activity prices vary. Open daily 10am – 4pm. 10 minutes north of Taupō on SH5, towards Rotorua.

FREE!

FREE things to do

Mountain Biking There are fabulous tracks along the Huka Falls track and through the Craters of the Moon. Pick up a Mountain Biking map from either the Taupō or Turangi i-SITE Visitor Centres for a small cost.

Native Plant Nursery This nursery specialises in the propagation of native plants and is one of the largest of its kind in the country. Open daily. Centennial Drive, Taupō.

Opepe Reserve This historic reserve was the scene of a massacre of 9 soldiers from the Bay of Plenty Cavalry by Te Kooti's men in 1869. A short walk on the left of SH5 leads to the graves. The track on the right leads to the site of the old Opepe settlement to the Armed Constabulary Posts watering trough and to an old saw pit. 17km from Taupō on SH5 Napier/Taupō Road.

Riverside Markets Weekly market every Saturday from 10am to 1pm at the Riverside Park on Redoubt Street. Fresh produce, arts and crafts & so much more. Car boot sale 1st Saturday of every month.

Road Cycling Try the 'Ironman' circuit out to Reporoa, or around Lake Taupō following the Cycle Challenge Route. Great road cycling for all levels, there is also a velodrome at Owen Delany Park.

Rose Gardens Over 500 rose bushes grow here. The gardens are adjacent to the Lake Taupō Museum in Story Place, Taupō.

Sculpture Walk Visit the various sculpture installations around Taupō. Maps and descriptions available from Taupō i-Site

Settler's Cemetery A number of Taupō's early settler's are buried in this small cemetery at the lower end of Spa Road, Taupō.

Skateboarding There is a skateboard park on the corner of Spa and Tauhara Roads, Taupō.

Spa Park Walk Walk alongside the glorious Waikato River, NZ's longest. Enjoy the fresh air and surrounding bush. Stop off at Huka Falls, grab a drink and a snack at the kiosk, then head back, or continue on to the Aratiatia Dam. Starts off on Spa Road, Taupō.

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Trout Fishing Take a picnic and watch anglers fly fish for trout at the Waitahanui Stream. Situated on SH1 south of Taupō at Waitahanui.

Free Things to Do in Turangi

Day Walks There are a number of day walks around the area ranging from 30 minutes up to full day walks. Pick up the Great Lake Taupō Guide to Walks and Hikes brochure from the Taupō or Turangi i-SITE Visitor Centres for a small cost.

Lookouts There are a number of vantage points for sightseeing over Lake Taupō, Turangi and the surrounding areas. The Waihi Lookout at the southern end of the lake offers spectacular views over Tokaanu, Turangi and the Western Bays of Lake Taupō.

Mountain Biking There are plenty of tracks throughout the region, including the famous 42nd Traverse and the new Tongariro River Trail. Pick up a Mountain Biking map from either the Taupō or Turangi i-SITE Visitor Centres for a small cost.

Road Cycling This region is very suitable for a summer cycling tour; why not cycle the volcanic loop around the mountains?

Walking and Tramping The Lake Taupō region offers a variety of walking opportunities, such as the Great Lake Walkway along the Taupō lakefront, the Huka Falls Walkway, and the Lake Rotopounamu Walking Track. Pick up the Lake Taupō Guide to Walks and Hikes brochure from the Taupō or Turangi i-SITE Visitor Centres for a small cost.

Tokaanu Historic Wharf Dates from the early 1800s and is one of the oldest structures of its kind in NZ. A popular picnic and fishing spot.

Tokaanu Thermal Walk Located adjacent to the Tokaanu Thermal Pools – free thermal bush walk, 15 – 20 minutes of bubbling mud and silica springs, wheelchair accessible.

Tongariro River Loop Walk 1 hour walk alongside the world famous Tongariro River – watch people fly fish and enjoy the views of the Kaimanawa Ranges.

Tongariro National Trout Centre View wild Taupō trout in the Waihukahuka Stream through the underwater window, or feed trout in the children's pond. Lots of displays to see including the hatchery and visitor centre. Lovely bush setting, BBQ and picnic facilities. Trout food available to purchase. Open daily 10am – 3pm. SH1, just south of Turangi. Children only FREE.

Free Things to Do in Mangakino

Picnic by the Lakes Both Lakes Whakamaru and Maraetai have excellent picnic and wakeboarding spots.

Waikato River Trails Walkers and mountain bikers can explore a series of free riverside trails. The winding tracks encompass the magic and beauty of native bush, exotic forest, historic landmarks, rock formations, farms, wetlands, extensive lake and river views and a 70m

suspension bridge across the Mangakino Stream. The boardwalk sections of the Trails are disable-access friendly.

Pureora Forest Park – The park's 78,000 hectares has numerous impressive bush walks, from 30 minutes to 4 hours, beneath towering Totara, Rimu and Matai. Amid the native bush is the spot marking the centre of the North Island. Visit New Zealand's oldest Totara tree 'Pouakani' and discover the various mountain bike tracks in the forest park. Climbing the Forest Tower takes you up into the forest canopy which will get you even closer to the bird life – including the exotic Kokako and the shy Kaka.



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for further information contact

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note: times and prices are subject to change without prior notice