




Motu Cycle Trail

TRAVEL IDEAS

OUTDOORS IN THE EASTERN BAY OF PLENTY

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CYCLING IN THE EASTERN BAY OF PLENTY

Exploring the Eastern Bay of Plenty by bike is easy! Cruise along the Ōhope Harbourside Trail for a gentle amble along one of NZ's most unspoiled estuaries, Ōhiwa Harbour - this trail is suitable for all ages, so a great option for families.

Head further down the coast to experience one of NZ's Great Rides - the Motu Trails. Choose from three trails depending on your level of experience, or combine all three for the ultimate cycling adventure. Mighty Motu Bike Tours offer a great guided tour (which even includes home baking!) along the Dunes Trail.

Take it to the next level and head inland to Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park which has beginner, intermediate and experienced trails available, set in one of the most spectacular rainforests in the country.

HIGHLIGHTS

Enjoy a chilled out bike ride around the region, or get the heart racing on some epic mountain bike trails.



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HIKING & WALKING

Ngā Tapuwae o Toi Trail

Ngā Tapuwae o Toi (or the 'Footsteps of Toi') truly captures the essence of the Whakatāne district. Explore three major scenic reserves, historically significant pā sites, spectacular coastal views and plenty of native flora and fauna. Split the walk into sections or complete it as one 16km round walk.

Kiwi Wandering Trail

This is a great one for the families! Take yourself on a self-guided scavenger hunt through Whakatāne and look for the 10 life-sized bronze kiwi statues wandering through the heart of Whakatāne. Pick up a brochure with clues from the i-SITE and see how many you can find! The trail is approximately 1.6km long and starts outside Te Kōputu a Te Whanga a Toi - Library and Exhibition Centre and finishes at Wairaka Centennial Park.

Ōtarawairere Beach

Everyone loves a secret! And Ōtarawairere Beach is one of the best kept secrets in the Whakatāne-Ōhope region. It's only accessible by foot or kayak - which makes it all the more special. Only 15-minutes walk from West End in Ōhope, this beach is a perfect spot for a picnic, swim or a day to just unwind and relax!

HIGHLIGHTS

Explore the Bay by foot - choose from a huge range of stunning walking & hiking tracks.

For information on other walks in the Eastern Bay of Plenty, visit whakatane.com.



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OCEAN ADVENTURES

Fishing

There's plenty of places to go fishing in the Bay of Plenty. With wharves and jetties dotted all over the place, you'll be spoiled for choice when it comes to choosing where to go! For something more serious, book a charter with Diveworks or The Gambler Fishing Charters.

Kayaking

For an Eastern Bay of Plenty kayak adventure, team with with KG Kayaks and explore the coast around Whakatāne and Ōhope - or hire a kayak and explore on your own.

Dolphin & Wildlife Tours

Here's one for the bucket list. Jump on board with one of the experienced local operators for your chance to get up close with dolphins, seals, whales, sea birds, and other amazing marine wildlife - an unforgettable experience! Diveworks offers a great range of tours in the Eastern Bay of Plenty.

Explore an Eco-Sanctuary

Located just off the coast of Whakatāne is Moutohorā (Whale Island) - a pest-free oasis which is home to many native New Zealand birds, reptiles and plants. Moutohorā: Island Sanctuary is one of the few operators with DOC concession to land on the island. Their 4-5 hour tour gives an amazing glimpse into this regenerative island - and ends with an optional swim at the island's best kept secret - a hot water beach!



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WHERE TO STAY

Whether you want to stay in the bustling town of Whakatāne, or in one of the seaside settlements such as Ōhope Beach or Thornton Beach - you'll be spoilt for choice when it comes to picking accommodation. Some top spots include: Ōhope Beach Top 10 Holiday Park, White Island Rendezvous, One88 on Commerce, and Thornton Beach Holiday Park.

WHERE TO EAT

Fresh fish and chips on the wharf, pick your own berries, locally-brewed craft beer - the Eastern Bay of Plenty is a pretty good place to try some amazing locally-sourced goodness.

Whakatāne town centre has plenty of delicious cafes, bars, restaurants and takeaway options - so no matter what you're craving - there'll be something to satisfy your tastebuds. Gibbo's on the Wharf offers some of the freshest fish and chips you'll ever have - it's a must-do while you're in town! Other great options include: White Island Cafe and L'Epicerie.

Over the hill in Ōhope Beach you'll find a couple of great options; coffee and brunch at Moxi Cafe is a popular option for both locals and visitors, and Port Ōhope General Store & Cafe offers great views of both the ocean and Ōhiwa Harbour, as well as great burgers!

Check out the local produce at the popular Whakatāne Sunday Market from 8am - 11am every - yep you guessed it - Sunday. You'll find local growers selling organically grown fruit and vegetables, handmade products, fresh honey and olive oils, jewellery, crafts - and plenty more!



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