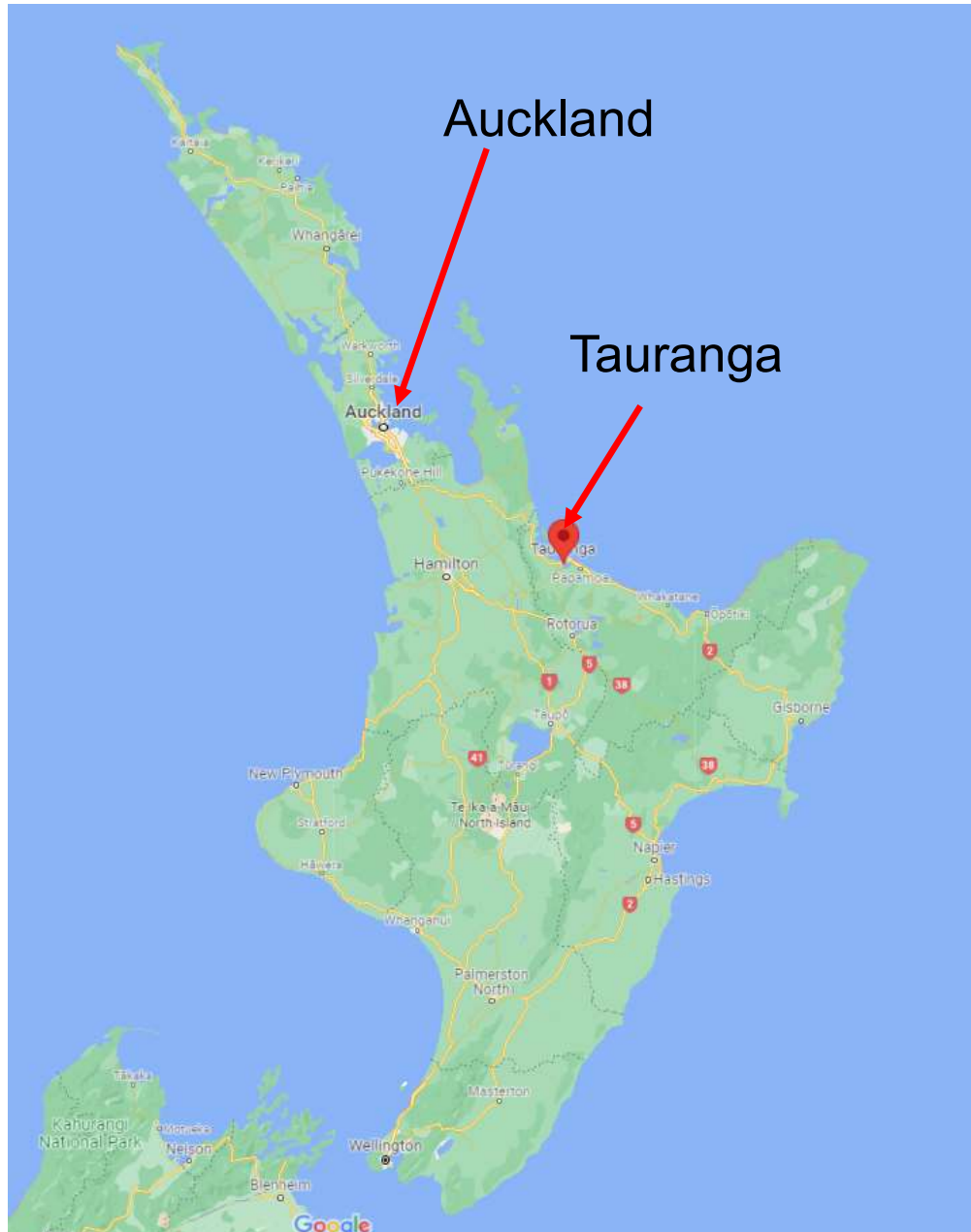


Tauranga (Rotorua), New Zealand

- Friday, February 3, 2023
- Docked from 7:00AM to 5:00PM
- Tourist Info
 - <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/new-zealand/rotorua-and-the-bay-of-plenty/tauranga>
 - <https://www.whatsinport.com/Tauranga.htm>
- Weather
 - Feb temperatures range 59°-76°F; avg 68°F; Feb is the hottest month
 - 1.92" precipitation with 72% relative humidity

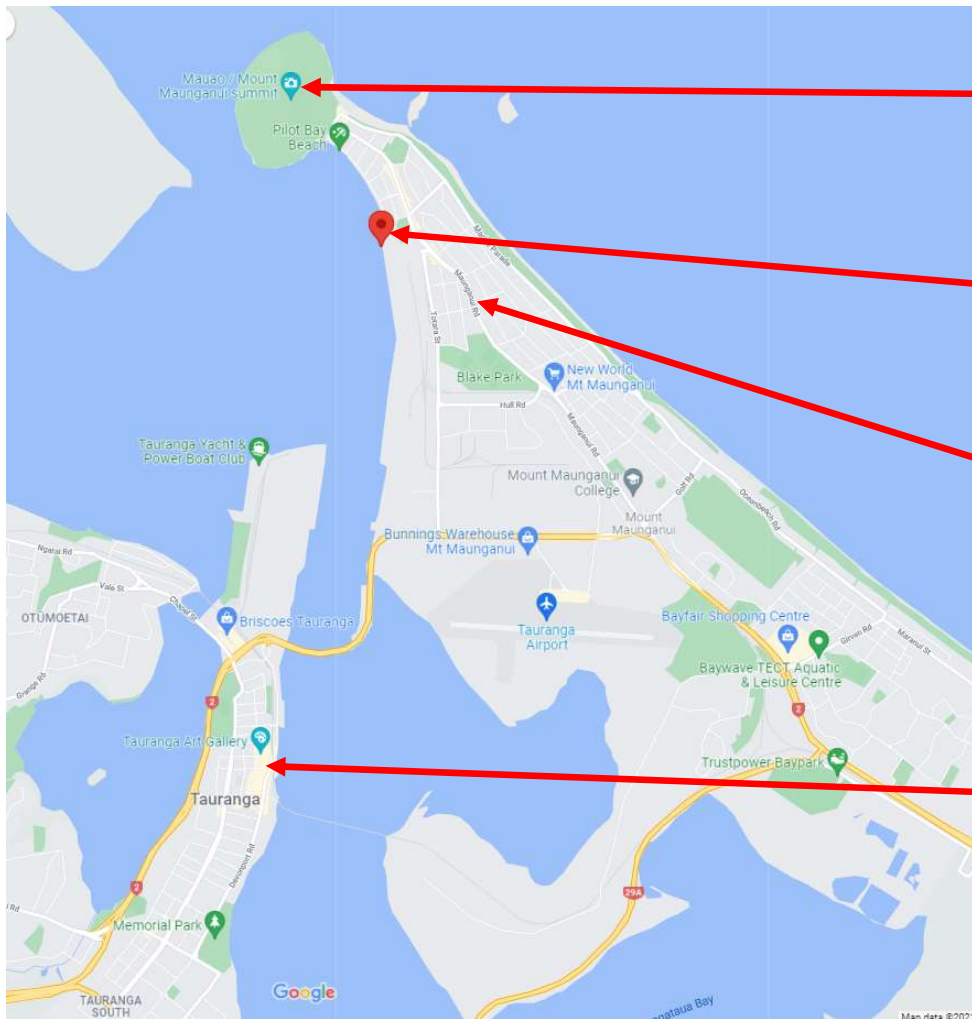
Tauranga, New Zealand



- Pronounced “**tau**-ruhng-uh”
- Located on North Island
- 5th largest city in New Zealand
- New Zealand’s busiest port



Tauranga



Mount Maunganui - pronounced
“maan·guh·**noo**·ee”

Cruise ship terminal

Mount Maunganui Rd - main
street in town

Downtown Tauranga

Essentials

- **Money** - US \$ usually not accepted. NZ \$ or credit card is best. \$1NZ = \$0.70US
- **VISA** - Need NZeTA (New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority). \$9 if use app or \$12 if online. <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/about-visa/nzeta>
- **Safety** - Normal precautions.
- **Clothing** - Informal/casual/comfortable. Few restaurants have dress codes.
- **Internet**
 - No WiFi in cruise terminal
 - WiFi available in many bars and restaurants on Mount Maunganui Road
- **Cell Service** - 3G & 4G (no 5G)
 - 2degrees Mobile - coverage along main streets only
 - Vodafone Mobile - coverage along main streets only
 - Spark Mobile - coverage along main streets in Maunganui and wider coverage in Tauranga
- **Tipping** - Not required. 10% would be a generous restaurant tip.

Transportation

- **Taxi** - Usually only a few taxis around cruise terminal.
- **Bus**
 - Shuttle bus - To Tauranga ~\$10 round-trip. 20 min drive.
 - Little trolley train - Tour around Mount Maunganui town.
 - HoHo - doesn't stop at cruise terminal. Stops at the Mount Hot Salt Water Pools on Adams Ave in Mount Maunganui and Downtown Mount Maunganui.
 - Mount Maunganui public bus - Salisbury Avenue bus stop is walking distance to cruise terminal. <https://www.baybus.co.nz/tauranga-western-bay/tauranga-and-western-bay>
- **Car Rental** - Several near the cruise terminal. Remember to drive on the left.
 - <https://www.taurangarentalcar.co.nz/>
 - <https://www.ritepricerentals.co.nz/>

Cruise Terminal

- Docked in the city's cargo port area (Mount Maunganui Port).
- Visitor information center on the dock with many representatives with lots of brochures and maps.
- No WiFi in cruise port.
- Mount Maunganui: walking distance.
- Downtown Tauranga: 20 min drive (~4 miles).



Shopping

- Tauranga offers over 300 boutique and department stores
- Mt Maunganui is known for unique and boutique shopping
- **Cargo Shed** - local artists; <https://www.facebook.com/thecargoshed/>
- **Pohutukawa Gallery** - art gallery and souvenir shop in Mount Maunganui; <https://www.pohutukawagallery.nz/>
- **Creative Gift Baskets** - gift ideas for every occasion and celebration; <https://creativegiftbaskets.co.nz/>
- **Colony** - locally sourced honey-based products; <https://colonystores.com/>
- **Follow the White Rabbit Store** - houses a collection of locally-made gift items; https://thewhiterabbit.co.nz/?fbclid=IwAR3IP4M0R3L6sSKSUeqkaQuiGVMqbcNJDCG52UOugF4p0P1_IT1h1zwBaos
- **Cosmic** - has an inventory of products for men and women
- **Tauranga Crossing** - large mall; <https://www.taurangacrossing.co.nz/>

Attractions (1)

- **Mount Maunganui City Center**

- Only a few hundred yards away from the cruise terminal. Maunganui Road is the main street. Turn right when you exit the port, follow this road for about 200 yards. Maunganui Road is at the first crossing (Burger King on corner).

- **Mount Maunganui (Mauao)** - Extinct volcanic peak. 761' high with great views.

- Base Track: fairly flat hike that takes about 45 minutes (3.5 km)
- Summit Track: 2 trails go up the summit. It will take at least an hour to hike up and back. Very steep in some areas with ~500 steps.
- No facilities at summit. Toilets at base near surf club.



Attractions (2)

- **Minden Lookout** - <https://exploretauranga.co.nz/minden-lookout/>; 721' high. Can drive to lookout on Minden Rd.



- **Beaches** - there are 2 within walking distance of the cruise terminal.
 - **Mount Maunganui Main Beach** - You will find this amazing beach on the other side of peninsula at about 10 minute walk from the port. This is a great beach with lots of things to see and do like volleyball, surfing, and lots of food trucks. The waves are high here which isn't great for swimming.
 - **Pilot Bay Beach** - The water is much calmer here which makes it better for other types of watersport like: SUP boarding, kayaking and small sail boats. There are no facilities here. As you exit the cruise terminal, you will see the beach.

Attractions (3)

- **Tauranga Art Gallery:** \$7NZ <https://www.artgallery.org.nz/>
- **The Elms Mission House:** one of the oldest heritage sites in NZ. \$15NZ <https://theelms.org.nz/>
- **Local Geothermal Pools**
 - Fernland Spa - <https://www.fernlandspa.co.nz/>
 - Mount Hot Pools - <https://www.mounthotpools.co.nz/>
 - Oropi Hot Pools - <https://oropipools.co.nz/index.html>
- **Te Puke:** ~30 min drive; hub of kiwifruit growing industry; <https://www.kiwifruitcountry.com/>
- **Rotorua** – pronounced “row-tow-roo-uh”
 - About 1 hour drive from port. Rental car is best option.
 - Polynesia spa: <https://www.polynesianspa.co.nz/>
 - Kuirau park: free geothermal park with small hot lake and bubbling mud pools; <https://www.rotoruanz.com/things-to-do/family-fun/kuirau-park>
 - Whakarewarewa: The Living Maori Village and Te Pui geothermal preserve; <https://whakarewarewa.com/>
 - Ohinemutu: living Maori village and original settlement of Rotorua; Maori Church of St. Faiths with carvings and tukutuku panels; <https://www.newzealand.com/us/feature/ohinemutu/>
 - Hell’s Gate: geothermal reserve and mud spa; <https://www.hellsgate.co.nz/>
 - Happy Ewe Cycle Tours: <https://www.happyewetours.com/>

Attractions (4)

- Rotorua –
 - Wai-O-Tapu: Geothermal park and geysers; <https://www.waiotapu.co.nz/>
 - Jetboat on Lake Rotorua: <https://www.katoalakerotorua.co.nz/> or <https://velocityvalleyrotorua.rezdy.com/302287/agrojet>
 - Skyline Gondola and Luge: <https://www.skyline.co.nz/en/rotorua/>

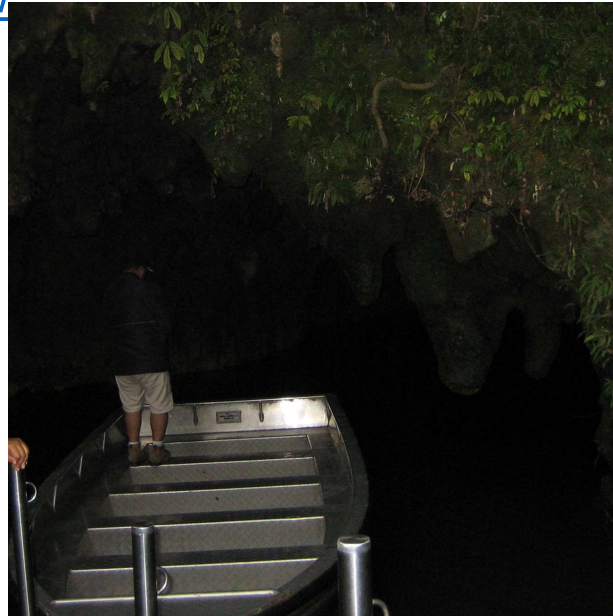


Attractions (5)

- **Hobbiton:** ~1.25 hr drive; locations featured in the movie trilogies “The Lord of the Rings” and “The Hobbit”; <https://www.hobbitontours.com/>



- **Waitomo Glow Worm Caves:** 2 hr drive; fantastic glow worm caves; <https://www.waitomo.com/>



Private Tours

- **Tours by Locals:** <https://www.toursbylocals.com/Tauranga-Tours>
- **Costco Travel Shore Excursions:**
<https://www.shoreexcursionsgroup.com/port/tauranga-shore-excursions>
- **Scott Tours:** <https://www.scott-tours.co.nz/> - we went to Wai-O-Tapu with them in 2019 for \$150NZ (~\$105)
- **Zealandier Tours:** <https://www.zealandiertours.com/>
- **New Zealand Discovery Tours:**
<https://www.newzealanddiscoverytours.com/>
- **Tauranga Tasting Tours:** <https://www.tastingtours.co.nz/>
- **V8 Trike Tours:** <https://www.v8triketours.co.nz/>
- **Independent Tours Tauranga:**
<https://www.independenttourstauranga.co.nz/>
- **Shore Trips & Tours:** <https://www.shoretripsandtours.com/>

HAL Tours

- **Basket of Plenty:** \$190; 6.5 hrs
- **Glorious Bay of Plenty: Rich Land, Rich Culture:** \$120; 4.25 hrs
- **Glow Worm Kayaking & Thermal Hot Pool:** \$230; 6.5 hrs
- **Hell's Gate on Your Own:** \$90; 4 hrs
- **Hobbiton Movie Set:** \$200; 5 hrs
- **Kaituna River White-Water Rafting:** \$170; 5 hrs
- **Kiwifruit & Tauranga Sights:** \$130; 4.25 hrs
- **Maori Marae Visit:** \$120; 4.25 hrs
- **Rotorua & Polynesia Spa Experience:** \$280; 8 hrs
- **Rotorua Geothermal Exploration by Bicycle:** \$200; 4.5 hrs
- **Skyline Gondola & Luge:** \$150; 6 hrs
- **The Living Village Experience:** \$150; 5.5 hrs
- **Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland & Lakeland Queen:** \$196; 8 hrs
- **Waihi Gold Discovery Experience:** \$200; 7.25hrs