
Family Holiday fun on the Matakana Coast

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School Holidays on the Matakana Coast

Looking for ideas in the second week of the school holidays?

Whether you wish to drive up for the day exploring the new Ara Tūhono Puhoi to Warkworth Motorway or are staying locally – there is plenty happening! Get up close to wildlife, explore the art trails, challenge yourself, learn a new skill or explore more of the region – the opportunities are boundless.

For the adults visit the markets or dine out in one of our family-friendly restaurants and eateries – or take something home from one of our artisan producers.

Before finalising your plans check out the operators directly on www.matakanacoast.co.nz or consider visiting the Information Centre in the Matakana Village Cinema Complex or downtown Warkworth for the most up to date information on opening times.

Don't forget www.matakanacoast.co.nz is a great resource for planning your next visit, including links to a range of accommodation styles to suit the whole family. Have you made your summer plans yet?

Experience Matakana Coast



Explore your artistic side

A great way to get outdoors, get some exercise and fresh air, as well as experience some great art and sculpture is to visit one of the Matakana Coasts leading art venues.

The Brick Bay Sculpture Trail meanders for 2 km past waterlily-filled lakes, hillside vineyards and farmland with sheep and lambs grazing. The trail also enters native bush with stands of totara, puriri, nikau palms, kahikatea and the majestic kauri. All the while you get to experience over 70 sculptures from many of New Zealand's leading artists. Finish with lunch or a coffee at the Glass House taking in the majestic views. During school holidays the Trail is free for up to 3 children with an accompanying paid adult.

With 6 galleries and 3 sculpture filled gardens Sculptureum offers hours of exploring for the family unlocking the imagination, fueling creativity and igniting the mind. Watch out for the rabbits and aviaries included amongst the outdoor

exhibits, including the great snails and rabbits. Kids enter free during the school holidays and don't forget Rothko restaurant onsite if a little hungry.

If pottery is more to your interest, Matakana institution Morris and James Pottery offers daily factory tours at 11.30am and new attraction Clay Friends offers the opportunity to play with clay and join clay making workshops daily.

If animals are more your passion

Sheepworld just outside of Warkworth has live dog and sheep shows on most days of the week, with daily lamb and animal feeding (check website for timings). This experience is both educational and interactive for families who don't normally get to experience farm life. Treat yourself in the gift shop and cafe onsite.

Fancy something a little wilder? Then Ti Point Reptile Park which has New Zealand's largest collection of reptiles is for you. Displaying over 40 species including both New Zealand natives such as the tuatara and exotic species like American alligators, green iguanas and tarantula spiders the park is set in regenerating native bush with stunning views and ample areas to sit to enjoy a picnic.

And if native animals are your calling, then visit the Goat Island Marine Discovery Centre situated at New Zealand's first Marine Reserve, Goat Island. This University of Auckland Research Centre is full of interactive displays and educational facts on the marine life along New Zealand's coastline. While there think about how you want to return and explore Goat Island itself in summer - by Glass Bottom Boat, Clearyak or snorkeling?

If you are looking for the evening experience, then Kiwiness Tours is a great option with their evening Kiwi Bird Tours. This is the best chance to spot the North Island brown kiwi in its own habitat within the thriving sanctuary on the remote Tawharanui Peninsula. Small personally guided group trips run in the early evening providing all the necessary equipment for this memorable experience.

For the competitive or energetic

Situated at the Matakana Country Park, Action Ninja World offers a range of challenging experiences including a flying trapeze, a high wire, climbing walls and a Ninja Warrior Course. The Park also hosts a wide range of family-friendly activities including animal experiences, miniature ride-on train, adventure playground, and horse and carriage rides. As well as shopping and

multiple dining options.

Whether you are looking for lessons or rentals, Blue Adventures offers kite boarding, stand up paddle boarding, wakeboarding, and wing and foil boarding experiences. Passionate dedicated instructors will ensure a safe and fun way to learn new water sports.

The Range Warkworth offers an array of family friendly challenges in an all-weather facility. This includes a fully automated golf driving range, mini-golf, baseball and softball practice facilities, and an air rifle shooting range. Refreshments are available onsite.

And for quiet relaxation

The Matakana Cinema is a stunning three-theatre boutique cinema complex situated in the heart of the Matakana Village. Offering the latest releases as well as classics and festival selections, this venue has been voted as Matakana's "most loved business" for good reason.



Learning about the region

For those wanting to know more about the region consider exploring one of the local museums or taking one of the historic walks around our small towns. Visit the destinations tab on our website to find links to information and trails in the historic townships of Puhoi, Warkworth and Leigh. Printed trail maps are also available in the Matakana and Warkworth Information Centres.

The Warkworth and District Museum provides a great insight into the pioneering families in the district, and don't miss the trail walk at the adjacent Parry Kauri Park.

While visiting our small towns take time to visit the shops or cafes for refreshments or supplies.

A range of nature walks are available on the walks and hiking tab on the website.

Local Flavour



A reward after the days activities!

Charlies Gelato, an iconic Matakana local continues to roll out outstanding ice creams but have expanded to become a Matakana market every day of the week with local artisan produce. An ever-changing range of flavors is sure to satisfy all tastes and cement this venue as a family favorite.

If you have a family of gourmets with a taste for adventure an option worth considering is the Mystery Picnic Experience. You will solve clues and riddles to take yourself around the Matakana Coast discovering local artisan producers and growers. At stops you will be assembling a delicious gourmet picnic to enjoy at your final picnic destination or upon return home.

The Matakana Village also offers all those artisan treats at its weekly market or shop in the Village stores during the week to eat, drink or take home freshly roasted coffee, bread and pastries or Matakana's own Honest Chocolat.

Takeout options are available as well with Viet Q Foods offering authentic home-cooked Vietnamese Street food, the Rusty Pelican serving a wide variety of handcrafted natural food and atmospheric village pubs in Warkworth,

Matakana, and Leigh. And don't forget the first Night Market at the Matakana Country Park from 4pm on Friday 6th of October.

What's On



Matakana Village Farmers' Market

Slip into that Saturday morning feeling at the Matakana Village Farmers' Market – a true foodie's heaven with a focus on fresh, sustainable and local artisan goods. Saturday, 8am–1pm.



Matakana Country Park Market

Sunday 8.30am-1pm from October 8th. Made by locals. Grown by locals. Loved by locals.

Don't forgot the first Night market of the season on October 6th from 4pm.

Share the love

Got a friend who'd love to get the inside word on the Matakana Coast?

[Invite them to subscribe here](#). We'll keep them – and you – up to date all summer long on local happenings, insider tips and flavours to savour.

