

TRIP PLANNING ITINERARY

MOUNTAINS TO VINEYARD.



Overnight Rafting Trip on the Ngaruroro River,
Hawkes Bay, North Island, New Zealand

RIVER VALLEY
RANGITIKEI AOTEAROA
RAFTING
Est 1982

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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 a half day out to 7 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. We look forward to being on the river with you.

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.

All guides carry New Zealand river guide qualifications, which are some of the most stringent in the world. These qualifications include First Aid as well the technical details of guiding boats on rivers.

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!

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.



Mission and Values

Your goals and Our Expectations

A river trip on the beautiful rivers of the North Island of New Zealand can be a life-changing experience. We will do our best to provide you with the opportunity to have a wonderful outdoor adventure as well as a fun and relaxing holiday. Our customers are expected to exhibit appropriate behaviour while on the river trip, with regard to conservation, preservation and protection protocols. Having said that, we expect you will have a great adventure and a lot of fun!

Wilderness Environment

We feel strongly in preserving the character of natural wilderness. Please consciously make efforts to promote the outdoor experience for everyone on the river trip. Many people retreat to the wilderness for solitude and to get away from the noise of the city. We think you will enjoy taking time to stop, listen, and appreciate the natural sound scape. Please be respectful of other members in your party, so that they too can enjoy the natural wonders of this river trip.

Environmental Ethics

We want to do our best for the environment. On the river we try to reduce our production of rubbish. Prior to leaving for the river trip, please remove and recycle the packaging from any items such as batteries, sunscreen, soap, etc. On the river trip, we will ask you to help us recycle waste by separating paper, plastic, aluminium, and organic materials.

As part of our commitment for "responsible recreation," we make an effort to travel with minimal impact on the environment.

Seven Principles of Ethical Outdoor Recreation:

1. Plan ahead and prepare

Plan ahead by considering your goals and those of your group. Know before you go- get local information, skills and gear you need to make your trip a success.

2. Travel and camp on durable ground

Some areas are more fragile than others. Choose to camp and travel on the most durable surface you can, the best ones are tracks, gravel, snow and most grasses. Impacts on fragile natural features caused by travel and camping can take many years to heal.

3. Dispose of waste properly

Pack it in, pack it out. As users of the outdoors we all have a responsibility to clean up after ourselves. Rubbish and toilet waste are unsightly and can introduce unwanted organisms into the environment. Lead by example, if you see rubbish, pick it up.

4. Leave what you find

People visit natural areas for many reasons; such as exploring nature's mysteries and surprises. When we leave natural objects and artifacts as we found them, we pass the gift of discovery on to those who follow. Many sites of spiritual and cultural significance to Māori are interwoven with the natural environment.

5. Minimise the effects of fire

Local regulations and conditions change depending on time of year and location. Lightweight stoves, fire pans and mounds mean campfires are no longer essential for cooking or comfort. Wildfires are often caused by carelessness and the natural appearance of many recreation sites has been damaged by campfires, visual scarring and stripping vegetation for firewood.

6. Respect wildlife and farm animals

Know when animals are particularly vulnerable, such as breeding times, and change your behaviour with them by observing from a distance. Avoid feeding animals either deliberately or accidentally by leaving food or rubbish lying around. Farming is a big part of New Zealand's culture and economy, know how to move through farms without disturbing farm animals.

7. Be considerate of others

We all go into the outdoors for different reasons, so we must share. Think about others, respect their activities and what they might be trying to get out of their recreational experience.



Mountains to Vineyard

Trip Summary

The Ngaruroro River in sunny Hawkes Bay has at times been called the “Forgotten River”. It gets this name because most its catchment is in a rain shadow meaning low summer flows. This means the season to boat the “Forgotten River” is limited to only a few short weeks in Spring. You either get it then, or you have to forget about it.

This very pretty, but small river starts high in the Kaweka and Kaimanawa Ranges. From there it carves a channel through Beech and Kanuka forest before meandering through the rich Heretaunga Plains to the sea. There is no better way to explore this river than by raft. This trip starts at Kuripapango on the Napier - Taihape Road and finishes at Whanawhana.

After spending the first night at River Valley Lodge where you will meet your guides and be equipped with your river gear, we drive a little over an hour to the Put On. The first day on the river is characterised by a constant flow of technical Grade 2 and 3 rapids, all the while travelling through a beautiful tree shrouded canyon. Camp that night is on a riverbank with our tents set up amongst the Manuka shrubs.

The second day finds us in a braided section as the river starts entering the plains. For the last hour our rafts will be escorted by Black Backed Gulls from the adjacent nesting colonies.

Special Features

- Isolation that does not involve days of walking or helicopters
- There are 77 recorded species of bird on the river
- We are unlikely to see anyone else on the river for the first day and a half.
- Spectacular rugged scenery



Trip Itinerary

A Mountains to Vineyard trip on the Ngaruroro River is a two day and two night experience.

Possible Itinerary

(Note: Plans are written in the Sand and the Wind Usually Blows!)

Night Before

Arrive in time for dinner at River Valley Lodge (7.00pm). Meet your guides, get kitted out with river gear and shown how to pack your dry bag.

Day 1

An early breakfast (7.30am), then after loading your gear on to our transport, we drive the hour and a half to the put on at Kuripapango. Here we unload all the equipment, get it down to the river, and load the rafts. You will change into your river gear and after a safety briefing, we set off.

Expect to spend about 4-5 hours on the water this day. The river in this section is characterised by numerous smaller fun rapids, with a section of the biggest rapids of the trip to be experienced just before camp.

Day 2

A more relaxed start with the aim to be on the water by 9.30am-10am. The river slowly changes its character on this day from steep, narrow and rocky to meandering and braided. Generally we will reach the take out point by 2.00pm where we load all the gear on to the vehicles and head back to River Valley Lodge, planning on being home about 5.00pm

At this time you can either head off, or if you have booked another night at River Valley Lodge, you can settle into your accommodation have a hot shower and relax.



Price of the Trip Includes

- Accommodation at River Valley Lodge the night before departure
- Delicious meals, starting with dinner the night before departure on the river
- Assorted alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages
- Plates, cups, utensils
- Waterproof bags for clothing and personal items
- Ammo cans for photo equipment and incidentals
- Extra thick self inflating mattress
- Tents
- Nice camp chairs
- Approved lifejackets and helmets
- Wetsuits, neoprene boots and thermals if required for your trip

What is **NOT** Included

- Lodging at River Valley Lodge after the river trip
- Extra alcoholic beverages, customer preferred soft drinks or juices
- The cost of emergency evacuation and medical care beyond first-aid - in an emergency, evacuation and emergency care will generally be covered by New Zealand ACC
- Guide Gratuities

We Provide

Lifejackets and Helmets

Life jackets must be worn at all times while riding on the boats. Passengers are required to wear company provided MNZ approved jackets and are not allowed to bring a personal life jacket of their own. Helmets are required on some sections of river at times, and while paddling an inflatable kayak on the Rangitikei or Ngaruroro Rivers at all times. At the pre-trip briefing guides will demonstrate how to fit your life jacket and helmet securely.

Tents

A two-person dome tent with rain fly will be provided.

Sleep Kits

We will provide a self inflating foam pad for each participant.

Chairs

Collapsible chairs are available at camp

NOTE: Please notify our office in advance if you prefer to bring your own camping gear.

Waterproof Dry Bags

Each participant will receive a large waterproof bag ("dry bag") for clothing and personal items. The bags are big and roomy and will have plenty of space for all of the clothing and gear we recommend. An identical bag contains the self inflating foam sleeping pad and tent, provided for your use during the river trip. This will be pre-packed.

Ammo Cans

You will also receive a 50-calibre ammo can. The ammo cans are accessible during the day, and so they are the best place to keep cameras, sun screen, reference materials, pens, notebooks, etc. (The dry bags are accessible, but take a little more effort to open and close.) The ammo cans are 145mm wide x 175mm high x 300mm long.

Although we make every effort to ensure the waterproof qualities of our dry bags and ammo cans, we must caution you that they are not guaranteed to be water tight under all potential conditions, especially if they are not closed properly or if they are immersed.

Packing List

Just a reminder that essential on-river equipment will be supplied by River Valley or Whanganui River Dories. This will include a Life jacket and on some river sections a helmet. In cooler conditions we will supply a range of warm gear that may include wetsuits, splash pants and neoprene boots.

Other on-river extras you should bring include:

- A pair of River shorts or swimming costume
- A hat to keep the sun off.
- Sunglasses and strap so you don't lose them. (a piece of string also works fine).
- Waterproof sunscreen and lip balm SPF15 minimum.
- Top and bottom Thermals to wear under the spray jacket and spray pants or just on their own.
- On-river footwear.

For evenings and around camp you should also bring:

- Lightweight long trousers.
- Quick dry shorts.
- Lightweight Long Sleeved shirt and a t-shirt.
- Fleece jacket.
- Thermal Top for cooler weather. Medium weight – Heavyweight. Capilene, merino or polypropylene is the best.
- Rain jacket - suitable for both on and off the boat
- Underwear.
- Sunhat for around camp.
- Glasses or Contact lenses. Disposable lenses are ideal.
- Toiletries. Toothbrush, toothpaste, biodegradable soap and shampoo.
- Forget the cosmetics and hair dryer! But we do suggest moisturizer.
- A 3-4 season sleeping bag (let us know if you require one from us)
- Travel Pillow.
- Small pack towel.
- Headlamp or head torch and spare batteries.
- Sandals/jandals or shoes/boots for wearing around camp and on hikes.
- Insect Repellent - essential for New Zealand sandflies
- Any medication you may be taking.

Optional items

- A journal for recording your river memories.
- Sketchpad.
- Photographic or video equipment. On most trips we provide a waterproof pelicase for these items. We recommend a cleaning kit as sand gets everywhere. Bring a spare memory card. Also bring spare batteries for your camera.
- Swiss Army Knife or Leatherman.
- An iPod or other music preferences
- A good book to read



Packing List Notes

Health Aids and Medication

If you require daily medication for such things as diabetes or hypertension, you should pack 2-3 separate containers of the medication and keep them in separate places during the river trip. Please advise the Trip Leader if you require cold storage or other special storage facilities for your medication. If you use eyeglasses, contact lenses, hearing aids, or other health aids, it's a smart idea to bring "extras" on the trip with you. You should secure glasses with a chain or strap. Bring extra batteries for hearing aids if possible. Bring extra solution and cleaning agents for contact lenses. The sun, wind, sand and water may irritate contact lens wearers. If you have a pair of regular eyeglasses or prescription sunglasses, you may want to bring them with you, just in case.

Photography Equipment

Most people want to document their river trip with photos. Although your camera will suffer some wear and tear and need a good cleaning when you get home, it should be relatively safe throughout the trip. There is room for your camera and other photo accessories in your ammo can. This container is accessible at all times. Bring enough memory cards and batteries to last your entire trip. There is no way to recharge batteries during the river trip.

Binoculars

Binoculars are nice to have if you enjoy close up views of birds, or natural features. We recommend small, lightweight models that will fit comfortably in your daypack and/or ammo can.

Footwear – Sandals, Athletic Shoes, Hiking Boots:

Good quality, comfortable, appropriate footwear is essential on the river. We recommend one pair of river sandals (similar to those made by Chaco or Teva). They can be worn on the boat and also on off-river hiking excursions. We also recommend one pair of athletic shoes as a backup, or as an alternative hiking shoe. Hiking boots are optional, but recommended if you need the foot/ankle support they provide if long or rugged hikes are included in your trip. You should consider a style of boot that is light weight, with good ventilation and constructed of synthetic material. Since we often cross streams, you will want hiking boots that won't be ruined if they are immersed.

Money & Gratuities

Gratuities are not expected in New Zealand, therefore gratuities for the guides are at your discretion as a gesture of thanks for their professionalism and service. An appropriate tip might range between 7% to 12% of the trip cost, per guest.

Miscellaneous

You may wish to bring a pad and pencil to keep notes about your trip. On hot days some sort of sarong can be good to wear in camp. Other items that might come in handy include a few carabineers to fasten items such as day packs and water bottles to each other and/or to the boat or your dry bag.

General Information

Health & Fitness

People of all ages have enjoyed this river trip with us. Our major concern is that participants be in basic good health and good physical condition. We do not recommend this style of trip for those with chronic heart trouble, back pain, arthritis, or for anyone recuperating for surgery. Pregnant women should check with their physicians. Please tell us if you have any health conditions of which we should be aware.

Youth/Children

We recommend children be at least 12 years of age for our Ngaruroro River and Rangitikei Headwaters raft trips. We want to be sure they have good cognitive ability in an "emergency" situation. On all our other multi day river trips there is a minimum age of 8 years.

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.

Meals

Our meals consist of a variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, and dairy products. They are nutritious and delicious. Although we do not serve a "vegetarian" menu, we do provide enough fresh produce and non-meat items that most vegetarian dieters get along fine. We are willing to try and accommodate special diet requests if we are advised well in advance of the trip. Please give us a call to discuss your particular diet needs. If your diet needs are unusually unique, we may suggest that you bring some of your own food items to supplement our menu.

Beverages

Cold water is available at all times on the boat and in camp. Coffee and assorted teas are available with breakfast and dinner. We also offer a small choice of fruit juice, soft drinks, and alcoholic beverages, including wine and beer. You may bring your own additional supply of wine, liquor and/or beer for the trip. Beverages must be in non-breakable cartons, plastic bottles, or cans.

Hand Washing

We emphasize sanitation and cleanliness on the river. It is important to keep everyone healthy while travelling in a group. Portable hand-washing devices are set up in every camp and during lunch breaks.

Sanitary Facilities

Portable toilet facilities are set up at each camp during trips on the Rangitikei or Ngaruroro Rivers. There are permanent toilet facilities at campsites on the Whanganui River. Feminine hygiene products can be disposed of in the toilet or with the regular trash.

Bathing & Solar Showers

You may bathe in any of the rivers we operate on utilizing biodegradable soaps and shampoos (free of detergents). Because the headwaters of the Rangitikei and Ngaruroro Rivers are generally cold, the best method for bathing is to follow the general rule of jump in and get wet, jump out and soap down, jump in and rinse off, and jump out and air dry! You should bathe only in calm water, shallow areas near the banks of the river. Be sure and have a least one companion nearby when you bathe. You may bring solar showers, but they often do not heat up enough during the day to deliver a hot shower.

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 for treatment or hospitalization.

In the event of an emergency at home, please have your family call our office at +64 6 3881444.

We will advise them of the best way to handle the situation. Because this is a trip of short duration, we will probably suggest that we wait until you complete the river trip before giving you the message, depending upon the nature of the emergency. If it is imperative that you be notified immediately, we will do our best to get word to you and to evacuate you from the river if necessary. The cost is your responsibility. Therefore, make sure you tell your family/friends that you wish to be notified only under certain specific conditions. If you have any questions or concerns, please call our office for further advice or information.

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.

Fishing

Fishing is a popular activity on some stretches of rivers on which we operate. Please let us know that you intend to fish and that you arrive with a current fishing licence for that area.

Reference and Reading Materials

It is always fun to know more about the area in which your trip is taking place. We suggest you study about the area prior to your river trip and bring along some maps and/or field guides to enhance your travel.

Special Needs

We will be happy to do our best to accommodate passengers with special needs if we are advised well in advance. Contact our office to discuss any specific requests.

Feedback

There are now many avenues to provide feedback about your experiences with us. You can communicate directly with us, or use a public forum such as Facebook or TripAdvisor. All feedback is appreciated.

Questions

Feel free to contact us and discuss any questions or concerns you might have in regard to your trip or this information packet. Our e-mail is:

thelodge@rivervalley.co.nz

Or call us toll-free at 0800 248666. For those calling from outside N.Z., our local number is +64 6 3881444. We enjoy the opportunity to chat with our customers.

The Journey





What To Expect On Your Trip

Camp Routine

Our guides will wake you early in the morning with a call for “coffee.” When you hear the “breakfast” call, it means time to come to the kitchen area. After eating your breakfast, you will have a chance to pack your personal camping gear. The guides will breakdown the kitchen and start to load the boats. You may carry your gear to the beach area in front of the boats and when the guides are ready, they will ask for your help loading personal dry bags. We ask passengers not to board the boats until all gear is stored securely. We stop during the day for lunch, usually on a sandy beach along the bank of the river. After a full day on the river, we will find a place to set up camp. We ask everyone who is able to help unload the boats. Guides will set up the kitchen and community camping gear while individuals set up their personal area. If you have physical limitations, our guides are happy to assist you. Soon after making camp, the guides will begin to cook dinner. This is often a good time to write in your journal, read a book, or take a refreshing swim.

Protection of Historical Sites

We may see, visit, or possibly camp within close proximity to protected cultural resources such as historical sites. Any disturbance to these resources is prohibited. We want to emphasize the importance of preserving, conserving, and protecting them so that future generations may experience their educational, aesthetic, and inspirational benefits. Our company, together with our river guides, has an ethical responsibility to protect cultural and historical sites. We wish to work for the long-term conservation and protection of these sites.

Off River Hiking

On some of our river trips there is the opportunity to do some off river hiking. Before each hike, the Trip Leader will describe the expected length of time for the stop, the distance to the destination, the trail conditions, and any other relevant information. All hiking is optional and often there is a choice to hike just part of the way.



Whio - Blue Duck

History and Education

Māori Settlement

Māori settled in Hawke's Bay around 1250–1300 AD. Over time settlements were established on the coast from Māhia in the north down to Pōrangahau in the south, and along rivers and waterways inland. Heretaunga and Te Whanganui-a-Orotū (Napier's inner harbour) were two important early settlement areas.

The people who became known as Ngāti Kahungunu arrived in the region some time during the 16th century.

The Ngaruroro River sits within the rohe or area of Ngāti Kahungunu. The rugged hills that surround the upper Ngaruroro River never supported a large community, but the fertile Heretaunga Plains further downstream became a principle area for this, the third largest Iwi grouping in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

This Iwi traces its ancestry back to the Takitimu canoe and Tamatea-pōkai-whenua-pōkai-moana (Tamatea who travelled over land, over sea), whose son, Kahungunu, gave his name to the tribe.

Kahungunu was quite a man with numerous exploits, as well as 9 wives and many children. The story of his courtship and marriage to the beautiful Rongomaiwahine became a legend in Māori history.

Ngāti Kahungunu would be better described as a collection of smaller Iwi and hapu groupings rather than one overall tribe. Ngāti Kahungunu became the dominant tribal group in Hawke's Bay through a combination of warfare and strategic marriage. However, existing hapu (sub-tribes) maintained distinct identities, and later Ngāti Kahungunu descendants claimed kinship links with them as well. In fact, the people did not think of themselves as belonging to a singular, united tribe called Ngāti Kahungunu until the late 18th century. Before this, Māori society in the region was based around hapū containing a chief and his immediate community. This changed through power struggles over land with other tribes, combined with the arrival of Europeans in New Zealand, eventually creating unity through adversity.

The Iwi lost most of its land to European settlement. This land was often purchased under some quite questionable circumstances and is now the subject of Treaty claims.

European Settlement

In the 1830s whalers and traders were the first Europeans to live permanently in the area. They often married Maori women which gave them an opening into Maori society, and who also served as mediators over any disputes.

The Missionaries were not far behind, with Mission Stations being established from the early 1840s, including one founded by William Colenso.

From 1849 Māori land was purchased by the government and leased or sold to settlers who established stations to graze sheep and, in some cases, cattle. From 1862 settlers were able to buy land directly from Māori.

Many of these stations were thousands, and even tens of thousands, of acres (0.4 hectares) in size. Most were located in Central Hawke's Bay and north towards Wairoa.

The major towns of the district, Napier and Hastings were established in 1855 and 1860 respectively, however on the upper Ngaruroro where we raft it was the big sheep Stations that dominated the area, and to a certain extent, even though much land has been retired into forest, still do.

The point where we start our trip, Kuripapango, once had a busy Hotel that catered for the horse drawn mail and passenger coaches, and the men employed to transport wool from the big Stations to the wharves of Napier. The steep hills and rugged nature of the land gave this road the name - "The Gentle Annie".

All this is long gone, however the road, now tar sealed, is a beautiful drive from Hawkes Bay to Taihape.

Geology

The geology of New Zealand is noted for its volcanic activity, earthquakes and geothermal areas because of its position on the boundary of the Australian and Pacific Plates.

Stretching from East Cape to Cook Strait is the rocky backbone of the North Island – a series of ranges made from greywacke (hard grey sandstone with layers of mudstone). The Raukūmara, Huiarau, Kaimanawa, Kaweka, Ruahine, Tararua, Rimutaka and Aorangi ranges are the northern continuation of the Southern Alps, but are rarely higher than 1,500 metres. They form a barrier across the North Island – the Manawatū Gorge provides the only low-level access between east and west.

This barrier is the result of the collision of the above mentioned plates, with the Pacific Plate being subducted beneath the Australian Plate. This tension has resulted in numerous earthquakes, including the major Napier earthquake of 1931.

The Ngaruroro River has carved its way through a section of the Kaweka Range, part of the barrier range. On the trip you will see how the greywacke rock has been twisted and shattered as a result of the tectonic upheavals.

Plants

Before European purchase and land clearance, vegetation was similar to what characterised much of New Zealand/Aotearoa. The lower reaches of the river would have flowed through magnificent Podocarp forest and swamps. The dominant trees species would have been Totara, Rimu, Matai, Miro and Kahikatea, with an understory of hardwood species, shrubs and tree ferns.

Higher up the river, the banks are still cloaked with native vegetation, with regenerating Manuka and Kanuka giving way to Beech dominant forest.

Birds

New Zealand/Aotearoa before the coming of human beings was a giant aviary. Most ecological niches that elsewhere were filled by mammals, were here filled by birds. In fact the only mammals present were 3 species of Bat.

Unfortunately, the loss of habitat and the effect of introduced mammalian predators has not been kind to our native bird species. Our Islands have one of the highest extinction rates in the world, with many species, even with intensive management and pest control, only just holding on. Our Stoat Trapping program is part of the effort to protect and rebuild our populations of native birds.

On the river we are likely to see Kereru (Wood Pigeon), Kahu (Harrier Hawk), Piwakawaka (Fantail), Tui, Makomako (Bellbird), Kotare (Kingfisher), Parera (Grey Duck - mostly hybridised with introduced Mallards), Warou (Welcome Swallow), Riroriro (Grey Warbler), Poaka (Pied Stilt) amongst others. If we are lucky we will also see Karearea (Falcon) and Whio (Blue Duck).

Likely Weather

Hawkes Bay is one of the warmer regions of New Zealand. Its weather is characterised by long hot dry summers and autumns, cooler winters, and changeable spring conditions.

As our trips on the Ngaruroro are Spring only, be prepared for hot or cold, dry or wet. In saying that, on average the conditions are a month ahead of what you would experience on the Rangitikei at the same time of year.

