

The Tamaki Legend

In 1989 Mike Karene Doug and Kate began to build a legend.

It began with the sale of a Harley Davidson motorbike and the purchase of a 16 seater mini bus. Mike had to look elsewhere after being declined a bank loan to set up a unique new tourism experience.

He set his sights on his brother's Harley-Davidson motorcycle and worked on his brother till Doug was convinced. History was in motion.

The concept saw the brothers and their families create a whole new encounter with Maori culture. They set about creating from scratch a pre-European Maori village 15 minutes south of Rotorua. Many said they shouldn't, couldn't or wouldn't pull it off. The distance from the city centre was seen as a deterrent, the forest setting wouldn't happen, the in ground, real hangi approach as opposed to the shortcut versions being offered at the time seemed labour intensive and too difficult.

They turned all of these negatives in to positives. The bus journey to the village outside of Rotorua is now a major highlight; renowned for its warmth, humour and appropriateness of the protocols it outlines. The forest environment is stunning, the hangi style a benchmark to others and the people who deliver the experience among the most sought after around.

The experience shares a powerful and natural encounter within a forest setting of the people, the history and the spirit of their Maori forebears through the eyes of proud, passionate and genuine people of today.

Tamaki Maori Village, a family run business, has won countless business and tourism awards, including New Zealand's Supreme Tourism Award and Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award.



MAORI VILLAGE