

Taupō Moana Boating Guide

Information from the Lake Taupō Harbourmaster



Taupō waters have their own spirit and essence – please treat them with the respect they deserve. The public are welcome to use the lake for recreational purposes.

Use of ramps

Ramp permits:
24 Hours 2 Weeks 12 Months

A ramp permit is required to use Department of Internal Affairs ramp facilities. Available online, from service stations, hunting & fishing stores, marine outlets, and some dairies, motels and holiday parks around Lake Taupō.

Instant \$200 fine for non-compliance.

Buy online at: ramp-permit-taupo.dia.govt.nz



Kinloch Marina has a separate ramp permit.

Lifejackets (PFDs)

It is compulsory to have a correctly fitting lifejacket for every person on board every boat. Correctly fitting lifejackets **must be worn** on all vessels 6m or less whilst making way.

Instant \$200 fine for non-compliance.

Comms

All vessels **must** have at least one form of working waterproof communication on board. **Instant \$200 fine for non-compliance.**

Personal water craft (jetski)

Lifejackets must be worn when operating a jetski. Towing lookout rule applies when towing. All jetskis operating on Lake Taupō must be registered through Auckland Transport, at at.govt.nz (search 'PWC').

Instant \$200 fine for non-compliance.

Lake Taupō Coastguard

The VHF Marine Channel used for 'Distress Calling' and weather updates on Lake Taupō is channel 61. For chit chat, use channel 63 or 65. Forecasts are broadcast daily: 7:35am 11:35am 3:35pm.

In an emergency call on VHF channel 61 for Coastguard, or dial 111 for Police. For non-urgent Coastguard help dial *500.

Rivers and channels

A strict 5-knot speed restriction applies to all rivers and channels, except for the Waikato River from the Control Gates to the Harbourmaster Office where the speed limit is 3 knots (no wake). Stay to the right in rivers and channels.

Collision prevention

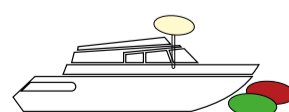
Head on: **Keep to your right**

Crossing: **Keep to your right**

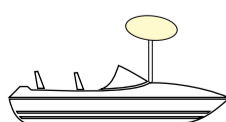
Overtaking: **Overtake safely**

All vessels must display lights from sunset to sunrise, and in rain or fog.

Powerboats under 12m must show sidelights and either an all-round white light or masthead light and sternlight



Powerboats under 7m and not capable of speeds over 7 knots need only display an all-round white light



Fishing

Anglers must hold a current licence for fishing the Taupō district, administered by Department of Conservation.

Buy online at doc.govt.nz

Pollution

Toilet pump-out facilities are available at the Taupō Landing Reserve main wharf, Tokaanu wharf, Motuoapa and Kinloch marinas. No rubbish, human waste or human ashes may be put into the lake.

PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS

- CHECK** Remove all visible matter such as weed and algae.
- CLEAN** Soak or scrub for at least one minute in a 5% solution of detergent.
- DRY** If cleaning is not practical, dry items completely, leave for minimum of 48 hours.

STOP THE SPREAD OF WEEDS, ALGAE AND UNWANTED FISH

See www.biosecurity.govt.nz/cleaning for more information on freshwater threats and the preferred methods of how to Check, Clean, Dry.



OUR PLAYGROUND. OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Hypothermia (cold)

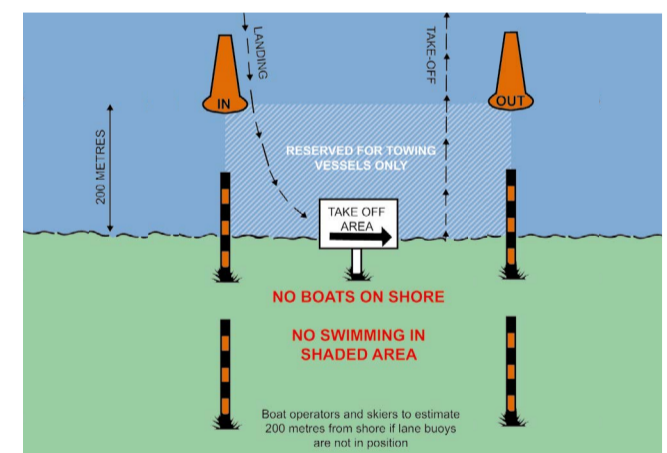
Lake water is cold and not as buoyant as seawater, making swimming much more difficult. Be prepared!

15+ Minimum age of operators

You **must** be 15 years or older to operate a motor craft that is capable of exceeding 10 knots.

Towing access lanes

Access lanes enable vessels **involved in towing** to legally leave or approach the shore at speeds in excess of 5 knots. All access lane buoys are coloured orange with black writing.



You must:

- keep to the right in the lanes, travel anti-clockwise
- have a lookout on board (see "Towing lookout")
- wear a lifejacket when being towed
- not proceed in a dangerous manner
- not beach your boat or swim in the lane
- not use the lane for any purpose other than towing
- not operate between sunset and sunrise.

Towing lookout

A towing vessel **must** have a lookout on the vessel who is 10 years of age or older, is not the skipper and is responsible for immediately notifying the skipper of mishaps.

Lake Taupō Harbourmaster

75 Redoubt St, Taupō

Ph: +64 7 378 7176

Email: harbourmaster@dia.govt.nz

dia.govt.nz/harbourmaster

dia.govt.nz/Lake-Taupo-Related-Law-and-Policies

Speed of all craft

All vessels must keep to 5 knots (9kph) or less within:

- 50 metres of a vessel or person in the water
- 200 metres of shore, or any structure
- 200 metres of a vessel flying Flag Alpha (dive flag)
- while bow riding.

Red-and-white striped 5-knot buoys are placed in a number of locations to show skippers 200 metres from shore. **Instant \$200 fine for non-compliance.**

Designated swimming areas

Lake Taupō has eight designated areas for swimming only. These are marked with white-and-black banded posts ashore, and white buoys with black writing in the water. **No vessels may enter these areas at all.**

Mooring buoys

Public moorings are shown overleaf. No unattended vessels. Orange fergie buoy public moorings are marked with 'Public Mooring'.

Private mooring buoys are **not to be used** by any unauthorised vessel.

Vessel name

Power boats 4m and over and non-powered boats 6m and over **must** display a name on both sides of the hull, above the waterline, clearly legible and at least 90mm in height. This cannot be the vessel's brand/make/model.

All vessels must have emergency contact details (name and phone number) clearly visible on or in the vessel.

Jetskis must be registered through Auckland Transport (at.govt.nz) and must display their registration numbers.

In an emergency call on VHF channel 61 for Coastguard, or dial 111 for Police

MAP OF TAUPŌ MOANA

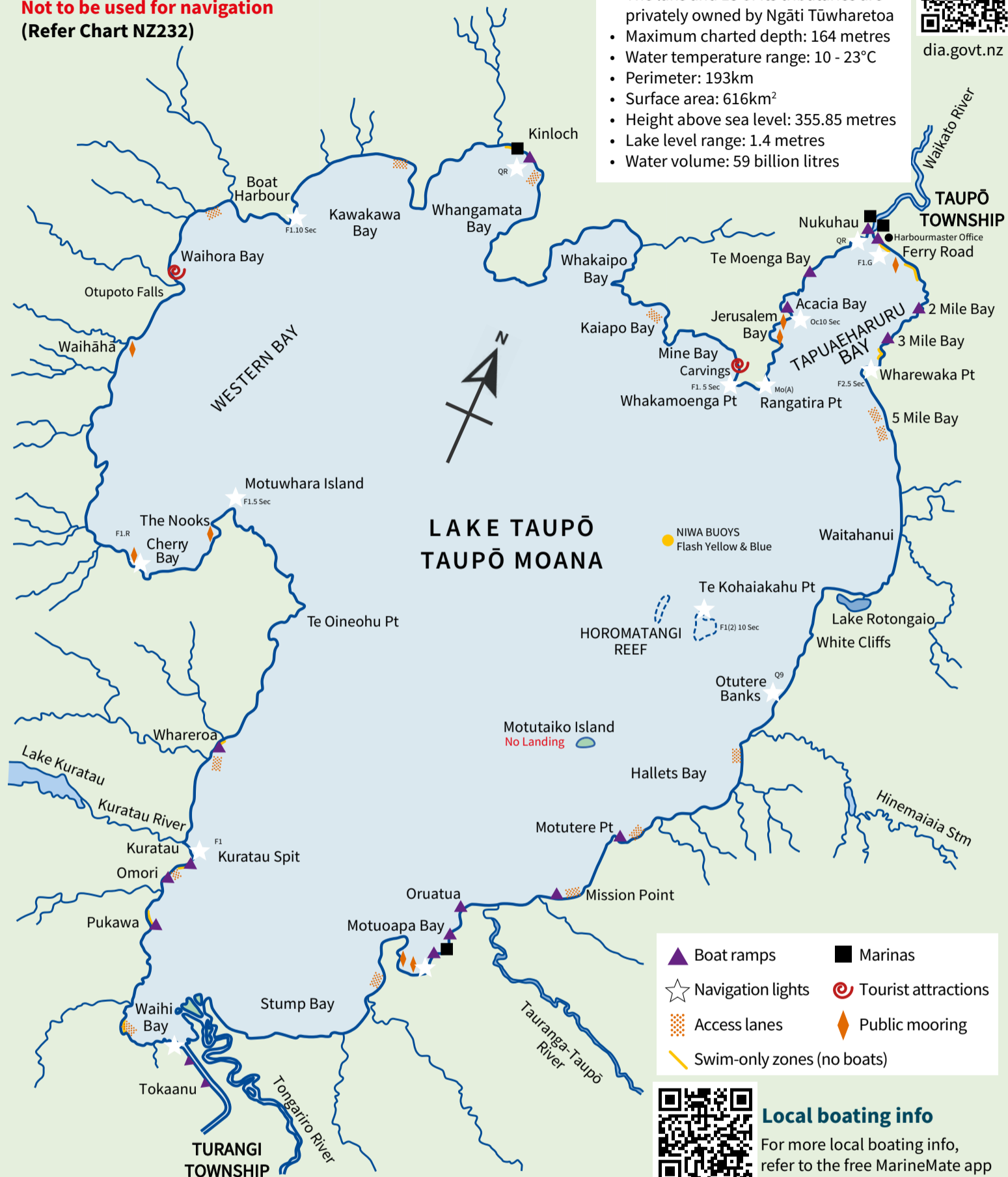
Not to be used for navigation
(Refer Chart NZ232)

Facts about Lake Taupō

- The lake and 13 of its tributaries are privately owned by Ngāti Tūwharetoa
- Maximum charted depth: 164 metres
- Water temperature range: 10 - 23°C
- Perimeter: 193km
- Surface area: 616km²
- Height above sea level: 355.85 metres
- Lake level range: 1.4 metres
- Water volume: 59 billion litres



dia.govt.nz



Mai ngā awa hukahuka, ko ngā peka o te aho tapu, he waiora e pōkarekare ake nei. Ko Taupō te moana, ki te pūau o Nukuhau, he piko, he taniwhā, kō Waikato Taniwhā Rau. Whakatau mai ki te wai-oranga o te Iwi o Ngāti Tūwharetoa - Ko Taupō Moana.

From the frothing waters of our rivers come the glistening waters of the sacred thread, all interwoven throughout Taupō, the inland sea. To Nukuhau the outflow, departing to Waikato of the hundred chiefs, at every bend, a chief. We welcome you to the life-giving waters of Ngāti Tūwharetoa - Taupō, the inland sea.

- ▲ Boat ramps
- ☆ Navigation lights
- ◻ Access lanes
- 🏊 Swim-only zones (no boats)
- Marinas
- 🌀 Tourist attractions
- ◆ Public mooring



Local boating info

For more local boating info, refer to the free MarineMate app

The boating code: 5 simple rules

- 1. Lifejackets**
Take them, wear them. It will increase your survival time. **Compulsory on vessels 6m or less.**
- 2. Skipper responsibility**
Keep everyone safe. Stay within the limits of your vessel and your experience.
- 3. Communications**
Take at least two separate waterproof ways of communicating.
- 4. Marine weather**
Check the forecast first. If in doubt, don't go out.
- 5. Avoid alcohol**
Safe boating and alcohol don't mix. Stay alert and aware.

Towing access lanes (Refer to rules overleaf)

- 5 Mile Bay x 2
- Halletts Bay
- Motutere Bay
- Mission Bay
- Stump Bay
- Waihi Bay
- Kuratau
- Whareroa
- Waihora Bay
- Kawakawa Bay
- Kinloch (Whangamata Bay)
- Kaiapo Bay

Public moorings (No unattended vessels)

- Jerusalem Bay x 2
- Ferry Road
- Motuoapa x 2
- The Nooks
- Cherry Bay
- Waihaha

No landing zone

Landing is prohibited on Motutaiko Island.

Ownership

Be mindful and respectful of those owners whose land abuts the lake.

Boat ramps (Ramp permit required)

- Acacia Bay South
- Te Moenga Bay
- Nukuhau
- Taupō Boat Harbour
- Two Mile Bay
- Three Mile Bay
- Motutere
- Mission Point
- Oruatua
- Motuoapa (3)
- Tokaanu (2)
- Pukawa
- Omori
- Kuratau
- Whareroa
- Kinloch (not administered by the Department of Internal Affairs)

Swim only zones (No boats)

- Yacht Club Taupō
- Main Beach Taupō
- Between 3 and 4 Mile Bays
- Waihi Bay
- Pukawa
- Kuratau
- Whareroa
- Kinloch