

EXPERIENCE HIRUHĀRAMA

Hiruhārama is a haven for those seeking a moment of respite and self-reflection. Throughout the years, numerous travelers and pilgrims have been drawn to its serene environment, cherishing the unique tranquility it offers.

Hiruhārama lies in a secluded location, nestled in a lush green valley alongside the tranquil waters of the Whanganui River. It stands as an oasis of calm, where visitors can escape the hustle and bustle of daily life, and immerse themselves in the soothing sounds of nature.

Visiting Hiruhārama is rarely a random occurrence; it's a deliberate choice made by those seeking solace and inner peace. As a registered charity with the New Zealand Charities Commission, when you choose to stay with us, you are also contributing to the important work carried out by the Sisters of Compassion in the community.

HIRUHĀRAMA

Hiruhārama, also known as Jerusalem, was once the largest kainga (village) on the Whanganui River. The Catholic Mission was first established in the area in 1854. Hiruhārama is a small settlement in a beautiful and peaceful setting. Its unique charm and allure draw visitors from across the globe. The Church and Convent are now a part of the Diocese of Palmerston North.

THE SISTERS AT HIRUHĀRAMA

In 1892, Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert was appointed Mother Superior of the newly created Daughters of Our Lady of Compassion, consecrating the work begun in 1883 when Mother Aubert was invited by the Māori of the Whanganui River area to Hiruhārama/Jerusalem, to revive the Catholic mission.

For several years, the Sisters dedicated themselves to teaching in schools at Ranana and Hiruhārama. They also served as district nurses, managing a dispensary, and operating a Post Office to meet the needs of the community.

The Sisters have always worked in partnership with the local mana whenua, Ngāti Hau, who are kaitiaki (guardians) of the church, old convent, and grounds.

CONTACT US

For booking enquiries please call or email

☎ 06 342 8190 ✉ old.convent@compassion.org.nz

📍 R.D.6, Whanganui River Road, Whanganui 4576

www.compassion.org.nz



HIRUHĀRAMA/JERUSALEM



ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH

St Joseph's Jerusalem is known as one of New Zealand's most photographed churches. It is the second church constructed on the site, built in 1893 following the destruction of the initial church by a fire in 1888.

THE OLD CONVENT

You will be staying in the Sisters of Compassion old convent which is a large and intriguing two-storey building. Well-nurtured gardens surround the convent and the church.

FACILITIES

Groups and retreats are warmly welcomed at the old convent, providing large and smaller rooms for group work. While TV reception is unavailable, a TV set is provided for DVD viewing. Please consider bringing your own linen, sleeping bag, and towels if possible. Additionally, kindly wear slippers or socks indoors instead of shoes. Please note that mobile phone reception is very limited in the area.

ACCOMMODATION

Facilities cater to both self-catering groups and individuals, offering amenities such as showers and spacious community rooms. The accommodation is dormitory-style, featuring single beds, a cot, and a bassinet. A total of 22 beds are available for use.

FOOD

Guests have access to cooking facilities for their convenience. They are requested to bring their own food, as the nearest store and petrol station is located in Raetihi or Whanganui, which are approximately one hour away from the location.

COST

While the cost of the visit is free, for those wishing to stay the daily cost is \$40 for a single bed, while a double room costs \$50. Children accompanying their families pay a special rate of \$15 per child (children under 5 are free). If you prefer camping or are arriving with a campervan, we provide facilities at a nominal fee of \$10 per day.



Life is a journey by road. On the way we travel the dust is thick and the shade is scarce. Let us know how to select the best place to halt to bathe our eyes, to shake off the dust that covers us, and to wash our sore feet.

- Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert

