

MOTURIKI ISLAND

by Martin Broederlow

Introduction

Moturiki Island (Leisure Island) is located in the western Bay of Plenty at the mouth of the Port of Tauranga harbour. The crag is just off the beach and close to the local township, so don't expect a remote experience however it has excellent beach access and is very close to Mt Maunganui - where there is a well established crag.

The climbs are generally clean and solid though there are some routes established amongst poor quality rock - care should be taken not to lobotomise your belayer. Consider all routes to be bolted unless stated otherwise and all routes are described left to right. My thanks to the contributors who've helped produce this guide, both Tauranga local's and visiting climbers.

Access

To reach the crag head to the Mt Maunganui beach, at the base of Mt Maunganui (Mauao). Find the surf club on the sea ward side of the mount - Moturiki Island is the island joined by land bridge 500m to the east at the opposite end of the beach. The Surfside Wall is clearly visible on the rocky western shore as you approach the island. Fishermans Wall is on the east side of the island just one minutes walk off the beach.

Disclaimer

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GEAR

The gear you will need - a full rack of cams and wires plus hexes if you have them and 10 quickdraws.



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Leisure Island

From Mt Maunganui beach head east to Moturiki Island (aka Leisure Island). Once it housed an aquarium now the Island is the home of fisherman, snorkellers, swimmers and the latest developments in Tauranga climbing. It is a short walk along the beach between the Mt Maunganui and Leisure Island during which the observant viewer may spot a variety of native birds.

Fishermans Wall

Located a minute off of the beach on the eastern shore of the island. From the path where the beach meets the island take the right fork. This will take you to a small face next to an artificial wall, popular with local fisherman. To the right of the Fishermans Wall is a short face which has a number of established bouldering problems though no details are recorded here.

1. Monkey Mouse (17)

The left most route on the face, up the arete and mantle on to the ledge. Carry on past the block to your left. Three bolts and a wire braid anchor, the tree is out.

Mike Mee, Carl Bouge

2. Big Stoo (28)

Up the ramp and mantle onto the sloping ledge. Continue up the face on poor crimps and side pulls to a DBC anchor. Four bolts - the hardest outing around!

Stu Kurth

3. Short Circuit (26)

This sport route follows the seam until it closes and then climbs the blank face .

Tyler Culpepper, Rob Moore

4. Short Sharp Shock (19)

The right most route on the face, balancey moves take you to the rock scar and then tend left to the anchor shared with #3.

Phil Higgins 87

Figure 1: Fishermans Wall



Surfside Wall

From the beach walk up the path and about half way along the island on the left, there is vague access path leading down to the rocky shore, where the bushline breaks. Here is the Surfside wall, with a flavour distinctly different than the other areas in Tauranga. Gone are the jugs, it's slabby routes with a definite sea crag feel. The rock is a little bit crumbly in places but there are some worth while routes here and it's well worth a visit if even just for a change of atmosphere. Bring your togs.

5. Kafkaesque (25)

The left most route on the face, starts from the shared belay ledge, climbing up and over the bulge. Not for the faint hearted.

Paul Higgins 88

Figure 2: Surfside Wall



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Metamorphose (18)

The groove directly right of 'Kafaesque'. Easier, unprotected moves lead to the groove with faint crack past a horizontal break. Belay off trees.

Paul Higgins

6. Between a Rock and a Wet Place (17)

"17 my anus!" - quipped one visiting climber. A good intro to the Surfside style.

Scramble to the belay ledge and taste the goodness.

Phil Higgins, John Murray 83

7. A Friend Indeed (15)

The left route in the chalky gully.

Rob Moore Oct 06 (solo)

8. Jumping Johnny (19)

Takes the right most line in the gully then moves out right on to the ledge and up to the crux. DBC anchor, if the left crack is used it goes at grade 17.

Rob Moore, Ken Dec 08

9. Strange Complement (22)

The face route through the bulge. Possibly the best line at this wall, a thoroughly engaging outing.

Rob Moore, Nat Hamilton Jul 06

Description of a Struggle (26)

The steep route, on the arete to the right of 'Strange Complement'. A hold has broken off at the crux, making this tough at the grade.

Phil Higgins 88

Pickpocket (23)

The face route to the left of 'With a Pocketful of Nuts'.

Phil Higgins 88

10. With a Pocketful of Nuts (15)

The bolted route in the shady corner. Climb up the corner before moving right to an anchor visible from the ground.

Phil Higgins (solo)

Walking back towards the beach there is an arete split by a crack (18), this traditionally protected route was sent by Simon Vallings in 1983.

To the left of this arete are some easy lines including a grade 10 route soloed by Emma.

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Mt Maunganui And Moturiki Island Areas

