



HAMILTON & WAIKATO

The riverside city of Hamilton is the Waikato region's main metropolitan hub and a centre for business excellence and innovation. Its vibrant nightlife, plentiful parks and gardens, and cultural vibe combine to create a unique destination that offers something for all tastes. There's surfing to be done in the beach town of Raglan, movie magic to discover at the Hobbiton™ Movie Set, underground adventure to be had in the otherworldly Waitomo Caves and 100% organic award-winning tea to be sampled at Zealong tea plantation.

ACCESS

International visitors will fly into Auckland International Airport and travel 90 minutes South to Hamilton by shuttle bus or rental car. Domestic visitors can fly directly into Hamilton Airport, 15 km from the city centre. The 15 minute drive into Hamilton can be taken by taxi, shuttle bus or rental car. Hamilton Airport is serviced domestically by Air New Zealand with direct flights to and from Wellington, Christchurch and Palmerston North. Hamilton is the gateway to the central North Island regions of Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Rotorua, Coromandel, Ruapehu and Lake Taupō.

VENUES

The city's largest venue is the award-winning Claudelands Conference & Exhibition Centre, located a short walk from Hamilton's central city. Claudelands can host up to 1,200 delegates in its conference centre or 6,000 in its large acoustically-designed auditorium. Mystery Creek Events Centre, provides a multitude of conference options, from small well-appointed conference suites to a large convention centre with room to host 2,000 people theatre style. For truly huge events, the convention centre can be combined with the 6,000 square metre exhibition area to seat up to 8,000 people.

Other options include SKYCITY Hamilton, with theatre capacity for up to 500 people, and Novotel Tainui Hamilton Hotel and Distinction Hotel Hamilton, both of which offer conference facilities and accommodation on site.

A great multi-day conference wouldn't be complete without some memorable social functions in the evenings, and Hamilton has plenty on offer. Hold a gala dinner at one of the city's beautiful waterside venues, cruise down New Zealand's longest river, the Waikato River, arrange a unique dining experience in the award winning Hamilton Gardens or Hampton Downs Motorsports Park and Event Centre. For a truly memorable experience, arrange a function for delegates at Hobbiton™ Movie Set, near Matamata. This stunning slice of New Zealand was the setting for The Shire in The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings movies.

Facts:

- Population: 759,000 people
- 15 km Airport to City
- Accommodation: 2,500 + rooms in Hamilton
- Venue capacity: 8,000 theatre style

Claim to fame:

- One of the richest agricultural and pastoral areas in the world
- World famous Waitomo Caves
- Hobbiton™ Movie Set



Claudelands Conference & Exhibition Centre

ACCOMMODATION

Hamilton is well versed in hosting large scale events and there are extensive accommodation options available. Inner city hotels are supported by a selection of motels, self-contained apartments, rural stays, luxury lodgings, boutique hotels and motels and Airbnbs. There are more than 2,500 rooms available close to the central city, and a further 1,500 across the rest of the Waikato region.

GETTING AROUND

Finding your way around Hamilton is easy. Most hotels are a short walk or coach ride from major conference venues and the city centre. Transport options in Hamilton include bus services, taxis, Uber and shuttles. Luxury coach services can be arranged for conference, dinner and airport transfers, or arrive in style by helicopter or limousine.

MEMORABLE INCENTIVE EXPERIENCES

EXPERIENCE movie magic at the Hobbiton™ Movie Set near Matamata. Hobbiton was the setting for The Shire in The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit and you can explore the hobbit holes, drink at the Green Dragon Inn and hear behind the scenes stories of what went on during filming.

PADDLE across Lake Karapiro. The scenic lake is famous for hosting the World Rowing Championships in 2010, and the calm conditions also make it ideal for kayaking and gliding across the water in Māori waka ama outrigger canoes.

INDULGE in some of the best gourmet offerings New Zealand has to offer. Dine at an award-winning restaurant in Hamilton or visit Vilagrad Winery, Kaimai Cheese Company or Zealong Tea Estate.

SOAR high above Hamilton in a hot air balloon to see the city and the rolling countryside of the Waikato region in all its glory. On a fine day, an early morning flight lets you enjoy the spectacular sunrise.

RELAX on some of New Zealand's top beaches in the nearby Bay of Plenty. Savour some of the region's delicious fresh produce or arrange a tour to New Zealand's only marine volcano - White Island.

CATCH A WAVE in Raglan – one of New Zealand's best known surf towns. With its black sand beaches, great surfing, tranquil harbour and laidback vibe, Raglan is a slice of Kiwi heaven. Learn to surf or stand-up paddle board, or visit the world famous surf breaks nearby.

PRE AND POST TOURING OPTIONS

VISIT the peaceful tree-lined streets of Cambridge to discover chic cafes and interesting antique stores and boutiques. The town has a reputation for breeding some of the world's best racehorses. Horse stud tours are available for those interested in equine pursuits.

RACE around an international race circuit at Hampton Downs Motorsport Park. The facility is a world class centre for motorsport and corporate hospitality and offers a range of exhilarating experiences, from hot laps in Ferraris to driver training challenges.

ENJOY world class trout fishing in the neighbouring Lake Taupō region. Make sure to visit Taupō township, the nearby Huka Falls and the internationally acclaimed Kinloch Club championship golf course.

WANDER through the picturesque award winning Hamilton Gardens to discover a variety of themed gardens, from traditional Māori and Italian Renaissance to American Modernist and Indian Char Bagh and the newly opened Mansfield Garden based on short story The Garden Party written by Katherine Mansfield.

DISCOVER an underground playground like no other in the magnificent Waitomo Caves. Take an awe-inspiring walk and boat ride to see glowworms and ancient rock formations or challenge yourself on an abseiling and 'black water rafting' team building adventure.

EXPLORE some of New Zealand's most fascinating urban and rural landscapes by bike. The Waikato region is home to a collection of spectacular cycling trails, including the Waikato River Trails, the Hauraki Rail Trail and the Timber Trail.



Hauraki Rail Trail



Hamilton Gardens



Raglan



Waitomo Caves



Hobbiton™ Movie Set