

Roadtrip through Te Ika-a-Māui

A four-day zip through the North Island of Aotearoa New Zealand

Maori were the first humans to name the large northern island of Aotearoa...

After always being left behind when his brothers went fishing, Maui decided to hide in the bottom of the waka (canoe) and waited until his brothers had presumed him far away and left shore. Once they were far out at sea, Maui revealed himself; his brothers were not pleased. They refused to share bait with Maui, but he swung out his hook nonetheless. Suddenly Maui felt a tremendous pull from the line and knew this was no ordinary fish. The force below the surface began to pull the waka down into the water. Maui convinced his brothers to help pull in the hook, and together they hauled the mighty fish out of waves. Maui entrusted the fish to his brothers while he gathered others to share it, but on his return, the brothers had already cut into the great fish.

Those marks are the carving of the landscape of the North Island. Te Ika-a-Māui; or The Fish of Maui. The South Island is called Te Waka-a-Māui, The Boat of Maui.

Day 1



Day 2



Day 3



Day 4



These three active peaks are part of the North Island Volcanic Plateau, stretching throughout the central part of the island. This even includes Taupomoana, which is today known as a lake due to a (still active!) supervolcanic caldera which filled with water. Taupo's most recent eruption occurred less than 2,000 years ago!

0 50 100 200 Kilometers