

YOUR FREE GUIDE
SUMMER – AUTUMN 2023/24

SUNSHINE SEASON

MUST DO'S
Our top picks

WHAT'S ON – EVENTS

DISCOVER OUR LOCAL
Eat & Drink

Summer like this?

REWIND | CONNECT | RESET



Whakatāne District
Everything under the sun
whakatane.com



Ōtarawairere



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Nau mai ki Whakatāne – the heart of the Eastern Bay of Plenty

When on holiday, there's nothing better than local knowledge on the best things to see and do. Here it is, your guide from those who know our place best. So, grab a cuppa and discover why the Eastern Bay of Plenty is the perfect place to unwind and re-energise this sunshine season. You'll find more than you might imagine.

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Our top picks



MUST DO'S



Discover more than you might imagine in our outdoor paradise



Family fun

Ōhope Beach Discover why our jewel in the crown wins most-loved beach year after year.

Awakeri Rail Adventures An historical rail trail with some surprising stops along the way.

Berry farms Pick your own berries and enjoy a berry ice cream while the kids play at one of our iconic berry farms.



Epic Escape Take a break from the sun and enjoy a family challenge.

Kiwi Wandering Trail Find the 10 life-like, life-size bronze kiwi statues that wander right through the heart of Whakatāne.

Wharfside, Port Ōhope Watch the kids master their manu (jump) or join in yourself at this popular spot.





Adventure Lover

Mountain biking Onepū Mountain Bike Park and the Burma Road Trail – plenty of fun for first-time riders to experts.

Riverbug Experience the thrill of whitewater and some of the region’s most spectacular scenery on the Rangitāiki River.

Hiking Whirinaki Te Pua a Tāne Conservation Park An ancient wonderland of 1000-year-old trees and endangered wildlife. The park is valued as a taonga (treasure) with local iwi Ngāti Whare, the active kaitiaki (guardian) of the park.

Te Urewera Horse Treks Journey into an ancient indigenous rainforest.

Scenic flights For an unforgettable experience, enjoy a scenic flight over Whakaari/ White Island, Mount Tarawera or the East Cape.

Golf Enjoy a round with spectacular views at one of our seaside or country clubs.



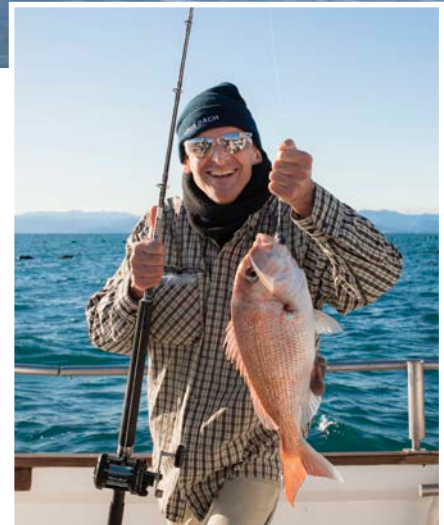
Ocean Explorer

Kayaking Discover secluded coves and ocean wildlife on a guided kayak tour.

Dive Geothermal underwater vents and ancient shipwrecks offer the ultimate diving experience.

Charter fishing You won't miss a catch at one of New Zealand's best fishing destinations.

Catch a wave Catering for all ages, West End, Ōhope is the perfect place for learner and experienced surfers.



Stand-up-paddleboarding

Ōhope Beach and Ōhiwa Harbour, you're spoilt for choice.

Ōtarawairere Bay

This stunning bay is Ōhope Beach's hidden gem.

Sailing Experience spectacular coastal vistas on a tailored sailing trip.



Historic Trail Walk the historic trail in the centre of Whakatāne and discover some of the most sacred and historically significant sites of our rohe.

Te Kura Whare The tribal headquarters of Ngāi Tūhoe and New Zealand's first certified living building.

Te Kōputu a te Whanga a Toi Step into our exhibitions and galleries space and be spellbound by the contemporary arts and culture hub.

Ōhiwa Harbour Enjoy a harbour cruise with Tio Ōhiwa and learn about the fascinating cultural history of the area.



Kohutapu Lodge & Tribal Tours

Supreme tourism award-winners – immerse in the stories, culture, kai (food) and warmth of the manaakitanga (hospitality) of the Ngāti Manawa Toe Toe whānau (family).

Cultural Discovery



Kohutapu Lodge & Tribal Tours



Kiwi experiences Wild kiwi in our backyards – discover why Whakatāne is officially crowned the Kiwi Capital of the World™.

Bird watching Enjoy the cacophony of sound along the Bird Walk or discover a variety of rare species around the Ōhope Spit. Take care not to disturb nesting grounds in the dunes.

Ngā Tapuwae o Toi A spectacular walking trail with unsurpassed coastal views, ancient pā sites and wild kiwi territory. A rival to any of New Zealand's Great Walks.

Moutohorā Island One of the most exclusive wildlife sanctuaries in Aotearoa, and best-kept secrets. Discover bird colonies, kayak amongst friendly seals, and dig your own hot pool in the sand at Onepu/Sulphur Bay.



Eco Enthusiast



Moutohorā Island

OUR PRECIOUS WHENUA

Give back and regenerate

The Whakatāne District is blessed with diverse and thriving natural environments. While the land, sea, rivers and lakes have always been here, they haven't always been in the thriving state they are now.

Many experiences set amongst our eco-wonderland are enhanced due to countless hours of work by volunteer groups who work to restore our native flora and fauna. There are many ways you can support this work, during and after your stay.

Find out how you can help regenerate our precious whenua.



HOW TO CARE FOR NEW ZEALAND



BE PREPARED



DRIVE CAREFULLY



KEEP NZ CLEAN



PROTECT NATURE



SHOW RESPECT

EVENT SEASON

FAMILY EVENTS

Go4Goal

Monday, 18 December to Wednesday, 31 January, Whakatāne Libraries

Drop into Whakatāne, Murupara, Ōhope or Edgecumbe Library and collect a takeaway bag chock full of fun 'Go4Goal' challenges to keep 5-12 year olds curious over summer.

Heart to Heart Expo

Saturday, 23 March, 10 - 2pm
Whakatāne War Memorial Hall

Free event. Treasure hunt with awesome prizes, free clothing, free hangi, sausage sizzle, tea/coffee, and scones. Bouncy castles and rides, face painting, spot prizes. Local dance and music talent.

Sustainable Backyards

Events throughout March

Informative workshops and activities brought you by Envirohub. Growing your own food, beach/estuary clean-ups, cooking, bush walks, kids' events, frock swaps and movie screenings.

SPORTS EVENTS

Whakatāne Annual January Touch tournament

Friday, 5 and Saturday, 6 January
Kick off times: 5pm Friday, 9am Saturday
Rex Morpeth Park

The largest Touch Club tournament event in New Zealand, attracting top sports people and teams from all over the mōtū (country) and teams from Australia.

Top10 Campers VS Golfers Golf Tournament

Saturday, 6 January
Ōhope Beach Golf Links. Entry fee \$25
Everyone welcome, golfer or not.
Register at Ōhope Beach Golf Links.

Farming like Grandad

Saturday, 20 April
10am - 4.30pm
Te Teko Racecourse
Adults \$10, kids FREE



Farming as it used to be. Clydesdale horses, sheep shearing, tractors, and farm machinery (old and new). Wagon rides, vintage cars, exhibitions by the Axe Men and chainsaw races. Craft Corner, farm animals, old-style kids' games, food, music and more.

West End Wiggle

Easter Weekend, Friday, 29 March
to Monday, 1 April
West End, Ōhope

A traditional longboard festival
with something for everyone



Twilight Golf

Every Monday at 4.15pm until Monday,
4 March (excluding Christmas,
New Year's Day and Monday, 8 January)

Ōhope Beach Golf Links

Entry fee: \$10 visitors \$5 members

Everyone welcome, not just golfers!

Meals served from 6pm in the clubhouse.

Ōhope Beach Charter Club VS Top10 Camp Golf Tournament

Wednesday, 10 January

Ōhope Beach Golf Links. \$25 entry fee

Everyone welcome, golfer or not.

Resister at Ōhope Charter Club.

Ōhope Sprint Triathlon

Sunday, 25 February, 9am - 12pm

Otau South Reserve, Ōhope

Entry fee: individual \$50-\$60, team \$70

The annual fun triathlon: swim 750m,
cycle 20km and run 5km.

sporty.co.nz/ebopmultisport

Ray White SPCA Charity Tournament

Friday, 15 March, Ōhope Beach Golf Links

Teams of three. Entry fee \$195 per team

Generous sponsored prize table,
light lunch and auction.

New World Mixed Golf Tournament

Sunday, 14 April, Ōhope Beach Golf Links

Entry fee: \$25. Open to all

51st Summercross (Motocross)

Friday, 29 and Saturday, 30 December

Awakaponga motorcycle track
99 Caverhill Road, Awakaponga

Hard and fast motorbike action
with NZ's best riders across 21 classes.

Food vendors, helicopter rides
and bouncy castle.

bopmcc.co.nz





Frazzled Kiwi Adventure Race 2024

Sunday, 10 March, Whakatāne
\$35 per person

A fun trek/run only adventure race.
Perfect for beginners, kids and experienced adventure racers.

REGULAR EVENTS

Whakatāne Garden Parkrun

Every Saturday, 8am
Whakatāne Gardens off McGarvey Road
A fun friendly weekly 5km community event.
parkrun.co.nz/whakatanegardens

Ōhope Craft Market

December to February:
Every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month
March onwards: Every 1st Saturday
8.30am - 12.30pm, Bluett Road, Ōhope
A large range of local arts, crafts and local produce.

Whakatāne Sunday Market

Every Sunday, 8am - 1pm, Mitchell Park
Handmade crafts, locally grown fruit and veg, olive oils, honey and more.
Entertainment and food vendors.

River Edge Park Miniature Railway

Every Sunday in January 10am - 3pm
Every 1st Sunday of the month thereafter
Fun for the family on a miniature train.
Closed shoes required. \$2 per ride
riveredgerailway.org.nz

Whakatāne Observatory

Every Tuesday and Friday 7.30pm
Weather permitting. Adults \$15, Children \$5

fun

FISHING TOURNAMENTS

New World Juniors

Wednesday, 3 to Saturday, 6 January

Gibbo's Fresh Fish Ladies

Friday, 26 to Sunday, 28 January

One Base Tournament

Thursday, 22 to Saturday, 24 February

NZ Sport Fishing Club Nationals

Saturday, 17 to Saturday, 24 February

Surtees Boat Tournament

Friday, 8 and Saturday, 9 March

NZ Sport Fishing Club Youth Nationals

Saturday, 13 to Saturday, 27 April

For more information and to register for tournaments, visit whakatanesportfishingclub.co.nz



For the most up-to-date event information. Visit whakatane.com/events or scan here >>>





FOR THE FOOD LOVERS

Local Wild Food Festival

Saturday, 24 February, 2pm – 8pm
 Mahy Reserve, Ōhope
 Adults \$15, under 18 FREE

An institution on the Eastern Bay of Plenty culinary calendar. The Local Wild Food Festival celebrates wild food, from a part of the world where wild game, kaimoana and produce are plentiful and varied.

whakatane.com/wildfood



The Good Fusion

Sunday, 14 April, 2pm – 5.30pm
 Port Ōhope Wharf, \$85pp

The Good Tonic, in conjunction with Flavours of Plenty Food Festival, presents The Good Fusion, a fusion of Food, Fashion & Music. Bringing together some of the finest artisans, designers and musicians, all with the same ethical ethos – slow, sustainable production with reuse and repurpose as their core values. Have a lazy Sunday afternoon filled with bubbles, banter and great entertainment. All profits to the Dream Chaser Foundation.

Flavours of Plenty Festival

Thursday, 4 April to Sunday, 14 April
 Events across the coastal Bay of Plenty area

This award-winning series of events celebrates Bay of Plenty's world-class food scene. The theme – Culinary Collisions – is all about collaboration, where talented chefs, producers, artisans and passionate culinary enthusiasts come together to create and savour remarkable taste experiences.

flavoursofplentyfestival.com





Summer Arts Festival

Dance Carnival

Saturday, 3 January, 10am - 12pm
 Wharaurangi, The Strand. Koha appreciated
 Showcasing a wide variety of dance groups and styles, from belly dancing to folk dancing, from latin ballroom to flamenco via hip hop. Spend an enjoyable morning at Wharaurangi on The Strand and get your toes tapping.

Art in the Park

Wednesday, 24 January, 3pm - 6pm
 Douglas Street end of Sullivan Lake. FREE
 Toi Mana - Art Power with Joanne Black and Kerry Limmer, plus Children's Art Workshop. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Activities include flax weaving, sausage sizzle, balloon man, childrens' games, ukulele band, face and nail painting, Halo, coffee cart and interact group.

Open Studio Art Trail (Te Ara Toi)

Saturday, 2 March and Sunday, 5 February
 Across the Eastern Bay

Positively Patchwork

Friday, 15 March to Sunday, 17 March 2024,
 10am - 4pm, The Art House
 Adults Gold Coin, Children free
 Quilts by Eastbay Quilters and Cotton Pickers, sales table, raffles, art quilts.

Jazz in the Park

Saturday, 27 January, 2pm - 8pm
 Whakatāne Rose Gardens
 Relax for the afternoon and into the evening at the beautiful Whakatāne Rose Gardens. Listen to several bands playing in a range of jazz, jazz pop and blues styles. Bring folding chairs, drinks and a picnic, or choose something from the food and drinks stalls. Check out local art and craft for sale at the Makers Market.



WHARFSIDE

The new Ōhope hotspot

Situated at Port Ōhope Wharf, Wharfside is the place to be this season. Set off on a Tio Ōhiwa harbour cruise, hire SUP and e-scooters for some family fun or sit and relax with a craft beer and bite to eat harbour-side, while the kids practice their manu off the wharf. Don't miss all the action at this popular and picturesque spot.



Open from Wednesday, 27 December to Monday, 5 February and select weekends through autumn.

 340 Harbour Road, Port Ōhope



What's on at Wharfside?

Scan here



EXHIBITIONS *AND* MOLLY MORPETH CANADAY

Where arts and culture come together

Te Kōputu a te Whanga a Toi *Whakatāne Library and Exhibition Centre*

Te Pātaka Kōrero Heritage Gallery display charts the unique history of the district. Three changing exhibition galleries offer the best of local and national art, with regular public programmes.

Exhibitions open Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm, Saturday 10am – 2pm



Thou Shalt Not...

A Tame Iti Retrospective

7 December to 27 January

A deep exploration into the life and works of Tame Iti, one of New Zealand's most distinguished Māori activists and artists.



This multimedia retrospective draws a singular reference to the Ten Commandments, serving as a metaphorical framework and echoing the myriad directives that colonial powers have historically forced upon indigenous peoples.

More than a mere visual exploration, the exhibition's aim is to spark dialogue on New Zealand's colonial narratives, the persistent endeavors of its indigenous communities, and the fearless resistance Tame Iti symbolises.

Through *Thou Shalt Not...* Tame Iti invites us to reflect upon the colonial narratives that have shaped societal norms, recognise the resilience and resistance of indigenous artistry, and celebrate the transformative power of art in challenging and transcending these boundaries.

Molly Morpeth Canaday Award

18 FEBRUARY TO 6 APRIL

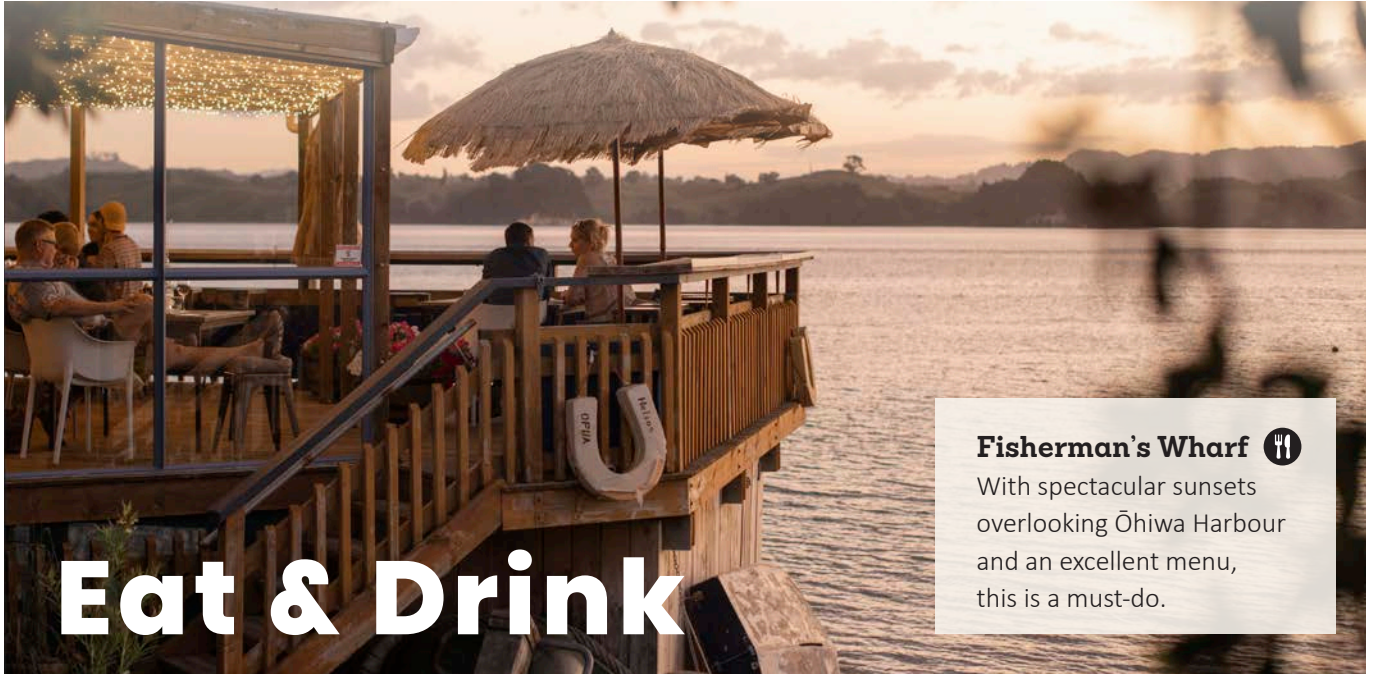
Molly Morpeth Canaday is a highly regarded competition dedicated to excellence across all art forms. Finalist works are selected to form the exhibition from nationwide entries, with the supreme winner awarded a top prize of \$10,000.

The Molly Morpeth Canaday Award is presented by Arts Whakatāne and exhibition partners Whakatāne District Council.



Discover Our Local

Laid-back vibes
and good food



Eat & Drink

Fisherman's Wharf

With spectacular sunsets overlooking Ōhiwa Harbour and an excellent menu, this is a must-do.



Eat and Drink



Coffee

Drift Store

Stop for a coffee and a natter with friendly locals in Matatā.

Tio Ōhiwa Oyster Farm

Harbour-to-plate oysters with a side of chips overlooking the water. Be warned, it's popular!

Mata Brewery and Tasting Room

The only craft brewery in Whakatāne. Enjoy tastings and mouth-watering pizza.



Gibbo's on the Wharf 🍷

With fish straight off their boats, Gibbo's serves the best fish 'n' chips in town.

L'Épicerie Larder ☕🍴

An authentic taste of France in the heart of Whakatāne.

Volk & Co Coffee Brew Bar ☕🍴

Always busy – always a good sign. Guaranteed excellent coffee and great cabinet food to match.



📍 Gibbos



📍 Moxi

The Comm ☕🍴

The iconic and historic Commercial Hotel returned to its former glory, with a modern twist. Bringing renowned Good George Co. brews to Whakatāne, along with all-day dining.

Cigol 🍴

Korean fried chicken, need we say more? An outstanding selection of shared dishes. Wash them down with Saki or Asahi beer on tap.

Moxi ☕🍴

This funky spot offers excellent coffee with a fresh and modern menu.

The Wagon 🍴

These guys know how to do good fuss-free food. The focus here is on damn good burgers washed down with an equally good brew.

Café Awa ☕🍴

An unbeatable breakfast menu and outside tables overlooking Whakatāne Harbour.

Cadera 🍴

A local favourite with the best margaritas this side of Mexico.



📍 Cadera



THE ULTIMATE FAMILY WEEKEND

With Outdoor Kid's Ceana Priest

“

Surrounded by untamed wildernesses, achingly beautiful shorelines and forests filled with nocturnal kiwi, Whakatāne is the ideal destination for an adventure-filled family weekend.

”

Kickstart your visit at the Whakatāne isite Visitor Centre for insider tips on local happenings. Grab a Kiwi Wandering Trail guide to discover life-size statues of 10 mighty kiwi that have helped earn this coastal township its title of Kiwi Capital of The World™. More than 300 kiwi live within forested ridgelines surrounding the town, a remarkable conservation comeback from when the population was a mere eight.

Venture offshore on a salt-laden breezy boat trip to Moutohorā Island, where visitors tread lightly within an extraordinary forest home to rare wildlife, before spending a leisurely afternoon strolling the Whakatāne main street and exploring the nearby Te Wairere waterfall.

As the day winds down, choose a dining spot from lively restaurants offering family-friendly options or self-cater at your accommodation. After a hearty breakfast on Sunday, delve into the captivating history of Whakatāne at Te Kōputu a Te Whanga a Toi – Whakatāne Library and Exhibition Centre. Discover the intertwined stories of Māori and European settlers that shaped the town's early days before embarking on a nature hike along the Ngā Tapuwae o Toi Trail.

Feeling peckish? Picnic at Maggie's Funtastic Garden, surrounded by whimsical-themed gardens, before ending the weekend with a rejuvenating soak at the spring-fed Awakeri Hot Springs.

Moutohorā Island | Whale Island

Moutohorā Island offers visitors a glimpse of what New Zealand's untamed wilderness once looked like. Rare and endangered creatures coexist on the forested volcanic cone, a refuge where tuatara bask in the sunlight and North Island brown kiwi forage at night. Guided tours depart from Whakatāne Wharf, offering a quick 15-minute boat ride to this pest-free island. For nature enthusiasts, this sanctuary is paradise; kororā (little blue penguins), ōi (grey-faced petrels), and tīeke (North Island saddleback) have made it their home.

Kids will love digging beachside pools to relax in warm geothermal waters bubbling up next to the Pacific Ocean.



Ngā Tapuwāe o Toi Trail Footprints of Toi

Journey through kiwi-filled forests, discover heritage sites, soak in vast ocean views from clifftops, and walk beneath sprawling coastal forests on this 16-kilometre-long trail. Typically, the trail takes 5 to 7 hours to complete, but families can opt for shorter, kid-friendly sections, ranging from a mere 30 minutes to a few hours.

Tarawera Falls

The distant rumble of this 35-metre-tall waterfall fills the forest long before it appears, erupting from an ancient lava flow into a rock-strewn valley. Drawing its waters from high above the falls, where the glistening Tarawera River disappears into submerged caves, only to burst out halfway up the sheer cliff face. Bring a picnic to enjoy beside this dramatic waterfall shaped by the region's volcanic past.

Need to know: A permit to must be purchased from Kawerau Visitor Centre.



CAMPING OR GLAMPING

TOP
PICKS

Wainui Seaside Glamping Sitting on a peaceful spot on 14 acres of harbourside, bush-covered land, the setting of this glamping site is exquisite. A large luxury canvas tent, complete with wood-burner, has views over stunning Ōhiwa Harbour.

Whakatāne Holiday Park

Situated on the riverside and a five-minute walk along the Warren Cole Walkway to the town centre's shops, eateries, galleries and more.

Pikowai Camping Ground

This beachfront camping ground between Whakatāne and Tauranga is a wonderful spot to enjoy swimming and beach fishing.

Aniwhenua Reserve This family-friendly site on the shore of Lake Aniwhenua is the only freedom camping spot in the district. Plenty of fun to be had with lake swimming, fishing and a playground.

Ōhope Beach Top 10 Holiday Park Undoubtedly one of the most popular camping grounds in the region, generations of holiday makers visit year after year. From tent sites to apartments, spa pools, sauna, outdoor movies and of course NZ's most loved beach, it has it all.

Kahikatea Farm



Kahikatea Farm Set on an elevated spot amongst the pristine bush on the farm, surrounded by mature manuka trees. Spend time enjoying the view over the Bay of Plenty and Te Urewera National Park from the deep outdoor bath - big enough for two!

The Grove Farmstay A luxurious glamping experience with two self-contained yurts, 'The Grove' and 'Still Waters', on an idyllic coastal property.

Wainui Valley Rural Retreat

Unwind in a beautiful rural setting. Luxuriate in an outdoor bath with a wine in hand and watch the moonrise. A world away, yet minutes from Ōhope beach.

For more accommodation options



Ōhope Beach Top 10



Pop to the shops

If you love leisurely perusing boutiques, galleries and specialty stores, you'll be delighted at our established shopping spots. Stroll along the tree-lined Strand in Whakatāne CBD or pop into one of the beach-side boutiques in Ōhope. The perfect day out when you need a break from the surf and sun.



Keep up with
what's on this
summer!

Whakatāne isite

Get in touch with our friendly isite team, who will provide information on a huge range of things to do in the Eastern Bay and help with activity, accommodation and transport bookings.

Discover more at whakatane.com

0800 942 528
Corner of Quay Street
and Kākahoroa Drive, Whakatāne

