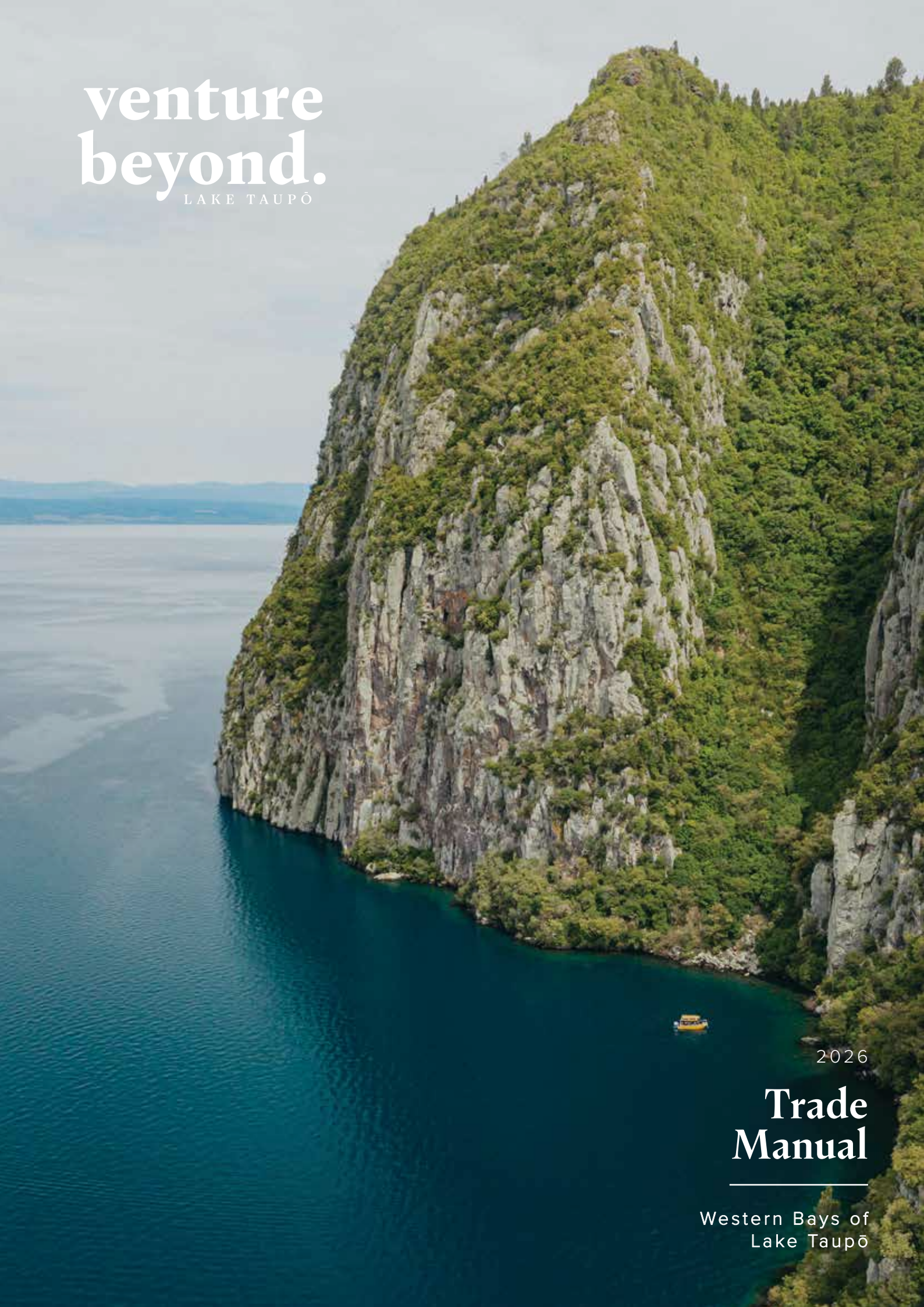




venture
beyond.
LAKE TAUPŌ

2026

Trade Manual

Western Bays of
Lake Taupō



Known as the Jewel of Lake Taupō, the Western Bays provide the stunning backdrop for Venture Beyond’s year-round tourism experiences. Our passion is to share the Jewel of Lake Taupō through personalised, small-group experiences that showcase the natural beauty, history and hidden gems of this remarkable region.

Local owner-operators Ian and Jill Cammell have called the Lake Taupō region home for more than 23 years. For Ian, moving here sparked a lifelong passion for the area that has only grown stronger over time.

More than 14 years ago, Ian began skippering on Lake Taupō. During that time, he discovered many of the lake’s secluded locations and hidden treasures, found only within the Western Bays and accessible exclusively by boat.

A natural storyteller, Ian was inspired to create a tourism experience that would allow small groups of visitors to explore these special places while sharing his knowledge, passion and appreciation for this unique part of New Zealand’s Central North Island.

Bringing that vision to life involved more than three years of research and planning, with careful consideration given to vessel design and fuel-efficient propulsion systems to minimise emissions, wake and noise pollution wherever practical.

Our commitment is to deliver exceptional visitor experiences while operating responsibly. Through sustainable day-to-day practices, we strive to minimise our environmental impact and help preserve Lake Taupō for future generations.

Venture Beyond has been awarded Silver Qualmark certification and COVID Clean accreditation, recognising our commitment to delivering high-quality visitor experiences and operating to recognised industry standards.

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TAXICAT

Our vessel and seasonal guide

Our Vessel

- 6.7 m catamaran with an internal beam of approximately 2 m.
- Purpose-built by Blackdog Cats in Whangārei, Northland, New Zealand.
- Front viewing deck, perfect for nosing into a waterfall.
- Spacious hard-top rear deck with 180-degree views.

Seasonal guide

While most of our trips are year round, we have an extra daily trip available in our warmer months.

Western Bays Taster

Year-round, with an additional daily departure during summer

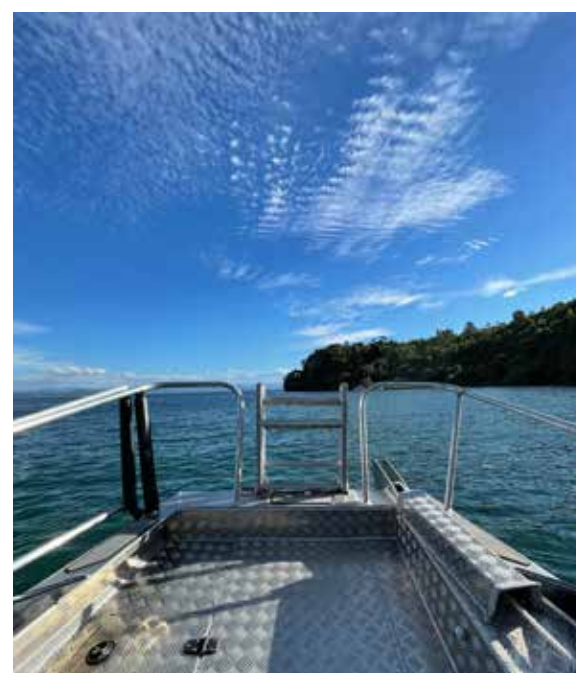
Western Bay Adventurer

Year-round

Ultimate MTB Sightseer

Year-round

We are closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.





Kinloch

The Gateway to the
Western Bays of Lake Taupō

“Kinloch is a lovely year round holiday location with its sandy beach and relaxed vibe make it the perfect spot to base your next adventure”.

- [newzealand.com](https://www.newzealand.com)

Kinloch is a picturesque village located at the northern end of Lake Taupō, just 20 kilometres by road from Taupō on New Zealand’s North Island Volcanic Plateau.

An in-the-know destination, Kinloch is particularly popular with golfers, mountain bikers and those seeking a peaceful lakeside escape.

Affectionately known as the gateway to the Western Bays, Kinloch is located within the Waikato region and provides easy access to some of Lake Taupō’s most spectacular scenery.

With rental cars available at Taupō Airport, a self-drive holiday is an excellent way to explore the region at your own pace.

Free all-day parking is available opposite the Kinloch Marina on Mata Place, behind the fire station.

Kinloch offers a range of accommodation options, from glamping and boutique bed and breakfasts to five-star luxury lodge accommodation.

The village also features a well-stocked general store and a popular local coffee cart.

Kinloch is home to the world-class Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course, designed by one of the game’s greatest legends, as well as the renowned Great Lake Trails, one of New Zealand’s premier mountain biking destinations.



Map of Lake Taupō

The Western Bays

“Unlike its wider Lake Taupō environment, the Western Bays are isolated and different. Its identity is striking and distinctive. Far from the madding crowd, rugged and wild, the western bays entices the explorer and captivates the visitor. Here Nature dominates and people adapt. Solitude is possible. Challenges abound.”

Source - Western Bay Lake Taupō by Christine McElwee and John Parsons

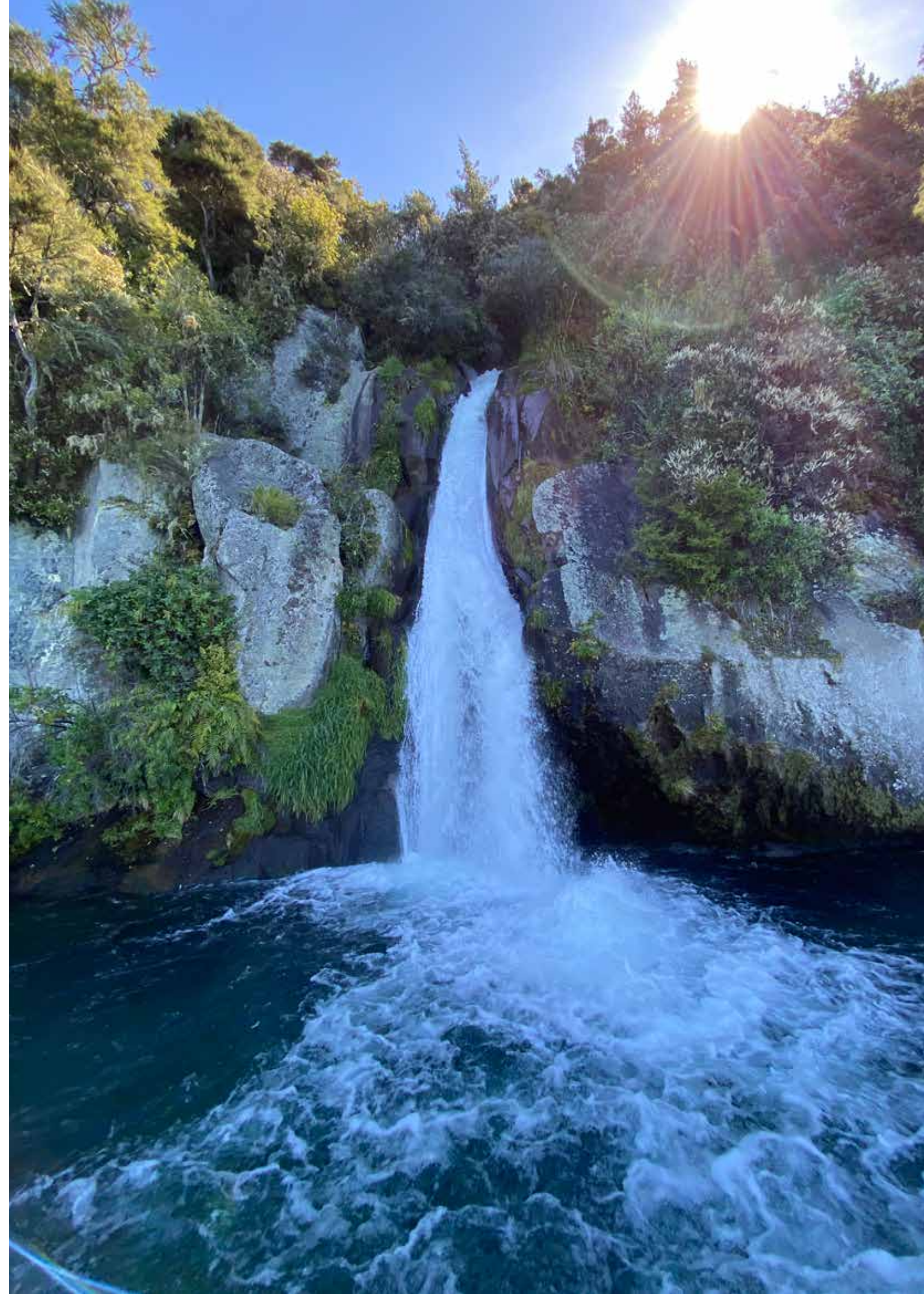
Escape the crowds and create unforgettable memories aboard Venture Beyond's small-group, big-adventure experiences.

Discover the pristine bays, dramatic rock faces and cascading waterfalls of the spectacular Western Bays of Lake Taupō.

Join your skipper, Ian, for a fun and personalised adventure, getting up close to waterfalls, towering cliffs, hidden ravines and secluded bays that are only accessible by boat.

With a choice of three tour durations, Venture Beyond offers an experience to suit every itinerary.

- Departs from Kinloch Marina.
- Free guest parking is available at the end of Kinloch Esplanade.
- Please bring your camera and a warm layer of clothing.





Western Bays Taster

Chasing Waterfalls
1 Hour 30 Minutes

Designed for the time poor.

Included:

- Cruise along dramatic cliff lines.
- Visit three spectacular waterfalls.
- Enjoy a short bush walk through beautiful native flora and fauna.
- Hear Ian's entertaining stories and informative local commentary.

Tour Description

Surging up onto the plane, your journey into the spectacular Western Bays begins.

Stand on the bow as Ian skilfully guides Taxicat into the spray at the base of Otupoto Falls. Cruise beneath towering cliffs that plunge into the deep waters of Lake Taupō before discovering the beautiful Tutaewaeroa Falls, hidden behind a rocky outcrop and cascading over a natural ledge, close enough to reach out and touch.

Nestled in the north-western corner of the bays lies the hidden gem of Kotukutuku Landing. Watch as the sandy lakebed rises to meet the shoreline while Taxicat noses gently onto the beach and the ladder unfolds. A short bush walk through the ravine leads to your final waterfall, with stunning lake views waiting along the trail.

As you idle back into Kinloch Marina, you'll have travelled around 30 km, explored places few visitors ever experience, and discovered why time seems to stand still in the Western Bays.



Western Bays Explorer

Chasing Waterfalls
2 Hour 30 Minute

A more leisurely way to experience the Western Bays.

Included:

Enjoy everything featured on the 90-minute Taster Tour, plus:

- A stop at the secluded Waihora Bay to enjoy a complimentary refreshment and time to explore the lake's edge.
- A seasonal swim in the crystal-clear waters (weather permitting).

Tour Description:

Our 150-minute extended Taster Tour covers more than 35 km of dramatic cliff faces and breathtaking scenery. Designed for those who prefer a more relaxed pace, you'll stop at the secluded Waihora Bay to enjoy a complimentary refreshment, explore the shoreline with its beautifully rounded pumice stones and seasonal yellow lupin flowers, or take a refreshing swim in the crystal-clear waters.

Often, you'll have the bay entirely to yourselves, making for a truly peaceful and memorable experience.





Western Bays Adventurer

Chasing Waterfalls
3 Hour 30 Minute

The full monty.

Included:

- Discover the entire Western Bays
- Cruise along dramatic cliff lines
- Visit three waterfalls
- Take a short bush walk through beautiful native flora and fauna
- Discover the remote Te Papa Bay
- Enjoy a complimentary beverage and biscuit
- Refresh with a seasonal swim
- Explore a hidden ravine and discover the mighty Karangahape Cliffs
- Enjoy Ian's entertaining and informative local commentary

Tour Description:

Tucked away in the north-western corner of the Western Bays is a hidden gem known as Kotukutuku Landing. Watch as the sandy lakebed gradually rises to reveal a secluded beach. A short bush walk up the ravine leads to your first waterfall, but don't miss the spectacular lake views along the trail.

Stand on the bow as Ian skilfully guides Taxicat closer to the spray at the base of Otopoto Falls. Cruise beneath dramatic cliffs that plunge into the depths of the lake before discovering the beautiful Tutaewaeroa Falls, hidden behind a rocky outcrop and cascading over a natural ledge, inviting you to reach out and feel the cool water.

Continuing south, you'll arrive at the beautiful Waihaha Bay, a long sandy beach at the mouth of the Waihaha Valley, before reaching one of Ian's favourite places, Te Papa Bay. It's the perfect spot to anchor for a BYO picnic or enjoy a seasonal swim in the crystal-clear waters.

Discover a mysterious hidden ravine as Ian carefully noses the boat into the narrowing bush-lined entrance. Then continue around the point to the Escape Cave, a fascinating place with a story of its own.

Cross the southern end of the Western Bays to the mighty Karangahape Cliffs, towering hundreds of feet above Lake Taupō as though guarding the entrance to the bays. Here, time seems to have stood still, untouched by a changing world. It is a place where nature reigns.



Hiking the Great Lake Trails

The Kinloch to Kawakawa (K2K) and Whakaipo to Kinloch (W2K) trails can be transformed into a truly memorable adventure by starting your day with a scenic boat journey around the headlands of Whangamata Bay. You'll be dropped off at either Kawakawa Bay or Whakaipo Bay to begin your ride or walk back to Kinloch.

K2K

Departing from Kinloch Marina, we round the headland on the western side of the bay before passing the impressive Kawakawa Cliffs, where you may catch a glimpse of rock climbers high above. We then arrive at Kawakawa Bay, where your ride begins.

W2K

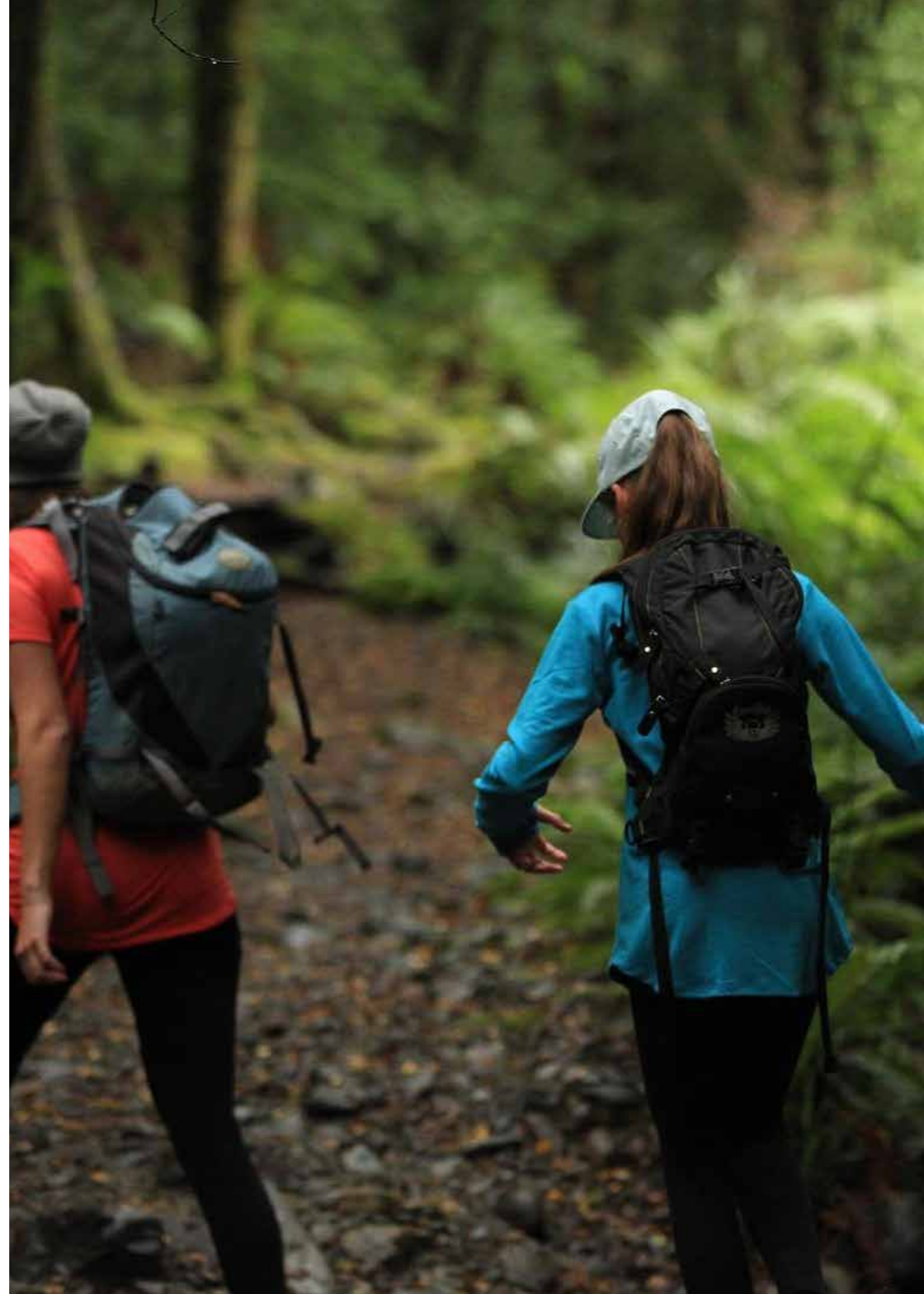
Leaving Kinloch, we cruise down the bay and around the spectacular Whangamata Headland, passing dramatic rock formations before arriving at the beautiful Whakaipo Bay, the starting point of the trail.

If time allows and the weather is favourable, be sure to complete the Headland Loop. The views are spectacular.

Guides are available and can be booked through FourB: www.fourb.nz.

Upgrade any sightseeing cruise with a self-guided hiking experience.

Complimentary drop-off at Kawakawa Bay is available on all sightseeing cruises, allowing guests to enjoy the 9.25 km self-guided hike back to Kinloch via the Great Lake Trail.





The Supervolcanic Trail Network

Imagine riding more than 380 kilometres of trails that wind past sparkling waterways, through native forest and up dramatic mountain peaks, all within a unique geothermal landscape. This remarkable adventure begins where one of Earth's most significant volcanic eruptions occurred thousands of years ago. The eruption created a vast caldera that gradually filled with water to become Lake Taupō, at the heart of New Zealand's North Island. It also scattered volcanic rock across hundreds of kilometres, creating a landscape unlike any other.

Today, visitors can explore this extraordinary region at their own pace. Welcome to New Zealand's Supervolcanic Trail Network. Offering experiences for every type of rider, the network features everything from challenging climbs and flowing descents to gentle family-friendly rides. Few places in the world offer the opportunity to cycle around the rim of a supervolcano.

Along the way, riders will discover turquoise waters, pumice-lined shores and spectacular volcanic scenery. Many trails can also be combined with boat or helicopter transfers, providing access to remote locations and unique riding experiences. Natural hot pools beside rivers and the lake offer the perfect place to relax after a day on the trails.

The network includes Craters Mountain Bike Park, the Tongariro River Trail, the Huka Trails, the Great Lake Trails and the Waikato River Trails. Local operators are available to help visitors choose the experience best suited to their interests and ability.

Every season offers a different perspective of the region, with changing landscapes and year-round riding opportunities. Off the trails, visitors can enjoy genuine Kiwi hospitality, local food and beverages, art, culture and rich Māori and European history.

Shaped by nearly 30,000 years of natural history, the Supervolcanic Trail Network offers an unforgettable way to experience one of New Zealand's most remarkable landscapes.



Ride and Cruise Package

Half Day Mountain
Bike with Lake
sightseeing cruise
Min 4 Adults

Venture Beyond has partnered with our friends at FourB Bike Hire & Tours to bring you an exclusive mountain bike and scenic cruise package, suitable for anyone who is confident riding a bike.

We've chosen to package the Orakau to Kawakawa Bay section of the Great Lake Trails as it is suitable for a wide range of riders. While this trail is officially graded Grade 3, we believe it is predominantly Grade 2, with only a few Grade 3 sections. Previous mountain biking experience is not required.

Package includes:

- Shuttle transfer with FourB to the trailhead
- Ride the Orakau to Kawakawa Bay section of the Great Lake Trails on an e-bike
- Join Venture Beyond's vessel from the lake's edge at Kawakawa Bay
- Cruise the spectacular scenery of the northern Western Bays
- Take a short bush walk to the Kotukutuku Stream Waterfall
- Visit the Tutaewaeroa Stream Waterfall and the impressive Otupoto Falls

MTB Trail Information

Orakau – Kawakawa
10.25 km | Grade 3 | Up to 1.5 hours

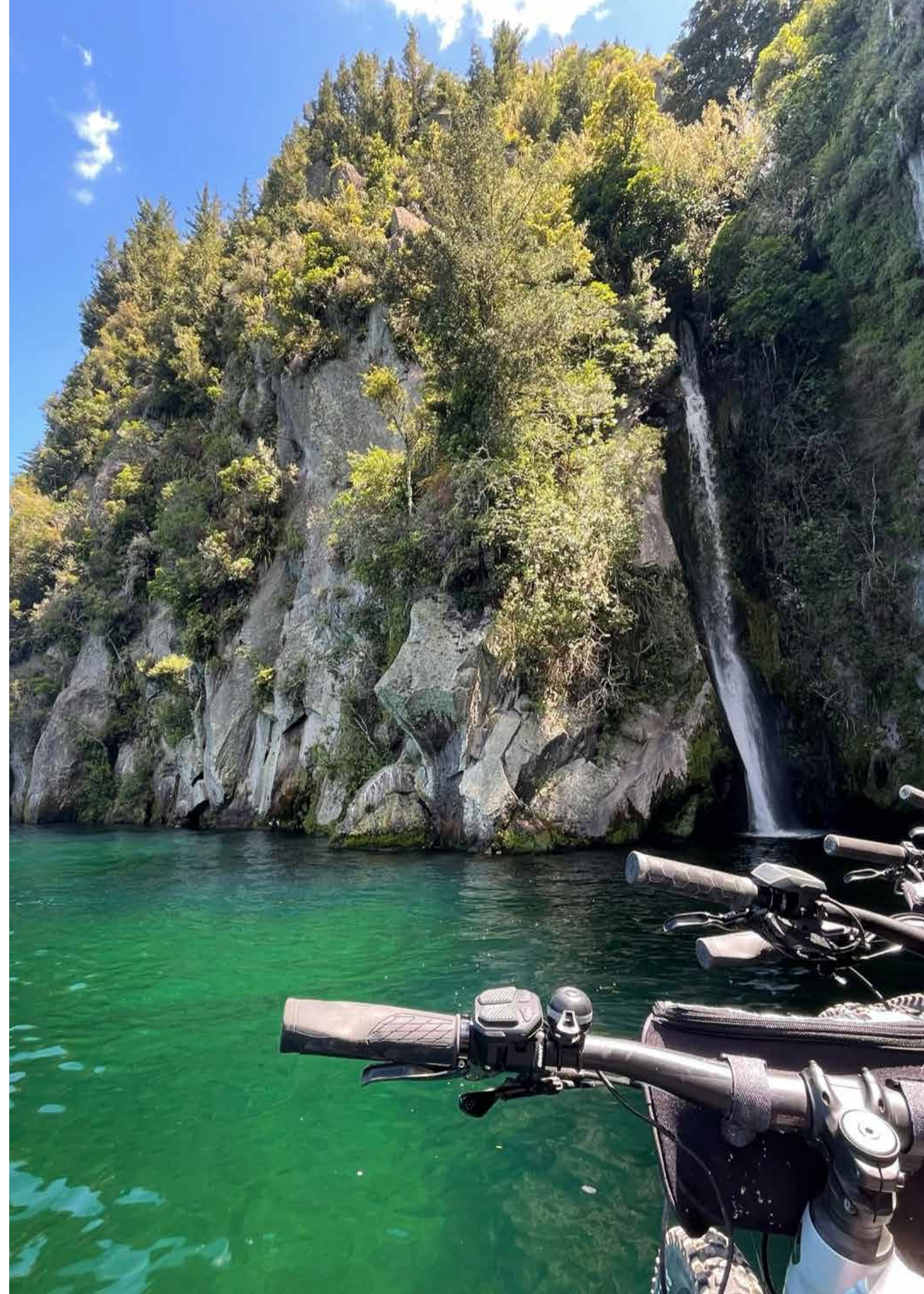
The Orakau Trail is a gradual downhill ride that winds through beautiful native wetlands before descending into the secluded Kawakawa Bay.

Cruise Information

Western Bays Taster
Scenic sightseeing cruise | 1.5 hours

Experience the pristine bays, dramatic rock faces and waterfalls of the northern Western Bays.

**Book via FourB Bike Hire & Tours at [www.fourb.nz]
(http://www.fourb.nz) or call Jonny on 021 023 63439.**





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