Aotea

GREAT BARRIER ISLAND

A world of its own

Visitor Guide 2022/23

greatbarrier.co.nz

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WASTE ON AOTEA GREAT BARRIER ISLAND

THE ISLAND IS ON A ZERO WASTE MISSION. SO, WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Anamata RESOURCE RECOVERY COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE
WITH SUPPORT OF AUCKLAND COUNCIL

HELP US PROTECT THIS PARADISE - MINIMISE YOUR WASTE AND WHERE POSSIBLE, TAKE IT BACK WITH YOU.

HOW TO LIVE MORE LIGHTLY AND DISPOSE OF YOUR WASTE ON AOTEA...

STAYING ON LAND

Your accommodation provider may provide a rubbish bin or council bags for landfill rubbish, a yellow crate for recycling and a compost bin for food scraps (check if unsure). DOC campground and hut guests are expected to take their rubbish away with them to dispose of responsibly. They can purchase council rubbish bags locally (check with camp hosts).

Recycling is different here to the mainland. To ensure you get it 100% right, visit: makethemostofwaste.co.nz or anamata.nz

Rubbish bins/council rubbish bags, recycling bins and bundled paper/card are placed out ready for collection prior to 8am on Monday (including Claris to the crossroads and South) or on Tuesday (rest of Island). For a map, refer makethemostofwaste.co.nz.

Checking out on a different day? Check for instructions at your accommodation or drop your recycling and reusable items to Anamata and rubbish to the transfer station in Claris. Opening times can be found below.

VISITING BY BOAT

Help to protect the Hauraki Gulf - minimise your waste. If possible please take your waste home with you.

There are no rubbish collection points at the wharves. Council rubbish bags can be purchased at one of the local stores. They can be disposed of at the Claris transfer station, or left for roadside collection, as per days above.

AOTEA WASTE BUSTING

WATER REFILL STATIONS - Refill your water bottle inside the airport, outside Claris Store, The Currach Irish pub and Port FitzRoy Store.
COMPOSTING - Free community composting is available at Medlands community gardens, Anamata and Mulberry Grove school. Also check out www.sharewaste.org.nz.
ANAMATA PRELOVED CRAFT - Preloved and reuasable items can be donated and are given a new lease of life at 66c Gray Road, just down from the transfer station.
REUSABLE COFFEE CUPS - Bring your own or buy from a local café or from Shoal Bay pottery as a souvenir.
BEER REFILL STATIONS - We know everyone loves a cold one over the summer! The Rocks Bottle Shop and Aotea Brewing run refill stations, to fill up a flagon with fresh, chilled local brew.
BULK BINS - Stonewall Store and Claris Store have a great selection of package free bulk bin products.
COMMUNITY PANTRIES - At Mulberry Grove School, Okiwi school and Medlands Community Gardens. Fresh produce and non- perishables can be left here to share.
DONATE TO COMMUNITY OPPSHOPS - St. John's church in Medlands runs an opp shop and there is another opposite Mulberry Grove Store. Proceeds support local causes.

ANAMATA REUSE SHOP. RECYCLING & AOTEA TRANSFER STATION.

OPENING TIMES:
PEAK SEASON: (19 Dec - 4 Feb)
Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Sat 10am-3pm
OFF PEAK: Wed - Fri 9am-4pm, Sat 10am-3pm.
Closed Sundays and public holidays.

ANAMATA SHOP & RECYCLING: 66c Gray Road
PHONE: 09 4290 654
AOTEA TRANSFER STATION: 70 Gray Road
PHONE: 09 4290 799
ROADSIDE COLLECTION: From 8am Monday south of and including Claris to the crossroads. Tuesday for rest of island (Okupu, Whangaparapara and North)

FOR MORE INFO VISIT
MAKETHEMOSTOFWASTE.CO.NZ OR ANAMATA.NZ

Aotea
GREAT BARRIER ISLAND
A world of its own

Welcome	3
Map	4
Getting your bearings	5
Find the joy in missing out	6
Whakapapa	7
Our Dark Skies	8
Exploring	9
Eat & Drink	11
Buy Local	12
Growers & Makers	14
Experiences	16
Arts & Heritage	18
Beaches	19
Walking	20
- Huts & Campgrounds	21
- Short Walks	22
Planning a trip	23
Ecology & Conservation	24
Boat Information	27
Accommodation	28
Getting Here	30

Visitor Information

www.greatbarrier.co.nz
info@dgbi.co.nz

/aoteagreatbarrierisland
@greatbarrierislandofficial

Help us to reduce waste by leaving this guide at your accommodation or at the information centre

Printed using a carbon neutral printer on FSC certified paper

Nau mai haere mai ki Aotea Great Barrier Island!

Welcome to the shores of our beautiful motu. On approach, the island can appear austere and lonely, but as you explore the depths of its whenua (land), moana (sea) and rangi-nui (skies), you'll undoubtedly discover the charm that lies beneath the fascade. It's a short trip from Auckland, but truly a world away.

We are proud of our Maori and European heritage, and of our dark sky sanctuary sky. The population is made up of 1200 creative, eccentric, resourceful and practical people. You'll find evidence of these traits in the conversations you have with them, in their art work in our galleries, and expressed in the wide variety of properties on offer as accommodation.

Our incredible empty beaches and our diverse landscapes teem with protected indigenous taonga species, many unique to Aotea and its surrounding islands. Keep an eye out for them.

Aotea endeavours to be a sustainable destination. We invite you to embrace this journey with us. Every household and business on our island is off the grid, generating their own power and harvesting their own water, so this is a great first step. There are other tips in this guide on how you can take action to be a mindful and sustainable visitor.

In line with New Zealand's Tiaki promise - which asks all of us to care for people and place - we ask visitors to be responsible, tread lightly, leave no trace and take their time to enjoy our island.

Through kaitiakitanga and guided by mana whenua, we care for our motu, the moana that surrounds it and for our people. Through manaakitanga we share the abundance and spirit of generosity with our visitors, from their welcome through to their farewell, and on their likely return.

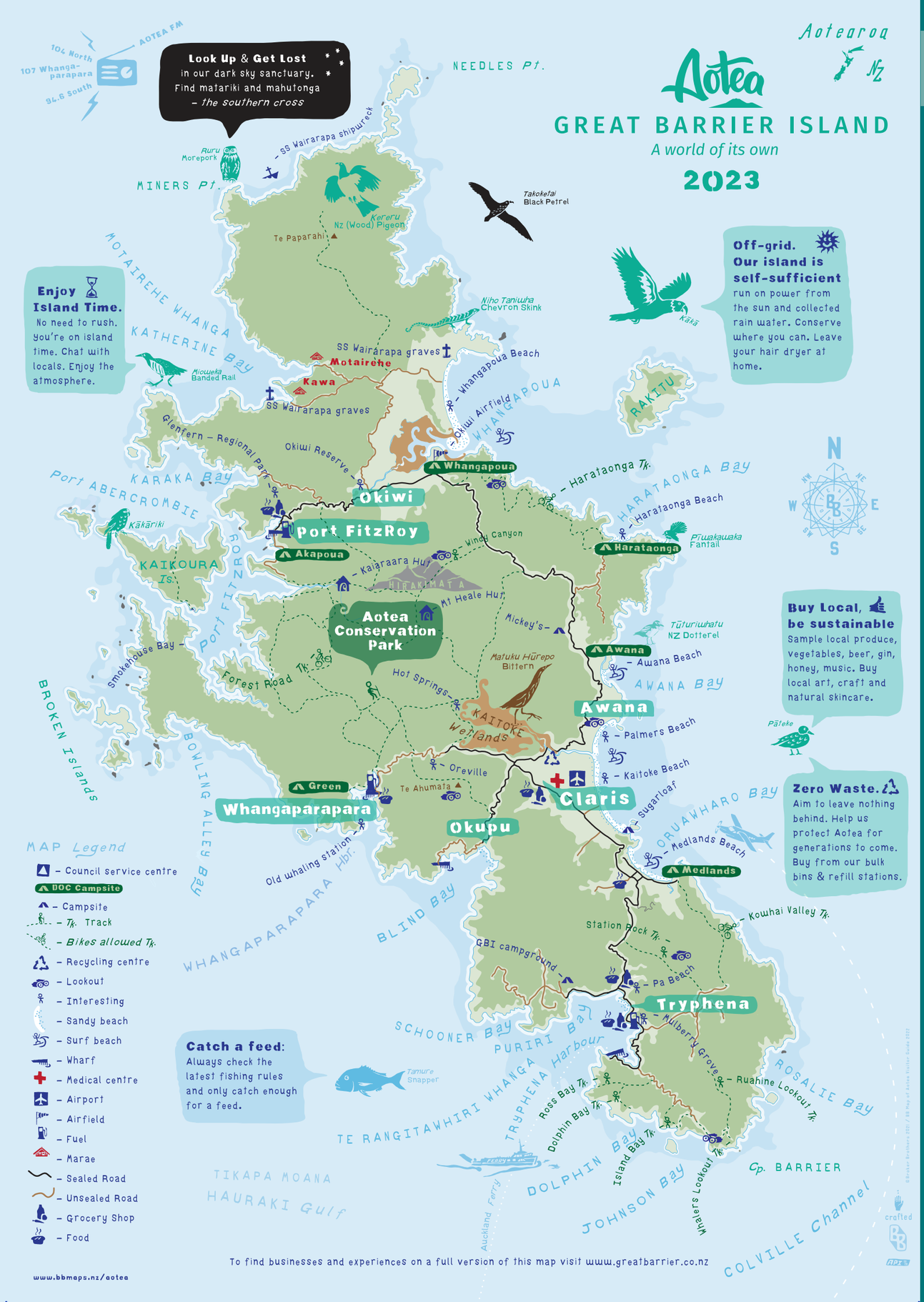
Residents on Aotea feel absolutely privileged to live here, we hope you soon share this sentiment as a visitor too.

Nau mai haere mai ki Aotea!

Destination Great Barrier Island

Proudly supported by

Great Barrier Local Board
Auckland Council



Getting your bearings

Tryphena – The 'busy' South
First port of call for visitors traveling by ferry. From the wharf, a winding road hugs the coast and opens up to many lookouts to spot dolphins, schools of fish, whales and orca. This largest settlement on the island is home to two grocery stores, a post shop, a fuel station, two cafes, a pub, a social club and artist's studios. There's safe swimming on Pa Beach, Gooseberry Flat and Mulberry Grove beaches and several 1-4 hrs walks up Cape Barrier Road.

Claris - The services hub
Housing the island's public services: aerodrome, police station, Auckland council service centre with library, garage, medical centre, fuel station, bottle shop, local sports club, golf club, cafe, burger bar, lunch bar, two museums and the community art gallery. It's the place to stock up on essentials (in Claris) if you are hitting the tracks or beaches in the north of the island. The next store and fuel stop is in Port FitzRoy!

Okupu - Family picnic spot
Heading east, winding Blind Bay road takes you past te Ahumata track and brings you to sheltered, giant Pohutukawa-lined Blind Bay, a magical place for a family picnic, dolphin spotting and beach time. Stop off at Iona mine on the way down or head around the coast to scenic Blind Bay wharf.

Whangaparapara - Remnants of big industry
Once bustling with industry and now a sleepy harbour, this is the perfect place to explore for a day. Find remains of a whaling station and remnants of an old timber mill from kauri logging days as well as a history exhibition in the wharf shed. Whangaparapara is the perfect place for a day hike or to commence the Aotea Track. Spot the stamper battery from gold and silver mining days, close to the car park for the renowned Kaitoke Hot Springs.

Port FitzRoy - Boaties paradise
The largest natural harbour in the Hauraki Gulf is a boaties paradise and a great starting point for the Aotea track. Port FitzRoy is a good stop for supplies while boating, to discover secluded bays, or to visit Glenfern Sanctuary - our regional park with info about pest eradication and biodiversity on Aotea.

Very useful numbers.

Barrier Air	0800 900 600
Island Aviation (Waiheke Wings/Auckland Seaplanes)	09 390 1122
Sunair	0800 786 247
SeaLink (www.sealink.co.nz/sign-up-for-text-alerts)	0800 732 546
Dept of Conservation	0800 DOC HOT
Aotea Health - 24/7 Acute Emergency	09 4290 356
Emergency: Ambulance, Fire, Police, Coastguard	111

General Stores
Mulberry Grove -Tryphena
Stonewall Village -Tryphena
Claris Store
Port FitzRoy Store

Fuel
Mulberry Grove - Tryphena
Whangaparapara Wharf
Claris Centre
Port FitzRoy Wharf

Medical
Claris Health Centre
Port FitzRoy Nurses Cottage
St John Ambulance (111)

Internet -Free wi-fi at
Claris Airport
Claris Store
Council service centre (Claris)
Barrier Social Club (Tryphena)
Tryphena Hall

Drinking Water Refill Stations
Inside Claris Airport
Outside Claris Store
Outside Port FitzRoy Store
Outside The Currach Irish Pub

Laundromat
Claris Centre
Sunset Lodge (Tryphena)

More useful numbers

Police	09 4290 343
P.ort FitzRoy Nurses Cottage 047	09 4290
Okiwi DOC Office	09 4290 044

Local Services

Auckland Council	09 4290 258
Pharmacy	09 4290 006
Barrier Automotive	09 4290 830
Aotea Gas (LPG)	09 4290 968
Claris Tyres	09 4290 885

Find the joy in missing out...

There are some things you won't find on Aotea, but once you've got your head around this the alternatives may just become the best part of your island experience.

You won't find...

Large supermarkets... but try our local shops and you'll be surprised by their selection, and their miraculous ability to keep their shelves stocked when the freight ferry doesn't come in.

Malls... but many quirky galleries, with creations from our talented locals that breathe the islands essence more than any photograph.

Footpaths... but our roads are shared, and we've got a diverse range of walking tracks with individual quirks, all over the island. Please be careful as a walker and driver on own narrow roads. Drivers make sure to stick to the left, especially around corners.

Streetlights... which is one of the reasons why we're a Dark Sky Sanctuary. Bring a torch if you intend to go out on foot at night.

Public transport... but Great Barrier Buses operate a daily post run from Tryphena to Port FitzRoy and back every weekday morning. Have a chat with the friendly driver - See page 9.

Taxis... but friendly shuttle services and rental cars. Book before you arrive. Or go light on luggage, rent a solar charged Motu Bike or catch a trike ride with Go Great Barrier.

Large tours... but small personalised experiences with Norm (Explore Great Barrier), Leigh (Sunset Lodge) Chris (Hooked on Barrier), Benny, Phoebe & Russell (Star Treks), Deb and Hilde (Good Heavens) and others!

Zoo... but many taonga (treasures) more rare than the animals you see in the zoo. (Look out for kākā, tāiko, banded rails, dotterels, chevron skinks... see page 24).

Fun parks or adrenaline rides... instead, we have waves and the Hillary Outdoor Pursuit centre, same same but different.

Surf lifeguards.... so stay safe around the ocean, watch out for rip currents, swim with a buddy and stay within your limits.

Mains power... so no hair dryers, electric toasters and rice cookers, please – but charging your device is usually fine.

Mains water... So take quick showers, especially in the summer months

Banks... but most places now have EFTPOS facilities, although not always credit cards facilities.

Public Rubbish bins... but check out the inside cover to find out how you can dispose of your waste and how you can help us with our zero waste mission.

Events - Discover what's on throughout the year

For further details visit: **www.greatbarrier.co.nz/events**

Spectacular by Nature Garden Tour	November
New Years Picnic	Start of January
Mussel Fest	Start of January
The Wingman Festival	Auckland Anniversary. Every other year
Aotea Brewing Summer Sessions	Ticketed event series in January
Off the Grid Festival	May - Every other year
Small Island Big Ideas	Winter series. Smallislandbigideas.co.nz
Stonewall & Other Markets	Keep an eye on notice boards!
Gallery Exhibitions	Visit gbiarts.co.nz for what's on

Whakapapa

Aotea and every one of the 50-odd islands and rock stacks that surround it have names. Some are well-known, like Rakitū and Kaikoura. Others, known to just a few, markers to a past stretching back a thousand years.

Rodney Ngawaka, is part of the Ngawaka family and related families take their hapū name, Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea, from the tupuna Rehua who led the conquest of Aotea around the 17th Century.

He says Great Barrier's Māori name likely comes from the waka Aotea. The harbour between Raglan and Kawhia shares the name, the final resting place of the voyaging canoe.

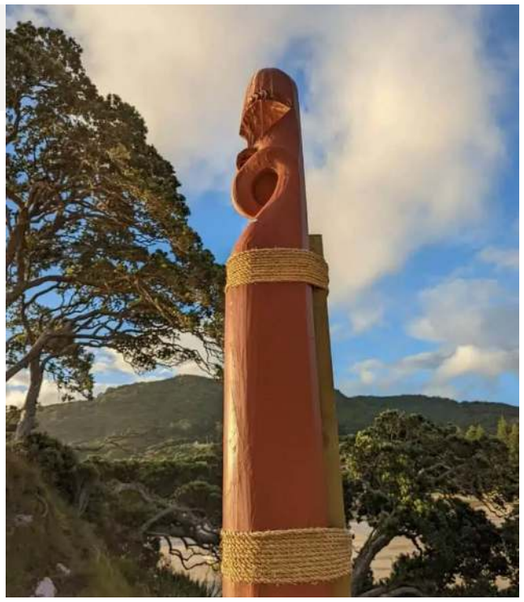
Ruahine, the high peak in the south of the island, was the granddaughter of Turi, the waka's chief.

There are island names that reference earlier arrivals, from the Tainui and Arawa waka. Even mythical navigator Kupe – regarded one of the first arrivals from Hawaiki – is referred to in the place now called Okupu, or correctly Ō-Kupe-Mai-Tawhiti.

Rehua's people originated from the coastal area north of Auckland. Through a series of conquests of the Ngāti Tai hapū and accommodations with others they came to control Aotea's settlements as mana whenua ahead of the first contact with Europeans.

Stand on Medlands beach and imagine yourself in those times, part of a group of around 30-40 people of mixed generations, the oldest kaumātua and kuia not much older than 35 years. Several other similar sized groups share the landscape around you.

The headlands to the north and south are pā with palisades and trenches, places of retreat when enemies arrive and for important gatherings. Otherwise, life revolves around gardens and dwellings scattered around the lower hills and edges of the swamp. Memory Rock and Boatsheds – the rocky outcrops in the middle and south of the beach – and the ridgelines below the pā are dotted with clay-lined pits used for storing kūmara, taro, yams and gourds. Waka are drawn up in the sheltered bay to the south and campfires in the dunes are used for preparing fish, shellfish and birds brought back from foraging parties which travel regularly across and around the island. Urupā or burial places are sited around pohutukawa in carefully tended spots behind the beach.



Local archaeologist Don Prince says most coastal headlands around the island show signs of occupation in the period before European contact. Around Tryphena were several pā, at Pā Beach, above the entrance lighthouse (Te Kūrae-o-Turi) and Millers Point (Rangitāwhiri).

Rodney explains how place names reveal a hidden world of belief systems and knowledge across all corners of the island.

In the North, The Needles, Ngā Taratara ō Toi, are part of Ngā Poitō ō Te Kupenga ō Toi Te Huatahi, the floats of the net of ancestor Toi, and when viewed from the ocean in certain weather, they indeed bob like floats on a net.

To the east an important marker is Kaitoke, the reef at the mouth of the main river emerging from the swamp, meaning food (kai) from the conger eel (toke).

The island off Cape Barrier in the south is Te Motu Tohora, referring to the fluke of a rolling right whale.

Westward is Rangiahua, the seat of the Rangi, the sky father figure of Māori mythology.

The names of the island's highest peaks Hirakimatā and Te Ahumatā both refer to the presence of obsidian (matā), flakes of which were used to create cutting instruments that were traded around the Auckland region. Hirakimatā refers to the flash of lightning strike on obsidian.

The arrival of Europeans brought rapid changes to the patterns of habitation on the island. Private land deals and government acquisitions to enable mineral and timber extraction and aid European settlement occurred. This left Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea with just 1800 hectares in the northwest of the island around marae at Kawa and Motairehe.

The Waitangi Tribunal has documented this history, resulting in an apology by the Crown for causing prejudice or breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi and an associated Deed of Settlement.

Through the work of Rodney and Don we are being invited to look at landscapes around Aotea and see the histories and stories of two peoples afresh.

Excerpt taken from 'Through Fresh Eyes' part of the Island Stories series, written by Tim Higham with thanks to Rodney Ngawaka and Don Prince. for their insights.

Our dark skies

Dark Skies above Aotea – stellar!

Aotea Great Barrier Island became a Dark Sky Sanctuary in 2017. The island sky is of exceptional quality according to the International Dark Sky Association. Our nocturnal environment is now protected for its scientific, heritage and educational value, and for its value to the natural environment and public enjoyment.

Natural darkness is an important issue in conservation. It's as important as clean water, air, and soil. Worldwide, artificial light is steadily increasing by at least 2% per year and many animals die because of light pollution. Dark skies need protection.

The Hauraki Gulf has one of the highest numbers of seabirds of any region in the world. Twenty-four species breed in the Gulf, five of them nowhere else. They benefit from darkness.

Aotea has large areas without distracting artificial light, ensuring sea birds can find and return to the spots where they mate, nest and bring up their chicks, year after year.

Humans also benefit from Aotea's Dark Sky Sanctuary skies. A lack of artificial light at night allows us to settle into our natural circadian rhythms, promoting healthy sleep. Our wellness is also enhanced by being mindful when we look up and get lost in the stars.

This is easy, as the island sky is around ten times darker than a light polluted city sky.

In comparison to Auckland, for instance, we can see ten times as many stars here. So, where you may be able to see 500 stars in Auckland on a clear night, on Aotea you may be able to see around 5000.

Among those 5000 stars, it's great to go on a treasure hunt for other celestial objects. Such as globular clusters.

* Image: Hubblesite

Under a dark sky, faint, deep sky objects such as globular clusters are clear to see in all their grandeur. Lucky for us, the two largest globular clusters visible from Earth are in our Southern Hemisphere sky.

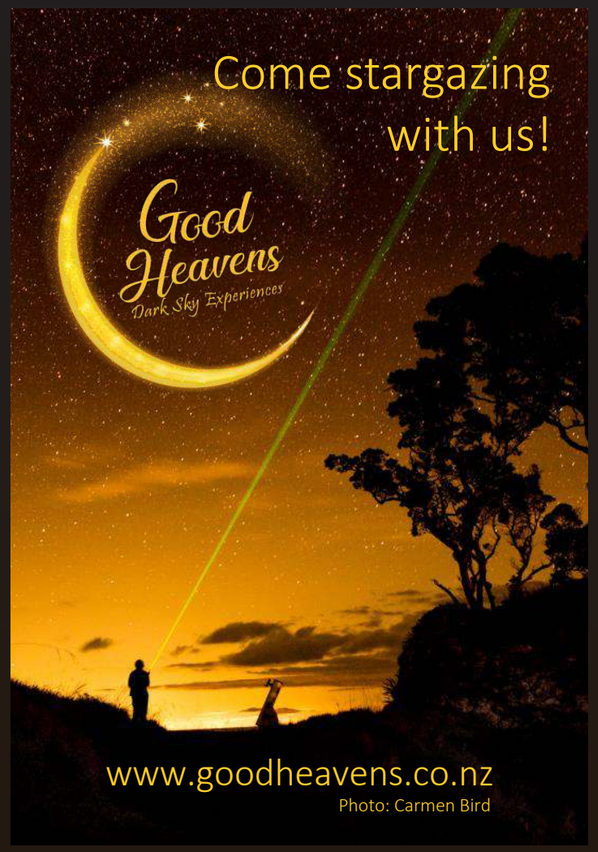
These globular groupings of stars consist of the great great great grandparent stars of the Milky Way. They've been hanging out together for more than 10 billions years! They're easily the oldest objects we can see. Ever.

Their wow-factor becomes truly apparent with the magic of magnification that a telescope provides. A shimmering, snowflake-like conglomeration of stars, containing anywhere from tens of thousands to millions of stars! True stellar treasure!

We hope you'll take the opportunity to look up and get lost in the stars while you are on our beautiful island, either by yourself or guided by one of our local stargazing companies.

Article supplied by Good Heavens.

* https://www.greatbarrier.co.nz/island-stories-seabird-capital/



Exploring

There is no public transport on Aotea. So to get the most from your trip, we highly reccommend booking in advance a car, electric motubike or shuttle transfers. For hikers or boaties wanting to transfer between the north and south of the island People & Post run a daily service, every day but Sunday from Tryphena to Port FitzRoy and back (see details below.)

The island is deceptively big, it takes around an hour to get from Tryphena Wharf to Port FitzRoy wharf.

GREAT BARRIER TRAVEL
Passenger Transport · Car & Van Hire · Travel and Information
AOTEA CAR RENTALS

'People & Post'

Offer a daily scheduled bus service Tryphena to Port FitzRoy

Departs Tryphena at 10am
Returns from Port FitzRoy at 11am
6 days a week (Excl Sundays)

Passengers $30 pp one way
(Small freight items $12)
This service is free if you rent a car from Aotea Car Rentals.
Great if you are hiking the tracks in the conservation park.

Great Barrier Travel & Aotea Car Rentals
39 Medlands Road, Tryphena,
Great Barrier Island
gbbuses@xtra.co.nz 0800426832
www.aoteacarrental.co.nz

CLARIS RENTAL CARS
GREAT BARRIER ISLAND

Cars from $70/day
Airport and Wharf drop off

Call Orla: 021 174 1537
clarisrentalcars@gmail.com

Top Tips:

Hitch hiking - is safe, common and a great way to get to know locals on the island.

Walking - our roads are shared, so beware of traffic especially in the peak summer months.

Car Rentals

Airport Rentals (Neal)	09 4290 417
Aotea Car Rentals (Sue)	09 4290 474 or 0800 426 832
Claris Rental Cars (Orla)	021 1741 537
Aotea Lodge (Fiona)	027 909 1462
GO Great Barrier - transport services, rental cars, custom & group tours (Steve & Leebee)	0800 997 222
Medlands Rentals (Skilly)	09 4290 861
North Barrier Rentals (Jeff)	09 4290 848
Shoal Bay Rentals (Val)	09 4290 543 or 0274 774 018
Stray Possum Lodge Rentals (Kev)	09 4290 109

Motorbike/Scooter/Bikes

Bikes on Barrier	022 516 4479
Motubikes	022 344 0645
Bikes for Hire - Pharmacy	09 4290 006

Passenger Transport

Norm & Fleur (Explore Great Barrier)	021 636 398
Fiona's Shuttles	027 909 1462
GO Great Barrier - transport services, rental cars, custom & group tours (Steve & Leebee)	0800 997 222
People & Post | Shuttle/transfer service (Great Barrier Travel) (Sue)	09 4290 474 or 0800 426 832
Skilly (Medland's Rentals)	09 4290 861
Mike Newman (based in Port FitzRoy)	021 876 296
Debbie (Pick Me Up Shuttles)	02PICKMEUP
Kevin (Stray Possum Lodge)	09 4290 109

- Personal transportation service
- 11 seater van
- Pick up and drop off service
- Anywhere, anytime, night or day
- Airport or wharf transfers island wide
- Group bookings
- Call us today to secure your seat

Pick Me Up

Phone: 02PICKMEUP
027 42 563 87

STONEWALL STORE
GENERAL STORE
BEERS WINES & SPIRITS

Excellent range of:
Organic & Gluten Free Products
Harmony Meat – Bulk Bins
Delicious Specialty Foods - Ice
Fresh Fruit & Vegetables
Beer, Wine & Spirits
Open 7 days
82 Blackwell Drive, Tryphena
For all enquiries phone 09 4290 451

THE CURRACH IRISH PUB

021 174 1537 or 09 4290 211
www.currachirishpub.co.nz

Authentic and traditional Irish Pub

Award winning chef with great menu choices, daily specials, woodfired pizza

Sunny pub garden with large deck - a perfect way to enjoy the sun setting.

Live music and Thursday music nights

Awarded Certificate of Excellence by Trip Advisor every year since 2013.

Eat & Drink

From cafés serving delicious brunches and organic coffee, to waterfront dining and mouth watering takeaway burgers, the island has a lot of yummy bites to offer. We recommend heading to our social clubs for dinner, to get to know the locals - everyone is welcome.

Opening times vary throughout the year, so please refer to our monthly 'Food & Drinks guide' by visiting: www.greatbarrier.co.nz/eat-drink/

Top Tip: Call ahead and book in advance, over summer and winter.

South – Tryphena

Barrier Social Club. À la carte & blackboard menu. Bar and takeaways. Monday movie nights. WiFi available. 09 4290 421

Currach Irish Pub. Bookings essential to avoid disappointment. À la carte & blackboard menus. Licensed. WiFi available. 09 4290 211

Mulberry Grove Café & Takeaway. 09 4290 909
Open 7 days. Meals, takeaways, breakfasts available from 8am. Coffee bar, bottle shop. Open till 7pm.

Pa Beach Café. Delicious cabinet food, great coffee, breakfast and lunch options. Cafe right by the beach! 09 4290 905

Central – Claris & Whangaparapara

Angsana Thai Restaurant, Gray Road. Bookings essential. Takeaways available. 09 4290 272

GBI Sports & Social Club, Whangaparapara Road. Club bistro, à la carte menu and takeaways. Licensed. 09 4290 260

Golf Club, Whangaparapara Road. Delicious meals, great steaks and cold drinks. 09 4290 420

My Fat Puku Café, Claris. Fresh food, fabulous organic coffee, garden setting. 09 4290 811

Swallow Gourmet Burger Bar, Claris. Gourmet, burgers, wraps, salads, fries, seafood, hot and cold drinks. 09 4290 226

Baked on Barrier, Claris. Lunch bar, hot & cold food, sweet & savoury. Fresh daily. 09 4290 800

Aotea Brewing, Mason Rd - Medlands. Fresh local beer refill station, events through summer. Visit: aoteabrewing.co.nz

North - Port FitzRoy & Okiwi

Port FitzRoy Burger Bar. Chips, Burgers, Cold Drinks. 09 4290 868

Port FitzRoy Boat Club. Club bistro. À la carte, takeaways, licensed. 021 210 9799

my fat puku
licensed cafe & wood fired pizza bar
Claris Great Barrier Island

COME JOIN US FOR COFFEE & PIZZA NIGHTS!
Licensed Cafe, Beer & Kombucha brewed onsite, available on tap.
Organic coffee & home baking
Open 7 days
129 Hector Sanderson Rd | www.myfatpuku.co.nz | 09 4290 811

Baked on Barrier

- Lunch Bar
- Hot & Cold
- Sweet & Savoury
- Fresh daily

Open 7 days
7am-2pm Mon-Fri
9am-2pm Sat & Sun

25 Hector Sanderson Rd
09 4290 800

BARRIER SOCIAL CLUB

Everyone Welcome.
Friendly atmosphere
Local beer & more on tap
Fresh meals
Locally sourced ingredients

Opens at 4pm until late on:
Wednesday
Friday
Saturday
21 Medland Road, Tryphena - 09 4290 421

movie CLUB

Monday movie night with Island Screens
Open 5pm, Kitchen 6pm, Movie starts 7.15pm
To see what's on:
facebook.com/gbiislandscreens

Buy Local

Our stores across the island have a wide range of groceries, so you shouldn't need to bring much with you at all!

What you will notice is that things may be a little pricier than on the mainland, but that comes with our geography and the effort that goes into getting supplies to the island.

Our shopkeepers work hard to keep their shelves stocked with a great product range and where possible they use local suppliers.

We encourage our visitors to shop local, to support local jobs and our very unique island economy.

Stonewall store and Claris store both have bulk bins of essentials from rice, other grains and flour to dried fruit and lollies. Stonewall in Tryphena has a particularly good range of organic groceries and products for those with dietary requirements.

Top Tip: You can help us reduce waste by buying local and using low packaging options, like bulk bins and refill options. Also, keep an eye out for local markets and stalls.

South:

- Barrier Building Supplies (ITM). Open Mon-Sat 09 4290 466
- Mulberry Grove Store & Bottle Store. Open 7 days 09 4290 909
- Outpost Gift Shop 09 4290 610
- Stonewall Store & Bottle Store. Open 7 days 09 4290 451
- Laundromat Sunset Lodge

North:

- Port FitzRoy General Store & Bottle Shop 09 4290 056

Central:

- Claris General Store Open 7 days 09 4290 852
- Great Barrier Pharmacy 09 4290 006
- Pigeon Post Open Mon - Fri (Sat in summer) 09 4290 242
- The Rocks Bottle Store 09 4290 118
- Island Gin Distillery 09 4290 690

Pigeon Post
CLARIS
Established 1897

Postal Services | Gifts | Crafts
Souvenirs | Stationery | Toys

Ph/Fax: 09 4290 242

Port FitzRoy Store
Phone 4290 056
Full range of Groceries, Fruit and Vegetables

Wines, Spirits, Beer, Bait, Ice, Fishing Gear, LPG Fills

THE ROCKS AOTEA NZ

>Beer,wine,spirits,ice,snacks
>Local breweries refillery station
>Stockists of Island Gin

Wholesale prices for group functions
Open 7 days

therocks@xtra.co.nz
www.therocksaotea.co.nz
09 4290 118

CLARIS STORE

Stocking all the essentials, including locally sourced produce, fresh fruit, veg and organic options.
Open | Mon to Fri 8:30am-5pm | Sat & Sun 9am-4pm
Extended hours over summer
09 4290 852 | info@clarisstoreaotea.nz

Great Barrier Island
Sports & Social Club
Full bar facilities – delicious meals at the Club Bistro– Conference facilities – Pool tables – Tennis courts – Sports field

Whangaparapara Rd, Claris. Open Wednesday, Friday & Saturday. **Email: clarisclub@xtra.co.nz Ph: 4290 260**

Mulberry Grove Store
Fuel - Bottleshop - Takeaways - Cafe - Groceries
09 4290 909

Open Everyday
All day breakfast
Hot Food
Great Coffee
Fish & Chips by the seaside
Uninterrupted views of Tryphena Harbour
Full On & Off license

FRESH, LOCAL CRAFT BEER

Come, sample and fill a vessel with our range of delicious beer brewed at our solar powered brewery in Medlands.

Spend a lazy afternoon listening to amazing bands at one of our Summer Session gigs.

Check out our brewery tours and event catering options.

AOTEA BREWING

Refillery open:
Thurs - Sun, 12 - 5pm in summer

Online click and collect available 7 days

50a Mason Road, Medlands - aoteabrewing.co.nz - @aoteabrewing

Growers & Makers

Look out fior local produce and products.

You'll find fresh, island-grown fruit and vegetables, including the island famous Gray's potatoes grown on the rolling hills overlooking Palmer's beach. We think the quality and flavour is due to their happiness - those spuds do, after all, look out to one of the most incredible views in Aotearoa! Look out for the Gray's potato stand at markets or stationed between Swallow and Baked on Barrier on Hector Sanderson Road on weekends.

Aotea is also home to the southern hemisphere's most remote, award winning, boutique gin distillery - Island Gin, zero-waste solar powered microbreweries - Aotea Brewing and Barrier Brew, small batch coffee roastery 'Aotea Roast' and an abundance of manuka and bush honey products are all produced on our beautiful island.

These products can be found in our stores and eateries island wide. Be sure to support and indulge in these local goodies on your trip. Many can also be ordered online, so you can order and get them shipped to the mainland long after your trip here.

Local, Freshly Harvested and Naturally Grown
Vegetables · Fruit · Herbs · Sensational Salad
Please order online at www.okiwipassion.co.nz

Caity and Gerald, Endterprising Gardeners, info@okiwipassion.co.nz
ph 09 429 0137 (G) 0220 748545 (C) 021 212 7153

Growers & Makers

Natural Skincare & Therapeutic Products
If Aotea does anything exceptionally, it's natural skincare and other therapeutic products. There are many local producers who harness the healing and therapeutic capabilities of plant-derived ingredients. One example is Te Ao Haurongo, who combine western herbalism with māori rongoā, to produce a range of medicinal hydrosols and balms. Everything is produced according to tikanga, including working with te maramataka, the māori lunar calendar, to harvest in season with the moon phases.

The honey industry on island also produces beeswax as a by-product, and this resource is used by many producers of natural beauty products. You'll find medicinal balms and remedies, soaps, moisturisers, facial oils and synergy blends - something for every stage of your regime.

Beautiful gifts
These beauty and health products are available from the shops, galleries and occasional markets. They make beautiful gifts and can be a great daily reminder of your blissful break to Aotea/Great Barrier Island.

If you can't quite squeeze them into your luggage or don't have the time for the mad dash to the gallery before you board your flight home, you'll find many of these products are also available online.

Top Tip: Keep an eye out for markets and stalls!

Some producers also offer tours, or workshops. Get in contact and learn more about the process behind the product.

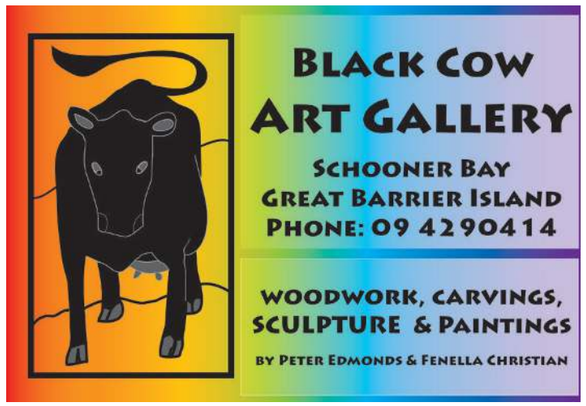
A therapeutic range of small-batch skincare made right here on Aotea, Great Barrier Island
www.kaitokewilds.nz / In stores throughout Aotea

Te Ao Haurango
Traditional matauranga Maori intertwined with Celtic whakapapa.
Natural products & consultations.
www.facebook.com/TeAoHaurongo

Kathy Cumming marriage celebrant
kathy.cumming@gmail.com | 021 409 991

WaiOra
Wellbeing

Guided by Vicky Kyan
(ANFT cert. guide and trainer)
www.naturebathing.nz
|+64 9 4290 129 | +64 27 383 8300|



Experiences

Here is a go to list of activities and experiences on the island. From kayak hire in different locations around the island to dark sky adventures, there is something for everyone. All our operators are small local businesses who offer truly authentic and personal experiences.

To download our slow travel map with the locations of all these experiences and local tips, head to:

www.greatbarrier.co.nz/maps

Dark Sky Sanctuary Experiences

Good Heavens – Stargazing experiences	027 4290 877
Carol Comer - Astrophotography Adventures	027 767 0071
Star Treks - Dark Sky Adventures	027 387 7950

Diving

Port FitzRoy Dive Station For fills, hire, tests, batteries	021 0829 3887
Hooked on Barrier, Claris	0210 276 2332

Electric Motorbikes

MotuBikes	022 344 0645

Fishing Charters/Coastal Tours

Hooked on Barrier, Claris	09 4290 740
Hauraki Express (Water taxi & fishing)	027 664 6644

Golf

Great Barrier Island Golf Club. 9 holes. Clubhouse open Thurs & Sun 10am-6pm. Clubs available every day from "The Rocks" Claris. Ph: 09 4290 118. Green Fee $25, Club Hire $5 Summer. Boxing Day to end February, Saturdays to 8pm. Whangaparapara Rd, Claris	09 4290 420

Kayaking

Great Barrier Lodge, Whangaparapara	09 4290 488
Hooked on Barrier, Claris	09 4290 740
Tryphena House. **Bookings only.**	027 410 2688
Shoal Bay Estate, Tryphena	09 4290 543
Aquahut, Sunset Lodge, Tryphena	09 4290 051

Movie Nights

Island Screens. Barrier Social Club. Mondays	09 4290 421

Outdoor Educational Programmes

Hillary Outdoors, Port FitzRoy. Available for group bookings, closed 8 Dec - 8 Jan	09 4290 762

Paddleboarding

Aquahut, Sunset Lodge, Tryphena	09 4290 051

Surfboard Hire

Salty Bushman Surfboard Hire	09 4290 051

Tours - Land

Crazyhorse Trike Tours	0800 997 222 or 09 4290 222
Go Great Barrier	0800 997 222 or 09 4290 222
Explore Great Barrier	021 636 398
Great Barrier Travel	09 4290 474
Great Barrier Active Honey Tours	027 350 4444
Star Treks - Guided Motubike Tour	027 387 7950

Walking & Tramping (Tracks on page 20)

Check out page 20 and collect a DOC track map from the airport	
Glenfern Sanctuary - Regional Park. Guided and Unguided walks. Port FitzRoy	09 4290 091
Star Treks - Locally guided walks	027 387 7950

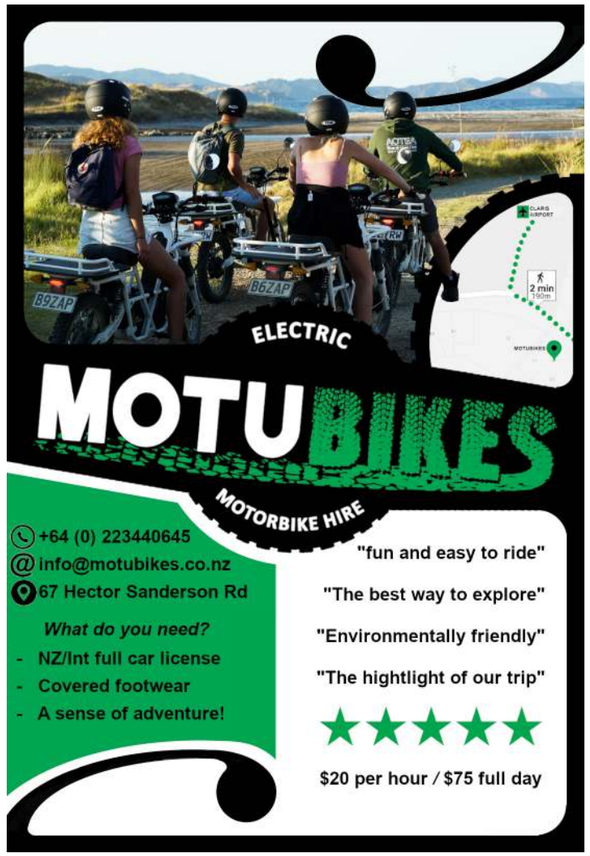
Water Taxi

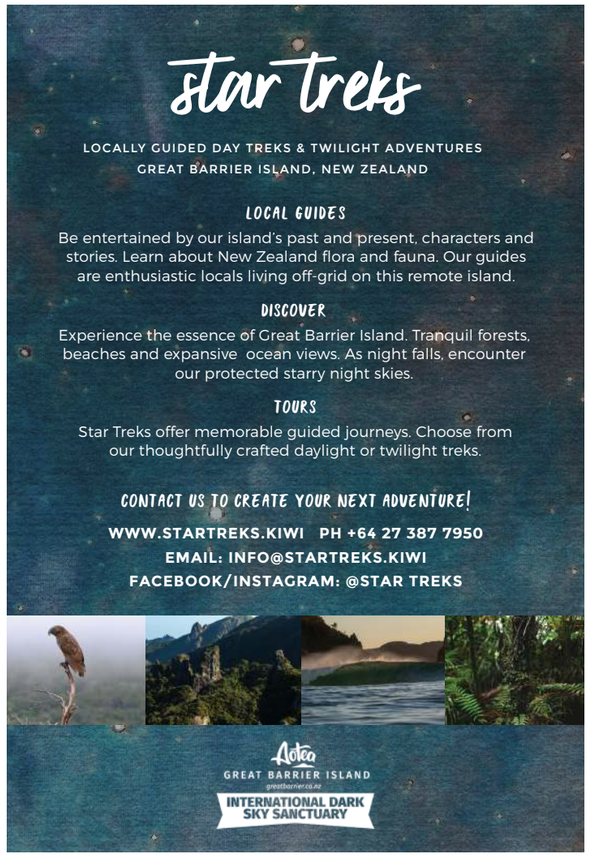
Hauraki Express from AKL	027 664 6644

Wellbeing, Massage & Yoga

Aotea Holistic Therapy	09 4290 968
WaiOra Wellbeing Wanders	027 383 8300

Top Tip: Book experiences ahead and check the weather. If in doubt ask the operator or a local.





Arts & Heritage Trail

Venture through our creative island. Follow our art trail below and enjoy the variety of work on offer, chat to the artists and discover how Aotea inspires their work. Buy local, purchase a piece of Aotea, a long lasting connection to the island and its people.

Starting close to the wharf in Tryphena, pop into **(1) Sarah's pottery in Shoal Bay (09 4290 455)** . There are plenty of recycled projects to admire in the garden of this talented and friendly potter, too.

Another friendly face can be found at the **(2) Elephant gallery in Puriri Bay (027 961 4315),** where Marion has an excellent array of beautifully knitted clothing for new-borns and small children, the popular Bee Glad Honey Bee wraps and stunning works from island creatives.

Continue onto **(3) The Black Cow in Schooner Bay (021 538 874)** which showcases work by woodworker and painter Peter Edmonds and painter Fenella Christian. The door is open 24/7 and an honesty box offers buyers easy access to some of the quirkiest art on island. Its picturesque location is the perfect setting to enjoy a packed lunch.

In Claris, you'll find the **(4) Milk, Honey and Grain museum (09 4290 773)** 200m south of the airport. You can gain insight into the island's rich early settler history here.

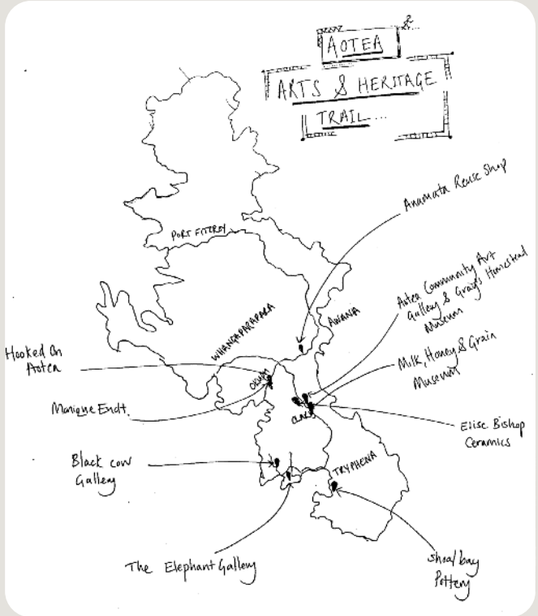
Also in Claris, **(5) the Aotea Community Art Gallery and The Gray Homestead museum (09 4290 580)** provides exhibition and retail space for a wide variety of arts and crafts from locals and artists with a local connection. Close proximity to the airport makes this the perfect place to dash for that last souvenir or gift, once you have checked in for your flight.

In Okupu you will find **(6) Monique Endt (027 4121 652)** in her studio/gallery over the summer. Look out for the sign at the Okupu insersection. Monique paints the natural world of Aotea in the most exquisitely unique style, so indulge in an original Endt from the artist's easel or buy (and send) some of her stunning post cards.

Your Okupu journey hasn't finished just yet, hidden away in local, Janene's garden you'll find her knitting gallery **(7) Hooked on Aotea** - visit her facebook to check openings and location.

One last stop, **(8) Anamata reuse shop (09 4290 654)** on Gray Road is not your typical gallery, where the crafty team turn trash into treasure. You never know what you might find! Opening times are on the inside cover.

'Protect our natives' - Sammi Moore. *Winner of the Peoples choice awards - 'The Barrier Bird of the Year Exhibition'*



Beaches

The beaches on Aotea range from sweeping expanses of pristine surf on the east coast, to sheltered harbours, sandy shores and secluded coves on the west coast.

On the 60 minute drive north from Tryphena wharf to Port FitzRoy wharf, you will pass safe, sheltered and gently sloping sandy beaches where small children play in Tryphena, and the breathtaking dramatic surf beaches at Medlands, Awana and Okiwi.

Leave the main road and drive down the smaller roads to the coast, to discover more secluded beaches, rocky headlands, and natural harbours and coves at Schooner Bay, Okupu, Whangaparapara, Harataonga, Karaka Bay and Port Abercrombie with Nagle's Cove in the distance.

The road to Kawa and Motairahe takes you to Katherine Bay and Kawa Bay, where two marae form the heart of Aotea's iwi community of Ngāti Rehua and Ngātiwai.

Local Beach Tips

Gooseberry Flat - Purple caves, family friendly and easy access to Stonewall for an ice block and public toilets.
Oruawharo - 'Medlands'- For waves and frolicking in mermaid pools.
Kaitoke - Stay at magical Sugarloaf private campground
Blind Bay - For family picnics beneath ancient Pohutukawa Trees.
Harataonga - For the best camping adventure.
Northern end of Whangapoua and Mabey's Beach - Visit the SS Wairarapa graves and discover what seclusion really feels like.

Beach Campgrounds

Aotea has some of the most scenic campgrounds in Aotearoa New Zealand. Head to Medlands Campground for access to the surf for all the family. Awana campground for its location tucked away on one of Aotea's most scenic estuaries alongside nesting Oyster catchers and dotterels. Okiwi campground for minimal light pollution, pristine dark skies overlooked by the towering silhouette of Hirakimata (Aotea's highest peak). Then there's, Harataonga, for pure, secluded magic.

Dog owners

Many of our beaches are nesting sites for native birds (see page 24). Check out page 21 for places to walk your dog.

Pa beach and Gooseberry Flat, Tryphena

WaiOra Beach Retreat
Comfortable Beachfront homestay on Medlands.
Sleeps 3 in guest room with private access.
Shared kitchen, living space, decks and garden.
DIY Breakfast on request. Seasonal holiday rentals & self contained Garden chalet on request.
Hosted by Vicky Kyan |waiorabeachretreat.nz|
+64 9 4290 129 | vicky@gbi.nz

BAZZA'S BEACH HOUSE
"A view to die for"
"Beautiful & relaxing"
"Bazza's is utterly perfect"
Visit: bazzasbeachhouse.nz

STAY HIGH ISLAND CAMPING CO. GREAT BARRIER ISLAND, NZ
Great Barrier Island's Original Roof Top Tent Vehicle Rentals
Adventure Vehicles - Roof Top Tents - Camping Gear Hire
www.stayhighcampingco.co.nz

Walking

Just like our beaches, the walks on Aotea are varied and many. Walking tracks are well maintained and mostly on public land, owned by the people of Aotearoa/New Zealand and managed by either the Department of Conservation (Aotea Conservation Park) or Auckland City Council.

The Aotea Conservation Park is the biggest park in the Auckland area. It covers more than 12,000 hectares and has multiple walking tracks for novice and experienced walkers. The Aotea Track is a multi-day wilderness hike with two DOC huts. It is the perfect destination for outdoor enthusiasts and families.

On the next page spread you'll find more shorter walks around the settlements of Tryphena, Whangaparapara and Port FitzRoy.

TRACK MAPS

Department of Conservation Track Brochures and maps are available with detailed information of tracks on DOC land.

> Pick up a copy from the airport

> Or download from www.greatbarrier.co.nz or the DOC website

AOTEA TRACK

The 25km loop track takes hikers deep into the forest and high onto the mountain tops, with two fantastic backcountry huts to stay in overnight. There is a mix of steep climbs and easy flat trails. There are multiple entrances to the track.

From Whangaparapara road:

- Kaitoke Hot Springs track
- Forest Road track
- Tramline track
- Witheys track (via Tramline track)

From Aotea Road

- Tramline track
- Palmers track via Windy Canyon
- Coopers Castle track

From Kaiaraara Bay/Port FitzRoy

- Forest road track

Essential Information for walkers

Fire. There is a complete fire ban on the island all year round, as the fire risk is very high. Please use gas fires for cooking and check info boards.

Dogs and other domestic animals are not permitted on DOC campgrounds or any conservation land. All campgrounds are near special wildlife habitats and home to endangered birds like the brown teal duck. If you are using a campground that permits dogs, please keep them under control.

Rubbish. Pack in, and pack out. There are no bins or recycling facilities at the huts or campgrounds. If there are camp hosts, they will have a supply of official orange council rubbish bags which you can also purchase at the service centre or local stores. These are the only bags that can be used for roadside rubbish collection. Further waste info can be found on the inside front cover.

KEEP KAURI STANDING
STOP KAURI DIEBACK DISEASE SPREADING
KIA TOITU HE KAURI

Kauri Protection

Stop the spread of Kauri dieback.

Please use the cleaning stations and kits installed at track entrances. This is especially vital on the Forest Road track. Scrub soil off your shoes, mountain bike tyres and other dirty equipment. This not only eliminates Phytophthora agathidicida (PA) spores, but other potential nasty pests, such as weed seeds. Any movement of infested soil into kauri roots will enable PA to germinate and find new healthy trees to infect and kill.

Please be vigilant and take these simple biosecurity measures to protect kauri against this proven and deadly disease. For more information on PA and kauri dieback and what you can do to help, refer to the website: www.kauriprotection.co.nz

Huts & Campgrounds

DOC huts and campgrounds must be booked online. They get busy over the summer months, so book in advance. A self-registration system is in operation at each campground, a supervisor may collect fees.

Camping: Adult $15, Youth (5-17) $7.50, Infants free.

Huts: Adult $15, Youth (5-17) $7.50, Infants free.

Visit: www.bookings.doc.govt.nz

Huts

Kaiaraara Hut. *Located at the beginning of the Hirakimata (Mt Hobson) track at Kaiaraara Bay, Port FitzRoy. 28 Bunks in 2 rooms, wood stove, water supply, toilets.*

Mt Heale Hut. *Set in a saddle below Mt Heale, the hut offers back country accommodation with stunning views across the Hauraki Gulf and Hauturu/Little Barrier Island. 20 beds in 2 rooms, gas cooking, water supply, toilets.*

Campgrounds

Akapoua, DOC. *Right at the harbour edge, a 10min walk from the Port FitzRoy wharf. Access to many short walks and the Aotea Track. Trees for shade. Cold showers, toilets, shop at Port FitzRoy. Suitable for campervans.*

Awana, DOC. *400 metres from the popular Awana surf beach. No shade. Cold showers, toilets and suitable for campervans.*

Awana, Mickey's Place - 09 4290 707. *Flat sites on a farm under mature trees. Near bush, beach and on the main road. People and post bus goes past once a day. Showers, flush toilets, no animals. Your host; Mickey O'Shea.*

Harataonga, DOC. *300m from beach. Mature trees for shade. Isolated, 2.5km off the main road. Cold showers, toilets and suitable for campervans.*

Sugarloaf Campground. Call Christina - 027 2495 181. *Southern end of Kaitoke Beach. One of the original settler camps of Aotea. (Camping of a long gone era, managed by memorable character Johnny Blackwell. Stunning vistas and artisan drinking water. Shaded by pohutukawa and macrocarpa trees. Safe swimming.)*

Medlands DOC. *Situated by a saltwater creek, southern end of Medlands beach. Some shade. Cold showers, toilets and suitable for campervans.*

Puriri Bay, Tryphena. 021 298 8905. *Nestled among native bush and beside a fresh water stream. 200m to beach, boatramp and moorings.*

Stray Possum Lodge, Tryphena. 09 4290 109 or 0800 possum. *Backpacker lodge with campground. Walking distance from the wharf. Hot showers, shared kitchen/lounge.*

Whangaparapara, DOC. *The Green. Located on the edge of Whangaparapara Harbour. No vehicle access, 1km from the road. Cold showers, toilets. Not suitable for campervans.*

Whangapoua, DOC. 09 429 0044. *Situated near Okiwi airfield, adjacent to Whangapoua estuary. No shade or shelter. Cold showers, toilets. Suitable for campervans.*

Mount Heale Hut. (© DGBY)

Dogs

Are allowed under control off a leash ONLY at:

- Awana Beach. From council access south to the point
- Gooseberry Flat, Tryphena. From Pohutukawa tree by bbq/picnic tables south to the Pohutukawa tree before the playground. Then Northern end from the bluff, around to the public toilets and including headland reserve between Gooseberry Flat and Pa Beach.
- Medlands Beach. From 100m from The Lane walkway to the south, stopping 100 metres north of the creek.
- Mulberry Grove Beach, Tryphena. All excluding the creeks at each end
- Okupu Beach. The entire beach area.
- Okiwi. Northern side of the airstrip beside the airfield.

Dogs are prohibited on all Department of Conservation land including tracks and campgrounds, in any playground or sports surface and they must be under control on a leash within 10 metres of these areas. Dogs are allowed on Auckland Council walking tracks - on a leash. See page 22.

More information can also be found on the Auckland Council website.

Avian (bird) awareness and aversion training help reduce the chance native birds are disturbed or killed by dogs. Courses are held regularly on Aotea, contact Auckland Council on (09) 3010101 or 0800 DOC HOT

Mountain Biking

Biking is permitted on public roads, Forest Road track between Port FitzRoy and Whangaparapara, Harataonga Coastal track, Kowhai track (Medlands) and the track below Te Ahumata. Mountain bikes are not permitted on other DOC walking tracks.

Short Walks & Day Hikes

For a full list of walks and locations visit:

www.greatbarrier.co.nz/walks

South/Cape Barrier

Dolphin Bay/Ross Bay Track |3 hours return|

Just 1km along Cape Barrier Road. Follow the track, which is steep in places, through the bush to a secluded Dolphin Bay. For Ross Bay take the right fork 25 minutes along the track. Dolphin bay is great for snorkelling after a rocky descent.

Island Bay Track |1 hour return|

Follow the track along the ridgeline, for expansive views of the bay and to get up close to Motu Tohora -the tail of the Southern Right Whale, otherwise known as Rabbit Island.

Johnsons' Bay/Ruahine Lookout |3-4 hours return|

Park at the end of Cape Barrier Road, park up and follow the marked track to Johnson's Bay. The trail then heads up to the right winding up the mountain. It stops at a great view point. Note it is private land from there on. **Whalers Lookout** is 1 hour return from the car park, look out for signage. From this southernmost point on the Barrier, you'll have a good chance of spotting Brydes Whales.

Station Rock Lookout |25 minute return|

Park at the top of Medland's road. After a short steep walk to one of the island's biggest peaks, you'll be rewarded with stunning views of Tryphena and clear views of the rest of the island.

Kowhai Valley Track |1-2 hours walking one way. 30 minutes by bike|

From the top of Rosalie Bay road this track is downhill most of the way to Medlands. Beware - it's steep on a bike!

Whangaparapara/Okupu

Te Ahumata Track & Summit |2 hour return|

This track links Whangaparapara road and Blind Bay. Marvel at the species of orchid and extensive views from atop of the white cliffs. Branch off to the summit (extra 1 hour return)

Kaitoke Hot Springs Track |40 minutes one way|

Easy walk, starts 2.5km along Whangaparapara Rd. The track crosses a stream and follows the edge of the Kaitoke swamp to sulphurous hot springs where a series of natural pools are dammed. Stream water may be hot. Do not put your head under the water, because of the meningococcal risk.

Old Mill Site Track |1 hour return|

Cross the suspension bridge from Whangaparapara, turn south towards the harbour through the camping area to climb steeply to the ridge top. Descend and climb again before descending to the site of Kauri Timber Company Sawmill. At low tide you can walk around the shoreline to the old whaling station remains.

Tramline Track to Kauri Falls |45 minutes or 4-5 hour loop|

Part of an extensive network of tramlines from the kauri logging days. An easy walk for 45 minutes will lead you to the waterfall, beyond that the track is more challenging. For a loop head up the Tramline track south and turn right on Forest Road and back along Whangaparapara road.

Auckland Council tracks dogs allowed on a leash

Harpoon Hill |20 minute return|

Just up from Whangaparapara wharf is a loop connecting French Road to Harpoon Hill - you'll be rewarded with harbour views

Iona Mine Track |40 minutes return|

Signposted halfway down Blind Bay Road, past Moana View Rd. Go up and it's on the right, a few hundred metres above the Macmillan Road turn off. A well constructed track with a clamber over the creek and some down and uphill, although not steep. The mine shaft is open for about 10 metres and then closed off with a grill. Take a torch, the weta viewing is good.

North/Port FitzRoy

Harataonga Coastal Walkway |4-5 hours one way|

An easy walk without any steep grades. Through regenerating forest. From Harataonga Campground head west across the stream before following the coastline. Finishes on Aotea Road at Okiwi.

Windy Canyon Lookout |25 minutes return|

Start at the summit of Whangapoua Hill and climb 100m through the andesitic rock bluffs of Windy Canyon to the central ridge. Extensive views of Okiwi and Kaitoke. Rare and endemic plants grow along the ridge.

HSS Wairarapa Graves |20 minutes return|

30 mins drive from Port FitzRoy. Follow Mabey Road from Okiwi School to the road end. Follow signposts to the beach and then go left towards Tapuwai Point. The graves are on the left.

Bridle Track |20 minutes return|

Starts at Port FitzRoy with an exit at Akapoua near the campground or continue from this track onto the loop track which comes out at the Waterfall on Warrens Track, passing through a kauri grove with views down upon the tree canopy as you walk.

Warren's Track |1 hour return|

Gentle graded walk through a kauri plantation to a waterfall. Several deep pools, great for swimming. You can carry onto the loop track up the steps, which joins the Bridle track.

Old Lady Track |45 minutes|

This track links the harbour to FitzRoy Hill. A steep side track leads you to a lookout rock with impressive views over the harbour.

Glenfern Loop Track

This walk is inside Glenfern Sanctuary. Takes you along Aotea Stream, through regenerative bush and a 100m climb with expansive views of the Hauraki gulf.

Planning your trip

For itinerary ideas visit: www.greatbarrier.co.nz
For trip planning help email: info@dgbi.co.nz

What should you choose? Let's help you plan.

Fly or ferry? Generally, if you are coming for less than 2-3 days, we recommend flying to the island. The flight is just 30 minutes from Auckland, the ferry is 4.5 hours and more affected by adverse weather.

Car rental or transfers? Unless you are completing the Aotea track, or intend to solely stay near your accommodation the whole trip, we recommend renting a car.

Hosted/managed accommodation or holiday bach? If you want full immersion into the island and to get to know the people here we highly recommend staying where the owners are onsite. They will share local gems with you and if you're really lucky share their catch of the day or homegrown veggies with you.

RECOMMENDED GUIDED TOURS

Sap up stories and knowledge of the land & bush from local Benny, on a hike with Star Treks (page 16).

Immerse yourself in the island tales, culture & art on a tour package with Leigh at Sunset lodge (see page 28).

Discover the Broken Island's on a sightseeing tour with Skipper Chris or William on the Sundancer (page 17).

Get solar charged on a brewery tour and tasting with Aotea Brewing (page 13).

Feel the sun on your face and wind through your hair on a trike tour with Steve (Go Great Barrier Island page 17).

Explore the ins and outs of the island with Norm & Fleur (page 9).

Restore and recconnect with nature on a wellbeing wander with nature bathing guide Vicky Kyan (Page 17).

Be the master of your own adventure and hire a solar powered Motubike or a guided Motubike tour with Star Treks from Seagar in Claris. (page 17).

Get lost in our dark skies with Hilde & Deb from Good Heavens on a group or private tour (page 7).

Sustainable Visitor Choices: How can you lower your impact?

A tip for each step of the journey

Transport to the Island. Waiheke Wings were New Zealand's first carbon zero certified airline in 2017. Choose to take a flight with them from Northshore or Waiheke to reach Aotea for a carbon neutral adventure.

Accommodation. We're off grid. Most of our accommodation runs on solar power. Check with the owner if they use full solar, or solar with a fuel generator. Opt for a place with good solar. You can even double up on transport and accommodation by booking an adventure car and roof top tent package with Stay High Island Camping Co.

Try to conserve power by going with natures rhythms. Get up when its light, go to bed when its dark. You'll get to grips with how this helps with reducing power consumption if you give it a go!

Spot clean and save up all your washing, do it in one go at your accommodation or the laundrette, or even better, do it back at home.

Getting around. Motubikes is hands-down the most environmentally sustainable way to explore the island. These Electric motorbikes run on batteries, charged by solar energy at their depot in Claris. Other sustainably savvy options, include walking, biking hitchhiking, ride sharing or using the 'People & Post' bus to head up and down the island (its already transporting post, so join the ride).

Eating & Drinking. Reduce your food miles - try local produce where possible. We've got gin, beer, coffee, honey, fruit, microgreens and other veggies to name a few. Avoid buying plastic or glass single use drinks - bring your refillable bottle and use the refilleries for both water, and late afternoon you can swap out the water for beer at one of the taprooms.

Waste. Follow the waste rules and tips found on the inside front cover. Get the recycling right, compost or give your food waste to some local chickens.

Experiences. Choose low impact activities, like stargazing with Good Heavens or taking a guided hike with a local guide from Star Treks. Not only will you leave no trace but you'll expand your knowledge and awe for the world we live in. With a greater affinity for the natural world you'll hopefully consider some of your habits when you make it home. Aotea Great Barrier Island is the perfect place to get inspired. We like to call it 'going back to the future'.

Purchasing gifts. Choose locally made items, we've got honey, art, natural skincare, gin and more.

Get involved with regenerative initiatives. Take a step further than just sustaining. Leave Aotea better than you left it.

If you are on the beach, take 10 minutes to do a mini beach clean.

Instead of just coming on holiday, keep an eye out for volunteering opportunities or local planting days where you can get stuck in

Ecology & Conservation

Aotea - an isolated Island

As an isolated island in the Hauraki Gulf, many pests present on the mainland have not been able to establish themselves here. Some of the flora and fauna extinct on the mainland have been able to survive on the island. We have no possums, ferrets, weasels, stoats, hedgehogs, Norway rats, feral goats or freshwater pest fish. A lot of effort is put into managing ship rats, kiore rats, feral cats and protecting wildlife from dogs.

Aotea is home to many rare and endemic species, including the banded rail, black petrel, dotterel, North island kaka, kakariki and pateke brown teal ducks. Blue penguins, albatross and gannets can also seen off the coast.

Environmental Protection

There are many environmental protection and restoration projects around the island. Glenfern Sanctuary in Port FitzRoy has a 2km-long predator proof fence. It is the gateway to pest-free Kotuku peninsula. In this conservation precinct where native species can breed and flourish. Open daily to the public, the park is free and visitors can explore and experience some of Aotea's most endangered species on the 2km loop track through pristine native bush.

Local Vision

Other environmental groups on the island, all play a part in the protection of our ecology. In Rosalie Bay, Tryphena, Windy Hill Sanctuary are working to increase the biodiversity and create a model for ecological restoration on private land. The Tu Mai Taonga project aims to protect and restore native species and ecosystems in Northern Aotea through feral cat removal and intensified rat control. The Ecology Vision also supports the community to protect, enrich and restore our island's ecosystems. The Aotea Great Barrier Environmental Trust supports projects such as the annual Aotea Bird Count and the Aotea Trap Library which provides free rat traps to the community to encourage locals to get involved with backyard trapping.

Local Projects

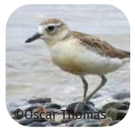
Smaller localised projects such as the Oruawharo Medlands Ecovision and Okiwi Community Ecology project are lead by locals and focus on reducing predatory pest numbers, improving breeding grounds for native birds and restoring waterways, sand-dunes and wetlands.

Okiwi Green and the Aotea Community Native Plant Nursery supply plants to properties and projects around the island, specialising in natives for reforestation, restoring waterways and creating an abundance of food for native birds.

Eco-sourcing plants grown from local seeds helps maintain the natural resistance of plants to pests and diseases. Buying plants locally is also a great way to reduce your carbon footprint.

Our Treasures/Taonga

Pāteke (Brown Teal). Endemic to NZ and the rarest waterfowl on the mainland. You'll find them in several locations around the island foraging in estuaries and on the waters edge.



Tūturiwhatu (NZ Dotterel). You will also find the smaller banded dotterel on Aotea along the shorelines and in the dunes of our many beautiful beaches.

Olearia allomii (Great Barrier Tree Daisy). An endemic shrub with large clusters of white flowers, only known to grow on Aotea. Found on volcanic rocks in the centre of the island.

Banded Kōkopu (Native trout). A type of whitebait migratory galaxiid. Found in small tributaries, they need streamside plants to survive.

Threats to Wildlife

Feral Cats. Cats brought to the island on holiday disappear into the bush. There are an estimated 7000 feral cats on the island. Live capture traps are used across the island for feral cats. Ensure your cat is desexed, and microchipped or collared.

Rats. Rats prey on eggs, chicks, birds, lizards, frogs and plants. Aotea is home to the ship rat and the kiore rat. There are many rat control projects across the island.

Argentine Ants. Transported in cars and bags. With just one queen and five workers needed to create a colony, check your gear to stop new infestation of this invasive ant on the island.

Plague Skinks are expert stowaways, check your gear regularly to avoid these skinks from hitching a ride. Avoid placing goods that may attract skinks in vegetated areas.

Mediterranean Fanworm is a threat to native biodiversity, forming dense colonies, displacing native species and disrupting natural ecosystems. This marine pest fouls and spreads on hulls and niche areas of boats.

Learn more about our native treasures, get involved in conservation or to find out what events are happening on Aotea visit:

www.ecologyvision.co.nz

The Hauraki Gulf

Conservation doesn't stop at the shoreline. After 20 years of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, the Gulf is still in decline. Overfishing, sedimentation, invasive species, climate change and plastic pollution are taking their toll.

Weeds, pest animals and disease all threaten the special taonga of the Gulf. Trying to eradicate pests from islands and controlling them once they get there is a challenging job. We need your help to keep pests away. Visit: ourauckland.nz/haurakigulf

There are some things you can do as a visitor to help protect and restore the Hauraki Gulf:

- *Reduce your plastic waste and dispose of it responsibly*
- *When you explore our incredible beaches searching for treasures why not do a beach clean too*
- *Ensure you are familiar with recreational fishing rules and only catch what you need*
- *Prevent the spread of invasive marine pests like Mediterranean fanworm by checking your boat hull for pests and maintaining a clean hull. Remember to check holding tanks, pontoons and equipment including fishing and dive gear. Visit www.marinepests.nz to learn more*
- *Rather than bringing potted plants with you to Aotea, buy locally to help stop the transfer of unwanted pests and diseases to the island*
- *Check your boat, vehicle, kayak, camping and hiking gear etc. for stowaway pests, soil and seeds before you travel*
- *There is an invasive seaweed Caulerpa brachypus in the waters around the island, please see the next page for details on restrictions how you can help stop it spreading*

Important numbers for Animal services

Animal Control	09 4290 931
Vet - Anne Kernohan	09 4290 463
Bird Rescue (Karen Walker)	09 4290 478
DOC wildlife/strandings	0800 362 468

Aotea Great Barrier ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST
love · protect · restore | aroha · tiaki · whakahou

Aotea Great Barrier Evironmental Trust have been working to protect Aotea's native species and habitats for the past 20 years.

For funding advice and help, to volunteer, join us or to donate:

contact.gbiet@gmail.com

www.gbiet.org

Aotea Trap Library

Rats kill wildlife, join the hundreds of Barrier households already trapping rats on Aotea! For advice and to get free traps and boxes contact Aotea Trap Library:

029 770 5111
aoteatraplibrary@gmail.com

Let's get away..
to our own backyard
Go off-grid to chill, get active, and explore local trails. Tune into our native ecology and conservation work. Come visit or stay at Fitzroy House and Glenfern Cottage
Glenfern Regional Park is free for all visitors.

20 Glenfern Rd Port Fitzroy
09 4290 091 | info@glenfern.org.nz

Information for Boaties

Important notice: Caulerpa Brachypus

A pest seaweed Caulerpa Brachypus has been found in the waters around the island. Please read the notice to the left and visit the biosecurity website for up to date information about the rāhui and legal controls in place. These affect taking seafood, anchoring and fishing in certain areas, including Tryphena, Blind Bay and Whangaparapara harbours.

For more info for boaties visit: www.greatbarrier.co.nz

Fuel & Water* is available from

Whangaparapara (24 hours - 7 days)

Port FitzRoy

*Water is subject to availability over summer

Dogs are prohibited on all DOC public conservation land and boaties should note that there are no beaches in the Port FitzRoy Harbour to exercise dogs. A list of dog exercise areas can be found on page 21.

Rubbish There is no rubbish collection at the wharves. Please consider taking your rubbish home with you. Otherwise, you will need to purchase council rubbish bags from one of the local stores, dispose of it at the Claris transfer station or leave out for roadside collection with other household waste on a Monday (south of the island) and Tuesday (north of the island, including Okupu and Whangaparapara) prior to 8am.

Boat Sewage To discharge untreated sewage from a boat, you must be in water that is more than 5m deep, be more than 500m from shore, 500m from a marine farm, 200m from a marine reserve and not in Port FitzRoy, Nagle Cove or Tryphena Harbour. The boat discharge rules app provides your location in relation to the restrictions. For instructions, search 'Boat Sewage' at:
aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Pests Check your boat, gear and equipment for pests e.g. ants and signs of pests before you travel to Aotea and between islands. Close your bags and use sealed containers. Store rubbish in bins with lids. Some pests can swim, so you should check again if you are going within 1km of an island.

For more tips:
aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/environment/what-you-can-do-for-environment/Pages/visiting-hauraki-gulf-islands.aspx

Marine Contacts

Maritime Radio	VHF channel 16
Coastguard North Region	*500 or 111 or VHF channel 16
Auckland Harbour Master	09 362 0397
MarineMate App	

Marine Radio. VHF Channel 01

Great Barrier Marine Radio (GBMR) takes trip reports, provides local information, plane and ferry timetables etc. Liaison with police, health, rural fire and Department of Conservation. Marine weather bulletins rebroadcast each day at approximately 07:45 and 17:45.

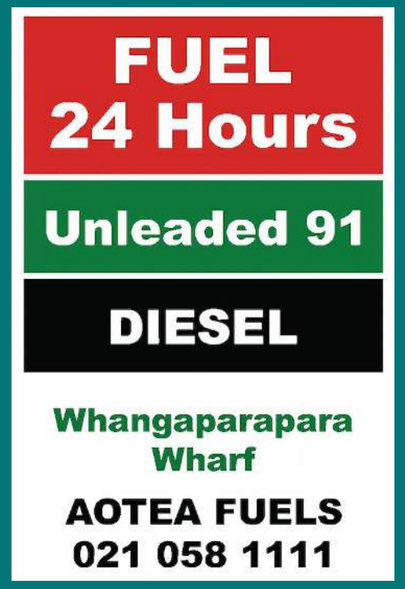
Coverage from Aldermans to Tutukaka and out the back of Aotea/Great Barrier Island. Monitoring Channel 01, 24/7 10:00pm - 07:00am. Emergency transmissions only.

The marine radio operates on solar power. Please make sure microphones are stowed properly, otherwise they can block the channel and cripple the system.

This non-profit organisation funded by membership subscription. New members welcome. Contact: durl@xtra.co.nz or 027 5759461

Boat Ramps

There are designated boat ramps on the island - none are on the East Coast although it is possible to launch a boat into the estuary at Whangapoua at high tide.
Wharves: Tryphena, Okupu (Blind Bay), Whangaparapara and Port FitzRoy.
Medlands: Access by the DOC campground. Suitable in all tides.
Okupu: By the wharf and at the beach.
Whangaparapara: By the wharf.
North Barrier: Port FitzRoy wharf, Akapoua Bay, Karaka Bay, Whangapoua campground into the estuary at low tide only.
Tryphena: Intersection of Schooner Bay Rd/Puriri Bay Road and at the intersection of Medlands Rd/Shoal Bay Rd, near the Community hall.
Mulberry Grove: By the school and shoal Bay Road opposite the Shoal Bay Pottery.



Accommodation

The Barrier offers a great range of eco accommodation across the island. Find baches within a stones throw of the beach, or a cabin hidden deep within pristine native bush. Accommodation is available in every corner of the island.

From boutique cabins to back to basic baches, award winning architectural masterpieces, backpackers and eco lodges perfect for group getaways, there are accommodation options for everyone.

Many accommodations are listed on the normal booking platforms, but many can be booked through private websites or directly. Get in contact with the owner so you can avoid large booking service fees.

Top Tip: For local accommodation advice and bookings visit: www.greatbarrier.co.nz or send an email to info@dgbi.co.nz

XSPOT

Spacious, self-contained clifftop holiday apartment. Open plan kitchen, fantastic sunset views over the Hauraki Gulf just 100 meters below. Sundeck for stargazing! 4WD location, 421 Schooner Bay Rd, Tryphena.
027 4290 877
www.xspot.co.nz

Situated in the heart of Tryphena, a stone's throw from the waters edge, fabulous restaurant and Irish Pub on site. Relax and enjoy the evening sunset on our spacious deck or beautiful gardens. Group and family bookings welcomed.

The Innkeeper's Lodge

Ph: 09 4290 211 or 021 1741 537

Plan your escape.

Three luxury houses on 14 acres overlooking the fabulous Medlands beach, carefully positioned to allow for individual privacy, sun and shelter.

Each individual house sleeps six persons which makes 175° East the perfect space for a wedding, yoga retreat or family get together!

Rent one or all three. Get in touch to book.

@greatbarrierislandnz
021 0284 4486
info@175east.nz
www.175east.nz

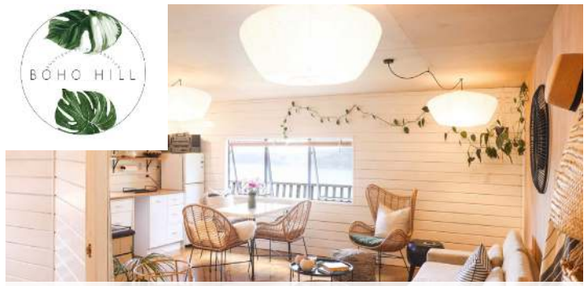
175° EAST MEDLANDS BEACH · KOTUA

Tipi & Bobs - Waterfront Lodge

All units are self contained
Conferences & Weddings
Hospitality is our business

09 4290 550 or 027 5505 187
margery@waterfrontlodge.co.nz | www.waterfrontlodge.co.nz
Pete & Margery Harris

BOHO HILL



BOHO HILL ESCAPE
Boutique accommodation | Port FitzRoy
Stylish & cosy 1 bedroom apartment overlooking Kaiaraara Bay.
Intimate deck area for breakfast, evening drinks and sunsets.
www.greatbarrier.co.nz - Boho Hill Escape

Nikau Heights
Kaka Cottage & Kereru Cottage

Two self-contained cottages in Tryphena. Kaka Cottage sleeps one couple. Kereru Cottage sleeps 6 people. Peaceful setting on a large block of regenerating native bush. Seaviews,close to the beach, shops.

T: 021 858 927 or 021 214 7157 E: nikauheights@gmail.com
www.holidayhouses.co.nz Ref: 21679 and 17975

Medlands Beach Backpackers

Medlands Beach is renowned for its surfing beach breaks, swimming, diving and fishing. Experience beautiful bush walks to mountain top views, hot thermal springs, rare and endangered flora and fauna or simply sit back, watch the sea and relax in our garden areas.
www.medlandsbeach.com
roberts@slingshot.co.nz

Sunset Waterfront Lodge
GREAT BARRIER ISLAND

Beachfront
Self-contained studios & villas
40 inch TV & Wi-Fi
Wedding venue & conference facilities
BBQ/fish station
Lawn games, kayaks, SUPs, snorkel gear

Contact your hosts Lynley & Leigh
www.sunsetlodge.co.nz
+64 9429 0051|enquiries@sunsetlodge.co.nz

Pigeons Lodge

179 Shoal Bay Road
09 4290 776
www.pigeonslodge.co.nz

Beautiful waterfront property
Well appointed kitchen
Spacious deck
4 x Double rooms with ensuite
2 x Self-contained studios

Getting Here

By air or by sea, getting to Aotea Great Barrier Island is all part of the adventure.

For short weekend stays we recommend taking a short flight from Auckland and hiring a car. For longer stays a return boat trip or fly in, boat out are also great options.

Top Tip: Over the peak summer months and long weekends you will need to book far in advance.

Flights

Just a 30 minute journey on a 6-12 seater plane with a regular daily schedule. Depart Auckland International Airport, Domestic Terminal for Claris or Okiwi.

Barrier Air - Scheduled air services from/to Auckland Airport, Northshore to Aotea/Great Barrier Island
0800 900 600 or 09 275 9120

Island Aviation - NEW service running running scheduled flights from North Shore and Waiheke 09 390 1122

Sunair - Scheduled services to Whangarei, Great Barrier incl. Okiwi Whitianga, Tauranga, Hamilton, Ardmore 0800 786 247

Air Auckland - Transfer, scenic and charter flights from Ardmore. 7 days a week, sunrise to sunset, unscheduled basis.
09 426 4276 or 0508 235 969

Auckland Seaplanes - Adventure trips and charter services to GBI from Auckland Harbour Aerodrome. 40 minutes door to door in a De Havilland Beaver Floatplane with seats for 6 adults.
09 390 1121

Heletranz - Base at Rosedale Rd, Albany and pads at Mechanics Bay, Auckland Airport and Waiheke Island for collection and drop off. 09 415 3550

Oceania Helicopters - 09 238 8676 or 027 494 2045 Charter flights from Mechanics Bay downtown Auckland, Ardmore Airfield, Auckand Airport, Drury. 09 415 3550

Helicopterme - Scenic flights, tours and charters 09 303 4354

By Boat

A relaxing four and a half hours from Auckland, or charter a boat for a a shorter crossing.

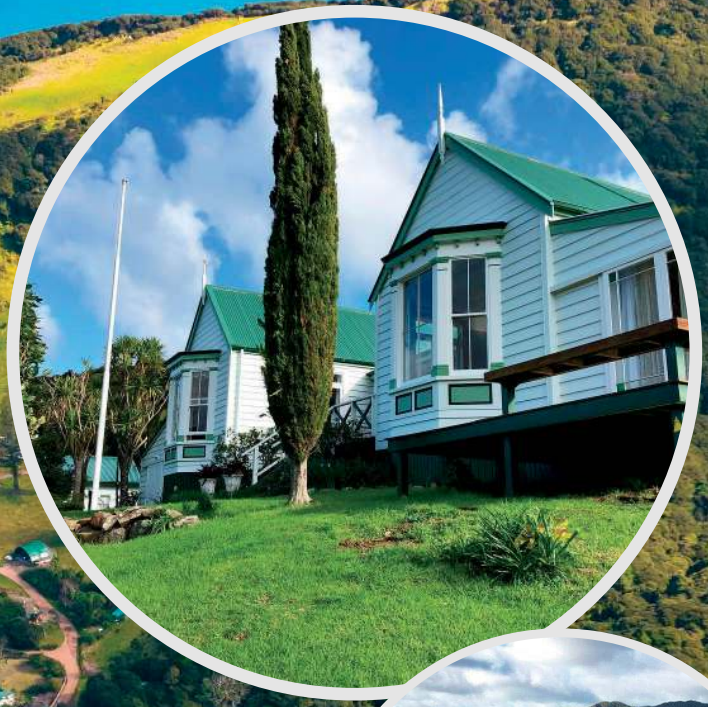
SeaLink - Vehicular and passenger ferry departs Hamer Street in Auckland to Tryphena
0800 SEALINK (732 546) or 09 300 5900

Hauraki Express - Fishing charters from the Auckland area and water taxi service within the Hauraki Gulf. 027 664 6644

SKY LAND + SEA

GLENFERN
SANCTUARY & ACCOMODATION

OPEN DAILY
Sunrise - Sunset



There's something for everyone at Glenfern Sanctuary Regional Park

Come explore the north and discover our unique Sanctuary, the gateway to the predator fenced wilderness of the 240h Kotuku Peninsula. Here you can experience kaitiakitanga and protection of the Island's native species and their habitats. Breathe in the pristine sky, land, and sea. Walk our 2km loop track through the bush or take a tour. Hear incredible birdsong and learn about our mahi.
We also welcome you to stay at our beautifully restored historic homesteads, Fitzroy House or Glenfern Cottage.

20 Glenfern Rd Port Fitzroy | Contact us 09 4290 091 | info@glenfern.org.nz
www.glenfern.org.nz