

WHATIPU LODGE

The Lodge buildings accommodate up to 37 people in 17 double, twin and single bedrooms that have changed little since they were built. It is original, occasionally rustic and refreshingly simple. The Lodge is self-catering. Cooking and bathroom facilities are communal. (Additionally there is the Whatipu Bach, which sleeps up to 8, across 3 double bedrooms).

Cooking utensils, crockery and cutlery are available for guests to prepare their own meals. Fridge space is ample for food. We recommend that large groups bring additional chilly bins and ice for beverages.

Guests should bring their own sheets and duvets/blankets, or sleeping bags. Pillows and pillowcases are provided. Bathmats and hand towels are supplied, as are tea towels and dishwashing/cleaning supplies. Hot water bottles are a must for chilly winter nights. Guests should also bring torches and insect repellent and sunblock in summer, footwear for hot black sand and suitable clothing for changeable conditions.

There are 5 toilets and 3 showers in a modern complex that has continuous hotwater. There is a 6th toilet on the porch of the Gibbons House.

The Lodge has spacious grounds, a full-sized billiard table and a tennis court. There is also a tuned piano and a wonderful range of board games and books. Mini jack plug-in 80 watt speakers are available for amplified sounds.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Electricity | Whatipu does not have mains power. A micro-hydro system generates a small amount of power continuously, which is supplemented by solar panels. We also have a back-up diesel generator, which can cope with any larger loads. There are some limitations but all of these can be managed. Guests planning special events such as parties and celebrations need to discuss their power requirements with management beforehand. Our sine-wave DC to AC 240 volt inverter allows you to safely charge devices.

Heating | there is a very effective wood burner in the main dining room. The bedrooms are unheated and in winter guests need to bring adequate bedding (and hot water bottles). Please check the forecasts and plan for your comfort.

Water | Fresh streamwater is piped from further up in the hills. The water is filtered and ultra violet light treated but does not always meet standard drinking water requirements and can become discoloured after heavy rain. Auckland Council recommends boiling the water for drinking. 20 ltr containers of city supply water are made available.

Barbecue | There is a hooded 4 burner gas barbecue available. We supply the gas.

Rubbish Disposal | Please take recycling home with you as we do not have a recycling service at Whatipu. As part of our sustainability effort, we ask that you help us keep rubbish to a minimum. Talk to us about how to sort your disposable rubbish to ensure we are able to manage its removal. Our chickens appreciate your food scraps.

Telephone | The Lodge has one phone line only and no cellphone coverage. A phone is available to guests for important calls and can be found in the sitting room off the main kitchen (including an AM radio for your news and weather updates). The phone line is recognised as New Zealand longest 2 wire, old technology phone line and as such it can be very difficult to hear and does frequently need repairing.

1st Aid | The Lodge management is trained in 1st Aid. In the sitting room off the main kitchen is a comprehensive 1st aid kit and manual. We also have a self-explanatory defibrillator in the event of a heart attack. Please report any use of 1st aid materials so they may be replaced.

Dogs - Whatipu is a wildlife reserve and dogs are banned from the beach and wetland. For this reason there is a 'No Dogs' policy at the Lodge, Bach and Campground.