

First Light Marathon

20 January 2024

The First Light Marathon takes place in Tairāwhiti Gisborne, Aotearoa New Zealand, which is known for being the first city in the world to see the sun each day. Its spectacular coastline and the steep green hills provide a magical backdrop to this unique race. There is the option to participate in the Marathon or Half Marathon distance where runners will herald in the sunrise as they crest the many hills and race along the white sand beach.

Furthermore, Tairāwhiti Gisborne is known as the "Chardonnay Capital" of Aotearoa New Zealand - home to countless wineries, excellent food, and world-class beaches, there is plenty to enjoy after the race is run.

Travelling Fit is delighted to offer you a 5 Day / 4 Night Package with the option to choose from 5 different excursions. There is also the opportunity to add a 4 Day / 3 Night Hobbiton & Bay of Plenty pre-marathon extension tour or a 6 Day / 5 Night post-marathon extension tour to visit Rotorua and the majestic Tongariro National Park. Contact us for details.

EMERALD HOTEL PACKAGE – PRICES FROM

5 DAYS / 4 NIGHTS	TWIN SHARE	SINGLE ROOM
RUNNER	\$1884 AUD	\$2449 AUD
SUPPORTER	\$1682 AUD	\$2248 AUD

PACIFIC HARBOUR MOTOR INN PACKAGE – PRICES FROM

5 DAYS / 4 NIGHTS	TWIN SHARE	SINGLE ROOM
RUNNER	\$1982 AUD	\$2547 AUD
SUPPORTER	\$1780 AUD	\$2346 AUD

SENATOR MOTOR INN | PORTSIDE HOTEL – PRICES FROM

5 DAYS / 4 NIGHTS	TWIN SHARE	SINGLE ROOM
RUNNER	\$2080 AUD	\$2645 AUD
SUPPORTER	\$1878 AUD	\$2444 AUD

** CULTURAL PACKAGE – PRICES FROM				
5 DAYS / 4 NIGHTS	TWIN SHARE	SINGLE ROOM		
RUNNER	\$1872 AUD	\$1999 AUD		
SUPPORTER	\$1670 AUD	\$1797 AUD		

To book or for more information contact Travelling Fit.... Your Marathon Travel Specialists Phone +61 2 4385 2455 | www.travellingfit.com | Email: sales@travellingfit.com

Please Note: All prices are quoted in Australian dollars and are based on a per person basis. Prices and itinerary are subject to change at any time without prior notice.





PACKAGES INCLUDE:

- Guaranteed Race Entry (runners only)
- 4 Nights Accommodation in Gisborne. Check in 18 Jan | Check out: 22 Jan
- ** Cultural Package: 1 night in a motel in Gisborne and last 3 nights sleeping on a mattress on the floor at marae
- Arrival and departure transfer between the Tairāwhiti Gisborne airport and hotels
- Guided shakeout run with a beer
- Pōwhiri (Māori welcome) including lunch
- Meals as stated on the itinerary
- ** Cultural Package: Cultural experience during stay at marae
- Celebration dinner at Vines Winery
- Personalised Travelling Fit Running Top Exclusive to Travelling Fit clients
- Invite to Travelling Fit's First Light Marathon Closed Facebook Group Exclusive to Travelling Fit Clients

NOTES:

- For the Half Marathon, deduct \$73 from the package price.
- Refer to separate flyer for optional excursions and extension tours.





First Light Marathon



ITINERARY

Day 1: 18 January 2024 - Arrival in Tairāwhiti Gisborne

All participants will arrive in Tairāwhiti Gisborne either by a domestic flight or by bus. Tairāwhiti Gisborne is about a 6–7-hour drive or a 1 hour flight from Auckland. Alternatively, guests might consider renting a car if you plan on doing a bigger tour around the island. If participants choose to fly to the local Tairāwhiti Gisborne airport (GIS), transport to the hotel is included.

Around 6pm, all runners will gather for a short shakeout run guided by a local runner from Gisborne. The run will be a maximum of 5km at a relaxed pace, perfect for starting to get familiar with the beautiful surroundings. After the run, everyone gathers for complimentary beer and some fingerfoods, where you can get to know your fellow marathon participants, meet the organisers, and raise a glass to the beginning of your Aotearoa New Zealand adventure.

Meals: Finger food after the shakeout run.

Day 2: 19 January 2024 – Traditional Powhiri and Hangi

Early this morning, an optional excursion is on offer - "Stingray Encounter," in Tatapouri. On this excursion, you will have the opportunity to get up close and personal with stingrays and other reef life on a reef ecology tour. You will return in time for other scheduled activities.

All participants will get together in the late morning for a traditional Māori welcome ceremony, known as a pōwhiri. A pōwhiri is a special ritual of encounter and the perfect way for you to experience Māori traditions. It usually takes place at the Māori meeting grounds, called a marae. The ceremony involves singing, dancing, speeches. After the ceremony, lunch at the marae will be served.

If you have chosen the Cultural Package the remainder of your stay will be on the marae, living and sleeping in a communal space with fellow travellers. Usually, you will sleep in same room as 20 other guests on mattresses on the floor. We will provide mattresses, linen, and towels. Also, it's expected to take part of the daily routines like washing your own dish after meals, make your own bed etc. There will be many cultural activities during your stay at the marae. Today you will be introduced to the Maori language & Whanaungatanga.

In the evening, if staying in Gisborne, you will meet for a pasta dinner. If booked the Cultural Package, you will have dinner at marae.

Meals: Lunch at the Powhiri & pre-race dinner.

Day 3: 20 January 2024 - Race Day

This morning you will make your way to the start line, just a short walk away. As the first light of day crests the horizon, you'll set off with music and excitement drumming through your body. Both the marathon and half-marathon begin at 6 am and will end at 2 pm.

If you are on the Cultural Package, back at the marae you have time to relax and, in the evening, you will enjoy a delicious meal while listening to Waiata (maori song).

Those staying in Gisborne, will have the opportunity in the evening to catch up with other runners and supporters at Sunshine Brewery, a boutique brewery from the East Coast, and share your winnings and experiences of today's run while tasting local top-quality beer. The first beer is complimentary. Later in the evening, there is an optional excursion, "Gisborne Astro Tours," where you will get to admire the celestial wonders of the Southern Hemisphere with an accomplished astronomer.

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner - only for those on the Cultural Package; Light lunch at the finish line for everyone.

Day 4 – 21 January 2024 – Optional Excursions and Celebration Dinner

If staying in Gisborne, you will have the day free to explore the area at your own pace, or you might opt to join one of the exciting excursions such as Maunga Hikurangi, a sacred mountain of the Ngāti Porou people; a walking tour of Tolaga Bay and Cooks Cove. Also, a "Learn to Surf" class will be offered. Please refer to our separate excursion flyer for full details.

If staying at marae you will take part in an early morning karakia (prayer), Mirimiri (full body cleansing), Orokoroa (maori meditation), Hiko Whenua (short-guided walk to learn of the flora and fauna), and Moemoe (maori sleep class).

In the evening all participants will be driven out to the celebration dinner at a local vineyard. This is the time to toast to everyone's accomplishments and enjoy a delicious meal while the sun sets over the vineyard.

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch - only for those on the Cultural Package; Celebration Dinner for everyone.

Day 5 – 22 January 2024 - Farewell Gisborne or hello Extension Tour

After check-out, you will be transferred to the domestic airport. Alternatively, join an exciting 6-day extension to visit Rotorua and the majestic Tongariro National Park. For full details on these extension tours please refer to our separate flyer.

Meals: Breakfast - only for those on the Cultural Package.

To book or for more information contact Travelling Fit.... Your Marathon Travel Specialists Phone +61 2 4385 2455 | www.travellingfit.com | Email: sales@travellingfit.com



Please Note: All prices are quoted in Australian dollars and are based on a per person basis. Prices and itinerary are subject to change at any time without prior notice.