

Fly to your holiday at Slipper Island Resort

Slipper Island is one of New Zealand's few privately owned islands and is accessible either by aircraft or by boat from Tairua, 6nm away on the Coromandel Peninsular. Situated at Home Bay, on the western side of the island and alongside the airstrip and wharf, is Slipper Island Resort. We at KiwiFlyer spent a couple of nights there recently and can easily recommend the destination as a great summer escape.

Facilities at the resort

Slipper Island Resort is run by Barbara and Gordon Needham who live on the island and manage the resort and approximately 650 acre farm.

Guests at Slipper can choose between the exclusive use of a lodge sleeping up to 12 persons, or a private chalet (1 or 2 bedrooms) on the waters edge. Each chalet is an individual and fully self contained dwelling that is surrounded by decks, lawn and landscaped gardens. Individual BBQs are also included and all linen and bedding is provided. The chalets contain everything needed except food and beverages which most people choose to import themselves from the mainland, although a full catering service is available by prior arrangement (just add money :-).

The resort offers a real escape from the timetable and pressures of normal life – just knowing that you've left the mainland and are staying on a small sun drenched island with sandy beaches is a marvellous way to calm the mind.

If you need it though, cellphone and mobile broadband reception are excellent, and Tairua or Pauanui are a 5 minute flight or 30 minute boat ride away.

The only compromise you might have to make is to organise your electricity

consumption around the generator running schedule, which is shut down from 10.30pm to 6.30am, so take a torch as well.

Activities on the island

Option One is to sit back and take in the splendid atmosphere and views. There's plenty more to do though.



The airstrip, chalets and wharf are all located alongside a sandy bay.

Land based activities include beach walking, or a trip to the island's lighthouse or many other lookout points. Go on horseback if the thought of using your own legs doesn't appeal. Fishing is a fine way to pass the time too, especially if you end up with dinner on the end of the line.

Water based activities include kayaking, wind surfing, snorkelling, wreck-diving, fishing by boat, and more.

In the neighbourhood

If you arrived by personal aircraft then there's plenty more in the neighbourhood

for you to see and do while based at Slipper. Obviously Pauanui and Tairua are only a 5 minute hop away. It's also just a short scenic flight to any of Whitianga, Matarangi and Coromandel airfields and townships. Great Barrier Island isn't too far either. If you find you need a city fix then you can always track to Ardmore which is just 30 minutes away.

If you arrived by boat (bring your own or charter from Tairua) then excursions to the mainland may need prior arrangements, but once settled in there will likely be very little motivation to leave anyway.

Bookings and enquiries

Visit www.slipper.co.nz or contact Barbara Needham at Slipper Island Resort by email: slipper.island@xtra.co.nz to discuss your requirements. Note that the resort has a minimum stay policy of two nights and that current prices exclude gst.

High season prices for 2 people in a one bedroom chalet are \$250 per night. A two bedroom chalet for up to 4 people costs \$350 per night. Other options include a camping ground (a ten minute

walk from the airstrip to South Bay) and the Slipper Island Lodge. Camping sites are \$20 per person per night. Exclusive use of the lodge, which can sleep up to 12 persons costs \$750 per night. Barbara can also host conferences from \$50 per person.

Getting there

You don't have to fly yourself to Slipper. If travelling from Auckland then give Ardmore Helicopters a call on 09 298 1899. (See advertisement on page 26). Catching the boat from Tairua is another option. Call Brenda at Tairua Dive on 021 832 129.



Approaching the Island having passed overhead Pauanui. The airstrip at Home Bay is to the right.



The resort consists of five very nicely appointed and self contained chalets as well as a lodge.



Expect to find white sandy beaches and clear blue water, without crowds and most likely all to yourself.



Notes on the Island's History

SLIPPER ISLAND was formed from volcanic lava flows and later covered by ash. The remains of the crater are clearly visible on the cliffs to the north of the island.

It was named by Captain James Cook who apparently thought it resembled a slipper. Maori called the island Whakahau and there are several pa sites remaining.

Slipper Island Airfield was built in 1948 by Doug Norman. This comprised of a short vector (around 1200 feet) landing to the south-east over the boulder bank to the house in Home Bay. Doug owned a DH82 Tiger Moth. He would fly to Tairua on the inner harbour near the shops or to Whangamata ocean beach to buy supplies. His daughter Margaret has said that sometimes they

would fly across and land, then to be on the safe side in case they couldn't get started again (to beat the incoming tide), Doug would keep the engine running while she

ran up to get the mail. Doug also had a hopper for the Tiger and would topdress superphosphate on to the Island from the strip.

In 1969 Abe Needham, who had previously farmed at Pauanui, bought the island and during the early 1970's, the Needham family extended the airstrip to around 400 metres and then built the new NE/SW vector which is now 500 metres.

Ownership of the island remains with the Needham family although in recent years, a number of lifestyle blocks have been subdivided from the island and sold to other private owners. Two are still available (see advert below).

Slipper Island can be isolated by a large easterly swell which makes both the

Tairua and Whangamata bars impassable. The airstrip is a valuable asset and makes the island accessible during these sea conditions.



A picture from 1989. John Pheasant at left, with Abe Needham who bought Slipper Island in 1969 and grand-daughter Michelle Needham at right.



Slipper Island was formed from lava flows and later covered by ash. The crater is clearly visible in the cliffs to the north of the island.



A perfect combination of sun, sand, sea, and aviation. What could be better ?



Home Bay, on the Western side of the Island.



Activities to enjoy on the island include horse riding, kayaking, walking, diving and much more.

Slipper Island Sections for Sale

There are just two lots remaining in what is a very rare opportunity to own your own piece of a sun soaked private island.

Both have superb building sites and are a literal stones throw from white sandy beaches.

Lot 2 is 4871m2 for \$600,000+gst

Lot 9 is 1.3ha for \$1,000,000+gst

The properties are listed with Bayleys at Whangamata. Contact Chris Duder 021 390 221 or John Riddle 027 476 9847 for more information.



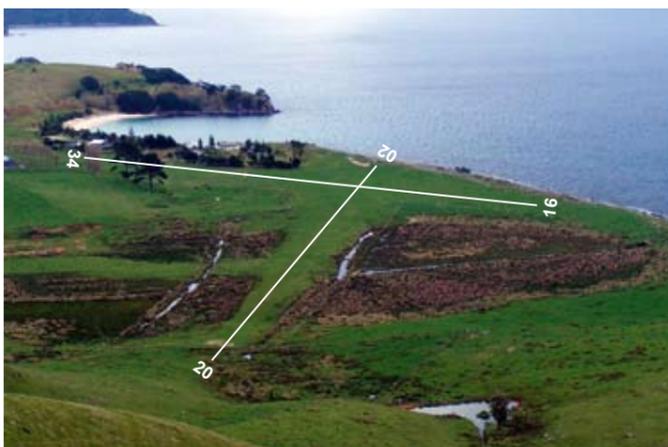
Slipper Island Arrival Procedures

REMEMBER that Slipper Island is a private island and airstrip. Prior landing permission is always required, every time. The airstrip is available to pilots who have booked a chalet or the lodge and because the approaches can be tricky, a checkout is required first. This can easily be arranged if required, especially with Pauanui airstrip just 5 minutes away.

The content following is absolutely not intended as instructions for arrivals at Slipper, rather as comments to help prospective visitors become more informed before contacting Barbara or Gordon on the island for more information - email: slipper.island@xtra.co.nz

There are two grass strips. The longest at 560m is orientated 02/20 and the shorter 480m strip 16/34. The latter has 380m of generally flat ground with another 100m available as takeoff distance on 34 or overrun on 16. 02 and 16 are available for landing only. 20

is available for takeoff and landing. When landing on 20, a low level turn onto finals is required due to terrain. 34 is available for



Slipper Island vectors. As with any private short strip, additional cautions are required, as is prior landing permission. The strip is available to guests of the resort but pilots new to the field will need a checkout first.

(the beach) in both cases then go around immediately as terrain in the overshoot area won't permit a later decision.

Be aware that many aero clubs and flying schools do not allow their aircraft to land at Slipper and insurance restrictions may further limit the use of private aircraft. There is no reason to be too determined to land at Slipper. You can always divert to Pauanui and have the boat come and pick you up from the wharf there, as pranging the plane will not make a good start to your holiday.

All that said, there's nothing for competent pilots to be afraid of either and most will greatly enjoy the challenge of something a little more different and interesting than usual.

A final note is one of thanks from us at KiwiFlyer to Barbara and Gordon for their hospitality during our recent stay. We're sure that readers who are tempted to visit will enjoy their time on Slipper as much as we did.

takeoff only, unless specific approval has been given for landing.

Preferred runways for landing in calm or light winds are firstly 02, then 16. If you're not "in the slot" over the threshold

Aviation Industry Cluster Takes Off

contributed by Shaun Mitchell

In September, during the celebrations at Hamilton International Airport to mark the 1000th aircraft manufactured in the Waikato region, Shaun Mitchell, GM of the Waikato Aviation Cluster announced that they were to become the Aviation Industry Cluster, expanding their scope toward the national interest. KiwiFlyer invited Shaun to use this page to help spread their new message.

On 16 September, the Aviation Industry Cluster was launched during an historic celebration at Hamilton International Airport to mark the 1000th aircraft to be manufactured in the Waikato region.

Operating on a regional basis since 2007, the Waikato Aviation Cluster was asked by some of the country's key aviation players to expand its scope from a regional emphasis to a national one.

Expanding to a national focus boosts our strength and scope, while also providing the perfect opportunity to collaborate with organisations like Aviation New Zealand and the Aviation Industry Association to achieve shared objectives.

With Aviation Industry exports totalling \$800 million in 2008 and expected to reach \$2 billion by 2020, major industry stakeholders realise the industry is too small to achieve this growth if individual companies and regional industries work in isolation. There are huge international opportunities available to us and if New Zealand really wants to make its mark on the global aviation industry, all companies across the country need to collaborate to compete.

The concept of an industry cluster is one that has been proven world-wide as an accepted tool for economic development. Clusters are formed around companies in an industry that collectively have a unique strength and which operate in geographic proximity to one another. Clusters are often formed to expand businesses, grow exports, develop skills, create jobs or even engage disadvantaged communities.

Our Aviation Industry Cluster is made up of aircraft manufacturers, pilot training organisations, aircraft maintenance specialists and a host of aviation industry suppliers. Our goal is to grow the New Zealand industry to become internationally recognised as the Australasian centre of light aircraft manufacturing, maintenance and airline pilot training. To achieve this, we are working together to accomplish three things: 1) grow our industry's capabilities and capacity; 2) nurture individual business; and 3) increase the industry's economic contribution.

So, what have we accomplished so far? At present, our members have over 16 designs and projects on the go - 15 of which are aircraft designs that have the potential to turnover \$927 million per year. Through collaboration, the Cluster has already assisted some of these projects to achieve their goals.

The Cluster has also pooled resources to build infrastructure and capability to benefit a wide range of industry players. One example of this is the Cluster providing partial funding to seal a General Aviation runway at Hamilton International Airport. This project was critical to ensure that growth of our local aircraft maintenance and airline pilot training companies is not impeded.

Another example of Cluster members pooling resources was the partial funding of a specialist heat treatment facility set up in 2009 for use by manufacturers. Setting up this facility eliminates a barrier to industry growth as aviation-grade heat treatment was previously identified as a major constraint for our members as well as an impediment to attracting new manufacturers into the Cluster.

In two years, we've achieved a lot. And, over the next few years, the Aviation Industry Cluster is set to accomplish even more. One of the major projects we're currently working on is the establishment of a specialist aviation paint facility in Hamilton. This facility is expected to become a catalyst for attracting other aviation refurbishment and manufacturing businesses to the area and growing capacity within the industry.

Additionally, we're investigating the possibility of setting up an aviation composite facility capable of handling design and prototyping. We're also looking to establish a research consortium to support industry and product development.

These are just a few of the many initiatives we're progressing, all of which are focused on adding, improving and extending capability and capacity of the New Zealand aviation industry.

At present, the Aviation Industry Cluster has 55 members from a wide range of companies operating right across the country. If you're not a part of this exciting initiative, I invite you to get on board. You can learn more about the Cluster at www.aviationcluster.co.nz or by phoning me on 07 829 7557.

Shaun Mitchell
General Manager
Aviation Industry Cluster

"...One of the major projects we're currently working on is the establishment of a specialist aviation paint facility in Hamilton.."

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