

Rotorua

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Rotorua
Te Rotorua-nui-a-Kahumatamomoe (Māori)




[Main urban area](#)



Nickname(s): Sulphur City,^[1] Roto-Vegas^[2]



Rotorua

Coordinates:  38°08′16″S 176°15′05″E﻿ / ﻿Coordinates:  38°08′16″S 176°15′05″E	
Country	 New Zealand
<u>Region</u>	Bay of Plenty
<u>Territorial authority</u>	Rotorua District
Settled	pre-European
Founded	1883
Borough status	1922
City status	1962
City status revoked	1989
Electorate	Rotorua
Government	
• <u>Mayor</u>	Steve Chadwick
• Deputy Mayor	Dave Donaldson
Area	
• Territorial	2,614.9 km ² (1,009.6 sq mi)
• Urban	89.28 km ² (34.47 sq mi)
Elevation	280 m (920 ft)
Population (June 2015 estimate) ^[a]	
• Territorial	69,200
• Density	26/km ² (69/sq mi)
• <u>Urban</u>	56,800
• Urban density	640/km ² (1,600/sq mi)
<u>Time zone</u>	NZST (UTC+12)
• Summer (<u>DST</u>)	NZDT (UTC+13)
Postcode(s)	3010, 3015
<u>Area code(s)</u>	07
Local <u>iwi</u>	Ngāti Whakaue , Ngāti Ranginui

Rotorua (/ˌroʊtəˈruːə, -toʊ-/,^{[a][b]} from **Māori**: *Te Rotorua-nui-a-Kahumatamomoe*, "The second great lake of Kahumatamomoe") is a city on the southern shores of [the lake of the same name](#), in the [Bay of Plenty Region](#) of [New Zealand's North Island](#). It is the seat of the **Rotorua District**, a [territorial authority](#) encompassing Rotorua and several other nearby towns. The majority of the Rotorua District is in the Bay of Plenty Region, but a sizeable southern section and a small western section are in the [Waikato Region](#).^[b] Rotorua is in the heart of the North Island, 60 kilometres (37 miles) south of [Tauranga](#), 80 km (50 mi) north of [Taupo](#), 105 km (65 mi) east of [Hamilton](#), and 230 km (140 mi) southeast of the nation's most populous city, [Auckland](#).

Rotorua has an estimated permanent population of 56,800, making it the country's [10th largest urban area](#), and the Bay of Plenty's second largest urban area behind Tauranga. The Rotorua District has a total estimated population of 69,200^[3], of which 3,600 live in the Waikato section.^[6]

Rotorua is a major destination for both domestic and international tourists; the tourism industry is by far the largest industry in the district. It is known for its [geothermal](#) activity, and features [geysers](#) – notably the [Pohutu Geyser](#) at [Whakarewarewa](#) – and hot mud pools. This thermal activity is sourced to the [Rotorua caldera](#), on which the town lies. Rotorua is home to the [Waiariki Institute of Technology](#).

The [Lakes of Rotorua](#) are a collection of many lakes surrounding Rotorua.

Contents

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History^[edit]

The name *Rotorua* comes from [Māori](#), the full name being *Te Rotorua-nui-a-Kahumatamomoe*; *roto* means lake and *rua* two –*Rotorua* thus meaning 'Second lake'. [Kahumatamomoe](#) was the uncle of the [Māori](#) chief Ihenga, the ancestral explorer of the [Te Arawa](#).^[7] It was the second major lake the chief discovered, and he dedicated it to his uncle. It is the largest of a multitude found to the northeast, all connected with the Rotorua Caldera and nearby [Mount Tarawera](#). The name can also mean the equally appropriate 'crater lake'.^[7]

The area was initially settled by [Māori](#) of the [Te Arawa iwi](#). The first European in the area was probably [Phillip Tapsell](#) who was trading from the [Bay of Plenty](#) coast at [Maketu](#) from 1828. He later married into [Te Arawa](#) and became highly regarded by them.^[8] Missionaries [Henry Williams](#) and [Thomas Chapman](#) visited in 1831^[7] and Chapman and his wife established a mission at Te Koutu in 1835.^[9] This was abandoned within a year but Chapman returned in 1838 and established a second mission at [Mokoia Island](#).^{[7][9]}

The lakeshore was a prominent site of skirmishes during the [New Zealand Wars](#) of the 1860s. A "special town district" was created in the 1883, to promote Rotorua's potential as a [spa destination](#). The town was connected to Auckland with the opening of the [Rotorua Branch](#) railway and commencement of the [Rotorua Express](#) train in 1894, resulting in the rapid growth of the town and tourism from this time forward. Rotorua was established as a borough in 1922, elected its first [mayor](#) in 1923, and declared a city in 1962 before becoming a District in 1979.^[10]



The [Rotorua Museum of Art and History](#)



Pictured as a bath house in the early 20th century



Hot springs present in much of Rotorua



Māori meeting house in Rotorua, January 2001



A panoramic view of Rotorua taken at the top of Mt Ngongotaha, December 2015

Geography[[edit](#)]

Climate[[edit](#)]

The area of Rotorua has a relatively high altitude, measuring up to 290m or 950 ft. The Rotorua region enjoys a mild temperate climate. Rotorua is situated inland from the coast and is sheltered by high country to the south and east of the city, resulting in less wind than many other places in New Zealand. During the winter months June – August temperatures can drop well below 0 °C and in recent years Rotorua witnessed snow fall in 2011, the first time in over 50 years.

[hide] Climate data for Rotorua (1981–2010)								
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Average high °C (°F)	22.8 (73)	22.9 (73.2)	20.9 (69.6)	18.0 (64.4)	15.1 (59.2)	12.6 (54.7)	12.0 (53.6)	11.1 (52)
Daily mean °C (°F)	17.7 (63.9)	17.9 (64.2)	16.0 (60.8)	13.3 (55.9)	10.7 (51.3)	8.5 (47.3)	7.8 (46)	7.1 (44.8)
Average low °C (°F)	12.6 (54.7)	13.0 (55.4)	11.1 (52)	8.5 (47.3)	6.3 (43.3)	4.3 (39.7)	3.5 (38.3)	2.8 (37)
Average precipitation mm (inches)	92.7 (3.65)	93.9 (3.697)	99.2 (3.906)	107.2 (4.22)	116.9 (4.602)	136.1 (5.358)	134.5 (5.295)	131.1 (5.161)
Average precipitation days (≥ 1.0 mm)	8.2	7.4	8.5	8.2	9.5	11.2	11.0	10.7
Average relative humidity (%)	78.8	81.4	81.5	83.4	87.1	87.5	87.3	86.7
Mean monthly sunshine hours	242.9	205.9	199.7	170.5	145.1	119.1	130.7	150.1

Source: NIWA Climate Data^[1]

Suburbs[[edit](#)]

Fenton Park, Glenholme, Ohinemutu, Owhata, Mangakakahi, Western Heights, Westbrook, Fordlands, Springfield, Tihi-Ōtonga, Lynmore, Victoria, Pukehangi, Kawaha Point, Ngongotaha, Hamurana, Tikitere, Tarawera, Okareka, Koutu, Hillcrest, Utuhina, Whakarewarewa, Ngapuna, Holdens Bay, Hannahs Bay, [Horohoro](#).

Geothermal areas[[edit](#)]



Mud pool, [Tikitere](#) ("Hell's Gate"), Rotorua.



The Prince of Wales Feathers thermal spring erupting

Thermal activity is at the heart of much of Rotorua's tourist appeal. [Geysers](#) and bubbling [mud pools](#), hot thermal springs and the Buried Village ([Te Wairoa](#)) —so named after it was buried by the 1886 [Mount Tarawera](#) eruption— are within easy reach of Rotorua.

In Kuirau Park, to the west end of Rotorua, hot bubbling mud pools dot the park.^[12] Visitors can soak their feet in hot pools.

Rotorua has the nickname Sulphur City, because of the hydrogen sulphide emissions, which gives Rotorua a "rotten eggs" smell,^[1] as well as rotten-rua combining its legitimate name and the rotten smell prevalent.

The especially pungent smell in the central-east 'Te Ngae' area is due to the dense sulphur deposits located next to the southern boundary of the [Government Gardens](#), in the area known as 'Sulphur Point'.

Lakes[\[edit\]](#)

The Rotorua region has 17 lakes, known collectively as the [Lakes of Rotorua](#). Fishing, waterskiing, swimming and other water activities are popular in summer. The lakes are also used for event venues; Rotorua hosted the 2007 World Waterski Championships and Lake Rotorua was the venue for the World Blind Sailing Championships in March 2009.^[13] Lake Rotorua is also used as a departure and landing point for float planes.

Other activities[\[edit\]](#)



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[links](#), and by adding encyclopedic content written from a [neutral point of view](#). (June 2016) (*[Learn how and when to remove this template message](#)*)

Rotorua is also home to botanical gardens and historic architecture. Known as a spa town and major tourist resort since the 1800s, many of its buildings hint at this history. [Government Gardens](#), close to the lakeshore at the eastern edge of the town, are a particular point of pride. The [Rotorua Museum of Art and History](#) is housed in the large Tudor style bath house building while the Art Deco style Blue Baths, noted for their embrace of mixed sex bathing in the 1930s, remain open today.

Another of Rotorua's attractions is [mountain biking](#). Whakarewarewa Forest was listed as one of the Top 8 locations globally by Red Bull Magazine in 2012. The forest includes over 100 km of mountain bike trails and in August 2006 was host of the [UCI Mountain Bike and Trials World Championships](#). In 2015 Rotorua will host the Southern Hemisphere leg of the [Crankworx](#) mountain bike event.

The Rotorua Pistol club is among the largest in the Southern Hemisphere and hosted the 2013 Australasian IPSC Handgun Championship.

The [Kaituna River](#), 15 minutes drive north east of the CBD provides class 5 whitewater kayaking and rafting through a spectacular tree lined gorge.

The region is home to 16 lakes. These are popular for recreation such as boating and fishing. Several of the lakes are stocked for sports fishing with trout from the [Fish and Game New Zealand](#) hatchery at [Ngongotaha](#).

Demographics^[edit]

As of the 2013 [New Zealand Census](#), the population of Rotorua is 65,280,^[14] making it the 12th most populous of the 67 [districts of New Zealand](#). 37.5% of the population are Maori, compared to 14.9% in New Zealand as a whole. 67.5% are of European descent, 5.1% Pacific Islander and 6.3% Asian.^[15] After English, the next most common language is [Te Reo Māori](#), spoken by 11.6% of the population. The median age of the population is 37.3 years, with 13.8% of the population being over 65.^[15]

Government^[edit]



[Steve Chadwick](#), [Mayor of Rotorua](#).

In October 2013, [Steve Chadwick](#) was elected [Mayor of Rotorua](#). She previously served as the Member of Parliament for Rotorua between 1999 and 2008, and served as a Cabinet Minister in the [Fifth Labour Government](#).^[16]

Media[edit]

Rotorua has several media organisations, including the [Rotorua Daily Post](#), [More FM Rotorua](#) and [The Hits Rotorua](#).

Transport[edit]

Road[edit]

Rotorua is served by [state highways 5](#), [30](#), and [30A](#), and the Thermal Explorer Highway touring route, with [state highways 33](#) and [36](#) terminating on the outskirts of the town.

State Highway 5, running concurrently with the Thermal Explorer Highway, is the main north-south route through Rotorua, bypassing the town centre to the west. North of the town at Ngongotaha, State Highway 36 splits off to provide a route to [Tauranga](#) via Pyes Pa, while State Highway 5 turns westward, connecting to [State Highway 1](#) at [Tirau](#) and providing the main route into Rotorua from [Hamilton](#) and [Auckland](#). To the south, State Highway 5 provides the main route from [Taupo](#), [Hawke's Bay](#), [Manawatu](#), and [Wellington](#).

State Highway 30 runs southwest to northeast through the town. It enters the town in the southwest (running concurrently with SH 5), before crossing the southern suburbs to the shore of Lake Rotorua east of the town centre. It then runs through the suburb of Te Ngae, before splitting off SH 33 to continue eastwards.

State Highway 30A runs northwest to southeast, connecting State Highways 5 and 30 with each other via the town centre.

Air[edit]

[Rotorua Regional Airport](#) is located 9 km (6 mi) northeast of the city centre, off State Highway 30. [Air New Zealand](#) provides daily [turbo-prop](#) flights between Rotorua and [Auckland](#), [Wellington](#), and [Christchurch](#) airports. Previously [Qantas](#) also operated Boeing 737 aircraft from Christchurch, but upon their departure from domestic flights in New Zealand this was discontinued.^[*citation needed*]

Scenic and chartered flights in both helicopters and float planes are operated by Volcanic Air who are based on Rotorua's lake front.^[*citation needed*]

From 2009 to 2015 there was also an international link, with direct Sydney to Rotorua flights.^[17]

Rail[edit]

Rotorua is connected to the rail network by the [Rotorua Branch](#) line from [Putaruru](#). Up until 2001, passenger trains ran from Auckland to Rotorua via Hamilton daily using Silver Fern railcars, terminating north of the town centre at Koutu (the original station on Amohau Street was closed and relocated to Koutu in 1989). However, owing to poor advertising of the service and the location of the station being a 15-minute walk from the town centre in an industrial area, passenger services stopped in October 2001. Freight services on the line declined over the decades up until the nightly freight service stopped in 2000, largely due to a continual move of freight and passengers onto road transport using ever-improving highways in the region. The line is currently disused.

Education[edit]

See also: [List of schools in the Bay of Plenty Region § Rotorua District](#)

Tertiary[edit]

Rotorua is home to the main campus of [Waiariki Institute of Technology](#), which provides a range of Certificate, Diploma and a limited number of degree-level programmes. The largest programmes on offer are [nursing](#), [forestry](#), business, [computing](#), tourism and [hospitality](#). Waiariki Institute of

Technology is the largest tertiary education institution in New Zealand outside of the University towns and cities.

Secondary[[edit](#)]

Rotorua has five secondary schools:

- [John Paul College](#), a co-educational, [state-integrated](#) Catholic school for Years 7–13 with about 1100 students^[18]
- [Rotorua Boys' High School](#), a state boys school for Years 9–13 with about 850 students^[19]
- [Rotorua Girls' High School](#), a state girls school for Years 9–13 with about 550 students^[20]
- [Rotorua Lakes High School](#) serving the eastern suburbs. A co-educational state school for Years 9–13 with about 650 students^[21]
- [Western Heights High School](#) serving the western suburbs. A co-educational state school for Years 9–13 with about 1500 students^[22]

Chapman College is a Christian school (similar to Tauranga's [Bethlehem College](#)) which currently offers primary (years 0–6), intermediate (years 7–8) as well as secondary education up to Year 10 but intends to move into full secondary education in the future.^[23]

Kura Kaupapa Māori (Māori language immersion schools)[[edit](#)]

Rotorua has three [Kura Kaupapa Māori](#):

- [Te Kura Kaupapa Māori O Te Koutu](#) years 0–13 with about 220 students.^[24]
- [Te Kura Kaupapa Māori O Ruamata](#) years 0–13 with about 180 students^[25]
- [Te Kura Kaupapa Māori O Hurungaterangi](#) years 0–8 with about 80 students^[26]

Notable people[[edit](#)]

See also [Category:People from Rotorua](#)

- [Valerie Adams](#), Olympic shot putter
- [Steven Adams](#), Basketball player ([Oklahoma City Thunder](#))
- [Jean Batten](#), Aviator
- [Sam Bewley](#), Olympic cyclist
- [Manu Bennett](#), actor
- [Trent Boult](#), New Zealand Cricketer
- [Cliff Curtis](#), actor
- [Julian Dean](#), Road racing cyclist
- Dame [Susan Devoy](#), Squash player
- [Tom Donnelly](#) Rugby Union Player (Auckland Blues)
- [Alan Duff](#), writer
- [Jack Foster](#), Olympic marathon runner
- [Tony Gordon](#), Rugby League player and coach
- [Bevan Hari](#), Hockey player
- [Dylan Hartley](#), Rugby Union player (For the English National Team.)
- [Tame Iti](#), Maori activist
- [David Kosoof](#), Olympic hockey player
- [Danny Lee](#), Professional golfer
- [Dennis List](#), Poet and writer
- [Todd McClay](#), politician

- [Steve McDowell](#), All Black
- [Jon Mark](#), Musician. Solo artist and co-founder of [Mark-Almond](#)
- [Tony Marsh](#), Rugby union player (for French national team)
- [Elizabeth Marvelly](#), Soprano
- [Liam Messam](#), Rugby Union player (for Waikato and NZ)
- Sir [Howard Morrison](#), entertainer
- [Temuera Morrison](#), actor
- [Craig Newby](#), All Black
- [Caleb Ralph](#), All Black
- [William Ripia](#), Rugby union player (Wellington Hurricanes, Western Force, Bay of Plenty, Otago Highlanders, Maori All Black)
- [Joe Royal](#), Rugby Union Player (Bay of Plenty Steamers and Māori All Blacks)
- [Wayne "Buck" Shelford](#), Former All Black
- [Miriam Smith](#), actress
- Sir [Peter Tapsell](#), politician
- [Jared Waerea-Hargreaves](#), Rugby league player (Sydney Roosters and New Zealand Kiwis)
- [Dean Whare](#), Rugby League Player (Penrith Panthers and New Zealand Kiwis)

Sister cities^[edit]

Rotorua has four [sister cities](#):

-  [Klamath Falls, Oregon](#)^[27]
-  [Beppu, Kyūshū](#)
-  [Lake Macquarie, New South Wales](#)
-  [Wuzhong, Suzhou, Jiangsu](#)

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- ↑ Jump up to: **a** **b** Collins, Simon (9 July 2003). *"Sulphur City gases under scrutiny"*. *New Zealand Herald*. Retrieved 7 June 2009.
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27. **Jump up** [^] [Sister Cities International](#)

External links^{[[edit](#)]}



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- *Chisholm, Hugh, ed. (1911). "Rotorua". *Encyclopædia Britannica* (11th ed.). Cambridge University Press.*
- [Info-Rotorua | Visitor Information TV & website](#)
- [Official Rotorua YouTube channel](#)
- [Rotorua District Council official website](#)
- [Rotorua Tourism official website](#)
- [Rotorua travel guide from Wikivoyage](#)

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Territorial authorities of New Zealand

entities

92106

078146

505-2