



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 the world's purest oolong tea to be sampled at Zealong tea plantation.

ACCESS

Visitors flying to the Hamilton and Waikato region will land at Hamilton International Airport, 15km from the city centre. The 15 minute drive into Hamilton can be taken by taxi, coach or rental car. International visitors can access the airport by private charter or easily arrange connecting flights to Hamilton through New Zealand's major international gateway cities of Auckland and Christchurch. For those who want to drive, Hamilton is less than 90 minutes' south of Auckland and north of Rotorua. Hamilton Airport is serviced domestically by Air New Zealand and is a gateway to the central North Island regions of Waikato, Bay of Plenty, 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 Kingsgate Hamilton Hotel, 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 the Waikato River or arrange a unique dining experience in the centre of the Hampton Downs international motorsport track. 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: 323,000 people
- 14 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.



Waitomo Caves

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 and shuttles. Luxury coach services can be arranged for conference, dinner and airport transfers, or arrive in style by helicopter or limousine.

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 and boutique hotels and motels. 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.

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 Maori 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.

MEMORABLE 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.

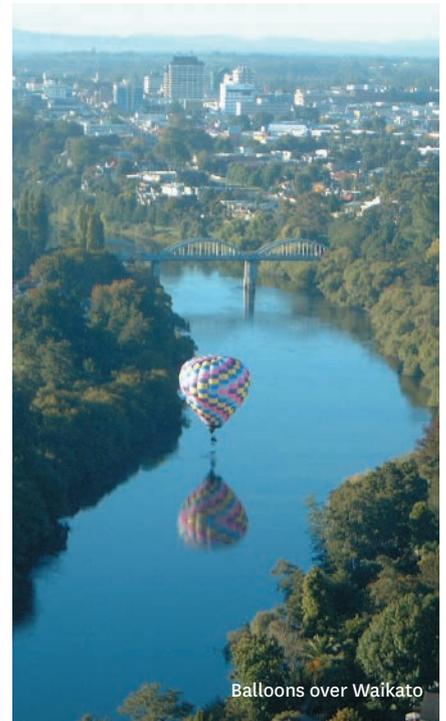
WANDER through the picturesque Hamilton Gardens to discover a variety of themed gardens, from traditional Maori and Italian Renaissance to American Modernist and Indian Char Bagh.

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' teambuilding 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



Balloons over Waikato



Dining in Hobbiton™



Hobbiton™ Movie Set