

# THIS IS GREAT BARRIER ISLAND

www.greatbarriernz.com  
The Official Guide 2008-09

## WELCOME TO GREAT BARRIER ISLAND

At the edge of the Hauraki Gulf, Great Barrier Island is one of the most tranquil, unspoilt places you will ever find. Its golden beaches, crystal clear waters and vast native forests are home to relatively few people. Nature, in all its rugged beauty, is king here.

From tramping through native forest to sea kayaking around the coves and inlets, there are endless ways to explore this adventurer's paradise. 'The Barrier', as it is known, seems to cast a unique spell. It's easy to think you are a million miles from anywhere, and the modern world has passed you by. And yet getting to the island is surprisingly easy.

Daily flights operate from Auckland Airport and from North Shore Airfield, taking approximately 30 minutes. The vehicle and passenger ferry from Wynyard Wharf in downtown Auckland takes around four and a half hours. Once there, you can rent vehicles or bicycles, or choose from a variety of island tours.

There's a wide range of accommodation on the island, ranging from luxury lodges to B&Bs, cottages and backpackers. There are also six Department of Conservation campgrounds.

### THIS IS MY GREAT BARRIER



**Tony Bouzaid**  
Yachtsman & environmentalist

A place of wild serenity, rugged and dramatic landscapes, sheltered harbours and a haven for rare, native wildlife.



**Trevor Rendle**  
Chef & Slow Food exponent

Great Barrier Island is my inspiration for life - this magical island brims over with nature's gifts, with a landscape so beautiful it stirs the soul.



### THIS IS WHAT TO EXPECT

Great Barrier Island may be easily accessible from Auckland but it's no suburban destination. The natural world takes precedence on The Barrier and some aspects of modern life that most take for granted are simply absent. For example, the island runs entirely on self-generated power. There is no street lighting so packing a torch makes sense. Mobile phone coverage is limited. A trip to the island is a wilderness adventure, so you need to plan and pack accordingly to get the most out of it.

There's plenty to see and do, ranging from nature experiences to historical sites. Native bush and the wildlife it contains is a proud feature of the island. You'll find birdlife here that is rarely, if ever, seen on the main islands.

As its name implies, the island acts as a barrier between the Hauraki Gulf and the Pacific Ocean to the east. The weather can be changeable and conditions can be rough on the east coast in strong easterlies.



### THIS IS NOT TO BE MISSED

You'll probably want at least two or three nights on the island, to make the most of your trip. And there's plenty to see and do.

**Walking:** Tramping on The Barrier is amongst the best in New Zealand, with a choice ranging from relaxed to rugged.

**Fishing:** There's no shortage of great fishing around the island. Some huge specimens have been landed in these waters. Just ask the locals for a few tips on the best spots.

**Wildlife:** The island's low population also extends to predators, so native flora and fauna do well here. Birdwatchers love The Barrier, but it's worth any visitor keeping an eye open for otherwise rare birds like Kaka. Department of Conservation sites will have detailed information on what you can see.

**Adventures:** Horse trekking and mountain biking are great ways to explore the untamed landscape. Sea kayaking and diving are also spectacular. There's fine surfing too.

**Tours:** From rumbling around by 'trike' to guided kayaking, there's any number of ways to tour the island.

**Food and Drink:** Claris and Tryphena are the main spots for restaurants, cafés, pubs and bistros. It's a great way to meet the locals and discover more about island life. Opening hours can be seasonal, so check ahead.

**Arts and Crafts:** The island is a haven for artists of all descriptions. You'll find much is displayed in restaurants and cafés, as well as studios.

### ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

**Airfields:** Claris and Okiwi. Call Richard La Ville, (09) 307 7626.

**Anchorage and Wharves:** Whangaparapara, Tryphena Harbour, Shoal Bay, Okupu and Port Fitzroy. Wharf fees may apply. Call Richard La Ville, (09) 307 7626, or the Auckland City Council harbour warden for Port Fitzroy.

**Camping:** Prohibited outside designated areas. No wastewater/sewage pump out facilities.

**Domestic animals:** It is inadvisable to bring cats onto the island. Any cats must be spayed or neutered. Dogs are prohibited from DOC land and most beaches. Dogs must be under control at all times and owners must carry proof of registration.

**Driving:** Most roads are unsealed and can become impassable after severe weather. Refrain from driving on beaches and dunes, to protect nesting birds. Do not drink and drive.

**Emergencies:** For Fire and Police call 111. In medical emergencies call (09) 429 0356. There is no ambulance on the island.

**Fire:** Permits are required for fireworks and all outdoor fires except gas barbecues. Use flares only in an emergency. Dispose of cigarette butts carefully.

**Police:** Claris. Call (09) 429 0343.

**Petrol and Diesel:** Port Fitzroy wharf, Whangaparapara wharf, Tryphena and Claris. No CNG or LPG vehicle fuel available.

**Medical facilities:** Resident medical team at Claris, (09) 429 0356. Pharmacy at Claris but prescription medicines should be brought with you. Public health nurses at Port Fitzroy and Tryphena. Dentist by appointment (or after-hours emergency): (09) 429 0599.

**Money:** Most commercial outlets take EFTPOS and credit card but it is advisable to carry cash. There are no banks on the island except Westforce Credit Union.

**Rubbish/recycling:** There is a rubbish barge in Port Fitzroy harbour, from 20 December to Easter. Transfer points around the island are at roadside locations.

**Telephone:** Card or coin phones at Shoal Bay, Mulberry Grove, Pa Beach, Medlands Beach, Claris, Port Fitzroy, Awana, and Okiwi Airfield. Cell coverage is limited.

**General stores:** Port Fitzroy, Whangaparapara, Claris, Pa Beach, Mulberry Grove. Stock availability dependent on deliveries to the island.

**Water:** No public reticulated supply. Private supplies from rain or bore water. Fresh water available (for a donation) at Port Fitzroy and Whangaparapara wharves. Boiling or treatment recommended.

