



Forest Tipi Retreat FAQ's:

Please read **BEFORE** you make a booking to learn if this the right Solscape experience for you & the friends you are making a booking for?

Thousands of travellers have **LOVED** their stay in the Forest Tipi Retreat, but make sure that it suits your personal needs before you book. If you have any concerns related to the below information, then we highly recommend you stay in one of our other wonderful accommodation options.

1. Have you slept in tents in the forest before and enjoyed it?

Before you book your Solscape Tipi Retreat please read this FAQ sheet and answer the questions to help you understand if this is the right type of Solscape experience for you. Camping in tipis and belle tents does not suit everyone... **In any forest setting there are bugs, flies, mosquitos & a degree of natural dampness found in NZ camping experiences.**

Tick: Yes No

I love to experience nature and like to come prepared for the realities of camping.



2. Where is the Tipi Retreat & how do I get there?

When you arrive at Solscape please check in at Reception. We will give you a site map and then you will drive further up the driveway and park in the main carparking area. From there **the Tipi's are a 5-10 min walk** through the forest along an old vehicle track that is nice and wide. **There is a fairly steep uphill section** just before you reach the Retreat Area, and we do recommend wearing shoes when carrying your gear in. **Cars are not permitted** to drive down the track to the Tipi Retreat so please pack only what you are comfortable to carry.

I am happy and able to carry my gear to the Tipi area and leave my car in the main carpark.



3. What is the tipi area like?

The tipi retreat is a small group of tipis and lotus belle tents set in secluded native forest at the back of Solscape's 10 acre property: 6 Tipi's, 2 Lotus Belle tents plus Low Impact Facilities. Its peaceful setting lets you connect more intimately with nature.

I enjoy a peaceful environment and will be respectful of others who share this space.



4. What are the tipis and lotus belles like?

Our tipis are based on traditional Native American designs, and although canvas replaces the traditional Buffalo hides, the feeling, the energy and the space of the tipi remains the same as it was in its ancient setting. The Lotus Belles are a round canvas tent with a roof top that looks abit like a downward facing lotus flower – an elegant compliment to the traditional tipi shape. Each site is nestled into the bush for maximum privacy and each dwelling is set on a poured earth or natural timber floor and can be securely shut against the rain and wind.

I have a spirit of adventure and enjoy trying different experiences.



5. What's inside the tipis and lotus belles?

All Tipis are equipped with firm Futon beds and are made up with quality linen and blankets. Lighting is provided by way of solar powered LED's. For most people the bedding we provide is adequate for their needs. If you feel uncomfortable with cold temperatures you may want to bring your own extra warm blanket and hot water bottle from home, just in case. It's good to remember that Tipi's have a small open space around the base between the ground and the canvas material where air can flow through. Some think of the Tipi stay as 'luxury camping' – but it is camping – **so it is natural for some dampness to get in and for beds to sometimes feel a little damp at times – this is the nature of any camping situation.**

I sleep well on a firm/hard mattress and accept the natural dampness of any outdoor environment that sometimes happens as part of the camping experience.



6. Care of your tipi or belle tent during your stay

It is your responsibility to ventilate your tent everyday to reduce the natural dampness that comes with a camping experience. Each tipi/tent has ventilation flaps and a door to allow airflow to help keep things drier. The clean and dry quality linen that is nicely made for your arrival will not be changed during your stay, so we advise you to do your best to take care of your tipi and linen and turn back your duvet, air your tent, and take care to not sit in wet clothing on your bed. Please do your part to maximize your comfort during your stay, but please have realistic expectation of what Solscape provides and what is not under our control.

I will take care to ventilate my tent and bedding to keep the inside clean and dry.



7. Washing and Cooking Facilities

Our low-impact Facilities include:

Forest Kitchen, Dining, Showers & Toilets

Enjoy your meals in a covered dining area sheltered amongst the Mamaku Ferns and Manuka.

Features:

- * Open air Kitchen with **basic** crockery, cutlery, pots and pans & a gas stove top.
- * Wood-fire Earth Oven – great for pizzas!
- * Solar heated indoor-outdoor showers
- * Composting toilets
- * Non-toxic building materials
- * Earthen floors
- * Solar powered LED lighting – there is no electricity
- * Gravity-fed fresh mountain stream water

The facilities are functional but BASIC – remember, this is a rustic forest campsite, not a typical NZ camping ground with electricity and modern facilities. If this does not suit you, please book another one of our accommodation types.

A rustic camp kitchen with limited facilities that has a low impact on the environment will be a welcome change from high-tech living.



8. Food Storage:

- * Bring secure food containers from home for food you want to store the tipi kitchen and/or in your Tipi/Tent to discourage possums. You will be immersed in a **natural forest setting**, with native birds and insects and other forest life as your neighbours – so sometimes this means possums too.
- * Insects flourish in a healthy natural environment, so **bring bug repellent – come prepared** – you may not need it – but come prepared.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: There is NO FRIDGE... if you want to keep food cool you must walk in your own cooler and ice, or use the fridges at the main kitchen.

I will plan my food storage to work in with what is available and bring insect repellent for sure!



IMPORTANT: If you are booking for a group of friends, it is your responsibility to share this information with them and make sure they understand the camping conditions.

As we said, thousands of travellers have LOVED their stay in the Forest Tipi Retreat, so it is important to make sure that it suits your personal needs before you book. If you have any concerns related to the above information, then we highly recommend you stay in one of our other wonderful accommodation options.

We will take no responsibility for unrealistic expectations and complaints related to what we provide and what the experience is like. We do always invite constructive feedback to help us improve our service, but please read the above information carefully BEFORE you make your choice.

Thanks - We take a lot of pride in delivering wonderful and memorable experiences to our guests. So if this sounds like YOU and your friends, then you are ready to make your reservation to come experience the magic of our Forest Tipi Retreat. Hope to welcome you to Solscape soon!



Solscape Forest Tipi Retreat - Packing Check List:

Chilly Bin/s, secure food storage containers	
Rain coats, sturdy walking shoes, long sleeves, warm clothes	
Insect repellent, flashlight/torches, head torches	
Towels – for shower and beach	
Luggage / gear that you are comfortable to carry (5-10 min walk from Carpark along a wide track that does have a steep uphill section)	
Extra warm blanket & hot water bottle – if you get cold easily	

When you arrive at Solscape please

Check in at Reception – Welcome!

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There is a fairly steep uphill section just before you reach the Retreat Area, and we do recommend wearing shoes when carrying your gear in.

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We hope you enjoy your Solscape unique Forest Tipi Retreat experience!