Waipukurau and the Central Hawke's Bay
region is brilliant to visit in early January, offering warm, sunny summer weather perfect for outdoor trails, cultural tours, and beach day trips. Because early January aligns with the peak of the New Zealand summer holidays, the coastal areas, parks, and trails are at their absolute most vibrant.

🚵 Outdoor Adventures & Trails



The Tukituki Trail

State park

Russell Park

A fantastic **20 km family-friendly cycling and walking network** connecting Waipukurau and nearby Waipawa. It features dedicated limestone paths along the riverbanks, perfect for catching a cool breeze on a hot January morning.



Ranui Farm Park

785 Nicholls Rd

Located just on the outskirts of Waipukurau, this park operates with a **$5 honesty box fee**. It's an ideal summer spot for families and thrill-seekers, featuring mountain bike tracks, a pump track, an obstacle course, a flying fox, and a massive slide.



Lindsay Bush Scenic Reserve

Scenic Rd

A short 5km drive north from town brings you to this 9.8-hectare podocarp forest. A gentle **30 to 45-minute loop walk** lets you escape the intense January sun under the shade of ancient trees estimated to be between 250 and 500 years old.

🏛 History & Indigenous Culture

- **Ngā Ara Tipuna (Heritage Tour):** A fantastic, **free self-drive storytelling tour** that blends the physical landscape with a digital experience. It guides you through ancient Māori pā (fortified village) sites and historic wetlands across Waipukurau and Takapau.
- **Central Hawke's Bay Museum:** Located just a few minutes away in Waipawa, this museum houses an extensive collection of settler history, military technology, and beautiful Taonga Māori. It makes a great indoor refuge if you need a break from the midday summer heat.
- **Ongaonga Historic Village:** Take a short day trip to this nearby historic village to view beautifully preserved colonial architecture and enjoy high tea.

Summer Wine Tasting & Local Eats

- **Pukeora Estate:** Perched on a hillside overlooking the Tukituki river valley, this estate offers unpretentious wine tastings accompanied by panoramic views of the central plains.
- **Boutique Vineyards:** The local microclimate is perfect for summer wine trails. Check out other boutique local labels like Lime Rock Wines and Junction Wines.
- **Town Centre Cafés:** After your morning activities, head to the Waipukurau town centre to grab an iced coffee or a bite to eat at local favourite's like **Hatuma Cafe** or **Espresso Loco**.

Day Trips & Unique Surrounding Spots



Porangahau Beach

Pōrangahau

Directions
Head east to the coast for beachfront camping, swimming, and summer fishing. On the way, stop to snap a photo next to the sign for the **longest place name in the world**: *Taumatawhakatangihangakoauauotamateaturipukakapikimaungahoronukupokaiwhenuakitanatahu*.



Te Angiangi Marine Reserve

Drive to this protected coastal stretch east of Waipukurau. Early January low tides offer the perfect conditions for exploring tide pools or snorkeling among the vibrant marine life.