

TAXICAT Adventures

DISCOVER THE WESTERN BAYS



2023 / 2025

TRADE MANUAL

Western Bays of
Lake Taupō



WELCOME

Taxicat Adventures shares the Majestic Western Bays of Lake Taupō with year round tourism experiences.



Known as the Jewel of Lake Taupō, the Western Bays provides the backdrop for Taxicat Adventures year round tourism experiences. Our passion is to share the “Jewel of Lake Taupō” with personal, small group tourism experiences.

Local owner/operators, Ian and Jill Cammell have lived in the Lake Taupō region for some 23 years. For Ian, moving here began a love affair of the region that has deepened over the years.

Over fourteen years ago Ian began skippering on the lake and over that time he has discovered some of the more remote hidden gems, only found in the Western Bays of Lake Taupō and only accessible by boat.

Ian, a story teller at heart, loved the idea of transporting small groups of people into these hidden gems to share his passion for our piece of paradise here in the central north island of New Zealand.

It took three years of research and planning taking into account vessel design and fuel efficient propulsion to minimise emissions, wake and noise pollution as much as practical.

Our goal is for day to day best practices to ensure we can offer visitors to Lake Taupō the very best personal experience while minimising our impact on the environment.

Taxicat Adventures has been awarded a bronze Qualmark and Covid Clean accreditation.

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TAXICAT

Our vessel and seasonal guide

Our Vessel

- 6.7m catamaran with an internal beam of around 2m.
- Purpose built by Blackdog Cats in Whangarei, Northland NZ.
- 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 and summer extra daily trip

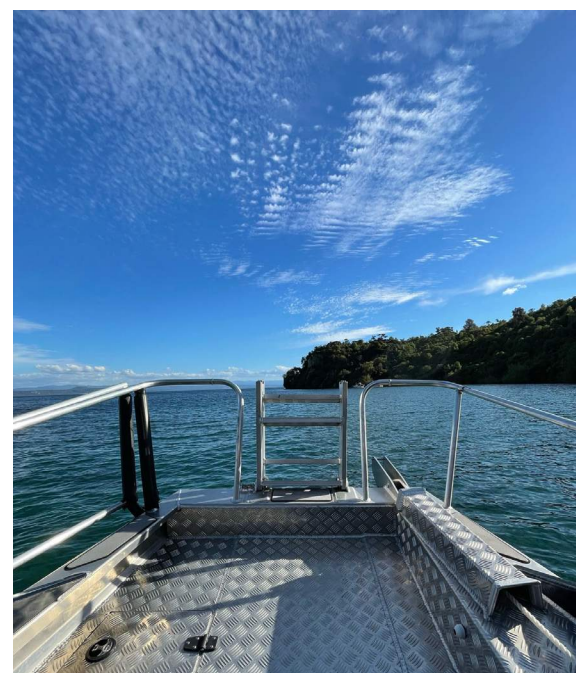
Western Bay Adventurer

Year round

Ultimate MTB Sightseer

Year round

We are closed Christmas Day and Good Friday.





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

Kinloch is a picturesque village in the most northerly end of Lake Taupō, 20 kilometres by road northwest of Taupō on the North Island Volcanic Plateau of New Zealand.

It is an in-the-know hideaway, particularly for keen golfers and mountain bikers.

Kinloch is affectionately known as the gateway to the Western Bays and is in the Waikato region.

With car rental options available at the Taupō Airport, self – drive is a great option for exploring this local area.

There is all day free parking to be found opposite the Kinloch Marina on Mata Place, behind the fire station.

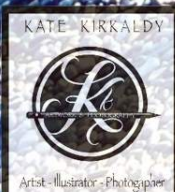
There are a range of accommodation options available in Kinloch from Glamping to Bed & Breakfasts to 5 star Luxury lodge accommodation.

The little village boasts a great General Store and little coffee cart.

For those in the know, Kinloch is home to the world-class champion golf course designed by Jack Nicklaus, one of the most enduring golf legends and world class mountain biking trails known as the Great Lake Trails.



Map of Lake Taupō



THE WESTERN BAYS

The Western Bays of Lake Taupō is normally accessible only by boat; with the exception of the lakes edge at Waihora which can also be accessed by a 4 Hr hike.

Due to the limited access options the Western Bays boast an unspoilt beauty full of hidden gems.

A world class destination in its own right!

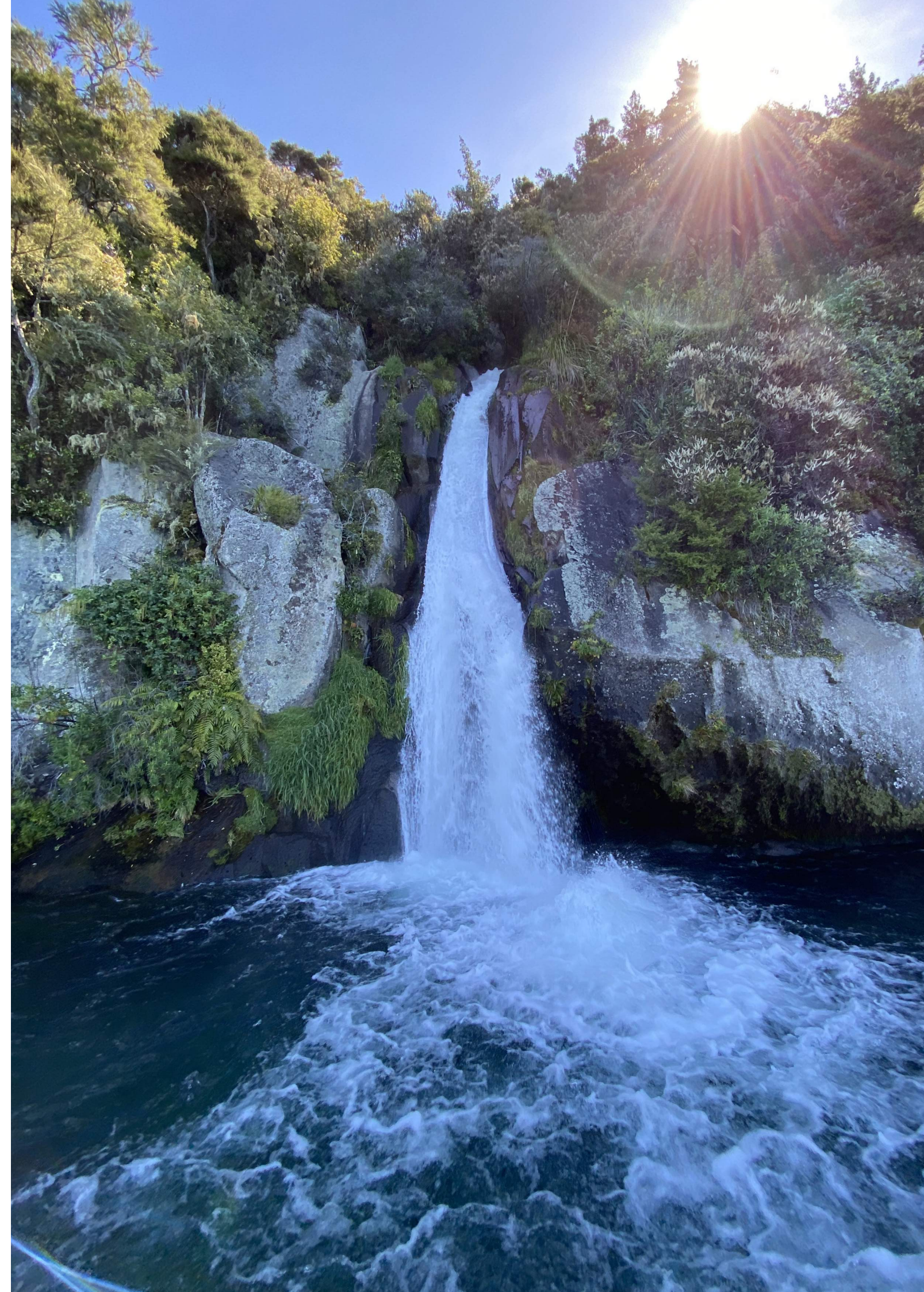
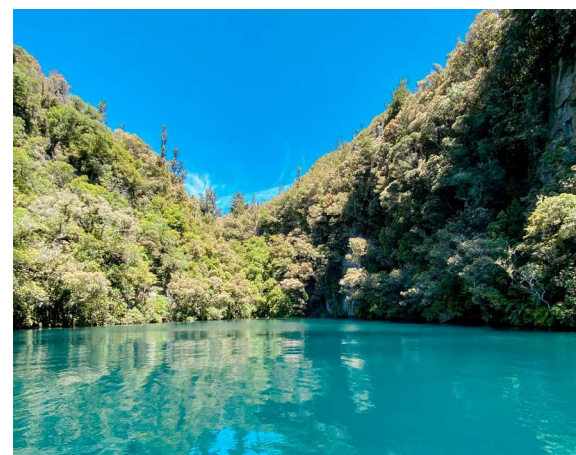
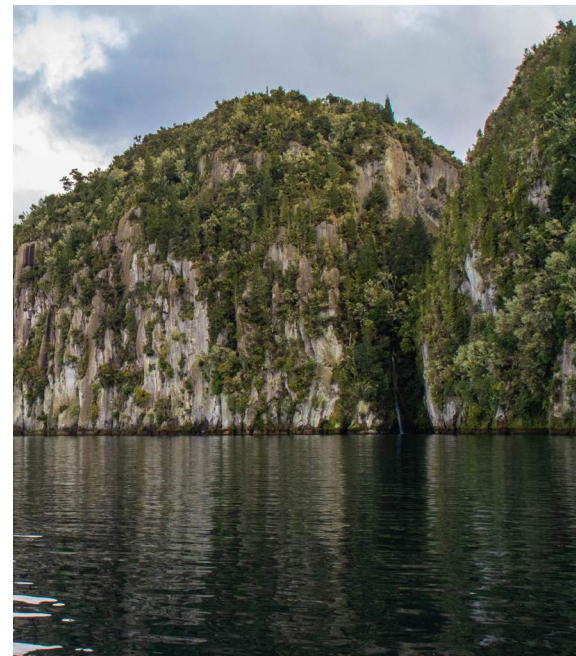
Away from the crowds, come and make once in a lifetime memories onboard Taxicat's small group, big adventure tours.

Experience the pristine bays, rock faces and waterfalls of the Western Bays of Lake Taupō.

Join our skipper Ian for a fun and personalized adventure, getting up close to waterfalls, sheer cliff faces, hidden ravines and more.

With a choice of three tour durations, Taxicat has a tour to suit every itinerary.

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





WESTERN BAYS TASTER

Chasing Waterfalls
1 Hour 30 Minutes

Designed for the time poor.

Included:

- Cruise along, exploring dramatic cliff lines
- Visit 3 waterfalls
- Take a short bush walk into the beautiful flora and fauna
- Enjoy Ian's entertaining and informative local knowledge

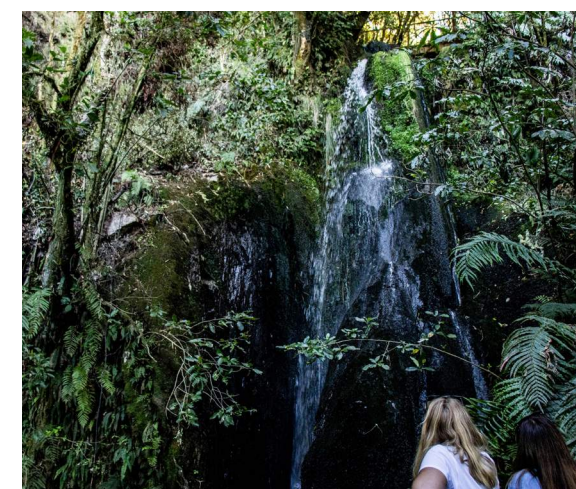
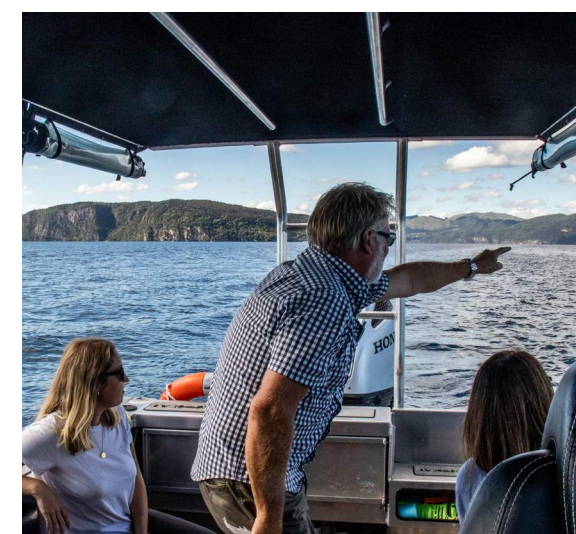
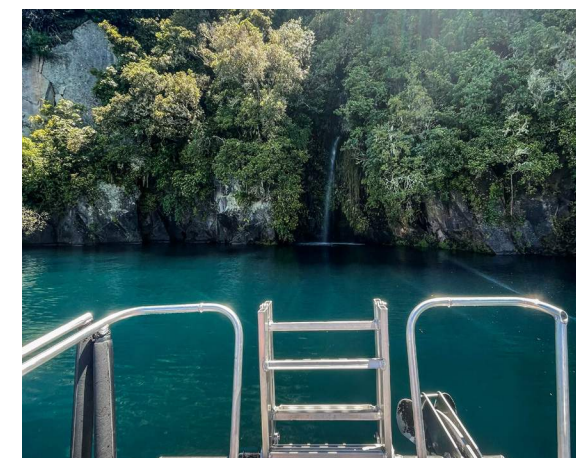
Tour Description:

Surging up onto the plane, your journey out into the western bays begins.

Stand up on the bow as Ian pushes Taxicat closer into the spray at the base of the Otopoto falls. Cruise the rocky shoreline along cliffs plummeting into the depths of the lake. Discover the beautiful Tutaewaeroa falls hidden behind a rocky outcrop, cascading over a rocky ledge, enticing you to put your hand under.

Tucked up in the top north-western corner of the bays is a hidden gem called Kotukutuku landing, watch as the sandy bottom rises up and becomes a beach where Taxicat noses up and unfolds the ladder. The short bush walk up the ravine reveals your last waterfall. But don't miss the views of the lake as you climb the trail.

By the time you have idled back into the Kinloch marina you have travelled around thirty kīm and been where not many have been and time seems to have been forgotten.



WESTERN BAYS TASTER

Chasing Waterfalls
2 Hour 30 Minute

A more leisurely tour.

Included:

Enjoy all that the 90-minute Taster tour includes PLUS

- Stop off at the secluded Waihora Bay for a complimentary refreshment and time exploring the lakes edge.
- Enjoy a seasonal swim

Tour Description:

Our 150-minute extended Taster tour will see you cover over 35km of dramatic cliff lines and majestic scenery. Designed to be more leisurely, stop off at the secluded Waihora beach to enjoy a complimentary refreshment and take the plunge in the crystal-clear waters for a seasonal swim or explore the beach with its beautifully formed rounded pumice and yellow lupin flowers?

Often, you are the only people there having the bay to yourselves.





WESTERN BAYS ADVENTURER

3 Hour 30 Minute

The full monty.

Included:

- Discover the whole of the Western Bays
- Cruise along, exploring dramatic cliff lines
- Visit 3 waterfalls
- Take a short bush walk into the beautiful flora & fauna
- Discover the remote Te Papa Bay
- Enjoy a complimentary beverage and biscuit
- Refresh with a seasonal swim
- Dabble in some seasonal paddle-boarding.
- Explore a hidden ravine & discover the mighty Karangahape cliffs
- Enjoy Ian's entertaining and informative local knowledge

Tour Description:

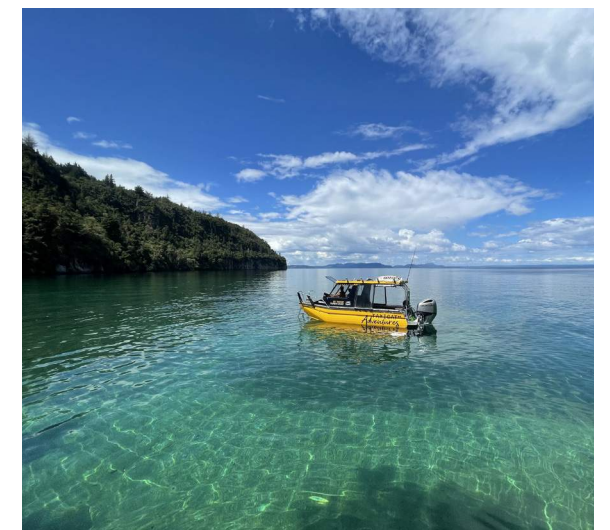
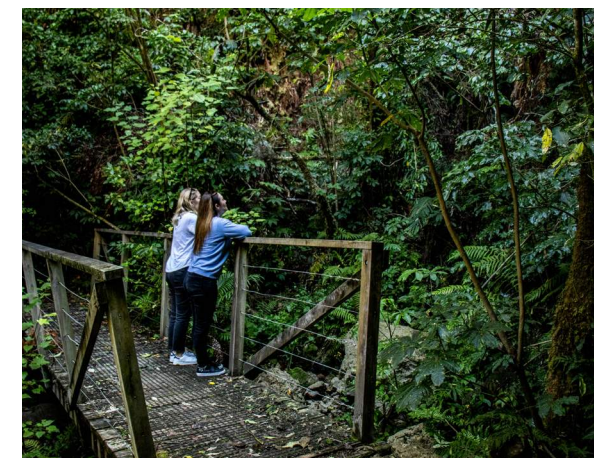
Tucked up in the top north-western corner of the Western bays is a hidden gem called Kotukutuku landing, watch as the sandy bottom rises up and becomes a beach. The short bush walk up the ravine reveals your first waterfall. But don't miss the views of the lake as you climb the trail.

Stand up on the bow as Ian pushes Taxicat closer into the spray at the base of the Otupoto falls. Cruise the rocky shoreline along cliffs plummeting into the depths of the lake. Discover the beautiful Tutaewaeroa falls hidden behind a rocky outcrop, cascading over a rocky ledge, enticing you to put your hand under.

Cruising south you will come across the beautiful Waihaha bay, a long sandy beach at the end of the Waihaha valley on route to one of Ian's favourite places, Te Papa bay. The perfect spot to anchor for a BYO picnic, enjoy a swim in the crystal-clear waters and dabble in a bit of paddle-boarding.

Discover a mysterious hidden ravine where Ian noses the boat in, and in, the bush closing in around you. Then out and around the point to the escape cave which has its own story.

Head across the bottom end of the western bays to the mighty Karangahape cliffs which tower hundreds of feet above the Lake, as if guarding the southern end of the western bays, where time seems to have stood still, seemingly impervious to a changing world. A place where nature rules.





GREAT LAKE TRAILS

The Great Lake Trails are one of the 22 Great rides in New Zealand and are part of the Nga Haerenga NZ cycle trails.

Taxicat offers boat transfers between the trails and Kinloch and offer an exclusive private charter MTB/Lake cruise combo package on the Orakau to Kawakawa trail. We have chosen this trail for our package as it is suitable for anyone confident in riding a bike.

More information can also be found on the Love Taupō Website.

These all-season mountain bike trails feature lush forest and wetlands, waterfalls, beaches, a volcanic gorge and ever-changing views from elevated lookouts.

The Great Lake Trails are a journey of volcanic discovery around the rim of Lake Taupō, a supervolcano that was formed after one of Earth's largest known eruptions. The volcano ejected pumice over the land, gifting the area with free-draining soils perfect for all-seasons riding.

Flowing, purpose-built mountain bike trails will

take you through lush native forest, past sparkling waterfalls, towering volcanic cliffs and over deep gorges. Striking rock formations depict the area's fascinating volcanic history and a stop at Echo Rock will have you thinking you're standing near a waterfall. Ride to elevated lookouts with spectacular views of snowy volcanic peaks and down to secluded swimming beaches to cool off in the crystal-clear waters of Lake Taupō.

Consistently rated highly for rider experience, the Great Lake Trails boast exhilarating downhill, fun switchbacks and cambered berms to deliver true singletrack heaven for riders. The trails were built by mountain bikers, for mountain bikers, realising the pipedream of a community that lives and breathes cycling.

For more information about the Great Lake Trails, trail head transfers, bike hire etc please contact our partners FourB bike hire & tours fourb.nz or phone Jonny on 021 0236 3439.



Map and information credit to Lovetaupo.com

ULTIMATE PACKAGE

Half Day GLT Mountain Bike & Lake Sightseer cruise
Min 4 Adults

Taxicat have partnered with our friends from FourB bike Hire & Tours to bring you an exclusive MTB trail/sightseer combo suitable for anyone who is confident in riding a bike.

We have chosen to package the Orakau to Kawakawa Bay trail as it is suitable for anyone. While this trail is officially a grade three, our opinion is that it's mostly grade 2 with some grade 3 sections. Previous mountain bike experience is not necessary on this ride.

Package includes:

Shuttle with FourB to the trail head

Ride the Orakau to Kawakawa Bay leg of the Great Lake Trails on an e-bike

Jump onboard Taxicat from the lakes edge at Kawakawa Bay

Cruise the majestic sights of the Northern end of the Western Bays

Take a short bush walk to the Kotukutuku stream waterfall

Visit the Tutaewaeroa Stream waterfall and the impressive Otupotu falls

MTB Trail Information:

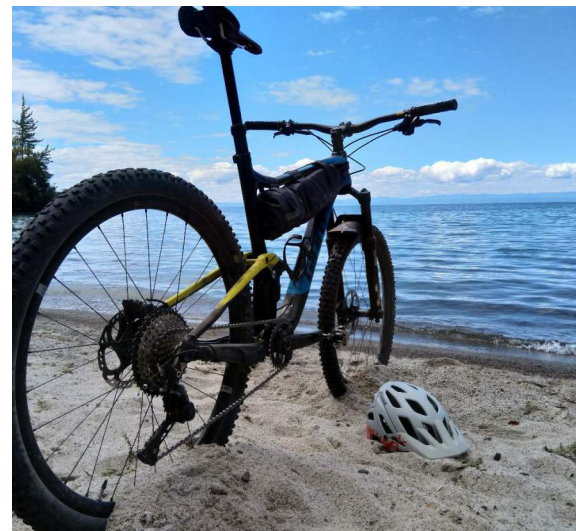
Orakau - Kawakawa
10.25km | Grade 3 | up to 1.5 hours

The Orakau trail is a nice gradual downhill which takes you through stunning native wetlands before dropping you into the secluded Kawakawa Bay.

Cruise Information:

Western Bays Taster
Scenic sightseer | 1.5 hours

Experience the pristine bays, rock faces and waterfalls of the Northern end of the Western Bays.





GRAZING PLATTERS

by The Good Graze Co.

Taxicat has partnered with The Good Graze Company to make available for pre-order gorgeous platter boxes.

Lake Taupō's top and most reputable platter catering company, The Good Graze Company, offer you gorgeous platter boxes to pre-order and enjoy when booking on Taxicats' 3.5 Hr Adventurer trip.

With 15 years of experience in the food and events industry, you can be certain that they have a fair idea of what they're doing.

The Good Graze Company platters are easy no-fuss affairs. Endeavouring to use only locally sourced, delicious ingredients to ensure that their platters aren't only art for the eyes, but of course for the taste buds and puku (tummy) as well.

With an array of colours, textures and tastes - everyone looooooves their food.

Also available as an add-on to your platter order is a range of gourmet sliders

pulled pork and slaw | sweet chilli chicken & sweet pickle | mini cheeseburger | smoked chicken brie & cranberry | kumara rosti w/avo cherry toms and a balsamic reduction | lamb & tzatziki |

Pre-order is required 48 Hrs prior to your departure with Taxicat. Platter cancellation: There will be no refund offered if the delivery falls within a 24 hour period of cancellation.



