



Matakana

What was once a two-shop, drive-through town is now a hip destination with big plans to expand. Only an hour from the city, Matakana has always been a gateway to the beautiful beaches of Leigh, Goat Island and Omaha. Now, with a farmers' market held every Saturday, a three-screen cinema, boutique wineries and a growing number of restaurants, shops, delis and bars, it is well worth a stop-off. Order an

ice cream at Blue (T 09 422 7797), and head for the nearby 2km Brick Bay Sculpture Trail (above; T 09 425 4690), which features contemporary sculpture by New Zealand artists. A good option for lunch is the restaurant at Ascension Vineyard (T 09 422 9601). If you are staying overnight, try Takatu Lodge (T 09 423 0299).
www.matakanacoast.com

