



## Motuhua Island

Route card No. 006 | Skill level: Beginners | Distance: 10-12 Km | Chart no: NZ5411 | Tidal Port: Tauranga

**Start/ finish point:** Waitui Reserve boat ramp off Matahiwi Road, Te Puna  
**HW/ LW:** Best paddled at high tide/slack water  
**Tidal times/ notes:** Tides in Tauranga Harbour can be quite strong. It is advisable to check the tide times and allow an extra 30 minutes this far in to the harbour.  
**Coastguard contact:** Tauranga (07) 578 5579 VHF Channel 83 (or 62)  
**Comms coverage:** VHF coverage is good and cell phones work well.

**Introduction:** One of the prettiest points to enter Tauranga Harbour, with a short paddle to reach Motuhua Island, marooned in the middle of the harbour. If you're wanting a short day trip that's great for all the family then going to Motuhua is ideal, as it offers a few small cliffs to paddle past, beautiful overhanging Pohutakawa trees and a beach with views of Mount Maunganui (Mauao).

**Description:** The Waitui Reserve is hidden away down Snodgrass Road in Te Puna. This idyllic spot is the start point for this paddle and offers a tantalising view of Motuhua Island just off shore to the North East. Using either the boat ramp or beach to launch head directly north east towards the reddish cliffs of the island. Take care not to linger between the channel markers as other boats travel up and down the channel. Depending on the tides you can travel clockwise or anticlockwise around the island, clockwise is preferred. Head up the western side of the island, exploring the nooks and crannies of the shore. To your left (east) you will see the Omokoroa Peninsula, ahead of you you will see Rangiwaea & Matakana Islands and the main harbour

channel. Stick close to the shore as you head round the northern tip of the island and quickly to the eastern side of the island. From here you can see the Mount, the port, Fergusson Park in the distance and all the Tauranga surrounds. Heading down the eastern side of the island back towards Te Puna you'll discover a shell beach. It's the perfect spot to pull up for a picnic lunch. The locals are happy for you to rest on the beach but please do not go exploring on the island as it is privately owned. Stay on the beach. After a refuel, carry on down the island following the shoreline, and paddle under the Pohutakawa trees. This area is home to several Rays so keep your eyes peeled for them in the water. If you approach calmly they will just cruise around your kayak. On the southern tip of the island there is a small sand bar just to be mindful of but it can be easily gone over at high tide or round it if necessary. Head straight back to the boat ramp at the Waitui Reserve, again heading quickly across the boat channel. If you want a little bit extra explore the inlet surrounding the reserve, it's very pretty.

[Trip planner](#)

**Please note;**

Every care has been taken to ensure the information contained in this Trip Card is correct at the time of publication, but things change and you will need to confirm the information provided. You will also need to get further information to ensure a safe trip, this will include an up to date, relevant weather forecast and the ability to understand its implications for the area and talking to locals in the area to garner new information on any hazards in the area. It is also expected that an appropriate level of knowledge, skills and equipment are required to safely complete the trip. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are unsure of any information or you find the Trip Card needs updating. Cheers Peter Townend, Yakity Yak Kayak Club. Updated: September 2012