

HIDDEN TREASURES OF TAUPŌ

BUSY YEAR? TREAT YOURSELF to a relaxing long weekend in Taupo. Enjoy the many activities Taupo offers. The location is ideal – the centre of the island means you can meet with family and friends from around the North Island, for some this saves a lot of travelling time and means more time for relaxation and adventure.



Accommodation options are endless but here is one recommendation, also look at the information on The Bothy (next page).

Tui Glen boutique accommodation offers hospitality that is unique to NZ. Your hosts, Wendy and Brian are passionate about Taupo and aim to provide you with warm and high class accommodation in Taupo while you explore this wonderful region, which offers a beautiful lake, rivers and mountain experiences, summer or winter.

Relax in the home or discover the many adventurous or leisurely activities Taupo offers.

Base yourself centrally staying in Taupo and comfortably take day trips such as the Hawke's Bay wineries or the Waitomo Caves. Returning back to Taupo without the hassle of further accommodation worries.

The home offers 3 double bedrooms all with ensuites, full kitchen, laundry, library and patio areas. It is cosy in winter with underfloor heating and an open fire.

View www.tuiglen.com for more information.

For the initiated, activities in the Taupo are varied and somewhat endless, including:

- Golf at Wairakei International as well as Tauhara and Centennial Courses

Plenty of stunning walks to experience:

- Stroll the ever-popular Lions Walk along the lakefront.
- Lake Rotopounamu Track – rich in bird life
- Huka Falls walk
- Climb Mt Tauhara
- Kawakawa track to Kinloch with views of famous Western Bays
- Rimu walk Pureora Forest
- World Famous Tongariro Crossing

- Craters of the Moon walk through the thermal activity

Visit:

- The spectacular Huka Falls
- Wairakei Terraces Maori Culture Centre - visit the replica of the famous White terraces
- Enjoy a Maori cultural experience including a hangi meal

Sporting events include:

- Half marathon in August
- Round the Lake Cycle Challenge in November
- Crater to Lake multisport event
- Day-Night Thriller mountain bike event
- International car racing on the brand new circuit

Cultural activities/events:

- Arts Festival Week – this is a week of live shows in May
- Lava glass blowing
- Creative crafts - create your own masterpiece
- Wood turning
- Wineries

Other activities include:

- Kayaking on Lake Taupo, Waikato River or simply along the lakefront
- Visit prawn farms
- Huka jet rides - exhilarating
- Day trips
- Shopping
- Awesome quality boutique shops
- River rafting
- Paragliding
- Skydiving
- Quad bike adventures, take the children and the big kids too!
- Natural beauty of the area. Crystal clear lake, clean air
- Taupo alpine region displays splendid autumn foliage in trees and shrubs
- Taupo botanical gardens are a blaze of colour in spring too

Eateries are top quality including:

- Cafés
- Wide variety of top eateries
- Turkish Café for late supper and belly dancers.
- SOB Bar
- Sports bars

You are missing treats of life without a visit to Taupo.



VIEW FROM THE BOTHY



THE BOTHY

What is a “bothy” you may ask? Good question. Apart from being one of Taupo's hidden treasures, it is a delightful fully furnished newly built apartment.

The Concise Oxford Dictionary defines “bothy” as being of Scottish origin, meaning, “Hut, cottage; one-roomed building in which workmen are lodged.” The owners came across the name during a trip through the UK, and at the time were trying to think of what they could call their unique new creation over the boatshed. It seemed just right, so “The Bothy” it is, and a framed copy of the dictionary definition sits on the breakfast bar, although one of the guests has written in the guest book (a work of art in itself) “What a magic spot – I certainly didn't feel like a workman in here!”

Sitting high and secluded at the back of the owners' property, the view from the huge picture window is to die for. Unobstructed vistas of the Great Lake are ever changing but always captivating. The panorama extends from Acacia Bay, through Rangatira Point all the way to the magnificent Tongariro National Park, and if you are there for the skiing (either snow or water!) you can check out the conditions from the comfort of your lounge “afore ye go”.

There is off-street parking available, and a paved path leads you through a cute wrought iron gate directly to your door – you are totally independent of the main house even though it is under the same roof. Once inside you have everything you need. A kitchenette with microwave and refrigerator and partly-stocked pantry will get you started, and you can eat at the bar, although my bet is that you will be sitting in the lounge with its wood-lined gabled ceiling, eating off your lap while soaking up the magnificent scenery!

The bathroom is compact but user-friendly, and the beds can be singles or a queen – your choice. Extra bedding is available with a very clever fold-out sofa which converts to a comfortable king slat bed, and one of The Bothy's cleverest ideas – a ladder which tucks away against the wall when not being used – leads to a spacious loft which can cope with the overflows.

The Bothy is owned and operated by a very friendly and laid back couple who will ensure your stay is perfect. For bookings phone Belinda on 021 48 28 58. Mention this article and a complimentary bottle of New Zealand wine will greet you. *f*

