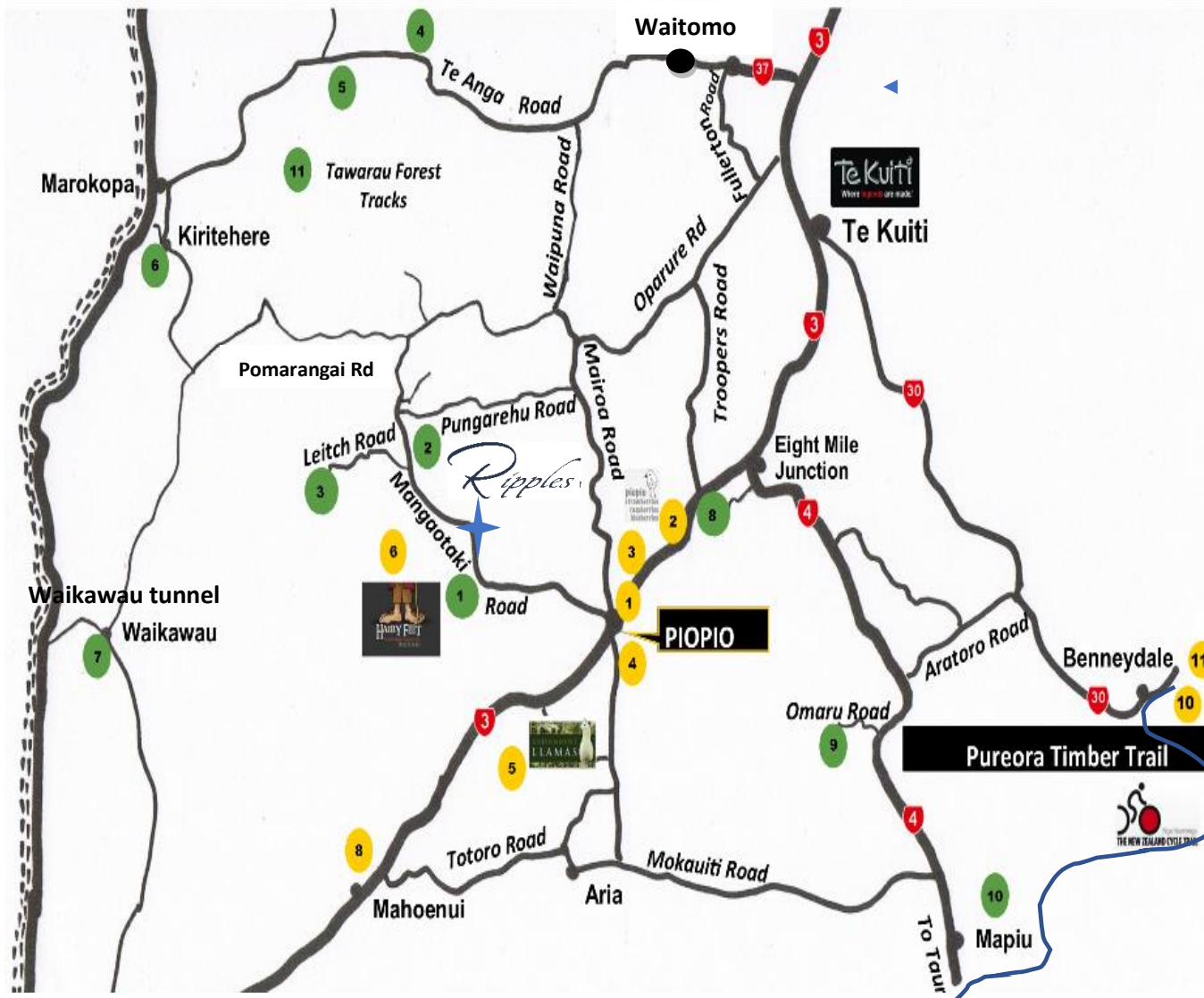


Activities, walks and scenic drives around Ripples

Below is but a small choice of what you could do at Ripples and the Waitomo District.

It is a great base to set up and explore Waikato and Taranaki from.



Attractions and Activities

1. Piopio Craft shop
2. Piopio Aria golf club
3. Piopio Berry Orchard
4. Piopio Museum
5. Greenmount Llama treks
6. Hairy Feet Waitomo
7. Trout fishing, Mangaotaki Rd
8. Trout fishing
10. Timber Cycle trail
11. Pa Harakeke
12. Frisbee Golf. Brooke Park maps at
13. <https://www.newzealanddiscgolf.org.nz/courses> select Te Kuiti. Buy frisbees at The Warehouse Rora St Te Kuiti

Hikes and Walks

1. Mangaotaki Scenic Reserve – easy loop walk.
2. Waitanguru Falls -quick bush walk.
3. Leitch's track and hut – 6hrs return
4. Mangapohue Natural Bridge – easy loop walk
5. Marokopa Falls - 30m falls over a fault line
6. Kiritehere beach - low tide access to uplifted rocks
7. Waikawau Tunnel – Old cattle access tunnel
8. Frederick Memorial – 50mins return. Great views, steep track.
9. Omaru Falls – Scenic walk to spectacular falls 1.5hrs
10. Mapara Wildlife- reserve home to rare Kokako. 1 hr loop track.

At Ripples Lazy day, Free Activities

Ripples is all about doing as much or as little as you like. You can sit back, put your feet up and snuggle into the outdoor swing chair or sunny indoor window seat. Snooze, read a book or reconnect with your loved ones surrounded by the tranquil views. Or you may wish to draw a relaxing bath, kayak, swim or laze on the sea biscuit in the river or pick up your rod and try to catch a trout. Come together and play a game of Petanque, Giant Jenga or cards, and then I would highly recommend taking a stroll up our quiet country road at dusk. Finally, finish off your day with an el fresco BBQ.

If it's raining, take a bath in the rain and then snuggle up with blankets on the deck under the outdoor heater and enjoy!

Where else can you bathe in the rain?

Day 1: Close to Ripples Free Activities

The Waitanguru Falls is 6.5km further up the road a short 5-7 minute drive (1 ½ walk uphill) After which travel 20 minutes back into Piopio for a yummy lunch at The Fat Pigeon. On the way back to Ripples stop at the Mangaotaki Reserve (just across the bridge) Take this short bush walk and then walk up the road 300m and you will find 'Slippery Rock' the secret local swimming hole, The hidden track to Slippery Rock is on the river side of the road located between two gravel pull-off carparks.

For the more adventurous, take the kayak for a paddle upstream or wade/walk/swim in the river, the scenery is beautiful and you can get some amazing photos. There is no walking track along the river and you will get wet as you will need to walk and wade through the river in many places, please don't walk in the river if it is in flood and/or you can't see the bottom.

Close to Ripples Hairy Feet Waitomo \$

This is not only for Lord of the Rings followers but also for those that love nature. Suzie will take you on a fascinating tour under the majestic Denize Bluffs where the Hobbit was filmed in 2011. This cabin now sits on the site where all the actor's caravans, make-up trucks and catering were parked during filming. Tours are by bookings only so book direct on 07 8778003 or online on their website hairyfeetwaitomo.co.nz/bookings.

Day 2: Full-day Free activities

My personal favourite trip is out to the Waikawau Tunnel Beach and then down to Tongaporutu to walk the 3 Sisters (now only 2) This is a tidal walk so check the tides first to see which way around works best. You're in for a treat if the tides work for a West Coast Sunset at Tongaporutu. This is a full day trip from Ripples and you can do it as a loop by turning right out of Ripples driveway and heading over the Pomarangi Road and back via SH3 but please be aware the Pomarangi is a narrow, winding gravel road and it will take you at least 1 ½ hours to the Waikawau Tunnel. Alternatively travel down and back up SH3 and onto Manganui Rd, this will also take 1 ¾ hour. Alternatively, enjoy Fish and Chips on the beach at Mokau (50 mins) and watch the sunset from there after walking the 3 Sisters (75mins from Ripples)

Day 3: 40-55 Minutes away Half or full day, \$\$

Take a drive out to Waitomo village and experience one of their many activities, from caving, black water rafting, ziplining and glowworm boat trips, you can easily spend a full day here. Heading back to Piopio take a detour up SH4 to the scenic Omaru Falls which is a 1-hour return walk. Finish off your day with a meal in Piopio at the Fat Owl. Don't forget to grab a real berry ice cream in summer from the Piopio Orchard or grab a punnet of their Giant strawberries. They have the best berries in NZ!

Day 4 and 5: Full Day \$\$ or free

Take a scenic drive North to the often-photographed Marokopa Falls and close by Natural Bridge via Marokopa Beach Village, then loop back through Waitomo and Piopio, stopping to rummage through the Forget Me No Co-Op Shop. As you can see from the map this can be done over Pomarungai Rd however be mindful that many of our backroads are gravel, narrow and slow. Absolutely fine for those who are comfortable driving on gravel. See www.piopio.net.nz for more drives.

Day 6, 7 & 8: Full day \$\$ or free

Timber trail bike rides The Ongaruru end of the Pureora Timber Trail is just over 1 hour away and has shuttle services to and from either the middle 45kms or the start 85kms of the timber trail. If you want to do loop tracks, travel to the Pureora end of the track, there are 3 loop options from 5-13km long. Just over 1 hour away.

Or cycle our quiet country loop roads, just be aware they are gravel 10km further up the road.

Jetboat to The Bridge to Nowhere. Take a jetboat trip from Taumarunui, just over 1 hour away down to the Bridge to Nowhere. Amazing scenery and fascinating history.

New Plymouth is just under 2 hours away and the summer Festival of lights in Pukekora Park is well worth a visit as is the Whale Bone Bridge and the coastal walk/cycleway which follows the coast to get you there.

Hamilton is 1 ½ hour away and a trip to the Hamilton Gardens should be on everyone's bucket list.

Whakapapa ski field is 2hrs away and makes for a fun day trip during winter and spring.



Jetboat the Whanganui River to The Bridge to Nowhere



Waitanguru Falls



The Mangaotaki Bridge



Waikawau tunnel on the West Coast



Waitomo Caves, Our family, Hoggis Honking Hole



Sunset at The Three Sisters Tongaporutu West Coast