

Foxton A Tale of Taonga, Treasures and Fizz



Te Awahou Riverside Cultural Park is the visitor centre of the region.

Foxton is a town that nostalgic childhood memories are made of. Summer swims at the beach, picnics and whitebaiting adventures at the riverside, the taste of Foxton Fizz, and some of the best fish and chips in Aotearoa.

But new generations of visitors are discovering Foxton – exploring excitement of a different kind. This heartland Horowhenua town is reinventing itself at great speed.

Reconnect with nature, yourself and loved ones

There's plenty of adventures to be found – for the whole family. The cable wakeboard park in town attracts tens of thousands every year. The award-winning pump track for bikes and skateboards at Foxton Beach caters to the young adrenaline junkies and those a little older... Or you could hire a jet-ski and leisurely explore the Manawatū River.

New eateries have started a coffee culture revival. Along with existing cafes and takeaway joints, Foxton is home to a kiwi cuisine, bringing a big city vibe to a small town.

Reminders of a different time

But the real beauty of the Foxton experience lies in... how it slows you down. Take a walk down Main Street, and it's as if you step back into another age – the way we once were. Folks will greet you with a nod, a kia ora, or a gidday. Check out the quirky boutique shops, and add to your wardrobe or walk away with stylish home decor.

Old 19th-century architecture has been preserved and restored here, as a reminder of the times when there was a flourishing port, called the 'Gateway to the Manawatū' by the pioneers.

The wairua of cultural harmony

Your must-visit attraction is Te Awahou Riverside Cultural Park, with its award-winning centrepiece Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom. Have a stroll through this modern multi-cultural facility with two fascinating museums and a stylish art gallery – telling the stories of Mana Whenua and Dutch immigrants, side by side with tales of Foxton's early days and a thriving flax industry.

You'll see the Park from State Highway 1, with a giant Dutch windmill stretching its blades into the sky – spinning on most days to grind flour. Climb to



A town with well preserved 19th Century heritage.



Whakairo by Tamati McGregor, treasured taonga in the Piriharekeke museum.



Oranjehof tells the quirky story of Dutch immigrants.

the top, as you chat with the miller, to feel and hear the 17th-century design wooden cogs and wheels turning and groaning.

Experience hands-on, living culture

Walk around the grounds where different cultures and arts mingle, offering a raft of interactive attractions.

Where else can you chat with a flax historian who will start up a hundred-year-old noisy Flax Stripper machine? Right next to a whare with whakairo carving and tā moko artistry? In a Park resplendent with traditional and hyper-modern taonga.

If you enjoy doing lots of different things? This is your kind of place.

Idyllic location

Turn off SH1, and drive into Foxton town. Within a minute you're at the Cultural Park, with easy, no-fuss, free parking. Everything is within walking distance. It's peaceful, and the various attractions will keep young and old entertained for hours.

This is truly an idyllic spot. Stroll through a riverbank reserve with a playground and electric BBQ sites. Listen to birdsong and the echos of mooing cows in the green paddocks across the river.

These days, Foxton is funky and fun. And those origins lie in the beauty of an emerging partnership, which the town is creating between the different cultures that make up our nation.

Come for the day - stay for the weekend

It's easy to spend a day here and get active! Go bird-watching, fishing, surfing or paddleboarding – in the river or the waves at Foxton Beach. Hire an e-bike at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom. This is flat countryside with plenty of bicycle paths to enjoy.

Taste some innovative cuisine, or our country's best wines and craft beers in beachy settings. Stay for the night, at the spacious camping grounds, motels, or cute BnBs.

Just like the godwits that fly in every spring from Siberia – to settle in the Unesco status wetlands at the mouth of the Manawatū river – you'll want to keep coming back to discover more.

'Proudly Foxton' generously supported this article.

Facebook: Foxtonandthebeach.

Instagram: #proudlyfoxton

ANNUAL EVENTS

Matariki: Fri 16 July

Spring Fling

Teddy Bears' Picnic

Easter Fair

Big Dutch Day Out

Night lights over Foxton

Labour Weekend

Waitangi Day

Easter Sunday

End of April