



Hello Summer

It's time to make plans now that the warmer weather's here

Make the most of the warmer months with these ideas for an accessible Kiwi holiday.



Bay of Islands

The Edgewater Palms Apartments (edgewaterapartments.co.nz/paihia/) has undercover parking and lift access to a great accessible

two bedroom unit. The apartment sleeps six, has two ensuites (one wet area), a balcony and is dog friendly. The pool is not accessible, but the beach is just across the road and has good footpaths.

There is a wealth of historical knowledge to be gained at the new museum at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds and this would suit those with limited mobility. However, the

full guided tour of the grounds is not accessible – there are steps heading down to the waka and a steep gravelly path to navigate, heading up to the flag-staff. Active manual wheelchair users might find being carried up and down the steps to get to the waka manageable, but a fit person would be required to assist up the hill.

If you want to miss this part of the tour out, vehicle access can be arranged at the top of the site, and portable ramps can be arranged at the Wharenui, so that participation in the cultural experience is possible.

Boat excursions are very possible and docking at Paihia is relatively smooth. However disembarking at other docks can be a challenge, as the weather conditions can create

instability and prevent going ashore at Russell. Manual wheelchair users may have more flexibility than power chair users, due to lighter chairs and ability to be lifted.



Auckland

Silo park, Auckland's waterfront and Cornwall Park are great for wheelchair users who want to get out and about with family and friends as there are boardwalks, cycle paths and plenty of flat terrain.

Auckland Zoo offers free admission to caregivers of people who need assistance.

Approximately 90% of the zoo is accessible by wheelchair, and 70% by mobility scooter. A map explaining inaccessible areas is available free of charge.

Accessible car parking is available in the Motions Road car park, closest to the main entrance to the zoo, for vehicles displaying a current mobility parking permit.

Wheelchairs and mobility scooters are available from the Information Centre. There is no charge, but booking in advance is recommended (phone 09 360 3805). When you pick up your wheelchair, you will need to leave a bond item (car keys or driving licence).



Taupo

Prawn fishing at the Huka Prawn Park is a great day out for all ages, although it is pricey.

The guided tour of the nursery has even surfaces, but one steep path to manage. Once on the flat, it is a short walk around the different rooms and holding tanks for spawning prawns.

Car parking is reasonably good and there is a short walk and a steep incline to get to and from the fishing ponds. There is an optional bush walk further afield beyond the fishing ponds. Decking around the fishing ponds and some seating, means that most people can participate in the fishing experience, using a bamboo rod with a hook attached at one end. There is no time limit, and

Visitors with wheelchairs, mobility scooters, and other mobility vehicles can easily access most of Te Papa.

you can take a picnic and enjoy a few hours if wished. The restaurant on site will cook your catch for a small charge, or you can take them home and put them on the BBQ.



Whanganui

Virginia Lake in Whanganui is a lovely spot for a summer picnic. It is used by all age groups and people of all mobility levels.

The paths around the lake are accessible, although a bit bumpy.

There is a sweet aviary, and although wheelchair can't go through it, you have a full view from outside. There's ducks and geese, a great children's playground and an accessible cafe. The Winter Gardens are partially accessible too. The boardwalk along the lake goes out to a gorgeous pavilion. Find more information at visitwhanganui.nz/virginia-lake-whanganui/



Wellington

The buses in Wellington are fantastic and make it very easy to get around.

Visitors with wheelchairs, mobility scooters, and other mobility vehicles can easily access most of Te Papa. Accessible areas include all exhibitions, the cafes and stores and most toilets. There are seats in most exhibitions and along walkways throughout the museum. To hire a free wheelchair or mobility scooter book ahead by phoning 04 381 7000, or enquire at Coat and Bag Check-In by the main entrance (availability is not guaranteed).

There are two regular public tours of Parliament, and

they are both accessible to visitors using a wheelchair. *The Introducing Parliament* tour takes 60 minutes and is a great way to learn about our parliamentary processes and New Zealand's history while looking through the iconic buildings. *The Highlights of Parliament* tour takes 30 minutes and is an insight into the heart of our democracy, the debating chamber where the House of Representatives meet.

Liberty swings

A growing number of New Zealand playgrounds are equipped with a Liberty Swing which allow children in wheelchairs the chance to enjoy the fun of a swing.

This website shows you where to find them www.libertyswing.com.au/index.php/home/find-a-swing-near-you.html



Christchurch

Experience the wonder and magic of Antarctica without leaving Christchurch at the International Antarctic Centre.

Brave the chill of the snow and ice, survive an Antarctic Storm, learn about life in modern day Antarctica and Scott Base, and hang out with Little Blue Penguins!

All parts are accessible by wheelchair, and two wheelchairs are available for use by the public.

Hanmer Springs

This little resort town is an attractive year-round holiday destination for adventure, relaxation and indulgence. Its best known for its natural hot pools which have good wheelchair access, including a wheelchair ramp access on one pool and aqua chair/lifts available on many of the pools. Accessible changing rooms are available.



Queenstown

For the best views of the area, head to the The Skyline Queenstown. On request the Gondola can be slowed or

stopped to allow easy access for all guests, assistance is also available if required at the base and the top of the Gondola. Standard sized wheelchairs fit in the Gondola cabins and ride in a separate cabin to the guest; otherwise two wheelchairs are available onsite.



Arrowtown

Try your luck panning for gold. There is ramped access into the library, where pans can be hired and local information on gold mining can be found. It is a steep ramp and a little distance from

the riverside, so can be tiring without powered equipment. If you can manage walking on an uneven surface (large stones) and/or crouching down for a while, you can find a spot on the river and pan for gold. Wheelchairs will find it hard to get close to the water, but can get close enough to watch family members panning.

Te Anau

For camping adventures, Te Anau Lakeview Holiday Park (teanauholidaypark.co.nz) has accessible communal facilities, including a wet area shower/toilet, flat access communal kitchen, BBQ areas and lounge room with wifi.



Dunedin

A great place to visit in Dunedin is the Toitū Otago Settlers Museum. This is a museum of social history dedicated to telling the story of the people of Dunedin

and the surrounding area, whose character, culture, technology, art, fashion and transport shaped the city. The museum is accessible and free.

Invercargill

Queens Park in Invercargill is an open, relatively flat space, with good paths for a lovely family excursion with wildlife, gardens and a great playground with water play feature. Some seating is available for resting if you fatigue quickly.