

A brief history of Puhoi

The Early settlers of Puhoi came from Bohemia in 1863, an area of what is now the Czech Republic, approximately 60km from Prague. At the time the migrants left Bohemia it was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

On the snow-laden midnight of 26th February 1863, a train with 83 immigrants left Staab for Prague with the farewells of parents and friends they would never see again. Three days later they were at Hamburg, their port of departure. After a long sea voyage of 106 days, they arrived in Auckland, and then travelled by Captain Kasper's cutter to the mouth of the Puhoi River. They were transferred to Maori canoes for the last 6kms of their journey, arriving on the riverbank amidst dense bush.

We can only imagine the hardship these early settlers must have endured to clear the land and create a thriving community. Nowadays, Puhoi is within easy commuting distance from Auckland and we reap the harvest of the early pioneer's faith, hard work and determination.

For more details and photos about Puhoi of Yesteryear, please visit the Puhoi Museum located at the left-hand side of the church

Historic booklets available from the Museum include:-

- Welcome to Puhoi
- Bohemia to PUHOI
- Puhoi General Store 1878 - 2001

Websites:-

www.puhoinz.com

www.puhoihistoricsociety.org.nz

Things to do at The Ridge

Chat with us!

- During your stay with us we will do our very best to make you comfortable and at home, please take advantage of this very casual and relaxed atmosphere
- We have a lot of local knowledge and over dinner and breakfast we can help you plan what to see and do during your stay, one thing we can guarantee is that you won't have long enough to see and do it all!

In the guest lounge there is:-

- TV with Sky
- DVD's and a DVD player
- CD's and a surround sound system
- Guest office with access to the web - activities and interest brochure rack
- A small library
- Jigsaw puzzles
- Current magazines and a daily paper
- Playing cards & Various games

Outside there is:-

- Two decks with canvass chairs, hammock chairs & deck chairs
- Enjoy a game of Pétanque or Boule on the court in-front of the decks (the boules are in boxes under the BBQ)
- Have a spa which is located under the main deck
- Take a walk through the bush, make sure you have good shoes or boots as it can be slippery – two picnic tables are located in the bush – ideal for a quiet read with a wine or a beer.
- Take a walk along the Ridge (Greenhollows Road) see the islands and the Auckland Sky Tower from this great vantage point
- Charlie is also always ready for a game of ball – the only problem is he doesn't know when to stop!

A helipad is located at the top of The Ridge for the use of guests or activities involving helicopters

What to see and do!

north of The Ridge

The whole Rodney District of Auckland Region is very understated and is only just being discovered as a truly beautiful part of New Zealand to visit. During your stay with us we will try and help you to experience some of the numerous attractions which the area has to offer.

Puhi Village - 5 minutes (see the Puhoi Village brochure)

- Bohemian museum
- Beautiful village church
- The famous Puhoi Pub – known throughout New Zealand
- The Art of Cheese café & shop - great food and world famous cheeses
- Canoeing on the Puhoi river
- Dunn's Bush walk – 3 hours walk
- The Cottage Cream Teas
- Slow Water Studio
- Puhoi Antiques and Collectables
- The River Park – 30 minute walk
- MustardMakers at the Plantery
- The village store
- Slow water studio – arts and crafts
- Beak farm park

Warkworth area - 20 minutes

- Zealandia sculpture garden (garden tours at 11am & 2pm)
- Mahurangi regional park and beach
- The Honey Centre – café and bee products
- Ransoms Winery
- Warkworth museum and Parry Kauri park
- Warkworth town shopping/art galleries and food
- Horse riding at Shiloh Farm
- Warkworth golf club
- Skywork scenic helicopter flights

Matakana area - 25 minutes

- The other 15 vineyards on the Matakana Coast wine trail (see the brochure - if you want to sample lots of different wines we are always happy to arrange transport)
- Sandspit and the ferry to Kawau Island and the historic mansion house
- Leigh sawmill – café entertainment
- Goat island marine reserve, scuba diving/snorkelling and the glass bottom boat
- Ti Point Reptile Park
- Matakana farmers market (Saturday morning 8 am – 1 pm)
- Matakana Village – boutiques and a two screen cinema
- Morris & James Pottery (this is where the GRAFFIO panels in your suite came from)
- Matakana Country Park – galleries, Saturday market & RD6 restaurant/cafe
- Tawhauranui regional park and beach
- Dome forest walk
- Sheep World – demonstrations, shops & café
- Parkiri - Horse riding & trekking
- The Kauri Museum – just amazing - Matakohe (1 hour)

What to see and do!

south of The Ridge

Wenderholm Regional Park – 10 minutes

- Beach
- Puhoi river estuary
- Historic country house
- Walks

Waiwera - 15 minutes

- Spa and thermal pools
- Beach
- Woodies Bar – food & drink

Orewa - 20 minutes

- Great open beach
- Shakespear regional park
- Wind surfing
- Shopping & food

Silverdale – 20 mins

- Snow skiing at Snow Planet
- Go Karting
- Luge
- Shopping/cafés
- Golf at North Ridge Lodge

Gulf Harbour – 30 minutes

- International golf course
- Yacht marina
- Food & drink

Tititiri Matangi Island

- Unique native bird sanctuary – check sailings from Gulf Harbour

Auckland – The city of sails - 45 minutes

- Shopping and eating in the Parnell and Ponsonby area's
- The Sky Tower including the Sky Jump
- The Maritime Museum
- Auckland museum
- Kelly Tarltons Underwater World
- The Viaduct Basin – restaurants & sail in a real America's cup yacht
- Dolphin Explorer – swim with the dolphins
- Take a ferry to Waihiki island
- Bungy jumping with A J Hackett
- Sailing with Sail NZ

What to see west of The Ridge

a short 45 minute drive west

- Miriwai & Piha
 - Regional park,
 - Beach with its big breakers
 - Gannet colony
- The historic town of Helensville
 - Shopping
 - Food
 - Places of interest
- The town of Kumeu
 - 7 vineyards
 - Shopping
 - Food
 - Places of interest
- BeesOnline – café and working bees

- **Other activities**
 - Sailing
 - Fishing
 - Clay shooting

All the other activities are close by so please ask us and we can certainly try and arrange something for you.

Local Activity Map

Please ask for brochures on activities!

