

Tēnā kotou - nau mai haere mai, tihei Moriori!



Welcome to Kōpinga Marae – enjoy your stay

Kōpinga Marae (which means a “grove of Kōpi trees”) was opened in January 2005. It is a base for all Moriori on Rekohu and a welcoming, peaceful place for visitors to experience Moriori hospitality.



Kōpinga is a tribute to Moriori ancestors’ legacy of peace. The central Pou (Rangitokona), which sits on the Tūahu in the centre of the House is a dedication to them and the sacrifices they made in holding fast to the covenant of peace in the face of the greatest provocation they had ever faced. The main whare is called “Hokomenetai”, which means to gather together in peace.

The design of the marae is based on traditional values and concepts but built with contemporary materials. The pentagonal design is inspired by the 5 sided basalt columns on Rekohu where Moriori made their adzes and other tools and also reflects that Moriori traditionally met in large circular open air gatherings among Kōpi trees (such as those at Te Awapatiki). The ‘arms’ extending either side of the main whare (for kitchen/dining on the left and office space and bathrooms/laundry on the right) represent the arms of a carved ‘rākau momori’ tree figure of a human as seen from old tree carvings. From the air the building looks like a large hopo or albatross in flight. The hopo is culturally significant to Moriori as a source of food but also a source of spiritual inspiration. Moriori wore the feathers of the hopo in their hair and beards as symbols of peace. Stone patu were also made in the shape of young hopo.

Kawa (protocols) – First time visitors to Kōpinga will be welcomed with a hokomaurahiri which enables visitors to be greeted respectfully and become connected to the place. The ceremony will take place around the tūahu. Moriori will speak first and welcome you, then offer an opportunity for you to reply. Women may speak and any language may be used. It is good custom to follow your response with an appropriate song. The Tūahu is a place where gifts and tributes are placed. If you wish to bring a symbol of peace or something from your country you are welcome to place your gift on the tūahu during the welcome. This ceremony is also the appropriate time for the offer of koha (donation towards hospitality). The hokomaurahiri always concludes with a hongī (pressing of noses) and a meal or refreshments.

Facilities - Kōpinga is a 5-sided building so there is no designated space for visitors/home people. You may sleep on whatever side you prefer. We recommend you bring a small torch for finding your way around in the dark. Mattresses, sheets and pillow cases are supplied along with some duvets and blankets but we advise bringing your own sleeping bag and towels if you are part of a larger group. The marae can sleep up to 85 people comfortably, though we recommend 60 as an upper limit for school groups. The marae is centrally heated and is always warm, whatever the weather. We have well-appointed bathrooms, laundry facilities and a commercial sized kitchen and dining area, as well as wet-room for processing seafood. Wheelchair access is provided for most areas of the marae. Outside footwear must be removed as you enter the marae.

The marae is a non-smoking and alcohol free venue. Have a look at the website (www.moriori.co.nz) for more photos of the facilities and people enjoying Kōpinga.

Costs for a stay at Kōpinga varies. Please enquire about amounts when you make your booking. We have options that include self-catering or fully catered hospitality so contact Hokotehi to discuss

these in more detail. Hokotehi also owns the 11 room Henga (Chatham) Lodge situated close to the airport on Rēkohu. Contact the lodge directly (03 3050196) for rates and bookings.

What else to bring – Most of the food and supplies for the island are brought in from New Zealand, which means prices at the local food store are more costly. If you are able to, gifts of fresh fruit, salad and bread are always appreciated. If you are self-catering at the marae we recommend that you bring these kinds of items with you. The marae has a pantry stocked with food preparation and baking ingredients as well as large freezers for storing perishable items. Remember too to bring your gumboots, a rain-jacket, toiletries, sun-block and sun-glasses. We also recommend that you bring a small torch for moving discretely around the marae at night.

Rēkohu weather is a well guarded secret! Because the island is a long way from other, larger land-masses, weather moves quickly over the island – rain seldom stays for long but almost always leaves rainbows. The summer months (November to March) can be hot (up to 28^o) but expect rain at any time of the year.

Rēkohu – general Information. Rēkohu is 45 minutes ahead of NZ time. Cell phone reception is not available but the marae and lodge have broadband internet access. There is an ANZ bank and P.O. on the island but no ATM machines. Most shops on Rēkohu have eftpos facilities but we recommend bringing cash as well (\$NZ).

Shops include a garage, post office, gallery, food store, fruit and vegetable shops, and the local tavern. The island has a small hospital for any medical treatment, but it is advisable to bring your own medicinal needs. The flight from NZ takes approx. 1 hour, 40 minutes. The airline is strict about luggage weight limits and sizes so please be aware that you may need to check with Air Chathams if you are bringing a lot of gear or large items. Please also check biosecurity requirements.



What to do - Private vehicles are available for rent on the island and Hokotehi has several vehicles and a 20-seater bus that may be hired. There is no public transport on the island apart from the flight service in to Rēkohu and to Pitt Island. Hokotehi can also assist with tours, fishing and hunting trips and travel to Rangihau (Pitt Island). Tours include trips to native forest reserves and rākau momori carvings, Tommy Solomon's statue, the basalt columns and beautiful scenic trips around the lake and coastal areas. Rēkohu is the first place in the world to greet the new day, so sunrises are a special experience. In summer, one night a week the Kaingaroa community organises a seafood banquet – bookings are essential and the experience is unforgettable. When you are out on the roads it is customary to wave to anyone passing.

Fishing - Many people come to Rēkohu to fish or enjoy the marine environment. Please be aware that there are strict limits about the amount of seafood you are permitted to take each day and also how much you may take away from the island. Conservation of this important resource is an important priority for the islanders. Luggage is usually checked at the airport to ensure limits are not exceeded. For information on recreational catch limits check with your hosts and remember that stock-piling of daily limits is not permitted.

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