

Waimarama Maori Tours

Havelock North, Hawkes Bay

Personal Maori Experience



One of the most authentic experiences of living Maori culture and heritage in New Zealand.

Robert Mac Donald is a historian, writer and respected elder of his Ngati Kurukuru tribe. He was raised in the small coastal community of Waimarama where he still lives today. His very special tours give you unfettered access to the world of Maori rarely seen by outsiders. Robert has a rich Maori heritage. He is knowledgeable and articulate and an excellent and interesting story teller. With humour and grace he will share his personal insights with you. Waimarama Maori started this tourism business as a way to further protect and safeguard our local culture and heritage. Visitors give us a reason to know and re-tell the stories of our ancestors. We are able to get our young ones involved and the whole community come together to help accomplish this. These tours, and this business, provides employment to our people, and gives them the chance to bring their traditions and legends to life for our visitors.



A day in the life of a Maori Elder

Walk on ancestral sacred lands where people loved, fought and died over 700 years ago. Visit the native plant nursery where today the family strives to restore, conserve and protect bush areas. Understand the unique challenges of combining all of this in a contemporary and viable farming business. Visit with his family at their ancestral home and at their Marae reservation. Let one of our elders share with you these sacred sites: the bush lore, the folk lore, the culture and the language: all of which continue to shape the hopes and aspirations of the people today. Share a meal at a local Hawke's Bay restaurant.

Departs flexible | Duration 5 hours

Te Mata Peak and Celestial Pou Tour

Visit the Celestial Compass and learn how our ancestors journeyed from one-side of the world to the other using ancient navigational tools. If you are an early riser, this is such a great place to see the sun-rise. Leaving the ancient navigational tools, we will make our way atop of the lofty Te Mata Peak in Havelock North. Where you will enjoy the panoramic views across the plains to the summits of the five pillars that hold up the heavens. Let a descendant of the legendary giant Te Mata, after whom the peak is named, provide their insider's perspective to our local Maori People and relate stories of historical and contemporary Maori culture to provide you with their unique and personal point of view.

Departs flexible | Duration 2 hours

Walk with the Ancestors

We start our tour where our story begins: on the shores of Waimarama beach where the great migration canoe Takitimu was dragged ashore to make repairs over 800 years ago. From the coast, folklore we visit the remnant of Hakikino. As you walk the pathways and experience the remaining pockets of native plants, native forests and wetland areas, you will gain insight as to how these ancient people lived here and appreciate why this fortress settlement would dominate this coastline for over 300 years. The preservation of this culturally important and archaeologically significant site is a fascinating mix of old-world wisdom and new world innovations. Embracing all that is available today, a native plant nursery was established and the Hakikino Conservation Reserve was created. This mix of old and new is highlighted once again as we return to the coast, almost to where things began. We will visit the present day Marae reservation where the cultural heartbeat of the people still beats strongly today.

Let one of our elders share with you these sacred sites: the bush folklore, the culture and the language: all of which continue to shape the hopes and aspirations of the people today. This tour provides you with an insider's perspective on being Maori and relates historical and contemporary Maori culture from a unique and personal point of view. A friendly and relaxed encounter.

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A moderate level of fitness is required. We recommend that you wear comfortable walking shoes.

Departs flexible | Duration 2 hours



Directions

Transport available from Napier, Havelock and other locations \$

Terms

CHILD POLICY Family Friendly. Under 15 free with 2 adults.

CANCELLATION 24 hours 100% | cancellation due to weather or mechanical reasons Full Refund

SEASON Open year round

CHRISTMAS Closed Christmas Day

Accommodation in this area

- [Breckenridge Lodge](#)