



## TAURANGA, NEW ZEALAND

'The Mount' is New Zealand's ideal seaside vacation spot, with a beautiful sandy beach, revitalizing mountain hikes, and laid-back shopping and bars in the town. Nearby, the main city of Tauranga is an easy bus ride away and the regional highlight of Rotorua is an hour's drive

### KEY INFO

**Currency:** NZ Dollar (1 USD = 1.6 NZD)

**Population:** 131,500 (5.12 million NZ)

**Emergency #:** 111

**Drinking water:** Tap water is drinkable

**Time Zone:** GMT+13 (Sep-Apr) / GMT+12

**ID Requirements:** Photo ID

**Languages:** English, Māori

**Drive on the:** Left

**Pharmacy:** Mount Pharmacy, 132 Maunganui Rd 

**Protection:** Bug Spray & SPF 30+


**Wi-Fi:** Beach (Moturiki (Leisure Island) to Surf Club)

**Post Office:** 130 Maunganui Rd 

### PORT LOCATION

Ships dock the Port of Tauranga, which is less than 1km walk into Mount Town. Tauranga is across the bridge, and can be accessed by public bus


**Getting Around:** If you're staying around the Mount, you'll be best on foot. Otherwise, public buses head across the bridge to Tauranga and further afield to Rotorua. Pay for your bus ticket in cash onboard, or buy a reloadable Bee Card. A 'Tauranga Daysaver' costs \$7.80. Single rides cost \$3.40.

 [www.baybus.co.nz](http://www.baybus.co.nz) for bus schedules and a journey planner

For taxis, dial 0800 829 477 ([Tauranga Taxis](http://TaurangaTaxis)). The [YourRide](http://YourRide) smartphone app has national coverage

**Tourist Bus:** A cruise exclusive [Hop-On Hop-Off bus](http://Hop-On Hop-Off bus) runs a 6-stop, 90-minute loop every half-hour.

**Port Facilities:** Tourist information, limited taxis

**Port Address:** Cruise Ship Dock, Mount Maunganui 3116, New Zealand 

### REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

**Hell's Gate:** A sacred Māori site. This geothermal park is a sprawling site with mud baths used by Māori for over 800 years. Tours and spa experiences available. 10a-6p | \$42 (Tour), from \$85 (Spa) | 1-hour drive

 [www.hellsgate.co.nz](http://www.hellsgate.co.nz)

**Hobbiton:** This famous Lord of the Rings location set is 1-hour drive from the port. Tours take 2.5 hours. Bookings essential. 8:30a-4:30p | \$120 | 1-hour drive

 [www.hobbitontours.com](http://www.hobbitontours.com)

**McLaren Falls:** Venture out to this 190-hectare park for a day out in nature. Kayak on the lakes, hike one of the many trails, admire the beautiful waterfalls, and even play a round of disk-golf. At night, the caves are illuminated by glow worms, for an ethereal kayak adventure. 24 hours | Free | 20-minute drive

 [www.exploretauranga.co.nz/mclaren-falls](http://www.exploretauranga.co.nz/mclaren-falls)

## TAURANGA & THE MOUNT HIGHLIGHTS

**Mount Maunganui:** You'll see this verdant, 232m (761ft) mount from the ship and it offers two enjoyable hiking trails. Take the base trail for a flatter route or tackle the Summit Trail for the best views in town.

**Beach Day:** Pilot Bay Beach reaches from the port to the Mount. However, the main Maunganui beach is on the other side of the town (also at the base of the Mount), with lifeguards and safe swimming. There are also thermal salt pools (7a-9p | \$26), and a leisure island (Moturiki) just off the mainland, connected via a pedestrian bridge. 24 hours | Free

[www.mounthotpools.co.nz](http://www.mounthotpools.co.nz)

**Classic Flyers Aviation Museum & Café:** Head to the local airport for this aviation museum featuring classic planes. You can even take to the skies with a scenic biplane flight. 7a-3p | \$15

[www.classicflyersnz.com](http://www.classicflyersnz.com)

**Historic Village:** This historic district has a character of its own, with some of the oldest buildings in town. The shops here celebrate their eccentricity with a focus on crafts and creativity. 7:30a-10p | Free

[www.historicvillage.co.nz](http://www.historicvillage.co.nz)

**Te Puna Quarry Park:** Transformed from the gashes of a disused quarry, this creative park is as much fun for art enthusiasts as nature lovers, with lots of sculptures around the multi-level gardens. Also take a seat in an old digger from the park's quarry days. 24 hours | Free | 10-minute drive

[www.quarrypark.co.nz](http://www.quarrypark.co.nz)

## THE LEGEND OF MAUAO (MT MAUNGANUI)

There was once a nameless mountain, let's call him - oh, wait... he's nameless. The nameless mountain was a slave to the chief mountain, Otanewainuku.

To the southwest of the chief, was a beautiful, verdant green hill, named Puwhenua, enrobed in all the finest ferns, shrubs and trees of the Forest of Tane.

Well, the nameless mountain had fallen deeply in love with the majestic Puwhenua, but her heart was already owned by the powerful chief Otanewainuku.

In despair, the nameless mountain decided to drown himself in the Pacific Ocean. After all, the beautiful Puwhenua could never love him over a mighty chiefton.

So, he appealed to the magical forest dwellers to use their powers to drag him one night to his watery grave. They braided their ropes and tugged and tugged.

As the moon crossed the sky, the nameless mountain inched closer to the ocean. But the sun was soon to peek above the horizon and the forest dwellers - being people of the night - fled back to the protective cover of their Hautere forests.

As the sun rose, the nameless mountain was fixed in place, but not without a parting gift from the magical woodland folk - the patupaiarehe - who gave him the name Mauao, meaning 'caught by the morning sun'.

Today, many know him as Mount Maunganui, but to the Maori he will always be Mauao.