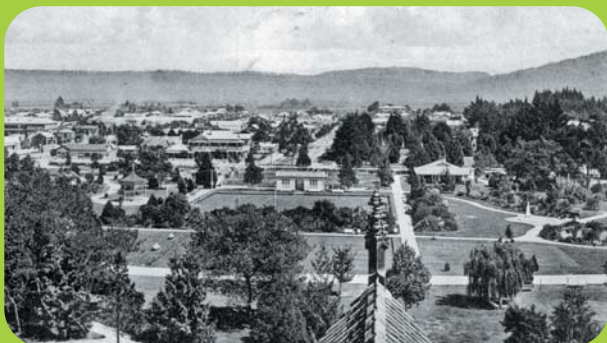


Tawharakurupeti - Layers of History

The carefully laid out gardens you are strolling through were once part of a swampy, scrub-covered wilderness, honeycombed with steaming pools and mud-holes. Here the earth's crust is thin and volcanic activity is constant.

It is hard to imagine that some parts of this peaceful place were once the scene of fierce battles, recalled in the Māori name for portions of the area – Tawharakurupeti.

Some geothermal features have been tamed, buildings have come and gone and pathways have changed, but the intrinsic charm and importance of this heritage site remains intact. Investigate the area's fascinating multi-layered history by following the trail on your map.



Rotorua Sanatorium Grounds c. 1908 - Rotorua Museum

1 Maori Carvings – Whakairo

The carvings located at the Hinemoa and Arawa Street entrances to Government Gardens were presented by the people of Ngati Whakaue to commemorate their original gift of the land in 1880 "hei oranga mo nga iwi katoa a te ao – for the benefit of the people of the world". Created by master carver Tene Waitere, they depict tribal ancestors.



Prince's Gate Arches and Gateway prior to restoration - Rotorua Museum

The wooden arches that grace the entrance to the gardens once spanned the intersection of Fenton and Hinemoa Streets. Designed to represent the royal crown, they were erected in 1901 to honour the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York (later King George V and Queen Mary). After the visit, portions of the Prince's Gate were moved to their present position. The elegant totara gateway has been recently restored. Many of the original painted panels of the fence are in safe storage at the Rotorua Museum of Art and History.

3 The Wylie Memorial

This monument commemorates Fred Wylie, a young soldier from Galatea who fought in the Boer War and was killed leading the attack at Klipfontein on 26th May 1901. He was 25 years old.

4 Ornamental Ponds and Gardens

Government Overseer of Works, Engineer Camille Malfroy, was largely responsible for the creation of the gardens. The task, which began in the early 1890s, was an ambitious and expensive one. Scrub had to be cleared and vast amounts of topsoil bought in for the lawns and gardens. Paths, drives and ornamental lakelets were formed and thousands of trees were planted. Croquet and bowling greens were laid and tennis courts were added later.

2 Prince's Gate Arches

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5 Band Rotunda

The Band Rotunda was originally built near the Sanatorium but was relocated in 1991. When it was built in 1900, two local brass bands, one Maori and the other European, played here in the evenings during the tourist season.

It features cast-iron filigree work, a Victorian break-through that became widely used for constructing garden buildings and furniture. VIPs who came to town used the rotunda to deliver speeches: Prime Minister Richard Seddon once spoke here for an hour and a half!



Band Rotunda - Rotorua Museum

6 Te Runanga Tea House



Te Runanga Tea House - Rotorua Museum

Te Runanga (the Meeting House) was built in 1903 as a tea pavilion and for many years served as a social centre for Rotorua. Here tourists and invalids could lounge, read and drink tea or mineral waters.

Te Runanga operated as a tea pavilion until the Blue Baths tea rooms opened in 1933. From then until closure in 1991, Te Runanga was a bowling pavilion. The carefully restored building was re-opened in 1993, exactly 90 years after its original opening.

Among the few formal gardens in New Zealand at the time, "The Sulphur Gardens", as they were known, were a source of wonder, defying predictions that nothing would grow in such a 'howling wilderness'.

Vegetable gardens and an aviary and monkey house were built to satisfy the Victorian taste for exotic.

Some of the trees you can see today, such as the Cryptomerias, are remnants of the original plantings of the 1890s. It is interesting to note that the planners included New Zealand natives in their design.

7 Tawharakurupeti

The general name of this area is called Tawharakurupeti – the site of a great battle. About two hundred years ago Ngati Tuwharetoa warriors attacked Ohinemutu bent on revenge for past losses. The Rotorua army, led by the great chief Te Roro-o-te-rangi and his brothers Te Kata and Tunohopu, decided to make a stand in the area of Oruawhata. The opposing army far outnumbered the men who waited near here. Te Roro-o-te-rangi challenged his men in a rousing speech which has been passed on to his descendants as a whakatauki or proverb: "Ruia taitea, ruia taitea, kia tu ko ahau anake" - shake off the sapwood – retain the strong wood. The battle resulted in an overwhelming victory for the invaders and the deaths of Te Roro-o-te-rangi and Te Kata. Tunohopu battled his way to the lake edge with great courage and was allowed to live. The tekoteko on Te Runanga are a memorial to these three brave men.



Malfroy Geysers - Rotorua Museum

to make any of the three "geysers" play to heights of up to 12 metres. He timed the first public appearance to coincide with Queen Victoria's birthday in May 1890. Over time the geysers have deteriorated and today await restoration.

8 Malfroy Geysers

French-born Engineer Camille Malfroy delighted in experimenting with thermal systems. In 1889 he developed artificial geysers in the area to the south of Te Runanga. Wooden valves regulated the flow of hot water, enabling the operator

9 Oruawhata

A deep thermal pit named Oruawhata was once a feature near here. Filled with boiling water and poisonous gases, it was said to be a burial pit for the remains of warriors to make sure they never came into the hands of enemies. The pool was filled in many years ago and engineer Camille Malfroy used its heat to create the Malfroy Geysers. The original Blue Baths were built in this vicinity in 1886 and took their water from the Oruawhata Spring. These baths were demolished in 1932.



The Sanatorium - Rotorua Museum

catered for around 20 patients, or at a number of boarding houses which flanked the park. Many came back year after year to ease arthritic complaints and other diseases.

10 Site of the Sanatorium

Eager to promote tourism, the government of the 1880s endeavoured to copy European spas, encouraging people to come to Rotorua to 'take the cure'. Many patients stayed at a Sanatorium (built near the site of the Orchid Gardens), which

11 The Rotorua Arts Village Experience

(RAVE)

This exciting community arts centre amalgamates two important historic houses: Wohlmann House, built in 1908 for Dr Arthur Wohlmann, the first balneologist at the Rotorua Bath House, and Lewis House, also a medical residence. A third dwelling, a 1930s bungalow, completes the complex which was developed as a millennium gift to the city by the Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust. The centre is open from 10am to 3pm weekdays and offers a variety of programmes.

12 Whangapipiro

Rachel Pool

Water from the boiling cauldron to the right of the Blue Baths is alkaline. Silica-laden water from here was originally piped to the Pavilion Bath and is still reticulated to the Polynesian Spa. Whangapipiro was renamed the Rachel Pool after Madam Rachel, a notorious English cosmetician, because of the softening effect of silica water on the skin. Note the quaint architecture of the small pump house to the rear of the pool.

13 Blue Baths

The Spanish Mission-style Blue Baths were completed in 1933. They were one of the first places where families could bathe together for fun (as opposed to the other purely therapeutic spas in the gardens), and hold a special place in the hearts of the thousands of people who learned to swim there. Despite public outcry, the building was closed in 1982. It was reopened in 1999 after careful restoration and today houses a museum, tearooms and heated pool.



14 Te Pupunitanga

Polynesian Spa

The Polynesian Spa is built on an historic site. Maori called the acidic spring Te Pupunitanga, which means 'ambush', to commemorate fierce battles fought near here. In 1878 a disabled priest named Father Mahoney found relief for his arthritis

and the pool he used became known as the Priest's Pool. The first bath on the site, the Pavilion Bath, was opened in 1882 to harness the waters of this acidic pool.

The Duchess Bath opened on the site in 1901 to celebrate the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York. From 1933 until closure in 1969, the up-graded facility became known as the Ward Baths. From 1971 the popular thermal spa has been known as the Polynesian Pools and more recently the Polynesian Spa. Some of the original architecture of the Ward Baths remains integrated into the complex.

Sulphur Bay Walkway

Before the coming of Europeans much of the area you are walking over was a wilderness of scrub and steaming pools known to Maori as Te Paepae Hakumanu – the Bird Perch. Take a walking tour of the natural wilderness of Sulphur Bay. The highly acidic water, which lies on top of an active geothermal field, is warm and shallow making the area a haven for birds. The area has been a wildlife reserve since 1967.



15 Waitukei Sculpture

The bronze sculpture to your right was unveiled in June 2001 to mark the new millennium. Named Waitukei, it was created by Rotorua artist and master carver Lyonel Grant. Its inspiration was the people of this area and the rich melding of Maori and European cultures. It was crafted from bronze over a two-year period and depicts two symbolic figures, one male and one female.

16 Rotorua Museum of Art and History

Te Whare Taonga o Te Arawa

The Bath House, which opened in 1908, is the only surviving building from the first 45 years of the Rotorua spa. The building represents the New Zealand Government's first major investment in the tourism industry and is widely recognised as a symbol of the city of Rotorua.

An Edwardian attempt to create a spa in an essentially Elizabethan style of architecture, the building once provided treatments to thousands of people before it closed in 1966. Today the building, classed as significant by the Historic Places Trust, houses Rotorua Museum of Art and History Te Whare Taonga o Te Arawa.

17 The Totem Pole

This totem pole was a gift to New Zealand by the Canadian government. It was carved by Tony Hunt, a Kwagulth chief, one of the First Nations people from Vancouver Island in British Columbia. The bear and eagle on it represent the two clan divisions among the Kwagulth people.

18 The Arawa Soldiers' Memorial and Krupps Gun

This distinctive memorial was erected to commemorate the sons of Te Arawa people who fought and died in World War 1. The sculpture, created by W H Feldon, was unveiled in February 1927 by the Duke of York (later King George VI). Words, pictures and symbols tell the story of the arrival of the Te Arawa waka at Maketu and of the tribes 'voyage' to the 20th century.

The memorial was once ringed with carvings of Rangitihī, who is remembered as the father of the people of the Lakes District, and his eight children. These carvings have been removed but it is intended to restore and replace them.

The Krupps Field Gun was associated with the Pioneer Battalion (made up of Māori soldiers) at Lequesnoy, France, during World War 1. The gun, which was cast in 1898 and is engraved with Kaiser Wilhelm's insignia, was converted to an hydraulic system around 1908. It was restored in 1998 after many years in storage at Te Amorangi Museum.



Rotorua Museum

19 Gardener's Cottage

This late Victorian villa was built for the head gardener in 1899. It has recently been returned to its original colour scheme and the area in front of the cottage laid out in a formal design.

The camellia gardens to the right of the cottage were planted in the 1950s.



Rotorua Museum

20 The Croquet Pavilion



Croquet Pavilion - Rotorua Museum

Built in 1907, the original pagoda-roofed 'tennis' pavilion was sited near the Malfroy Geyers. The pavilion was moved to its present site during the 1920s and extended over the years.

In 1998 the 1950s terracotta roof was replaced with a new pagoda style roof. The gardens have hosted a variety of sports including tennis, bowls and croquet and, more recently, petanque.



BHFB House ROTORUA FGR 6682

Croquet being played in the gardens - Rotorua Museum

a taste of history

Cultural Heritage Trail

a taste of history

Rotorua District Council

Parks and Recreation

Private Bag 3029 Rotorua

Ph 07 348 4199 Fax 07 346 3143

email@rdc.govt.nz

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