



Landmark #24  
**Lake Taupo**  
New Zealand



Located in the **North Island**, Lake Taupo is the largest lake by surface area in **New Zealand** (616 km<sup>2</sup>). Lake Taupo is in a caldera created by the largest known **volcanic eruption** over the past 70,000 years (called 'Oruanui') which occurred approximately **26,500 years ago**. On the north west side of Lake Taupo on the cliffs of Mine Bay, there are Māori rock carvings created in the late **1970s** by **Matahi Whakataka-Brightwell** and **John Randall**. This is carved in likeness of **Ngatoroirangi**, a navigator who guided the **Tuwharetoa** and **Te Arawa** tribes to the Taupo area over a thousand years ago according to Māori legend. The 10-metre-high carving is intended to protect Lake Taupo from the volcanic activities underneath. Among the most spectacular volcanic phenomena characterizing this lake are the **Craters of the Moon**, a spectacular geothermal area covered in churning mud and steam stacks.



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