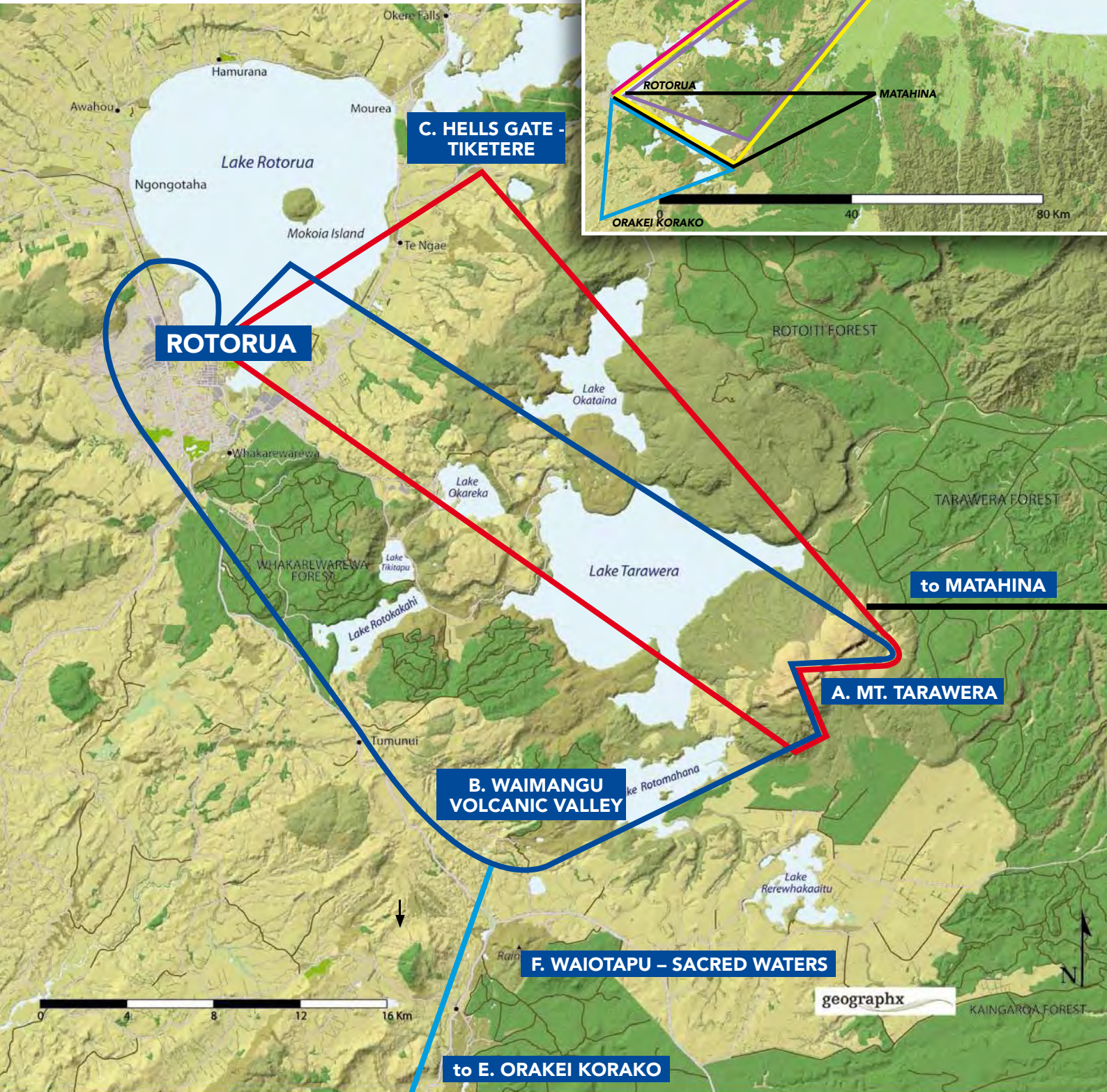




# volcanic air safaris

HELICOPTERS AND FLOATPLANES



- Tour 3A. Floatplane Mt. Tarawera/Waimangu Volcanic Valley.
- Tour 3B. Helicopter Mt. Tarawera/Hells Gate landing and tour.
- Tour 4A. Floatplane White Island and Mt. Tarawera.
- Tour 4B. Helicopter White Island land on and explore an active volcano!
- Tour 4C. Helicopter White Island and Mt. Tarawera.
- Tour 5. Orakei Korako the Hidden Valley.
- Tour 6. Combination flight/jetboat safari.

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## A. MT. TARAWERA

- Mt. Tarawera is the sacred mountain of the local Maori Tribe Ngati Rangitihi.
- This volcano erupted on June 10th 1886.
- The eruption lasted over five hours and involved basaltic magma extruding from a 17 km crevice.
- The Pink and White Terraces were destroyed along with many Maori Villages including Te Wairoa (known today as The Buried Village).
- It is believed that around 153 people lost their lives.
- The volcano is surrounded by many volcanic crater lakes of which one, Lake Rotomahana was drastically altered during the eruption.



## B. WAIMANGU VOLCANIC VALLEY

- It is the world's newest geothermal system and is the direct result of the Tarawera eruption of 10 June 1886.
- It is also the only hydro thermal system in New Zealand where all the surface features are contained within a single geological structure and is the only hydro thermal system that has not been altered.
- The Valley is a Scenic Reserve, owned by the people of New Zealand and administered on their behalf by the Department of Conservation. The region is a Wild Life Refuge – all bird species are protected.



## C. HELLS GATE - TIKETERE

- New Zealand's only Maori owned geothermal reserve Hell's Gate is of major importance to the Ngati Rangiteaorere tribe.
- For more than 800 years they have lived on this special site, with the first Europeans visiting Hell's Gate Tikerere, more than 150 years ago.
- The Hell's Gate geothermal reserve was formed approximately 10,000 years ago and is the most active geothermal field in the Rotorua area.
- Since the 1840's Europeans have found and described the medicinal properties of Tikerere as "having quite remarkable curative properties."
- This geothermal park is home to the only example of a mud volcano.



## D. WHITE ISLAND - WHAKAARI

- Estimated to be between 150,000 to 200,000 years old.
- It was named White Island by Captain Cook in 1769.
- White Island is widely known as Whakaari which means "that which can be made visible".
- The island passed into European hands in the late 1830's when Maori owners sold it.
- From 1885 through to 1914 there were serious attempts by a number of enterprises to mine sulphur.
- A compromise was reached between the Government and Buttle in 1953 declaring White Island a private scenic reserve.



## E. ORAKEI KORAKO

- Orakei Korako means "the Place of Adorning."
- Maoris lived here in 1850 "to spare their woman the trouble of procuring wood for fuel. Everything is cooked in the springs."
- It is likely that the Ngati Tahu people left soon after the eruption of Mount Tarawera in 1886.
- In the early 1900's the geothermal area was already established as a visitor attraction.
- Orakei Korako was officially opened as tourist resort on 15 December 1937.



## F. WAIOTAPU – SACRED WATERS

- Wai-O-Tapu (meaning; Sacred Waters) is associated with volcanic activity dating back about 160,000 years.
- It is an area associated with the immense pressures attributable to the Indian – Australian Plate rising and overlapping the Pacific Plate causing a fault line which enables heat from below the earth's crust to radiate upwards towards the surface and form geothermal features.
- The water is so super heated that it absorbs the minerals out of the rocks through which it passes and conveys them to the surface as steam where they are ultimately absorbed into the ground.

