

An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely Gisborne, New Zealand, taken from a high vantage point. The sun is rising over the ocean on the right, casting a warm, golden glow across the entire scene. The town is nestled in a valley, with houses and buildings scattered among trees. A beach and the ocean are visible in the background. The foreground shows a grassy hillside with some trees and a road.

WELCOME TO THE LAND OF THE FIRST LIGHT

**TAIRĀWHITI
GISBORNE.CO.NZ**

**TAIRĀWHITI
GISBORNE**

The first light



NAU MAI, HAERE MAI WELCOME TO OUR PLACE IN THE SUN.

As a guide at Maunga Hikurangi, my work allows me to share my passion and pride for our extraordinary community. There's no place like Tairāwhiti – the land of the first light, where the history, culture, people, and lifestyle can be traced back to the very origins of Aotearoa.

We are blessed with our magnificent coastline that hugs the vast Pacific Ocean, our beautiful beachside communities, untouched native forest and our sacred Maunga Hikurangi.

Get to know us, arrive as manuhiri, leave as whānau.

Monty Manuel

Ruatoria local and Ngāti Porou guide at Maunga Hikurangi
maungahikurangi.com

THE GREAT GISBORNE GETAWAY

IT'S TIME FOR TAIRĀWHITI



Tairāwhiti Museum

DAY ONE

DISCOVER ARTS, HISTORY AND CULTURE

Get to know the lay of the land with stories of this region along the world-class **Tupapa Heritage Trail** - download the app and watch everything come to life. Or journey to a time of Polynesian navigators with **Waka Voyagers Tairāwhiti** on a cultural or sailing experience. The **Tairāwhiti Museum** is a treasure trove of local and Māori arts, history and culture in the centre of Gisborne - keep your eyes open for stunning **street art and sea walls**. Treat yourself at the end of the day at **Sunshine Brewery** with over 20+ brews on tap and mouth-watering pizzas.



Tipuna Tours - Te Pourewa, Tolaga Bay

DAY TWO

EXPLORE COASTAL COMMUNITIES

A day trip exploring the coast along State Highway 35 is a Tairāwhiti must-do. Wind your way up the coast with a sunrise at **Wainui Beach** then head to **Dive Tatapouri** for a unique wild stingray encounter along the reef. Carry on to **Tolaga Bay** and stroll along New Zealand's longest historic wharf or check out the spectacular **Cooks Cove Walkway**. Continue up the Pacific Coast Highway to **Tokomaru Bay** for a beautiful meal at Te Puka Tavern with million dollar ocean views. **Te Araroa** is home to the iconic **East Cape Lighthouse** and **Te Waha-o-Rerekohu** - New Zealand's oldest and largest pohutukawa tree said to be around 600 years old.



Eastwoodhill Arboretum

DAY THREE

INDULGE IN WATERFALLS, WINERIES AND HOT SPRINGS

Enjoy the morning light at **Rere Falls** - a 45 minute drive to charming countryside and hidden gems. Returning the same way, stop off at **Eastwood Hill** for coffee, morning tea and a wander at New Zealand's national arboretum. Then pop in to one of the many **award-winning wineries** in the area to get a true taste of Tairāwhiti. For the ultimate unwind, treat yourself to a soak at **Morere Hot Springs** - with hot and cold natural springs set in 364 hectares of pristine rainforest.



YEAR-ROUND ENTERTAINMENT AND EXPERIENCES IN TAIRĀWHITI

GISBORNE FARMERS MARKET

WEEKLY

Where locals and visitors mingle and be merry – the Gisborne Farmers Market is a weekly happening that feels like a friendly get together with old friends. Held each Saturday morning on the corner of Stout Street opposite the Tairāwhiti Museum. Laid back, relaxed and buzzy at the same time, it's a great start to the weekend. Exceptional breakfast options, delicious coffee and loads of fresh produce and goods to tantalise your taste buds.

gisbornefarmersmarket.co.nz

MAUNGA TO MOANA ADVENTURE RACE

MARCH

Maunga to Moana (M2M) is a multi-sport adventure race that delivers an unforgettable, authentic East Coast experience. Hike, cycle and run from the summit of the sacred Maunga Hikurangi to the sea with the local community cheering you on every step of the way. Complete with an opening pōwhiri, local market day, mystery challenges and a traditional hākari feast, this is a very active and authentic way to experience Tairāwhiti.

maungatomoana.co.nz

AUTUMN CELEBRATION AT EASTWOOD HILL

APRIL

The beautiful autumn season transforms New Zealand's national arboretum to a brilliant wonderland with the most eye-catching shades of yellow, gold, orange and red. What better time to visit Eastwood Hill than during this spectacular change of season.

eastwoodhill.org.nz

THE CHARDONNAY AFFAIR

MAY

Held annually at the end of May, The Chardonnay Affair revolves around International Chardonnay Day – an array of sumptuous events celebrated throughout wine producing countries around the world. Gisborne's two-day Chardonnay extravaganza boasts award-winning East Coast wineries, fresh local cuisine and splendid chardonnays grown locally here in the Chardonnay Capital of New Zealand.

Tickets on sale now.

thechardonnayaffair.co.nz

FIRST LIGHT WINE AND FOOD GISBORNE

OCTOBER

One of the most anticipated weekends of the year, Wine & Food Labour Weekend showcases award-winning local wine producers offering over 15 varietals, a tasty mix of venues serving up delicious local kai and live entertainment. Held annually on the Sunday of Labour Weekend, this is the first long weekend to celebrate the summer season in Tairāwhiti.

firstlightwineandfood.co.nz

TE TAIRĀWHITI ARTS FESTIVAL

OCTOBER

A celebration of contemporary arts and culture, the Te Tairāwhiti Arts Festival is steeped in the local while connected with stories from across the country and the Pacific. It is the living breathing stories of Tairāwhiti – a creative force that brings people together. Watch in wonder as bold and brilliant artists light up the stage over several wonderful weeks each spring.

tetairawhitiartsfestival.nz



Gisborne Farmers Market



Maunga to Moana Adventure Race



Eastwood Hill



The Chardonnay Affair



First Light Wine and Food Gisborne



Te Tairāwhiti Arts Festival

ONCE IN A LIFETIME, ONLY IN TAIRĀWHITI



WILD STINGRAY ENCOUNTER

Dive Tatapouri takes you where the wild things are. Located in stunning Tatapouri Bay just a 15 minute drive from Gisborne, this is New Zealand's only wild stingray encounter. Venture out to an interactive reef ecology tour with wild stingrays, eagle rays and other reef dwellers abound. For a completely immersive experience, you can even snorkel and swim with stingrays and tick that off your bucket list.

divetatapouri.com

SAIL AWAY ON A WAKA

One of only nine double hulled waka of this type in the world, Waka Houroa Tairāwhiti (historic canoe) is a journey back in time. Situated in Gisborne's inner harbour marina, Waka Voyagers Tairāwhiti is a tribute to Māori voyaging ancestors and the ancient art of wayfinding across the Pacific Ocean through celestial navigation. Climb aboard the 22m/72 ft waka and learn traditional wayfinding skills before sailing out in the bay. You can also



opt to stay moored in the harbour on a cultural experience aboard Waka Houroa - a floating classroom as your gateway to great Polynesian navigators and their impressive ocean voyages.

wakavoyagers.com

RAILBIKE THROUGH COASTAL PARADISE

A totally unique tandem railbike cycle on 90 spectacular kilometres of coastal railway between Gisborne and Wairoa is a must-do in Tairāwhiti. There's nothing quite like watching the scenery unfold before your eyes as you pedal your way across stunning native forest, through enchanting tunnels and viaducts to the beautiful Mahia peninsula. A smooth cycle that's almost impossible to fall off of, you can railbike to your hearts content and discover the hidden gems of Tairāwhiti along the way.

railbikes.nz



FIRST SUNRISE IN THE WORLD

Journey to a sacred maunga, Mount Hikurangi for a sunrise of a lifetime amidst Māori legends, culture and tradition. Beginning from Ruatoria, a 2 hour drive north of Gisborne, you will meet your Ngāti Porou guide for an off-road ride on a 4WD vehicle to the top of Hikurangi - the highest peak in Tairāwhiti and the first point on the mainland to see the sunrise each day. Surrounded by nine striking whakairo (carvings) representing Maui and Ngāti Porou descendants and the stories of this sacred place, this experience is uniquely, unforgettably Tairāwhiti.

maungahikurangi.com



SUNSHINE BREWERY

The legendary flavours of Sunshine Brewery is like a rite of passage when in Tairāwhiti. Since 1989, this boutique brewery has become an iconic East Coast landmark celebrating the important things in life: sun, surf, mates and good beer. As New Zealand's oldest independent Brewery, Sunshine Brewery is located just a few blocks from the beach in downtown Gisborne. With 20+ taps of the freshest beer on the East Coast, the Taproom offers decadent pizzas, a light snack menu and beer tasting boards for a most memorable thirst-quenching experience.

sunshinebrewing.co.nz

THE BEST PLACES TO WINE & DINE IN TAIRĀWHITI



Gisborne Wine Centre



Café 35 Tokomaru Bay



Sunshine Brewery



Hati Nati Café



The East Cape Manuka Café



Te Puka Tavern



Puku Ora Eatery



Broad Bills Uawa

A tantalising taste trail of the freshest harvest from the land and from the sea, a fusion of traditional and contemporary cuisine.

GISBORNE WINE CENTRE - LOCAL WINE TASTING ROOM

Wines down by the waterfront

Located at the inner harbour in central Gisborne, the Gisborne Wine Centre is the perfect spot to enjoy local wines with beautiful views of the marina. Showcasing a wide range of award-winning wines from the region's best wineries, top off your wine tasting experience at the onsite restaurant and bar.

Gisborne

THE EAST CAPE MANUKA CAFÉ - MANUKA TEA

Locally grown manuka tea

When in Te Araroa, the East Cape Manuka Café is an absolute must-visit for a cuppa. Enjoy locally grown manuka tea filled with antioxidant and healing properties or some heart-warming barista made coffee with scrumptious homemade baking.

Te Araroa

CAFÉ 35 TOKOMARU BAY - PĀUA PIE

A delicious local delicacy

The legendary pāua pie from Café 35 in Tokomaru Bay is a sought after delicacy that many foodies from near and far are travelling to Tokomaru Bay to enjoy. Fresh flaky pastry, creamy abalone filling - every bite is perfection and should be savoured to the last crumb.

Tokomaru Bay

SUNSHINE BREWERY - BEER TASTING BOARD AND PIZZAS

Iconic landmark for brews and bites

As New Zealand's oldest independent brewery, Sunshine Brewery is a long-time Gisborne legend. Serving up the freshest brews in the East Coast, this is where you go for a fantastic beer tasting board, oven fresh pizzas and snacks.

Gisborne

HATI NATI CAFÉ - FRY BREAD

Homemade Fry Bread special

Fry bread on your mind? Then keep an eye out for Fry Bread Friday specials in Ruatoria - a traditional Māori favourite served with butter and golden syrup or with bacon, egg and sauce. Great food, great coffee and friendly service, follow the scent of delicious homemade fry bread to the bright blue building in the heart of Ngāti Porou.

Ruatoria

PUKU ORA EATERY - KETO BURGER

Eat well, be well in Gisborne

Puku Ora is where good food meets great people. The Keto Burger is a long-standing star on the menu with chicken or beef options and available on a sourdough bun. You'll also be spoilt for choice with an impressive line-up of salad toppings including garlic aioli, jackfruit chili and pulled-pork. Top it off with a mouth-watering protein shake for the win!

Gisborne

TE PUKA TAVERN - EAST COAST KAHUNA BURGER

Beachfront burgers by the bay

Tokomaru Bay may look like a quiet beach town, but the local favourite Te Puka Tavern definitely punches above its weight and knows how to do mean kai (food) - like the East Coast Kahuna Burger. With million dollar views overlooking beautiful Tokomaru Bay, this is an unforgettable spot for a tasty burger with the works served with fries and aioli. Divine!

Tokomaru Bay

BROAD BILLS UAWA - THE ZEUS PIZZA

Pizza picnic by the sea

Legendary family owned food trailer based at the iconic Tolaga Bay Wharf. This is the best place for tantalising pizzas, delicious coffee and treats in beautiful Uawa - particularly the popular Zeus pizza with lamb, olives, and feta.

Tolaga Bay

STAY IN TAIRĀWHITI



PORTSIDE HOTEL

Located right on the water's edge, Portside Hotel offers guests stunning views of Gisborne's inner harbour. With understated elegance and personalised service in an intimate, friendly and home-away-from-home atmosphere, Portside's urban, decidedly residential feel has created a sensation in the first city to see the sun. The perfect place to base yourself as you explore beautiful Tairāwhiti.

heritagehotels.co.nz/portside-hotel-gisborne



THE BLACKHOUSE LODGE

A luxury lodge perched above the stunning shores of Wainui Beach and set on a 1000 acre working farm, The Blackhouse Lodge takes luxury accommodation to new heights. Secluded and sophisticated, this beautiful lodge is the place to indulge in holiday life. From sunrise to sunset, you can enjoy uninterrupted views of the ocean without even having to step foot outside. Although the picturesque countryside at your doorstep is perfect for a dreamy wander.

blackhousewainui.co.nz



CEDAR HOUSE

This 4-star bed & breakfast boasts poolside digs amidst stunning gardens with rooms also offering river and city views. A historic character home located in a quiet residential neighbourhood, Cedar House is boutique accommodation with incredible hospitality just a few minutes' walk from downtown - with cafes, restaurants and shops abound as well as the popular Gisborne Farmers Market held every Saturday morning.

cedarhouse.nz



TATAPOURI BAY

From glamping tents to charming cabins and powered sites for RVs and campervans, Tatapouri Bay is absolute beachfront bliss located off of the Pacific Coast Highway. Just 10 minutes from Gisborne and you'll feel like you're a world away - with fantastic wildlife sightings of penguins, seals, dolphins and a variety of sea birds. Sun-kissed, beach hair and sand between your toes, you can simply savour the good life at Tatapouri Bay.

tatapouri.co.nz

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TAIRĀWHITI GISBORNE

The first light

TURN ME OVER
TEAR ME OUT