

# Glowworms - Titiwai

## A 'NEED TO KNOW' GUIDE



We've put together this 'need to know' guide about the glowworms that you can find in Russell township. It's a best kept secret!

When you stay at the Holiday Park we recommend you go and visit the glowworms in Russell township. They are a 'local' secret but not for long.

Head into the township and along York street. At the end of York street take a left into Wellington Street and wind your way up the hill. About two thirds of the way up on your left is the entrance to the Flagstaff Hill - Te Maiki loop walk (see top right picture). There is space on the side of the road to park your car. Alternatively you can walk from the township but be warned it is quite steep!

The walking track is well-formed and starts off downhill, head down the track for about 5 minutes. You will hear a stream running alongside you and the path crosses over the stream. This is the spot!

### Fun facts:

- A Glowworm isn't actually a worm - it is the larve of a special type of fly called a fungus gnat.
- The Māori word for glowworm is Titiwai. This loosely translates to 'lights that reflect on the water'.
- Glowworms use their light to attract prey that get caught in their sticky trap.
- The glow is caused by a chemical reaction.

Stand where the path crosses the stream and turn your torch off and look up-stream. Once your eyes adjust you will see the glowworms lining the side of the stream.

On the other side of the stream the path continues on alongside a bank and you will see more glowworms lining the bank. It's magical!

Along the bank you'll feel immersed as they are right next to you. You can view them up close with your torch, which is fascinating for young kids who have never seen a glowworm before.

If it's a clear night you can also see the stars through the tree tops and if you are really lucky you may even hear the call of the kiwi.

*Happy exploring - we'd love to hear your experiences of the Glowworms.*