

Horowhenua

Official Visitor Guide

Levin | Foxton & Foxton Beach

Shannon - Tokomaru - Ōhau - Manakau - Ōpiki
Waitārere Beach - Waikawa Beach - Hōkio Beach



horowhenua.govt.nz

Welcome to **Horowhenua**

Nestled between the magnificent Tararua Ranges and the beaches of the Tasman Sea, this picturesque district offers an affordable, family destination.



Unspoilt beaches, rivers, villages, friendly people and natural, open spaces – Horowhenua is the perfect place to enjoy real Kiwi experiences.

With many protected nature and conservation areas, including the Tararua Forest Park, as well as parks, estuaries and wetlands, Horowhenua is the perfect outdoor playground for walking, cycling, swimming, fishing or simply relaxing. The district's natural beauty is complemented by its diverse culture and rich heritage, with unique museums and historic sites to discover.

Your stay here will be made complete with fresh, local produce, vineyards, wonderful accommodation options and friendly, relaxed people.



Levin - Taitoko

Levin is the ideal base from which to explore Horowhenua. The district is known for its fresh produce and you can pick up delights direct from the wonderful local producers or enjoy one of the many cafés or restaurants.

If you have kids, don't miss the Adventure Park with its very own train ride.

With the Tasman Sea on one side and the Tararua Ranges on the other, Levin is conveniently close to a wide range of outdoor adventures - tramping, walking, hunting and mountain biking - for all ages and abilities.

Take a walk around Lake Papaitonga, which has historic connections with the renowned Māori chief Te Rauparaha. To the west of Levin is Lake Horowhenua, Muaūpoko or Punahau as it is known by local iwi.

Or head to the beach - to the south is the quaint Hōkio Beach and to the northwest is Waitārere Beach with its unspoilt views and its very own buried shipwreck.

Enjoy a picnic at Thompson House Gardens, winner of a prestigious international Green Flag Award. Then take in the nearby Nola Simpson Rose Garden and historical Levin Court House.

Levin is home to Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, a culture and community centre that reflects the richness and diversity of the community and showcases all that is great about the Horowhenua.

 tetakere.org.nz



Foxton - Te Awahou

This quintessential Kiwi town, once famed for its flax trade, is the oldest settlement in the Horowhenua and offers arts, culture and a grand heritage.

Venture off State Highway 1 and wander down Foxton's historic Main Street and experience New Zealand's yesteryear charm.

Experience Dutch and Māori history at Te Awahou Riverside Cultural Park. The park is home to Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, which includes Piriharakeke Generation Inspiration Centre - a Māori (Ngāti Raukawa) museum and gallery - and the Oranjehof Dutch Connection Centre, which tells the many stories of Dutch migration to New Zealand.

Other highlights in the park include a horse-drawn tram and a replica of a 17th century Dutch windmill De Molen. Check out the galleries, antique stores, and the sound and movie museum MAVtech.

Foxton has many walking trails, cycleways and a wakeboarding park. The Manawatū River Estuary is a RAMSAR-protected international wetland, famed for its birdlife.

Nearby Foxton Beach is one of New Zealand's finest west coast beaches and is home to many walking and cycling tracks.

teawahou.com www.foxtonandthebeach.co.nz



Shannon - Otauru

A beautiful, charming town with plenty of character, Shannon has become a destination stop for boutique shopping, coffee, food and unique attractions.

There are craft, art, clothing and homeware shops along with great food and coffee options. The small town charm spreads across the road to one of the few remaining vestiges of the Wellington and Manawatu Railway Company at the Shannon Railway Station Museum and Visitor Centre at Te Maire Park.

Shannon is also home to the Mangahao White Water Park, a world class kayaking facility, located below the Mangahao Power Station and surrounded by a community-based nature reserve.

A visit to Shannon wouldn't be complete without a stop at Owlcatraz Native Bird and Wildlife Park, or the world of fun and nostalgia at Toy Circus.

 owlcatraz.co.nz



Outdoor activities

On the Green

Horowhenua has a number of options for keen golfers and those who enjoy a day out on the green. Located between Lake Horowhenua and Hōkio Beach, with rolling sand hills, Levin Golf Club is a wonderful setting with 18 holes. The Buckley Golf Club in Shannon is a little shorter with 16 holes close to the ranges and Foxton Golf Club offers a friendly club environment with 18 holes. These golf courses are suitable for the whole family.



On the Water

Off the Loop is a Wakeboard Cable Park and is a must-do adventure attraction! With flat glassy water, ramps and rail slides in a double-laned purpose-built lake, there is something for the whole family and it's guaranteed to satisfy riders of all skill levels!





Beaches

Hōkio and Waitārere Beaches are both only 10 minutes from Levin. If you're looking for an adventure, on a nice day you can even walk all the way up the coast from one beach to the other. Waitārere is a charming seaside town with a lovely swimming beach offering good fishing too.

Foxton Beach is Horowhenua's largest coastal community with parks, playgrounds and some of the best fish 'n' chips. Check out Wind Warrior - the kitesports and SUP (stand-up paddleboard) specialists.

Waikawa Beach, situated 15 minutes south of Levin, is the perfect place for kayaking, swimming and horseriding. The nearby Hank Edwards Reserve offers picnic spots and a children's playground.

 **For more information visit**
horowhenua.govt.nz/beaches

Foxton Beach Pump Track

The pump track at Holben Reserve is one of the largest asphaltic-surfaced pump tracks in the country and offers track circuits for all - beginners, intermediate and advanced riders.





Spend the Day at the River

One of the great advantages of living in a district flanked by the mighty Tararua Ranges is the many river reserves that are open to the public.

Gladstone Reserve - 10 minutes from Levin - offers fantastic swimming in the Ōhau River and bush walks.

Horseshoe Bend is one of the most popular swimming spots in the district. There are plenty of bush walks and shady spots to enjoy a picnic.

Some reserves, such as Kimberley, even have a camping area if you want to spend the night getting in touch with nature. Kimberley Reserve also offers many popular swimming holes, picnic spots and bush walks.

👉 For more information on Horowhenua Parks and Reserves visit horowhenua.govt.nz/reserves

👉 Check out the Safe Swim Spots info provided by Horizons Regional Council before swimming: horizons.govt.nz/managing-natural-resources/water/safe-swim-spots-table



Walks, Hikes and Reserves

1. Lake Papaitonga

A picturesque dune lake that is a refuge for native birds. An ideal spot for a picnic and some bird watching, this lake makes a great day-trip destination for the family.

2. Lake Horowhenua

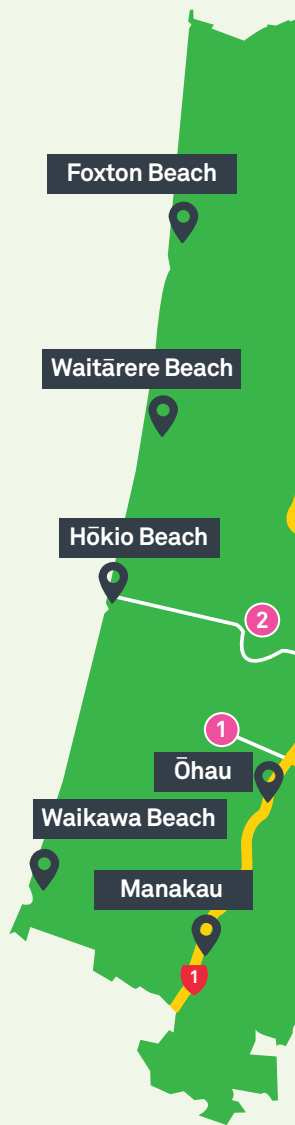
A shallow lake on a sandy plain two kilometres to the west of Levin and five kilometres from the coast. This lake and the surrounding wetlands are currently undergoing restoration.

3. Waiopehu Hut

Located at 800 metres elevation in the Tararua Forest Park, the walk to the hut is challenging but exhilarating.

4. Scotts Road to Mangahao Road (Burtton's Track)

This tramping track covers 17 kilometres of scenic countryside and bush and involves several stream crossings. There is much history surrounding this walk, which is also a part of the national Te Araroa walkway.



For more details on these places, see: horowhenua.govt.nz/tracks, doc.govt.nz or visit one of the Visitor Information Centres.



5. Mangahao - Makahika Track

Part of the national Te Araroa walkway, this tramping track covers 15 kilometres of scenic countryside and bush.

6. Kohitere Trig

Situated on private land, this track offers both walking and mountain biking tracks, plus access to the Tararua Forest Park.

7. Kimberley Reserve

Nestled in a bush setting next to the Ōhau River, there are swimming holes and various walking tracks to enjoy – and it's also a popular spot for picnics and camping.

8. Tararua Northern Crossing

A multi-day trek for experienced walkers, this is one of the classic and iconic walks of the Tararua Forest Park.

Local Foodies' Delight

Enjoy fresh-picked asparagus in spring, berries in the summer, or if you have a sweet tooth stop by RJ's Licorice factory all year round. Whether it's Dutch cuisine you are after, a quaint café, or a more modern twist, Horowhenua has it all.

Pop-Up Eats Horowhenua

Indulge in a night of delicious street eats and live entertainment in different locations around the Horowhenua.

Occurring every second Wednesday of the month, this night event plays host to delicious gourmet food trucks serving cuisine from around the world.

👁️ Check facebook.com/popupeatshorowhenua for more details.





Markets

The Ōhau Market is a place where local stallholders and buyers from as far as Wellington gather to buy and sell vegetables, fruit, jams and chutneys, as well as arts and crafts, pottery and much more! See you every third Saturday of the month in Ōhau Hall, Muhunoa West Road.

Wineries

Celtic Organic Winery in Levin was the first fruit winery to be fully certified organic in New Zealand. How about doing a tour, some wine tasting, or making a purchase direct from the cellar? You'll find it at 324 Hōkio Beach Road.

You can also visit New Zealand's newest grape-growing region, Ōhau. The Ōhau Wines cellar door is just off State Highway 1 – why not drop in to taste their award-winning pinot gris, sauvignon blanc and pinot noir.

 Visit ohauwines.co.nz and celticwinery.com to find out more.



Attractions

Foxton Pools

-  Main Street, Foxton
-  +64 6 368 0070
-  horowhenua.govt.nz

Wind Warrior Kite & Stand Up Paddle

-  1 Thomas Place, Foxton Beach
-  +64 27 814 0273
-  windwarrior.nz

Foxton Flax Stripper Museum

-  Harbour Street, Foxton
-  +64 6 363 6846
-  foxton.org.nz

De Molen Foxton Windmill

-  96a Main Street, Foxton
-  +64 6 363 5601
-  foxton.org.nz

Horse-Drawn Tram

-  100 Main Street, Foxton
-  +64 6 363 7427
-  gjwhite@xtra.co.nz

MAVtech Museum

-  Avenue Road, Foxton
-  +64 6 363 6669
-  foxton.org.nz




Foxton Golf Club

-  State Highway 1, Foxton
-  +64 6 363 8160
-  foxtongolf.co.nz

Owlcatraz - Native Bird and Wildlife Park

-  44 Margaret Street, Shannon
-  +64 6 362 7872
-  owlcatraz.co.nz

Shannon Historic Railway Station & Visitor Information Centre

-  Plimmer Terrace, Shannon
-  +64 6 362 7832
-  horowhenua.govt.nz



Buckley Golf Club

-  Engles Road, Shannon
-  +64 6 362 7837
-  buckleygolf@xtra.co.nz

Murrayfield Café and Museum



-  Corner of Potts Road & State Highway 57, Levin
-  +64 6 367 8166
-  murrayfield.co.nz

Noho Farm Pick Your Own Blueberries

-  7 Heatherlea East Road, Levin
-  +64 6 368 0036

**Seasonal*

Focal Point Cinema

-  14-16 Salisbury Street, Levin
-  +64 6 366 0330
-  focalpointcinema.co.nz

Studio 202

-  2 Macarthur Street, Levin
-  +64 27 567 9998
-  rondaturk.webs.com

Levin Adventure Park

-  Oxford Street, Levin
-  Open 7am - 8pm during daylight savings, and 8am - 5:30pm during standard time



Levin Aquatic Centre

-  Corner Queen & Salisbury Streets, Levin
-  +64 6 368 0070
-  aquatics.horowhenua.govt.nz

Levin Golf Club

-  160 Moutere Road, Levin
-  +64 6 368 6189
-  levingolfclub.co.nz

Old Poroutawhao Flour Mill



-  Victoria Street, Levin
-  +64 6 368 7160

Off The Loop




-  10 Stewart Street, Foxton
-  +64 27 909 7950
-  www.offtheloop.nz

-  For more information visit:
horowhenua.govt.nz/Places-Events

Celtic Winery & Yeoman Brewery

-  324 Hōkio Beach Road, Levin
-  +64 6 368 4465
-  celticwinery.com

Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō - Horowhenua Culture & Community Centre, Library, AA Services and Visitor Information Centre

-  10 Bath Street, Levin
-  +64 6 368 1953
-  tetakere.org.nz

Ōhau Winery

-  6 Bishops Road, Ōhau
-  +64 6 367 5051
-  ohauwines.co.nz

Loco - Miniature Railway and Gardens

-  200 State Highway 1, North of Ōtaki
-  +64 6 364 6506
-  loco.co.nz

Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom

-  92 Main Street, Foxton
-  +64 6 363 5571
-  enquiries@teawahou.com or teawahou.com

Accommodation

With a refreshing mix of charming bed and breakfasts, cosy motels, vibrant holiday parks and relaxing self-contained cottages, Horowhenua offers a great selection to suit travellers' tastes, budgets and requirements.

Holiday Parks


Hydrabad Holiday Park

-  Forest Road,
Waitārere Beach
-  +64 6 368 4941
-  waitarerebeachcamps.co.nz

Waitārere Beach Motor Camp

-  Park Ave, Waitārere
Beach
-  +64 6 368 8732
-  waitarerebeachcamps.co.nz

Levin Kiwi Holiday Park

-  38 Parker Ave, Levin
-  +64 6 368 3549
-  levinholidaypark.co.nz

Tatum Park

-  822-850 State Highway 1,
Manakau
-  +64 6 362 6799
-  tatum-park.co.nz

Foxton Beach Holiday Park

-  1 Pinewood Road,
Foxton Beach
-  +64 6 363 8211
-  foxtonbeach.info

Group Accommodation

Boys Brigade Camp

-  Fabrin Street,
Foxton Beach
-  +64 6 363 7639
-  foxtoncamp.org.nz




Foxton Bible Camp

-  17 Te Awa Street,
Foxton Beach
-  +64 6 363 8814
-  foxton.biblecamp.org.nz

Tatum Park

-  822-850 State Highway 1,
Manakau
-  +64 6 362 6799
-  tatum-park.co.nz

Levin Kiwi Holiday Park

-  38 Parker Ave, Levin
-  +64 6 368 3549
-  levinholidaypark.co.nz

Motels

Foxton Beach Motel

-  16 Dawick Street,
Foxton Beach
-  +64 6 363 7856
-  foxtonbeachmotel.co.nz

Blue Bell Motel

-  48 Russell Street, Foxton
-  +64 6 363 8502
-  foxtonbluebellmotel.co.nz

Castletown Motel

-  2 Norbiton Road, Foxton
-  +64 6 363 8863
-  castletownfoxton.co.nz

Celtic Motel

-  29 Purcell Street, Foxton
-  +64 6 363 5333
-  celticmotel.co.nz

Amble Inn Motel

-  376 Oxford Street, Levin
-  +64 6 368 3115
-  ambleinnlevin.co.nz

Bassingers

-  374 Oxford Street, Levin
-  +64 6 367 0048
-  bassingers.co.nz




Bentons

-  2 York Street, Levin
-  +64 6 367 8282
-  bentonsmotel.co.nz

Mountain View Motel

-  35 The Avenue,
State Highway 1, Levin
-  +64 6 368 5214
-  mountainviewmotel
levin.co.nz




Panorama Motel

-  170 The Avenue, Levin
-  +64 6 368 5401
-  panorama-motel.co.nz

Ploughman Motel

-  364 Oxford Street, Levin
-  +64 6 368 7199
-  ploughmanmotel.co.nz

Redwood Lodge Motel

-  368 Oxford Street,
State Highway 1, Levin
-  +64 6 368 9319
-  redwoodmotels.co.nz

Totara Lodge Motel

-  15 Devon Street, Levin
-  +64 6 368 4114
-  totaralodgemotel.co.nz

Travelodge Motel

-  98 State Highway 1, Levin
-  +64 6 368 7173

Welcome Inn Motel

-  353A Oxford Street,
State Highway 1, Levin
-  +64 6 368 3834
-  welcomeinnmotel.co.nz

Zachary's Motel




-  Cnr Oxford & Essex
Street, Levin
-  +64 6 210 2121
-  zacharys.co.nz

Self-Contained

Nikau's on Palmer

-  123 Palmer Road,
Foxton Beach
-  +64 6 363 7764
-  russellnewton@xtra.co.nz




Hi Da Way Lodge

-  21 Albert Road, Tokomaru
-  +64 6 329 8731
-  hi-da-way-lodge@xtra.co.nz




Heights Farmstay

-  46 Te Rohenga Road,
Shannon
-  +64 21 257 6016
-  terohenga@xtra.co.nz


The Bach at The Patch

-  45a Fairfield Road, Levin
-  +64 6 368 8550
-  radha.sahar@gmail.com

Fantails at Rainbow Lodge Stud

-  231 Hōkio Beach Road,
Levin
-  +64 6 368 9011
-  fantailsaccommodation.com

Hōkio Beach Cottage

-  9 Barclay Grove,
Hōkio Beach
-  +64 6 368 3757

The Brown Cow

-  28 Grande View Terrace,
Levin
-  +64 21 192 2192

Beacon Cottage and Beacon Apartments

-  103 Rua Avenue,
Waitārere Beach
-  +64 6 368 5572

Hydrabad Hideaway

-  9 Takitimu Avenue,
Waitārere Beach
-  +64 27 481 6225 or
+64 6 368 2373

Waitārere Sands

-  23 Park Avenue,
Waitārere Beach
-  +64 6 368 8226

Bed & Breakfast

River Loop Lodge

-  29 Ladys Mile, Foxton
-  +64 6 363 7365
-  riverloop.lodge@xtra.co.nz


Windy Waves

-  88 Kahukura Ave,
Waitārere Beach
-  +64 6 367 9654
-  waitarere.co.nz

Ōhau Highland

-  138 Muhunoa West Road,
Ōhau
-  +64 6 368 4729
-  ohauhighland.co.nz

Puka B & B

-  66 Lindsay Road, Levin
-  +64 6 368 2349
+64 22 674 7784
-  stoutteacher@hotmail.com

Bellhamy's B & B

-  53 Railway Terrace,
Ōhau
-  +64 6 368 6986
+64 21 039 6337
-  bellhamys.co.nz

Rustic Comforts Guesthouse

-  20 Stansell Street,
Shannon
-  +64 27 702 0722

Brindabella's B & B

-  202 Cambridge Street,
Levin
-  +64 27 567 9998

Freedom Camping

All year: Freedom camping, for self-contained motorhomes only, is permitted in:

- Levin Adventure Park, Levin
- Parikawau Reserve, Ōhau

Seasonal: From December through to February, freedom camping is permitted at Kimberley Reserve on Kimberley Road, Levin, subject to reserve availability. A permit is required to camp at Kimberley Reserve at all times.

 **To apply for a permit contact Horowhenua District Council on +64 6 366 0999 or visit horowhenua.govt.nz/reserves**



Camper-Friendly

With many side roads to lead you to parks and reserves, gardens, bush walks, rivers, lakes, sandy beaches and walkways, Horowhenua is a great motorhome destination, which is why Foxton and Levin are official motorhome-friendly towns.



Camping is available for self-contained motorhomes at:

- **Horowhenua Events Centre and Showgrounds, Levin** (Campervan parking)
- **Parikawau Domain, Ōhau** (Campervan parking)
- **Waikawa Campsite, Manakau** (Campervan parking)
- **Adventure Park, Levin** (Campervan parking/ Toilets)

Camping is also available for non self-contained motorhomes at:

- **Hank Edwards Reserve and Waikawa Beach Foreshore, Waikawa Beach** (Camping, toilets and outdoor shower)
- **Kimberley Reserve, Levin**
(Camping 1 December - Easter Weekend and toilets/ changing room)

Service Needs

Public Toilets

- The Warehouse**, Levin (24/7)
- Adventure Park**, Levin (Daytime)
- Donnelly Park**, Levin (Daytime)
- Lake Horowhenua**, Levin (24/7)
- Gladys Taylor Park**, Levin (24/7)
- Hōkio Beach**, Hōkio Beach (24/7)
- Flaxmill Reserve**, Foxton (Café hours)
- Foxton Beach Foreshore**, Foxton Beach (24/7)
- Hank Edwards Reserve**, Waikawa (24/7)
- Waitārere Beach Foreshore**, Waitārere Beach (24/7)
- Ballance Street**, Shannon (24/7)
- Tokomaru Domain**, Tokomaru (24/7)



Public Dump Stations

- Victoria Park**, Foxton
- BP Connect**, Levin
- Sheffield Street**, Levin

Recycling Stations

Tokomaru - Tokomaru Hall, Makerua Road (24/7)

Ōpiki - Ōpiki School, Tane Road (24/7)

Foxton Beach - Beside the community centre on Seabury Avenue, (summer period only, 24/7)

Foxton - Corner Purcell & Stewart Streets, Foxton (24/7)

Shannon - North end of Thompson Street, Shannon (24/7)

Waitārere - Behind the Surf Lifesaving Club, Waitārere Beach

Waikawa - Hank Edwards Reserve, Waikawa Beach (summer period only, 24/7)

Waste Transfer Stations

Levin - Sheffield Street

- Mon-Fri, 7:30am-4pm
- Sat-Sun & Public Holidays, 8am-4:30pm
- Closed Good Friday, ANZAC Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day

Foxton - Corner Purcell & Stewart Streets

- Mon, Thur, Fri, 12pm-4pm
- Sat-Sun, 11am-4pm
- Closed Tue, Wed, Good Friday, ANZAC Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day

Shannon - North end of Thompson Street

- Sunday, 10am-2pm
- Closed Mon-Sat, Good Friday, ANZAC Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day



What's On

January

- AP&I Show, Levin
- The Big Dig, Waitārere Beach
- Foxton Beach Carnival and New Year Fair
- Waitārere Beach Surf Casting Competition
- New Year Fishing Competition, Foxton Beach

February

- Shannon Spectacular Car Show
- Medieval Market, Levin
- Art in the Park, Levin

March

- Vintage Car Club Swapmeet, Levin

April

- Great Forest Events, Waitārere Beach

Easter

- Easter Sunday Fair, Foxton
- Easter Fishing Tournament, Foxton Beach
- Easter Fishing Competition, Waitārere Beach

May

- Bird Show, Levin
- NZ Music Month

June - July

- Manawatū Marine Boating Club Icebreaker Fishing Competition, Foxton
- Matariki Festival, Levin

October

- Foxton Spring Fling
- Fishing Competition, Foxton

November

- Diwali Festival, Levin
- Horowhenua Taste Trail

December

- Horowhenua Christmas Carnival
- Festival of Lights

Please note: Correct at the time of publication.

Visit horowhenua.govt.nz/events for more details.

Visitor Information Horowhenua

Whenever you're travelling in the Horowhenua, friendly service is guaranteed at any of the three Visitor Information Centres, including two i-SITEs. Pop in and see the team for information, travel bookings, what to see and do, or to plan the next leg of your journey.

SITE Levin

Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō
10 Bath Street, Levin
06 366 0848



SITE Foxton

Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom
22 Harbour Street, Foxton
06 363 5571



Shannon Railway Station and Visitor Centre

Plimmer Terrace (State Highway 57)
06 362 7832





All our Visitor Information Centres have local experts whose knowledge and expertise mean they are able to show you the must-do activities, the best local spots and more to ensure your time in the Horowhenua is memorable.

If you're looking for accommodation or need to plan and book some travel, then our local experts will help you get started.

All Visitor Information Centres are open seven days a week.







Horowhenua

@ enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz

📞 06 366 0999

👤 126 Oxford St, Levin 5510

🖱️ horowhenua.govt.nz