

# Kuirau Park

## Thermal Discovery

Come and enjoy Rotorua's  
**FREE** thermal park



Experience the natural wonders of boiling mud pools and steaming lakes and fumaroles.



Take a stroll, relax or picnic around the picturesque lakes and colourful gardens.



Soak your feet in the hot thermal foot pools and enjoy the lively Saturday markets.

### The Maori legend of Kuirarau

Legend tells us that a beautiful young woman by the name of Kuirarau was bathing in her private pool *Taokahu* (now known as Lake Kuirau) where she came to each day. One day a Taniwha (water serpent) who dwelt deep in the pool seized her and dragged her to his lair.

The Gods, observing the struggle between Kuirarau and the Taniwha, became angry and caused the lake to boil so the Taniwha would be destroyed forever.

From that time the lake and the land surrounding it was named after Kuirarau, or Kuirau as it is called today.



**KUIRAU PARK** is one of the best places to visit for free in Rotorua, with plenty of facilities for the whole family, and maintained by Rotorua District Council. The park has many different types of geothermal features, including steaming lakes and plopping mud pools, and is a very pleasant area to explore at a stroll.

As with any geothermally active site, please stick to the paths and avoid areas where the ground is steaming – this is particularly important for Kuirau Park where most of the geothermal features are 70-95 °C.

### Features of Kuirau Park



#### THERMAL FOOT BATHS

Kuirau Park has three foot baths about 40cm deep, two covered and one open air, all about 40 °C, and it can be lovely to go there, pull off your shoes and soak your feet.



#### LAKE TIMARU

Lake Timaru is a perfect setting for a leisurely stroll or picnic. One of the foot pools overlooks this pretty lake. There are BBQ facilities as well as outdoor seating and a shady gazebo.



#### GARDENS

The gardens at Kuirau Park are lovingly attended to by Rotorua District Council. Walk through the Wisteria Bridge and admire the rose and flower gardens.



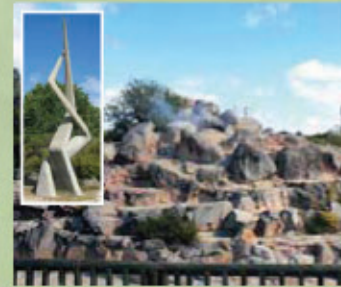
#### SATURDAY MARKETS

Held every Saturday regardless of the weather. Food stalls, arts, crafts, jewellery, soaps, clothing, bric-a-brac, jams, pickles and fresh vegetables.



#### MUD POOLS

Kuirau Park is dotted with numerous examples of bubbling, plopping and furiously boiling mud pools, some of which are close to 100 °C in temperature.



#### STEAMING ROCK MOUND

This unusual man-made rock mound is the centre-piece of Kuirau Park and continually vents steam from its top. Next to this sits a rather striking geometric sculpture which is well photographed.



#### 2001 HYDROTHERMAL ERUPTION SITE

A hydrothermal eruption occurred at Kuirau Park on 26th January 2001. This was the largest hydrothermal eruption since 1966. A hot muddy pool 3 metres in diameter was the source of the eruption. Rocks, soil and mud were thrown 100 metres high and thrown 50 metres away.



#### LAKE KUIRAU

Kuirau Park's greatest feature is Lake Kuirau, a large geothermally active lake with interesting surface textures and colours. There is a pleasant walk around the steamy lake with information boards about the lake and the vegetation. There are some great examples of petrified wood here.

**Petrified** (meaning 'rock' or 'stone', literally 'wood turned into stone'. All the organic materials have been replaced with minerals.



#### THERMAL SPRINGS

There are several fresh water thermal springs that are close to boiling point. Early Maori use to cook their food by placing it in flax baskets and lowering it into the hot water.



#### MANUKA TREES

Kuirau Park has many Manuka trees which are covered with small white flowers. It is from this plant Manuka honey is derived famous for its anti-bacterial and anti-fungal properties.

**DANGER!**



**THERMAL ACTIVITY  
KEEP TO WALKING TRACKS  
AT ALL TIMES**



# Kuirau Park Thermal Discovery

Rotorua's free geothermal park  
for all seasons

**KEY**

-  Suggested walk
-  Photo opportunities

Begin your walk from whichever entrance or carpark you choose. The suggested circuit is approximately 45 minutes (longer if you visit during the Saturday markets).

