

# A SUMMER OF RIDING ADVENTURES

A printable shortlist compiled from Andrea's Holbrook Hire Auckland Facebook post, the Waitemata Riding Club share and their community replies. Independent destinations, organised treks and horse-friendly stays are separated so it is clear what can be planned freely and what needs dates, bookings or accommodation arrangements.

|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>BEFORE YOU LOAD THE FLOAT</b> | Confirm permission and horse access; parking and turning space; tides or river flow; weather and ground conditions; permits or fees; dog and shared-trail rules; grazing and overnight facilities; your horse's fitness and confidence; and an emergency contact / ride plan. |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## 1. RIDING DESTINATIONS

Places that may be planned independently, subject to current access, permission, tides, weather and local rules.

### AUCKLAND & NORTH

|                                                                                                                           |                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Atiu Creek Regional Park</b>                                                                                           | RIDING DESTINATION |
| Why it made the list: Trails with wide views and an overnight option were recommended.                                    | Shared by Ady Bone |
| Plan first: Confirm current horse trails, booking requirements, paddock and camping availability, gates and float access. | DATE: _____        |

|                                                                                                         |                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Bethells Beach / Te Henga Regional Park</b>                                                          | RIDING DESTINATION     |
| Why it made the list: Both the beach and regional park were recommended as lovely local rides.          | Shared by Angela White |
| Plan first: Check horse access, tides, surf, seasonal restrictions, track conditions and float parking. | DATE: _____            |

|                                                                                                                            |                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Duder Regional Park</b>                                                                                                 | RIDING DESTINATION            |
| Why it made the list: Mixed terrain, coastal farm riding and views across the Hauraki Gulf and Waiheke from near the trig. | Shared by Fleur von Batenburg |
| Plan first: Confirm where horses are currently allowed, farm access, gates, stock, weather exposure and parking.           | DATE: _____                   |

|                                                                                                                |                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Matakana Country Park</b>                                                                                   | RIDING DESTINATION    |
| Why it made the list: Suggested as a Matakana-area riding destination close to Whangateau Harbour and Te Arai. | Shared by Denise Holl |
| Plan first: Confirm permission, riding areas, opening hours, fees and float parking directly.                  | DATE: _____           |

|                                                                                                                              |                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Omaha Estuary to Point Wells</b>                                                                                          | RIDING DESTINATION     |
| Why it made the list: A low-tide ride toward Point Wells, with the playground, dairy and local food stops adding to the day. | Shared by Shelly Black |
| Plan first: Low-tide timing is essential; confirm legal access, safe parking and the route first.                            | DATE: _____            |

|                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Orewa Beach</b>                                                                                                                                                                  | RIDING DESTINATION                                   |
| Why it made the list: An early-morning sunrise ride of roughly 3 km with useful parking and beach access.                                                                           | Shared by Rosemary Sisson and Sarah Cullen           |
| Plan first: The horse needs to tolerate dogs. Check council rules, tides, crowds and seasonal restrictions.                                                                         | DATE: _____                                          |
| <b>Te Arai Beaches, Forests and Estuaries</b>                                                                                                                                       | RIDING DESTINATION                                   |
| Why it made the list: Several beach and forest choices, two estuary swimming options and mainly easy contours. Rides were described as ranging from about 30 minutes to four hours. | Shared by Felicia Doornenbal                         |
| Plan first: Confirm the exact route, forestry access, tides, swimming conditions and safe float parking.                                                                            | DATE: _____                                          |
| <b>Te Rau Puriri Regional Park</b>                                                                                                                                                  | RIDING DESTINATION                                   |
| Why it made the list: Easy farmland riding with ocean views, described as enjoyable with young riders in tow.                                                                       | Shared by Rhiannon Schipper                          |
| Plan first: Confirm current equestrian access, shared-track rules, stock, gates and float parking.                                                                                  | DATE: _____                                          |
| <b>Tomarata Lake to the Beach</b>                                                                                                                                                   | RIDING DESTINATION                                   |
| Why it made the list: Native and pine bush, beach riding and a lake swim. The full loop was estimated at about 18 km, with a shorter out-and-back option.                           | Shared by AJ Trotter                                 |
| Plan first: Confirm route access and suitability, lake conditions, forestry activity and distance.                                                                                  | DATE: _____                                          |
| <b>Waipu / Uretiti Beach</b>                                                                                                                                                        | RIDING DESTINATION                                   |
| Why it made the list: A beach ride considered worth making an overnight adventure, with local grazing potentially available.                                                        | Shared by Wild Rose Jane                             |
| Plan first: Arrange grazing directly and confirm beach access, tides, parking and overnight plans.                                                                                  | DATE: _____                                          |
| <b>Whangateau Estuary</b>                                                                                                                                                           | RIDING DESTINATION                                   |
| Why it made the list: Sheltered swimming at high tide, or an approximately 45-minute harbour-edge loop at low tide.                                                                 | Shared by Alice Van Oosterom                         |
| Plan first: Check tides carefully. Be considerate of swimmers, crowds and manure.                                                                                                   | DATE: _____                                          |
| <b>Whitford - Clifton Road and Potts Road</b>                                                                                                                                       | RIDING DESTINATION                                   |
| Why it made the list: A scenic ride of about 9 km, including off-road bridle tracks, two beaches, short road sections and useful grass verges.                                      | Shared by Penny Anne Gifford and Fleur von Batenburg |
| Plan first: Confirm the current trail map, road sections, beach access and safe parking before travelling.                                                                          | DATE: _____                                          |

### Woodhill Forest and Muriwai Beach

RIDING DESTINATION

Why it made the list: Forest and beach riding close to home; a cabin stay was also suggested.

Shared by Karen Legg

Plan first: Confirm forest riding access, permits, beach conditions and parking before leaving.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## WAIKATO

### Pleasant View Equestrian

RIDING DESTINATION

Why it made the list: A farmland ride among sheep, lambs and cattle was offered as a Waikato visit.

Shared by Diane Belcher

Plan first: This appears to require direct arrangement with the property; confirm availability, cost, facilities and riding conditions.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## BAY OF PLENTY & CENTRAL NORTH ISLAND

### Opotiki Showgrounds and River

RIDING DESTINATION

Why it made the list: Andrea's own memorable suggestion: ride from the showgrounds and swim the horses in the river behind them.

Shared by Andrea Holbrook

Plan first: Confirm showgrounds permission, river access, current flow, depth, footing and water safety.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

### Redwood Forest, Rotorua

RIDING DESTINATION

Why it made the list: A favourite walking area that was also recommended for riding.

Shared by Angela Muni

Plan first: Confirm the current horse-approved trails, permits, parking and shared-trail etiquette.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## CENTRAL & LOWER NORTH ISLAND

### Kapiti District Bridleways

RIDING DESTINATION

Why it made the list: Riverbanks, regional parks, reserves, beaches and a long bridleway beside the expressway were all suggested.

Shared by Ruth Halliday

Plan first: Choose one defined route. Check current horse access, road crossings, surfaces and parking before travelling.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. ORGANISED TREKS & SCHEDULED EXPERIENCES

Treks, shows, guided rides and controlled-access experiences that depend on dates, operators, bookings or event permission.

### AUCKLAND & NORTH

|                                                                                                                                                          |                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Barge Park, Northland</b>                                                                                                                             | BOOK / CHECK DATES      |
| Why it made the list: A well-regarded equestrian venue with showers and facilities, usually visited for scheduled equestrian activities.                 | Shared by Carolynn West |
| Plan first: Check event dates, bookings, venue access and overnight arrangements. A commenter also warned about fireworks during previous weekend stays. | DATE: _____             |

|                                                                                                                                       |                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Waimate North Showgrounds</b>                                                                                                      | BOOK / CHECK DATES      |
| Why it made the list: Historic showgrounds, beautiful land and welcoming people, best planned around a booking or scheduled activity. | Shared by Carolynn West |
| Plan first: Confirm bookings, event access, ground conditions, horse facilities and any camping arrangements.                         | DATE: _____             |

### BAY OF PLENTY

|                                                                                                                                                           |                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Matakana Island Trek</b>                                                                                                                               | BOOK / CHECK DATES      |
| Why it made the list: A multi-day organised experience combining ocean beach, estuary and forest riding, including a low-tide crossing from the mainland. | Shared by Rachael Jenks |
| Plan first: Book through an experienced organiser or host. Dates, tide windows and local arrangements control when the ride can happen.                   | DATE: _____             |

|                                                                                                                                          |                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Burt's, near Matata</b>                                                                                                               | BOOK / CHECK DATES    |
| Why it made the list: Mentioned as a worthwhile trekking experience near Matata.                                                         | Shared by Angela Muni |
| Plan first: The commenter did not provide a direct link. Identify the correct organiser and confirm dates, route, cost and requirements. | DATE: _____           |

### CENTRAL & LOWER NORTH ISLAND

|                                                                                                                            |                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Taihape Showgrounds / Park Events</b>                                                                                   | BOOK / CHECK DATES      |
| Why it made the list: Show weekends were remembered for tree-shaded yards, a park setting and a long walk down to a river. | Shared by Carolynn West |
| Plan first: Plan around a suitable event or venue booking and confirm the river route and safe water conditions.           | DATE: _____             |

### Wairoa Hunt Club Events

BOOK / CHECK DATES

Why it made the list: Remembered for a welcoming event atmosphere and access down to a river.

Shared by Carolynn West

Plan first: Attend through an organised event. The river was described as swift, so check current flow, depth and local advice.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## SOUTH ISLAND

### Sophie's Treks, Marlborough

BOOK / CHECK DATES

Why it made the list: Guided back-country experiences around Blenheim were recommended for making special memories.

Shared by Maree Davidson

Plan first: Choose and book a scheduled trek directly; confirm horse requirements, fitness, accommodation, dates and inclusions.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

### Molesworth Station Trek

BOOK / CHECK DATES

Why it made the list: A destination trek through major South Island back country.

Shared by Maree Davidson

Plan first: Access is controlled and conditions can be demanding. Use an authorised organised trek and confirm dates, fitness standards and support.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

### Rainbow Trail to Hanmer Springs

BOOK / CHECK DATES

Why it made the list: A through-ride ending near Hanmer Springs and its hot pools was suggested.

Shared by Maree Davidson

Plan first: Treat this as a planned or supported trek, not a casual day ride. Confirm permissions, route, weather, fitness and transport logistics.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

### Christchurch Icelandic Horse Treks

BOOK / CHECK DATES

Why it made the list: A guided experience riding Icelandic horses through beaches and forests near Christchurch.

Shared by Jane Jeffrey

Plan first: Book directly with the operator and confirm dates, rider limits, equipment, duration and weather policy.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. HORSE-FRIENDLY STAYS & CAMPING

Accommodation, camping or grazing leads mentioned by the community. These are listed separately so overnight bases are easy to find.

#### AUCKLAND & NORTH

|                                                                                                                                                      |                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Matakana Housebus and Horse Grazing</b>                                                                                                           | STAY / CAMPING LEAD   |
| Why it made the list: A renovated housebus sleeping four, a new shower block and horse grazing beside the bus were offered near Matakana-area rides. | Shared by Denise Holl |
| Plan first: Contact Denise Holl directly to confirm the current property, availability, price, horse facilities and access to nearby rides.          | DATE: _____           |

|                                                                                                                                     |                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Atiu Creek Overnight Stay</b>                                                                                                    | STAY / CAMPING LEAD |
| Why it made the list: An overnight option with a paddock for horses was mentioned alongside the park's trails.                      | Shared by Ady Bone  |
| Plan first: Confirm camping rules, bookings, paddock availability, water, yards, gates and vehicle access with the current manager. | DATE: _____         |

|                                                                                                                                |                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Waipu / Uretiti Private Grazing Contact</b>                                                                                 | STAY / CAMPING LEAD      |
| Why it made the list: A community member mentioned having a grazing contact that could support an overnight beach-riding trip. | Shared by Wild Rose Jane |
| Plan first: This is a private lead rather than a public campground. Arrange it directly and confirm all facilities and costs.  | DATE: _____              |

|                                                                                                                                          |                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Woodhill Forest Cabin Option</b>                                                                                                      | STAY / CAMPING LEAD  |
| Why it made the list: A cabin in the forest was suggested as a possible base for a Woodhill and Muriwai trip.                            | Shared by Karen Legg |
| Plan first: Confirm that the cabin is still available and whether horses can stay nearby; do not assume horse accommodation is included. | DATE: _____          |

|                                                                                                                                                       |                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Barge Park Event Facilities</b>                                                                                                                    | STAY / CAMPING LEAD     |
| Why it made the list: Showers and a well-developed equestrian setup were mentioned for visits to Barge Park.                                          | Shared by Carolynn West |
| Plan first: Confirm whether camping and horse accommodation are available for your event. Ask about security and the possibility of nearby fireworks. | DATE: _____             |

#### BAY OF PLENTY

|                                                                                                                                                   |                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Redwood Valley Farm, near Te Puke</b>                                                                                                          | STAY / CAMPING LEAD   |
| Why it made the list: Suggested as an overnight horse-friendly stop while travelling through the Bay of Plenty.                                   | Shared by Angela Muni |
| Plan first: This was shared second-hand. Contact the property directly to confirm grazing, camping or accommodation, facilities and availability. | DATE: _____           |

## MY ADVENTURE SHORTLIST

|    |  |                          |  |
|----|--|--------------------------|--|
| 1. |  | Best month / conditions: |  |
| 2. |  | Best month / conditions: |  |
| 3. |  | Best month / conditions: |  |

Sources: Holbrook Hire Auckland public Facebook post and its Waitemata Riding Club Community Page share, 10 August 2026. These are community suggestions, not verified access or accommodation advice. Rules, dates and facilities can change; contact the landowner, venue, council, accommodation provider or organiser before travelling.