

Clothing optional B&B for men in Rotorua, New Zealand











Guysers Gaystay B&B Rotorua, New Zealand

Hosts Mike and Peter welcome you to our men-only, clothing optional bed & breakfast in the tourist city of Rotorua, New Zealand.

We opened our B&B in October 2012 and its been a great success, hosting gay and bi men from just about every country in the world.

Prior to opening our B&B, Peter (left) worked for 22 years as a Graphic Designer and Mike (pictured right in the blue T-shirt) has worked for many years in the hospitality industry running 5-Star International Hotels in Australia.

As well as running our B&B we also do freelance graphic design and web design work, and Peter is also the author and producer of the *Gay Naked Destinations* series of ebooks (https://gaynakeddestinations.com)

Both of us enjoy naturism, spending as much time naked outdoors enjoying the sunshine and our beautiful region and country. We also enjoy meeting other men from around the world who also enjoy naturism or those who just occationally like to hang out nude.



For some of our guests, staying with us is their first introduction to social nudity, and for many it's been a life-changing experience.

Over the next pages, we'd like to show you our B&B, the guest rooms, lounge, its facilities, our spa and steam room and our beautiful garden and private sun terrace. We'd also like to highlight some of our amazing tourist attractions and our beautiful geothermal landscapes in our region of Rotorua.

Covid-19 was devastating to tourism in New Zealand, especially so in Rotorua, but as the world gets on top of it and flights start operating again, we hope you'll concider a holiday in New Zealand and come and spend some time with us.

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Our guest rooms

Guysers B&B has two comfortable and stylish guestrooms we are sure you will love.



Room 1

Room 1 is our most popular room for couples as this room has its own ensuite bathroom and direct access out to the Spa pool and patio.

The room features a comfortable Queen Size bed with quality linens, bedside tables, individual reading lights, 32" wall-mounted TV, a mini-fridge with drinks and snacks available and a wardrobe complete with robes and a room safe.

The bathroom is a pocket bathroom but has everything you need including a 1m x 1m shower, vanity, WC, wall-mounted hairdryer and heater.







Both guest rooms have mini-fridge, Tea & Coffee making facilities, beer, wine, soft drinks and snacks available, oil heater and electric blankets for winter, ceiling fan for summer, robes and room safe.



Room 2

Room 2 is slightly larger than Room 1 and a larger bathroom, however this bedroom has a side-ofhouse access to get to the Spa pool and patio and its bathroom is across the hallway.

This room is deal for either couples who like a bit more floor space, or 2 guys travelling together who prefer a seperate bed each, or 3 guys travelling together as this room also has a single bed in the room.

This room has the same features as Room 1 and has a front garden view from the window.



Our spa pool

Guysers B&B has a 5-man Hot Spring brand spa pool, complete with massage jets.

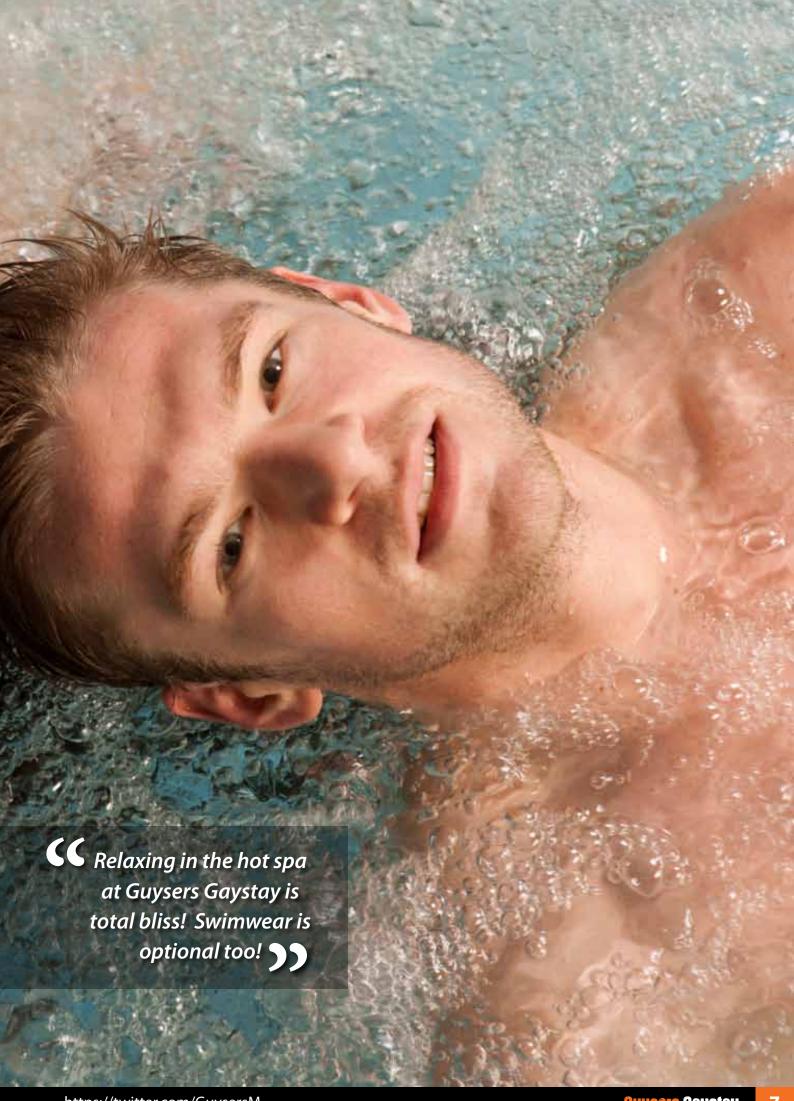


Our deluxe hydrotherapy spa pool is always ready for use when you want it. It can seat up to 5 guys and has various seating arrangements and jet options. The temperature of the spa is set at 38.5 degrees celcius making it an enjoyable temperature without being overcome by heat. At this temperature you can enjoy the spa for longer.

We use a special low allergy, nonchlorine, non-bromine pool sanitiser for people with sensitive skin.

Our spa can be enjoyed naked of course!





Our lounge area

At Guysers B&B we welcome guests to socialise in our Balinese-inspired lounge.



When you stay with us at *Guysers B&B*, we are not like a Motel unit where you shut yourselves away never to meet other people – that's not what a B&B is about.

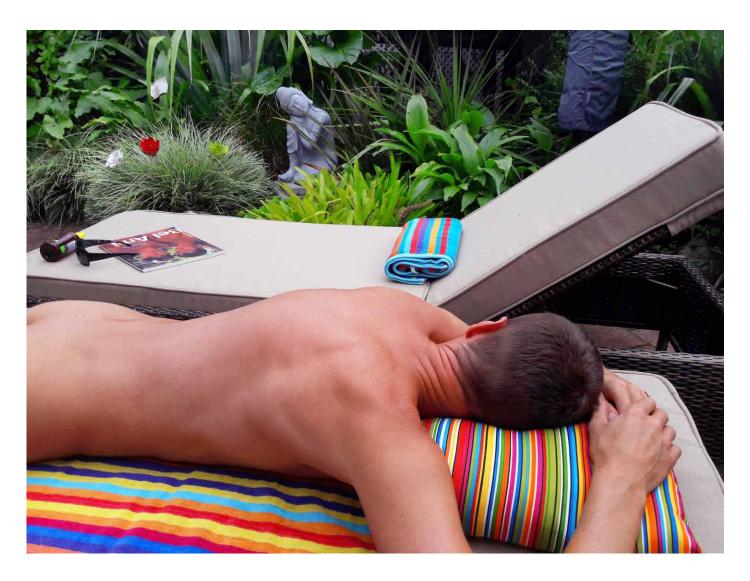
Here you get to meet and socialise with your hosts and other guests who maybe staying at the same time. One of these areas you can do this is in our comfortable and stylish lounge complete with a unique Balinese Day Bed and enough couches to seat everyone.

The lounge is also clothing optional and we provide sarongs in the guest wardrobes for you to wear or sit on.



Our patio and garden

Our clothing optional garden patio is a lovely place to enjoy when the sun is shining.



Our summer months are from about mid-November until the end of April and its during this time you can make full use of our private garden patio to enjoy naturism.

We have plenty of seating for everyone including 2 sunloungers, bean bags and patio chairs. We also have a table setting and chairs should you wish to prepare some nibbles or enjoy an eat-in alfresco lunch or dinner.





it's breakfast time

They say that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and so here at Guysers Gaystay we ensure that this is the case and that you are getting a healthy and hearty start to your day.

Our beds at Guysers Gaystay are so comfortable you could easily stay in bed til mid-morning, but the smell of freshly ground coffee and sizzling bacon soon draws guests to the breakfast room.

We like to hold breakfast at an arranged time that suits all guests as this not only makes breakfast service easier on our part, but makes it more sociable as this is a good time to chat and get to know everyone better.

Breakfast starts with a freshly made fruit salad where guests can add yoghurt and cereal if they wish.



We grow our own blueberries and strawberries and we use these in our fruit salads when in season.

You have the choice of ground coffee, tea, herb teas as well as fruit juices.

You can help yourself to toast and there is a good selection of spreads and jams on the table.

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Just when you thought breakfast was over, we serve a hot cooked breakfast that changes daily, so if you are staying 3, 4 or 5 nights you'll never have the same cooked breakfast.

One day might be scrambled eggs, bacon, fried tomato and beans, the next day might be a full English with sausage, fried eggs tomato and mushrooms or poached eggs and bacon.

One of our most popular breakfasts is our *Guysers French*

Toast with fried bananas, kiwifruit and fresh berries (when in season), drizzled with maple syrup and dusted with icing sugar. Yum!





Guysers French Toast

Serves two people

INGREDIENTS:

Thick slices of fancy bread
2 eggs
2/3rd cup milk
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
1 teaspoon vanilla essence
Pinch of salt

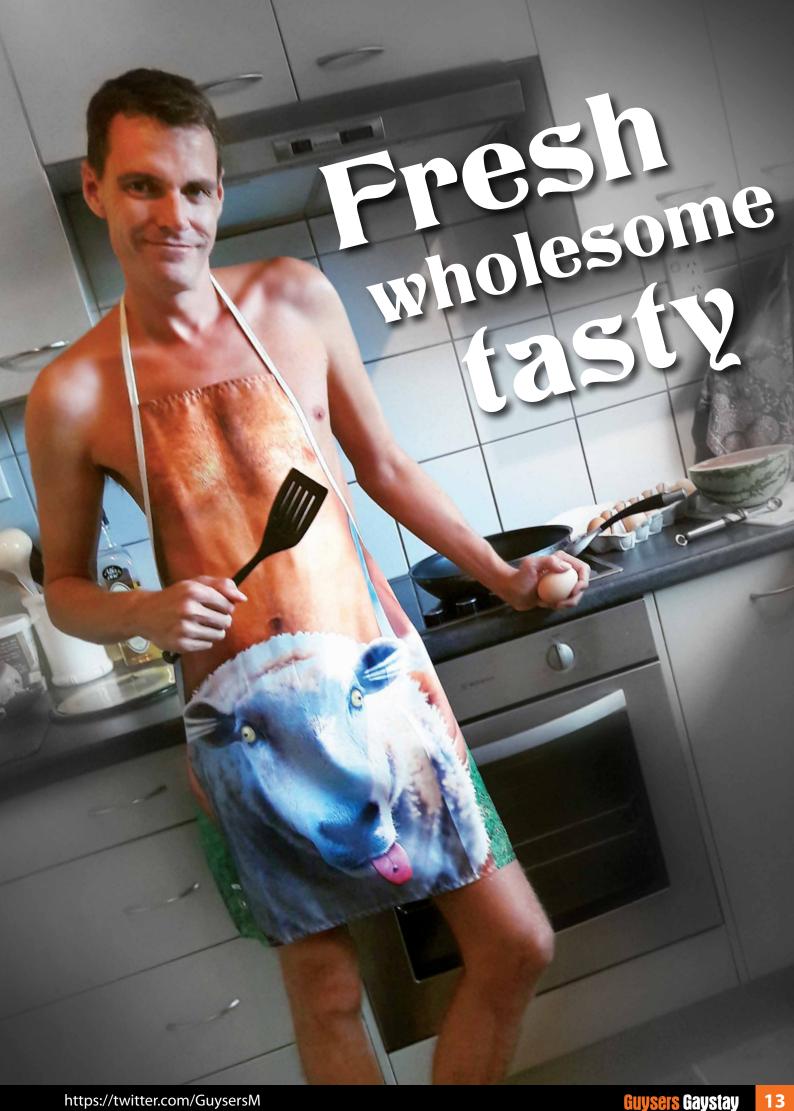
1 banana cut in half and sliced down the middle Blueberries Strawberries (or any berries) Slices of kiwifruit Maple (or maple flavoured) syrup Icing sugar

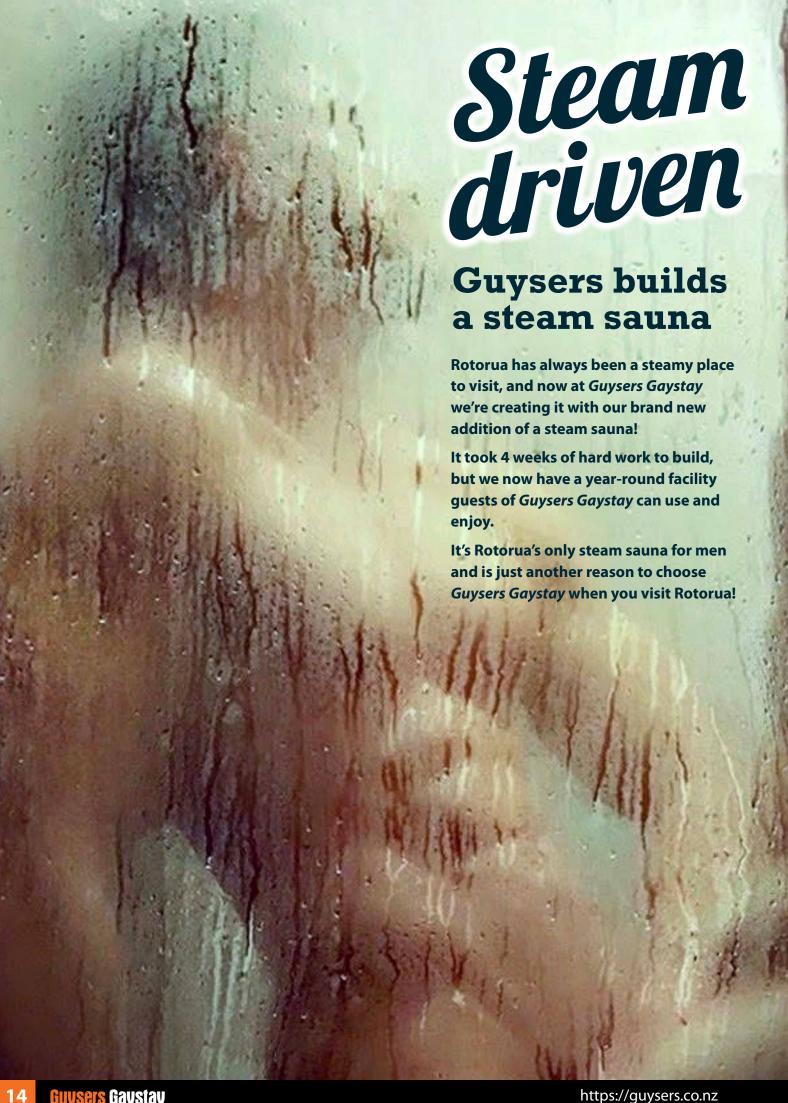
METHOD:

In a bowl beat together eggs, milk, spices, vanilla and salt.

Heat a lightly oiled griddle or skillet on medium-high temperature. Dunk each slice of bread in egg mixture, soaking both sides. Place on pan and cook on both sides until golden brown. Fry banana slices in a little coconut oil until just browning, decorate toast with the fried banana, berries and kiwifruit, drizzle over maple syrup and dust lightly with icing sugar.

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Step 1

This first thing we had to do was create space for the steam room to go. This meant sacrificing our raised vege box (which didn't really supply us with enough veges to warrant keeping it anyway). We hired a skip bin and began shovelling soil and dismantling the wooden frame. This took us 2 days work just to get rid of that.



Step 2

Wooden boxing was formed ready for the concrete to be poured to form the base of the steam room. Our friend Patrick came around to help us with this job (Patrick is very good with laying concrete). He floated the surface of the concrete to give it a smooth finish that will be ready for tiling later on.

Step 3

We used cool room panel to construct the steam room. The doorway and angled roof line had to be cut out using a special skillsaw blade able to cut through metal. The panels fitted into aluminium channel and the whole thing was pop-riveted together, sealed with silicone and edged with aluminium angle.



Continued over...

Step 4

Once the steam room was constructed the next step was to call the electrician and plumber to come and hook up the steam generator.

We imported the steam generator from China because they are a lot cheaper than purchasing them here in New Zealand.





Step 5

With the vege box now gone the ponga fence looked scruffy. We decided to cover this up with an oriental-looking bamboo (see finished result next page). We bolted on some horizontal beams to give a suitable structure to attach the bamboo panels. Weedmat was stapled on first to stop any weeds from coming thorough.

Step 6

The area behind the steam room had to be levelled and re-paved where the vege box used to be. Weedmat was put down and paving sand levelled and compressed over the top ready for the pavers to be laid.

Thankfully it was a lovely warm day so being able to strip off with sun on our bodies made the difficult job of paving that little bit more enjoyable.



Step 7

We tiled the floor of the steam room with non-slip tiles with industrial-looking yellow floor stripes. The concrete bench seat provides seating for up to 4 men. The steam sauna is now finished.









Bringing our love of Bali to Guysers Gaystay

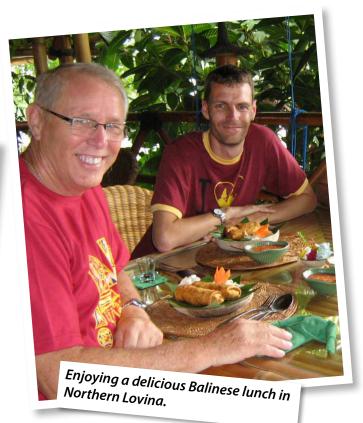
Our passion for Bali has seen us return there for holidays 10 times. We both love the culture, the tropical living, the arts and crafts and the attention to detail the Balinese put into everything. Each time we travel there we bring back a little bit of Bali to *Guysers Gaystay*.

During autumn or winter in New Zealand is when we usually head off to Bali for a few weeks holiday. It is here we recharge our batteries, soak up the warmth and top up our tans.





Relaxing naked at Bali au Naturel, North Bali.



As well as the friendly people, the tropical weather and the lovely food, Bali provides us with loads of inspiration. We usually spend several days in the middle of Bali in Ubud which is the arts and crafts centre of the island where there are streets and markets full of wooden and stone carvings, sculptures, paintings, fabrics, pottery, homewares and Balinese decorative items.

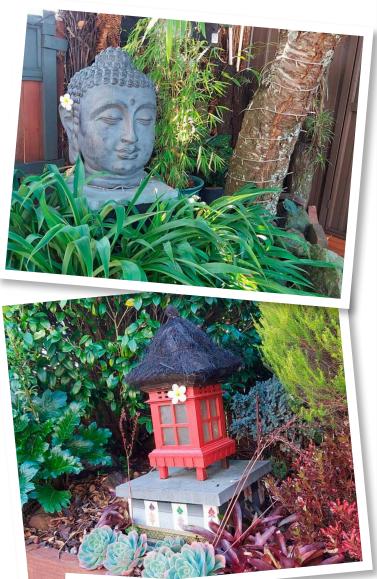
We go over to Bali with near-empty suitcases and come back with them being at full weight capacity!

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At *Guysers Gaystay* in Rotorua we have added Balinese touches right through the property, inside and out, to create a real exotic and ethnic feel. From the moment you arrive you will see Balinese items and influences everywhere you look. At the entrance to our property a *Selamat Datang* (welcome) sign and large hand carved statue greets you at the front door. In the garden we have placed Balinese thatched lanterns on plinths, just as they do around the many luxury hotels in Bali.

We have decorated our spa pool area with several traditional Balinese wall carvings and one or two phallic flying objects to create a real talking point!







Some sculptures in Bali (as much as we'd love to bring them home) are just a bit too large!:

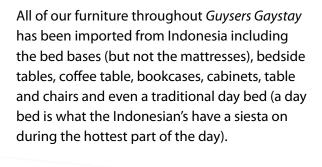
I need to work a bit more on my...

So we try and bring back what little treasures we can fit into our suitcases:

Phallic symbols are said to

bring good luck in Bali!

eerrr... six pack.





If you have ever been to Bali yourself, staying with us at Guysers Gaystay will bring back fond memories of your time spent there. If you have never been to Bali before we hope staying with us will inspire you to go there one day.

Guysers B&B is central to everywhere!







TE PUKE Kiwi country



WAITOMO Caves hours



Guysers Gaystay is not only central in Rotorua City, we're also central to some of the best towns and attractions the North Island offers.

Basing yourself here in Rotorua not only gives you time to explore all that Rotorua offers, but you can also reach many of these other places as return day trip, or it's just a short drive to onward destinations such as Auckland, the Coromandel or the Hawke's Bay.

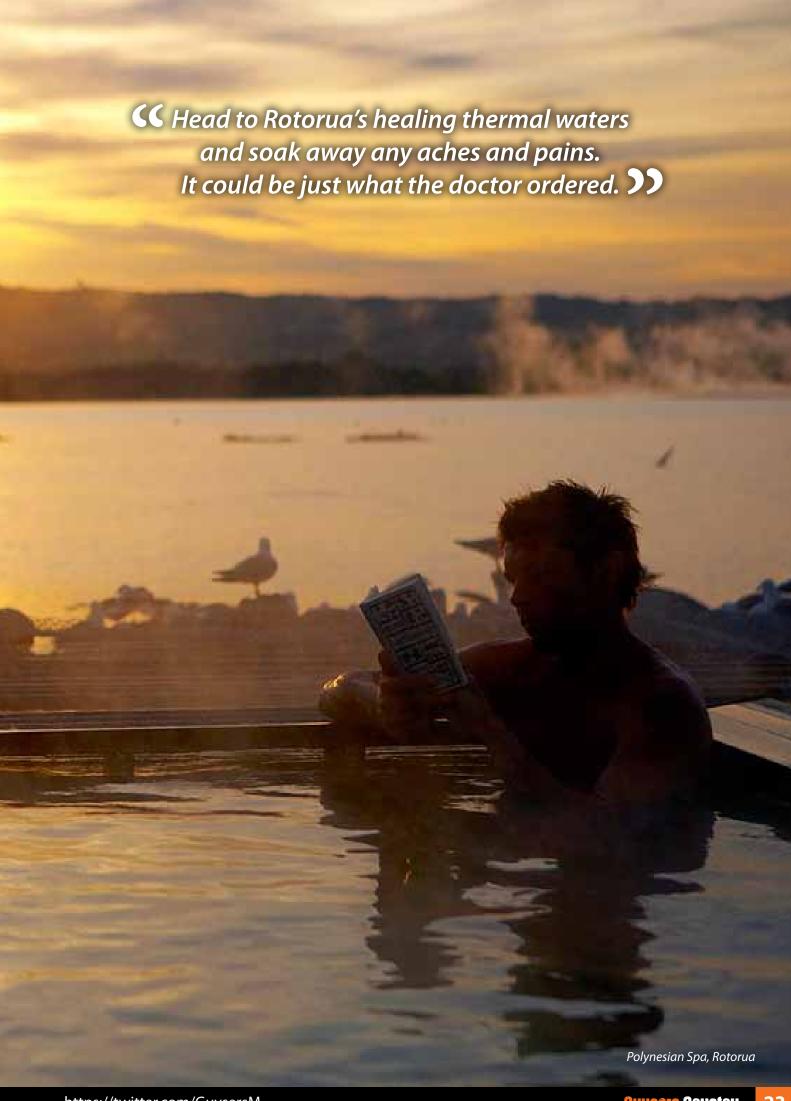


TAUPO Huka Falls

1 hour



NATIONAL PARK Skiing/Hiking



Guysers Gaystay FAQs

Here are the answers to some commonly asked questions about Guysers Gaystay.

What is Guysers Gaystay?

Guysers Gaystay is a professional, quality, home-hosted Bed and Breakfast property for men in Rotorua City. Guysers Gaystay is a member of Gaystay NZ – the directory of LGBT owned and operated B&B's in New Zealand.



How many rooms do you have?

Guysers Gaystay is has 2 guest rooms. One room has a queen size bed, the other room can sleep up to three guys travelling together because it has a queen bed and a king-single bed in the room. (Maximum number of guests we can accommodate in the house is 5).



Do I get a private bathroom?

Yes. Room 1 has an ensuite bathroom and Room 2 has a dedicated bathroom across the hall that is only for use by guests in Room 2.



Is breakfast included?

A full hearty breakfast is included in the room rate. This consists of fresh fruit salad, yoghurt, cereals, toast etc, as well as a cooked breakfast that changes daily. Breakfast is served altogether in one sitting at a time discussed and agreed with all guests. If you require a very early breakfast we'll serve yours first.



How many guys will be there?

Guysers Gaystay is not a resort with dozens of rooms, therefore don't expect dozens of guys to be here. Usually there are your hosts and a couple of guests here. **Note:** Guysers Gaystay is also not a sauna or cruise club!



Is Guysers Gaystay clothing optional?

Yes. *Guysers* is clothing optional indoors, outside in our private garden courtyard and in the spa pool. Having a 'clothing optional' policy means just that – it's **optional**. If you are not into nudity/naturism that's perfectly OK, but you have to be aware that other guests may enjoy being nude. If you are modest, we have courtesy sarongs you can wrap around your waist, or you can wear what you like.



If I have a girlfriend travelling with me, can she stay at Guysers Gaystay?

Because of our clothing optional policy, *Guysers Gaystay* is for men only. We are advertised and promoted that way and so other gay/male guests that may be staying here expect it to be men only. The only way you can have a girlfriend stay here is if you book both of our guest rooms.

What about lesbian couples, can they stay at Guysers Gaystay?

We do allow lesbian couples to stay, but only if both rooms are booked as a whole-of-house booking (ie, 2 couples travelling together).

What are the room facilities?

The guest rooms have super-comfy beds, quality linen, electric blankets, ceiling fans, LED TVs, mini-bar with drinks and snacks available, cotton robes, extra pillows and blankets and free Wi-Fi.





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What shared spaces do you have?

Guysers Gaystay has a communal lounge where you can sit and chat or watch TV or a DVD with your hosts and/or other guests. We have a private garden/courtyard with sun-loungers (for use in the warmer months), a covered pergola with table and chairs and a 5-man hydrotherapy (Hot Spring brand) spa pool.



Am I allowed outside visitors or Grindr hookups to come to the B&B?

No. Only checked-in (booked and paid) guests are allowed in our B&B. *Guysers Gaystay* is a private home, it is not a motel/hotel room. We do not allow people who are not staying here or men from *Grindr* or *Scruff* that often have fake details and no ID to enter the house. This is for safety and secruity reasons not only for you and your belongings, but also for our other guests and us. However, once you have your key you can come and go as you please.

Can I get laundry done?

We can do your laundry for you. We provide you with a basket for your clothes you'd like washed in the morning. We line-dry when possible, otherwise we use the dryer. The cost is \$10 for a basket full (up to 4.5 kg). We can provide you with an iron and ironing board.

What is the smoking/drug policy?

All indoor spaces at *Guysers Gaystay* is no smoking. You may smoke cigarettes on our front or back patios. Illegal substances is not allowed on the property. If you're into meth, or injectables please stay elsewhere.

Can you help us make tour bookings?

Yes. We have extensive knowledge and personal experience of all the attractions in Rotorua. We have the full range of tourist brochures on display and can discuss and help you decide the activities you'd like to do and we have discount vouchers we can give you (for many of the attractions).

You can do some research on the attractions before you arrive by going to our website (guysers.co.nz) and go to our 'Attractions' tabs for more info. Another great way to read up on Rotorua's attractions is by reading the back catalogue of Guysers Gazette's. Email us in advance and let us know what you'd like to do and we'll pre-book them for you and have the tickets ready.



Do you have male massage available?

A 50-minute Swedish/Tantric-style massage is available on request. This is done on a professional massage table in a private room with soft spa music. The cost is \$60 for guests staying at *Guysers Gaystay*. We can discuss a suitable time for this when you are here.



Do you provide evening meals?

No sorry. We are a Bed & Breakfast only. If we have no dinner plans ourselves we are certainly happy to join you for a meal out at a restaurant if you would like us to.



Can I use the kitchen to cook meals?

No sorry. You will need to go out for lunch and dinner. You may bring takeaways back and eat this at the dining table (but not in your room). You can use our microwave to reheat food only.

What is the parking situation?

There are several free on-street Council car park spaces directly outside our property as well as space for a guest car on our personal driveway should the Council car parks be taken. Both car park areas are monitored by cameras.

How close is Guysers to the city centre?

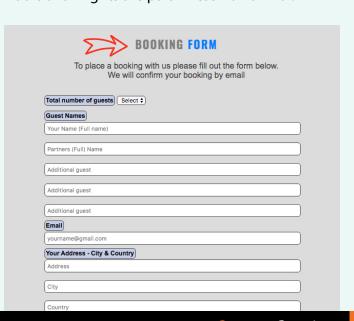
Guysers Gaystay is a short walk to the city centre where you'll find all the restaurants, bars, shops and services. We are also directly opposite Kuirau Park and we are on the tourist bus route meaning many tour buses will pick-up and drop-off from our front door.

Do I get a discount for longer stays?

Our rates are already competitively priced based on other B&Bs and motels in our area. Do check our website for any special offers we may be running.

How do I book?

The best way to book at *Guysers Gaystay* is on our own website (https://guysers.co.nz). We are listed on other websites such as *MisterBandB* and *Expedia*, but there are commissions involved with these. Booking direct means you get the cheapest price and we can communicate easier if needed. If you book direct you will be sent a one night deposit request which is to be paid via PayPal. Additional nights are paid in cash on arrival.



Guysers guest feedback

Here at Guysers Gaystay in Rotorua we host men from all over the world as well as nationally. We are proud of our guest reviews and TripAdvisor comments and continually strive for excellence. Here are just a selection of the great comments we have recieved...

Keel-billed Toucan / Tucán Pico Iris

Lovely staying with you at Guysers Gaystay in Rotorua. Thank you for your warm hospitality. Come see us in Costa Rica!

Regards Rob & Tim





misterb₈b



ashlum



After a month backpacking through South America, it was great to have a relaxing stay with Peter and Mike in Rotorua, their place is very central, well set up and clean and both Peter and Mike are very helpful in any information and bookings that are needed. A great breakfast every morning as well. We would highly recommend Guysers Gaystay.

SEPTEMBER 2017 - (



Wonderful hosts and accommodation. Very relaxing especially with the hot spa pool. You guys have both done a great job with the place. Will enjoy a return visit. Many thanks. Kim & Chris, (middle & right) New Zealand I had the most fabulous time here, I leave a different man!! You are both excellent hosts and have enhanced my Rotorua vacation.

See you next time.

Steve Coventry, England



Lovely stay, very friendly and helpful hosts, and superb breakfasts with fresh fruit. We will tell friends about it.

Alex & Carlos Arcentina



Mike & Peter were great hosts for our stay in Rotorua. They made it feel like a home away from home. Their attention to detail was superb, comfortable room, clean spa and great breakfasts. We would heartily recommend it, and hope to go back some day.

Thanks for the great stay.

Martin & Patrick Edinburgh, United Kingdom



Felt more like family than guests. Great hosts, great service and hospitality.
Loved it! Loved it! Loved it!
Best stay I had in New Zealand.





Ric Castle Hill, Australia



Guysers was the first stop on our 2 week holiday to Northland. Great welcome from Peter and Mike - these guys make you feel right at home and go the extra mile to ensure you have excellent knowledge of the district. The B & B was a super oasis to come back to after a day out sightseeing and just relaxing with our hosts. Breakfast was AAA+ Diets have now begun!! Thanks guys for such a pleasant stay, and we look forward to seeing you again in the near future. We will certainly recommend your place to our friends.

Chris and Kevin Palmerston North, New Zealand

Rew Zealand's great Kiwi summer

Summertime in New Zealand has glorious, long, hot days with Daylight Saving sunshine lasting well into the evenings.

The sunny weather has everyone in holiday mode and looking forward to some time off over the Christmas/New Year period. Jeans, hoodies and sweatshirts are put to the back of the wardrobe and replaced with shorts, singlets, jandals (flip flops) and sunglasses.

For many New Zealanders Christmas parties and BBQ's are frequent and day trips to the beach or lakes have to be juggled with summer DIY projects around the house. People all over the country are travelling around visiting friends, family, grandparents and relatives and spending a few days away here and there, using their time wisely before having to head back to work in the New Year.

At *Guysers Gaystay* in Rotorua we are seeing an influx of overseas tourists coming here to enjoy the best of our summer weather and to experience the many scenic and outdoor activities this great city has to offer. Summertime is the best time of year to experience the many outdoor tourist attractions in Rotorua such as the geothermal parks, rafting, kayaking, ziplining, Zorbing, jet boating, luge rides, Maori cultural villages and hot pools (to name a few).





If you are on a tighter holiday cash budget or are not interested in doing the commercial tourist attractions, you can simply jump in the car with a picnic hamper and head off to one of 18 lakes in the district or to several of the rivers or thermal streams and waterfalls around the Rotorua region. Most of these lakes and rivers can be reached in 30 minutes or less by car and we can provide you with a map or take you there ourselves by arrangement.

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If you feel like a day at the seaside head up to Mt Maunganui or Papamoa Beach for the day – just 45 minutes from Rotorua City. Here you can enjoy the sun, sand, sea and surf and work on achieving a golden tan (safely of course – the New Zealand sun can be harsh at times and you can burn easily without the right level of sunscreen).

Papamoa Beach stretches for miles and has soft white/grey sand and a lovely ocean ideal for swimming or boggie boarding. Generally most areas are safe for swimming but occasionally you will see indications of rips so avoid these.

Papamoa Beach has been a well-known nudist beach for some 30 years, but in recent times with beachside housing developments the 'nude section' has been reduced in size to a just a few hundred meters. But further housing developments are unlikely at this particular section of the beach so it still receives regular nudist beach-goers over summer (mainly men) preferring an all over tan

If scenic bush walks or hiking is more your style a trip to see the spectacular Tarawera Falls is achievable in a few hours from Rotorua. A 35 minute drive from Rotorua City to the township of Kawerau is where you will need to purchase a permit to enter the forestry area (NZ\$5). From here its another 20 kilometres to the car park area where the walk begins to the stunning Tarawera Falls. This is a beautiful walk to do in summertime and a great picnic spot too.

Tarawera Falls.



Summer in New Zealand is when the Pohutukawa trees burst into red flower. These trees are nicknamed the 'New Zealand Christmas Tree' because of their bright red and green colours and the fact they are looking their best in December. Pohutukawa trees are seen in many coastal areas around New Zealand as they are hardy and can cope with the conditions, but they also grow inland as well. Rotorua also has some fine specimens and these can be seen in flower within the Polynesian Spa grounds and other areas around the city.



Our garden at *Guysers Gaystay* also comes to life in the summer months. Maroon coloured Canna Lilies, blue Hydrangeas, pink and red geraniums and other plants all put on a great display.



As well as Rotorua being one of the top tourist destinations in New Zealand our location is such that we are never far from the beach, lakes, rivers or forests – all of which make a great summers outing.

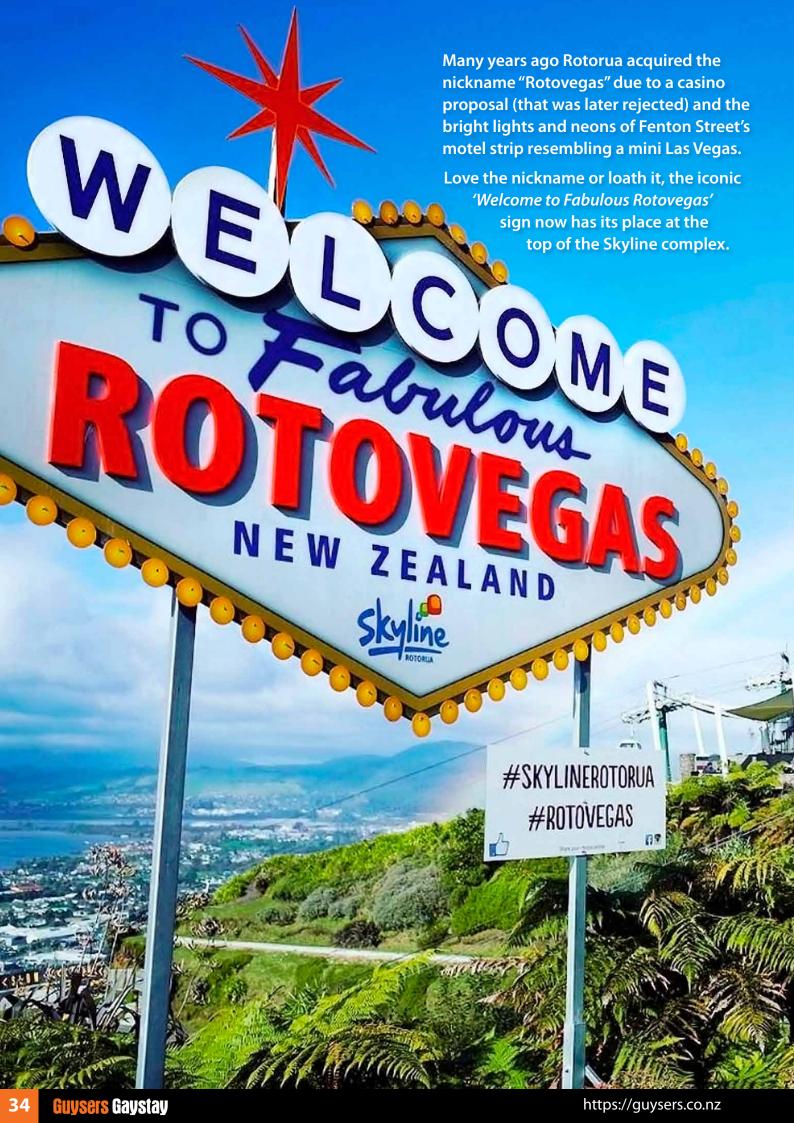
Returning back to *Guysers Gaystay* in the afternoon guests are able to enjoy the remaining sunshine with a glass of wine or a cool beer in the privacy of our sunny back yard or have a relaxing hot soak in the spa pool before heading out to dinner.

https://guysers.co.nz



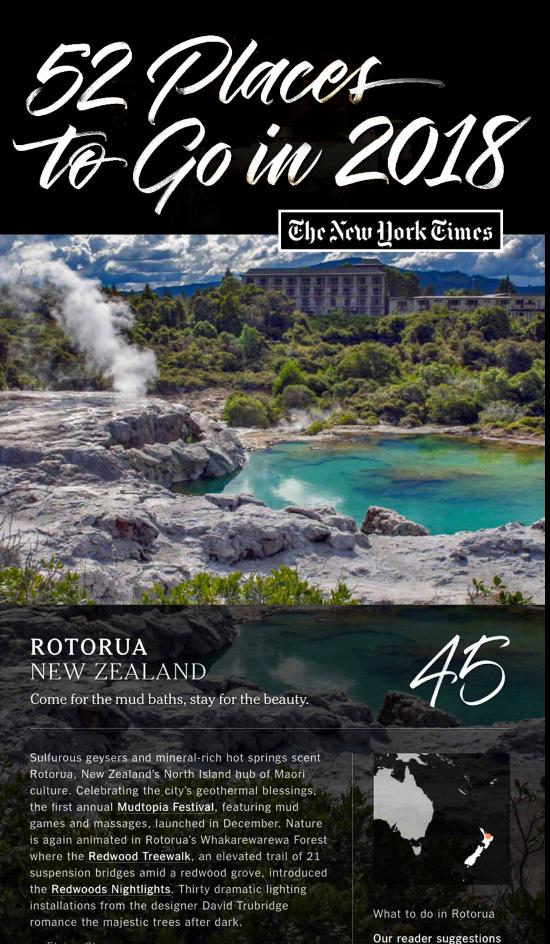






Rotorua - a top travel destination

on Facebook.



Rotorua has been named one of the world's top travel destinations by none other than The New York Times.

The New York Times published its annual *52 Places to Go* list for 2018, which includes an eclectic range of exotic locales, from Lithuania to China's Silk Road to Disney Springs, Florida.

Rotorua is listed as number 45, and is the only New Zealand destination to make the cut.

"Come for the mud baths, stay for the beauty", reads the accompanying description of the city. The Redwood Treewalk is mentioned as one of Rotorua's star attractions.

Destination Rotorua chief executive Michelle Templer said the inclusion of the city on such a prestigious list reinforces its world-class reputation.

"This will open the eyes of a new sector of travellers who may not have previously considered Rotorua as a destination."

- Elaine Glusac

Rotorua's thermal waters

Whether you're a Kiwi local or an international traveller coming to New Zealand, no place is better than Rotorua to warm up and recieve the healing benefits of the many thermal hot pools, mud spas and free geothermal rivers in and around the district. We've listed here our favorite spots for a hot soak...





Polynesian Spa

The Polynesian Spa is located on the shores of Lake Rotorua overlooking Sulphur Bay. It is a World Top 10 Spa complex (as voted by Condé Nast Magazine) consisting of several bathing options; The Adult Pools where there are 5 different bathing areas and two types of thermal water ranging from 38 to 43 degrees C, the Lake Spa (although a little pricey) has 3 pools set in landscaped gardens, and the Private Pools (for clothing optional bathing) four of which have views of the lake, although there is a 30 minute time limit in these.

The water comes from two springs; The Priest Spring has the perfect balance of acidity to provide soothing relief for tired muscles, aches and pains, and the Rachel Spring is alkaline and has a natural anticeptic action due to its sodium silicate content. Historically it was said that those that swam in the Rachel Spring water was blessed with ageless beauty. To test this theory out you'll just have to visit the Polynesian Spa in Rotorua.

Open daily 8am – 11pm. Last bathing entry 10:15pm.

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Waikite Valley Hot Pools

The Waikite Valley Hot Pools are located 25 minutes drive south of Rotorua near Wai-O-Tapu. A hot soak here is well worth it if you are combining your journey with a visit to see Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland. Although these pools cater for families (and there is often a lot of children here) there are a few adult only/passive bathing pools to get away from all the splashing kids. There are also private pools available for clothing optional bathing (max 30 minutes) and these all have a beautiful view of the rural landscape.

Butchers Pool

This free public pool is situated on the eastern side of Broadlands Road, approx 2 kilometres south of Reporoa township (about 35 minutes drive south from Rotorua City). Butcher's Pool fills from hot and cold internal mineral springs and the water exits continually so is renewing and cleansing itself. There are particles of natural algae that floats in the water so if you prefer your water pristine and clear this may not be the pool for you. Skinny dipping is sometimes possible here if you are the first to arrive but keep a towel handy.



FREE!

Kerosene Creek

Kerosene Creek is a natural thermal river located 25 minutes south of Rotorua towards Wai-O-Tapu. Although situated down a very rough unsealed forestry road it is still very popular with campervans, backpackers and other tourists. Once a local secret spot for skinny dipping, these days its bustling with textiled tourists, families and children, but it is still a fantastic and unique place to go for a swim, and best of all its free! Most people head to the main waterfall (pictured), but there are several other bathing spots along the river.

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Wai-t-Tapu twin streams

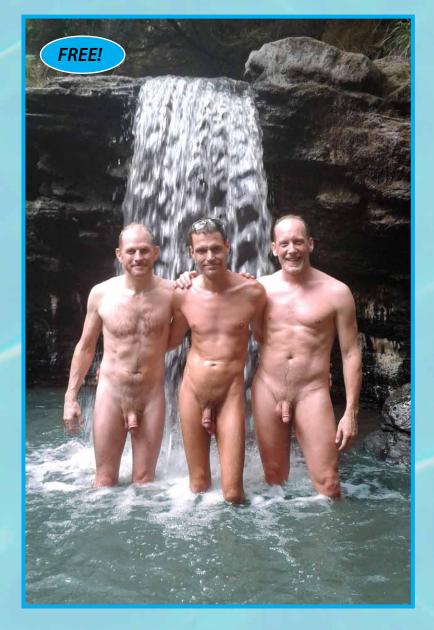
This is a free natural public bathing spot where a hot thermal stream converges with a cold water stream. It is located on the Wai-O-Tapu Loop Road just down from the Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland ticket office. You can find just the right temperature that you like by sitting where the two streams mix. If you venture too far up the hot stream it can be too hot to sit in depending if there has been a lack of rainfall. Bring your swimwear as it is not very naturist inclined these days (unless you go early evening once the bulk of people have left).

The 'secret, secret spot'

This thermal stream and hot waterfall is one of the few best-kept local secrets in the Rotorua area. As this place is not mentioned in every guide book you are almost guaranteed to have this place to yourselves. It is very private set in amongst the bush and is ideal for naturist au naturel bathing. The 3 meter high waterfall provides an excellent vigorous shoulder massage. The bathing pool below it is shallow and has a slightly muddy and stoney bottom. Again, if you are fussy about the clarity of water you like to bath in, this place might not be for you. Natural thermal bathing doesn't get any more natural than this!

With any natural thermal stream you must keep your head above water as there are microbial hazards that are potentially dangerous if you get water up your nose.

Because this spot is a local secret we are not going to give instructions on how to get there in this public forum. You will just have to book into *Guysers Gaystay* when you visit Rotorua, and if you are lucky we will take you there ourselves (blindfolded of course!)



Wairakei Terraces

The Wairakei Terraces hot pools are actually located near Taupo, about 1 hour drive south of Rotorua on SH1. The water flowing into these pools comes from a spring where there is also a geyser and manmade terrace formations where silica has now formed creating the look of the once famous Pink & White Terraces.

There are 3 pools of varying temperatures and the surrounds are beautifully landscaped with rocks and native plantings and even a waterfall. A great place for a dip if you are passing through Taupo or an easy drive from Rotorua.



Hells Gate

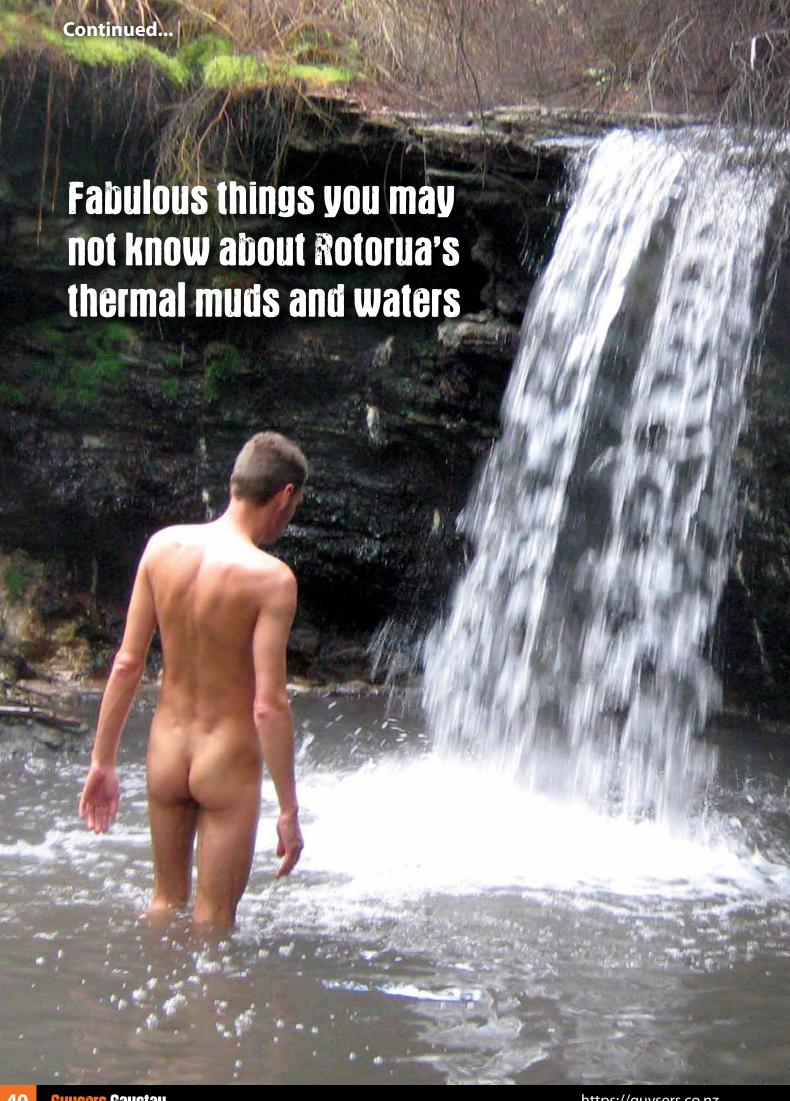
Hells Gate in Rotorua offers New Zealand's only mud spa where you can cover yourself in mineral-rich, silky smooth geothermal mud. Commercial freeform shaped bathing pools are filled with mud and thermal water and are cleaned out and refilled daily. After 30 minutes of slippery fun in the mud you shower the mud off and then you are guided over to the sulphur pool where you can stay as long as you like overlooking the geothermal park. Private pools are available but they are old and quite small.

Manupirua Springs Hot Pools

These thermal hot pools are located on the shores of Lake Rotoiti. What makes these pools unique is the fact the only way to get there is by boat or by kayak – there is no vehicle access. You can either get there by *Pure Cruise* which is a luxury catamaran yacht, by *Kawarau Jet* which is a high speed jet boat that departs from the Rotorua City lake front, or by one of several Kayaking companies (eg, *RiverRats* or *Waimarino*).



Continued over...



Leaves skin clean and soft to touch for up to six weeks

Natural antiseptic properties

Relieves tired muscles, aches, pains, arthritis and rheumatism

The mud from Hell's Gate absorbs excess oils and impurities while detoxifying and purifying the skin

The water from the Rachel Spring contains Sodium Silicate which is very soft and pleasing on the skin

Helps clear up Psoriasis

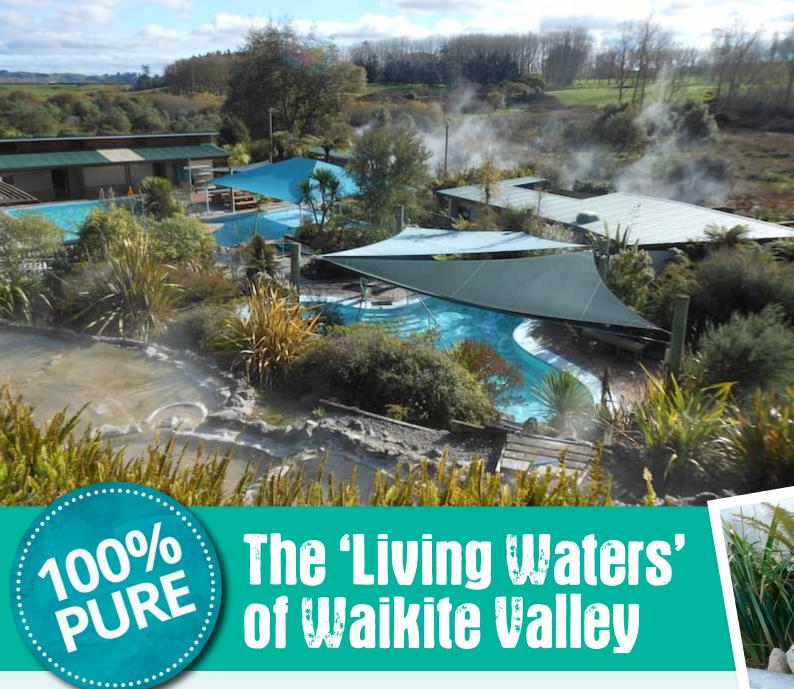
Rotorua's mud contains trace elements such as sulphur, calcium, sodium and silica, to name a few Neutralises free radicals – helps stop skin aging

Clears acne, skin infections, inflammation and dermatitis Increases levels of important skin nutrients such as vitamin C and E

Natural thermal streams in Rotorua fluctuate in temperature between 36 and 43 degrees Celsius

Silica strengthens bones and boosts the immune system

Relieves migraines, reduces stress, improves blood circulation, relaxes nerves and enhances sleep



See it! Hear it! Feel it! Breath it! Experience it!

Less than a 30-minute drive from Rotorua and close to the Waiotapu Geothermal Wonderland is the *Waikite Valley Thermal Pools* – a unique place to go to experience the 'Living Waters' from the magnificent *Te Manaroa Spring*, the largest single source of 100% pure boiling water in New Zealand.

There are six outdoor hot mineral pools to choose from including a family pool (for kids), adults passive bathing pools, a pergola pool with a roof over you, a garden pool with scenic views, and two round cool-down tubs that are set at a lower temperature.

They also have four private spas which can be hired for 30 minutes. In a private spa you can bathe naked if you wish and you can control the temperature yourselves. The 'Spa Plus' package includes pool upgrade, complimentary towel hire and spring drinking water. All private spas have open rural scenic views overlooking the boiling and steaming Otamakokore River.

After your swim take the 10-minute 'Eco Trail' walk to see the impressive, furiously boiling *Te Manaora Spring* for which the Waikite Pools sources its water from.





Rotorua's Polynesian Spa is a World Top 10 Spa that overlooks Lake Rotorua's Sulphur Bay. When you visit Rotorua do indulge in a little bit of luxury at the Deluxe Lake Spa.

We've bathed at the Adult Pools (known now as the *Pavilion Pools*) many times, mainly due to the fact locals can get a monthly pass to use those pools, but we were keen to experience the fancier deluxe side just to see what the main differences are.

After getting our tickets we then came into a rather plush lounge area with comfortable arm chairs overlooking the pools and lake. You can use this lounge before or after your swim if you so wish. We then proceeded to the change rooms, which unlike the standard *Pavilion Pools*, had complimentary lockers and towels.

The showers are communal style with huge monsoon shower roses as well as shampoo and fancy body lotion dispensers.

When we walked though to the pools the first thing we noticed was it was a lot quieter with less people than over at the *Pavilion Pools* side. If you're after a more relaxing bathing experience without the coach loads of people it's worth spending the extra just for that reason alone.

The *Deluxe Lake Spa* has 2 covered roof areas with rows of resort-like recliner chairs you can lay to cool down between dips.

Continued over...





The Polynesian Spa's geothermal mineral waters are sourced from two natural springs. The slightly acidic *Priest Spring* waters relieve aches and pains while the alkaline waters of the *Rachel Spring* nourish skin. Both the *Pavilion Pools* and the *Deluxe Lake Spa* has both these waters. The main difference between the two bathing areas comes down to the landscaping.

The *Deluxe Lake Spa* has 4 organic, freeform-shaped pools surrounded by rocks and native plants and 1 modern hard-edged pool.
All these pools have views of the lake and sit under the dappled light of Pohutukawa trees.
One of the pools (pictured right) has an arching rock grotto with intimate seating nooks.

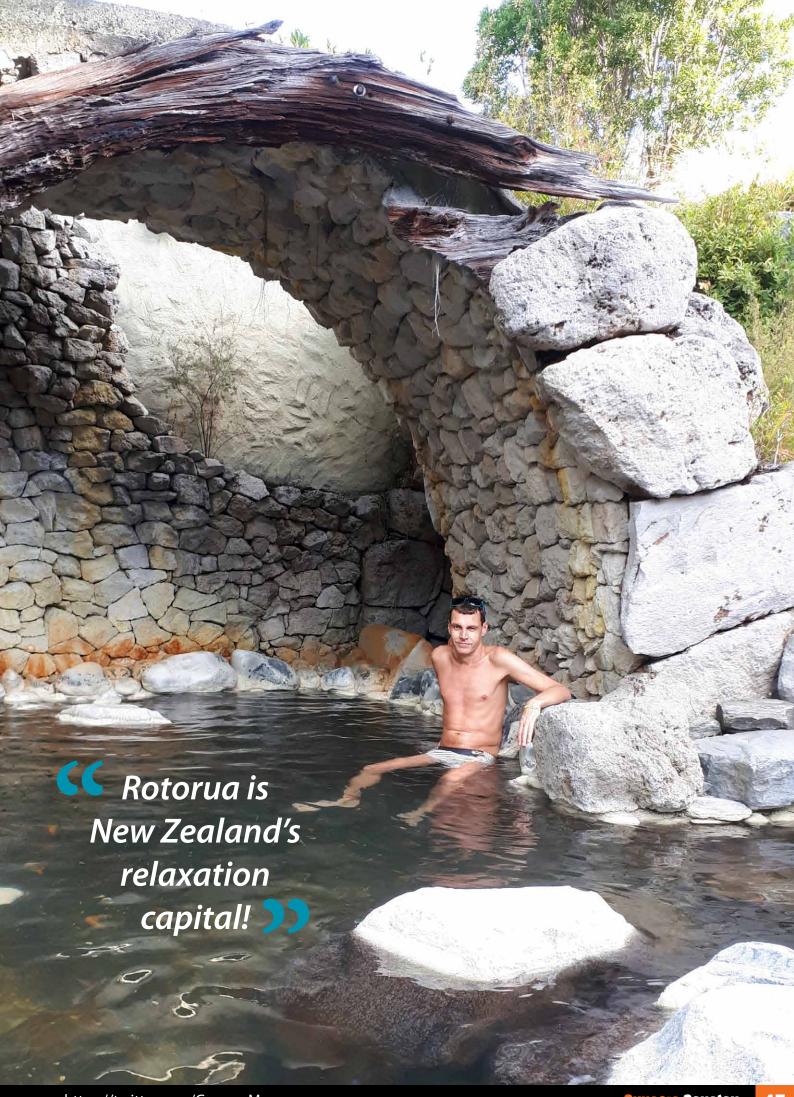
If you get too hot there is an icy cold plunge pool for hot/cold hydrotherapy (if you are game enough to do this?).

game enough

If you decide to do any Spa
Therapy treatment, you
automatically get free entry
to the *Deluxe Lake Spa*.
If staying at *Guysers* we have
10% discount vouchers for any *Signature Range* treatments,
so do enquire with us before
booking online yourself.



www.polynesianspa.co.nz

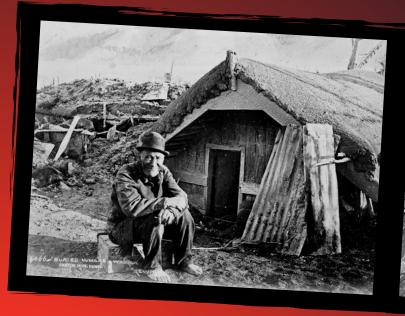


An eruption to remember

On the 10th June, 1886, the violent eruption of Mount Tarawera took place – a day in history that is marked as New Zealand's greatest natural disaster. As well as killing more than 150 people, the eruption destroyed the eighth wonder of the world – the once magnificent Pink & White Terraces.



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Shortly after midnight on the morning of 10 June 1886, a series of more than 30 increasingly strong earthquakes were felt in the Rotorua area and an unusual sheet lightning display was observed from the direction of Tarawera. At around 2:00 am a larger earthquake was felt, followed by the sound of an explosion. By 2:30 am Mount Tarawera's three peaks had erupted, blasting three distinct columns of smoke and ash thousands of metres into the sky. At around 3:30 am, the largest phase of the eruption commenced; vents at Rotomahana produced a pyroclastic surge that destroyed several villages within a 6 kilometre radius, killing an estimated 150 people.

The eruption was heard clearly as far away as Blenheim and the effects of the ash in the air were observed as far south as Christchurch, over 800 km south. In Auckland the sound of the eruption and the flashing sky was thought by some to be an attack by Russian warships.

The eruption also buried many Māori villages, including Te Wairoa which has now become a tourist attraction, aptly named The Buried Village. Approximately 2 cubic kilometres of tephra was erupted, more than Mount St. Helens ejected in 1980. Many of the lakes surrounding the mountain had their shapes and areas dramatically altered, especially the eventual enlargement of Lake Rotomahana.





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The Pink & White Terraces were the most famous tourist attraction in New Zealand and considered to be the eighth wonder of the world. Those that made the long and hard journey by way of horse and cart to visit the Terraces were most frequently well to do overseas tourists or officers from the British forces in New Zealand.



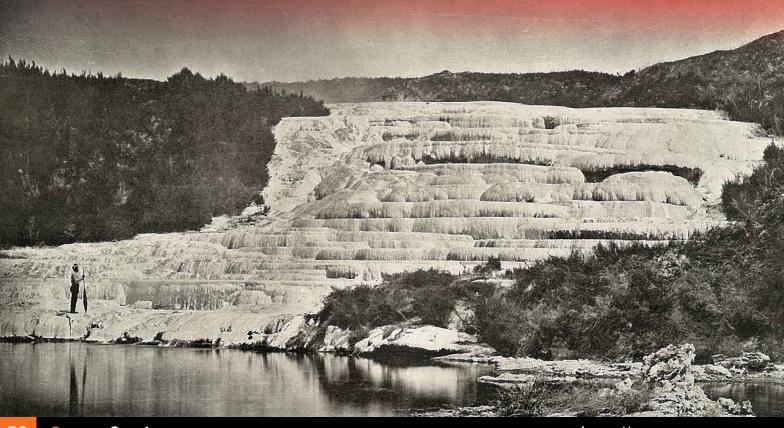
The silica Terraces formed natural bathing pools where the visiting tourists and Māori locals would bathe *au natural* in male/female segregated areas.

The Terraces were formed by geothermally heated water containing large amounts of silicic acid and sodium chloride from two large geysers. These geysers were part of a group of 40 geysers in the nearby area.

The Pink Terraces and the White Terraces were 800 metres apart descending 40 metres to the lake edge of Rotomahana.

They were completely destroyed by the eruption of Mount Tarawera, being replaced by the Waimangu Volcanic Rift Valley.

After the eruption, a crater over 100 metres deep encompassed the former site of the Terraces. After some years this filled with water to form a new Lake Rotomahana, 30 metres higher and much larger than the old lake, thus today the Terraces are now under water and earth. Underwater sonar mapping of the lake floor in 2011 undertaken by Waikato University revealed images of parts of the Pink Terraces.







Despite the loss of the Pink & White Terraces, the Rotorua district remains one of the most visited parts of the North Island attracting over 3.2 million visitors a year.

While Mt Tarawera is now sleeping, geothermal activity around the many lakes and valleys is still very much in action. Tourists flock here to witness the many geothermal parks with their steaming lakes and cliffs, geysers, mud pools, hot springs, craters and fumaroles.

Mt Tarawera itself can be experienced by 4WD/ walking tours or a helicopter landing which gives you a chance to walk along the volcanic crater rim. Alternatively you can witness the grand volcano by a scenic fly-over in a DHC-3 Otter float plane or helicopter. Boat trips on the lakes of Tarawera and Lake Rotomohana provide stunning and unique scenery.

The recently opened Tarawera Trail is a 4-6 hour moderate-level walk that takes you past historic sites and settlements, over hill ranges, and along isolated lake-edge beaches arriving at *Hot Water Beach* where you get a chance to have a soak in natural hot thermal water pools on the lake edge. The Lake Tarawera Water Taxi will bring you back in the afternoon which will end a stunning and unforgettable day experiencing what is fast becoming one of the great walks of New Zealand.







Rotorua's rainbow of colour

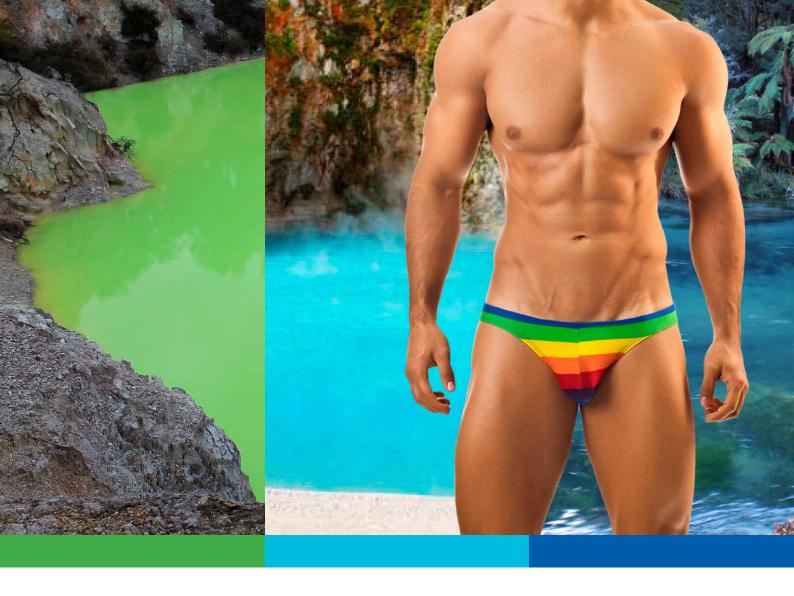
Named as "One of the 20 Most Surreal Places in the World", Rotorua's natural geothermal landscapes are as bright and colourful as a gay rainbow flag!

Rotorua has several geothermal valleys where you can witness natural pools or lakes displaying the full spectrum of rainbow colours.

Our advice is to do a day combo visiting *Waimangu Volcanic Valley* and *Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland*. If you are self-driving you can simply pay separately at each attraction, otherwise there is an organised daily bus tour that departs from the Rotorua i-Site (or pick-up from us at *Guysers Gaystay*) for which both valleys are included in the one price.

At *Waimangu Volcanic Valley* you'll be able to marvel at the brilliant red colour of the tiny Azolla Fern (Red Water Fern) that floats on the surface of a volcanic crater lake creating what looks like red water when viewed from a distance. Visit the stunning Inferno Crater Lake which changes to an intensely sky blue colour at higher lake levels. The Inferno Crater Lake is actually the largest geyser-like feature in the world which rises and falls up to 12 metres following a complicated 38-day cycle that includes an overflow stage.

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At *Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland* you'll be totally blown away by the amazing colours of the various pools and springs, each presenting their own mineral makeup or special water qualities that give their unique and vibrant appearance.

The Champagne Pool with its bright orange border is a prominent geothermal feature within the Wai-O-tapu geothermal area. The name Champagne Pool is derived from the abundant efflux of carbon dioxide (CO_2), similar to a glass of bubbling champagne. The hot spring was formed 900 years ago by a hydrothermal eruption. The colourful orange deposits (metalloid compounds such as orpiment (As_2S_3) and stibnite (Sb_2S_3) to be precise) are in sharp contrast to the grey-white silica sinter surrounding the Champagne Pool.

Other stunningly beautiful pools of colour within *Wai-O-tapu* include the *Sulphur pool* with its bright yellow water and rocky banks covered in sulphur deposits.

Walking further around the geothermal field you'll come across *The Artist's Palette, Bird's Nest Crater, Sulphur Cave, The Oyster Pool, Devil's Bath* and the *Black Ink Pots*.

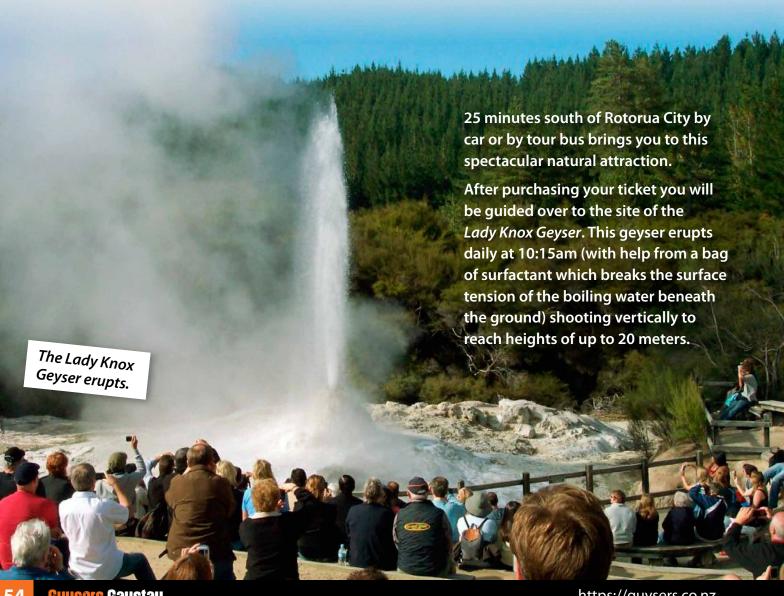
Before heading back to Rotorua (if you are self-driving) put on your brightest pair of swimwear and turn heads at the *Wai-O-Tapu Hot & Cold Twin Streams* or drive around to *Kerosene Creek* for a swim in the hot thermal water.

For more information on these attractions and other geothermal fields in the Rotorua district please refer to our website:

https://guysers.co.nz/geothermal.html

Wai-C-Tapu A geothermal wonderland

No trip to Rotorua (or New Zealand for that matter) is complete without visiting Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland – New Zealand's most colourful and diverse volcanic area. Full of spectacular geothermal activity, violent boiling mud pools, volcanic craters, steam vents and colourful lakes and mineral pools.









The Lady Knox Geyser begins to erupt.

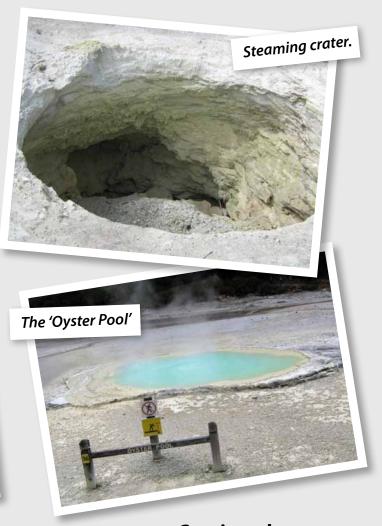
I know what you're thinking: 'it's not a real geyser because they have to put soap down it to make it go'. Well, it is a real geyser. Around 1908 the Wai-O-Tapu area was home to a prison camp. Prisoners sent out to plant trees (for the forestry industry) came across a small pool of hot water. After working up a sweat their clothes got a bit smelly so they decided to strip off and wash their clothes with soap in the hot pool they discovered. A few minutes later the prisoners got one hell of a shock as the pool began to erupt!

Since the discovery of the geyser people have been adding soap down the hole (or these days surfactant which is more eco-friendly) to make the geyser erupt. Without this help, the geyser would erupt naturally, but the timing of each eruption would be at random.

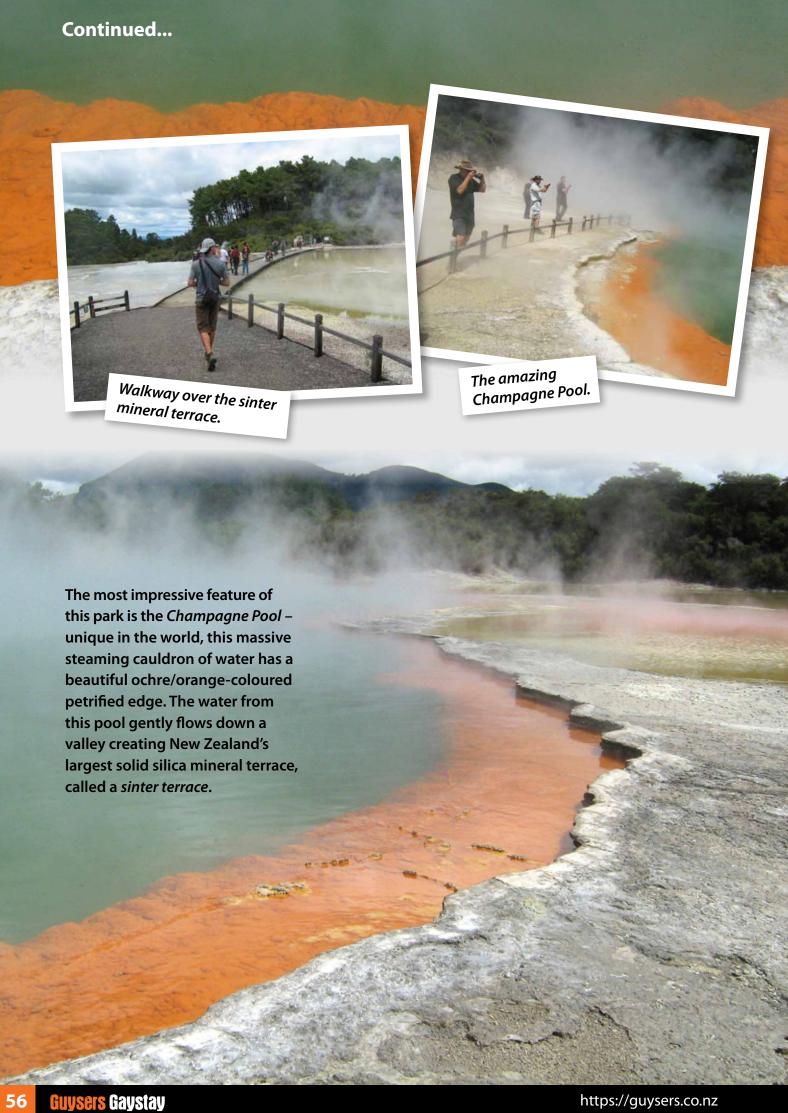
'Soaping the geyser'. 1927

Over time the build up of mineral deposits created the cone shape that it has today.

After the geyser has finished you will then begin your walk around the geothermal valley. Following the well-formed paths you will pass dozens of craters and pools of varying colours.



Continued over...





Other features in the valley include boiling mud pools and black ink pots. Sulphur vents colour rock caves bright yellow including the water in one last pool towards the end of the walkway (shown above).

After you have walked around the entire geothermal field and have run out of batteries taking photos you can stop by the souvenir shop or grab a bite to eat or a drink at the café.

If you have brought your own car (or hire car

Guysers Gaystay in Rotorua take a hot dip at 'The Secret Spot' waterfall. As this private waterfall is a bit of a local secret we will have to give you instructions on how to get there.

Before leaving the Wai-O-Tapu area don't forget to stop at the *free* mud pool on the Wai-O-Tapu Loop Road – this is Rotorua's largest mud pool. A must see!



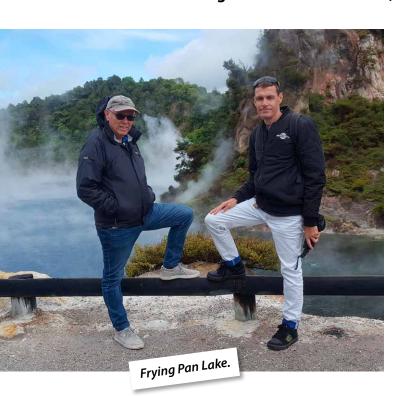
Mud Pool.

we can give you 10% off the ticket price

into Wai-O-Tapu.



Recently we visited the *Waimangu Volcanic Valley* just South of Rotorua City. Waimangu (which means 'Black Water') was named after the Waimangu Geyser that erupted between 1901 and 1904 to heights of over 400 meters (the height of the Empire State Building!)



We enjoyed views of the mysterious and beautiful Inferno Crater which rises and falls as it heats and cools. We saw the delicate sinter terraces growing from minerals solidifying out of the hot spring water. Waimangu Volcanic Valley is home to Frying Pan Lake, one of the largest hot water springs in the World!

The full 4km walk allows you to experience all that *Waimangu Volcanic Valley* has to offer, including wonderful panoramas over the valley, Southern Crater, Emerald Lake, regenerating forest, Frying Pan Lake, Cathedral Rocks, rare plants, hot springs, Inferno Crater Lake, silica terraces and stalactites. Or you can opt for one of the shorter walks between 1 and 1.5 hours with a bus to bring you back up.

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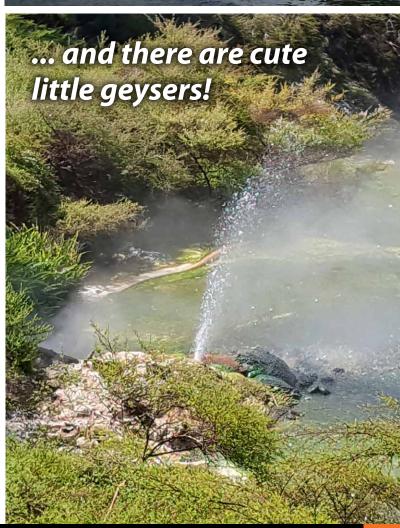
On the walk you'll witness brilliantly coloured microbes that cloak the hot rocks and you'll see tiny springs and geysers at play. Immerse yourself amongst the rare and unusual plants that grow on the hot earths of Waimangu, amongst the regenerating native forests.

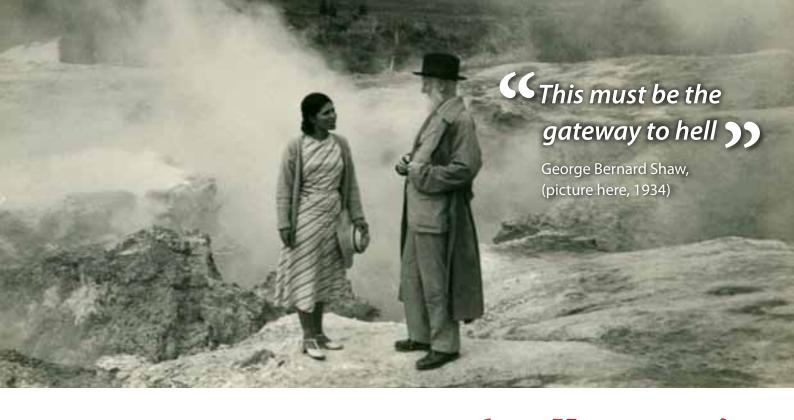
During the 19th Century, visitors travelled to Lake Rotomahana attracted by the Pink and White Terraces which were destroyed in 1886 by the eruption of Mt Tarawera. By taking the 45 minute boat cruise on the lake you'll learn the history of Mt Tarawera that formed the Waimangu Volcanic Valley – the youngest geothermal field in the world!

Rediscover the Pink and White Terraces with Waimangu's Augmented Reality App.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.waimangu.co.nz





History of Tikitere (Hells Gate)

Otherwise referred to as "the beast of all geothermal parks", *Hells Gate* in Rotorua has a long history and is a site of great importance to the local Māori tribe *Ngāti Rangiteaorere* who have lived in this area for more than 700 years.

Hells Gate was formed approximately 10,000 years ago in a series of geothermal eruptions that drained an ancient lake and formed Lake Rotoiti and Lake Rotorua. The absence of the pressure of the water on top of the rock caused it to create faults from which steam and gases can escape. At less than 2 km below ground, the heat source of this thermal area is shallower than most other thermal areas in the region.

Tikitere, the Māori name for the area, is derived from the tragic action of a Māori princess, *Hurutini*, the young wife of an abusive and shameful chief, who threw

herself into the boiling hot pool that bears her name today. Hurutini's mother found her daughter's body floating in the hot pool and cried out "Aue teri nei tiki" ("here lies my precious one"), which was shortened to 'Tikitere' and became the name for the thermal reserve and the surrounding area.

The name "Hells Gate" was given to the geothermal reserve by noted Irish playwright, George Bernard Shaw in 1934 who likened the area to the comments that were made by his theologian colleagues back in England who were explaining to him that the result of the error of

his ways as a practising atheist would result in his "going to hell". What he saw at Tikitere moved him to believe that this would be the gateway to hell. His visit to Tikitere was well received by the local Māori owners of the land and as an honour to note the occasion of his visit, the owners decided that this would be the English name for the geothermal area. A destination spa operated at this site as early as 1871, using sulphurous waters from one of the hot pools and from Kakahi Falls.

The Kakahi Falls is the largest hot waterfall in the Southern Hemisphere. Its temperature is approximately 40°C, which is a

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nice hot shower. The falls hold a special place for Māori people, in that they were used by warriors to bathe and cleanse themselves of the blood of battle when they returned.

The sulphur in the water was very good in that it acted as a salve to the wounds and scratches that the warriors received at the hands of their enemies.

The full name of the falls is 'O Te Mimi O Te Kakahi' which is translated into 'the urine of Kakahi'. The reason behind this name is that like all indigenous people, our Māori warriors knew that urine is also a great salving liquid that you could apply to cuts and wounds when you were not able to come to these falls.

Kakahi was a noted warrior of Rangiteaorere hence the name.

The other reason why this site is of importance to Rotorua Māori was that the *Tohunga* or 'Medicine Man' for the tribe would bring the new born baby boys to these falls and dedicate the boys to the God of War in a ceremony which was very similar to a Christian Baptism.

Today, Hells Gate is a popular tourist attraction offering visitors a unique walk around 50 acres of rumbling and steaming geothermal features. Follow the footsteps of warriors of old through the swirling clouds of steam, past the pool where Hurutini lost her life and walk past the fumeroles and pools of boiling mud so violent they are unnerving!





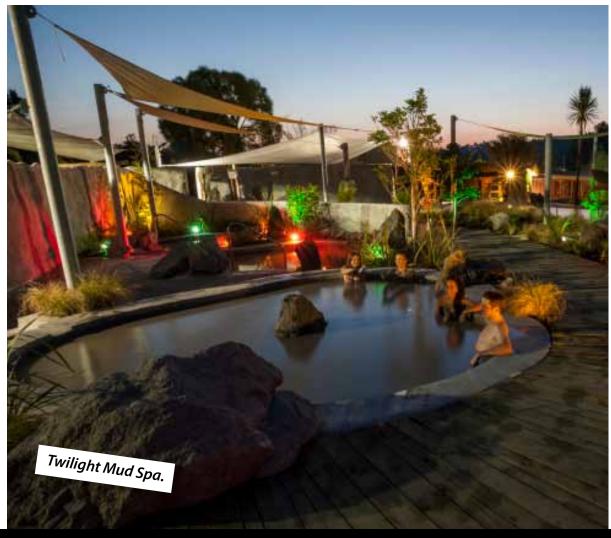
Hells Gate Mud Spa

For a totally unique experience head to Hells Gate for a day time or evening soak in the mud baths and sulphur mineral pools (only available in Rotorua).

The bathing pools pictured have recently been developed and are beautifully landscaped with irregular-shaped pools, boardwalks, large rocks, native plants and mood lighting. The pools overlook the spectacular steaming geothermal scenery of the Hells Gate park.

By bathing in these mud and sulphur mineral pools will leave your skin feeling soft, smooth and youthful. The mineral-enriched geothermal mud provides an excellent source of minerals including silica, alumina, magnesium, calcium, iron, titanium, sulphur, phosphorous, sodium and potassium as well as trace elements such as copper, zinc, selenium, cobalt, manganese and molybdenum. All of these minerals are wonderful for detoxifying and purifying the skin, absorbing excess oils from the skin's pores, and has antibacterial properties for treating various skin conditions from acne to psoriasis.

Book through Guysers and save 10%.

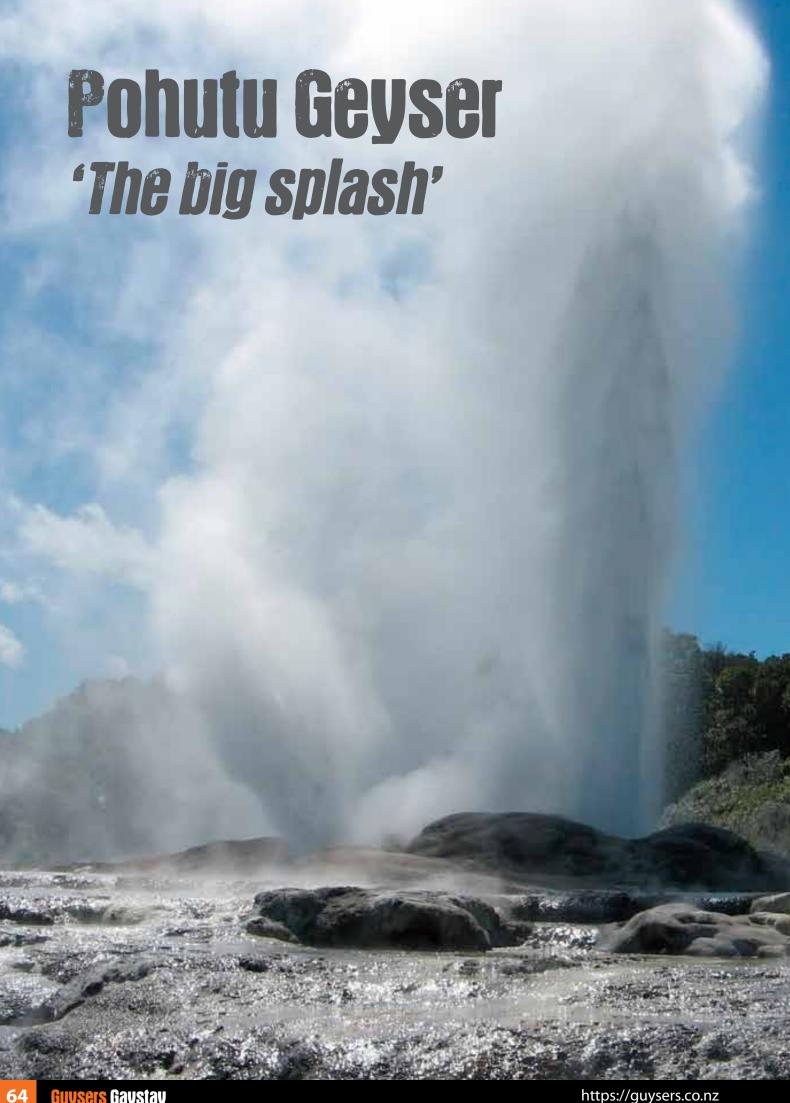






BOYS WILL BE BOYS!





One of the most photographed attractions in all of Rotorua is the legendary *Pohutu Geyser*, recently ranked one of the world's top 5 geysers by Lonely Planet.

The *Pohutu Geyser* is located within the grounds of **Te Puia** which is part of the Whakarewarewa Thermal Valley.

The smaller *Prince of Wales Feathers Geyser* (which is seen in the photo on the far left) erupts first followed by the impressive *Pohutu Geyser* which reaches heights of up to 30 metres (100 feet) and erupting up to 20 times a day.

Unlike Wai-O-Tapu's *Lady Knox Geyser* which is induced with a surfactant daily to make it erupt at a given time, the *Pohutu Geyser* erupts naturally on its own accord.

The process begins when groundwater starts to boil and creates steam due to intense heat from molten rock underground. Pressure builds inside *Pohutu's* underground chamber until it eventually forces its way up through the geyser vent erupting hot water and steam skyward.

Once *Pohutu Geyser* has calmed down, the chamber fills with water again and the process

The Māori word *Pohutu* means "big splash" or "explosion", and its easy to see why it got its name! It is also the largest geyser in the Southern hemisphere.

Your entry ticket into **Te Puia** not only gets you up close to the *Pohutu Geyser*, but you also get a chance to have a look at the New Zealand Māori Carving School (where Māori boys learn from the Master Carvers) and the Weaving School for Māori girls. Depending on the time of day you go or the ticket you buy, you can either have a 'Steam Box' lunch which is food you select that is cooked in a natural thermal steam vent, or the *Te Pō Evening Combo* where you get to watch a Māori cultural show followed by a Māori *hangi* dinner (food cooked in the ground over hot rocks and embers).

Book your **Te Puia** experience through us at *Guysers Gaystay* and save 10% off the ticket price! **https://guysers.co.nz**



Rainbow Mountain Scenic Reserve

Rainbow Mountain (Maungakakaramea, meaning 'mountain of coloured earth'), is one of the great free walks in the Rotorua district. The 1.5 hour climb to the summit rewards you with a spectacular 360-degree view of Rotorua's surrounding lakes, forests and mountains. Alternatively you can take the shorter 15-minute walk to the eggshell blue crater lake.

The mountain



Rainbow Mountain lies 26 km south-east of Rotorua, beside the Rotorua-Taupo highway (SH5). Approaching from Rotorua the gravel carpark is located just past the turnoff for SH38, on the left-hand side of the road.

The mountain top has an unusual rounded nipple shape, known as Tihi-o-Rua – 'the owl's perch'. More appropriately it should have the nickname 'Titty Mountain' (you'll see why!).

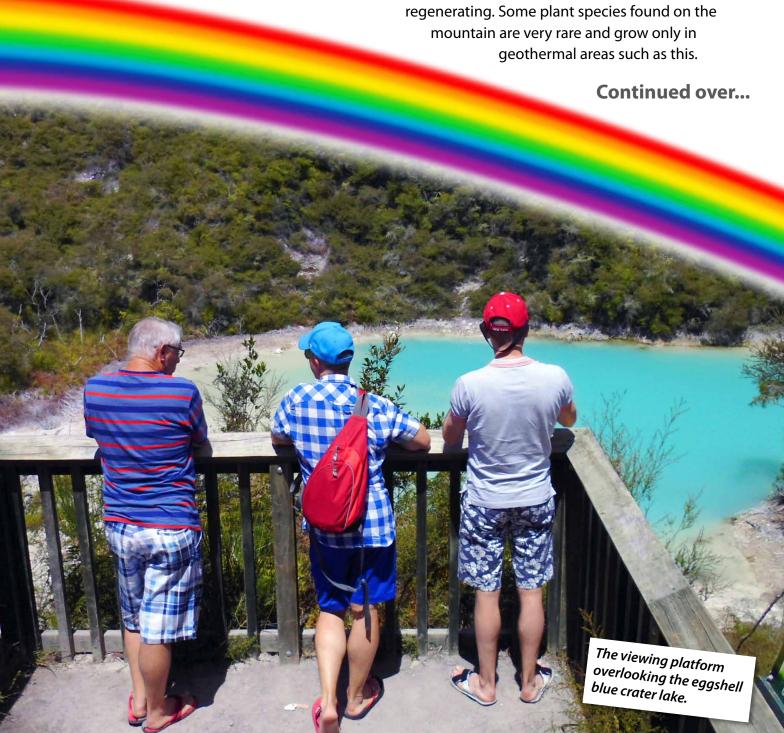
From the carpark on SH5, follow the signs to the crater lakes lookout.

Crater Lakes Walk

The Crater Lakes Walk offers great views of two volcanic craters set against a backdrop of rugged brown, orange and red steaming cliffs.

This walk takes just 15 minutes (one way) to reach the viewing platform where you can admire the stunning blue crater lakes and the near-vertical volcanic cliff face and hear the hiss of the simmering pools of water below.

Although Rainbow Mountain had a very volcanic past it has cooled over recent years, allowing the native vegetation to slowly begin regenerating. Some plant species found on the mountain are very rare and grow only in



The Summit Track

The 2.5 km track to the summit takes you upward through a variety of native bush, bare ridges and volcanic areas with sulphur crystal deposits and steaming cliffs. You'll see regular views of the crater lakes below and surrounding countryside along the way. The final part of the track emerges onto the dirt and gravel summit road which will take you the remainder of the way to the top. (Note, the last few hundred meters of the track is quite steep so you'll need a rest to catch your breath and at the top! Take some food and drink with you as you'll be needing it).

From the summit you'll have spectacular views of Mt Tarawera, Lakes Tarawera, Rotomahana, Okaro and Rerewhakaaitu to the north. Look south to see Lake Taupo and the fantastic volcano Mt Tongariro plus other landmarks.

The summit provides a nice flat picnic area to take in the views, or for a slightly better view, ask the man in the fire-watch tower nicely and he'll invite you up for a view from the deck (if he happens to be in there).

The track to the summit requires a good level of fitness. You'll need to wear sturdy boots/ shoes, and bring with you layers of clothing as it can be cool and windy at the summit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on Rainbow Mountain and the walking tracks, visit:

www.doc.govt.nz

and type in "Rainbow Mountain" into the search bar.



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Experience the magnificent Tarawera Falls Track

The Tarawera Falls are the most spectacular falls in the Bay of Plenty where water surges out of fissures in the middle of a large rock cliff-face surrounded by native bush. The cliff is the end of an ancient rhyolitic lava flow that is believed to have poured from an erupting Mt Tarawera about 11,000 years ago. An abrupt stop to the flow produced these high cliffs.

Access to the Tarawera Falls is from the township of Kawerau (off SH30 between Rotorua and Whakatane) via private forestry roads which requires a \$5 permit available from the Kawerau Information Centre on Plunket St.

Tarawera Falls Track

This part of the track is an easy 20-minute one way walk (0.7 kms) from the Waterfalls Road carpark to the Falls viewing area.

From the carpark, head upstream along the Tarawera River, cross the foot bridge then continue along the river until you arrive at the viewing area at the base of the Falls.

The Falls are a spectacular sight and there are signs to explain the cultural and natural significance of the area.



underground fissures in cliff before emerging as the Tarawera Falls.

The river disappears into

Continued...

Tarawera Outlet to Falls Track

For a longer walk drive out the Tarawera Outlet Campground and commence the walk to the Tarawera Falls from there.

The track meanders through native bush, largely following the river. Too cold to swim in winter, but there is a popular swimming spot during the warmer months about 1 hour walk from the Outlet. Caution is advised for those wishing to swim beside this track due to strong currents, other than at the swimming hole where the water is calmer.

The track then zigzags down a steep escarpment to the viewing area at the base of the Tarawera Falls.

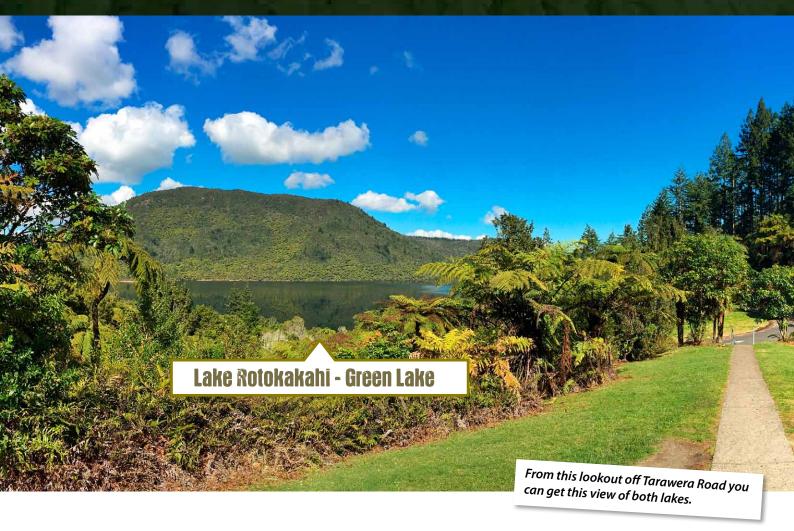
Return back the way you came along the same track. This 5 km return walk takes approximately 3 hours with a 55 minute travel time to/from Rotorua City. Pick up the Tarawera Falls brochure with a map when you stay with us at *Guysers Gaystay* in Rotorua.







Rotorua's Green & Blue lakes



Lake Rotokakahi or Green Lake, is one of four small lakes lying between Lake Rotorua and Lake Tarawera in the Bay of Plenty region of New Zealand's North Island. The others are Lake Tikitapu (Blue Lake), Lake Okareka, and Lake Okataina. All lie within the Okataina caldera, along its western edge.

Named for its abundance of kakahi (freshwater mussels), it flows to Lake Tarawera via the Te Wairoa waterfalls. From the air the lake looks emerald green due to its shallow, sandy bottom. The lake is 1302 feet above sea level and 69 feet below the level of the neighbouring Lake Tikitapu (Blue Lake).

Rotokakahi remains under the authority of Te Arawa iwi, and remains largely undisturbed as it is considered to be tapu (sacred).

Green Lake Quick Facts:

Lake named after the shellfish (kakahi)

440 hectares in size, deepest point 32 metres

Flows to Lake Tarawera via Te Wairoa stream

Formed approximately 12,300 years ago

Emerald green from above due to shallow, sandy bottom

Privately owned by local iwi (Maori), this lake is sacred (tapu). No boating, swimming or fishing is permitted

From the Lookout carpark, off Tarawera Rd, an old forestry road runs along the shoreline which goes all the way through to State Highway 5. You can walk along this road



Lake Tikitapu or Blue Lake, is the smallest of the four lakes lying between Lake Rotorua and Lake Tarawera.

Along with the others, Lake Tikitapu lies within a volcanic caldera formed within the last 300,000 years. The blue colour of the lake can be attributed to rhyolite and pumice on the lake bed. The lake has no visible outlet; however, subsurface flow drains towards the Green Lake and onto Lake Tarawera.

In summer, the lake is used for recreational purposes, with many sports events being held such as water skiing and triathlons. Like many of the lakes in the Rotorua district, it is also used for trout fishing. The Blue Lake is one of the lakes visited by the amphibious vehicle *Duck Tours* from Rotorua.

Blue Lake Quick Facts:

Named as the place where the daughter of a high born chief lost her sacred greenstone neck ornament (Tikitapu)

150 hectares in size, deepest point 28 metres

No surface outlet, probably drains via underground to Lake Rotokakahi opposite

Formed approximately 13,500 years ago

Turquoise blue from above due to reflection from white rhyolite and pumice bottom

You can walk right around the Blue Lake which is about 5km (takes about 1.25 hours)

The blue lake caters for swimming, boating, water skiing, walking, biking and fishing





Is Rotorua really that smelly? Getting over the drama queen episode

Nick-named *The Sulphur City*, Rotorua does have a rather unique aroma due to its hydrogen sulphide emissions (in certain areas). Rotorua has been described as smelling distinctly like rotten eggs (*Rotten-rua* is another nickname given by some extremely sensitive drama queens!).

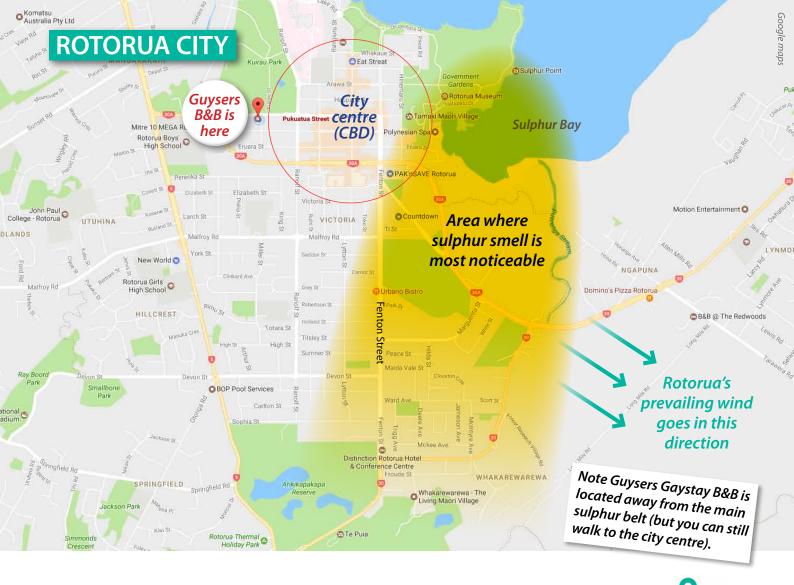
The strongest sulphur smell comes from the central-east area due to the dense sulphur deposits located next to the southern boundary of the Government Gardens, in the area known as 'Sulphur Point'. Sometimes the smell can be noticeable along the motel strip of Fenton Street and up through Whakarewarewa.

The smell does end up growing on you, and instead of the smell becoming unbearable the longer you stay, the noticeable aroma soon fades, and once a traveller has moved on from Rotorua, it may even be missed!

The occasional waft of sulphur is a reminder of the geothermal activity of this beautiful region, the intense presence of beneficial minerals and the readily available natural remedies that Mother Nature offers freely in Rotorua.

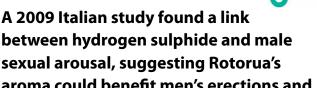
We've had several guests stay with us here at *Guysers Gaystay* who booked for just one night having been given dud advise that *"Rotorua stinks, you'd only want one night there"*.

Guysers Gaystay https://guysers.co.nz



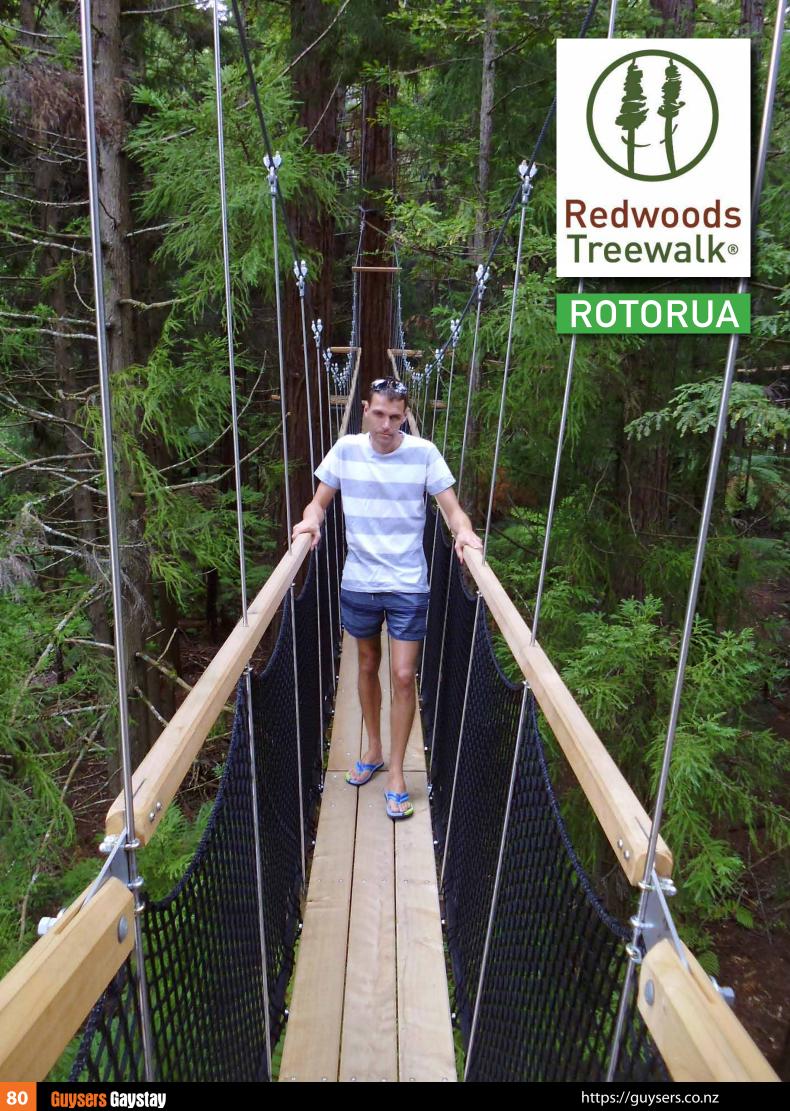
What poor advise this is, as the smell is only noticeable in the area shown on the map above and some of the geothermal parks. It's also important to note that where *Guysers Gaystay* B&B is located, we rarely experience any sulphur smells here, unless there is low cloud cover and the wind is blowing in an easterly direction (which is seldom).

Despite popular myth, living with Rotorua's distinctive sulphur smell won't slow your mind nor will it aggravate asthma sufferers, according to a new study by US and Kiwi researchers. Before findings of this study, some researchers had inconclusively linked exposure to the gas to a range of negative effects on the brain. "The key thing we found is there is no evidence of a harmful effect," said co-author Professor Michael Bates, of the University of California at Berkeley. More than 1600 residents aged 18-65 were surveyed.



aroma could benefit men's erections and sexual performance. Now there's a great reason to visit Rotorua!

Rotorua is an experience not to be missed when travelling New Zealand. Its geothermal significance is profound and in most cases, a once in a lifetime opportunity to see such wonders up close. The sometimes overpowering, but most often just a whiff, scent of Rotorua is not a deterrent to visit, rather an invitation to the senses to envelope yourself in the natural marvels of this volcanic heartland.



Redwoods Treewalk Rotorua's greenest attraction

When you come to Rotorua, be sure to experience the *Redwoods Treewalk*.

Redwoods Treewalk is Rotorua's newest ecotourism attraction. Using ecologically-friendly engineering, the Treewalk is suspended from 100 year old majestic Californian Redwoods. Featuring a series of suspension bridges and living decks, elevated from 6 metres to 12-metres at its' highest point. Designed for use without harnesses or protective gear, it is suitable for all ages. The only pre-requisite is that all users must be able to walk the entire circuit.

The *Treewalk* is 553 meters long. There are 23 bridge sections connected to 22 living decks.

Visitors can walk at their own pace and take time to enjoy the unique views from the living decks. It takes up to 30 minutes to complete the walk.

To be able to complete the *Treewalk* customers must have a reasonable level of fitness. All *Treewalkers* must be able to walk unaided. There is a maximum weight of 120kgs for any individual.

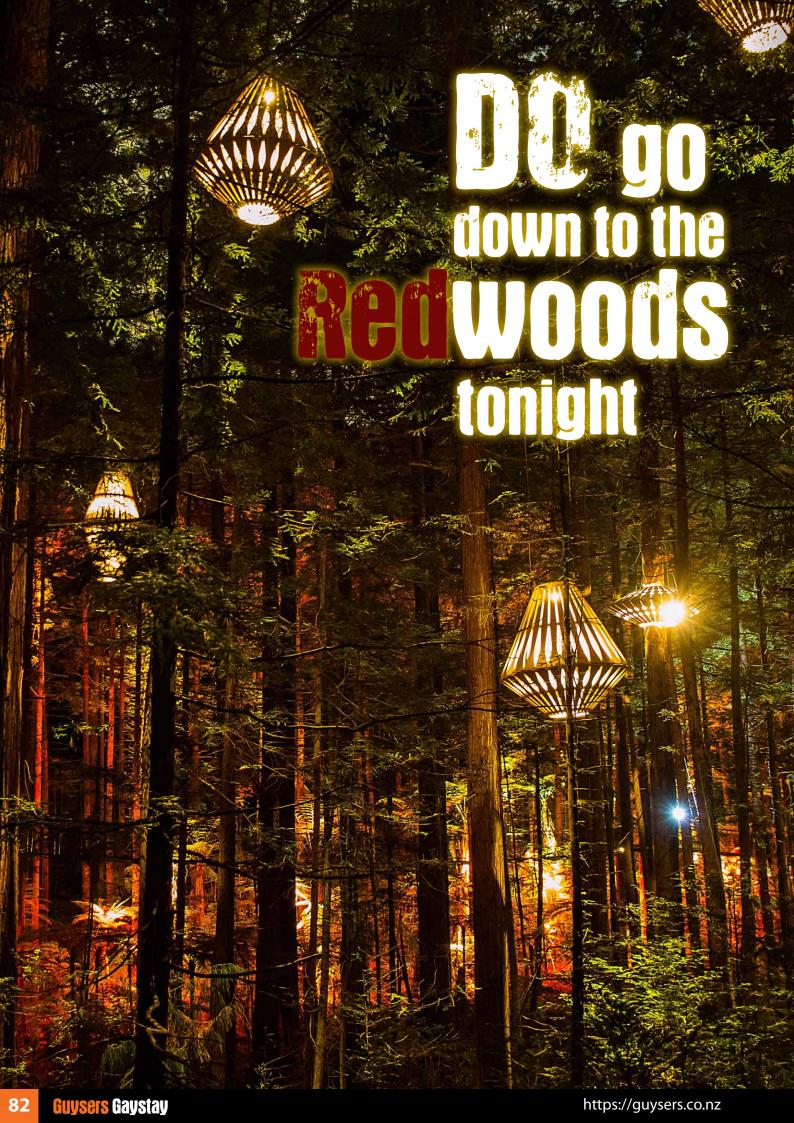
If it's raining, no problem! – in fact the forest ambience and colours are even more stunning in the wet, so this is a very good wet-weather activity. The *Treewalk* will not be open during high winds, thunder or lightning storms (for obvious reasons).

The Californian Redwood trees within the Whakarewarewa forest were planted in 1901. The tallest Redwood here is 72 metres high and 2 metres in diameter. Feel the spirit of the forest as you walk high amongst these gentle giants.

For more info, location and prices visit: www.treewalk.co.nz







Rotorua's greenest attraction, the *Redwoods Treewalk*, is now even more stunning by night with the illuminated '*Redwoods Nightlights*' after dark experience.

Redwoods Treewalk and David Trubridge Design have partnered to create an iconic nocturnal tourism experience: the Redwoods Nightlights. Incorporating unique creations from New Zealand world-acclaimed design and sustainability champion David Trubridge; the Nightlights is one of New Zealand's few design-led tourism experiences.

The new night-time experience will offer visitors and locals the opportunity to explore Rotorua's majestic Redwood forest under the shroud of darkness; illuminated by Trubridges' bespoke creations to create an immersive and captivating environment.

In addition to the Trubridge lighting, which encompasses 30 lanterns, over 40 infinite colour spots and feature lights will illuminate the 115-year-old redwood trees, forest ferns and pungas.

The lights are up to 2.5 meters tall and were made at the David Trubridge workshop in Hastings and assembled by a team in the forest. Creating outdoor lighting was challenging especially for the forest environment, however, all lights were assembled and installed by hand in the forest with the team taking care not to damage the forest environment.

Nightlights hours – Winter: Check website

Daylight Saving months: 6:30 pm − 10:30 pm

(last tickets sold 30 minutes before closing).

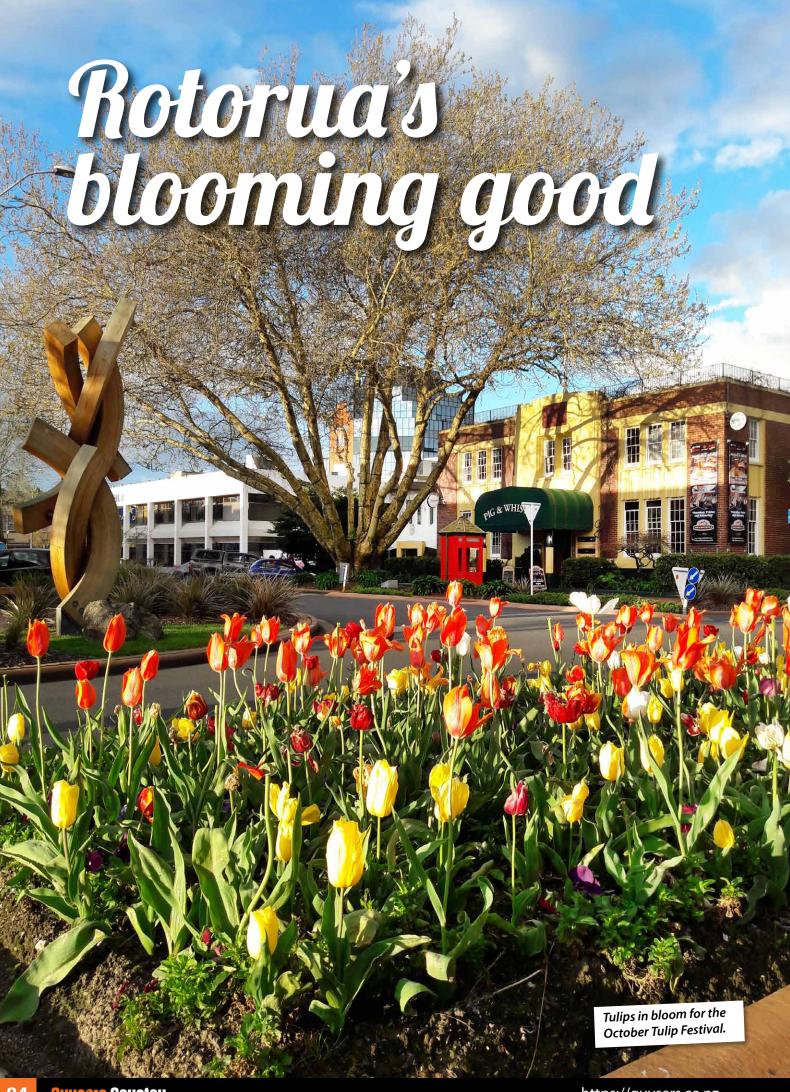
Best viewed once its dark. ♣

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information, additional photographs, FAQs, location and current prices and opening hours please visit: www.treewalk.co.nz







During the spring and summer months Rotorua's gardens burst into bloom. You can walk all around the city by foot and admire the many Council-maintained gardens and tree-lined streets.

If you enjoy plants, trees and gardens here is a suggestion for a nice walk you can do from *Guysers Gaystay B&B*:

Walk from *Guysers Gaystay* across the road to Kuirau Park and wander the paths to admire the many colourful garden beds, the wisteria covered bridge and the scented garden.

From Kuirau Park walk across Ranolf Street and take any one of the streets that lead into the city centre. Every street within the CBD has flower beds running down the centre of the road. During October the flower beds contain every variety of tulips for the annual Tulip Festival.

Stop for a refreshment and a bite to eat in one of the many cafés in the CBD before making your way over to the Government Gardens in front of the beautiful Museum Building. Here you will discover a seasonal-changing theme of flower gardens that are always well-maintained and impressive to see.

From the Government Gardens head over to Central Mall for a spot of shopping. During October you'll find pink blossom trees in full bloom all the way down Victoria Street at the south entrance to Central Mall.

If you walk along Ranolf Street from the Mall area to come back to Guysers Gaystay you'll pass huge Rhododendron trees bursting with colour.

We think Rotorua is pretty in pink.













Rotorua Tulip Festival

For over 15 years, Rotorua Lakes Council has planted 45,000+ tulip bulbs around the city as part of its annual spring planting initiative. Since 2014 these mass plantings of tulips has been turned into an official annual festival.

The 'Tulip Festival' is the brainchild of an Inner City Focus Group of innovative business owners. The purpose of the official Tulip Festival is to showcase the existing annual spring planting of tulip bulbs in the city and to celebrate the reputation Rotorua has for its beautiful city gardens having won 6 times in the eleven year history (to date) of the Keep New Zealand Beautiful title.

The *Rotorua Tulip Festival* also coincides with other garden festivals taking place in Tauranga, Taranaki and Hamilton around the same time.

When the official event first began in 2014 it started as a three day festival that has quickly grown to a 10 day festival of 100,000 tulips and over 40 separate events on the programme. These included talks, demonstrations, guided walks, bus tours, competitions, activities for children as well as a spectacular evening rainbow of lights being projecting onto the Museum building which is the backdrop to the Government Gardens.

A map of Rotorua City was provided showing where all the flower beds are and what varieties of tulips are planted in each area. Some of the tulip varieties include *Pink Diamond, Kings Blood, Daydream, Spring Green, Purple Prince and Black Diamond,* to name a few.

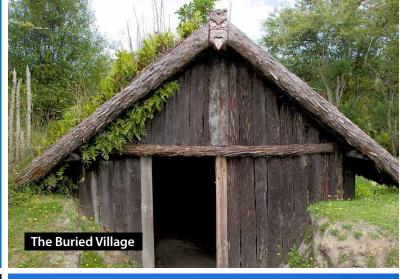
The *Rotorua Tulip Festival* is held each year, generally around the 1st-9th October.

Guysers Gayslay https://guysers.co.nz



Making an entrance in Rotorua

The doors and entrances into the heart and sole, heritage, fun and exciting places of Rotorua.





















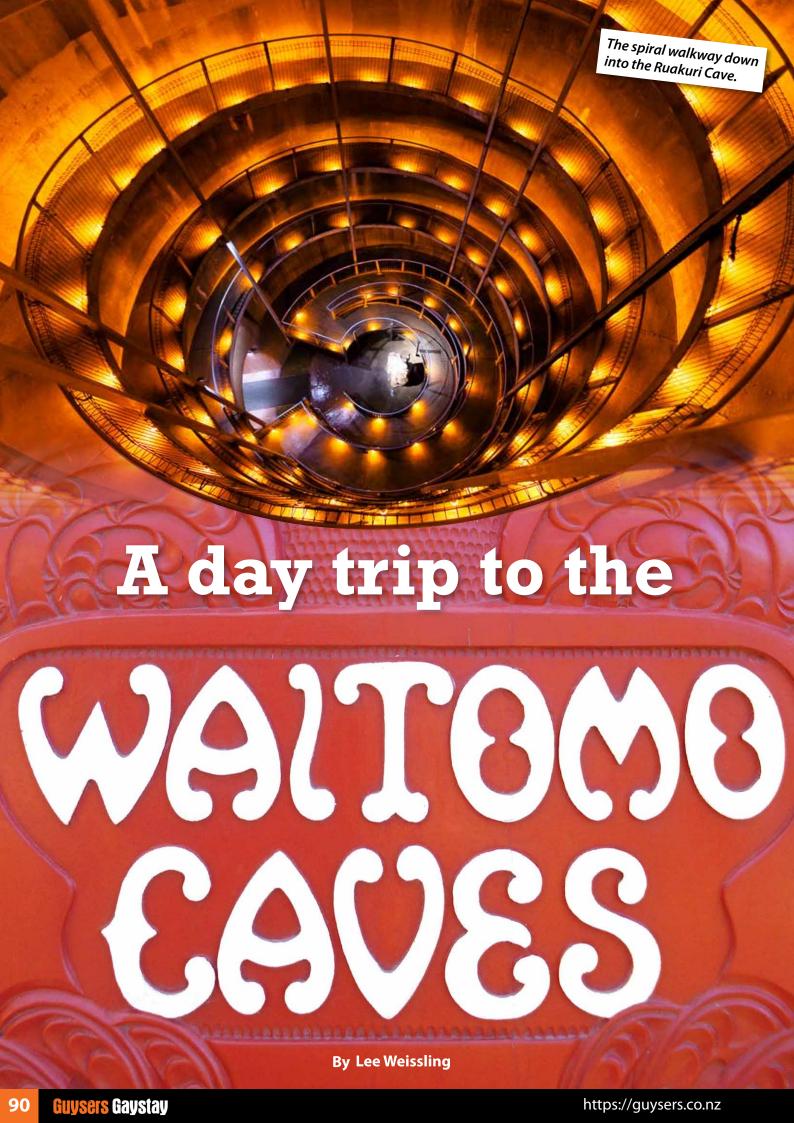














This is my second visit to Rotorua. There is so much to see and do here I just had to return to this lovely town. On this trip I wanted to visit the *Glowworm Caves* at Waitomo. It was Mike at *Guysers Gaystay* who advised me that this can be done as a day trip by bus from Rotorua.

Waitomo is 180 km from Rotorua (about 2 hours by bus with an early departure). We had a very pleasant bus journey through beautiful countryside and farmlands. I can see now why Peter Jackson chose this area of New Zealand for the *Shire* movie set!

We arrived at the visitor centre in Waitomo by 9 am, and were then instructed on where to congregate for the start of the tour.

First up for me was the *Glowworm Cave* and within minutes we were below ground amongst caverns of stalactites and stalagmites.

The complete tour of the *Glowworm Cave* lasts 45 minutes with a guide that explains the rock formations and glowworm life cycle. A slow boat ride through the dark and silent cave with thousands of glowworms lighting the cave ceiling completes the tour. The glowworms are spectacular and fascinating to see, I must say.

We were instructed that no photography is allowed inside the *Glowworm Cave* and we were asked to keep quite as loud noise or camera flashes will disturb the glowworms and they will stop glowing.

The next cave of my 'combo' ticket, and indeed the highlight for me, was a one-kilometre guided walk through the *Ruakuri Cave*.

Ruakuri Cave is the longest underground cave in the Waitomo area. It was first discovered by local Māori between 400 and 500 years ago.

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The name *Ruakuri*, or "den of dogs" was created when wild dogs were discovered making their home in the cave entrance some 300 years later.

The *Ruakuri Cave* tour begins with a 15-metre descent down a spiral walkway then through a door that is closed behind you after you enter to keep the atmospheric climate conditions from changing inside the cave.

After a quick safety briefing and a few rules of the cave (like no breaking pieces off to take as souvenirs, as people used to do many years ago, shame on them) our group was manoeuvring through narrow pathways surrounded by towering limestone formations, underground rivers, waterfalls, and more impressive stalactites and stalagmites than you can imagine!

Also in the *Ruakuri Cave* were fossils – a remnant from the time thousands of years ago when the area was beneath the sea.

The *Ruakuri Cave* also has quite a number of glowworm colonies and visitors can get close up views of the 'tentacles' that the glowworm

uses to ensnare its prey (see picture below).

The glowworms are much closer to you in this cave than those in the original *Glowworm Cave*.

Pathways are lit by small ground-level lights and major formations are brightly illuminated. Photography is welcome, although no flash can be used. At one point we ventured forth without any light to gain the experience of what the caves are like in the dark. We slowly walked forward down the dark path not being able to see one foot in front of us. Spooky!

We came to a point in the cave where we could see and hear people laughing and screaming on inner-tubes drifting down the cave river below and crazy abseilers scaling the rock walls around us. For hardcore adventurers, this must be an experience of a lifetime for them!

After the tour of the *Ruakuri Cave* was over we returned to the visitor centre and had time to relax and have a drink and a bite to eat before the 2-hour bus ride back to Rotorua.

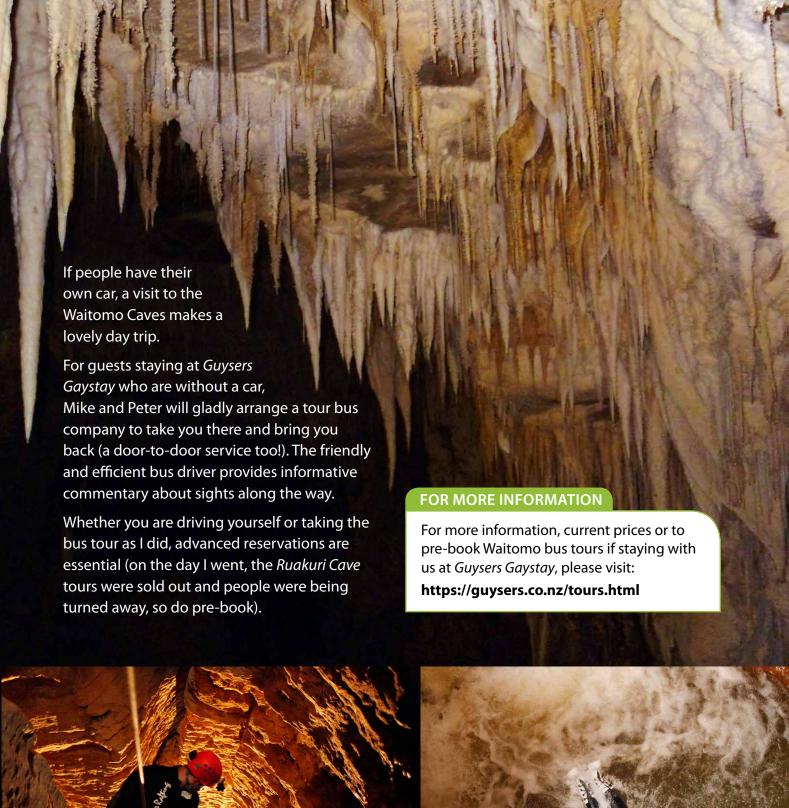
Visiting the Waitomo Caves was a pleasant, enjoyable and memorable day that I highly recommend to anyone coming to this area.



Arachnocampa Luminosa larvae are predatory and use their lights to lure prey into their sticky webs.



Natures magnificent stalagmite and stalactite formations inside the Ruakuri cave network have taken hundreds of years to form.





For adrenalin junkies Waitomo has three ultimate cave experiences offering abseiling, ziplining, rope climbing and inner-tubing.



The original Waitomo Black Water Rafting Adventure has you exploring and tubing through the mysterious Ruakuri Cave.



Te Wahi Pounamu (The Place of Greenstone)

Mountain Jade Rotorua is New Zealand's premium source of jade jewellery and greenstone jade art. They work with leading New Zealand jade carvers to bring you traditional and contemporary jade jewellery carved from New Zealand pounamu and greenstone from around the world. We spoke with Sabine Willemsen from the Rotorua store to find out about what makes a Mountain Jade piece so special and why it makes a perfect, unique treasure for yourself or to give as a gift for that special person in your life.

Mountain Jade was founded in 1986 and is now a world leader in the creation and production of nephrite jade carving. Growing from a humble single-man workshop, the company has expanded and is offering the largest range of jade carvings, sculptures and jewellery across 5 retail stores and an online store, all based in New Zealand.

As true jade specialists, *Mountain Jade* believes quality control is paramount; and consequently, sourcing the best quality material, best designs, and best service are key tenets in the company's practice.

During the company's long history and extensive travel to the jade fields of New Zealand, Canada, Russia, and Australia, *Mountain Jade* staff have accumulated an immense knowledge of jade carving techniques and processes from around the world. One aspect of this is being able to source and pick the best jewellery grade jade. Most people don't realise that all jade is not created equal.

Nephrite jade, greenstone and pounamu (the Maori word for 'green treasure') are just some of the names given to this semi-precious stone, found around many countries in the world and on the South Island of New Zealand.

An easy way to look at it is like this: The European colonists of New Zealand called it greenstone, the geologist calls it nephrite, the gemologist calls it jade, and the Maori call it pounamu.

A stone credited with an array of highly desirable properties it is as sought after and highly-priced today as it was by the ancients some thousands of years ago.

Pounamu, or jade, is known as the 'God Stone' for the Maori people. Maori didn't imbue pounamu with healing properties but certainly embraced it, and still do, as a talisman. They believe the spiritual power to evoke strength and prosperity, to protect, to express love and kinship and to depict growth and harmony. These beliefs are symbolised in a range of designs like the Hei Matau, Koru and Twist.

Continued over...



Above are just a fraction of the designs on offer. Come and see the full range in store on Fenton Street, Rotorua.

Continued...

Hei Matau or Fish Hook is said to represent strength, good luck, prosperity, good health and safe travel across water.

The Koru is based on the unfurling frond of the silver fern, New Zealand's most iconic native plant. The Koru is symbolising new life and growth, like that experienced by the baby silver fern frond. This symbol and design is extremely important in Maori art and carving.

The Infinity or Twist symbol is based on the intertwining fronds of the pikopiko fern and it is said that it symbolises the bond between two people, a bond that never fades, even if these individuals are separated for a long time. It also resembles the paths of life and eternity.

The Toki or Adze was originally a practical tool used in axes, chisels and weaponry. It has become known to represent strength and courage.





Niki Nepia is a specialist pounamu carver at Mountain Jade, Rotorua. He is just one of many talented artists creating pieces for the Rotorua store collection.

https://guysers.co.nz





The spiritual significance of jade has long been recognised in New Zealand and wearing a piece will forever enhance and empower your life.

Mountian Jade shops are located in Auckland, Rotorua and Hokitika. Opening hours 9am to 6pm, 7 days a week.

The Rotorua and Hokitika stores also have a carving workshop attached and you are welcome to come in and witness the artists transform this humble yet beautiful stone into something truly magnificent.

CONTACT

Mountain Jade, Rotorua 1288 Fenton Street, Rotorua, NZ Website: www.mountainjade.co.nz

If you come to the Rotorua and book your accommodation at *Guysers Gaystay* you will recieve a 10% discount off any purchase! (Rotorua store only)



ROTORUA'S HISTORIC PUBS

On Rotorua's Tutanekai Street are two Historic Pubs. One building was the old Police Station from 1940, the other a Grocer and Merchants store in the early 1900's. Today, both of these historic buildings are now two of Rotorua's most popular Pub/Restaurants.



The building that is now the Pig & Whistle was built in 1940 and served as Rotorua's Police station until 1969. As the Station also had holding cells the building was constructed with exterior walls 18 inches thick. Over 1000 cubic yards of concrete and 37 tons of reinforcing steel were used in the building, which was then covered with a veneer consisting of many thousands of bricks. No escaping from here!

PIG & WHISTLE
WINTER DIA TIGHT

The building became the Pig & Whistle in 1993 and is the longest running Pub in Rotorua.

The menu has a full selection of salads, burgers & Pub Classics. Dishes include favourites like Seafood Chowder, Fresh NZ Fish and Chips, Chicken Satay Burger, Lamb Burger, Prawn & Calamari Salad, Pork Spare Ribs, Scotch Fillet Steak & Curly Fries. Enjoy your meals in the comfortable atmosphere inside or venture into the garden bar to enjoy the great covered outdoor setting and fireplace.







Previously known as *French's Building* built in 1905, the building has housed a number of businesses over the years, these include French & Co. (Grocers/Merchants); Hitchen & Johnstone a draper/wool/needlework shop; Clarken Ltd chandlers; A.T. Coates Bookseller to 1943; McLeods Bookstore 1943, Heidi's Cafe and Patisserie, and of course Hennessey's Irish Bar which first opened in 2002 with a Backpackers that was upstairs.

Today, Hennessy's Irish Bar is one of New Zealand's favourite Irish bars, right in the heart of Rotorua City centre.

Totally rebuilt in 2016 after the building failed earthquake prone building assessment, Hennessy's is a beautifully designed pub, in the truly Irish tradition with spacious booths and hidden-away private tables.

The menu features a range of hearty pub favourites and is fondly known for serving Rotorua's favourite Pub food, including traditional fare like mussels, lamb shanks and bangers & mash, steaks and stews, supported by burgers, sandwiches and fresh salads and many more dishes in their extensive menu.

Hennessy's has received the prestigious BEER MASTERS AWARD every year they have been operating; an award that recognises excellence in presentation of their tap beers and service.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more info and menus on these two great pubs in Rotorua please visit:

https://pigandwhistle.co.nz http://hennessys.co.nz



Cool, sweet & creamy

If you're hot this summer and in need of something sweet and creamy, head to Lady Jane's Ice Cream Parlour at the end of Rotorua's Eat Streat.

Rotorua's iconic ice cream parlour, Lady Jane's, has been serving up sumptuous cool treats for more than 30 years.

Lady Jane's is the perfect place to take a break for a delicious treat or an after-dinner dessert. Boasting over 40 flavours, Lady Jane's showcases great kiwi-made ice cream. Try the timeless iconic kiwi-classic, Hokey Pokey, or satisfy your taste buds with favourites such as Cookies and Cream, Passionfuit Ripple, Salted Caramel, or Fig and Honey... or perhaps try something a little different such as Green Tea or Coconut!

Lady Jane's has something to please everyone's tastes and many dietary needs, with dairy-free ice cream, sorbet, fat-free yoghurt and soft-serve ice cream. Most popular are the Danish Cones, the famous LJ's Mega Sundae and delicious Hot Banana Split – and there's so much more to choose from! Feeling thirsty? Milkshakes and thickshakes are also a speciality with a range of traditional and gourmet flavours.

1092 Tutanekai St, Rotorua





Over 40 regular or premium range icecream flavours to choose from.



Chris & Simon's adventures of Rotorua

Chris and Simon, from Switzerland, stayed with us for 3 nights in January 2019. Here is their account of their time spent with us at *Guysers* and in Rotorua...

Why did you choose New Zealand for your holiday?

For me it was the first trip to New Zealand. Simon has been to New Zealand 3 times before. He's almost addicted to this land! Due to the possibility of us taking 4 weeks vacation together, we decided quickly that New Zealand was going to be the perfect destination. Also we like places where there are geothermal activities and a lot of nature for hiking. And last but not least, because of the beautiful beaches to relax and swim.

Was there something in particular that drew you to Rotorua?

The big varieties of geothermal attractions was the first point, why we choose to stay in Rotorua. The second point was the location. The central location is perfect to do many excursions and short trips, without packing and unpacking the luggage every day.

In and around Rotorua there are so many things to do and discover – we wish we could have stayed there for longer. 3 full days are not enough to see all that Rotorua has to offer.

Why did you choose Guysers Gaystay for your accommodation?

We checked to see if there was any gay places to stay in Rotorua, and we found without difficulty *Guysers Gaystay*. After checking the website, and reading all the *Guysers Gazette* magazines, we knew we wanted to stay there!

The warm welcome we got upon arrival by Mike and Peter only reinforced that we had made the right decision. We felt at home from the first moment we stepped inside. They spent all their energy and love to make our stay perfect. Their spa pool was perfect to relax after a day full of activities, and the wonderful warm breakfast they served every morning made a perfect start for each day.



Continued over...

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Tell us a bit about your time spent staying at Guysers Gaystay...

To be honest, we didn't spent so much time at Guysers Gaystay, because each day was packed with sightseeing and adventures. Our room was comfortable and we had good nights sleep here.

When coming back to the B&B after doing some great things each day it was very relaxing and comfortable to be able to get undressed and spend some nude time sunbathing in the courtyard or soaking in the spa pool.

Mike and Peter were such great hosts. They gave very good recommendations about locations and attractions. They even spent their time to show us their "secret spot" for a nude dip under a hot waterfall and they walked around in the city showing us a few of the main highlights



of the City Centre. We had a wonderful (nudie) **BBQ** in the backyard and had relaxing evenings with them sitting and chatting.





What were some of the attractions you did while in Rotorua and what was the highlight?

Actually, there wasn't a particular highlight, because we had several of them. OK, there was one thing like nothing else – the "secret spot" for skinny dipping in the hot thermal river and standing under the waterfall – such an amazing and unique place. Loved it!





Continued over...

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Another highlight for us was **Hells Gate**. It's a geothermal valley where you can have a guided tour (at either 9:30am or 1:30pm) followed by a mud bath. The usual tour normally takes 1 hour, but our tour guide was so great that we spent 2 hours with him. A little tip for the mud baths: Rent swim shorts there, don't use your own, as the earthy smell is difficult to wash out (you need Cloudy Ammonia to remove it).

We had a wonderful time at **Te Puia** as well. Mike and Peter booked the evening combo tour for us. After a guided tour to Geyser in the geothermal valley we saw a cultural Maori show (song and dance, the poi, stick games and haka held inside the Marae), followed by a delicious Hangi dinner (the Maori food that is cooked in the ground). After dinner we took a short train ride (people mover) back to the Pohutu Geyser to see it once more at dusk.

On another evening we went to the TreeWalk in the Redwood Forest called **Redwoods Nightlights**. We arrived after 8pm so that it was dark enough to do the canopy TreeWalk with the forest lit up with many lights, lasers and large hanging lanterns.





Canopy Tours Ultimate course was also a memorable experience. It's a lot of fun doing the various ziplines, cantilevered walkways and swing bridges, but you also get very good information about the ecological problems New Zealand's forests face, such as possums, rats and stoats that kill the bird life and strip the trees of their leaves.

After getting safety instructions and geared up, we drove in a minivan out to the forest. After a short walk into the forest we got to the first zipline. There are 6 ziplines on the *Ultimate* course, totalling 1200m and over 3.5 hours of fun.

Another thing we did was **Wai-O-Tapu Geothermal Wonderland**. After we got the tickets, we drove up to see *Lady Knox Geyser* (the one that is induced to go off at 10:15am each morning). After the geyser had finished we went into the geothermal valley. The *Champagne Pool* and the vivid green *Devil's Bath* is such an amazing site, something you have to see if visiting Rotorua (better than Yellowstone!).



Continued over...

Continued...



Just across the road from *Guysers Gaystay* is **Kuirau Park** – it's a free geothermally active park right in the city of Rotorua. It's a nice park to walk around to see all the steaming pools, fumaroles and mud pools.



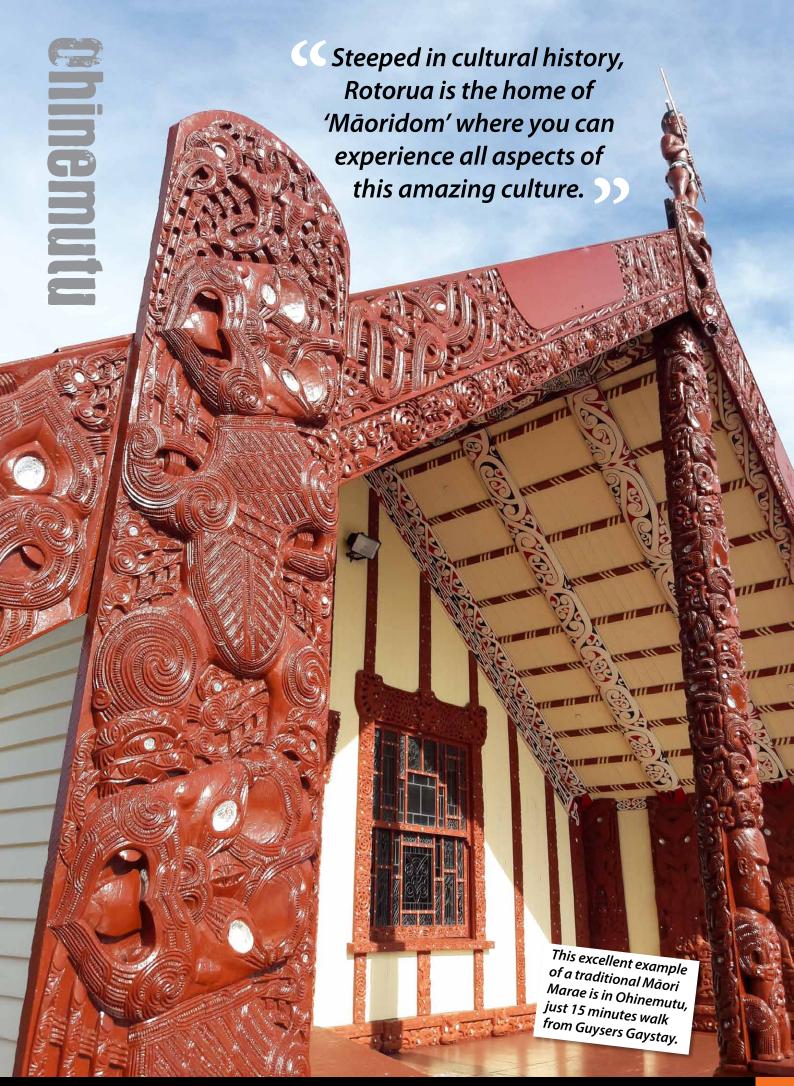
A short walk from Kuirau Park is the traditional Maori village of **Ohinemutu** with traditional Maori meeting houses and St. Faiths Church with is highly Maori decorated interior – another 'must see' when in Rotorua.

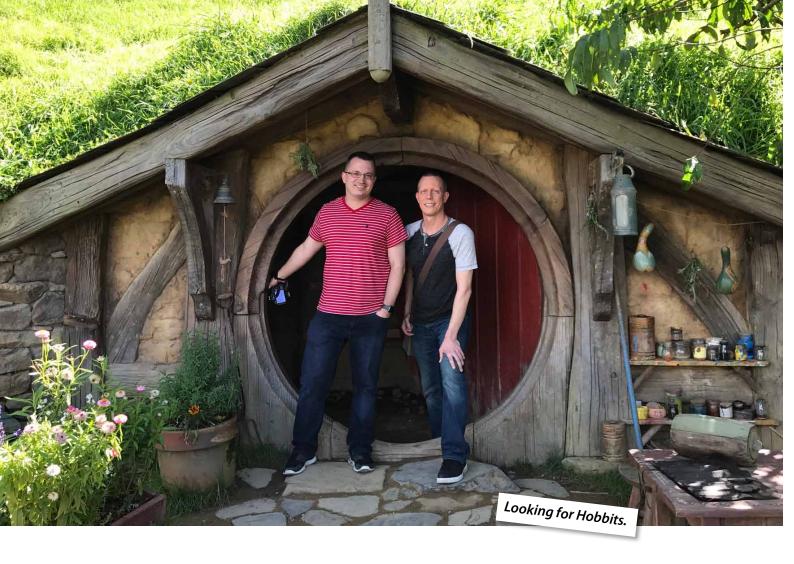
Would you like to return to Rotorua some day?

For sure! We would love to come back to Rotorua. There are so many things and activities to do here it's quite incredible.

And Guysers Gaystay with the charming hosts, Mike and Peter, is the perfect place to stay and relax. Although the trip to New Zealand from Europe is a long one, Rotorua in itself is definitely worth the journey.

We will always remember our time spent in this truely magical and beautiful place.





Joey & Tom's Rotorua adventure

Joseph (Joey) and Thomas (Tom) from Minneapolis, USA, stayed with us at *Guysers Gaystay* for six nights in Rotorua during their trip to New Zealand in March 2017. The guys had a blast in Rotorua taking in some of the sights and experiences this region is famous for.

Why did you choose New Zealand for your holiday?

New Zealand was our first trip overseas as a couple. We had been discussing it for a few years as a place we would like to visit.

New Zealand offered promise of excitement, plenty of things to see and do, as well as options to relax in beautiful environments and take in the local culture.

We booked flights nearly a year before our trip, giving us plenty of time to research everything about New Zealand and prioritise. There's many things we didn't get a chance to see or do.

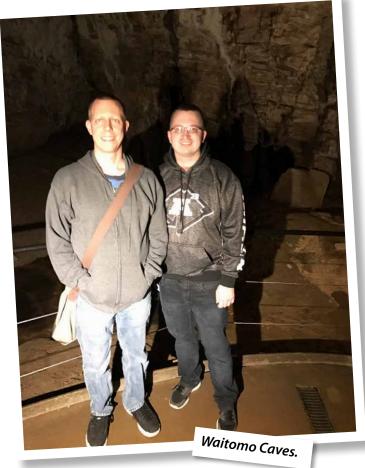
You could spend many weeks in New Zealand and still not experience everything. A few people we know back home said how much they loved their trip to New Zealand, so we just had to come and experience it for ourselves.

Was there something in particular that drew you to Rotorua?

Rotorua offered a variety of attractions and activities as well a central location in the North Island for day trips. We wanted to explore the North Island without worrying about luggage or hotels. We also wanted the option to spend a few days not traveling and just relaxing.

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Rotorua also offered us many hot bathing opportunities: the *Polynesian Spa, Hells Gate* mud spa, the 'secret' thermal waterfall and the hot spa pool at *Guysers Gaystay*. A Maori cultural show/dinner was also on our list of things to do, so Rotorua was the natural choice for us to experience this.

Tell us a bit about your time spent staying at Guysers Gaystay.

When traveling so far from home it was important for us to stay at a welcoming, ideally gay (or very gay-friendly) place for at least a portion of our trip. This gave us a local perspective on Kiwi culture. Mike and Peter at *Guysers* were great about checking out our plans for the day and offering suggestions and recommending things we didn't know about, and pointing us to the best local restaurants. Their breakfasts each morning were really good too!

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Continued...

What were some of the attractions you did while in Rotorua and what was the highlight?

On our way to Rotorua from Auckland, we saw the Glow Worm Caves in Waitomo with the tour offered by Spellbound which has smaller group sizes. One day we went on the Redwoods Tree Walk, drove by the Blue Lake to take in the scenery, and went to Hells Gate geothermal park to explore and relax in the mud spa there. We also visited Wai-O-Tapu, and a secret hot waterfall that Peter and Mike took us to.

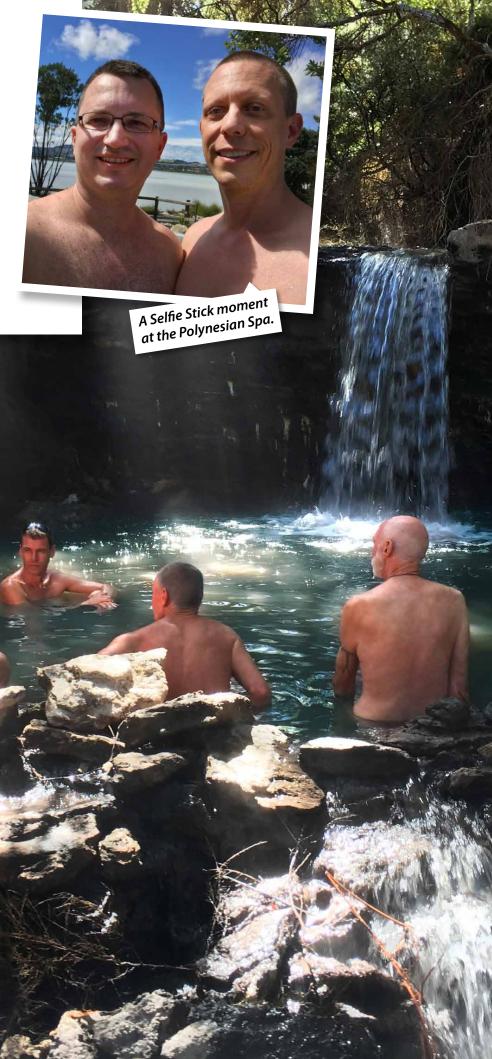
The most exciting and unique attraction for us

to find a waterfall flowing with hot thermal water where you each get a turn to stand under. The return trip on the jet boat is fast with lots of crazy 360° spins. It's an incredible adventure we highly recommend.



Would you like to return to Rotorua some day?

Absolutely! We had an excellent time in Rotorua, and there's still plenty to see, and places nearby we didn't have a chance to get to. Plus, relaxation is a crucial part of any holiday for us. We went to the Polynesian Spa twice, and made good use of the spa pool at *Guysers Gaystay* almost every night. What's not to like about Rotorua?



First in sets the dress code! Skinny dipping at the 'secret waterfall', Wai-O-Tapu.



We hope you enjoyed reading this promotional presentation for *Guysers Gaystay B&B* in Rotorua, New Zealand. If you would like to come to New Zealand and stay with us, remember 1 or 2 nights is not long enough, especially if you want to see and do many of the sights and attractions in Rotorua. Give yourself plenty of nights in Rotorua.

We look forward to your enquiries or bookings:

https://guysers.co.nz