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TOURS

**Forest of Ruru**

Picture

**Hi there, welcome to our site. Forest of Ruru is a beautiful native forest in the Far North of New Zealand.**

**Ruru is the bird in the picture.**

**TOURS**

**Day trips**

Picture

If you’d like to spend a day in the forest let us know when you’d like to come and we’ll open it up for you and can take you on guided activities. Even a day in this forest can lift your spirits and provide you lots of enjoyment.

Book

**Overnight**

Deep Forest Camp

Around 1 kilometer into the forest we have a camp set up. You can spend one to three nights in the forest. Sit around the campfire by night and enjoy some tasty food, drinks and enjoy the awesome (and noisy with Ruru calling) nighttime atmosphere.

Picture

By day, enjoy the activities. If you want a deep forest experience, in a wild untamed New Zealand wilderness, that’ll free your mind from whatever is pressing it, this will do it. Be at one with nature.

Book

**ACTIVITIES**

You can do what you like as activities. These are some of things we enjoy, and visitors to the forest we’ve had really like.

Picture

**Grandfather of the Forest**

Trek to see what will be the biggest Totara Tree most people will see in their life. It’s likely to be over a thousand years old. We’d rate the trek a 6 out of 10 for difficulty, level of enjoyment ooh, aahh.

**Birdwatcher**

Picture

New Zealand’s birds are unique. In a big forest the way you find them is by following their calls. Come with us to enjoy a day (or night) of spotting New Zealand’s beautiful native birds.

**Forest Gourmet**

Picture

There’s actually quite a lot to eat in New Zealand’s forests – if you know what to look for. We can take you on a forest food tour. Best time of year – when the berries are out – summer, autumn.

**Crayfish Hunter**

Picture

In the streams, almost invisible to the naked eye, are the New Zealand native freshwater crayfish. Come out and hunt for, and catch, some. Sorry you have to catch and release – it’s a conservation forest.

**Orchid Obsessive**

Picture

One of our team, Sachie, is obsessive about orchids. She’s found 18 different types of native orchid in this forest. If you’re orchid obsessive you’ll love a day out with her. The best time of year is XXXXXXX

Picture

**Guardian of the Stream**

Come and meet a rare New Zealand longfin eel (with blue eyes). She likes to be fed. Bring some food along and enjoy spending some time with our guardian of the stream.

**Forestman (or woman)**

Picture

Spend a day doing conservation work with an expert – trapping pests, find invasive weeds, looking for new finds. It’s hard work, but at the end of it you will have contributed and learned about what it takes to be a forest conservator in New Zealand.

**Pururi Giant Legs**

Picture

One of New Zealand’s beautiful trees is the Pururi. Come for an easy walk – you don’t have to be fit – and a meet a giant Pururi Tree, with enormous roots, like giant legs standing under the tree.

**Tree Guru**

If you’d like to learn about New Zealand native trees we can take you round and show you how to identify them and let you know some of the folklore and facts about the different trees.

**PROJECT**

In the Far North, and West, of New Zealand the climate is warm and very wet in Winter. The forests are rich with life, and complex, more so than other parts of New Zealand. They are strikingly beautiful.

Picture

Land left in forest tends to be very rugged, too tough for people to farm. And most of these areas are dying because of invasive pests like possums, rats, stoats, goats and wild cats.

The possums kill the trees. The rats eat the birds’ eggs and baby birds. The stoats kill the Kiwi. The goats each the ground cover and kill the trees. The wild cats each the birds and Kiwi.

For the last 6 years we’ve been working to try and restore one of the forests. It is a 300 acre area – it’s a rugged and tough landscape – and had most of birdlife gone, undergrowth stripped and hundreds of trees were like skeletons, with no leaves left.

Picture

After the work we’ve put in, the forest has staged a comeback. There’s many birds now, including endangered Kiwi. The undergrowth of the forest has come back. Most of the skeletal trees have recovered and now bloom with life.

Picture

Recently we’ve opened it up for eco-tourism, so other people can come and enjoy this beautiful native forest. By the way, who are we? We’re a married couple in our forties, Roger and Sachie.

We’ve called it Forest of Ruru after a Maori legend and because many Ruru live in the forest. The legend is *Tane (the Maori god of the forest and birds) called all the animals of the forest together and asked them “who will look after our mother”. Kiwi was the only one who stepped forward. Tane then told Ruru he had to look after Kiwi. That’s why, in the forest at night, when you hear Kiwi call, Ruru will also call.*

Picture

“Mother” in the legend is probably mother earth, as Kiwi is a bird that doesn’t fly and lives on the ground. With the bird calls at night, this actually happens, Ruru often call after Kiwi.

**LOCAL ATTRACTIONS**

**If you’re coming to this part of the country, there are some awesome local attractions nearby.**

**Our favourite is Omahuta Forest around half an hour away. It is Department of Conservation Forest, with enormous ancient Kauri Trees. You can visit this during the day and walk around. It is breathtaking.**

**90 Mile beach is around 20 minutes up the road and is a top tourist spot with a lot of activities for people. It has one of the best left-hand surf breaks in the world and is popular with surfers, and fisherman.**

**Further North is another awe-inspiring spot, Cape Reinga. This is the tip of New Zealand, where the Pacific Ocean and Tasman Sea meet. It is one of most popular tourist spots in the country.**

**BOOK**

**CONTACT**