

Waimangu Volcanic Valley, Rotorua, Aotearoa New Zealand

2027

Enhancing teaching with practical, hands-on learning

Education Network ROTORUA

Who is the Rotorua Education Network

Rotorua Education Network (REN) is the premier education travel specialist, providing support and enhancing ākonga (student) learning by providing informative and engaging hands-on experiences with tourism operators. We work with a diverse range of high-quality operators, most of which are Rotorua based, to ensure your visit is of the highest standards.

What we can do for you

- Our team will provide the relevant resources and information for kaiako (teachers) and ākonga that is up to date and directly linked to your curriculum.
- We'll create customised itineraries and arrange bookings for all activities, accommodation and transport needs.
- We'll coordinate speakers from the tourism industry.
- We can also arrange sporting activities for kaiako and ākonga on request.

We offer

- Customised itineraries
- Affordable trips
- One easy payment
- RAMS on request

How to contact us

- +64 7 351 7320
- school.groups@rotoruaNZ.com
- rotorua-education.co.nz

- 1167 Fenton Street
  Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

- Postal Private Bag 3007
  Rotorua Mail Centre
  Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

How to book a trip through REN

1. Complete the online booking form found on our website and select the accommodation, transport, operators/activities you would like to visit, including any speakers available.
2. REN will respond to your enquiry with a suggested itinerary and a FREE quote.
3. When you are happy with the itinerary and associated costs, REN will book the transport, accommodation and activities that you've confirmed.
4. You will receive an email with your itinerary and a code to gain access to our online curriculum resources for the achievement and unit standards.
5. You will receive an invoice two weeks prior to your trip, or by other arrangement, following confirmation of your attendee numbers. New Zealand schools are required to make payment no later than seven calendar days after the trip. All other groups are required to make payment seven calendar days prior to the trip.

Cancellation policies & procedures

The notice period for cancellations of REN itinerary bookings varies for each operator, therefore, any requests to change or cancel your itinerary that is made less than seven calendar days from the scheduled commencement of your itinerary may be invoiced for the full amount.

Invoices are sent by REN on behalf of the operator.

We understand that unexpected events may necessitate changes to or cancellation of your itinerary. We ask that if you find yourself in this position then please contact the REN team as soon as possible.

After your trip

Please complete the trip evaluation form online here: www.rotorua-education.co.nz/evaluation-form or scan the QR code below.

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Free curriculum-based resources and assessments

On booking your trip through Rotorua Education Network, you will gain access to our online resources, including the following curriculum-based assessment activities and worksheets.

SP Indicates speakers are available at this operator for the achievement standard. Please ensure that you request a speaker at the time of booking.

W Indicates a worksheet or assessment task is available at this operator for the achievement standard.

Geography Level 1

Level 1 Geography Year Unit Plan

This covers the following topics:
AS 91932 (1.1): Demonstrate understanding of the spatial distribution of a phenomenon and its impacts on a place with a focus on volcanic and geothermal phenomena in Rotorua.

AS 91933 (1.2): Explore an environment using data.

AS 91934 (1.3): Demonstrate understanding of how natural processes shape an environment.

Achievement Standard	Activity	Provided by
AS 91932 (1.1): Demonstrate understanding of the spatial distribution of a phenomenon and its impacts on place with a focus on volcanic and geothermal phenomena in Rotorua.	Students collect information on the spatial distribution of volcanic and geothermal phenomena in Rotorua.	• Rotorua Education Network (SP)
	PPT and Talk Students collect information on the spatial distribution of native forests in New Zealand.	• ZORB Rotorua (SP, W)
AS 91933 (1.2): Explore an environment using data.	Explore an environment using data. Worksheets Available through REN's curriculum resources.	• Fish and Game (Generic tour can be organised for these operators)
AS 91934 (1.3): Demostrate understanding of how natural processes shape an environment.	Demonstrate understanding of how natural processes shape an environment. With a focus on volcanic and geothermal processes. Worksheets Available through REN's curriculum resoruces.	• Rotorua Education Network (SP) • Hidden Experience • Rotorua Duck Tours (SP, W) • Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland (SP, W)

Geography Level 2

Achievement Standard	Activity	Provided by
AS 91241: Demonstrate geographic understanding of an urban pattern. Credits: 3	Assessment Students collect information on the urban pattern of tourism during a visit to a tourist attraction in Rotorua. Worksheets Available through REN's Curriculum Resources.	• Agrodome • Kaitiaki Adventures - Rafting and Sledging • Kaitiaki Advetures - Mt Tarawera • Polynesian Spa • Duck Tours • Rotorua Museum • Skyline Rotorua • Te Puia • Velocity Valley • Waimangu Volcanic Valley • Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland • ZORB Rotorua

Geography Level 3

Achievement Standard	Activity	Provided by
AS 91427: Demonstrate understanding of how a cultural process shapes geographical environment(s).	Assessment Collect information on how the cultural process of how tourism development has shaped the Rotorua environment. Worksheets & Resources Available through REN's curriculum resources.	• Agrodome (SP, W) • Kaitiaki Adventures - Rafting and Sledging (SP, W) • Kaitiaki Adventures - Mt Tarawera (SP, W) • Mitai Māori Village (SP) • Polynesian Spa (SP, W) • Rotorua Museum (SP) • Skyline Rotorua (SP) • Taiao Adventures (SP) • Te Puia (SP, W) • Velocity Valley (SP, W) • Waimangu Volcanic Valley (SP, W) • Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland (SP, W) • ZORB Rotorua (SP)

Geography Level 3 continued

Achievement Standard	Activity	Provided by
AS 91431: Analyse aspects of a contemporary geography issue.	Operators will talk on the issue of sustainability of tourism in Rotorua, focusing on their product, but also with views on the wider issue and the actions needed to keep tourism in Rotorua sustainable. Worksheets Available through REN's Curriculum Resources.	· Agrodome (SP, W) · Kaitiaki Adventures - Rafting and Sledging (SP, W) · Kaitiaki Mt Tarawera (SP, W) · Polynesian Spa (SP, W) · Rotorua Museum (SP, W) · Skyline Rotorua (SP, W) · Te Puia (SP, W) · Velocity Valley (SP, W) · Waimangu Thermal Valley (SP, W) · Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland (SP, W) · ZORB (SP, W)

Tourism Level 2

Achievement Standard	Activity	Provided by
US 24728: Demonstrate knowledge of work roles in tourism.	Worksheets Available through REN's curriculum resources.v	· Agrodome (SP, W) · Kaitiaki Adventures - Rafting and Sledging (SP, W) · Kaitiaki Adventures - Mt Tarawera (SP, W) · Polynesian Spa (SP, W) · Skyline Rotorua (SP, W) · Te Puia (SP, W) · Velocity Valley (SP, W) · Waimangu Volcanic Valley (SP) · Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland (SP) · ZORB Rotorua (SP)
US 24730: Demonstrate knowledge of the business of tourism.	Worksheets Available through REN's curriculum resources.	· Agrodome (SP, W) · Kaitiaki Adventures - Rafting and Sledging (SP) · Kaitiaki Adventures - Mt Tarawera (SP, W) · Polynesia Spa (SP, W) · Skyline Rotorua (SP, W) · Te Puia (SP, W) · Velocity Valley (SP, W) · Waimangu Volcanic Valley (SP) · Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland (SP,) · ZORB Rotorua (SP)

Business Studies Level 2 continued

Achievement Standard	Activity	Provided by
AS 90843: Demonstrate understanding of the internal operations of a large business.	Talk and Student Worksheet	· Motion Entertainment

Earth Sciences Level 1

Achievement Standard	Activity	Provided by
AS 91190: Investigate how organisms survive in an extreme environment.	Talk and Student Worksheet	· Hell's Gate
AS 91191: Demonstrate understanding of the causes of extreme Earth events in New Zealand	Talk and Student Worksheet	· Hell's Gate

SP Indicates speakers are available at this operator for the achievement standard. Please ensure that you request a speaker at the time of booking.

W Indicates a worksheet or assessment task is available at this operator for the achievement standard.

Operators



Agrodome

Geography: *AS 91241, AS 91427, AS 91431, AS 91245*

Tourism: *US 24728, US 24730*

Agrodome is an excellent example of a tourist attraction with its cluster of activities on one site. Both the indoor Farm Show, and the Farm Tour around the 350-acre working farm provide opportunities for students to gather information for both tourism and geography standards.

Also available upon request when booking:
- Lunch is available on site at the Farmyard Café.
- Curriculum-based student talks and worksheets.



Fish and Game Rotorua Trout Hatchery

Geography: *AS 91933 (1.2)*

Visit the Ngongotahā Trout Hatchery to learn about the first stages of rearing trout for the Rotorua Lakes and rivers. Explore the grounds and bush walks. Toilets and picnic tables on site.





Hell's Gate Geothermal Reserve & Mud Spa

Earth Science *AS 91190, AS 91191*

Hell's Gate Geothermal Reserve & Mud Spa offers students the opportunity to experience New Zealand's most active geothermal reserve through an engaging, hands on outdoor classroom. Explore bubbling mud pools, steaming vents, colourful silica terraces, New Zealand's largest active mud volcano, and the Southern Hemisphere's largest hot waterfall while discovering the geothermal and volcanic forces that continue to shape the Rotorua landscape.

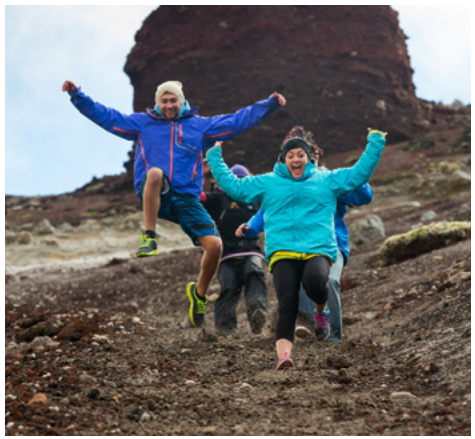
Guided educational experiences support NCEA Level 2 Biology and Level 3 Geography, allowing students to investigate geothermal ecosystems, volcanic processes, and the relationship between people and the environment. Students also discover the cultural significance of Tikitere and learn how Māori have used geothermal resources for healing, cooking, and daily life for centuries.

Optional experiences include Māori carving, geothermal steamed hangi, and New Zealand's only geothermal mud spa

Hidden Experience

Geography: *AS 91934 (1.3)*
AS 91240 (2.1)
AS 91426 (3.1)

A self-guided, interactive treasure hunt in Kuirau Park. Students use WhatsApp to navigate, solve challenges, and explore bubbling mud, steaming vents, and geothermal pools, uncovering the hidden forces shaping Rotorua. Curriculum-aligned and team-based, this 1- to 2-hour experience brings geological processes to life in a fun, competitive outdoor adventure.





Kaitiaki Adventures - Mt Tarawera or Rafting and Sledging

Geography: *AS 91241, AS 91427, AS 91431*
Tourism: *US 24728, US 24730*

Mt Tarawera
Kaitaiki Adventures is the only operator with a licence to guide manuhiri along the summit of majestic Mt Tarawera. Gain an up close and personal view of the evidence left behind during the 1886 Tarawera eruption such as volcanic bombs, pyroclastic flow deposits and the awe-inspiring crater. On the mountain, guides share kōrero (stories) about the eruption from a Māori perspective.

An optional Workbook for students is available on request.

Rafting and Sledging
Enjoy the thrilling adventure of white water rafting or sledging on one of Rotorua's renowned rivers. Kaitiaki Adventures' expert guides will inspire every step of the way while sharing their knowledge of the awa and the people of the area.

Also available upon request when booking:
• Curriculum-based student talks and worksheets.





Mitai Māori Village

Geography: *AS 91427*

Mitai Māori Village offers an authentic cultural experience. Students will watch a hāngī uplifted from the traditional earth oven and witness traditionally dressed warriors paddling an ancient waka.

The cultural performance shares stories of this sacred land and how our indigenous people thrived in the villages once located there. Students will be educated on ancient past times, tā moko (tattoo), Māori weaponry, poi, haka and arts of warrior training, and more. The guided bush walk teaches students about traditional and contemporary medicinal uses of the flora and fauna.

Also available upon request when booking:
• Curriculum-based student talks.

Motion Entertaiment

Business Studies: *AS 90843*

Motion Entertainment can offer a talk on the curriculum-based Business Studies AS "Demonstrate understanding of the internal operations of a large business." Students can also have fun and relaxation enjoying Strike Zone (Ten pin bowling), Laser Tag, Ninja Park, Xtreme Air Indoor Tramp Park, XD Darkride, Mini Golf, Timezone Arcade, Hologate VR, and more on offer at New Zealand's largest indoor entertainment centre.





Polynesian Spa

Geography: *AS 91241, AS 91427, AS 91431*

Tourism: *US 24728, US 24730*

Polynesian Spa is New Zealand's original, iconic geothermal bathing experience. Established in 1972, Polynesian Spa offers 28 pools for manuhiri to indulge in both acidic and alkaline natural mineral springs renowned for their healing properties.

Students will enjoy the relaxing hot pools and learn about the history of Rotorua's geothermal landscapes and tourism development, and Polynesian Spa's role in the tourism industry.

Also available upon request when booking:
• Curriculum based student talks and worksheets.

Rotorua Duck Tours

Geography: *AS 91431, AS 91934*

Rotorua Duck Tours offers a unique and exciting opportunity to explore Rotorua lakes in an authentic WWII amphibious landing craft. Enjoy the beautiful scenery en route and learn about the history of the land and people who have shaped Rotorua. With up to 56 seats available, the Ducks are very flexible when it comes to groups and can pick up from inner city locations. The Amazing Duck Race offers a team building fun activity.

Also available upon request when booking:
• Curriculum-based student talks and worksheets.



Rotorua Museum – Te Whare Taonga o Te Arawa

Geography: *AS 91424, AS 91240, AS 91426, AS 91427, AS 91934*

The Rotorua Museum - Te Whare Taonga o Te Arawa provides history, geography and tourism programmes which align with achievement standards.

They have over fifteen hands-on curriculum linked programmes for teachers of year 0 to 13 tamariki and rangatahi to choose from. Some of the most popular programmes include Tourism Development and Tarawera. The Amazing Race will have your students actively collaborating to solve clues. Through Exploring Geothermal Environments students observe as well as test the pH and temperature of different geothermal features.

Also available on request is a Visual Arts programme that involve the Land of the Taniwha and Guardians of the Forest, these provide great wet weather options.



Skyline Rotorua

Geography: *AS 91241, AS 91427, AS 91431*

Tourism: *US 24728, US 24730*

Skyline Rotorua is Rotorua's premier Gondola, Dining and Adventure destination, offering memorable experiences and unique learning opportunities for students. Located on Mt Ngongotahā, Skyline provides an exciting outdoor environment where students can connect learning with adventure through activities including the Luge, Skyswing or Hyfly Zipline.

Also available on request when booking:
- Meals are available onsite at Stratosfare Restaurant or Market Kitchen Café
- Curriculum-student talks and worksheets



Te Puia

Geography: *AS 91241, AS 91427, AS 91431*

Tourism: *US 24728, US 24730*

Set in the 70-hectare Whakarewarewa geothermal valley, Te Puia is home to the Southern Hemisphere's largest natural geyser, Pōhutu, which erupts more than 15 times a day.

The New Zealand Māori Arts and Crafts Institute (NZMACI), home of the national schools of carving (including pounamu and bone) and weaving, is located at Te Puia as well.

Groups visiting Te Puia can take advantage of the Te Ra tour where they can explore the geothermal valley, mud pools and geysers, and visit the Kiwi Conservation Centre to see rare New Zealand kiwi in their nocturnal enclosure. The Te Ra and Haka tour will see groups be welcomed onto Te Aronui a Rua Marae to enjoy a 30-minute cultural show.

Also available upon request when booking:
- A hāngī buffet lunch, featuring a fusion of Māori and international flavours.
- Curriculum-based student talks and worksheets.



Velocity Valley

Geography: *AS 91241, AS 91427, AS 91431*

Tourism: *US 24728, US 24730*

Velocity Valley can arrange tailor-made sessions for your group, with presentations about geography, tourism, local culture and the history of Velocity Valley.

Combine education with fun by selecting from the iconic adventure activities including Swoop, Freefall Xtreme, Agrojet, Shweeb racing monorail, and Vertigo.

Also available upon request when booking:
- Curriculum-based student talks and worksheets.



Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland

Geography: *AS 91934, AS 91241, AS 91427, AS 91431*

Tourism: *US 24728, US 24730*

Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland is a spectacular showcase of New Zealand's most colourful and unique geothermal elements sculpted by thousands of years of geothermal activity.

Wai-O-Tapu provides an outstanding opportunity for students to experience a natural volcanic area, bringing the learnings in the classroom to life.

Also available upon request when booking:
- Curriculum-based student talks and worksheets.
- Lunch/catering options.



Waimangu Volcanic Valley

Geography: *AS 91241, AS 91427, AS 91431*

Tourism: *US 24728, US 24730*

Waimangu Volcanic Valley is where tourism all started in New Zealand. Experience the world's youngest geothermal valley and hear about the history and legacy of the area and the resting place of Pink and White Terraces - once regarded as the 8th wonder in the world, through a real time tour or through an interactive app. Enjoy walking amongst spectacular volcanic craters, hot water springs, beautiful geothermal features, and see rare and unusual plant life. Be immersed in the story of the Mt Tarawera volcanic eruption, the people who lived in the valley, and the resulting landscape changes. Waimangu Volcanic Valley can tailor an education package to meet your needs.

Also available upon request when booking:
- Curriculum-based student talks and worksheets.



ZORB Rotorua

Geography: *AS 91241, AS 91427, AS 91431, AS 91932*

Tourism: *US 24728, US 24730*

Superman dive into a giant inflatable ball and roll down Mt Ngongotahā with ZORB, where the fun will have your group laughing uncontrollably. Combine this exciting experience with an educational activity. ZORB's talks and packages can be tailored to your group's needs.

New PPT and talk on New Curriculum AS 91932 "Demonstrate understanding of the spatial distribution of a phenomenon native forests and its impact on place."

Also available upon request when booking:
- Curriculum-based student talks and worksheets.

Other options available during your visit



3Mirage

The first in New Zealand to pioneer the integration of the latest audio-visual technologies within the world of art, 3Mirage has created a 4D, interactive, transformative and multi-sensory experience that challenges how we see and feel creative expression. Located in the city centre, it features seven themed rooms filled with vibrant light, sound, and motion, including dreamlike clouds, cosmic skies, exotic landscapes, and a forest of wonder.



Buried Village of Te Wairoa

Buried Village of Te Wairoa is New Zealand's most-visited archaeological site, where stories of the 1886 Mt Tarawera eruption come to life.



Redwoods Treewalk

Walk along a series of 28 bridges eco-suspended between 120-year-old California redwood trees. Feel the spirit as you walk high amongst these gentle giants.



Rotorua Canopy Tours

This ziplining activity in an ancient forest is an incredible experience for many reasons: adventure, nature, ecology and more. It's also a great way to actively learn about conservation and native forest restoration.

Accommodation options



Distinction Rotorua Hotel

Distinction Rotorua Hotel is located within minutes from the city centre and the complimentary guest car parking makes the hotel a great base for exploring Rotorua. Groups love the onsite pool, as well as the included buffet breakfast. The hotel can even provide packed lunches and dinners when organised in advance.



Rotorua Marae Stays

Now available as an accommodation option are marae stays. Options for these stays can include catering and workshops such as weaving, haka and history.



Rock Solid Backpackers & Group Accommodation

The four-star Rock Solid Backpackers and Group Accommodation is conveniently located in the city centre and close to cafés, restaurants and the Thursday Night Market. It's a great solution for groups as a variety of rooms are available from private ensuite rooms to dorm rooms and more.



Urban Loungue Sleepery

Centrally located opposite Kuirau Park, Urban Lounge Sleepery is a convenient base for school groups exploring Rotorua. With 32 rooms and a variety of configurations, groups can choose from shared-facility rooms through to ensuite options. The communal kitchen, co-living, and co-working spaces provide useful areas for group meals, planning sessions, and downtime between educational activities.

Accommodation options



Haka House

Haka House combines friendly, laid-back vibes, convenience and affordability, without skimping on style and comfort. Haka House Rotorua, located near the city centre and across the street from the geothermal Kuirau Park. Several breakfast options from warm pretzel pockets to vegan and sweet treats are available for school groups.



Park Central

The newly renovated Park Central Rotorua is conveniently located just blocks from the city centre. With 56 double, twin and triple rooms, two outdoor pools soon to re-open, a restaurant serving continental breakfast, laundry, free parking, and meeting and events facilities, you'll have everything you need for your group stay.

Transport options



Pavlovich Coachlines

Pavlovich Coachlines has vehicles based in Auckland and Hamilton. With a strong focus on safety, vehicle quality and outstanding service, their helpful drivers will ensure your journey is not only a safe one but also a delight for your staff and students alike. Top quality, cost-effective transport through Rotorua Education Network.



Te Puia, Rotorua, Aotearoa New Zealand

FAQ's

Frequently Asked Questions

If we book directly with the operators can we still get REN rates?

If you book directly with operators, you will pay normal kaiako and tauira rates. Booking through REN, you will secure the lowest rates.

Why should we book through REN?

Booking through REN makes your life easier and your school trip more affordable.

REN will:

- Provide the relevant resources and information for kaiako and tauira that is up-to-date and directly linked to your curriculum.
- Create customised itineraries and arrange bookings for all activities, accommodation and transport needs;
- Coordinate speakers from the tourism industry; and
- Set up one easy payment to cover everything in your itinerary.

Can we book other activities or operators who are not featured on your website?

Yes. Simply let us know what you would like to do and we'll source the most affordable rate for you.

Can our vouchers be delivered to our accommodation/activity if we arrive late?

Yes. Just let us know and we'll arrange that for you.

Do cancellation fees apply?

There is no fee for making changes to or cancelling your itinerary if you notify us seven or more calendar days prior to the commencement of your itinerary. If you do need to make any changes, please get in touch with the REN team as soon as possible.

Do you organise trips for overseas schools?

Yes. Please contact us at School.Groups@rotoruanz.com for more information.

Do you have RAM (Risk Analysis Management) Reports?

Yes. All operators have up-to-date RAM Reports that can be downloaded from the Rotorua Education Network website.

Is it possible to book activities outside of Rotorua?

Yes. We can arrange activities and accommodation outside of Rotorua.



Agrodome, Rotorua, Aotearoa New Zealand

Teacher's Famil 2027

YOU'RE INVITED!

The Rotorua Education Network's
ANNUAL TEACHER'S FAMIL
18 - 20 November, 2027

Please join us in a fun-filled FREE two day event to thank you for supporting us, and to welcome those who are yet to experience what REN has to offer.

What's included:

- All meals
- Twin share accommodation
- Activities & transport
- A fun opening night to enjoy mixing and mingling with your colleagues and tourism operators.

Spaces are limited and fill up quickly.

RSVP: school.groups@rotoruanz.com
by Thursday, 30 September 2027

Ngā mihi nui

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