



**SCRATCH
THE SURFACE //**
OFFICIAL
VISITOR
GUIDE 26/27



**MANAWATŪ –
HE WHAITUA
RONGONUI O
AOTEAROA, HE
WAIKUA MATAKUIKUI,
HE ARONGA AUHA,
TAPATAPAHIA ANA!**



**MANAWATŪ –
A LEGENDARY
LAND OF
AOTEAROA, FULL
OF SPIRIT AND
JOY, WITH A
CREATIVE BEND.**



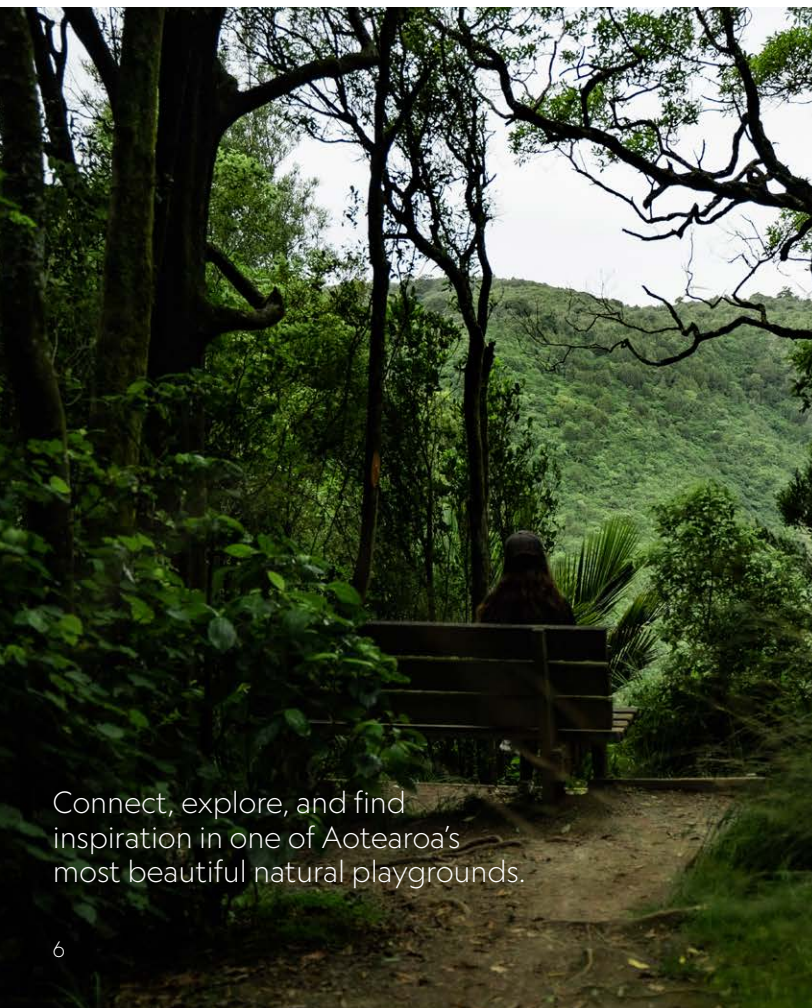
A woman with long dark hair, wearing a white t-shirt and a denim skirt, is standing in the ocean waves. She is smiling and holding a young child by the arms, spinning them around. The child is wearing a white t-shirt, denim shorts, and a dark bucket hat. The child is in mid-air, with their legs and feet visible. The water is splashing around the woman's legs. The background shows a clear blue sky and the ocean horizon.

A QUICK WHIP AROUND

TE ĀPITI – MANAWATŪ GORGE // A NATIONAL TAONGA

Te Āpiti, a natural landmark of awe-inspiring legend, geographical magnificence, and cultural wealth. Today it's also a thriving

community hub, and a must-do for those seeking culture, art, adventure or a moment of wonder.



Connect, explore, and find inspiration in one of Aotearoa's most beautiful natural playgrounds.



ART AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Uncover the cultural significance of the many public arts in this area, from the giant sculpture of Māori chief and explore Whatonga, to the kōrero weaving along Te Ahu a Turanga - Manawatu/ Tararua Highway.



RUN CLUB

Run (or walk) the stunning tracks throughout Te Āpiti - Manawatū year-round (rain, hail or shine).

No planning needed, just show up at Gorge Quarter Store.

Sundays, 8am

GORGE QUARTER STORE

Connect with the locals, top up on caffeine, grab a sweet treat and browse the well-considered retail selection.

**Wednesday – Sunday,
7:30am - 2.30pm**



HIKE OR BIKE // TE ĀPITI



Manawatū Gorge Track //
11 km one way (access via west or east end)

Tawa Loop // 4 km loop
(access via west end)

Te Ahu a Turanaga shared user path // 10.5 km one way
(access via east or west end)

Te Ahu a Turanga western tracks // 7 km (access via west end)

Manawatū Gorge Short Loop Track // 1 km (access via east end)

Te Ara o Mahurangi Mountain Bike Track //
2 km (access via east end)

SUMMER IN MANAWATŪ

Summer means less time on the clock and a whole lot of sunshine hours for some serious exploration!

SUPERSTOCK TEAMS CHAMPS

Watch SuperStock Teams from around New Zealand descend on Palmy for the “Greatest Show on Dirt” and see which region will reign supreme!

FEBRUARY // Robertson Prestige International Speedway



SIP & SAVOUR

Make the most of a curated selection of local food and beverage vendors, live music and a vibrant atmosphere in a stunning rural location.

FEBRUARY // Hiwinui Country Estate



FESTIVAL OF CULTURES

The Festival of Cultures is a lively celebration of the people, food, beverages, music, and traditions that make Palmy so vibrant.

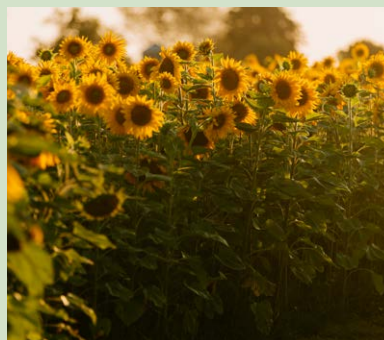
FEBRUARY // Te Marae o Hine – The Square



MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS NIGHT MARKET

Bringing together the best small and local businesses for your shopping pleasure. Shop for gifts, sample the treats, or sit back and soak up the atmosphere.

DECEMBER // Awapuni Racecourse



SEASONAL ACTIVITIES

- >> Sunflowers
- >> Berry picking
- >> Take a dip

Whether you're a social butterfly or more of a “cool cucumber”, summer in Manawātū has something for you. Get in the water, skip through those short-lived sunflowers, or feel alive at our hottest events.



Find out what's on this weekend.
ManawatuNZ.co.nz/Events

SUMMER

HOKOHOKO // SHOP

Shop independent boutiques, pick up all the major brands, or be a little 'bougie' and buy artisan fare directly from farmers'

market stalls. Indulge yourself with a little retail therapy, you never know what treasures you might discover.



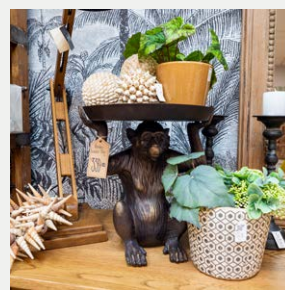
Coleman Place



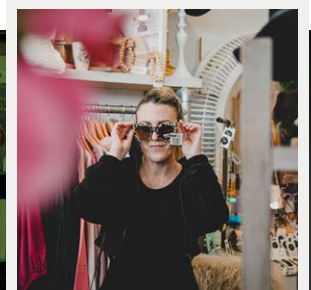
Feilding Farmers' Market



Bruce McKenzie



Furniture Fair



Boutique Bash



George Street



Kilt

RETAIL THERAPY AT IT'S BEST

Sample the region by browsing our local markets - meet the makers and growers and sample tasty treats as you go! For a little more "retail therapy" start in the boutique shopping quarter of George Street, Coleman Place, Cuba Street and Broadway Avenue.



Central Bicycle Studio



Salt & Honey

UNIQUE & UNEXPECTED

Manawatū is full of innovators, hobbyists and passion-project managers, and this spirit bleeds into a sprinkling of the somewhat quirky and surprising throughout our region. Squeeze one of these unexpected gems into your next visit!



Ever wanted to walk through time? **Heritage Walk** offers just that! Right on SH1, in Sanson (look for the **Woolshed Cafe**), you'll be able to enjoy an audio-guided tour of seven heritage houses. Each house originates from a different decade, ranging from 1860-1960, and absolutely everything inside does too!

Heading near Rangiwahia? **Ian McKean Pinetum** offers the largest collection of conifers in the southern hemisphere - home to more than 1500 trees across 14 hectares with walking

tracks and picnic areas throughout.

More than a stunning wedding venue, at **Makoura Lodge** you'll find purpose-built 4WD training course where practical courses are completed. Don't need an off-road certificate? Enjoy a 4x4 Hill Country Safari where you can enjoy the adventure from the back seat.

Take part in a centuries-old British tradition at the luxurious **Country Road High Tea**. It's a symphony of perfect treats and vibes in a stunning country setting.

Keen golfer? Make your next tee-off at **Rangatira Golf Club**, a multi-terraced course overlooking the Rangitikei River. An iconic electric cable car runs from the lower terrace to the clubrooms - the only one of its kind in New Zealand.

Join a weekly tour of the historically significant **Feilding Sale Yards**, once considered one of the largest in the southern hemisphere. Livestock sales still occur weekly and are still an important date in the calendar.



Rangatira Golf Club



Ian McKean Pinetum

NOHO MAI // STAY

Escape the hustle and bustle and enjoy a quiet country retreat, or maybe just a weekend city break. Whatever you're after, we have a fantastic selection

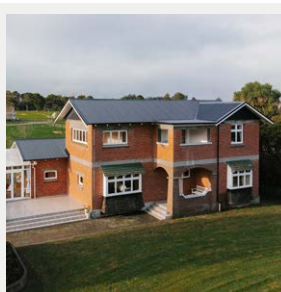
of unique farm stays and bed and breakfasts, allowing you to experience authentic New Zealand hospitality at its very best.



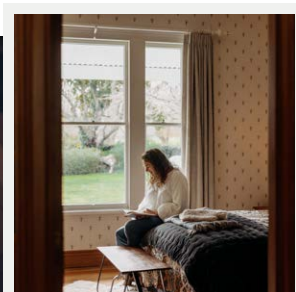
Hiwinui Country Estate



Tōtara Reserve



Grassmere Estate



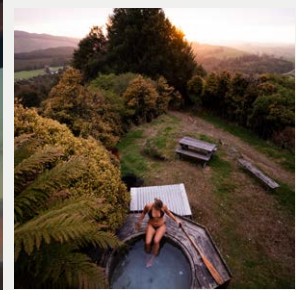
Romney Lane Homestead



The Woodshed



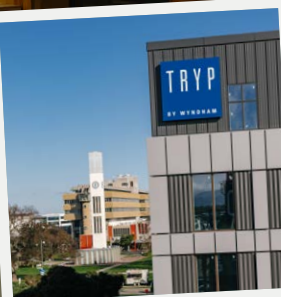
The Woodshed



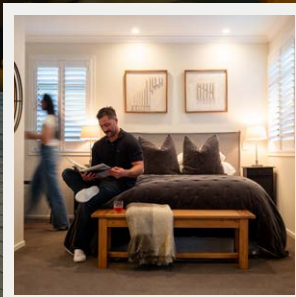
Falcons View

FOR THE DREAMERS

Prefer keeping close to nature? Pack up the car and spend more time under the stars. With self-contained, freedom camping options or full amenity campgrounds, all you need to do is take your pick of locations with the beach, river and mountains all at your fingertips.



Wyndham Tryp



Kaitahi Lodge

AUTUMN IN MANAWATŪ

Autumn, the sweet spot in the calendar where the extended family's out of your hair, warm days still stretch ahead, and your weekends are what you make of them!

CENTRAL DISTRICT FIELD DAYS

From farmers and foodies to tech-heads and townies, New Zealand's largest regional field days has something for everyone.

MARCH // Manfeild Park



KIMBOLTON SCULPTURE FESTIVAL

Enjoy a unique exhibition featuring sculptures inspired by the land. All works are created from materials sourced off-farm and are available for purchase. Lots of other fun and food included!

APRIL // Kimbolton Domain



Gorge Quarter Store



Arapuke Mountain Bike Park



FORD RANGER RURAL GAMES

The most iconic rural sports celebration in New Zealand! This free, fun, and action-packed weekend is where classic Kiwi character comes to life.

MARCH // Te Marae o Hine – The Square



MANAWATŪ INTERNATIONAL JAZZ AND BLUES FESTIVAL

One of New Zealand's longest running music festivals. Celebrate the vibrancy, community and rich history that underpin jazz and blues at this multi-day event.

MAY // Globe Theatre

Think smashing sunsets, fresh morning walks along the awa – locally roasted coffee in hand, adventure (with less sweat and sunburn) or a slow and scenic country drive as things turn red and gold.



Find out what's on this weekend.
ManawatuNZ.co.nz/Events

AUTUMN

E KORI! // ACTIVE

Manawatū's natural playground, combined with our youthful, can-do local attitude, sets the perfect canvas for active adventurers. With the region spreading from

two impressive mountain ranges, following powerful awa all the way out to the sea, and all within an hour's drive, there's plenty to get the blood pumping.



Te Ahu a Turanga

LET'S GO!

Explore trails by foot, or send dirt flying on your mountain bike. Harness the elements with a rafting experience down the Rangitikei river, or for something more genteel, tee off at Aotearoa's oldest golf course or take a journey on horseback.

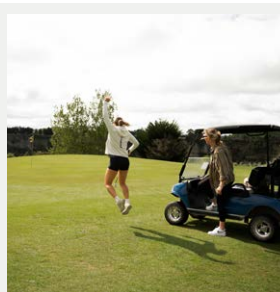
Manawatū's got a big ol' backyard, with plenty of room to spread out. What are you waiting for?



Manawatū Blokart Club



Arapuke Mountain Bike Park



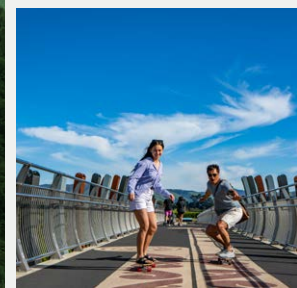
Rangatira Golf Club



Awastone



Rangiwahia Hut Track



He Ara Kotahi



Rangiwahia Hut Track



Manawatū Cycleway

THE ULTIMATE MANAWATŪ ROAD-TRIP

Turn off the straight and predictable highway and discover the magic of The Country Road.

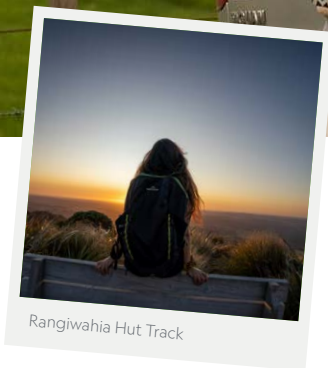


DAY 1

1300 // Just two minutes off SH1, pull into **Awastone**, a riverside haven for an afternoon on the river. Book a cabin, or powered site for your motorhome. If you're lucky, it's a Sunday and you can enjoy a drink, some hearty food and stunning riverside atmosphere along with live music with their "Sunday Sessions".

DAY 2

0900 // After breakfast make a start on Day Two's adventure and drive to **Rangiwahia Hut Track** trail head for a rewarding intermediate tramp into the Ruahine Ranges (3-4-hour return). Enjoy a packed lunch at the DOC hut located at the



summit. **1400 //** Check in to **The Woodshed**, (just 3kms down the road) or, if you still have energy, enjoy a slow exploration of the nearby **Ian McKean Pinetum** first. The Woodshed offers an outdoor hut tub, and views for miles for a truly restorative evening. **1800 //** Make use of the cooking facilities here or take a 15-minute drive to **Āpiti Tavern & Eatery** for melt-in-your-mouth, slow-barbequed meats and a taste of country hospitality.

DAY 3

0900 // Enjoy a wander around **Mangahua Wetlands** for a pretty morning stroll, and to spot some local wildlife. **1100 //** For garden lovers, head to Kimbolton for two stunning park gardens in **Cross Hills Gardens** and **Heritage Park**. These gardens are bursting with rhododendrons, azaleas, magnolias and specimen trees. For those less interested in gardens, take a detour to **Limestone Creek Reserve** instead, for a lush mossy creek and glow worm caves (waterproof footwear is essential. Avoid after heavy rain or extreme weather). **1300 //** Lunch at charming **Hansen's Cafe** before continuing on to Feilding and beyond!

TIPS TO GET THE WHEELS TURNING



The Country Road map is available at most isites and airports for a more DIY itinerary approach.

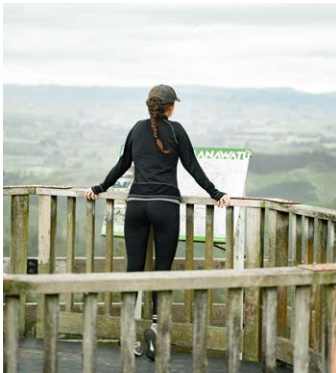
A road trip is no good without a decent playlist. Check out local DJ - D Fresh's playlist below which was built specifically for these roads.



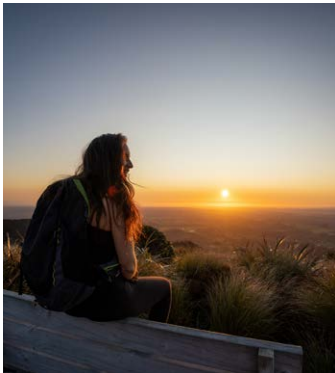
BEST FOR A SCENIC SHOT //
OR PICNIC SPOT!



Te Arapiki a Tāne - The Stairway of Tāne



Stormy Point lookout



Rangiwahia Hut Track



Whitecliff Boulders



He Ara Kotahi Bridge



Te Motu o Poutoa



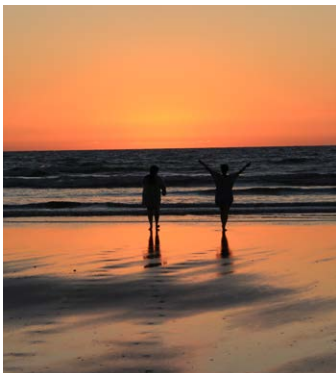
Dugald MacKenzie Rose Gardens



Villa Candotti



Te Āpiti - Manawatū Gorge



Himatangi Beach



Ruahine Dress Circle



Turitea Pā

TOP TRAILS //
HIKE OR BIKE



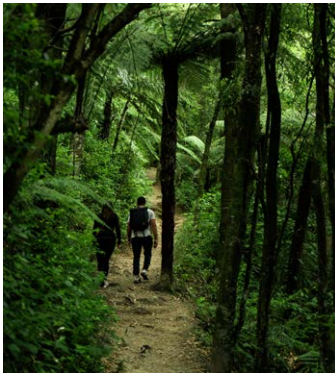
Rangiwahia Hut Track // 4.2KM



Sledge Track // up to 11KM



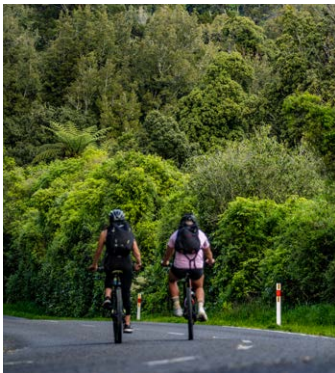
Fern Walk // 5KM



Te Āpiti Gorge Walk // 11KM



Arapuke Mountain Bike Park // 50KM+



Manawatū Cycleway // 115KM



Manawatū River Pathway // 10KM



He Ara Kotahi // 7KM



Te Ahu A Turanga // 10.5KM



Kitchener Park // 1KM



Āpiti Loop Ride // 120KM



Pettifar Loop // 4KM

NGĀ MAHERE // MAPS

Scratch the surface of Manawātū. The following maps are dotted with the businesses and top spots featured in this guide, but they're just the beginning. Find a bucketload more online, or by getting out there!



Explore the interactive map at
ManawatuNZ.co.nz/Map



Fuel



Charge



Public Bathroom



Info Centre



Shop



Taste



Stay



Hike



Bike

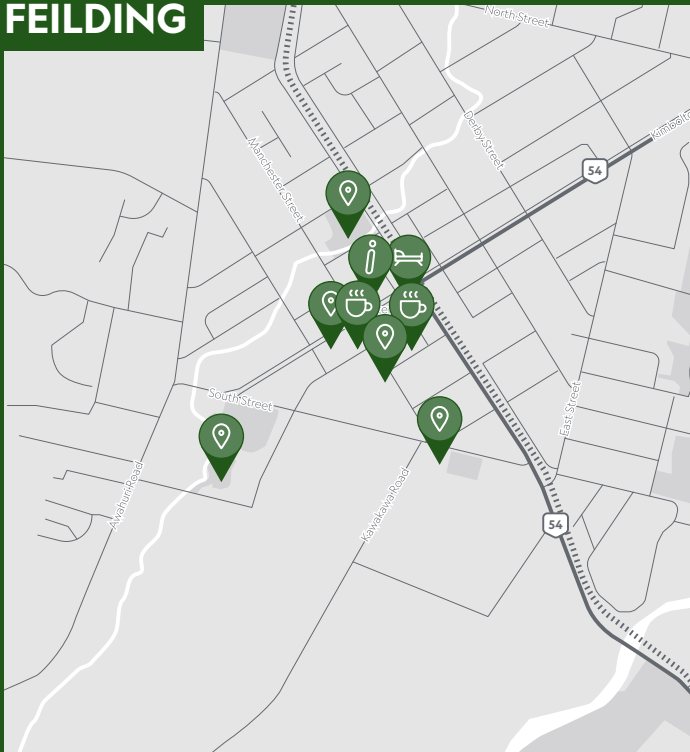


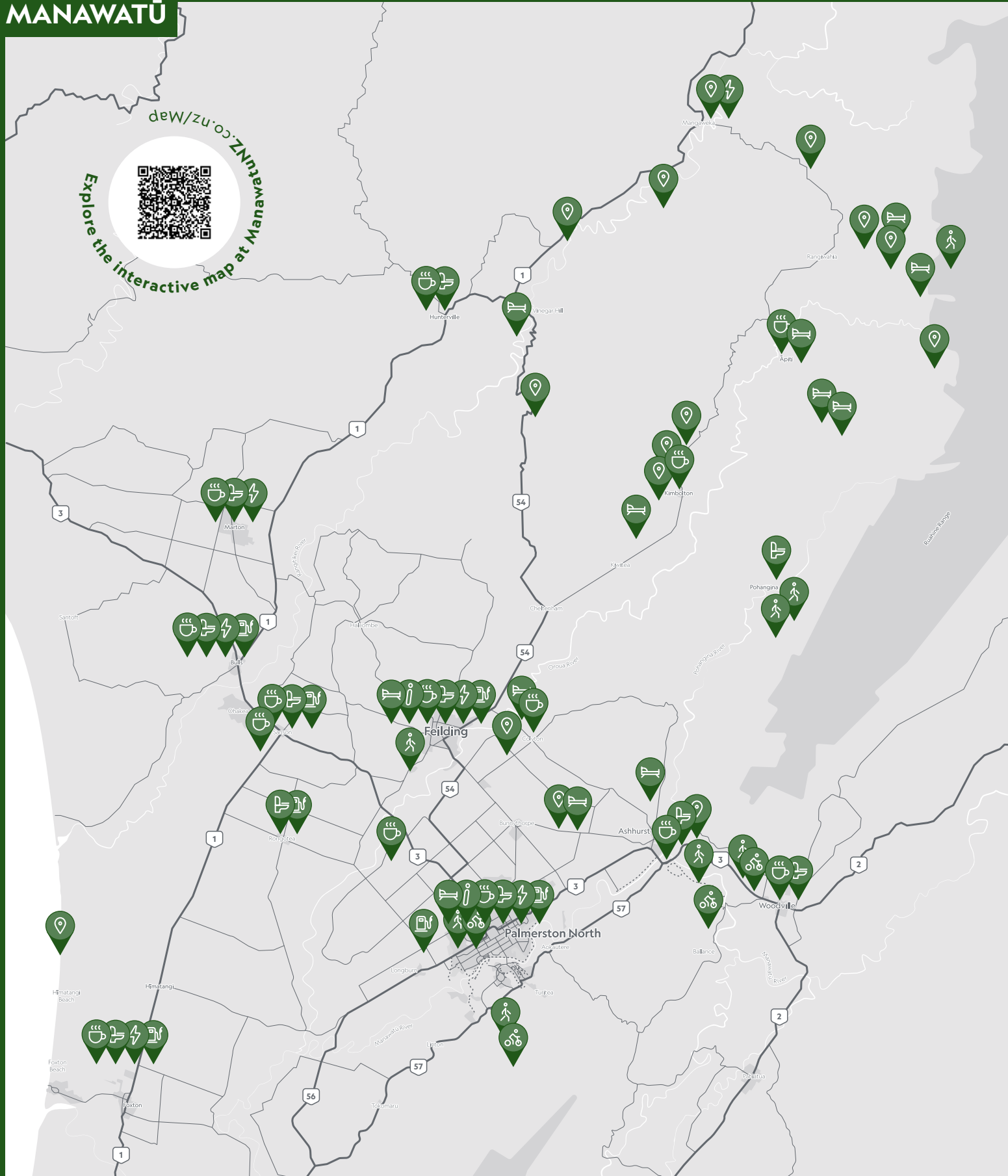
Top Spot

PALMERSTON NORTH



FEILDING





Plot your discovery of Manawātū here then find our interactive map and trip builder on our website. With plenty more cafes, stays and activities where these ones came from, you'll need to start a list.



Explore the interactive map at ManawatuNZ.co.nz/Map



Fuel



Charge



Public Bathroom



Info Centre



Shop



Taste



Stay



Hike



Bike



Top Spot

WINTER IN MANAWATŪ

We've rounded up some great reasons to don your coat and scarf and get out in the fresh Manawātū air!

PUANGA FESTIVAL

Celebrate the Māori New Year with whānau and friends - get among the fun festivities that are planned and learn about Puanga; a time for celebration and reflection.

JUNE // Pitt Lane, Central Energy Trust Arena



A WINTER'S DAY OUT

A day out for the whole family! Get out of the cold and enjoy 100+ stallholders, workshops, live music, an indoor feasting hall, a cocktail bar, food trucks and more!

JUNE // Awapuni Racecourse



Berryman's Lane



A Winter's Day Out

MANAWATŪ ART EXPO

Calling all art lovers! This cash and carry art show is your opportunity to discover and purchase original artwork, by emerging and established artists from around New Zealand.

JULY // Palmy Conference + Function Centre



ARMAGEDDON EXPO

Celebrate your inner geek at this all-out showcase of classic and current TV and movies, comics, games, cosplay, animation and more!

AUGUST // Fly Palmy Arena



Find out what's on this weekend.
ManawatuNZ.co.nz/Events

Enjoy a celebration under the stars, warm your belly with our best bites or get cosy at a gorgeous boutique stay.

When in doubt, get your heart pumping with some shopping, or feed your soul with an art trail!

WINTER

INĀ TE REKA! //

TASTE

Manawatū is made to be savoured, so sit back and relax as you fuel up with cuisine built on local provenance. From local coffee roasteries and a flourishing cafe culture, to

swathes of international options, award-winning restaurants and popular spots for a drink and a chinwag, we've got what you're looking for.



Brew Union

SIP, SNACK AND SAVOUR

Choose slow-cooked meats in the country, game night with pizza in hand, or the one with twenty brews on tap – you can't go wrong here.



Brew Union



Munch



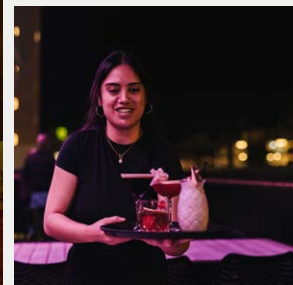
Little Savanna



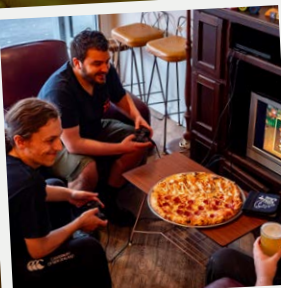
Feilding Farmers' Market



Freddie Clere



Teacher, Teacher



Tony's Pizza

START HERE



- >> Little Savanna
- >> Brew Union
- >> Tony's Pizza
- >> Munch
- >> Beaver and Bear

WHĀNAU FRIENDLY

Car full of kids? Check out this jam-packed whānau-friendly itinerary.



0900 // Start your day in Friendly Feilding and head to **Kitchener Park** for an easy walk through some of Aotearoa's oldest native bush. **1030 //** Cool off at **Makino Pool** or enjoy a round at the quirky mini golf course just next door (or squeeze in both!).

1200 // Recharge at popular spot, **Delish Cafe** before hopping in the car and making your way into Palmy. **1330 //** Park up near **He Ara Kotahi** bridge (access via Ruha Street) and stretch the legs by appreciating this practical work of art and the views of the awa it affords. If the **Scoop Truck** is parked up,

enjoy an ice cream - or save it for your return! **1400 //** Walk down the **shared river pathway** in the direction of Fitzherbert Bridge. About halfway along, find a path cutting through the bush to your left. This should lead you to **Central Energy Trust Wildbase Recovery** in Victoria Esplanade. Here, see native wildlife recovering from a recent hospital visit before they're released back into the wild. **1430 //** Spend an hour or so running around at **Victoria Esplanade** playground, gardens or get ahead on road rules at the **Junior Road Safety Park** before returning to the car.

1530 // Head to **Te Manawa** for some indoor fun and hands-on education at this brilliant museum of art, science and heritage.

1700 // Enjoy a well-deserved refuel stop at the neat pizza joint on Te Marae o Hine - The Square, **Tony's Pizza**. Order New York style pizza by the slice and for the adults there's a great selection of craft beers, gins and you might even find a frozen margarita! Let the kids peruse the wall of board games and linger for a couple hours. If you have a four-legged family member with you, they're welcome here too!

TOP TIP



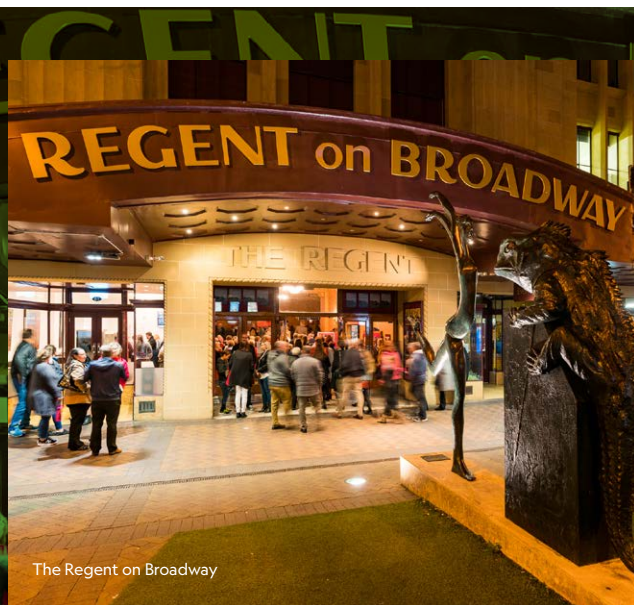
For more all-weather options, check out these great spots where the fun carries rain or shine!

- >> **Cloud 9**
- >> **XKarts**
- >> **Daytona Raceway**
- >> **Play2Win**
- >> **Timezone**
- >> **Lido Aquatic Centre**
- >> **Focal Point Cinema**

TE TOI ME TE AHUREA // ARTS & CULTURE

Art is the window to the heart of Manawatū. Our vibrant arts scene is built on the unique energy of our region, interpreted by

the creative and cultural heart of the many creative people that choose to call this place home.



The Regent on Broadway

GET INSPIRED. FIND YOUR MUSE.

Embrace our rich cultural history and rural heritage, as you discover old treasures and the stories behind them or experience the region's outstanding talent on stage (did you know Manawatū boasts the only professional regional theatre?)

Bustling with diverse art galleries, theatres, museums, exhibitions, creative workshops and so much more, you'll leave with your creative senses tingling.

COASTAL ARTS TRAIL.

The scenic self-drive journey to art galleries and museums. Head off-the-beaten-track to studios and creative rural communities.

Discover unique galleries, learn traditional skills at a wide range of workshops and experience the ahurea tuakiri (cultural identities) of Manawatū, Whanganui and Taranaki.

Art is at the heart of these region's communities, elevating cultural

expression and lending vibrancy to life. The Coastal Arts Trail takes in a broad range of classical and Māori art.

Visitors can enjoy sculpture, postmodern and street art, and experience first-hand the works of internationally renowned local artists.

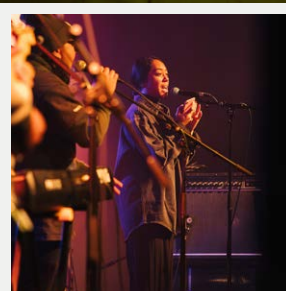
Browse the galleries and start planning your trip along the Coastal Arts Trail online.



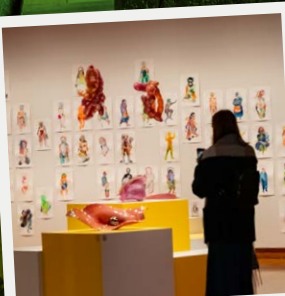
coastalartstrail.nz



Centrepoint Theatre



The Stomach



Te Manawa Museum



New Zealand Rugby Museum

SPRING IN MANAWATŪ

Clear your diary and blow off those winter cobwebs for a stacked springtime in Manawatū! If you're chasing energy, colour, and a good reason to get out in the fresh air and sunshine, we've got you covered.

SALUD! FEST

Get in on Palmy's first food and spirits festival! It's an up-market day of cutesy cocktails, gourmet food, and epic entertainment.

OCTOBER // Pitt Lane,
Central Energy Trust Arena



PALMY DRAG FEST

Get in on Aotearoa's biggest and most fabulous drag show! Each year Palmy Drag Fest brings more glitz, glamour, and jaw-dropping performances than the last.

OCTOBER // Regent
Theatre



Palmy Drag Fest



Pick your own flowers



ART TRAIL MANAWATŪ

Peek behind the curtain of working art studios across the region. Watch artists create, join in and participate, or find something special to take home!

OCTOBER // Square Edge



CROSS HILLS GARDEN COUNTRY FAIR

Browse over 200 boutique crafts, fashion, food, home, and garden stalls set in 18 acres of stunning park gardens. A shopping experience like no other.

NOVEMBER // Cross Hills
Gardens, Kimbolton

The season for the festival-goer. Whether gardens, arts, drag or good food and drink is your passion, your moment is here.



Find out what's on this weekend.

ManawatuNZ.co.nz/Events

SPRING

TAIAO // NATURE

Manawatū literally means 'heart standing still' and when you get up into the Ruahines or the Tararuas you'll truly feel that legend. Towering mountain ranges,

vast west coast beaches, sparkling rivers, beautiful rolling countryside, fertile soils (read: banging gardens) and untouched native bush.



Whitecliff Boulders

TAKE IT IN.

Get lost in our natural playground, connect with Papatūānuku (our Earth Mother), yourself or with our precious wildlife – whether that be in their natural habitat or up close at Wildbase Recovery Centre.

Leave with a renewed sense of appreciation for the taonga that is our natural environment - the life source that feeds everything else in Aotearoa.



Greenhaugh Gardens



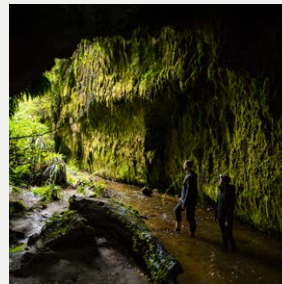
Villa Candotti



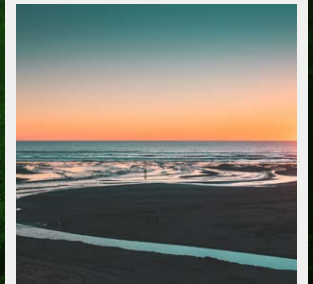
Rangiwahia Hut Track



Te Āpiti - Tawa Loop Track



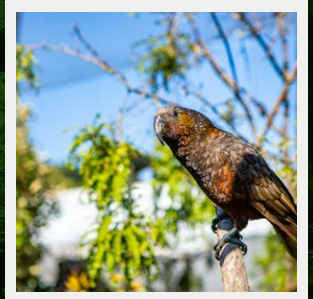
Limestone Creek Reserve



Himatangi Beach



Sledge Track



Wildbase Recovery Centre

SUSTAINABLE MANAWATŪ

Keep your heart and footprint light with this eco-friendly Manawatū itinerary.



Feilding Farmers' Market

0900 // Start your day with a stunning cup of coffee at **Arrosta Coffee Roasting Co.**, a local coffee roaster with a passion for doing good. They partner with fair Trade Organic and Rainforest Alliance certified producers and use a single burner system for reduced gas usage and emissions. While you're here, enjoy a Roastery Tour or Coffee Cupping Workshop (book these prior). **1100 //** Wander around one of our markets and buy lunch and some

other goodies straight from a local producer. Look out for the **Feilding Farmers' Market** (every Friday), or the **Hokowhitu Market** (first and third Sunday of the month). **1230 //** Head to **He Ara Kotahi** bridge (access via Rua Street), to borrow an e-bike (**Fiore Bike Rentals**) or Flamingo scooter and ride along the many kms of stunning shared river pathways. **1400 //** Visit **Wildbase Recovery Centre**, a state-of-the-art facility in **Victoria Esplanade**. Here, see

native wildlife recovering from a recent hospital visit before they're released back into the wild. **1500 //** Next, experience **Te Manawa**, Museum of Art, Science and Heritage - its extensive collections and interactive exhibits are well-worth the visit! **1700 //** End your day at **Kaitahi Lodge**, a solar-powered luxury lodge just outside Palmy. Much more than a place to rest your head, Kaitahi offers an exquisite dining experience, with all produce sourced locally.

TOP TIP



Central Energy Trust Wildbase Recovery, Te Manawa and Kaitahi Lodge are all accredited with Qualmark Gold, signifying a "best-in-class" for quality, sustainable practices and safety.





**SEE YOU
SOON**

TIAKI PROMISE

WHILE TRAVELLING IN
NEW ZEALAND I WILL



CARE FOR LAND, SEA AND NATURE,
TREADING LIGHTLY AND LEAVING
NO TRACE



TRAVEL SAFELY, SHOWING CARE
AND CONSIDERATION FOR ALL



RESPECT CULTURE, TRAVELLING
WITH AN OPEN HEART AND MIND



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KEEP EXPLORING

SCAN

This is just a taste of
some of the best our
region has to offer.
Scan to find out more
about Manawatū.



Look out for our
Hike or Bike Trail Guide,
The Country Road Map,
and **Te Ta Puwae Tahī**
Our Footprint for more
information.



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