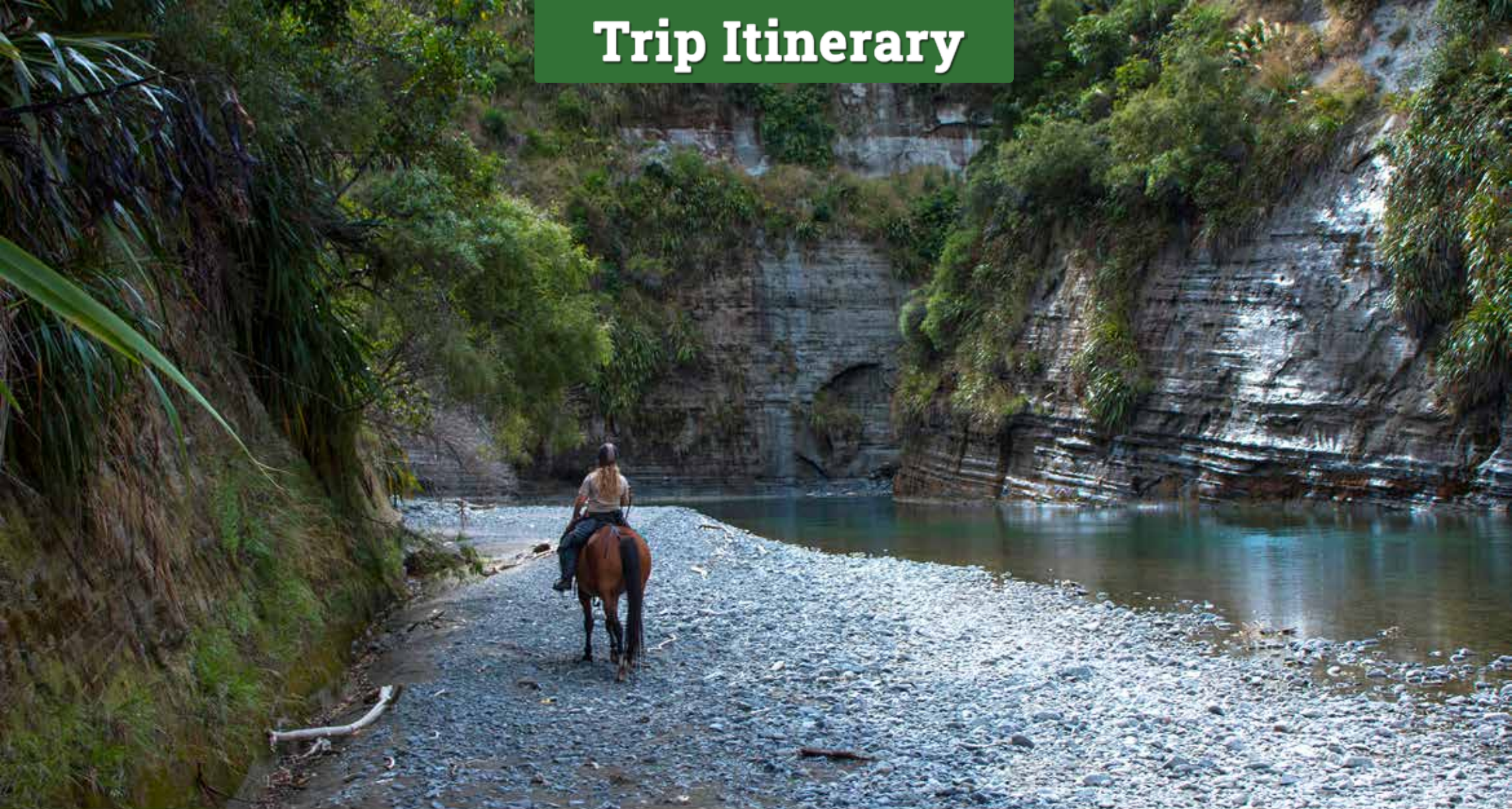


Trip Itinerary



LODGE TO LODGE

A 2-day horse riding adventure on the
Central North Island, New Zealand

Thanks For Choosing River Valley

About River Valley

Since 1982, family owned and Taihape based adventure company, River Valley, has been offering trips on the rivers of the central North Island of New Zealand. Based from River Valley Lodge, the company offers raft and inflatable kayak trips on the Rangitikei and Ngaruroro Rivers, and through Whanganui River Dories, dory trips on the Whanganui River through the Whanganui National Park. Our river trips vary from 1/2 day to 6 days in duration.

Part of the experiences River Valley also offers are horse treks with River Valley Stables. These treks, from 1/2 day to 8 days, explore central North Island high country. A point of difference for River Valley Stables is the emphasis on a learning experience using Natural Horse Training as well as the ride itself.

River Valley is a company that is also heavily involved in "giving back." We do this through our Stoat trapping program that is centred around the Rangitikei River at Pukeokahu. The aim of this program is to protect the and grow the native bird population.

Thanks for choosing River Valley for your trip.

What is in the Trip Planning Itinerary?

This Trip Planning Itinerary has been composed to help you plan and prepare for your multi day trip and to give you an overview of the area. You will receive more detailed information from orientation talks and discussions given by your guides both prior to departure and while on your trip.

Please review the following information carefully. If you have any questions or need additional assistance with your arrangements, don't hesitate to give us a call. You may also contact us by e-mail at thelodge@rivervalley.co.nz.



Guides

The men and women who work at River Valley are fun loving, and professional, individuals. Many of them have worked for River Valley for years, and either stay and guide right through the winter, or return for each summer season. Over this time through a mixture of personal experience and formal education they gain a huge amount of knowledge about guiding and the area.

Many of our guides also have a good knowledge of both the area's natural and human history, along with current environmental issues. They are also great cooks! These are the kind of people you enjoy being around—happy, helpful, thoughtful, intelligent and responsible and they love what they do!



Trip Summary

This trip is a 2-day horse riding adventure, with a demanding ride by day, followed by a touch of luxury by night. And what an adventure. You will ride around the flanks of 3000m high Pukeokahu, before following a trail down into the Rangitikei River Canyon.

A canyon of immense papa cliffs, river terraces, and crystal clear water. That water will need to be crossed a number of times as you travel downstream towards your destination, Tarata Fishaway Lodge.

When you arrive at Tarata you can put your feet up, enjoy a well earned glass of wine, and soak in the hot tub before having dinner at the homestead.

The next day, as you head back towards River Valley Lodge, there will be more river crossings, and then up and over the summit of Pukeokahu. Everywhere you look is full of one picture postcard scene after another. A late lunch is spent taking it all in, before heading back to the stables.

Quick Facts

Duration: 2 Days / 2 Nights

Cost: \$2190 2 Pax Twin Share or Double / \$1295 Single*

*Minimum requirement of 2 people per trip. If you are travelling on your own please enquire to see what dates are available.

Season: 1st January to 30th March

Riding Ability: Intermediate – Advanced

Time in Saddle: 4 to 6 Hours

Group Size: Minimum 2 people, maximum 8

Restrictions: Minimum Age 13 Years. Maximum weight 95kg

Type of Tack: We have Western and stock saddles. Please let your guide know if you have a preference.

Breed of Horses: We have a mix of horses at the stables. These include Kaimanawa (NZ Wild horse), and NZ Station bred which is a cross of Clydesdale, Standard-bred, Quarter Horse, Thoroughbred, and Arabian. Also, Tennessee Walking and American Saddlebred.

Accommodation: 1 night at River Valley Lodge in a deluxe ensuite room. 1 night at Tarata Lodge in a deluxe ensuite room. Rooms can be made as doubles or twin share.



Preparing For Your Trip

What is Included:

- Riding equipment - riding boots, helmet (compulsary), short chaps, and long oilskin riding coats for changeable weather. A water bottle.
- Meals – 2 x Cooked Breakfasts, 2 x 3 Course Dinner, 2 x Trekkers Lunch.
Please advise us before your trip if you have any special dietary requirements.
- Rides – 2 x full days riding.
- Accommodation – Deluxe ensuite guest rooms for 2 nights.

What to Pack:

- All riding equipment will be supplied by River Valley. If you would prefer to use your own gear, or bring extras like gloves, this is fine.
- We will provide saddle bags, so you are welcome to bring along a camera, phone, medication, or other small items, on the ride with you.
- Your overnight bag will be shuttled from River Valley Lodge to Tarata Lodge, and then back to River Valley for you.

Recommended Items:

- Long pants for riding.
- Comfy socks to wear in your riding boots
- Warm top on cooler days.
- Sunscreen (NZ sun can be very strong!) and sunglasses.
- A camera suitable to be taken riding.
- Lodge clothing to wear in the evenings.
- Swimwear - if the weather is nice there are opportunities to stop for a swim.
- Riding gloves, if preferred.

What is not Included:

- Transfers to/from River Valley Lodge (a shuttle from Taihape can be arranged for an additional cost).
- Travel insurance
- Any extra food or beverages

Optional Items:

- Medication. If you require daily medication please bring it on the trip with you. Please advise the Trip Leader if you require cold storage or other special storage facilities for your medication. If you have allergies make sure you bring an epi-pen or medication.
- If you use glasses, contact lenses, hearing aids, or other health aids, it's a smart idea to bring "extras" on the trip with you.
- A good book, to read at the lodge in the evenings.



Trip Itinerary



Night 1

Arrive and check in at River Valley Lodge, anytime from 3pm. Enjoy a 3 course Farm-To-Table dinner at the lodge. At River Valley we believe in food that is healthy and ethical. A lot of the produce used comes from our own on-site gardens and our meat is all free range and organic. You will meet your guide this evening to go over the trip details and any questions you may have about the trip.

Tonight you can relax before your adventure, in the comfort of one of our deluxe ensuite rooms. You can also enjoy complimentary use of the spa and sauna at the lodge.

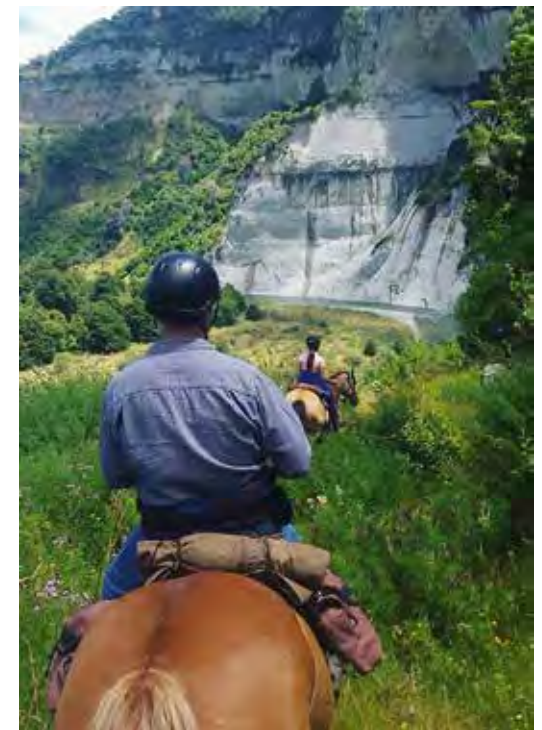


Day 1

The morning begins with a hearty breakfast in the lodge. You then drive up to the Stables to meet your guide, who will be there to set you up with your horse for the ride. Your adventure begins.

And what an adventure. Today you will ride around the flanks of 3000ft high Pukeokahu. Stop along the way for a picnic lunch, before following a trail down into the Rangitikei River Canyon.

A canyon of immense papa cliffs, river terraces, and crystal clear water. You will experience riding through the river as you travel downstream towards your destination, Tarata Fishaway Lodge.



Trip Itinerary

Night 2

Late afternoon, arrive at Tarata Fishaway Lodge. The horses are fed and let go, and you can put your feet up with a well earned glass of wine, and soak in the hot tub. After relaxing, it will be time to head over to the Tarata Homestead for dinner. Conversation round the table of horses, rivers, fish and landscapes.



Day 2

The next day, as you head back towards River Valley Lodge, there will be more river crossings, and then up and over the summit of Pukeokahu. Everywhere you look is full of one picture postcard scene after another. A late lunch is spent taking it all in.

All too soon, the gate into the Stables yard closes after the last horse. Home. This adventure is over, except for the magic of memories. Expect to be back at the stables around 4pm. If you have time why not add on an extra night at River Valley.

Further Information

Seasons, Climate & Weather

In New Zealand you can often expect 4 seasons in one day, blue sky, cloud cover, sunshine, or rain. It is generally colder at night and early morning. In January, February and March the weather is usually more settled and it can be very hot during the day with less chance of rain.

Trip Insurance

We strongly recommend that you obtain travel insurance that will cover any emergency contingencies. While New Zealand ACC will cover emergency evacuation and medical costs in the event of accident, disruptions to your travel plans, or voluntary evacuation are not covered.

Health & Fitness

All participants should be in basic good health and good physical condition. Please tell us if you have any health conditions of which we should be aware, or if you are taking any medication.

Allergies

Please let us know if you have any allergies that we should be aware of. This would include food allergies, plant allergies, potential reactions to insect bites or stings and allergies to certain elements such as iodine. We need to know the severity of your reaction to these allergies, as well as the correct emergency first-aid procedures.



Emergencies

Our guides are capable of handling emergencies as they arise (although they are generally few and far between). Trip leaders and guides are certified in First Aid and CPR. Our emergency equipment includes wilderness oriented first aid-kits, and satellite communications systems. We are able to call for medical assistance or evacuation if necessary. If an evacuation is necessary, you will be helicoptered out to a nearby hospital.

In the event of an emergency at home, please have your family call the lodge on +64 6 3881444. We will do our best to get word to you and to evacuate you from the trip if necessary. The cost is your responsibility.

Questions?

Feel free to contact us and discuss any questions or concerns you might have in regard to your trip or this itinerary.

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