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SAFARI**

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thrilling jet boating
experience.

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**NEW ZEALAND
RIVERJET**



we will make your day!

thrilling jet boating & magnificent geothermal experience



NZ Riverjet was born out of The River Lodge in 1998. It has had a series of owners, the current, Nick and Richelle Berryman, purchased it in 2005. Since then, NZ Riverjet has grown from a part time hobby to a full time successful tourism operation, providing a unique attraction for domestic and international visitors to the region.

In 2006 the NZ Riverjet base was relocated to a more accessible location and re-launched. Now, with six permanent staff and the purchase of additional boats to add to the fleet, they are able to carry up to 47 passengers on the river at any one time.

The New Zealand Riverjet Thermal Safari incorporates a fantastic geothermal wonderland and a thrilling jet boating experience. No other activity in the southern hemisphere offers the icons of New Zealand Riverjet and Orakei Korako combined into one awesome day combo!

The adventure begins by jet boating down the mighty Waikato River, the country's longest river, in one of our three jet boats, "The Beast" (22 seater), "The Boss" (12 seater) or "The Brute" (13 seater).

During several stops along the way our drivers explain about the rich history of the area and its unique wildlife. You will see abundant bird life, pine forests, steaming volcanic river banks and trout feeding areas on your way to Orakei Korako; one of New Zealand's most popular geothermal attractions. Walk around this magnificent thermal reserve, see boiling mud, geysers and silica terraces. You will also see pre-European Maori battle sites and hear the tales behind past events.

Even though the beautiful surroundings of the Waikato River are an important part of the safari, we also like to offer you a bit of excitement. The jet boat takes you close to obstacles in the water, shooting at full speed towards the river banks and of course you'll experience the legendary Hamilton spins.

This awesome adventure brings you up close to a slice of New Zealand scenery only a select few have seen and you will be left with a lasting impression.

the jet boat takes water from under the boat
pushes it through a pump and out the back



Unlike a powerboat or motor boat that has a propeller sitting in the water, a jet boat engine takes water from under the boat, pushes it through a pump and out at the back of the boat which pushes the boat forward.

This engine, the waterjet, was invented in 1954 by Sir William Hamilton who wanted to overcome the problem of propellers striking rocks in New Zealand's shallow rivers. Similar technology had been tested overseas without a great deal of success. Sir William's engine was longer lasting and more reliable. It also allows boats to come to a complete stop from full speed in it's own boat length. The manoeuvre is now known as the Hamilton Spin.





the Maori word
Waikato
translates as
'flowing water'

The Maori word Waikato translates as flowing water. The Waikato River is the longest river in New Zealand. In the North Island, it runs for 425 kilometres from the eastern slopes of Mount Ruapehu, joining the Tongariro River system and emptying into Lake Taupo, New Zealand's largest lake. It drains Taupo at the lake's northeastern edge, creates the Huka Falls and flows northwest, through the Waikato Plains, emptying into the Tasman Sea.

Long before the European settlers came to Aotearoa, the beautiful surroundings of the Waikato River were a popular place to live for New Zealand's native people, the Maori. The thermal activity provided underfloor heating and there was plenty of fish and wildlife to be caught, cooked and eaten.

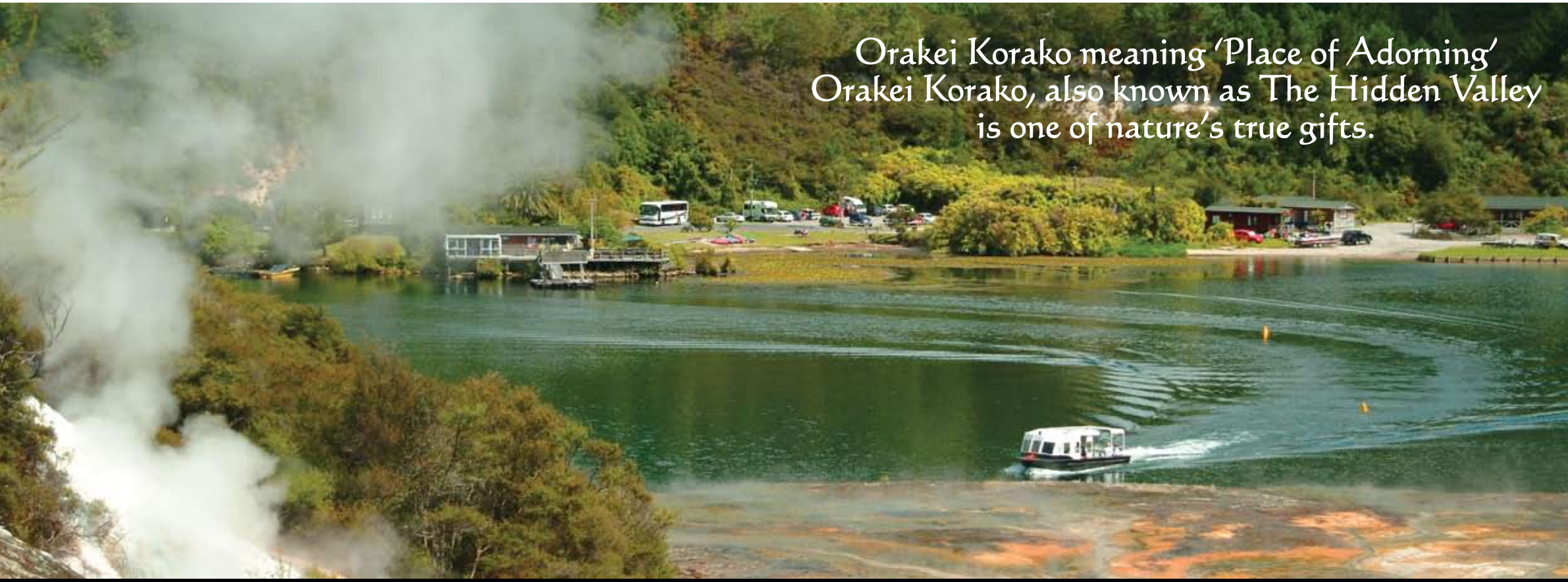
In times gone by, the river was an important access route for both Maori and early European settlers. It was a network for trade, travel and communications. Many battles between Maori tribes were fought here and it was the scene of many skirmishes between the British and Waikato tribes between 1863 and 1865. During the Waikato Wars several Maori pa (settlements) fell victim to small armoured gunboats.

The Waikato River still holds a great deal of spiritual significance to the Maori. Today the tribes of the Waikato River seek the healing powers of the water and the blessings from their tupuna (ancestors). At times of trouble Maori people gather to rejuvenate their spirit by patting the river surface to call upon their ancestors and sprinkling themselves with the water facing the rising sun.

The Waikato River is well used now as a water and recreation resource. It is a main source of electricity with eight hydroelectric power stations supplying power to the national grid, approximately 13% of the nation's total electric generating capacity. The first hydroelectric power station was built in Horahora to supply power to the Martha Mine in Waihi. To meet demand, eight dams and nine powerhouses were built on the river between 1929 and 1971.

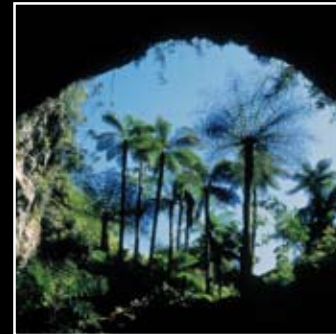
Kayaking, rafting and jet boating are just a few of the recreational activities popular on the Waikato River. It is also home to the remarkable Huka Falls. At this point on the river, the banks drastically narrow from 100 metres to 15 metres and meet a volcanic ledge. These conditions cause a huge volume of water to collide and form a spectacular vision of rapids that pass approximately 220,000 cubic metres per second.

Orakei Korako meaning 'Place of Adorning'
Orakei Korako, also known as The Hidden Valley
is one of nature's true gifts.



Orakei Korako is a geothermal wonderland, also known as The Hidden Valley. The base, formed by silica terraces, is possibly the largest of its kind since the destruction of the famous Pink and White Terraces in the Tarawera Eruption of 1886. Combined with a vast number of natural hot springs, boiling mud pools, geysers and mineral deposits, it is one of the area's more interesting geothermal areas.

In very early times Orakei Korako, meaning 'Place of Adorning', was occupied by Maori of the Ngati Tahu sub-tribe Tuwharetoa. It is not known exactly when they left the area but it is thought to be soon after the eruption of Mt Tarawera. On route to Taupo, it was established as a main attraction to visitors of the area in the early 1900s. The most famous feature of Orakei Korako is Ruatapu Cave (sacred hole). The cave is 120ft deep with a natural hot pool at the bottom known as Waiwhakaata which means 'pool of mirrors'. The chemical compositions of the water in this pool gives it an amazing ability to clean jewellery.



Nearly 80% of New Zealand's geothermal activity happens in the Waikato Region



Nearly 80% of New Zealand's geothermal activity happens in the Waikato region. It is created by heat rising from deep inside the earth to its surface. It can appear in many different forms including geysers, mud pools, hot bodies of water and steaming ground to name a few.

Geysers, often referred to as hot springs, are a mixture of steam and hot water shooting into the air to release pressure. There are only about 1000 geysers world wide, many of New Zealand's have been destroyed by humans. In 1961 the Ohakuri hydroelectric dam flooded approximately two thirds of those that were in Orakei Korako.

Fumaroles and steaming ground (gas vents) are common on the side of volcanoes and in geothermal fields where temperatures are close to boiling. Rather than following direct pathways to create a geyser, steam diffuses up through soil and disperses over a greater area.

Mud pools are formed when gases and steam rise to the earth's surface and react with surface rock. The acidic gases eat away at the rock, forming clay. The clay mixes with rain water and the heat from the steam causes it to boil creating pools of boiling mud.

The look of mud pools varies greatly, depending on the conditions. If there has been a lot of rain, the mud looks like dirty boiling water. If there has not been a lot of rain, the mud will appear to be thick and sticky.

Mineral deposits and crystals are formed when rising gases meet the atmosphere. They cool and oxidize leaving traces of minerals on the earth's surface. Sulphur crystals are bright yellow and are very common in this area.

The word volcano comes from the Roman God of Fire, Vulcan.



Much of New Zealand's North Island is covered by a volcanic plateau, commonly referred to as the Central Plateau. With all the volcanoes in this area being less than 50,000 years old, it is relatively young in geological terms.

Volcanoes are formed by magma (molten rock) being released to the earth's surface either as an eruption or a more gentle lava flow. Most volcanoes are not formed by a single eruption, they are more likely to be made up of many deposits that have occurred over thousands of years.

Volcanoes can be categorized into three levels of activity: active, dormant or extinct. A volcano is considered active if it is currently erupting or showing signs of activity. A dormant volcano is not currently erupting or showing signs of activity but has the potential to become active again. There is sometimes confusion over whether a volcano is active or dormant.

An extinct volcano is one which scientists believe will never be active again. Again there can be confusion with this, one volcano in the USA last erupted violently 640,000 years ago but has recently been showing small signs of activity!

Mt Tarawera is a dormant volcano that last erupted on June 10, 1886. The eruption lasted five hours, took over 150 lives and destroyed many villages and the famous Pink and White Terraces.

Lake Taupo is the creation of a massive explosion in 186AD. Shooting 33 billion tons of debris over 50,000 metres into the air, the Taupo eruption was recorded by the Romans as a 'mighty earthquake in a far distant land' and gave China brilliant red sunsets for two years.



Originally 86% of New Zealand's land area was covered in forest. Approximately 23% remains, much of it in national parks, forests, parks and reserves.

Because of the geographical nature of New Zealand, being so isolated, it has developed a unique variety of Flora. The majority of the trees are evergreen and very few are tolerant of cold weather. For the climate, there are an unusual number of ferns, which normally grow in more tropical areas. 128 varieties of grass and 23 different mosses that grow only in New Zealand are another feature of the natural environment. Many species of plants grow much larger than they would in other countries.

The Waikato River and its banks are home to many species of native New Zealand Wildlife. Again, because of the isolated geographical nature of the country and the lack of natural predators in early times there are some very unique animals around.



TICK IF SPOTTED

The **Silver Fern** or **Ponga Tree** can grow up to 10 metres tall and is an icon of New Zealand. The fern frond is called a 'koru' and is used as an emblem by many national sports teams. It represents new life, growth, strength and peace. The silver fern is named because the underside of the leaves are glossy white/silver in colour and reflective of light. To this day, the silver fern is used with the light of the moon to mark tracks at night.



TICK IF SPOTTED

The **Cabbage Tree** was a valuable food and medicine source to the Maori in early times and because it is a high source of fibre it was commonly used in the production of rope and fabric. Growing up to 15 metres tall, it has a sword shaped leaf and a small white flower.



TICK IF SPOTTED

There are four species of **Toetoe** that are native to New Zealand. They are a tall grass with white feathery looking plumes that grow slightly taller than the leaves which have many fine sharp teeth along the edge, giving it a nickname of 'cutty grass'. Toetoe is a Maori name and is often misspelt Toitoi. It is most commonly seen along the coast as it is very tolerant of dry conditions, wind and salt however it is also found along the edges of streams and rivers.



TICK IF SPOTTED

The **Kowhai Tree** is easily recognizable by its horn shaped, bright yellow flower (the national flower of New Zealand). There are eight different species of this tree, ranging in size from two to eight metres and their nectar is a favourite of many native birds.



TICK IF SPOTTED

Flax is also known by the Maori names of harakeke and wharariki. It has sword shaped leaves that grow up to three metres in length. Leaves are dark green but sometimes have red or yellow coloured centres or edges. The bright red flowers grow on stalks that project out of the bush up to five metres. The nectar is very sweet and was used in early times to make honey. The sap contains antiseptic qualities and was taken to help the healing process and flax fibres were soaked in the sap before being used to stitch wounds.



TICK IF SPOTTED

The **White Faced Heron** is more commonly known as the Blue Heron. It is the most populous breed of heron in New Zealand and is found anywhere there is water; on the coast, by rivers, on mudflats and grasslands. Their diet consists of amphibians, fish and insects. Nesting in high trees, males and females share raising their young until the fledglings are ready to leave the nest at approximately 6 weeks old.



TICK IF SPOTTED

The **Pukeko** or **New Zealand Swamphen** is one of the few native birds that has flourished since the arrival of man to New Zealand. Mainly found in grasslands and swampy areas, with their bright blue feathers and red beaks they are hard to miss.



TICK IF SPOTTED

The **Tui** is an intelligent bird that is known for its unusual call and beautiful melodies. On first glance they appear to be black, but in the sun they have a metallic blue/green sheen. They have a distinctive tuft of white feathers on their neck which makes them instantly recognisable.



TICK IF SPOTTED

The **Fantail** is a small bird whose diet mainly consists of small insects. When folded its tail has a rounded end but when open it displays like a fan, hence its name. There are several species of Fantail, their colour varies grey, black, white and brown. Some have vibrant yellow and blue feathers.



TICK IF SPOTTED

The **Black Shag** or **Kawau** is a large black bird with a crest. It gets its food by diving, spending on average 25 seconds below water on each dive although it is very capable of spending longer periods of time underwater. A feature unique to this bird is their feathers which absorb water to make them less boyant, most birds feathers are designed to repel water.



TICK IF SPOTTED

Ducks are aquatic birds with wide flat beaks adapted for dredging. Common species in this area are Mallard, Grey and Paradise. A breeding male Mallard Duck is easily recognisable by its bright yellow beak and green head, the female is brown and similar looking to more common ducks. The male Paradise Duck has a black head with a green gloss and a dark grey and black body. The female has a white head and an orange/brown body.



TICK IF SPOTTED

The **NZ Falcon (hawk)** or **Karearea** has a main diet of insects, small birds, and rodents. Reaching speeds of up to 230km/h and with eyesight eight times stronger than humans, it is a fierce predator. A good hunter can take prey up to six times its own body weight!



TICK IF SPOTTED

The **Spur Wing Plover** is a noisy bird with a yellow face, black head, grey back and white belly. It is found throughout New Zealand in grassy wetlands and stony areas and its diet consists of insects, larvae, leaves and seeds.



TICK IF SPOTTED

Trout were introduced to New Zealand as a sport fish therefore can not be fished commercially. If you want to eat trout in New Zealand you have to catch it yourself! The Brown Trout and Rainbow trout are popular in this part of the river. The Brown trout has a golden brown body and black speckles. The rainbow trout is more easily identified by the pink stripe that runs along their side.



TICK IF SPOTTED

The **New Zealand Long Finned Eel** doesn't normally grow more than 1.2m long or 10kg in weight, but there are records of these fish reaching 2m long and over 50kg. Their body is long and similar in shape to that of a snake and as a rule, females are twice the length of males. Very hardy creatures, they can stand very high and low temperatures, long periods without food and short periods of time out of water. A great source of protein, this eel makes for excellent eating.

MULTI CHOICE QUESTIONS

YOUR ANSWER

1. How many geysers are there world wide?

- (a) 100
- (b) 1000
- (c) 70
- (d) 10

2. How long is the Waikato River?

- (a) 1000kms
- (b) 250kms
- (c) 425kms
- (d) 100kms

3. What is the name of the large waterfall close to Taupo?

- (a) Niagra Falls
- (b) Huka Falls
- (c) Victoria Falls
- (d) Tarawera Falls

4. What is Orakei Korako also known as?

- (a) Geyserland
- (b) The Hidden Valley
- (c) The Pink and White Terraces
- (d) That thermal area

5. How many hydroelectric dams are on the Waikato River?

- (a) 13
- (b) 2
- (c) 9
- (d) 8

6. At Orakei Korako there is a rock that looks like what kind of animal?

- (a) Camel
- (b) Elephant
- (c) Tiger
- (d) Giraffe

7. What lake does the Waikato River flow from?

- (a) Lake Rotorua
- (b) Lake Taupo
- (c) Lake Wakatipu
- (d) Lake Rotoiti

YOUR ANSWER

8. Which sea does the Waikato flow into?

- (a) Tasman Sea
- (b) Pacific Ocean
- (c) Red Sea
- (d) Atlantic Sea

9. What is the depth of Ruatapu Cave (Sacred Hole)

- (a) 2 ft
- (b) 300ft
- (c) 120ft
- (d) 1000ft

10. What causes the smell around Rotorua thermal areas?

- (a) Rotten Garbage
- (b) Sulphur
- (c) Geysers
- (d) Magma

11. Who is the current owner of NZ Riverjet?

- (a) Sir William Hamilton
- (b) Nick & Richelle Berryman
- (c) Ngati Tahu
- (d) Tuwharetoa

12. Which native New Zealand bird has a tuft of white feathers on its neck?

- (a) Pukeko
- (b) Fantail
- (c) Black Shag
- (d) Tui

13. Of the following statements about flax, which is not true?

- (a) It was used for making clothes and ropes
- (b) It has strong medicinal properties
- (c) The underside of the leaf reflects light
- (d) It can be used like honey

14. Mt Tarawera is:

- (a) Dormant
- (b) Active
- (c) Extinct
- (d) Non-existent

YOUR ANSWER

15. **How long does it take for a Hamilton Jet engine to stop**

- (a) 30 minutes
- (b) 30 metres
- (c) A boat length
- (d) 30 seconds

16. **What do they suggest you clean in the pool of mirrors?**

- (a) Jewellery
- (b) Mirrors
- (c) Hands
- (d) Hair

17. **Waikato means:**

- (a) The Hidden Valley
- (b) Long River
- (c) Many Geysers
- (d) Flowing Water

18. **The Black Shag has a very unique quality. What is it?**

- (a) Wide, flat beak
- (b) Water absorbent feathers
- (c) Ability to catch prey 6 times its size
- (d) Fan shaped tail

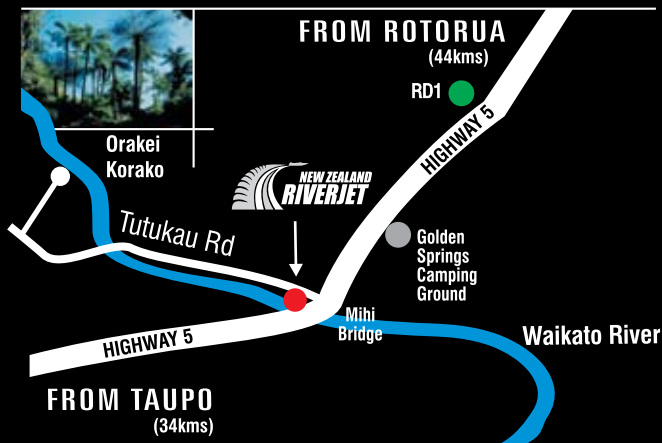
19. **Which plant leaf is the emblem for many national sports teams?**

- (a) The Cabbage Tree
- (b) Toetoe
- (c) The Silver Fern
- (d) The Kowhai Tree

20. **Which of the following won't you find easily near Rotorua?**

- (a) Gold
- (b) Volcanoes
- (c) Geysers
- (d) Mud pools





www.riverjet.co.nz

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL: Ph: 07 333 7111

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