



**Lake Rotorua** (*Detailed pamphlet available*)  
Lake Rotorua is the largest lake in the district, is only 5 minutes walk from the city center and has extensive public shore access with six free public boat ramps. It is open for 12 months of the year and is probably the easiest lake in New Zealand to catch trout from. While Rainbow trout are the predominant species, quality Brown trout can be taken from July to December, usually by harling over the weed beds, or stalking the shorelines and stream mouths from November to March. The average trout average around 3 kg. Trolling and spinning are permitted in all areas on Lake Rotorua except for a few marked stream mouths. Trolling is good all year round and following the drop off will give the best chances. Lake Rotorua is shallow and during summer water temperatures are high which encourages trout to congregate at cooler water stream mouths. All stream mouths are safe for wading and fishing from an anchored boat is productive. Slow sinking fly lines are the best to use with any of the smelt patterns effective during the day and the lumo patterns at night. The Waiteti and Ngongotaha Stream mouths fish consistently well through the season while the Awahou and Hamurana Stream mouths offer excellent fly fishing in January and February.. The Utiuna and Ngongotaha streams provide stream fishing opportunities for all ages and abilities. These streams have excellent public access plus Ngai Whakaue have permitted angler access across their private land at sign posted points to the Ngongotaha Stream off Paradise Valley Road.

**Lake Rotoma**  
Rotoma has very high water clarity and with its beautiful white beaches provides recreation for all the family. Deep and shallow trolling or harling with traces 15m long is the most popular fishing method all year round. Jigging works well and fly-fishing is very popular due to the clear water and extensive shoreline access. Stalking trout when they are chasing smelt during spring or spawning trout in the winter is exciting fishing with the bonus that Lake Rotoma Rainbows are in excellent condition with an average weight of 2 kg. Rotoma is the only lake in the Eastern Region where Tiger trout have been released. Harling or shoreline fishing along the weedbeds

A very scenic lake featuring eight secluded, sheltered arms surrounded by native trees and wetland vegetation. Fishing in small boats and canoes is safe in Lake Rotoehu. A boat ramp is available in Kennedy's Bay off the Pongakawa Rd with beach launching of small craft possible in Otaturu Bay. Lake Rotoehu is best fished in the autumn, winter and spring. During summer warm temperatures promote algal blooms that make fishing difficult. Excellent fly fishing can be found anywhere along the Lake margins and casting towards the shore and vegetation will entice hungry trout averaging 1.5 kg. Stalking trout as they chase smelt in the spring or spawning in the winter is exciting fishing. Shallow trolling or harling off the weed beds also gives the good results.

Lake Tikitapu is very sheltered and can be fished in any weather. During the summer this lake is popular for swimming and water skiing but fishing early morning, evening and during winter is peaceful and productive. There is a boat ramp and ample parking at the main beach and an easy walk around the lake with several beaches and small bays to fish from the shore. Harling and jigging catch rainbow trout that average 1.5 kg and shoreline fishing is productive particularly when trout are spawning. Lake Tikitapu is the only Rotorua Lake that Brook trout are released into. These beautifully coloured fish provide an interesting addition to the fishing options available in the Eastern Region.

**Lake Okareka**  
Only 10 minutes drive from the centre of Rotorua, Lake Okareka is in a very attractive setting. The lake is popular and productive producing plenty of rainbow trout averaging 1.5 kg. Boat fishing is safe on this sheltered lake and is highly recommended for a family outing. Fly fishing at Boyes Beach in spring, autumn and winter gives good results. Lake Okareka is open all year round and has a boat ramp at Acacia Bay

**Lake Tarawera**  
Lake Tarawera is deep and clear, surrounded by native forest with Mount Tarawera making a startling backdrop. It is world renowned for the size and condition of the Rainbow trout. Many fish in excess of 4kg are taken each year by all permitted fishing methods. Road access to Tarawera is excellent with many facilities available for anglers including accommodation, a cafe and five boat ramps and two Department of Conservation camping areas. Deep trolling, downrigging and jigging can produce great fish throughout the season, especially in the summer when fish move into the deeper waters. Fly-fishing by wading and from anchored boats is successful during spring, autumn and winter. The Te Wairoa and Wairoa Stream mouths are productive fly fishing spots and at the lake's outlet the Tarawera River has interesting fishing in very clear water.

**Lake Okataina**  
The pristine beauty of Lake Okataina offers a scenic wilderness experience for anglers which includes the drive to the lake that takes you through native forest. An abundance of food and good water temperatures result in the lake producing bigger fish than most. The biggest and best fish are usually caught in deep water using methods like jigging, downrigging, deep trolling or flyfishing down the drop off. Shallow trolling or harling over the weedbeds early morning or in the evening is also productive. Fly-fishing from anchored boats or from the shore at small stream mouths, like the Log Pool, Rayners One and Two is popular. During the winter months when the main lake is closed, fly-fishing for trophy sized trout off the main beach at the road end is very popular especially at night or during heavy rain which attracts many trout close to the beach.

**Lake Rotokakahi**  
An extremely scenic lake, on the old site of the Pink and White Terraces. Access is via sign posted gravel roads through pine forests off the Waimangu Valley Loop Road. At the end of the forest roads is a sheltered bay with a firm lakebed that permits light boats to be launched. A Fletcher Challenge Forest Permit is required and is available from FCF Information centre in Long Mile Drive, Rotorua. Rotomahana is definitely worth the extra effort to get there for the scenery, solitude and catches of solid hard fighting rainbows averaging 1.5 kg. Shallow and deep trolling, jigging and downrigging all work well. Fly fishing down the drop off or over the weed beds is productive and a very popular boat-fly fishing location is in the bay the Waingongonua and Stream spawning stream enters. Here a slow sinking line with either smelt, bully or damsel fly patterns fished over the weeds or in the small channels catches lots of trout.

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**Lake Rerewhakaaitu**  
This is a relatively shallow lake and with extensive areas of shallow edges that are safe to wade and attracts feeding rainbow trout averaging 1.5 kg. Access to the lake is extensive and very easy with family camping being popular in the holidays at the several camps provided. There is an excellent boat ramp in Homestead Arm off Bretts Road and other boat-launching sites at the camping areas. Shallow trolling or harling along the weed beds works well when water temperatures are below 17 degrees. When water temperatures are higher jigging, deep fly-fishing and trolling catch fish in the deepest parts of the lake. Lake Rerewhakaaitu is most popular with fly and spin anglers with some special fishing in spring as trout cruise the shallows hunting smelt or insects and again in winter when trout are spawning.

**Lake Okaro**  
Okaro is a small picturesque Lake that is ideal for small boats, watercraft and offers good shoreline fishing using both fly and spinner. Rainbow trout are in good numbers and average 1 kg. There is a good boat ramp off the Waimangu Valley Road off SH 5 or SH 38. Lake Okaro can suffer from algal blooms in the late summer makes fishing difficult.

**Lake Ngahewa**  
A very small lake that is under utilised but offers good rainbow trout fishing from small boats and water craft. Trout average 0.5 kg and provide the avid stillwater angler exciting fishing opportunities as they cruise the raupo lined edges sipping on midges or chasing damsel flies. Fishes well all year except for the hottest months when water temperatures force fish deeper.

**Lake Ngapouri (Opouri)**  
This little hidden treasure is a largely undiscovered fishery that boasts nuggerty 0.75-kg rainbows that slam your fly or spinner. The lake is

## ROTORUA LAKES FISHERY

**Whatever your level of angling experience and skill, the Rotorua Lakes region offers a wide range of trout fishing opportunities. There are always fish biting somewhere in the district. Many of the thirteen lakes in the area are world renowned for the quality and size of the trout they produce. Stream fishing through the centre of Rotorua, chances to catch once-in-a-lifetime trophy fish, and waters among the most scenic in New Zealand mean that there are endless experiences available to anglers. Rainbow trout are the predominant fish in most of the lakes, but Brown trout, Tiger trout and Brook trout are also present. The Rotorua Lakes provide excellent fishing for both first timers and experienced anglers, all within 40 minutes drive of Rotorua.**



**Eastern Region**

**Ohau Channel**  
This channel links Lake Rotorua and Rotoiti and is open for fly-fishing only from October until June. In spring and early summer smelt run through the channel followed by large numbers of hungry trout. Numbers of trout again move into the channel during autumn to spawn or travel through to the spawning streams that flow into Lake Rotorua. The most popular fishing areas are at both ends of the channel. Access to the Lake Rotorua end is from Takunga Road on the south bank and through the public accessway off Hamurana Road on the north bank. Access to the Lake Rotoiti end is off SH 33 at the Waipuna Bay Boat Ramp. Fly fishing at the delta by wading or from an anchored boat is productive. Care is required wading the Ohau delta lip due to soft shifting sand.

**Lake Rotoiti**  
One of the gems of the Eastern Region Fishery, Lake Rotoiti produces quality trout many in excess of the magical 4.5 kg mark. The whole lake is open to all methods from October 1 to June 30. Shallow trolling or harling over the weed beds and around the drop off early and late in the day is productive when water temperatures are below 17 degrees. In the warmer months use methods that get deeper like trolling with wire, leadline, and downrigger or jigging. Fly fishing at cooler stream mouths like Waiti or Tapuakura Bay morning or after the change of light is another summer fishing option. From July 1 to September 30 the winter shore fishing area from Ruaro Bay to Hinohopu is still open for fishing. The best times are at the change of light morning and evening, early in the morning or at night up to midnight fishing has to stop. Stalking cruising trout or casting over the weed beds during the day is also popular. Lake Rotoiti has four boat ramps that provide access to all points of the Lake.

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*Landmark posts identify fishing regulation changes – please check your regulation booklet.*



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