

The East Coast



New Zealand is known for its juxtaposition of wildly divergent landscapes but in this region it's the sociological contours that are most pronounced. From the remote villages of East Cape to Havelock North's prosperous, wine-stained streets, the East Coast condenses a wide range of authentic Kiwi experiences that anyone with a passion for culture will find fascinating.

If you're the intrepid sort, you'll quickly lose the tourist hordes along the Pacific Coast Hwy, on the back roads and obscure beaches of Central Hawkes Bay, or in the mystical wilderness of Te Urewera National Park. When the feral urge wanes, a decent coffee and a slap-up meal is never far away in the urbane confines of Gisborne and Napier.

Authentic Maori culture is never more visible than on the East Coast. It's probably the only place in the country where exquisitely carved *marae* (p59) outnumber McDonalds, KFC and Starbucks outlets combined. The locals may not be wearing flax skirts and swinging *poi* (flax balls on strings) like they do for the tourists in Rotorua, but you can be assured that Maori language and *tikanga* (practices) are alive and well.

While you are guaranteed a cold beer in any of the local pubs, wine is king here. Gisborne and Hawkes Bay strain under the weight of tonnes of grapes. If the weather conspires to drive you off the beaches, lazy days can be cheerfully spent mooching around vineyards, lingering in cafés or exploring the region's museums and architecture.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Time warping to the 1930s amidst the Art-Deco delights of **Napier** (p383) and **Hastings** (p390)
- Avoiding being the designated driver as you embark on a grand winetasting tour of **Gisborne** (p372) or **Hawkes Bay** (p392) vineyards
- Meeting with Maori culture in the hidden nooks of **East Cape** (opposite) and **Te Urewera National Park** (p377)
- Beach-hopping between secluded gems such as **Maraehako Bay** (p366), **Tokomaru Bay** (p367), **Anarua Bay**, **Waimarama** (p390), **Mangakuri** and **Aramoana** (p396)
- Searching for wood nymphs amongst the magical forest paths of **Eastwoodhill Arboretum** (p371)



■ TELEPHONE CODE: 07 & 06

■ www.hawkesbaynz.com

■ www.gisbornenz.com

Climate

The East Coast basks in a warm, dry climate. Summer temperatures around Napier and Gisborne nudge 25°C, rarely dipping below 5°C in winter. The Hawkes Bay region also suns itself in mild, dry grape-growing conditions, with an average annual rainfall of 800mm. Heavy downpours sometimes wash out sections of the Pacific Coast Hwy (SH35) around the Cape.

Getting There & Around

The region's only airports are in Gisborne and Napier. Air New Zealand flies to both from Auckland and Wellington, and also to Napier from Christchurch. Sunair connects Gisborne to Hamilton, Tauranga, Rotorua and Napier, and also Napier to Hamilton.

Regular bus services ply SH2 and SH5, connecting Gisborne, Wairoa, Napier, Hastings and Waipukurau with all the main centres. Transport is much more limited around East Cape (right) and Te Urewera National Park (p380).

EAST CAPE

Nowhere else in NZ is remotely like the gorgeous, detached East Cape. Maori community life is at the forefront here, with each stunning bay hiding a remote *marae* and village. It's a fascinating illustration of what might have been if the Maori weren't so vigorously divested of their land in the 19th century and the flood of British settlers had been moderated.

The pace of life is markedly slower here – everyone seems to know everyone else and life is rurally wound-down. It's not unusual to see horses tethered by the roadside as their owners go about their daily affairs. The interior remains wild, with the Raukumara Range forming the Cape's jagged spine.

Lining the coastline is the Pacific Coast Hwy (SH35), 330km of curvilinear asphalt that took decades to sculpt. The drive presents some stupendous views: bleak, postapocalyptic shores strewn with driftwood and punc-

TELEPHONE CODES

The telephone area code from Opotiki east to Hicks Bay, just before East Cape itself, is ☎ 07. The rest of the region is ☎ 06.

THE EAST COAST FACTS

- Eat** Macadamia and manuka honey icecream at Pacific Coast Macadamias (p366)
- Read** Witi Ihimaera's *Bulibasha* (1994)
- Listen to** An aging megastar at the annual Mission Concert (p386)
- Watch** *Whale Rider* (2002), then take the tour (p373)
- Swim at** Tokomaru Bay (p367)
- Festival** Art-Deco Weekend in Napier and Hastings (p386)
- Tackiest tourist attraction** Napier's *Pania of the Reef* statue (p383)
- Go green** Knapdale Eco Lodge (p374)

tured with tiny inlets that change aspect with the weather. On sunny days the sea is shimmering turquoise; at other times clouds brood on craggy slopes and everything shifts to misty green. Clear mountain rivers surge through steep gorges, while the summer seashore turns crimson with pohutukawa blooms.

Getting Around

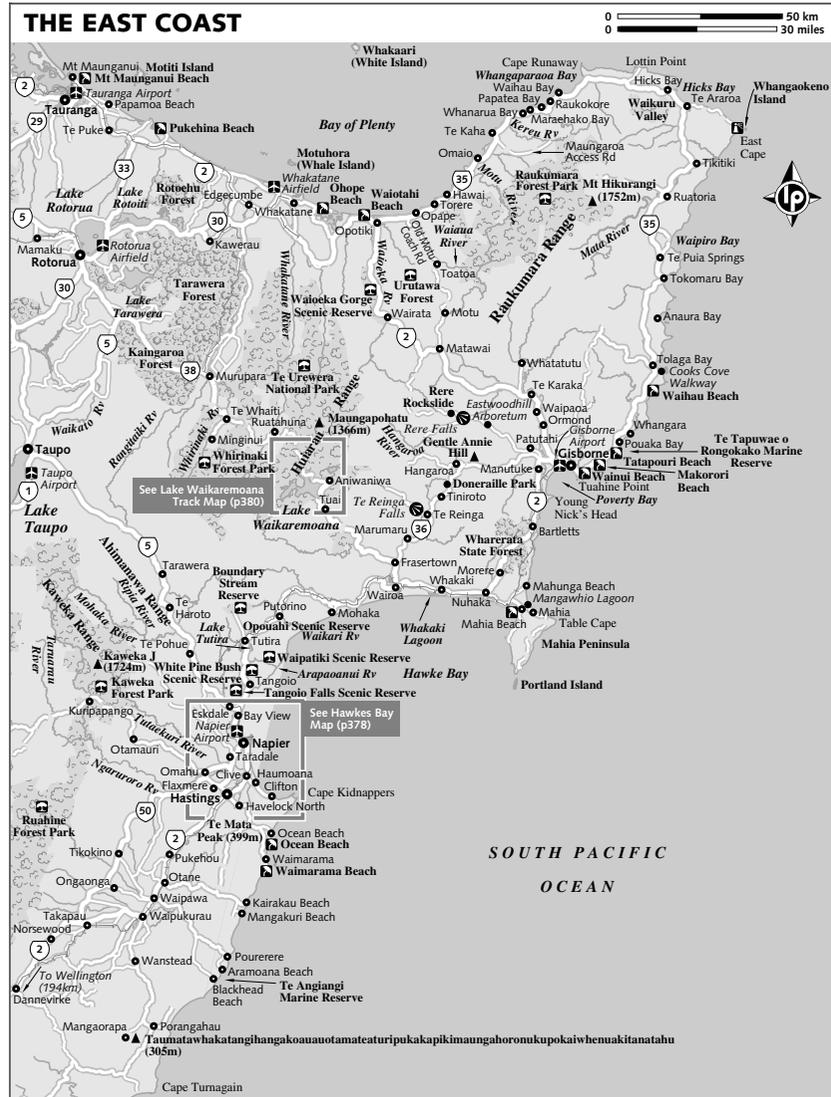
Unless you're behind the wheel, transport around East Cape can be ponderous, especially on weekends, but couriers regularly link Opotiki with Gisborne via Hicks Bay.

Coastal View Couriers (☎ 06-864 4654) runs between Opotiki and Hicks Bay (\$40, three hours, 2pm from Opotiki, 6.30am from Hicks Bay, Monday to Friday). **Polly's Passenger Couriers** (☎ 06-864 4728) continues from here to Gisborne (\$40, 3½ hours, 6.30am from Hicks Bay, 1pm from Gisborne, Monday to Friday). **Cook's Couriers** (☎ 06-864 4711) covers the same route (\$40, 3½ hours, 7.30am from Hicks Bay, 2pm from Gisborne, Monday to Saturday).

An alternative is **Kiwi Experience** (☎ 09-366 9830; www.kiwiexperience.com; \$340), which runs the four-day 'East As' backpacker bus leaving from Taupo or Rotorua.

PACIFIC COAST HWY

NZ's not short on awesome drives, but few beat the coast-hugging SH35 as it loops around the country's eastern fringe. You're not going to get anywhere quickly on this route but that's hardly the point. While it can be done in a solid six hours, you'll enjoy it more if you split up the journey and linger along the way. If you haven't got time to enjoy the entire coastal road this time around, don't despair. The shorter route between Opotiki



and Gisborne (144km) follows SH2 through native bush along the stunning Waioeka Gorge before spilling out into picturesque orchards and vineyards.

Before you hit the road, collect the free *Pacific Coast Hwy* booklet from the Opotiki or Gisborne i-SITE. Don't forget to fill up the petrol tank and stock up on snacks and

groceries as retailers are in short supply along the way. As sleeping and eating options are so spread out, we've listed them in the order you'll find them.

Opotiki to Te Kaha

The first leg offers hazy views across to Whakaari (White Island; p357), a chain-

MAORI NZ: THE EAST COAST

The main *iwi* (tribes) in the region are Te Whanau-a-Apanui (west side of East Cape), Ngati Porou (east side of East Cape), Ngati Kahungunu (the coast from Hawkes Bay down) and Tuhoi (inland in Te Urewera).

Ngati Porou and Ngati Kahungunu are the country's second and third biggest *iwi*. In the late 19th century they produced the great leaders James Carroll (the first Maori cabinet minister) and Apirana Ngata (who was briefly acting Prime Minister). Ngata, whose face adorns the \$50 bill, worked tirelessly in Parliament to orchestrate a cultural revival within Maoridom. The region's magnificent carved meeting houses are part of his legacy.

Many opportunities exist to interact with Maori culture while you're in the region. For accommodation around East Cape with a distinctly Maori flavour, consider Te Kaha Homestead Lodge (below), Maraehako Bay Retreat (p366), Mel's Place (p366) and Eastender Backpackers (p367).

There are plenty of excellent tours offering an intimate introduction to *Maoritanga* (things Maori). Try the Ngati Porou Visitor's Centre (p367), Motu River Jet Boat Tours (below), Whale Rider Tour (p373), Tipuna Tours (p373), Hawkes Bay Maori Tourism (p383), Long Island Tours (p390) or Hikoitangi Iki (p396). Te Aute College (p396) welcomes visitors but you'll need to call ahead.

The Urewera region has a long and proud history of resistance to colonisation: start your investigations at Aniwaniwa (p378) and if you have time, visit the unique communities at Ruatahuna and Maungapohatu (p377).

For a more passive brush with the culture, visit Gisborne's Tairawhiti Museum (p372), Napier's Hawkes Bay Museum (p383) and Otataru Pa (p384), and Tikitiki's St Mary's Church (p367). Throughout the text we've listed interesting *marae* that can be admired from the street.

smoking active volcano. The desolate beaches at **Torere**, **Hawai** and **Omaio** are steeply shelved and littered with ocean detritus. Check out the magnificent *whakairo* (carving) on the Torere school gateway. Hawaii marks the boundary of the Whanau-a-Apanui tribe whose *rohe* (traditional land) extends to Cape Runaway.

About 42km east of Opotiki the road crosses the broad pebbly expanse of the **Motu River**, the first river in NZ to be designated as a protected wilderness area. Action seekers head here for back-to-nature rafting and jet-boating adventures. **Wet 'n' Wild Rafting** (☎ 0800 4627238; www.wetnwildrafting.co.nz; 2-5 days \$750-875) offers multiple day excursions, with the longest taking you 100km down the river. The river is so remote that the two-day tour requires you to be helicoptered in, therefore costing almost as much as the five-day trip. **Motu River Jet Boat Tours** (☎ 07-325 2735; www.motujet.co.nz; 1hr trips \$85) include an ecological and historical commentary from a Maori perspective.

Twenty-five kilometres further along, the fishing town of **Te Kaha** once sounded the death knell for passing whales. There's a store here and accommodation options. At the time of research the local pub was expanding into a luxury resort with an upmarket restaurant. From the roadside you get a decent view of the sublimely carved Tukaki *marae*.

SLEEPING

Te Kaha Homestead Lodge (☎ 07-325 2194; fax 07-325 2193; SH35; dm/s/tw/d \$30/40/60/80) Affable and big-hearted, this waterfront hostel perches amongst archaic pohutukawa trees with spa views to White Island. The accommodation is basic but the enthusiastic owner organises fishing trips (\$80 per hour) and bursts into choruses of 'Welcome to the Homestead at Te Kaha' (to the tune of *Hotel California*) given the slightest provocation.

Tui Lodge (☎ /fax 07-325 2922; jorex@xtra.co.nz; Copenhagen Rd, Te Kaha; s/d \$125/150; (P)) This capacious, modern guesthouse sits on three leafy acres irresistible to tui (parson birds). Breakfast is included but dinner is by arrangement; horse trekking, fishing and diving jaunts are also on the cards.

Te Kaha Holiday Park (☎ 07-325 2894; www.tekahaholidaypark.co.nz; SH35; sites per adult/child \$12/7, dm \$20, d \$78-105; (P) (M)) From tent patches to self-contained motels, this beautifully maintained, *hapu* (subtribe)-run holiday park is all-things-to-all-visitors. Just 300m from the beach, there's a tumult of oceanic activities, an excellent café (breakfast \$5 to \$12) and a general store.

Maungaroa Station (☎ 07-325 2727; www.maungaroa.co.nz; Maungaroa Access Rd; sites per person \$10, dm \$20; (P)) This remote Raukumara Ranges lodge

requires a 45-minute drive up a dirt road (off Copenhagen Rd) and two river crossings to reach. Bunk down in the self-contained cottage (sleeps eight in four bedrooms) or camp outside; dunk yourself in the Kereu River, hug a tree or saddle-up for a horse trek (one- to four-hours, \$35 to \$65).

Te Kaha to Cape Runaway

A succession of sleepy bays follows. At **Papatea Bay** stop to admire the unusual gates of **Hinemahuru marae**, carved with images of WWI Maori Battalion soldiers. Nearby **Christ Church Raukokore** (1894) is an immaculately maintained beacon of belief on a lonely promontory. **Waihau Bay** has an all-in-one petrol station/post office/store/takeaway at its western end, alongside the pub. There's another store/takeaway attached to the holiday park at the centre of the beach. **Cape Runaway**, where *kumara* was first introduced to NZ, can only be reached on foot.

SLEEPING & EATING

Waikawa B&B (☎ 07-325 2070; www.waikawa.net; 7541 SH35; d \$120-130; (P)) Towards Whanarua Bay, this magical B&B on a private rocky cove looks like manicured driftwood crossed with buried treasure, blending weathered timber, corrugated iron and paua inlay. The three-bedroom self-contained bach (holiday house; \$150) is perfect for groups.

Pacific Coast Macadamias (☎ 07-325 2960; SH35, Whanarua Bay; snacks \$5-8; ☎ 10am-3pm) Heaven is a tub of home-made macadamia and honey ice cream, accompanied by views along one of the most spectacular parts of the coast. Paninis, toasted sandwiches and nutty fudges and slices make this a great lunch stop.

Maraeako Bay Retreat (☎ 07-325 2648; www.maraehako.co.nz; SH35; dm/s/d \$28/43/66; (P) (Q)) With absolute waterfront, this paradisaical hostel owes more than a little to Robinson Crusoe – although he probably didn't have a spa pool under the stars (\$5 extra). Seemingly cobbled together from flossam and jetsam, it'll make you want to grow a beard and trace SOS messages in the sand. The *hapu* offers a range of cultural experiences, including *marae* tours, guided walks, horse treks, boat trips and the opportunity to watch traditional carvers at work. Kayaks are free.

Maraeako Camping Ground (☎ 07-325 2047; SH35; sites per adult/child \$9/5; (P)) Run by the same *hapu* as the neighbouring hostel, not much

is offered but clean toilets, water for boiling and beachfront nirvana. Toddlers will adore splashing about in the clear stream.

Oceanside Apartments (☎ 07-325 3699; www.waihaubay.co.nz; 10932 SH35; d \$100-120) These nicely kept apartments on a sandy stretch of Waihau Bay comfortably accommodate up to eight slumberers (add \$20 per extra bod). Fishing charters (\$65), cooked breakfasts and picnic lunches are available.

Cape Runaway to East Cape

The road heads inland from Whangaparaoa, crossing into Ngati Porou territory before hitting the coast at **Hicks Bay**, a real middle-of-nowhere town with a fabulous beach.

Nearly 10km further is **Te Araroa**, a lone-dog village with a shop, pub, takeaway and beautifully carved *marae*. The geology changes here from igneous outcrops to sandstone cliffs. More than 350 years old with 22 trunks and 40m boughs, Te-Waha-O-Rerekohu, allegedly NZ's largest pohutukawa tree, stands in the Te Araroa schoolyard. The progressive **East Cape Manuka Company** (☎ 0508 626 852; www.eastcapemanuka.co.nz; 4464 Te Araroa Rd; ☎ 9am-4.30pm daily Nov-Mar, Mon-Fri Apr-Oct) is also here, selling soaps, oils, creams and honey made from potent East Cape manuka. Stop for coffee and *kai* (food).

From Te Araroa, drive out to see the sunrise at the **East Cape Lighthouse**, the easterly tip of mainland NZ. It's 21km (30 minutes) east of town along an unsealed road, with a 25-minute climb to the lighthouse.

SLEEPING & EATING

It's a long way between drinks (or anything else) on this leg.

Mel's Place (☎ 06-864 4694; www.eastcapefishing.co.nz; 89 Onepotto Beach Rd, Hicks Bay; sites per person/dm \$15/25) On an ancestral *pa* (fortified village) site, Mel manages this busy hostel with aplomb. The campsites have wicked bay views (bring your own cooking gear) and there's a smart self-contained caravan by the beach (\$65). Maori cultural tours and fishing trips can be tailored to your requirements. If you're dog-phobic, look elsewhere.

Hicks Bay Motel Lodge (☎ 06-864 4880; www.hicksbaymotel.co.nz; 5198 SH35; d \$110-135; (P) (Q)) Brilliant views distract from the barrack ambience at this sprawling motel above Hicks Bay. The old-fashioned rooms are nothing flash; the restaurant, pool and glowworm grotto are some compensation.

Sunrise Lodge (☎ 06-864 4854; sunriseodgeeastcape1@hotmail.com; SH35, Te Araroa; sites per adult/child \$10/6, dm/s \$25/35, d & tw \$65) This lonely little beachside lodge has a handful of well-kept basic rooms and space for tents. It's dead quiet at night and it faces due east, so bring your yoga kit to salute the sun.

East Cape to Tokomaru Bay

Heading through farmland south of Te Araroa, the first town you come to is **Tikitiki**. If you've been itching to get inside a *marae*, you'll get a fair idea of what you're missing out on by visiting the extraordinary **St Mary's Church** (1924). It's nothing special from the outside but step inside for a sensory overload. There are woven *tukutuku* (flax panels) on the walls, geometrically patterned stained-glass windows, painted beams and amazing carvings – check out the little guys holding up the lectern. A stained-glass crucifixion scene behind the altar depicts WWI Maori Battalion soldiers in attendance.

Mount Hikurangi (1752m), jutting out of the Raukumara Range, is the highest non-volcanic peak in NZ and the first spot on the planet to be touched by the sun each day. According to local tradition it was the first piece of land dragged up when Maui snagged the North Island (p56). Ngati Porou's version of the Maui story has his canoe and earthly remains resting here on their sacred mountain. The **Maui Whakairo**, nine massive wooden carvings, has been erected 1000m up on Hikurangi's shoulder to honour the demigod.

Hikurangi's not a tramp for the inexperienced but hardy walkers can access the mountain by turning off SH35 at Tapuaeroa Valley Rd, 3km north of Ruatoria, and heading towards Pakihiroa Station. From here it's a four-hour tramp to the hut (\$15; book at the Ngati Porou Visitors' Centre) and then a further two hours to the summit.

A few kilometres off SH35 and 20km south of Tikitiki, **Ruatoria** is the Ngati Porou tribal headquarters. It's a nice little town with a minimarket, petrol station, pub and a couple of cafés. The **Ngati Porou Visitors' Centre** (☎ 06-864 8660; www.ngatiporou.iwi.nz; 144 Waiomatatini Rd; ☎ 8.30am-5pm Mon-Fri) has internet access and authentic local art for sale, but more importantly can arrange cultural tours, including *marae* stays for groups and trips to Hikurangi. The journeys require a minimum of two people and include light meals. Standard options

are a 4WD guided tour to Maui Whakairo (\$105 per person, four hours), a sunrise tour (\$145, departs 5am), guided tours to the summit (eight-hour/overnight \$165/300) and a pick-up/drop-off service (\$75 one way). They can even tailor a whole holiday to your needs, including fishing, diving, horse-trekking, surfing and kayaking.

About 26km south is **Te Puia Springs**, a blink-and-you'll-miss-it hot-springs village with a handy petrol station/store. Nearby **Waipiro Bay** is an absolute stunner. The actual thermal pools are in an old shed (with no changing facilities) at the back of the **Te Puia Hot Springs Hotel** (☎ 06-864 6755; 4689 SH35; pools \$5). It's an informal set-up; ask at the hotel for access to the small pool of milky water which reputedly has the highest mineral content of any in the world. Don't splash about as there's a risk of amoebic meningitis.

A further 11km south is **Tokomaru Bay**, perhaps the most beautiful spot on the entire route, with its broad beach framed by sweeping cliffs. This romantically crumbling town has weathered hard times since the local freezing works closed in the 1950s. The big attraction here is the famous surf break, Toko Point. You'll also find a petrol station, a small supermarket/post office, a couple of takeaways and a summer-only café.

SLEEPING & EATING

Eastender Backpackers (☎ 06-864 3820; www.easterhorsetreks.co.nz; 836 Rangitukia Rd; site per person \$10, dm \$23-33; (P)) As far removed from the grim London soap opera as imaginable, this cheery sit-around-the-campfire farmstay has clean solar-powered huts and snappy communal areas. The beach is dicey for swimming, but there's a safe waterhole nearby. Horse treks (two hours, \$60) and bone-carving lessons (\$35) are offered and you might even get to try a *hangi* meal (\$10).

Footprints in the Sand (☎ 06-864 5858; www.footprintsinthesand.co.nz; 13 Potae St, Tokomaru Bay; sites per person/dm/d \$15/20/60) Just a block from the beach (footprints aplenty), this 100-year-old house is an owner-operated hostel with a double room inside and a dorm room annex in the back garden.

our pick Brian's Place (☎ 06-864 5870; www.briansplace.co.nz; 21 Potae St, Tokomaru Bay; sites per person/dm/s \$15/25/43, d & tw \$56; (P)) Elevated, ecofriendly Brian's balances atop a steep slope overlooking Toko Bay. The panoramic tent patch is

FREEDOM TO CAMP

God bless the Gisborne District Council. They're one of the few authorities to permit Freedom Camping (extremely cheap informal camping), but only at a handful of designated sites from September to April. You can apply for a permit online (www.gdc.govt.nz/services/freedomcamping) for two, 10 or 28 consecutive nights at a cost of \$10, \$25 or \$60 respectively. It's great for a group as the one permit covers up to six campers. The only catch is that you'll need your own cooker, chemical toilet and water supply.

worth every cent, while the attic rooms are surprisingly comfy.

Te Puka Tavern (☎ 06-864 5466; Beach Rd, Tokomaru Bay; meals \$5-17; 🕒 2.30pm-midnight Tue, 11am-midnight Wed & Sun, 11am-2am Thu-Sat) Experience local hospitality at this friendly pub with awesome views and brilliant burgers.

Freedom Camping is available on the Tokomaru Bay beachfront (see above).

Tokomaru Bay to Gisborne

After a bucolic 22km of highway and further 7km to the coast, it's a definite 'wow' moment when isolated **Anaura Bay** springs into view far below. A plaque near the centre of the bay commemorates Captain Cook's arrival in 1769 when he commented on the 'profound peace' in which the people were living and their 'truly astonishing' cultivations. Pretty little **Hinetamatea Marae** remains at the south end of the bay. **Anaura Bay Walkway** is a 3.5km ramble through native forest and grassland, starting at the northern end of the bay. There's a very basic free DOC campsite here.

East Cape's largest community is **Tolaga Bay**, 14km further south. There's an **Information Centre** (☎ 06-862 6862; 55 Cook St; 🕒 6am-6pm Mon-Fri) in the foyer of the local radio station (88.5FM). Just off the main street, **Tolaga Bay Cashmere Company** (☎ 06-862 6746; 31 Solander St; 🕒 9am-4pm Mon-Sat, 10am-3pm Sun) inhabits the Art-Deco former council building. You can watch the knitters at work and then purchase one of their delicate, pricey handiworks; if they stuff up, the seconds are sold at a discount.

Tolaga is nowhere near as attractive as Tokomaru Bay – its barren cliffs are testimony

to the impact that farming deforestation has had on the land. The beach here is deep and wide, with NZ's longest pier (660m) slowly disintegrating at its southern end. Nearby is **Cooks Cove Walkway** (2½ hours, 5.8km, closed August to October), an easy stroll through farmland and native bush to another cove where Captain Cook landed.

Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve is a 2450-hectare haven for many species of marine life including fur seals, dolphins and whales – heaven for snorkellers and divers.

Dive Tatapouri (☎ 06-686 6139; www.divetatapouri.com; SH35, Tatapouri Beach) offers boat tours (\$100), snorkelling (\$60) and scuba dives for beginners (\$150) in the marine reserve.

SLEEPING & EATING

Unless you're a happy camper, decent accommodation options are slim. Freedom Camping (left) is available at the north end of Tolaga Bay, Waihou Bay and at Pouaka Bay, just off SH35 on the edge of the marine reserve.

Anaura Bay Motor Camp (☎ 06-862 6388; Anaura Bay Rd; sites per adult/child \$12/6; 📍) It's all about the location – right on the beachfront by the little stream where James Cook once stocked up with water. There's a decent kitchen and perfectly acceptable toilets.

Tolaga Inn (☎ 06-862 6856; ckc.mjc@orcon.net.nz; 12 Cook St; dm \$20, s \$30-40, d&tw \$50-60) There's a shabby charm to this 1930s faux-Tudor inn with basic but clean rooms. Downstairs is a popular café with tables spilling onto the street (meals \$7 to \$15).

Tolaga Bay Holiday Park (☎ 06-862 6716; tolagabayholidaypark@msn.com; 167 Wharf Rd; sites per adult/child \$11/5, cabins \$55-65; 📍) Aside from the redundant pier nearby, there's not a lot here, but this is a place where absence becomes substance. The stiff ocean breeze tousles Norfolk Island pines as open lawns bask in the sunshine – who needs anything more?

GISBORNE

pop 32,700

Gizzy to her friends, Gisborne's a pretty thing and increasingly self-confident. Squeezed between surf beaches and a sea of chardonnay, most Kiwis would describe the life-style here as 'not bad' – meaning, of course, bloody brilliant.

It proudly claims to be the first city on earth to see the sun and once it does it hogs it; Gisborne claims more fine days than any

city in NZ and enjoys them at the beach. Poverty Bay starts here, hooking south to Young Nick's Head.

Perhaps it's the isolated location that's helped Gisborne maintain its small town charm and interesting main street. Grand Edwardian buildings sit alongside modernist 1950s, five-storey 'skrapers' and the odd slice of audacious Art Deco.

It's a good place to put your feet up for a few days, hit the beaches and sip heavenly wine. Just don't come here to party; after dark it's a mite, well, boring.

History

The Gisborne region has been settled for over 700 years. A pact between two migratory *waka* (canoe) skippers, Paoa of the *Horouta* and Kiwa of the *Takitimu*, led to the founding of Turanganui a Kiwa (now Gisborne). Kumara flourished in the fertile soil and the settlement blossomed.

In 1769 this was the first part of NZ sighted by Cook's expedition. Eager to replenish supplies and explore the land they set ashore, much to the amazement of the local people. Setting an unfortunate benchmark for Maori/

Pakeha (non Maori) relations, the crew opened fire when the local men performed their traditional blood-curdling challenge, killing six of them.

The *Endeavour* quickly set sail up the coast without the provisions they were seeking. Cook, perhaps in a fit of petulance, named the area Poverty Bay as 'it did not afford a single item we wanted'. The name stuck, and Cook and crew made a much better impression at their next landfall, Tolaga Bay.

European settlement didn't begin until 1831. Motivated self-starter John Williams Harris established a whaling base on the Turanganui River's west bank and a farm near Manutuke. Whaling boomed and missionaries followed. More Europeans moved to the area but Maori resistance to land sales limited settlement.

In the 1860s battles between settlers and Maori erupted. Beginning in Taranaki, the Hauhau insurrection spread to the East Coast, culminating in the Battle of Waerenga a hika in 1865. The following year the government crushed all opposition and transported survivors, including Te Kooti (below), to the Chatham Islands.

TE KOOTI

Maori history is littered with mystics, prophets and warriors – often combined in the same person. A particularly fascinating example is Te Kooti (rhymes with naughty, not booty).

In 1865 he fought with the government against the Hauhau (adherents of the Pai Marire faith, founded by another warrior-prophet) but was accused of being a spy and imprisoned on the Chatham Islands without trial. His protestations of innocence and demands for justice were foolishly ignored.

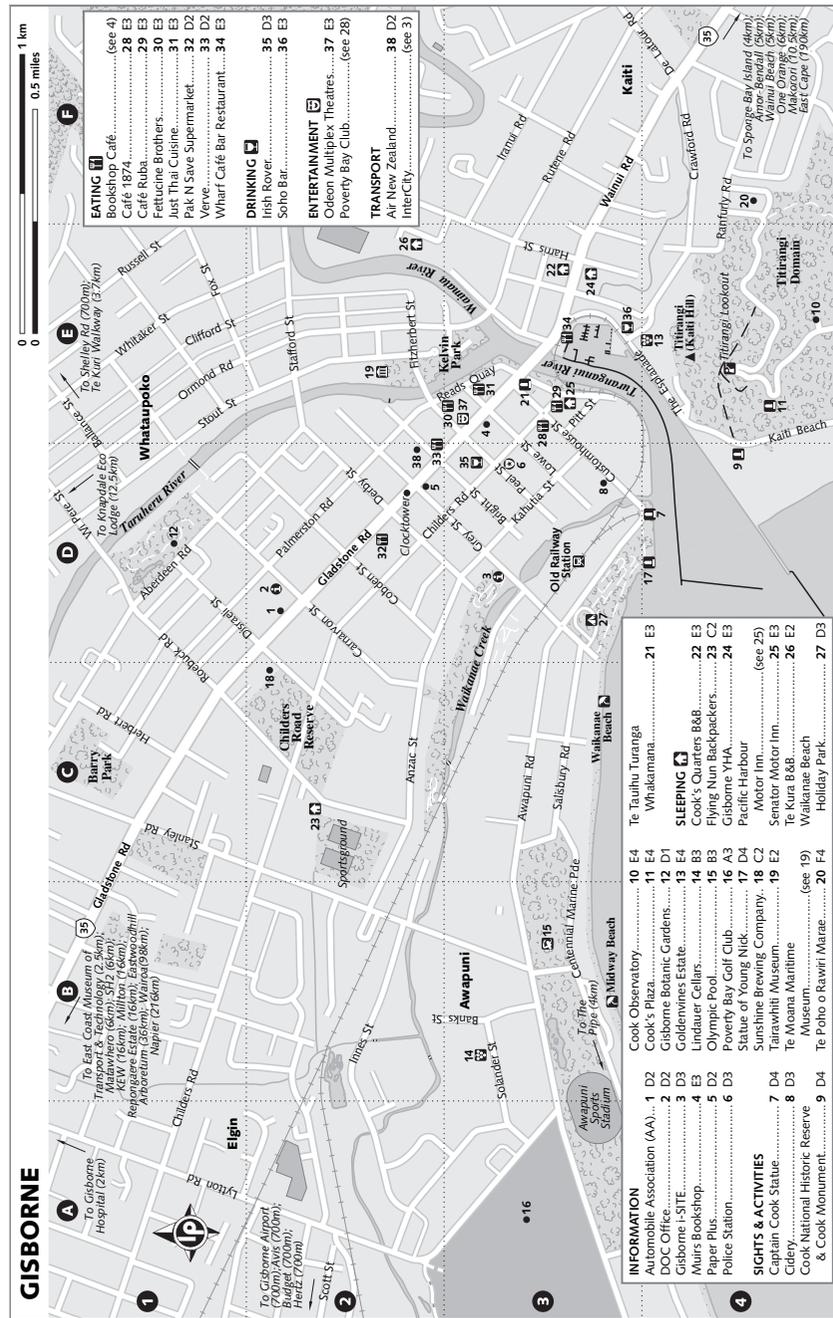
While on the Chathams, Te Kooti studied the bible and claimed to receive visions from the archangel Michael. His charismatic preaching and 'miracles' – including producing flames from his hands (his captors claimed he used phosphorus from the head of matches) – helped win over the Pai Marire to his distinctly Maori take on Christianity.

In 1867 Te Kooti led an astounding, almost bloodless escape from the Chathams, hijacking a supply ship and sailing to Poverty Bay with 200 followers. En route he threw a doubter overboard as a sacrifice. Upon their safe arrival Te Kooti's disciples raised their right hands in homage to God rather than bowing submissively; *ringa tu* (upraised hand) became the name of his church.

Te Kooti requested a dialogue with the colonial government but was once again rebuffed, with magistrate Reginald Biggs demanding his immediate surrender. Unimpressed by *Pakeha* justice, Te Kooti commenced a particularly effective guerrilla campaign – starting by killing Biggs and around 50 others (including women and children, Maori and *Pakeha*) at Matawhero.

A merry four-year chase ensued. Eventually Te Kooti took refuge in the area known as King Country, the Maori king's vast dominion where government troops feared to tread.

Proving the pointlessness of the government's approach to the whole affair, Te Kooti was officially pardoned in 1883. By this time his reputation as a prophet and healer had spread and his Ringatu Church was firmly established – at the most recent census it boasted over 16,000 adherents.



Orientation

Known as 'the city of bridges', Gisborne presides over the confluence of the Waimata and Taruheru Rivers, below which the Turanganui River runs to the sea. The main street is Gladstone Rd and Waikanae Beach is immediately south of the town centre.

Free town maps are available at Gisborne's i-SITE (below). Road maps are available at **Automobile Association (AA)**; ☎ 06-868 1424; www.aatravel.co.nz; 363 Gladstone Rd; ☎ 8.30am-5pm Mon-Fri)

Information

BOOKSHOPS

Muir's Bookshop (☎ 06-869 0651; www.muirbookshop.co.nz; 62 Gladstone Rd; ☎ 8.30am-4pm Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm Sat) The best bookshop in Gisborne (and probably the whole East Coast) has been here since 1905.

EMERGENCY

Ambulance, fire service & police (☎ 111)

Police station (☎ 06-869 0200; Peel St)

MEDICAL SERVICES

Gisborne Hospital (☎ 06-869 0500; Ormond Rd)

MONEY

The major banks tally their profits along Gladstone Rd.

POST

Paper Plus (166 Gladstone Rd)

TOURIST INFORMATION

DOC (☎ 06-869 0460; www.doc.govt.co.nz; 63 Carnarvon St; ☎ 8am-4.35pm Mon-Fri)

Gisborne i-SITE (☎ 06-868 6139; www.gisbornenz.com; 209 Grey St; ☎ 8.30am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat & Sun) Beside a doozy of a Canadian totem pole, this helpful centre stocks the thorough (and free) *Eastland Region and Pacific Coast Hwy* booklets. It also has internet access, clean toilets and a minigolf course (53).

Sights

HISTORIC SITES & MONUMENTS

Gisborne deifies Captain Cook. In a park by the river mouth there's a **statue of Young Nick** (Nicholas Young), Cook's cabin boy, whose eagle-eyes were the first to spot NZ (the white cliffs at Young Nick's Head). There's a **Captain Cook statue** here too, erected on a globe etched with his roaming routes.

Across the river at the foot of Titirangi (Kaiti Hill) is the spot where Cook first got NZ dirt on his boots (9 October 1769

according to Cook's journal, but actually the 8th). The **Cook National Historic Reserve** and **Cook monument** is a grim obelisk facing the arse-end of the wharves. This scrappy site is made even more significant by being the landing point of the Horouta *waka*.

Tucked away on the other side of Titirangi is **Te Poho o Rawiri Marae** (☎ 06-868 5364; cnr Ranfurly Rd & Queens Dr; admission by invitation) with its elaborately carved meeting house. You can get a decent view from the gates but you'll need to call ahead to ask for permission to view the decorated interior (p59).

Titirangi has magical city views. It was once a *pa*; look out for the remnants of terracing and kumara pits on the steep track to the top, which starts near the Cook Monument. If you can handle the disdain of sweaty joggers, you can cheat and drive. Near the summit is yet another Cook edifice, **Cook's Plaza**. Due to a cock-up of historic proportions, the Cook statue here isn't garbed in British naval uniform, nor does it bear any facial resemblance to Captain Jim. A plaque proclaims, 'Who was he? We have no idea!' Further on is the **Cook Observatory** (☎ 06-867 7901; public viewing \$2; ☎ 8.30pm Tue), the world's easternmost star-gazing facility.

Adding some balance to all the Cook hoopla, **Te Tauihu Turanga Whakamana** (The Canoe Prow; cnr Gladstone Rd & Customhouse Rd) is a large modern Maori sculpture incorporating the images of two men killed during Cook's first interaction with the locals.

Matawhero is 7km west of Gisborne along SH2. The historic **Presbyterian Church** (☎ 868 5573; Church Ln) is the only building in the village to have survived Te Kooti's 1868 raid (p369). It's a sweetly simple affair with lovingly tended gardens.

GARDENS

Arboreal nirvana, **Eastwoodhill Arboretum** (Map p364; ☎ 06-863 9003; www.eastwoodhill.org.nz; 2392 Wharekopae Rd, Ngatapa; adult/child \$10/free; ☎ 9am-5pm) is 35km northwest of Gisborne. Staggeringly beautiful, you could easily lose a day wandering around the 15km of themed tracks in this pine-scented paradise. It's the country's largest collection of imported trees and shrubs, but the native birds love it just the same.

The less ambitious **Gisborne Botanic Gardens** (Aberdeen Rd) is beside the Taruheru River.

MUSEUMS

The **Tairāwhiti Museum** (☎ 06-867 3832; www.tairāwhitimuseum.org.nz; 18 Stout St; adult/under 12 \$5/free, Mon free; ☹ 10am-4pm Mon-Sat, 1.30-4pm Sun) focuses on East Coast Maori and colonial history. Its gallery is Gisborne's arts hub, with rotating local, national and international exhibits. There's a fabulous café overlooking Kelvin Park, and outside is the reconstructed Wyllie Cottage (1872), Gisborne's oldest house.

Te Moana Maritime Museum occupies a wing of the Tairāwhiti complex. When the *Star of Canada* foundered on a Gisborne reef in 1912, the ship's bridge and captain's cabin were salvaged, installed in a local home, then later moved here for restoration. Displays on *waka*, whaling and Cook's Poverty Bay visit pale before the sensational vintage surfboard collection.

The **East Coast Museum of Technology & Transport** (SH2, Makaraka; adult/child \$5/2; ☹ 10am-4.30pm) is an improbable collation of rusty tractors, lawn mowers, engines, spanners, ploughs, ovens, chainsaws, trucks, pumps, harvesters, motor-bikes and so on – a shrine to peoples' inventive capacity or their ability to horde junk?

WINERIES

Gisborne is a major wine-producing area, traditionally famous for its chardonnay (producing over a third of the country's output) but increasingly being noticed for its aromatics, particularly Gewürztraminer. Most of the local vineyards offer free tastings, although some will charge a nominal fee which is subsequently deducted from purchases. The *Winery Guide* (free from the i-SITE) has a map and the latest opening hours for most vineyards. The following all have set public tasting hours; many open longer in summer.

Amor-Bendall (☎ 06-868 0928; www.amor-bendall.co.nz; 24 Moana Rd, Wainui Beach; ☹ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri)
Goldenvines Estate (☎ 06-863 1285; www.goldenvines.co.nz; The Esplanade; ☹ 10-11am & 3-5pm) Charge is \$10 for tastings and a cheese plate from their restaurant, The Works.

KEW (☎ 06-862 7722; www.kew.co.nz; 569 Wharekopae Rd, Patutahi; ☹ noon-4pm Fri-Mon) An award-winning winery committed to sustainable winegrowing. Call ahead in winter or for guided tours and antipasto platters. Charge for tastings (whole range \$10, per wine \$2) credited with purchase.

Lindauer Cellars (☎ 06-868 2757; www.montana-wines.co.nz; Solander St; ☹ 10am-5pm) NZ's big sparkling wine producer. Has a café and museum.

Millton (☎ 06-862 8680; www.millton.co.nz; 119 Papatu Rd, Manutuke; ☹ 2-4.30pm Mon-Fri) Sustainable, organic and biodynamic to boot. Linger for a picnic in the gardens.

BREWERIES

Sunshine Brewing Company (☎ 06-867 7777; 109 Disraeli St; ☹ 9am-6pm Mon-Sat), Gisborne's own natural beer brewery, ships crates of *Gisborne Gold* as fast as it can make the stuff. Free tours and tastings by arrangement.

The **Cidery** (☎ 06-868 8300; 91 Customhouse St; ☹ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm Sat) is the apple-hued producer of Bulmers Original, Scrumpy and Harvest ciders, with free tastings and factory viewings on offer. Call for bookings.

Activities

SURFING & KITEBOARDING

Surfing is mainstream in Gisborne, with the male teenage population looking appropriately shaggy. **Waikanāe Beach** is good for learners and young ones; experienced surfers get tubed south of town at **The Pipe**, or east at **Sponge Bay Island**. East of town along SH35, **Wainui** (Map p364) and **Makorori** (Map p364) beaches also have quality breaks.

Surfing with Frank (☎ 06-867 0823; www.surfingwithfrank.com; 58 Murphy Rd, Wainui Beach; lesson \$65) provides one-on-one surf lessons with all the gear included (and even cheaper if the lessons are taken in small groups), as well as wet suit and board hire (\$20).

Katapult Kiteboarding (☎ 06-868 1517; www.katapultkiteboarding.com; lesson \$105) has the gear and skills to get you flying over the surf. Discounts for pairs and multiple lessons.

SWIMMING

Pick your way through the driftwood to swim safely between the flags at Waikanāe and Midway beaches; the detritus is cleared in time for summer. If the ocean is chilly, **Olympic Pool** (☎ 06-867 6220; Centennial Marine Pde, Midway Beach; adult/child \$3/2; ☹ 6am-8pm) is a tepid 50m indoor/outdoor pool with a 98m wormlike waterslide (\$3) and aquafitness classes (\$3.50).

OTHER ACTIVITIES

For free skull-endangering things to do in NZ you can't beat the **Rere Rockslide** (Map p364). This natural phenomenon occurs in a section of the Rere River 50km northwest of Gisborne along the Wharekopae Rd. Grab a tire tube or bogie board to cushion the worst of the bruises and slide down the 50m-long rocky run at a

60-degree angle into the pool at the bottom. Three kilometres downriver, the **Rere Falls** (Map p364) send a 30m-wide curtain of water over a 10m drop; you can walk behind it if you don't mind getting wet. Both can be combined with a visit to Eastwoodhill Arboretum (p371).

There are stacks of walks to tackle in the area, starting with a gentle stroll along the river. The i-SITE can provide you with brochures for the **Arts & Crafts Trail** and **Historic Walk**. Winding its way through farmland and forest with commanding views, the **Te Kuri Walkway** (two hours, 5.6km, closed August to October) starts 4km north of town at the end of Shelley Rd.

Alternatively, awaken your sense of mortality with a shark-cage dive from **Surfit Charters** (☎ 06-867 2970; www.surfit.co.nz; per person \$250). Tamer fishing and snorkelling trips can also be arranged.

Work the kinks out of your swing at the par-72 **Poverty Bay Golf Club** (☎ 06-867 4402; www.gisbornegolf.co.nz; cnr Lytton Rd & SH35; 18 holes \$40; ☹ 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 7am-5pm Sat & Sun).

Tours

After *Whale Rider* was released the sleepy Maori village at Whangara, 21km north of Gisborne, was swamped with sightseers – some of whom treated the *marae* and private homes as if they were movie sets. That's why you won't find any signs pointing to this mystical place from SH35. If you do find your way down to the village there are notices warning you to keep out. In order to take control of the situation, limit numbers, compensate for the inconvenience and provide a meaningful introduction to Maori culture, access is now limited to guided tours.

Hone Taumaunu was cultural advisor for the movie and leads the **Whale Rider Tour** (☎ 06-868 6139; info@gisbornenz.com; per person \$50, min 4 people); book through the Gisborne i-SITE.
Tipuna Tours (☎ 06-867 6558; annemcguire@xtra.co.nz; 4hr/8hr tour \$100/200) offers a tailored range of cultural experiences which head up the coast as far as Tolaga Bay, including Whale Rider tours (\$70).

Various operators offer general tours around the Gisborne region, including: **Paradise Leisure Tours** (☎ 027 223 9440; grantsue.hughes@ihug.co.nz) Includes trips around Gisborne (\$20, 90 minutes), wine tasting (\$45, half day), Eastwoodhill Arboretum (\$50, half day), Morere Hot Springs (\$70) and Lake Waikaremoana (\$75, nine hours). Book at the i-SITE.

Unique Bay Tours (☎ 06-863 0907; www.uniquebaytours.co.nz; tours from \$50) Offers huge range of tours, including mystery days and scenic flights.

Gisborne Town Cars (☎ 06-867 7321; www.go.gisborne.info; tours from \$60) Be chauffeured around wherever the hell you like.

Festivals & Events

On the October Labour weekend, local winemakers and foodies pool talents for the **Gisborne Food & Wine Festival** (☎ 0800 447 267; www.gisbornewine.co.nz/festival; tickets \$60), culminating in the main shindig on Sunday – the price includes buses between the vineyards and tastings. Don't miss Saturday's free street party and the Wine Waiters' Relay.

The huge event on the music calendar is **Rhythm & Vines** (www.rhythmdivines.co.nz; Waioheka Estate; tickets \$150-200), a two-day festival starting on New Years Eve that attracts big-name local bands and international headliners. You'll be scrambling to find accommodation anywhere near Gisborne at this time.

Sleeping

If you've been roughing it while heading around the cape, Gisborne has some luxe sleeping choices and dozens of midrange motels around the city beaches. Solid budget options are harder to find. If you've got a car, some of the best options are a short drive away.

BUDGET

Flying Nun Backpackers (☎ 06-868 0461; yager@xtra.co.nz; 147 Roebuck Rd; camping per person \$11, dm \$19-21, d&tw \$48; ☐ ☹) It was probably a little more prim and proper when it was a convent, but this grungy old place has plenty of character and tight security.

Gisborne YHA (☎ 06-867 3269; www.yha.co.nz; 32 Harris St; camping per person/dm/s/d \$15/24/39/56; ☐ ☹) A short stroll across the river from town, this well-kept hostel fills a rambling mansion with colour and transience. The rooms are large and comfortable, but you'll need to head outside for the bathrooms.

Waikanāe Beach Holiday Park (☎ 06-867 5634; www.gisborneholidaypark.co.nz; Grey St; unpowered/powered sites \$22/26, d \$40-50, ste \$65-75; ☐ ☹) Right by the beach and minutes from town, this is an enviable spot to pitch a tent. Colourful art doesn't stop the self-contained units from looking like pensioner flats, but along with the 'ranch' cabins (more Pizza Hut than Ponderosa) they're excellent value.

DAME KIRI TE KANAWA

New Zealand's most famous daughter was born in Gisborne in 1944. A true megastar of the operatic world, Te Kanawa has played leading lady in some of the world's most renowned opera houses alongside the top leading men of the age. Along the way she's picked up a Grammy and a knighthood, and sung to an audience of 600 million people at the wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana.

Her recent decision to pull out of a concert with Australian pop crooner John Farnham caused a Trans-Tasman spat and a (failed) law suit from the promoters. Farnham is extremely popular in Australia although largely unknown elsewhere. Te Kanawa's decision came after watching a video of Farnham in concert showing women throwing their underwear on stage. For a high brow performer whose idea of a risqué show is to slip the odd show tune in amongst the arias, her reaction was hardly surprising. She is a diva, after all.

Eastwoodhill Arboretum (Map p364; ☎ 06-863 9003; www.eastwoodhill.org.nz; 2392 Wharekopae Rd, Ngatapa; d/m/r \$25/80; 📍) The bunks and private rooms are basic and you'll still need to pay the admission on the first day, but once you're here endless woody delights can fill your days and nights. There's a decent kitchen but bring food as there's nothing for miles around.

MIDRANGE

Cook's Quarters B&B (☎ 06-863 3708; Cooks-Quarters@hotmail.com; 66 Wainui Rd; s \$95, d/tw \$120) The good captain may not have named it Poverty Bay if he had lodged in this friendly faux-Tudor guesthouse. The pleasantly furnished twin is smallish but the ample bathroom compensates.

Te Kura B&B (☎ 06-863 3497; www.tekura.co.nz; 14 Cheeseman Rd; s/d \$100/120; 📍) Play lord of the manor at this lovely 1920s Arts and Crafts-style riverside home. The sole guestroom has use of a stately lounge and a bright breakfast room opening on to the river, pool and spa.

Pacific Harbour Motor Inn (☎ 06-867 8847; www.pacific-harbour.co.nz; 24 Reads Quay; r \$130, ste \$130-180) The apartment-style Pacific Harbour bestows similar virtues to its neighbour, the Senator. It's clean and well-kept, although the décor's a little dated.

Senator Motor Inn (☎ 06-868 8877; www.senatormotorinn.co.nz; 2 Childers Rd; s/d/tr/q \$135/145/165/185) Fit for a senator, this stylish motel overlooks the harbour. Sip a chardonnay on your private balcony and plot your political trajectory. The upstairs rooms have more privacy.

TOP END

Knapdale Eco Lodge (☎ 06-862 5444; www.knapdale.co.nz; 114 Snowsill Rd, Waihirere; s/tw \$75/150, d \$275-330; 📍) Forget Matamata, this could be

Hobbiton right here – although in terms of comfort and style it's more West End than Bag End. Tolkien would have approved of the eco efforts – there's solar heating for summer, wet-back wood-scrub burners for winter and organic produce all year round. The twin and cheaper double share a bathroom.

One Orange (☎ 06-868 8062; www.oneorange.co.nz; 98 Wairere Rd, Wainui Beach; d/q \$225/338; 📍) Architecturally razor-sharp, this stylish studio oozes affluence: voluminous wine glasses, Bose sound system, enormous beach towels and king-size beds. Trout fishing trips and home-cooked dinners (passionately matched with local wines) by arrangement; breakfast provisions provided.

Repongaere Estate (☎ 06-862 7515; www.repongaere.co.nz; 30 Repongaere Rd, Patutahi; d/q \$265/325; 📍) Wake up and smell the chardonnay in one of five exquisitely designed modern houses, each king of its own hill within a vineyard and olive estate. Two sumptuous en suite rooms are separated by a large glass-walled living space that provides vistas of vines and valleys all the way to Young Nick's Head.

Eating

Verve (☎ 06-868 9095; 121 Gladstone Rd; breakfast \$4-16, lunch \$12-18; ☎ 7.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 8am-3pm Sun; 📍) A slice of bohemia, Verve dishes up traditional breakfasts, pastas, kebabs, Asian dishes, an unpredictable array of homemade muffins and decent coffee.

Café Ruba (☎ 06-868 6516; 14 Childers Rd; mains \$5-19; ☎ 7am-3pm Mon-Sat, 8.30am-3pm Sun) Progressive and urbane, Ruba's red and charcoal tones offset substantial breakfasts and adventurous lunches. Finish with a strong coffee or an afternoon tippie.

Bookshop Café (☎ 06-869 0653; 62 Gladstone Rd; mains \$7-13; ☎ 8.30am-4pm Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm Sat) Above Muirs Bookshop, this funky place makes the most of its heritage features, with stripped brick walls, exposed rafters, lovely leadlights and a veranda over the street. Fans of quality caffeine and literature may need to be forcibly removed.

ourpick Café 1874 (☎ 06-863 2006; 38 Childers Rd; mains \$7-17; ☎ 7am-3pm; 📍) As if the dazzling white grandeur of the Poverty Bay gentleman's club (1874) wasn't enough, this place then goes and ticks all the elements of the perfect café: excellent coffee, irresistible counter food, inventive menu, vegetarian options, reasonable prices, cheerful service, outdoor/indoor setting, bohemian vibe and all-day brunch.

Just Thai Cuisine (☎ 06-867 8028; 2 Lowe St; mains \$11-19; ☎ lunch & dinner Mon-Sat, dinner Sun; 📍) *Simply Barbra, Just Jack* – some names say it all. This bright, street-corner room overlooks the Taruheru River and serves traditional Thai classics.

Fettuccine Brothers (☎ 06-868 5700; 12 Peel St; mains \$22-28; ☎ dinner Mon-Sat) What an Italian restaurant should be, this old-fashioned family establishment delivers ample portions and a good selection of fresh pasta and grills. You won't regret the seafood fettuccine.

Wharf Café Bar Restaurant (☎ 06-868 4876; 60 The Esplanade; mains \$27-34; ☎ breakfast Sat & Sun, lunch daily, dinner Mon-Sat) Overlooking the harbour, this is modern Gisborne dining at its best. Smooth tunes waft through an elegant interior; excellent fish dishes swim through the menu. The outdoor concourse is perfect for a crisp morning coffee or a balmy evening beer.

Self-caterers can fill the trolley at **Pak N Save Supermarket** (☎ 06-868 9029; 274 Gladstone Rd; ☎ 7am-9pm).

Drinking & Entertainment

Irish Rover (☎ 06-867 1112; 69 Peel St; ☎ Mon-Fri 11am-late, Sat & Sun 3pm-late) This Irish pub in a grand old bank building fills up on weekends, with occasional live music and inexpensive pub lunches and dinners.

Soho Bar (☎ 06-868 3888; www.sohobar.co.nz; 2 Crawford Rd; noon-3am Wed-Sat, noon-10pm Sun) Hip bars aren't Gisborne's stock-in-trade, but Soho is the exception. There's a decent wine list, cocktail-tutored bar staff, tapas to temper the alcohol and a roster of live bands and DJs.

Poverty Bay Club (☎ 06-863 2006; 38 Childers Rd; ☎ enquire at café) Look out for the very special occasions when the funky kids from Café 1874 (left) open up the garden, grand ballroom (with its trio of leadlight domes) and the southern hemisphere's oldest squash court (dates back to 1897) to live bands and DJs. The summer Sunday sessions shouldn't be missed.

Odeon Multiplex Theatres (☎ 06-867 3339; 79 Gladstone Rd) New release movies screen throughout the day.

Getting There & Around

AIR

Gisborne Airport (☎ 06-868 7951; www.eastland.co.nz/airport; Aerodrome Rd) is 3km west of the city. **Air New Zealand** (☎ 06-868 2700; www.airnz.co.nz; 37 Bright St) flies to/from Auckland (one hour, six daily) and Wellington (70 minutes, five daily), with onward connections. Check the website for fares and special offers.

Sunair Aviation Ltd (☎ 07-575 7799; www.sunair.co.nz) offers flights on weekdays to Hamilton (\$290, 75 minutes) Tauranga (\$290, 45 minutes), Rotorua (\$290, 45 minutes) and Napier (\$250, 45 minutes).

BUS

InterCity (☎ 06-868 6139; www.intercity.co.nz) buses depart daily from the i-SITE for Napier (\$41, four hours) via Wairoa (\$26, 90 minutes), and Auckland (\$76, 8¼ hours) via Opotiki (\$31, two hours) and Rotorua (\$57, 4½ hours).

Organised penny-pinchers can take advantage of \$1 advance fares on **Naked Bus** (www.nakedbus.com) to Auckland via Opotiki and Rotorua.

For courier services from Gisborne to Opotiki travelling via East Cape's scenic SH35, see p363.

CAR HIRE

The following have counters at Gisborne Airport:

Avis (☎ 06-868 9084; www.avis.co.nz)

Budget (☎ 06-867 9794; www.budget.co.nz)

Hertz (☎ 06-867 9348; www.hertz.co.nz)

TAXI

A city-to-airport taxi fare costs about \$15.

Eastland Taxis (☎ 0800 868 294, 06-868 1133)

Gisborne Taxis (☎ 0800 505 555, 06-867 2222)

Sun City Taxis (☎ 06-867 6767)

GISBORNE TO HAWKES BAY

Heading south towards Napier you're confronted with a choice: follow SH2 along the coast or take SH36 inland through Tiniroto. Either way you'll end up in Wairoa.

The coastal route is the better choice, but SH36 is also a pleasant drive. **Doneraile Park**, 49km from Gisborne, is a peaceable bush reserve with a frigid mountain river to jump into. Freedom Camping is permitted (p368). The snow-white cascades of **Te Reinga Falls**, 18km further south, are worth a short detour.

SH2 runs a few kilometres inland from the coast before entering the Wharera State Forest. Just out of the woods, 55km from Gisborne, **Morere Hot Springs** (☎ 06-837 8856; www.morerehotsprings.com; SH2; adult/child \$5/2.50; ☎ 10am-5pm) burble up from a fault line in the beautiful **Morere Springs Scenic Reserve**. You might want to tackle the bushwalks (20 minutes to two hours) before the hot water lulls you into lethargy. The main swimming pool is near the entrance, but a 10-minute walk following a stream through virgin rainforest leads to the atmospheric Nikau Baths. It's actually ancient seawater that bubbles to the surface here at around 50°C, cooling by 10°C before being pumped into small stainless steel tubs for soaking in.

Opposite the springs are the **Morere Tearooms & Camping Grounds** (☎ 06-837 8792; morere@xtra.co.nz; SH2; sites \$30, d \$60-90) where the sites are beautifully situated alongside a swimming hole in the babbling Tunanui Stream. The café serves home-made goodies and stocks basic provisions.

Moonlight Lodge (☎ 06-837 8824; moonlightlodge@xtra.co.nz; SH2, Morere; dm/s/d/tw \$25/35, d & tw \$50, cabins s/d/tr \$60/75/85; cottage \$95-120; ☎ Sep-Jun; Ⓟ) is a 1917 farmhouse just off the Hwy. Among the deciduous boughs of a sheep-studded river valley, it's a hard-to-beat hostel. Call ahead as it's often being rented to groups.

As you continue along SH2 keep an eye out for the unusually brightly painted **Taanui-a-Rangi Marae**. You can get a decent view from the road; don't enter unless invited. You're now in Ngati Kahungunu's territory, which extends to the bottom of the island.

SH2 continues south to Nuhaka at the northern end of Hawke Bay. From here it's west to Wairoa or east to the marvellous Mahia Peninsula. Not far from the Nuhaka roundabout is **Kahungunu Marae** (lhaka St). From

the street you can note the carving at the house's apex of a standing warrior holding a *taiaha* (spear). It's less stylised than most traditional carving, opting for a simple realism. Nearby, you can tour a working **Paua Farm** (☎ 06-837 8880; nzabalone@xtra.co.nz; Oputama Rd; tours \$7.50; ☎ 10am-5pm) or just enjoy the rainbow gleam of the gift shop.

HAWKES BAY

Hawke Bay, the name given to the body of water that stretches from the sunburnt Mahia Peninsula to Cape Kidnappers, looks like it's been bitten out of the North Island's eastern flank. Add an 's' and you've got a region that stretches south and inland to include fertile farmland, surf beaches, mountainous ranges and wild forests.

The southern edge of the bay is a cable TV lifestyle channel come to life – food, wine and architecture are the shared obsessions. It's smugly comfortable but thoroughly appealing, and is best viewed through a rosé-tinted wine glass. If the weather's putting a dampener on your beach holiday plans, it's a great place to head.

MAHIA

Like Santorini crossed with Dover, the Mahia Peninsula's eroded hills are interspersed with conifer stands, giving way to white sandstone cliffs, dark-brown sand and a vivid blue sea. Majestic in sun or storm, Mahia's strange atmospheres form the backdrop for surfing, diving, walking, fishing and bird-watching at Mangawhio Lagoon. You'll need your own transport to explore the peninsula, which was once an island before shifting sands latched onto the mainland.

Seashore B&B (☎ 06-837 5525; www.mahianz.com; 182 Newcastle St, Taylors Bay; s/tw \$100-160; Ⓟ) counts as its nearest neighbour a resident dolphin; step down to the beach to say hi. It's a lovely spot, with friendly hosts and two bright en suite rooms.

Cappamore Lodge (☎ 06-837 5523; fax 06-837 5583; 435 East Coast Rd; s/d/tr/q \$80/120/140/160; Ⓟ) is really very cool, especially if you ever played cowboys and Indians as a kid. This self-contained log cabin was painstakingly and beautifully crafted by the lovely fulla who owns it. It's huge (comfortably sleeping six)

with two living areas, yet a single traveller can rent the whole lot for \$80.

Up a steep driveway on Mahia's east coast, **Café Mahia** (☎ 06-837 5094; 476 East Coast Rd; mains \$14-20; ☎ 10am-4pm Thu-Sun, daily in summer; Ⓟ) has 72 local jams and sauces at its disposal and views as wide as the day is long. The coffee could improve, but there is internet access. Book ahead for dinner.

WAIROA

pop 5228

Poor little Wairoa is trying really hard to shirk its rough-edged reputation. A new **Wairoa Township River Walkway** takes in sites of interest along the main street, including the old solid kauri **Portland Island Lighthouse** (1877) which once stood off the Mahia Peninsula and now flashes proudly at the entry to the town centre. In retrospect, perhaps choosing a warning beacon as a landmark wasn't such a great idea.

Like many small towns, economic depression seems to have spared heritage buildings from the wrecking ball. Film buffs should consider a trip to the wonderfully restored 1931 **Gaiety Theatre** (☎ 06-838 3104; gaiety@xtra.co.nz; 252 Marine Pde; ☎ 2-8pm). **Wairoa Museum** (☎ 06-838 3108; wairoamuseum@xtra.co.nz; 142 Marine Pde; admission by donation; ☎ 10am-4pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat) has an Italianate façade from its former life as a bank.

Bird fanciers should explore **Whakamahia Lagoon**, at the river mouth, and **Whakaki Lagoon**, 10km east of town.

The enthusiastic staff at **Wairoa i-SITE** (☎ 06-838 7440; www.wairoadc.govt.nz; cnr SH2 & Queen St; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun; Ⓟ) have a wealth of information on the wider area along with maps, internet access (per hour \$5), regional fishing licenses and DOC passes.

Sleeping & Eating

Riverside Motor Camp (☎ 06-838 6301; riverside motorcamp@clear.net.nz; 19 Marine Pde; site \$30, dm/d/tr \$25/55/75; Ⓟ) Perky owners and the prettiest toilet block you ever did see (spotlessly dressed in gingham) make this place a winner. The backpacker dorm is a large room with bunks and a big TV.

Bushdale Farm Backpackers (☎ 06-838 6453; www.bushdalefarm.co.nz; 438 Cricklewood Rd; dm/d/tr \$30/60/90; Ⓟ) Birdsong, walks, horses, glow-worms and free eggs are what you're in for at this bright blue cottage, set in peaceful

farmland 14km west of Wairoa. There are only two rooms, so get in quick. The owners are horse breeders and always have a trusty steed available for treks.

Café 287 (☎ 06-838 6601; 287 SH2; mains \$12-23; ☎ breakfast, lunch & dinner) Just south of Wairoa, this friendly eatery delivers simple, old-fashioned meals like beef stroganoff and steak-and-chips. Accommodation is offered in a new block of clean but basic en suite cabins (\$85).

Oslers Bakery & Café (☎ 06-838 8299; 116 Marine Pde; meals \$5-14; ☎ 8am-4pm Mon-Fri, 8am-2.30pm Sat & Sun) Call in for an award-winning pie (\$3) or a decent coffee and cooked breakfast.

Getting There & Away

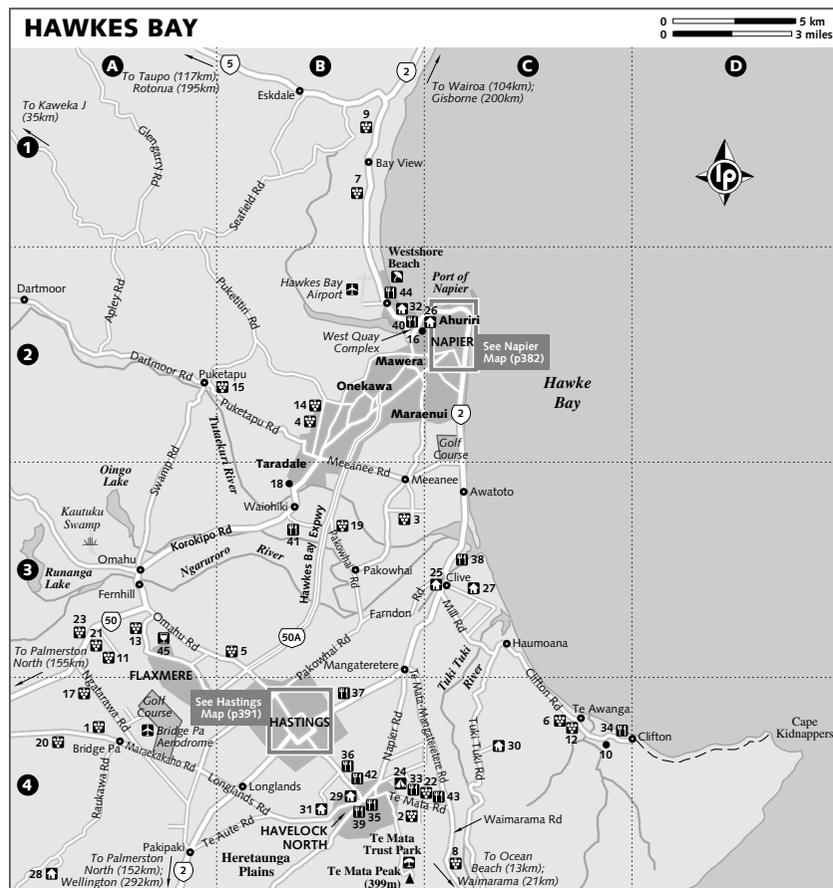
All **InterCity** (☎ 06-838 7440; www.intercity.co.nz) buses that travel between Gisborne and Napier pass through Wairoa.

TE UREWERA NATIONAL PARK

Shrouded in mist, mysticism and virgin forest, Te Urewera National Park is the North Island's largest, encompassing 212,673 hectares cut with lakes and rivers. The highlight is Lake Waikaremoana (Sea of Rippling Waters), a deep crucible of water encircled by the Lake Waikaremoana Track, one of NZ's Great Walks. Rugged bluffs drop away to reedy inlets, the lake's mirror surface disturbed only by mountain zephyrs and the occasional waterbird taking to the skies.

The name Te Urewera still has the capacity to make *Pakeha* New Zealanders feel slightly uneasy – and not just because it translates as 'The Burnt Penis'. There's something primal and uncontrolled about this wild woodland, with its rich history of Maori resistance.

The local Tuhoe people – prosaically known as the 'Children of the Mist' – never signed the Treaty of Waitangi and fought with Rewi Maniapoto at Orakau (p228) during the Waikato Wars. The army of Te Kooti (p369) took refuge here during running battles with government troops. The claimant of Te Kooti's spiritual mantle, Rua Kenana, led a thriving community beneath the sacred mountain Maungapohatu (1366m) from 1905 until his politically inspired 1916 arrest. This effectively erased the last bastion of Maori independence in the country. Maungapohatu never recovered, and only a small settlement remains. Nearby, Ruatahunā's extraordinary Mataatua Marae celebrates Te Kooti's exploits.



In 2007 armed police again stormed Ruatahuna amidst claims of 'terrorist' training camps deep in the bush run by Maori separatists. At the time of research the facts of the incident remain hazy but terrorist charges against the accused have been dropped in favour of firearms charges.

Sights & Information

Te Urewera National Park visitor centre (☎ 06-837 3900; www.doc.govt.nz; SH38; ☎ 8am-4.45pm) at Aniwanuiwa is, at the time of research, undergoing redevelopment, however information services are still provided. Get your weather information, accommodation information and hut or camping-ground passes for the Lake Waikaremoana Track here.

Activities

LAKE WAIKAREMOANA TRACK

The 46km track scales the spectacular Panekiri Bluff, with open panoramas interspersed with fern groves and forest. The walk is rated as moderate with the only difficult section being the Panekiri ascent. During summer the trail can resemble a queue for All Blacks tickets, but keep your eyes on the lake and you'll find it hard to get annoyed. During summer it can get busy so it pays to book ahead.

Although it's a year-round track, winter rain deters many people and makes conditions much more challenging. At this altitude, temperatures can drop quickly, even in summer. Walkers are advised to take portable stoves

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Alpha Domus.....	1	A4	Park Estate Winery.....	19	B3	Glen Etive Restaurant.....	36	B4
Black Barn Vineyards.....	2	B4	Sileni Estate.....	20	A4	Hawkes Bay Farmers Market.....	37	B4
Brookfields.....	3	B3	Te Awa.....	21	A3	Hep Set Mooch.....	(see 40)	
Church Road.....	4	B2	Te Mata Estate.....	22	C4	Hohepa Organic Cheeses.....	38	C3
CJ Pask.....	5	B3	Trinity Hill.....	23	A3	Jackson's Bakery & Cafe.....	(see 35)	
Clearview Estate Winery.....	6	C4	SLEEPING 🏠 🏠			Mission Estate Winery.....	(see 14)	
Crab Farm Winery.....	7	B1	Arataki Holiday Park.....	24	B4	Pipi.....	39	B4
Craggy Range.....	8	C4	Clifton Reserve Motor Camp.....	(see 34)		Providore.....	40	B2
Esk Valley Estate.....	9	B1	Clive Chalets.....	25	C3	Shed 2.....	(see 40)	
Gannet Safaris.....	10	C4	Crown Hotel.....	26	C2	Silky Oak Chocolate Company.....	41	B3
Hatton Estate.....	11	A3	Gannet Cottage.....	27	C3	Sri Thai.....	(see 26)	
Hawkes Bay Wine Country Cat.....	(see 40)		Greenhill The Lodge.....	28	A4	Strawberry Patch.....	42	B4
Kim Crawford Wines.....	12	C4	Havelock North Motor Lodge.....	29	B4	Te Awa.....	(see 21)	
Kiwi Adventure Co.....	(see 40)		Miller Road.....	30	C4	Te Mata Cheese Company.....	43	C4
Matariki Wines.....	13	A3	Ngatahi Lodge.....	31	B4	Westshore Fish Café.....	44	B2
Mission Estate Winery.....	14	B2	Rocks Motor Lodge.....	32	B2			
Moana Park.....	15	B2	EATING 🍴					
National Tobacco Company Building.....	16	B2	Arataki Honey Visitor Centre.....	33	B4	DRINKING 🍷		
Ngatarawa.....	17	A4	Church Road.....	(see 4)		GINtrap.....	(see 40)	
Otarata Pa.....	18	B3	Clifton Bay Café.....	34	C4	Roosters Brewhouse.....	45	A3
			Diva.....	35	B4	Speights Ale House.....	(see 40)	
						Thirsty Whale.....	(see 40)	

and fuel as there are no cooking facilities en route. Parking your car at the trail heads isn't a great idea as break-ins do occur, so leave it at the campground in Aniwanuiwa.

There are five huts and campsites spaced along the track, all of which must be pre-booked through DOC as far ahead as possible, regardless of the season. Huts cost \$25/13 per adult/child per night, campsites \$12/6. Book at the Aniwanuiwa, Gisborne, Wairoa, Whakatane or Napier DOC offices or i-SITES.

Walking the Track

Propel yourself onto the trail either clockwise from just outside Onepoto in the south or anticlockwise from Hopuruahine Bridge in the north. From Onepoto, all the steep climbing happens in the first few hours. Water on this section of the track is limited so fill your bottles before heading off. If you have a car, it is safest to leave it at the Waikaremoana Motor Camp (p380) or Big Bush Holiday Park (p380) then take a water taxi (p380) to the trail heads.

Estimated walking times:

Route	Time
Onepoto to Panekiri Hut	5hr
Panekiri Hut to Waiopaoa Hut	3-4hr
Waiopaoa Hut to Marauiti Hut	5hr
Marauiti Hut to Waiharuru Hut	2hr
Waiharuru Hut to Whanganui Hut	2½hr
Whanganui Hut to Hopuruahine Bridge	2hr

OTHER WALKS

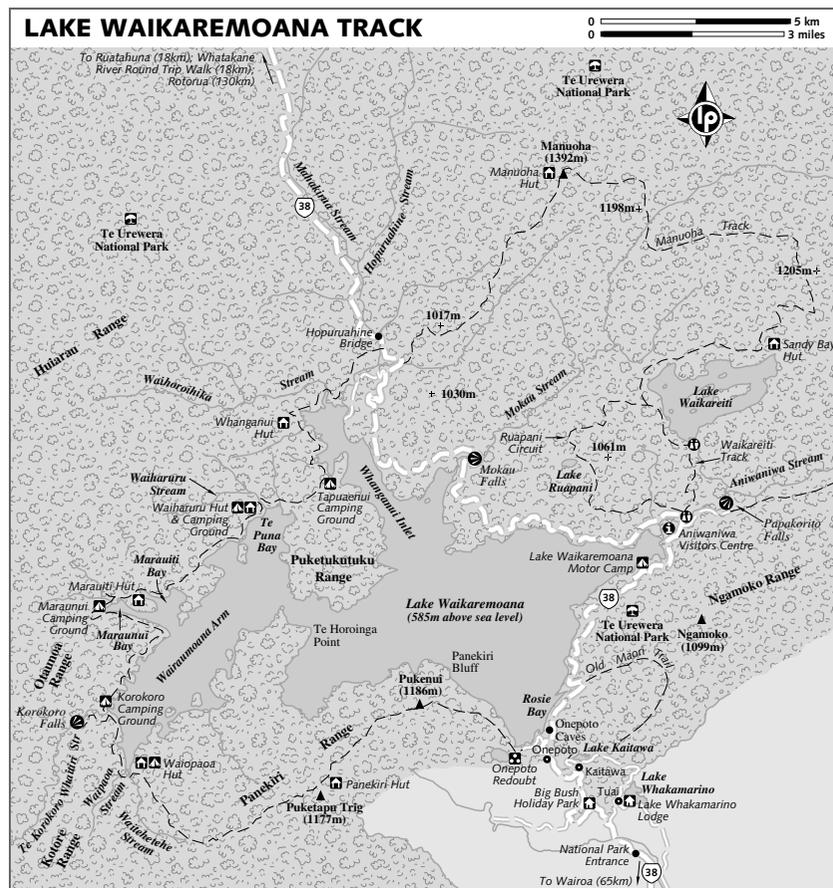
There are dozens of walks within the park's vast boundaries, some of which are outlined in DOC's *Lake Waikaremoana Walks and Recreation in Northern Te Urewera* pamphlets (\$2.50).

Another major track is the three- to five-day **Whakatane River Round Trip**, which starts at Ruatahuna. The five-hut track follows the Whakatane River then loops back via Waikare River, Motumuka Stream and Whakatane Valley. You can continue north down the Whakatane River and out of the national park at Ruatoki, but be aware that there is no transport from here.

The **Manuoha-Waikareiti Track** is a three-day walk for experienced trampers, kicking off near Hopuruahine and heading up to Manuoha Hut, the park's highest point (1392m). It then follows a ridge down to Lake Waikareiti via Sandy Bay Hut, finishing at Aniwanuiwa.

Shorter walks and day walks include the **Old Maori Trail** (four hours return) from Rosie Bay to Lake Kaitawa; the **Lake Waikareiti Track** (two hours return, four hours to Sandy Bay Hut one way) through beech and rimu forest; and the **Ruapani Circuit** (six hours) including wetland wanderings.

Walking Legends (☎ 07-345 7363; www.walkinglegends.com) is an enthusiastic and experienced company running three- to six-day guided walks around Lake Waikaremoana and through Te Urewera (from \$950 all-inclusive).



Sleeping & Eating

DOC has over 50 huts and camp sites within the park, most of which are extremely basic (p378).

Lake Waikaremoana Motor Camp (☎ 06-837 3826; www.lake.co.nz; SH38; sites per adult/child \$10/5, cabins \$42, units \$72-149; P) Right on the shore, this place has Swiss-looking chalets, fisherman's cabins and campsites, all with watery views. The on-site shop fills with kids buying chocolate while trout-engrossed parents are elsewhere. The camp also runs water taxis and petrol pumps.

Big Bush Holiday Park (☎ 06-837 3777; www.lakewaikaremoana.co.nz; SH38; sites per person/dm/d \$10/25/80; P) Close to the Onepoto trail head, Big Bush offers trim cabins, acceptable back-

packer rooms and a roomy licensed café. Pick-ups, water taxis and storage are available.

Lake Whakamarino Lodge (☎ 06-837 3876; www.lakelodge.co.nz; Esplanade, Tuai; s/d/ste \$60/70/100; P) While the lake's name might provoke sheep jokes, trout is the passion here. This grand-looking lodge is the companion set to a beautiful Art-Deco hydroelectric power station and was originally workers' housing. It's now a comfortable *iwi*-run fishing lodge with home-cooked meals by request.

Getting There & Around

Approximately 105km of the road between Wairoa and Rotorua (on both sides of Lake Waikaremoana) remains unsealed, despite a million-dollar government pledge. It's a time-

consuming drive, one that's less for tourists, more for travellers.

Big Bush Water Taxi (☎ 0800 525 392; www.lakewaikaremoana.co.nz) will ship you to either Onepoto or Hopuruahine trail head (\$30 return), with hut-to-hut pack transfers for the less gung-ho. It also runs shuttles to and from Wairoa (\$30 one way).

Home Bay Water Taxi & Cruises (☎ 06-837 3826; www.waikaremoana.com) operates from Lake Waikaremoana Motor Camp (opposite) to either trail head (\$30 return) and also offers lake cruises (\$30). **Waikaremoana Guided Tours** (☎ 0800 469 879) provides a similar service.

WAIROA TO NAPIER

This stretch thrusts through verdant farmland for much of its 117km. Most of it follows a railway track which is currently only used for freight – you'll see what a travesty that is when you pass under the **Mohaka viaduct** (1937), the highest rail viaduct in Australasia (95m).

Occupied by early Maori, **Lake Tutira** has walkways and a bird sanctuary. At Tutira village, just north of the lake, Pohokura Rd leads to the wonderful **Boundary Stream Reserve**, a major conservation area. Three loop tracks start from the road, ranging in length from 40 minutes to three hours. Also along this road you'll find **Opouahi Scenic Reserve**, **Bell Rock** and **Bellbird Bush Scenic Reserve**, which all offer rewarding walks.

Off Waipatiki Rd, 34km outside Napier, is the 64-hectare **Waipatiki Scenic Reserve**, echoing with tui and keruru calls while the **White Pine Bush Scenic Reserve**, 29km from Napier on SH2, bristles with kahikatea and nikau palms. **Tangoio Falls Scenic Reserve**, 27km north of Napier, has Te Ana Falls, stands of whekiponga (tree ferns) and native orchids. Between White Pine and Tangoio Reserves the **Tangoio Walkway** (four hours return) follows Kareara Stream.

The Hwy surfs the coast for the last 25km, with impressive views towards Napier. Hawkes Bay wine country starts in earnest at the mouth of the Esk River. Even the driver should safely be able to stop for a restrained tasting at one of the excellent vineyards just off SH2 (or both if you're spitting).

Esk Valley Estate (Map p378; ☎ 06-872 7430; www.eskvalley.co.nz; 745 Main Rd, Bay View; tastings free; ☎ 10am-5pm) is a lovely spot for a picnic and some great reds. **Crab Farm Winery** (Map p378; ☎ 06-836 6678; www.crabfarmwinery.co.nz; 511 Main Road, Bay View;

tastings free; ☎ 10am-3pm Thu-Mon) has a deli attached and an adult's area upstairs. Their *Gewürztraminer* will dance on your palate all the way to Napier.

NAPIER

pop 55,000

You don't have to be particularly cultured to enjoy Napier but you might find its passion for architecture and fine wine surprisingly contagious. Before long you'll be blathering on about the Chicago School, Mayan decorative devices and 'hints of passionfruit on the palate' with the best of them.

The Napier of today is the silver lining of the dark cloud that was NZ's worst natural disaster. Rebuilt after the deadly 1931 earthquake in the popular styles of the time, the city retains a unique concentration of Art-Deco buildings. Architecture obsessives flock here from all over the world and the town milks it for all it's worth. Don't expect the Chrysler Building – Napier's Art Deco is resolutely low-rise – but you will find intact 1930s street-scapes which can provoke a *Great Gatsby* swagger in the least romantic soul.

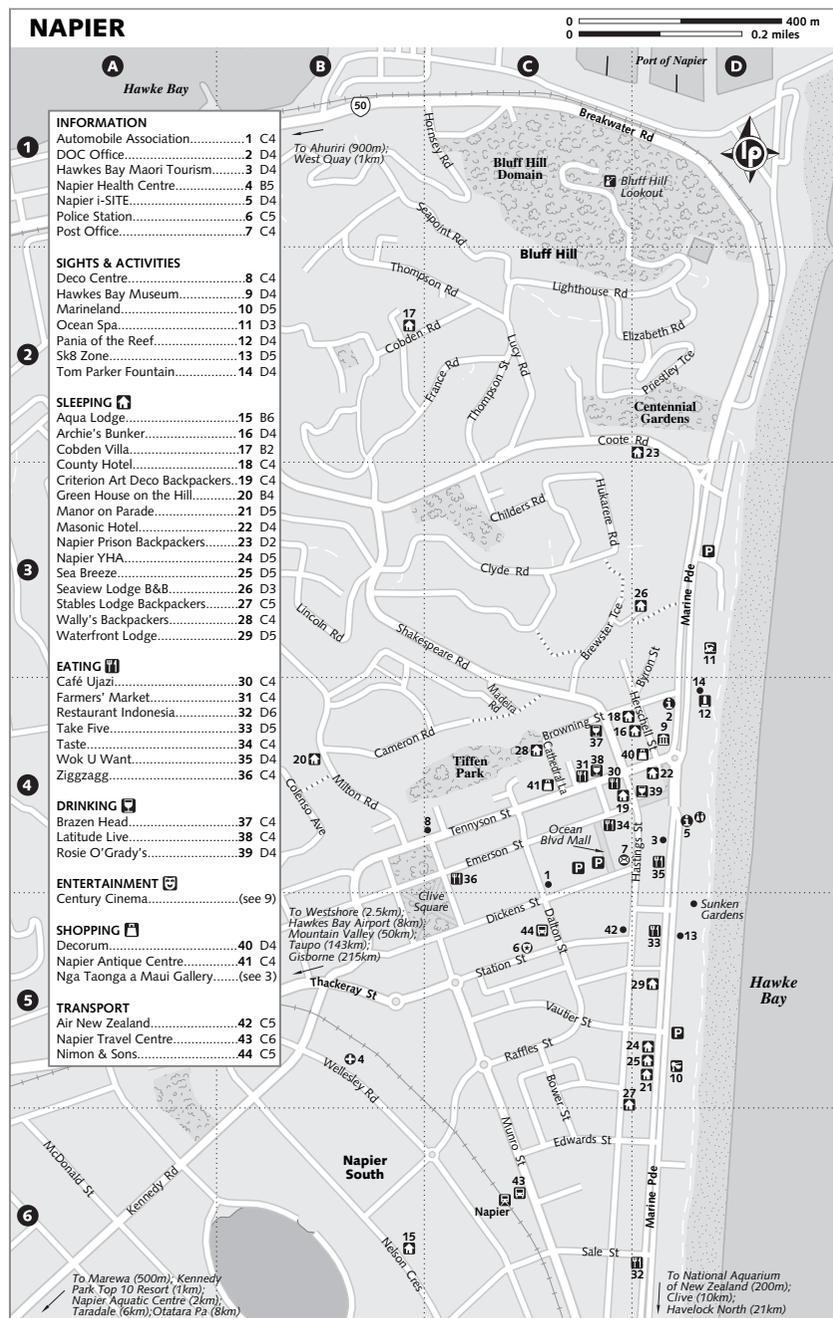
For the layperson it's a charismatic, sunny, composed city with the air of an affluent English seaside resort about it.

History

The area has been settled since around the 12th century and was known to Maori as Ahuriri. By the time James Cook eyeballed it in October 1769, Ngati Kuhungunu was the dominant tribe, controlling the coast to Wellington.

In the 1830s whalers lingered around Ahuriri, establishing a trading base in 1839. By the 1850s the Crown had purchased – by often dubious means – 1.4-million-acres of Hawkes Bay land, leaving Ngati Kuhungunu with less than 4000 acres. The town of Napier was planned in 1854 and obsequiously named after the British general and colonial administrator Charles Napier.

At 10.46am on February 3 1931, the city was levelled by a catastrophic earthquake (7.9 on the Richter scale). Fatalities in Napier and nearby Hastings numbered 258. Napier suddenly found itself 40 sq km larger, as the earthquake heaved sections of what was once a lagoon 2m above sea level (Napier Airport was once more 'port', less 'air'). The government claimed the extra land, also taking (without



compensation) six former Ngati Kuhungunu islands. A fevered rebuilding programme ensued, constructing one of the world's most uniformly Art-Deco cities.

Orientation

Bluff Hill looms at the northern end of town dividing the CBD and Ahuriri, beyond which the cosmopolitan West Quay restaurant precinct prospers. Murmuring with economic hubbub, Hastings and Emerson Sts are the prime thoroughfares, with Emerson St evolving into a semipeDESTRIAN zone.

Free town maps are available at Napier's i-SITE (below). Road maps are available at the **Automobile Association** (AA; ☎ 06-834 2590; www.aatravel.co.nz; 87 Dickens St)

Information

EMERGENCY

Napier Police Station (☎ 06-831 0700; Station St)

INTERNET ACCESS

There's internet access at the i-SITE and several cafés in the city.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Napier Health Centre (☎ 06-878 8109; 76 Wellesley Rd)

MONEY

The big banks cluster around the corner of Hastings and Emerson Sts, with ATMs scattered throughout the centre.

POST

Post Office (cnr Dickens & Hastings Sts)

TOURIST INFORMATION

DOC (☎ 06-834 3111; www.doc.govt.co.nz; 59 Marine Pde; ☎ 9am-4.15pm Mon-Fri)

Hawkes Bay Maori Tourism (☎ 06-878 2150; www.hbmaoritourism.co.nz; 131 Marine Pde; ☎ 10am-3pm)

Napier i-SITE (☎ 06-834 1911; www.isitehawkesbaynz.com; 100 Marine Pde; ☎ 8.30am-5pm; ☎)

Sights

ARCHITECTURE

The 1931 quake demolished most of Napier's brick buildings. Frantic reconstruction between 1931 and 1933 caught architects in the throes of global Art-Deco mania. Art Deco, along with Spanish Mission and Stripped Classical, was cheap (debts were high), safe (falling stone columns and balconies had

killed many during the earthquake) and contemporary (residents wanted to make a fresh start). A cohesive architectural vision grew from the ruins, giving Napier a new *raison d'être*.

The Art-Deco architectural style first made headlines at the 1925 Paris International Exposition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts. The Deco is in the detail: zigzags, lightning bolts, sunbursts, fountains, ziggurats, speed lines, streamline shapes and ancient motifs (Mayan, Egyptian and, occasionally, Maori). Soft pastel colours (think *Miami Vice*) are another Deco giveaway. Spanish Mission imitates mud-brick adobes, with plastered walls, arched windows and terracotta tiling.

The **National Tobacco Company building** (Map p378; cnr Bridge & Ossian Sts; ☎ Mon-Fri 9am-5pm) near the port is a Napier masterpiece. Built in 1933 it combines Art-Deco forms with the natural motifs of Art Nouveau. Roses, raupo (bulrushes) and grapevines frame the elegantly curved entrance. During business hours it's possible to pull on the leaf-shaped brass door handles and enter into the first two rooms. The link between roses and cigarettes is baffling but there they are again on the columns, the brass grills and, coupled with apples, on the leadlight dome.

For a self-guided Art Deco walking tour of Napier, see p384; for details on Art Deco guided tours, see p385.

MARINE PARADE

Marine Pde is an elegant tree-lined avenue dotted with motels and restored timber earthquake survivors. Along its length are parks, sunken gardens, a minigolf course, a swimming pool, aquarium, museum and marine park.

Near the fountain north of the town centre is **Pania of the Reef** (1954), Napier's iconic statue. This tragi-romantic figure from local folklore looks a little Maori and a lot Disney, her forced toothy smile framed by Rita Hayworth's hair. With a tiki lying between her overly pert breasts she's the perfect embodiment of the dusky maiden. She has her similarities to Copenhagen's *Little Mermaid*, including having been stolen and recovered in 2005.

The excellent **Hawkes Bay Museum** (☎ 06-835 7781; www.hawkesbaymuseum.co.nz; 65 Marine Pde; adult/child 7.50/free; ☎ 10am-6pm) has an impressive

Maori art and culture section featuring Ngati Kahungunu artefacts. Galleries accommodate temporary exhibitions, while the 35-minute earthquake film is deeply moving.

The **National Aquarium of New Zealand** (☎ 06-834 1404; www.nationalaquarium.co.nz; 546 Marine Pde; adult/child \$15/8; 🕒 9am-5pm, feedings 10am & 2pm) is a modern complex with a stingray-inspired roof. Inside are crocodiles, piranhas, turtles, eels, kiwis, tuatara and a whole lotta fish. 'Behind the Scenes' tours (adult/child \$28/14) leave at 9am and 1pm and qualified divers can swim with (or get married in the presence of) sharks (dive \$63, gear hire \$31). You can even sleep overnight with the fish (\$39, 6pm to 8.30am).

Marineland (☎ 06-834 4027; www.marineland.co.nz; 290 Marine Pde; entry adult/child \$6/3, tour adult/child \$18/9, penguin recovery workshop \$18, dolphin swim \$50; 🕒 10am-4.30pm) is a relic from an era when capturing dolphins and forcing them into show business was considered great family fun. They've long since repented (the last dolphin-napping was in 1974) and now operate as a marine zoo and the oceanic equivalent of a sheltered workshop – housing blind seals, disabled birds and other misfits who would never survive in the wild. One of these is Kelly, the last dolphin in captivity in NZ, who takes part in the twice-daily shows (adult/child \$11/6, 30 minutes, 10.30am and 2pm) but only when she feels like it – she's the equivalent of 160 in human years.

WINERIES

These two highly acclaimed and historic vineyards are nearly neighbours, situated in Taradale on the city's southeastern fringe. They both have excellent restaurants (p387).

Mission Estate Winery (Map p378; ☎ 06-845 9350; www.missionestate.co.nz; 198 Church Rd; 🕒 9am-5pm Mon-Sat, 10am-4.30pm Sun), owned by the Marist order, is a grand former seminary (1880) producing a lot more than communion wine; it's Hawkes Bay's biggest winery and NZ's oldest. Tastings are free, as are the history tours at 10.30am and 2pm.

Church Road (Map p378; ☎ 06-844 2053; www.churchroad.co.nz; 150 Church Rd; 🕒 9am-5pm) was founded in 1897. Tours (\$12; 10am, 11am, 2pm and 3pm) lead through the winery and underground vats which now house a wine museum including ancient amphorae and mosaics.

BLUFF HILL LOOKOUT

There are magnificent views over Hawke Bay from Bluff Hill (102m). Open during daylight hours, there's a sheer cliff face down to the port, and a circuitous route to the top.

OTATARA PA

Wooden palisades, carved *pou* (memorial posts) and a carved gate help bring this *pa* (fortified village; Map p378) site to life. An hour-long loop walk takes in the archaeological remains and provides terrific views of the surrounding countryside. From the city head southwest on Taradale Rd and Gloucester St. Turn left into Springfield Rd just before the river.

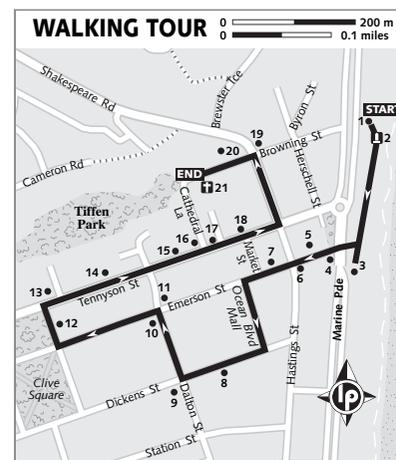
Walking Tour

Start at the **Tom Parker Fountain (1)** on Marine Pde. Be sure to return at night when the simple structure is lavishly lit. Art Deco celebrated the electrical age, making the most of new technologies like neon lighting. Past **Pania of the Reef (2; p383)**, the formal gardens and colonnades is the **Soundshell (3)**, with its classically Deco outdoor stage. Across the road the domed clock tower of the **T&G Building (4)** is neon-lit at night. This faces the striking **Masonic Hotel (5; p387)**.

Head along Emerson St to the extraordinary **ASB Bank (6)** where Maori motifs are incorporated into both the façade and the elaborate plasterwork of the interior. Across the road the **Criterion Art Deco Backpackers (7; p386)** is a fine example of Spanish Mission.

Continue down Emerson and take the laneway beside Dymocks to Dickens St where you'll find the deluxe Moorish-Spanish spirals and stucco of the former **Gaiety de Luxe Cinema (8)**. Check out the fine sunburst window decorations of the old **State Cinema (9)**, then turn right onto Dalton St to admire the flamingo hues of the **Hotel Central (10)**, all zigzag swagger and lead-light complexity – it's now a strip club and massage parlour. On the opposite corner the **Kidson's Building (11)**, which houses Urban Angel, has pastel zigzags on its façade and original terrazzo flooring and leadlights.

Turn left back onto Emerson St and look up to admire the façades on this wonderful retail stretch. At Clive Sq turn right and trundle past the **Provincial Hotel (12)**; note the wine decanters and glasses in the leadlight above the door. Ahead on Tennyson St is the impressive **Deco Centre (13; p387)**.



WALK FACTS

Start Tom Parker Fountain
Finish St John's Cathedral
Distance 1km
Duration 45 minutes

Head right on Tennyson to the restored **Municipal Theatre (14)**. If the doors are open, feel free to step in and admire the cubist carpet and original neon light fixtures. Continue down the street, noting the Mayan motifs on the Stripped Classical **Scinde Building (15)** and the Maori decorations on the **Antique Centre (16)**. In the next block, little **Munster Chambers (17)** incorporates shamrocks into its frontage and further along, the beautifully proportioned **Daily Telegraph Building (18)**, with its superb electro-Egyptian aesthetic, is one of Napier's stars.

Turn left onto Hastings St, keeping an eye out for interesting façades, recessed doorways, terrazzo floors and leadlights. On the corner of Browning St the stylish **AMP Building (19)** is Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired with some Art Nouveau-ish grapevines thrown in. Across the road the **former government building (20)** does Greco Deco with a space-age Moderne lamp out front. Turn left into Browning to finish at the mammoth **St John's Cathedral (21)**. It's a fascinating building with some beautiful stained glass and an intricately decorated Maori chapel behind the main altar.

Activities

Napier's pebbly city beach isn't the best for swimming; locals head north of the city to **Westshore** (Map p378) for a safe family beach or to the surf beaches south of Cape Kidnappers (p396). Otherwise head to **Ocean Spa** (☎ 06-835 8553; 42 Marine Pde; adult/child \$7/5; 🕒 6am-10pm Mon-Sat, 8am-10pm Sun), a spiffily refurbished waterfront pool complex that includes a beauty spa, gym and café.

To the south of town **Napier Aquatic Centre** (☎ 06-834 4150; www.napieraquatic.co.nz; Maadi Rd, Onekawa; adult/child \$4/3, waterslides unlimited rides \$4; 🕒 6am-9pm Mon-Fri, 11am-6pm Sat & Sun) has a 50m pool, waterslides, spas and a kids' pool.

Sk8 Zone (☎ 06-835 6003; Marine Pde; under 5/5-10/over 10 free/\$4/6; 🕒 3.30-5.30pm Mon-Thu, 3.30pm-5.30pm & 7-9pm Fri, 10am-6pm & 7-9pm Sat, 10am-6pm Sun) is one for the kids, although a certain kind of adult will find the totally nerdtastic Star Wars collection irresistible. If you fancy a spin along Marine Pde they also hire rollerblades (adult/child \$10/8).

See if you're any closer to challenging Spiderman on the climbing wall at **Kiwi Adventure Co** (Map p378; ☎ 06-834 3500; www.kiwi-adventure.co.nz; 58 West Quay, Ahuriri; adult/child \$15/12; 🕒 3-9pm Tue-Fri, 10am-6pm Sat & Sun). It also organises canyoning, caving and kayaking trips.

Fifty kilometres north of Napier on SH5 is **Mountain Valley** (☎ 06-834 9756; www.mountainvalley.co.nz; McVicar Rd, Te Pohue), which offers horse trekking, white-water rafting and kayaking (\$65 to \$150). 'Fishing' is a word you'll hear spoken with reverent enthusiasm and there's accommodation on site.

Hawkes Bay Wine Country Cat (Map p378; ☎ 0800 946 322; http://cat.hbwinecountrycat.com; West Quay, Ahuriri; lunch/dinner cruise \$55/60; 🕒 11am & 6.30pm) schmoozes out onto Hawke Bay on daily food cruises. They also run the **Hawkes Bay Wine Country Duck** (☎ 0800 946 322; http://duck.hbwinecountryduck.com; departs i-SITE; 1-hr tour adult/child \$40/25; 🕒 10.30am, 1.30pm & 3pm), an amphibious vehicle that heads in and out of the water on a (groan) 'Art Ducks' tour.

Tours

Napier's Art Deco Trust promotes and protects the city's architectural heritage. Its one-hour Deco walk (\$14) departs the i-SITE daily at 10am; the two-hour version (\$20) leaves the **Deco Centre** (☎ 06-835 0022; www.artdeconapier.com; 163 Tennyson St; 🕒 9am-5pm) at 2pm daily. The excellent walks include

an introductory spiel, DVD screening and refreshments.

The Deco Centre stocks assorted paraphernalia, including brochures for the self-guided *Art Deco Walk* (\$5), *Art Deco Scenic Drive* (\$5) and *Marewa Meander* (\$3). Marewa is a suburb southwest of Napier's city centre, and Deco through-and-through.

Trip the light fantastic in a cherry-red 1934 Buick with **Deco Affair Tours** (☎ 06-835 4492; www.decoaffair.com; tours \$20-90) hosted by the endearingly eccentric Bertie, clad in full period regalia. In a less spandangly minibus, **Absolute de Tours** (☎ 06-844 8699; www.absolutedetours.co.nz) runs 'The Deco Tour' of the city, Marewa and Bluff Hill (\$38, 75 minutes) in conjunction with the Deco Centre, as well as half-day tours of Napier and Hastings (\$60).

Ferg's Fantastic Tours (☎ 0800 428 687; www.fairwaytours.co.nz; half/full day \$65/135) explores Napier and surrounding areas.

For listings of Hawkes Bay winery tours, see p390.

Festivals & Events

In the third week of February, Napier and Hastings co-host the sensational **Art Deco Weekend** (☎ 06-835 0022; www.artdeconapier.com). Dinners, dances, drinks, balls, bands and Gatsby-esque fancy dress fill the week with shenanigans. Bertie, Napier's Art Deco ambassador (above), is omnipresent.

In late February/early March, Mission Estate (p384) holds the popular open-air **Mission Concert** (☎ 06-845 9350; www.missionconcert.co.nz; tickets \$99-190), importing a geriatric superstar (Tom Jones, Rod Stewart, Eric Clapton etc) to belt out some classics.

Not to be outdone, Church Road (p384) hosts **Church Road Jazz** (tickets \$45) as part of Harvest Hawkes Bay (p391) in early February.

Sleeping BUDGET

Aqua Lodge (Map p382; ☎ 06-835 4523; aquaback@inhb.co.nz; 53 Nelson Cres; sites per person \$16, dm/tw \$24/58, d \$58-72; ☎) Aqua Lodge sprawls between neighbouring houses on a quiet suburban street, with tent sites on the back lawn. It's a fun place – even if 'sex and peeing' is banned from the pool.

Kennedy Park Top 10 Resort (☎ 06-843 9126; www.kennedypark.co.nz; Storkey St, Marewa; sites \$17, units \$72-170; ☎) Less a camping ground and more an entire suburb of holidaymakers, this

Top 10 park is top dog on the Napier camping scene. It's the closest camping ground to town (2.5km out) and has every facility imaginable, although a larger kitchen would be nice.

Stables Lodge Backpackers (Map p382; ☎ 06-835 6242; www.stableslodge.co.nz; 370 Hastings St; dm \$17-24, d \$50; ☎) Formerly an actual stables, if you fill one of the small dorm rooms with blokes it'll probably smell that way again by morning. There's a barbecue courtyard, murals, hammocks, pizza nights, a couple of lazy dogs and free internet.

Wally's Backpackers (Map p382; ☎ 06-833 7930; 7 Cathedral Ln; dm/s/tw \$22/35/50, d \$55-60, tr \$66; ☎) Slick urban hostelling at its best, Wally's inhabits two old hillside houses in the centre of town. Serious money has gone into well-furnished spotless rooms, a restaurant-standard kitchen, a landscaped barbecue area and luxurious TV lounge.

Archie's Bunker (Map p382; ☎ 06-833 7990; www.archiesbunker.co.nz; 14 Herschell St; dm/s \$23/40, d \$50-58; ☎) One street back from the water, Archie's is a modern, well-maintained hostel. It is indeed bunkerlike (some rooms are windowless) but its impressive security engenders a sense of 'OK, I'm safe now' rather than 'Oh God, let me out'.

Napier Prison Backpackers (Map p382; ☎ 06-835 9933; www.napierprison.com; 55 Coote Rd; dm/s \$23/43, d & tw \$56; ☎) Unavoidably macabre, this converted Victorian prison (only decommissioned in 1993) has creaking cell doors, high stone walls, gang graffiti, a hanging yard and unconsecrated graves. It won't suit everyone but it's certainly memorable. Guided one-hour tours (adult/child \$15/10) leave at 9.30am and 3pm (free for inmates).

Criterion Art Deco Backpackers (Map p382; ☎ 06-835 2059; www.criterionartdeco.co.nz; 48 Emerson St; dm \$24, s \$32-40, d/tw \$55-70, tr/q \$78/104; ☎) If it's interesting architecture and a central location you're after, the Cri fits those criteria perfectly. The vast communal area showcases the impressive internal features of what is Napier's best Spanish Mission specimen. The brasserie downstairs offers deals for guests.

Waterfront Lodge (Map p382; ☎ 06-835 3429; www.napierwaterfront.co.nz; 217 Marine Pde; dm \$25, s \$39-45, d/tw \$59-66; ☎) The affable hosts work hard to create a communal good-time atmosphere at this well-maintained hostel. It's a great choice if you're looking for seasonal

work – they actively vet potential employers, weeding out the dodgy ones.

Napier YHA (Map p382; ☎ 06-835 7039; www.yha.co.nz; 277 Marine Pde; dm \$27-29, s \$35 d & tw \$64; ☎) Napier's friendly YHA is housed in a beachfront earthquake-survivor with a seemingly endless ramble of rooms; try to book one back from the street. There's a fabulous overhanging reading nook and a sunny rear courtyard.

MIDRANGE

Sea Breeze (Map p382; ☎ 06-835 8067; seabreeze.napier@xtra.co.nz; 281 Marine Pde; s \$90, d \$100-120, tw/tr \$120/135) Inside this Victorian seafront villa are three richly coloured themed rooms (Chinese, Indian and Turkish), decorated with a cornucopia of artefacts and exotic flair.

Green House on the Hill (Map p382; ☎ 06-835 4475; www.the-green-house.co.nz; 18b Milton Oaks, Milton Rd; s \$90-100, d/tw \$120-130; ☎) Green by name, nature and colour, this meat-free B&B has a commitment to sustainability and leafy city views. The guest floor has one en suite room and two others that share a bathroom.

Masonic Hotel (Map p382; ☎ 06-835 8689; www.masonic.co.nz; cnr Herschell & Tennyson Sts; s/d/tr \$90/120/150) Trading on its Deco heritage, the Masonic is right in the heart of town. In fact, it may well be the heart of town, with its accommodation, restaurants and pub taking up most of a city block. The old-fashioned rooms have period charm but the worn furnishings certainly don't add to it.

our pick Seaview Lodge B&B (Map p382; ☎ 06-835 0202; cvulodge@xtra.co.nz; 5 Seaview Tce; s \$110-120, d \$130-150) This grand Victorian villa (1890) is queen of all she surveys – which is most of the town and a fair bit of ocean. The elegant rooms have tasteful period elements and either private bathrooms or en suites. It's hard to resist a sunset tittle on the veranda, which opens off the swanky guest lounge.

Manor On Parade (Map p382; ☎ 06-834 3885; manoronparade@xtra.co.nz; 283 Marine Pde; tw \$125, d \$135-160) Comfortable and friendly, this two-storey wooden villa on the waterfront has proved itself a solid option, having survived the earthquake and in its latter day incarnation as a B&B.

Rocks Motorlodge (Map p378; ☎ 06-835 9626; www.therocksmotel.com; 27 Meenee Quay, Westshore; unit \$140-175; ☎) The Rocks' corrugated stylings have raised the bar on Westshore's motel row. Interiors are corporately common, there's a free gym and laundry, and it's 80m from the

beach. If the spa units are gone, go for a room with a claw-foot bath.

Crown Hotel (Map p378; ☎ 06-833 8300; www.thecrownnapier.co.nz; cnr Bridge St & Hardinge Rd, Ahuiriri; apt \$150-440; ☎) The conversion of this 1932 pub into a ritzy apartment-style hotel must have broken a few fishermen's hearts. The new wing may be generically modern but it offers superb ocean views. There's also a gym.

TOP END

County Hotel (Map p382; ☎ 06-835 7800; www.countyhotel.co.nz; 12 Browning St; r/ste \$303/434; ☎) There's luxury infused between the masonry at this elegantly restored Edwardian building (a rare brick earthquake survivor). Chambers restaurant breathes refined formality at dinner (mains \$30 to \$36) while Winston's portrait gazes victoriously over Churchill's Champagne & Snug Bar.

Cobden Villa (Map p382; ☎ 06-835 9065; www.cobdenvilla.com; 11 Cobden Rd; d \$395-495; ☎) Amid meticulously maintained hillside gardens, this Victorian villa (1870) has been superbly renovated, the owners scouring antique shops and auctions to fill the house with Deco fixtures. Think of it as Queen Victoria dressed like a flapper, only much prettier.

Eating

RESTAURANTS

Sri Thai (Map p378; ☎ 06-835 2299; 60 Bridge St, Ahuiriri; mains \$14-19; ☎ dinner; ☎) Typically Thai with bright lighting, plastic flowers and the scrumptious flavours of lemongrass, chilli, coconut and fresh herbs. Choose between chicken, beef, pork, duck, prawn or tofu dishes.

Mission Estate Winery (Map p378; ☎ 06-845 9350; 198 Church Rd, Taradale; lunch \$21-28, dinner \$25-32; ☎ lunch & dinner) Outdoor tables make the most of the beautiful outlook. The same interesting contemporary menu is offered for lunch and dinner but lunch prices are cheaper.

Taste (Map p382; ☎ 06-835 1181; 67 Emerson St; mains \$22-30; ☎ dinner Mon-Sat) They haven't quite nailed the décor – it's too brightly lit to be bohemian and too grungy to be chic – but once you're sitting on the balcony admiring the street-scape the interior becomes irrelevant. Both the menu and cocktail list are flavoursome enough to get your tastebuds buzzing.

Take Five (Map p382; ☎ 06-835 4050; 189 Marine Pde; mains \$23-34; ☎ dinner Mon-Sat) 'Wine-food-jazz-art-ambiance' – the promo says it all. Organic beef, free-range pork and fish dishes precede

an indulgent dessert menu, with live jazz on weekends and monthly open-mic nights.

Restaurant Indonesia (Map p382; ☎ 06-835 8303; 409 Marine Pde; mains \$24-27; ☎ dinner Wed-Sun; ♀) Crammed with Indonesian curios, this intimate space smacks of authenticity. Lip-smacking Indo-Dutch *rijsttafel* smorgasbords are the house speciality (up to 19 dishes, \$35 to \$44 per person).

Church Road (Map p378; ☎ 06-844 2053; 150 Church Rd, Taradale; mains \$26-29; ☎ lunch) The simple room next to the tasting cellar serves up delicious fusion fare. We're still salivating over the dessert – pistachio meringue with plum ice cream, poached tamarillo, limoncello sauce and clotted cream (\$9).

CAFÉS

Ziggzagg (Map p382; ☎ 06-834 1225; 279 Emerson St; mains \$5-15; ☎ 8.30am-3pm Tue-Sun; ♀) Looking out on pretty Clive Sq, this sunny, gay-friendly corner café has an appetising selection of fresh counter food and cooked breakfasts.

our pick Café Ujazi (Map p382; ☎ 06-835 1490; 28 Tennyson St; mains \$5-17; ☎ 8am-5pm; ♀) Ujazi folds back its windows and lets the alternative vibe spill out onto surprised streets. The superb coffee, substantial breakfasts and sparkly staff are a great hangover remedy. Try the *rewana* special – a big breakfast on traditional Maori bread.

Provedore (Map p378; ☎ 06-834 0189; 60 West Quay; tapas \$6-15, brunch \$9-19, dinner \$28-31; ☎ 3pm-late Tue-Thu, 10am-late Fri-Sun) Before you head into the chic interior, check out the sunflower motifs on this Deco building. Choose from the main menu or graze from the excellent tapas selection. Either way, plunge into the extensive wine list.

Hep Set Mooch (Map p378; ☎ 06-833 6332; 58 West Quay; mains \$9-15; ☎ 9am-3pm) Mooch with the hipsters in this deli-café housed in a historic wooden warehouse. The counter food clamours for your attention – salads, Thai beef tortillas and fresh baking.

Shed 2 (Map p378; ☎ 06-835 2202; West Quay; tapas \$9-13, mains \$17-26; ☎ lunch & dinner Tue-Sun) Shed 2 is a cavernous barn-meets-booth kind of place, the menu scuttling between wood-fired pizzas, salads and pasta dishes. DJs and occasional live bands kick in later on weekends.

QUICK EATS & SELF-CATERING

Westshore Fish Café (Map p378; ☎ 06-834 0227; 112a Charles St; takeaway \$4-5, eat in \$13-24; ☎ dinner Tue &

Wed, lunch & dinner Thu-Sun) If you're the type who needs cutlery, proper sit-down meals are served here. Otherwise grab some of the acclaimed fish-and-chips and contend with the gulls on the beach.

Wok U Want (Map p382; ☎ 06-835 5055; 131 Marine Pde; lunch/dinner \$10/15; ☎ lunch & dinner; ♀) Stack your bowl with vegetables, noodles, sauces and your choice of chicken, beef, pork or tofu and watch the chef sizzle it up for you. It's cheap and incredibly filling.

The weekly **Farmers' Market** (Map p382; 49 Tennyson St; ☎ 8.30am-12.30pm Sat) is held in the carpark underneath the Daily Telegraph building and sells local fruit, vegetables, meat, bread, wine and ice cream.

Drinking

The upmarket West Quay complex (Map p378) is Napier's main entertainment quadrant. Most of the bars are interchangeable: ultramodern décor, nautical theme, open fire, huge TVs for the big matches, reputable kitchen, outdoor seating, sometimes DJs or live music, opening mid-morning (slightly earlier on weekends) and cracking on until people leave (usually mid-night to 3am). As well as Shed 2 (left), the main contenders are **Gintrap** (☎ 06-835 0199), **Thirsty Whale** (☎ 06-835 8815) and the **Speights Ale House** (☎ 06-834 1188). Provedore (left) is a sophisticated little wine bar that's a welcome change of pace.

Back in town, Taste (p387) is a good cocktail pick while Churchill's (p387) is a refined spot for a late night scotch. The Cri (p386) has pool tables, regular quiz nights and live music. More raucous options include:

Brazen Head (☎ 06-834 3587; 21 Hastings St) Poker machines compromise the vibe at this Irish bar, but the beers are good and the outdoor deck is a brazen spot to get through a few.

Rosie O'Grady's (☎ 06-835 8689; Hastings St) Part of the Masonic megaplex, Rosie's predictable Irishness fills in the gaps between dimly lit corners and intermittent live music.

Latitude Live (☎ 06-835 5545; 53 Hastings St) A slice of the Wild West in the tame east, this L-shaped bar regularly rocks out. The sham cowboy exterior is betrayed by elegant leadlight domes inside.

Entertainment

Century Cinema (☎ 06-835 7781; www.centurycinema.co.nz; 65 Marine Pde; adult/child tickets \$12/7) Part of the Hawkes Bay Museum complex, this

cinema screens art-house and international films and hosts plays and classical concerts.

Shopping

Nga Taonga a Maui Gallery (☎ 06-878 2150; 131 Marine Pde; ☎ 10am-3pm) has a wonderful collection of Maori art for sale including wooden carvings, contemporary glass sculptures and traditional feather cloaks (around \$1900).

If Deco devotees survive the Deco Centre (p385) with spare cash, they can go completely bonkers in Napier's numerous antique stores.

Decorum (☎ 06-835 8951; cnr Tennyson & Herschell Sts) Antiques, vintage clothes and costume hire.

Napier Antique Centre (☎ 06-835 9865; Cnr Tennyson St & Cathedral Ln) Ten stalls in the one stunning building.

Getting There & Away

AIR

Hawkes Bay Airport (☎ 06-835 3427; www.hawkesbay-airport.co.nz) is 8km north of the city.

Air New Zealand (☎ 06-833 5400; www.airnz.co.nz; cnr Hastings & Station Sts) Daily direct flights to Auckland (55 minutes), Wellington (50 minutes) and Christchurch (2½ hours); check website for prices and discount fares.

Sunair Aviation Ltd (☎ 07-575 7799; www.sunair.co.nz) Offers direct flights on weekdays to Gisborne (\$250, 45 minutes) and Hamilton (\$290, one hour).

BUS

InterCity (www.intercity.co.nz) operates from the **Napier Travel Centre** (☎ 06-834 2720; Munro St; ☎ 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8-11.30am & 12.30-1.30pm Sat & Sun). Buses depart daily for Auckland (\$84, seven hours) via Taupo (\$34 to \$43, two hours), Gisborne (\$41, four hours) via Wairoa (\$29, 2½ hours), and Wellington (\$35, 5½ hours) via Hastings (\$19, 25 minutes) and Waipukurau (\$25, one hour).

If you're super organised you can take advantage of \$1 advance fares on **Naked Bus** (www.nakedbus.com) on the Auckland/Wellington route via Hastings and Taupo.

Bay Xpress (☎ 0800 422 997; www.bayxpress.co.nz) has a daily service to/from Wellington (\$35, five hours) via Waipukurau (\$8, one hour).

Getting Around

BUS

Nimon & Sons (☎ 06-877 8133; www.nimons.co.nz) runs the Nimbus local service, covering Napier, Hastings and Havelock North. Useful routes include to/from Hastings (adult/child \$5.70/2.90, 55 minutes) via Taradale (adult/child \$2.90/1.40,

20 minutes). There are 16 services between 7am and 5.45pm daily, Monday to Friday, departing from Dalton St near the corner of Station St. On Saturdays there are only five buses, between 9am and 5pm. Signal the driver and pay on the bus.

BICYCLE

Marineland (p384) hires bikes and helmets (per hour/four hours/day \$5/15/25).

CAR

The following offices are at Napier Airport:

Avis (☎ 06-835 1828; www.avis.co.nz)

Budget (☎ 06-835 5166; www.budget.co.nz)

Europcar (☎ 06-835 8818; www.europcar.co.nz)

Hertz (☎ 06-835 6169; www.hertz.co.nz)

Thrifty (☎ 06-835 8820; www.thrifty.co.nz)

TAXI

A city-to-airport taxi ride will cost you around \$13.

Napier Taxis (☎ 06-835 7777)

Super Shuttle (☎ 0800 748 885; www.supershuttle.co.nz)

HASTINGS & AROUND

pop 67,443

Positioned at the centre of the Hawkes Bay fruit bowl, Hastings is the commercial hub of the region. It means business, unlike its sister Napier, just 20km north. Similarly devastated by the 1931 earthquake its fine collation of Art Deco and Spanish Mission buildings also emerged in the aftermath. But apart from the architecture, Hastings itself isn't especially interesting. It's in the surrounding district that epicurean dreams come true.

A few kilometres of orchards still separate Havelock North from Hastings, although these days it's effectively Hastings' ritziest suburb. Range Rovers and BMWs cruise the streets as bleached-blond 50-something wine wives sip lattes in a prosperous village atmosphere. The towering backdrop of Te Mata Peak keeps egos in check.

Orientation

Hastings' flat grid centres on the railway line, with Heretaunga Sts East and West the main commercial strips on either side of the tracks. SH2 heads northeast to Napier, passing through Clive as it nears the coast. Havelock North is southwest of Hastings.

HAWKES BAY WINERIES

Once upon a time this district was most famous for its orchards. Today it's vines that have top billing. Elaborate modern edifices have sprung up to house restaurants and tasting rooms but some of the best vineyards still have an authentically horticultural feel. A stony area just to the west of Flaxmere that is ill-suited to fruit trees is fast becoming recognised as its own sub-appellation, Gimblett Gravels. The gravelly soil has been producing excellent Bordeaux varieties and Syrah.

The following wineries are all open for tastings throughout the year; some have longer hours in summer. Tastings are free unless specified. See p390 for wine tours.

- **Alpha Domus** (Map p378; ☎ 06-879 6752; www.alphadomus.co.nz; 1829 Maraekakaho Rd; ☎ 10am-4pm Fri-Mon) Famous for Bordeaux blends.
- **Black Barn Vineyards** (Map p378; ☎ 06-877 7985; www.blackbarn.com; Black Barn Rd; ☎ 10am-5pm) Has a ceramics gallery and bistro.
- **Brookfields** (Map p378; ☎ 06-834 4615; www.brookfieldsvineyards.co.nz; 376 Brookfields Rd; ☎ 10.30am-4.30pm) Excellent merlot and a restaurant amongst the roses.
- **CJ Pask** (Map p378; ☎ 06-879 7906; www.cjpaskwinery.co.nz; 1133 Omaha Rd; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Sat, 11am-4pm Sun) Famous for merlot.
- **Clearview Estate Winery** (Map p378; ☎ 06-875 0150; www.clearviewestate.co.nz; 194 Clifton Rd, Te Awanga; ☎ 10am-5pm Fri-Tue) Restaurant and accommodation.
- **Craggy Range** (Map p378; ☎ 06-873 0141; www.craggyrange.com; 253 Waimarama Rd; ☎ 10am-5pm) One of the flashiest wineries – wonderful wines (\$5 tasting charge, refundable on purchase), upmarket restaurant and accommodation.
- **Hatton Estate** (Map p378; ☎ 06-870 4777; www.hattonestate.com; 124 Gimblett Rd; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon-Sat) Unpretentious winery with show-stopping Syrah.
- **Kim Crawford Wines** (Map p378; ☎ 06-875 0553; www.kimcrawfordwines.co.nz; Clifton Rd, Te Awanga; ☎ 11am-5pm Sat-Mon) Hosts day parties in summer.
- **Matariki Wines** (Map p378; ☎ 06-879 6226; www.matarikiwines.co.nz; 52 Kirkwood Rd; ☎ 10am-5pm) Much acclaimed *Quintology* Bordeaux blend.
- **Moana Park** (Map p378; ☎ 06-844 8269; www.moanapark.co.nz; 530 Puketapu Rd; ☎ noon-3pm) Vegetarian Society approved.
- **Ngatarawa** (Map p378; ☎ 06-879 7603; www.ngatarawa.co.nz; 305 Ngatarawa Rd; ☎ 11am-4pm) 1890 farmstead and picnic area.
- **Park Estate Winery** (Map p378; ☎ 06-844 8137; www.parkestate.co.nz; 2087 Pakowhai Rd; ☎ 10am-5pm Thu-Mon) Has a restaurant and a shop selling fudge, jams and fruit wines. Looks like Hotel California.
- **Sileni Estates** (Map p378; ☎ 06-879 8768; www.sileni.co.nz; 2016 Maraekakaho Rd; ☎ 10am-4pm) Looks like it's been beamed in from space. Has restaurant, and store selling chocolate and cheese. Tastings \$5, refundable on purchase.
- **Te Awa** (Map p378; ☎ 06-879 7602; www.teawa.com; 2375 SH50; ☎ 9am-5pm) Wonderful restaurant (p394); tastings \$5 (refundable).
- **Te Mata Estate** (Map p378; ☎ 06-877 4399; www.temata.co.nz; 349 Te Mata Rd; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm Sat, 11am-4pm Sun) Uses sustainable practices.
- **Trinity Hill** (Map p378; ☎ 06-879 7778; www.trinityhill.com; 2396 SH50; ☎ 11am-4pm) Big concrete bunker; shop and antipasto platters.
- **Vidal** (Map p391; ☎ 06-872 7441; www.vidal.co.nz; 913 St Aubyn St E, Hastings; ☎ 10am-5pm) Good restaurant (p394); top Syrah.

Sleeping

Much of the better accommodation lies outside of the city's confines. Hostels fill quickly during the harvest season.

BUDGET

Arataki Holiday Park (Map p378; ☎ 06-877 7479; http://arataki.kiwiholidayparks.com; 139 Arataki Rd, Havelock North; sites per person \$15, caravans \$20-80, tw/tr/q \$50/65/80, units \$55-175; ☎ ☎) Judging by its faded minigolf course and museum-piece ovens this small camping ground has seen plenty of summers. On the upside, it's cheap, pleasantly rural and handy to culinary treats.

Hastings Backpackers Hostel (Map p391; ☎ 06-876 5888; www.medcasa.co.nz; 505 Lyndon Rd E, Hastings; dm \$21-22, s \$27, d & tw \$50; ☎ ☎) This colourful 1920s villa has Mediterranean aspirations. Mandarin and lemon blossoms send divine scents drifting through the sun room as travellers snooze in caravans.

A1 Backpackers (Map p391; ☎ 06-873 4285; a1backpackers@xtra.co.nz; 122 Stortford Ave, Hastings; dm/s \$23/27, d/tw \$50; ☎ ☎) Proving that Hawkes Bay hostels during the fruit-picking season don't need to resemble indentured labour camps, this converted suburban house is cheerful, attractive and scrupulously clean. The dorm room even has leadlights and polished wooden floors.

Hastings Top 10 Holiday Park (☎ 06-878 6692; www.hastingstop10.co.nz; 610 Windsor Ave; sites \$30, units \$50-230; ☎) Putting the 'park' back into holiday park, within its leafy confines there are sycamore hedges, a topiary 'welcome' sign, stream, duck pond, aviary and serenity to burn.

our pick Gannet Cottage (Map p378; ☎ 06-870 1222; gannetcottage@paradise.net.nz; 77 School Rd, Clive; s/tw/d/cottage \$31/52/56/220; ☎) Unspeakably cute, this four-bedroom 1910 cottage sits on six acres of farmland. Its homely feel and rural locale engender the best of backpacker camaraderie. If the peace and quiet gets too much there's a stereo and DVD player.

Clive Chalets (Map p378; ☎ 06-870 0609; fax 06-870 1609; 31 Farndon Rd, Clive; s/tw/apt \$55/65/90; ☎) Chalet is a fancy name for the kind of basic cabins and units usually found in a motor camp. Perhaps it's the miniforest of Christmas tree pines that gives it alpine delusions. There's a semidetached campsite with lots of long-termers next door (site per person \$15).

MIDRANGE

Ngatahi Lodge (Map p378; ☎ 06-877 1525; www.ngatahi.com; 172 St Andrews Rd; sites per person \$25, dm \$70, s \$100-110, d \$120-130; ☎) When disco doyen Sylvester sang *Take Me To Heaven* this is probably what he visualised. Secluded within the orchards between Hastings and Havelock North this luxurious men-only, clothing-optional retreat has stylish rooms, a comfortable four-bed dorm and plenty of nooks within the lovingly tended grounds for camping out. Completing the picture are delicious breakfasts, an open-air bathroom, a TV-free guest lounge and a starlit spa pool. If your straight friends are jealous they can stay (safely out of eyesight) at St Andrews Escape, the funky self-contained cottage (\$140) at the top of the drive.

Valdez Motor Lodge (☎ 06-876 5453; fax 06-876 9497; 1107 Karamu Rd N; unit \$120-175; ☎ ☎) Optimistically Spanish-styled, Valdez is set back from the SH2 on Hastings' outskirts. Some units have wheelchair access; most have private courtyards.

Havelock North Motor Lodge (☎ 06-877 8627; www.havelocknorthmotorlodge.co.nz; 7 Havelock Rd; unit \$135-190; ☎) Smack-bang in the middle of Havelock North, this modern motel is a cut above the rest. Tidy one- and two-bedroom units feature spas, Sky TV and cooking facilities.

TOP END

Millar Road (Map p378; ☎ 06-875 1977; www.millarroad.co.nz; 83 Millar Rd; apt \$500; ☎ ☎) Set above a young vineyard in the Tuki Tuki Hills, Millar Road is architecturally heaven-sent. Two seriously plush self-contained cottages (separated by a swimming pool and bar) burgeon with NZ-made furniture and local artworks. Each comfortably sleeps two couples in separate en suite rooms. Stylish, uncomplicated, perfect.

Greenhill The Lodge (Map p378; ☎ 06-879 9944; www.greenhill.co.nz; 103 Greenhill Rd; s \$690, d & tw \$980, ste \$920-1240; ☎ ☎ ☎) Confidently colonial, Greenhill is an 1895 high-Victorian mansion on a secluded hilltop. The library, 5m ceilings, full-sized billiard table and formal dining room will entice you from your luxury suite. Breakfast is included and sumptuous five-course dinner deals can be arranged.

Eating

Verily it's true that where there be fine wine, fancy food will surely follow. Blessed be the cheesemakers, the first to answer the call of

the vine. Hastings District is indeed a land of chocolate and honey, with fancy restaurants where once corrugated iron sheds stood.

While the highbrow munch on their gourmet delights, let the people eat pie. The district's pie-makers scooped four of the top awards in the national pie competitions in 2007.

RESTAURANTS

Ourpick Pipi (☎ 06-877 8993; 16 Joll Rd, Havelock North; mains \$15-22; ☎ 4-10pm Wed-Sun; (V)) Shockingly pink with candy stripes and mismatched furniture, Pipi cheekily thumbs its nose at small town conventionality. The food focus is on simple pasta dishes and Roman-style thin-crust pizza.

Glen Etive Restaurant (Map p378; ☎ 06-877 0008; 114 Havelock Rd; mains \$20-30; ☎ lunch & dinner Tue-Sun) The emphasis is on sublime seafood but wandering Scots can find solace in the haggis, neeps and tatties with Ben Nevis *jus* (\$14). A picture window offers a grand view of the sleeping giant.

Vidal Winery Restaurant (Map p391; ☎ 06-876 8105; 913 St Aubyn St E, Hastings; mains \$25-36; ☎ lunch & dinner) Vidal's crisply formal dining room serves high-quality lamb, beef, seafood and wine amid huge French Oak barrels. Asian and Moroccan flavours infuse the menu. The service is impeccable.

Te Awa (Map p378; ☎ 06-879 7602; 2375 SH50; mains \$26-35; ☎ lunch) The raw wood-beamed conservatory looking onto the vines is a wonderful locale for a lazy lunchtime splurge. You may as well settle in for the five-dish tasting plate (\$46) matched with the Te Awa 'wine flight' (\$20).

Diva (☎ 06-877 5149; Napier Rd, Havelock North; mains \$30; ☎ dinner) Diva has a country-chic, game-heavy menu focusing on local ingredients. The urbane cocktail bar serves tapas (\$6 to \$8) and pizza (\$10), and morphs into a nightclub on the weekend. Check out the chandelier with brass stag's heads.

CAFÉS

Tremain Travel Café (Map p391; ☎ 06-878 4149; 314 Heretaunga St W, Hastings; mains \$5-11; ☎ breakfast & lunch Mon-Sat; ☎) An irresistibly popular café and travel agency full of travel magazines, coffee smells and dreams of elsewhere.

BJ's Café (Map p391; ☎ 06-870 4440; 127 Heretaunga St W, Hastings; mains \$8-16; ☎ 6am-5pm Mon-Fri, 7am-3pm Sat) There's good coffee, award-winning pies

and loads of counter food at this straightforward, central café.

Crave Café & Wine Bar (Map p391; ☎ 06-878 8596; 108 Market St S, Hastings; meals \$11-17; ☎ 8am-3.30pm Sun-Wed, 8am-7pm Thu-Fri; (V)) With minimal fuss, this contemporary bistro prepares simple quiches, salads, pastas, steaks and vegetarian dishes with nouveau-Italian flair. A wide wine list befits the wine-bar moniker.

QUICK EATS

Rush Munro's (Map p391; ☎ 06-878 9634; 704 Heretaunga St W; ice creams \$3-4; ☎ noon-5pm Mon-Fri, 11am-5pm Sat & Sun) Rush Munro's is a Hastings icon, serving up locally made ice cream since 1926.

Strawberry Patch (Map p378; ☎ 06-877 1350; Havelock Rd; ice creams \$3-4; ☎ 8.30am-6pm Mon-Sat, 8.30am-5pm Sun) This strawberry farm morphs its red offspring into delicious ice creams. You can pick your own berries or grab a takeaway coffee.

Jackson's Bakery & Café (☎ 06-877 5708; 15 Middle Rd, Havelock North; pies \$4-6; ☎ 6am-5pm Mon-Sat, 6am-4pm Sun) Judge for yourself whether these are the best pies in the country.

SELF-CATERING

Te Mata Cheese Company (Map p378; ☎ 06-875 8282; 393 Te Mata Rd, Havelock North; ☎ 10am-4pm) Watch the cheesemakers at work, sample the end result and purchase whatever takes your fancy. Otherwise settle in for a cheese platter and a glass of vino.

Hohepa Organic Cheeses (Map p378; ☎ 06-870 0426; 363 Main Rd, Clive; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9.30am-2.30pm Sat) Part of a Steiner-based community of people with intellectual disabilities, the shop offers products produced on site – including delicious cheeses, organic fruit and vegetables, candles and clothing.

Arataki Honey Visitor Centre (Map p378; ☎ 06-877 7300; www.aratakihoney.co.nz; 66 Arataki Rd, Havelock North; ☎ 9am-5pm) Stock up on buzzy-by-products for your toast or your skin. There are kid-conducive hands-on displays outlining the whole sticky cycle from flower to jar.

Silky Oak Chocolate Company (Map p378; ☎ 06-845 0908; 1131 Links Rd, Waiohiki; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Thu, 9am-4pm Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun) Watch the chocolatiers at work while deliberating over mouth-watering truffles and chocolate rugby balls. The museum (adult/child \$8/5) offers a chocolate-drenched history and the odd ancient Mayan artefact. There's also a calorific café.

Why waste your time in supermarkets when there's all this fresh local produce around? For a range of the best head to the **Hawkes Bay Farmers Market** (Map p378; ☎ 06-876 5087; Hawkes Bay Showgrounds, Kenilworth Rd, Hastings; ☎ 8.30am-12.30pm Sun) or the Village Growers Market at Black Barn Vineyards (p392). The *Hawkes Bay Food Trail* brochure lists local producers.

Drinking

There are plenty of spots to keep the buzz alive after a hard day's wine tasting.

Roosters Brewhouse (Map p378; ☎ 06-879 4127; 1470 Omahu Rd; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat) Roosters has quality batch-brewed beers on tap (preservative-free for minimal hangovers) and a random 'farmyard' aesthetic.

Rose & Shamrock (☎ 06-877 2999; cnr Napier Rd & Porter Dr, Havelock North; ☎ 10.30am-late) There's a monstrous array of tap beers available at this dark-wood family pub, which serves big pub-grub plates (\$13-20). Known for its live music, it's the place to be on a Thursday night.

Loading Ramp (☎ 06-877 6820; 6 Treachers Lane, Havelock North; lunch \$13-20, dinner \$25-30; ☎ lunch & dinner) This heady timber space pulls a mixed crowd of young 'uns and seasoned drinkers, mutually appreciating boutique beers and local wines by the glass. The food is hearty and an open fire blazes through winter.

See also Crave Wine Bar (opposite) and Diva (opposite).

Entertainment

Hawkes Bay Opera House (p390) offers a regular programme of music and theatre.

Reading Cinemas (Map p391; ☎ 06-873 0345; www.readingcinemas.co.nz; 124 Heretaunga St E; tickets adult/child \$13/9) Big screen blockbusters.

Getting There & Away

Napier's Hawkes Bay Airport (p389) is a 20-minute drive away. Air New Zealand has an office in central Hastings.

InterCity (www.intercity.co.nz) and **Bay Xpress** (www.bayxpress.co.nz) buses servicing Napier (p389) also pass through Hastings – the bus stop is near the i-SITE.

If you're quick off the mark you might be able to take advantage of the \$1 advance fares from **Naked Bus** (www.nakedbus.com) on the Auckland/Wellington route via Napier and Waipukurau.

Getting Around

Nimon & Sons (☎ 06-877 8133; www.nimons.co.nz) runs the Nimbus local bus service from the Civic Square bus stop (Map p391), covering Napier, Hastings and Havelock North. Useful routes include the buses to/from Napier (adult/child \$5.70/2.90, 55 minutes) via Taradale (adult/child \$4.30/2.10, 30 minutes) – see p389. There are 11 services to Havelock North (adult/child \$2.90/1.40, 35 minutes) between 9.05am and 6.05pm, Monday to Friday (fewer on Saturday).

Hastings Taxis (☎ 06-878 5055) is the local cab service.

CAPE KIDNAPPERS

From late September to late April, Cape Kidnappers (named when local Maori tried to kidnap Cook's Tahitian servant boy) erupts with gagging gannets (p148). These big birds usually nest on remote islands but here they settle for the mainland, completely unphased by human spectators.

The gannets start to arrive in late July after winter storms cast nest-building driftwood onto the beach. Eggs arrive in October and November, taking about six weeks to hatch. In March the gannets start their migration; by the end of April they're gone.

Early November and late February are the best times to visit. The walk from Clifton along the beach takes about two hours. Leave no earlier than three hours after high tide; start back no later than 1½ hours after low tide. It's 16km return (two hours each way) and there are no refreshments beyond Clifton. **Gannets By Bike** (☎ 02142 8666) hires out bikes for \$20 from across the road from the café in Clifton.

No regular buses go to Te Awanga or Clifton, but **Kiwi Shuttle** (☎ 027-459 3669) goes on demand (\$30 per person one way).

Tours

All trips are tide-dependent; the region's i-SITEs have schedules.

Gannet Beach Adventures (☎ 0800 426 638; www.gannets.com; adult/child \$33/19) Ride along the beach on a tractor-pulled trailer, departing Clifton beach car park, before a 20-minute guided walk through the bird boudoir. The return trip takes four hours.

Gannet Safaris (Map p378; ☎ 0800 427 232; www.gannetsafaris.co.nz; Summerlee Station, Clifton; adult/child \$55/25) 4WD overland trips across farmland into the gannet colony. Three-hour tours depart at 9.30am and 1.30pm. Enquire also about small-group Wilderness

Safaris (www.kidnapperssafaris.co.nz) heading behind the vermin-proof fence into the conservation zone.

Sleeping & Eating

Clifton Reserve Motor Camp (☎ 06-875 0263; fax 06-875 0265; Clifton Rd; sites \$15, cabins \$40-60; (P)) is an end-of-the-world kind of place at the start of the gannet trail. They offer secure parking for gannet gawkers for the princely sum of 50c. This quaint approach to pricing continues into the accommodation; only DOC charges less for beachfront camping sites. The friendly owners engender an old-fashioned Kiwiana vibe throughout the well-kept facilities.

Clifton Bay Café (Map p378; ☎ 06-875 0096; 468 Clifton Rd; breakfast \$8-22, \$18-26; ☎ 10am-4pm) is an airy, civilised place for a meal before or after you run the gannet gauntlet.

CENTRAL HAWKES BAY

Grassy farmland stretches south from Hastings, dotted with the grand homesteads of Victorian pastoralists. It's an untouristed area, rich in history and deserted beaches. Waipukurau (aka 'Wai-puk'), the main town, isn't exactly thrilling but it's worth calling in to the extremely helpful **Central Hawkes Bay i-SITE** (☎ 06-858 6488; www.centralhawkesbay.co.nz; Railway Esp; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat) in the old railway station. They can sort you out with the comprehensive *Central Hawkes Bay: Unwind Country* brochure and pamphlets outlining heritage trails and DOC reserves and walkways.

Sights

If you've never had the experience of having a beautiful stretch of sand all to yourself these isolated beaches will be a real treat. **Kairakau**, **Pourerere** and **Porangahau** beaches are all good for surfing. Swimming is excellent at sandy **Mangakuri** and **Aramoana**. Between Aramoana and Blackhead Beach lies the **Te Angiangi Marine Reserve** – bring your snorkel.

The prestigious **Te Aute College** (☎ 06-856 8016; SH2, Pukehou) schooled many Maori leaders including James Carroll and Apirana Ngata. Call ahead if you want to visit the wonderful carved meeting house and church. Across the road next to a *marae* is little **Christ Church** (1859), the district's oldest.

The **Central Hawkes Bay Settler's Museum** (☎ 06-857 7288; High St, Waipawa; entry by donation; ☎ 10am-4pm) has pioneer artefacts and an interesting Maori collection including a river *waka*.

Ongaonga is a historic village 16km west of Waipawa with interesting Victorian and Edwardian buildings and a DOC field office. Pick up a pamphlet for a self-guided walking tour from the i-SITE in Waipukurau. While you're at it, grab the **Tikokino District Gardens** pamphlet, which outlines eight sumptuous private gardens which are open to visitors during spring and early summer.

It's a nondescript hill in the middle of nowhere but the place with the world's longest name is good for a photo op. To get to **Tau-matawhakatangihangakoauauotamateaturipuka-kapikimaungahoronukupokaiwhenuakitanatahu** fuel-up in Waipukurau and drive 40km to the Mangaorapa junction on route 52. Turn left and go 4km towards Porangahau. At the intersection with the signposts, turn right and continue 4.3km to the sign. For an insight into the historic and cultural significance of the name and the site, **Hikoitangi Iki** (☎ 06-858 5033; katarina.scott@xtra.co.nz; with/without lunch \$50/65) offers four-hour guided tours up the hill (305m) run by descendants of the chief it was named after.

Sleeping & Eating

Paper Mulberry Café & Art Gallery (☎ 06-856 8688; SH2, Pukehou; mains \$7-16; ☎ 7am-4pm Thu-Mon) Directly opposite Te Aute College, this hip café hands out fluffy toys instead of table numbers and serves excellent Havana coffee and organic treats.

Abbotsford Oaks (☎ 06-857 8960; www.abbotsfordoaks.co.nz; 85 Abbotsford Rd, Waipawa; s \$140-240, d \$175-275) At the time of research renovations were continuing at this imposing former children's home, but the completed rooms had comfy beds and high-quality linen.

Lochlea Backpacker Farmstay (☎ 06-855 4816; lochlea.farm@xtra.co.nz; 344 Lake Rd, Wanstead; site per person \$16, dm \$23-25, s/d/tr/cottage \$35/62/81/95; (P)) As far removed from urban stress as possible, this idyllic farm has breezy stands of trees on grazing slopes. Rooms are simple but the communal lounge is cosy. There's a pool, tennis court and endless paddocks to wander.

Oruawhoro (☎ 06-855 8274; www.oruawhoro.com; 379 Oruawhoro Rd) One of the area's rural mansions, Oruawhoro (1879) is a grand setting for high tea served on fine bone china (\$12; call ahead for sittings).

Getting There & Away

BayXpress (☎ 0800 422 997; www.bayxpress.co.nz) buses stop at Waipawa and Waipukurau along the

route that runs between Wellington (\$30, four hours) and Napier (\$8, one hour) via Palmerston North (\$18, 90 minutes). **InterCity** (www.intercity.co.nz) runs the same Wellington-Napier route but is considerably more expensive. Early-birds might be able to take advantage of \$1 advance fares on **Naked Bus** (www.nakedbus.com).

KAWEKA & RUAHINE RANGES

The remote Kaweka and Ruahine ranges separate Hawkes Bay from the Central Plateau. These forested wildernesses offer some of the North Island's best tramping. See the DOC

pamphlets *Kaweka Forest Park & Puketitiri Reserves* and *Eastern Ruahine Forest Park* for details of tracks and huts.

An ancient Maori track, now a road, runs inland from Omahu near Hastings to Taihape, via Otamauri and Kuripapango. The route is scenic but unsealed and takes around three hours.

Kaweka J, the highest point of the range (1724m), can be reached by a three-to-five-hour walk from the end of Kaweka Rd; from Napier take Puketitiri Rd then Whittle Rd. The drive is worthwhile in itself; it's partly unsealed and takes three hours return.

© Lonely Planet Publications. To make it easier for you to use, access to this chapter is not digitally restricted. In return, we think it's fair to ask you to use it for personal, non-commercial purposes only. In other words, please don't upload this chapter to a peer-to-peer site, mass email it to everyone you know, or resell it. See the terms and conditions on our site for a longer way of saying the above - 'Do the right thing with our content.'