

MENU

New visa regulations allow you to work remotely from New Zealand for your overseas employer or client. X  
To apply, visit [Immigration New Zealand](#).

... > North Island > Waikato > Top 10 things to do in Hamilton and Waikato

# TOP 10 THINGS TO DO IN HAMILTON AND WAIKATO

Rolling green hills, spectacular limestone caves and black sand surf beaches surround Hamilton's vibrant city hub.

Explore one of our most exciting cities and discover the 10 best things to do in Hamilton and the surrounding Waikato region.

## 1. Dine like a hobbit



Embark on the ultimate evening of Middle-earth™ magic at [Hobbiton™ Movie Set in Matamata](#) with an evening dinner tour. Discover Bag End, the Party Tree, and the Green Dragon Inn™ on a guided tour before enjoying a banquet feast in the Green Dragon dining room. Standard guided tours also run throughout the day.

[Book a tour at Hobbiton](#)

## 2. Admire the twinkling glowworms at Waitomo



Beneath the green farmland of Waitomo lies a subterranean maze of spectacular limestone caverns. Take a guided tour into the heart of the [Waitomo Caves](#) and be amazed by the limestone formations and huge cavern before exiting via boat-ride under thousands of twinkling glowworms.

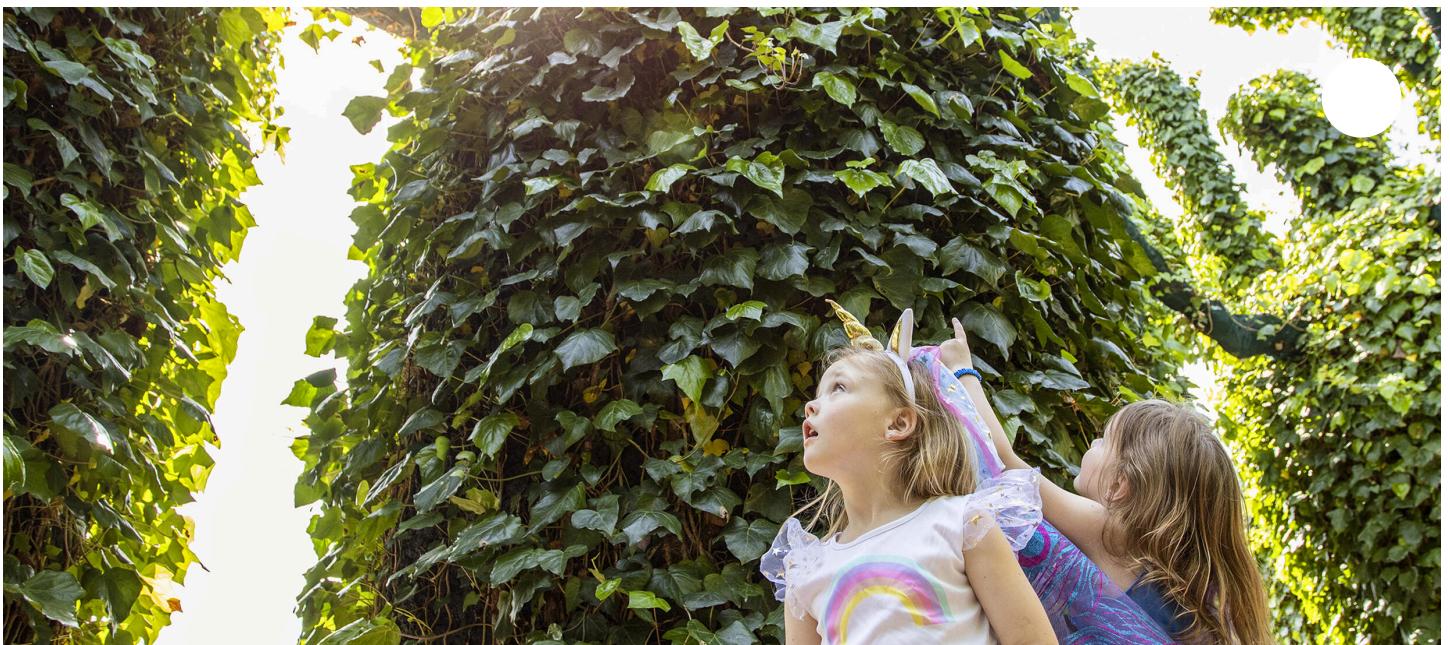
## 3. Learn to surf at Raglan



West of [Hamilton](#) lies [Raglan](#), a beautifully scenic stretch of black sand coastline. Featuring in the 1966 surfing movie *Endless Summer*, Raglan is a surfing mecca and is home to one of the longest and most consistent left-handers in the world. See what all the fuss is about with a surf lesson from the [Raglan Surf School](#).

[Explore Raglan](#)

## 4. Wander through the Hamilton Gardens



Learn about the Story of Gardens at one of the region's most visited attractions. Instead of focusing on the variety of plants, the [Hamilton Gardens](#) showcase different types of garden design through themed

collections. Step into another world in their Fantasy collection or explore different civilisations in their Paradise collection.

## 5. Experience high tea at Zealong Tea Estate



Visit New Zealand's only tea plantation, [Zealong Tea Estate](#), and indulge in a delicious high tea experience. Crafted by passionate tea masters, Zealong tea is one of the purest teas in the world and is grown organically in the rich soil of the [Waikato region](#).

## 6. Visit Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari



A haven for a myriad of New Zealand's most endangered bird species, [Sanctuary Mountain](#) is a mainland 'island' created by a pest-proof fence. Get up close to takahē, tuatara, giant wētā, and kākā amidst the beauty of Mount Maungatautari, an ancient forested volcano.

## 7. Spend the day at the Waikato Museum and Hamilton Zoo



Soak up the rich arts and culture of the [Waikato](#) region at [Waikato Museum](#). Highlights include a majestic war waka (Māori canoe), galleries featuring local artwork and the Waikato WW1 story, 'For Us They Fell'. If you're after a day of outdoors and fun, visit the [Hamilton Zoo](#) which is home to over 600 native and exotic animals. With New Zealand's largest walk-through aviary and free zookeeper talks, there's plenty to see and do with the family.

## 8. Ride on one of Waikato's cycling trails



The Timber Trail, Waikato River Trails and Hauraki Rail Trail can all be found in the Waikato region. Venture through the centre of the North Island on [The Timber Trail](#), which winds through the Pureora Forest. Try out the [Waikato River Trails](#) for an adventurous ride along the mighty Waikato River. Or take a more leisurely ride through New Zealand's pioneering history on the [Hauraki Rail Trail](#).

[Explore more cycling trails](#)

## 9. Take in the stunning views with a hot air balloon tour



There's no better way to start your day than going on a [hot air balloon flight](#) just as the sun rises. This one-of-a-kind adventure gives you breath-taking views of the Mighty Waikato River, the vast farmlands, and see Hamilton city as it wakes up to a new day. If you're around the region in March, be sure to check out [Balloons Over Waikato](#), an annual festival showcasing the best of hot air balloons.

## 10. Explore Waikato with Lake District Adventures



Whether you're after a kayak tour on Lake Karapiro, a guided mountain bike ride along New Zealand's longest river, or a little bit of both, [Lake District Adventures](#) has a range of exciting guided outdoor experiences. With tours offering local knowledge of the region's history, culture, flora, and fauna, it's a great way to see what makes Waikato so special.

# #WaikatoNZ

[Load More](#)

[Share this page](#)

## You may also be interested in

[Waikato](#)

[Hamilton](#)

[Cycle trails in Waikato](#)

You are here ➔

Home > Destinations > North Island > Waikato > Top 10 things to do in Hamilton and Waikato

New Zealand



## Find us on



X



Instagram



Facebook



YouTube

---

## Contact us

[Site feedback](#)

[Need help?](#)

---

## Help

[FAQs](#)

[About newzealand.com](#)

[Adding your business and deals](#)

[Linking to newzealand.com](#)

[Terms of use](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Cookies](#)

[Manage privacy settings](#)

---

## Our other sites

[Media](#)

[The Visual Library](#)

[Travel Trade](#)

[Business Events](#)

[Corporate website](#)

[Tourism Business Database](#)

TOURISM