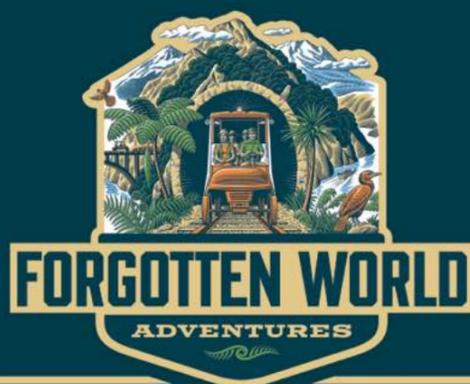


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# THE EPIC

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## THE EPIC

# AN UNFORGETTABLE 4-DAY GUIDED ADVENTURE WITH FULL IMMERSION IN THE REGION'S DRAMATIC LANDSCAPES

Explore the entire railway - travel the 142km length of the heritage line. Stay at the iconic Whangamōmona Hotel in the self-proclaimed Republic, enjoy a second overnight in Whanganui and a third at award-winning Blue Duck Station, an outdoor enthusiast's playground on the banks of the Whanganui and Retaruke Rivers, surrounded by the Whanganui National Park. Travel along the historic Whanganui River Road to Pipiriki, journey back up the majestic Whanganui River on the longest commercial jet boat ride in the Southern Hemisphere (120km), enjoy a guided bush walk to the Bridge to Nowhere and conclude with lunch at Lauren's Lavender Farm. A fully immersive adventure brimming with jaw-dropping scenery at every turn of the rail, road and river with memorable storytelling throughout the Forgotten World region from expert local guides.

<b>Duration:</b>	4 days
<b>Check-in:</b>	7am Forgotten World Motel
<b>Returns:</b>	2pm Forgotten World Motel (Day 4)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Fully immersive 4-day adventure in the Forgotten World
- ◆ 142km 2-day rail cart journey; travel the full length of the heritage line
- ◆ 120km jet boat safari along the Whanganui River; longest commercial jet boat ride in the Southern Hemisphere
- ◆ Guided 5.4km return bush walk to the iconic Bridge to Nowhere
- ◆ Visit Matahiwi Gallery & Café (Whanganui) and Lauren's Lavender Farm
- ◆ Travel the historic Whanganui River Road to Pipiriki
- ◆ 3 nights' accommodation: Whangamōmona Hotel, Aotea Motor Lodge (Whanganui) & Blue Duck Station (Whakahoro)
- ◆ Venture through all 24 hand-cut tunnels and over 90 plus hand-built bridges

## INCLUSIONS

- ◆ Expert local guides
- ◆ Historical and cultural commentary and storytelling
- ◆ Specified meals (2x dinners, 4x lunches, 3x breakfasts, 4x morning teas, 2x afternoon teas) plus home-baking
- ◆ All transfers to/from start and end points
- ◆ Transfer of overnight luggage

# ITINERARY

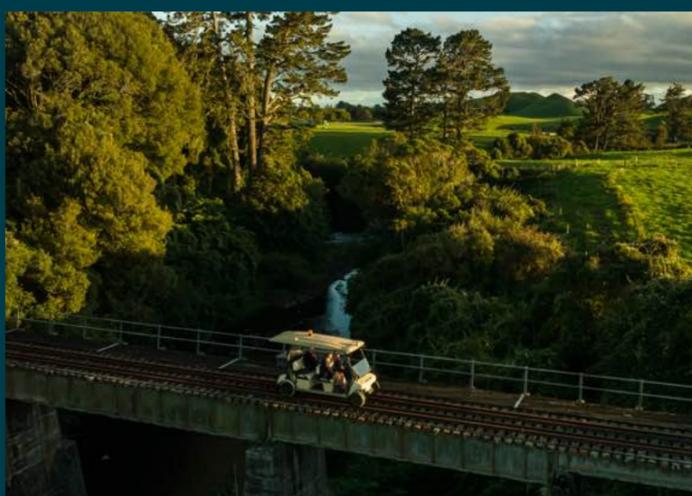
## Day 1

- ✦ Meet at Forgotten World Motel Reception at 7am for check-in
- ✦ Shuttle bus from Forgotten World Motel to Okahukura (10 mins)
- ✦ Rail cart to Tokirima with stops at Matiere and Ōhura
- ✦ Morning tea at Matiere (20 mins)
- ✦ Lunch at Tokirima – opportunity to purchase souvenirs at ‘The Shed’ (30 mins)
- ✦ Rail cart to Tāngarākau Gorge via Heao
- ✦ Afternoon tea at Tāngarākau Gorge (20 mins)
- ✦ Rail cart to Whangamōmona Station arriving approx. 3.30pm
- ✦ Walk or take shuttle bus to Whangamōmona Hotel (5 mins)
- ✦ Dinner, bed and breakfast at Whangamōmona Hotel



## Day 2

- ✦ Breakfast at in Dining Room from 8am to 8.45am
- ✦ Leave luggage at hotel Reception and meet FWA team member in Reception at 9am
- ✦ Rail cart to Te Wera
- ✦ Morning tea at Te Wera (15 mins)
- ✦ Rail cart to Avonstour Organic Farm, Te Wera
- ✦ Visit Avonstour Organic Farm (20 mins)
- ✦ Rail cart to Douglas
- ✦ Lunch at Douglas (30 mins)
- ✦ Rail cart to Stratford arriving approx. 2.30pm
- ✦ Guided transfer to Aotea Motor Lodge (Whanganui) (90 mins)
- ✦ Arrive Aotea Motor Lodge approx. 4.15pm
- ✦ Dinner at St Johns Club is available (and will be included in the package) for guests who wish to dine together. Your guide will escort guests to the club at a time agreed upon by the group. The St John’s Club is a classic example of a rural New Zealand working club - warm, welcoming and down to earth. It’s widely regarded as the best in the region, offering hearty meals, a relaxed atmosphere and a genuine local atmosphere.



# ITINERARY

## Day 3

- ✦ Breakfast at Aotea Motor Lodge (in room)
- ✦ Meet at hotel Reception at 7.15am with luggage
- ✦ Travel by road to Matahiwi Gallery & Café along the Whanganui River Road
- ✦ Morning tea at Matahiwi Gallery (20 mins)
- ✦ Visit Kaimanawa Flour Mill (20 mins)
- ✦ Stop at Jerusalem for short tour (15/20 mins)
- ✦ Arrive Pipiriki
- ✦ Depart on jet boat approx. 11am
- ✦ Jet boat 5km upstream to Mangapurua Landing to commence bush walk
- ✦ Guided 2.7km bush walk to the Bridge to Nowhere through the Whanganui National Park (45 mins)
- ✦ Bridge to Nowhere – storytelling session and lunch on the bridge with a local guide
- ✦ Return 2.7km bush walk back to Mangapurua Landing (45 mins)
- ✦ Jet boat to Blue Duck Station (Whakahoro) arriving approx. 5pm (2 hrs)
- ✦ Dinner (at 6.30pm) at Blue Duck Café and accommodation at Blue Duck Station



## Day 4

- ✦ Breakfast at Blue Duck Café at 9am
- ✦ 10am transfer on ATV side by side to meet jet boat
- ✦ Historical and cultural storytelling during jet boat safari
- ✦ Jet boat to Lauren's Lavender Farm
- ✦ Arrive Lavender Farm approx. 12.30pm
- ✦ Lunch at Lavender Farm (30 mins)
- ✦ Shuttle bus to Forgotten World Motel (15 mins)
- ✦ Return Forgotten World Motel approx. 2pm
- ✦ Luggage will be ready for collection from Forgotten World Motel Reception



## ACCOMMODATION AT WHANGAMŌMONA HOTEL - PLEASE NOTE

Ensuite bathroom facilities are only available in the 5 exterior lodge rooms. The bedrooms located inside the main hotel building have shared bathroom facilities due to the year in which the hotel was built - 1912.

## WHAT TO BRING

Sturdy footwear (no jandals), sunglasses, sunblock, sun hat, camera, water bottle, snacks, layers/warm clothing (gloves, beanie hat, scarf - we often experience four seasons in one day), waterproof jacket, warm jacket, insect repellent and allergy medications. A waterproof storage container for bags/belongings is available on the rail carts.

Days 3 & 4: Active wear, comfortable walking shoes, warm layers for bush walk, waterproof trousers for jet boating - optional. Day pack - optional. Belongings can be left on the jet boat while walking.

## STAY AT OUR FORGOTTEN WORLD MOTEL

Stay the night before or after your experience at the Forgotten World Motel in Taumarunui for your comfort and convenience; all adventures leave from our front door. Cooked and continental breakfasts available (plus GF and DF options) – enquire on check-in.\* Centrally located, it's the ideal base from which to explore the region's activities and is within easy walking distance of the town's cafés, restaurants and shops.

\*Please note there is an additional charge for breakfast which can be pre-ordered and served in our dining room or your own room for convenience.

