

Greetings all you listeners out there! This is national radio and I'm Kevin Lay. This morning I am going to tell you what's so special about the laidback city of Gisborne. (Q11) You'll hear a little bit about its past in the old days and a lot about what attractions it has to offer, foreign and domestic visitors today. So listen up to learn more about what there is to do in this city and the surrounding region, where the economy is booming but the lifestyle remains unspoiled.

The Gisborne region is where the legendary canoe sailed by Maori explorers first landed in New Zealand about 1400 years ago after its long and risky voyage over the sea. (Q12) It is also the easternmost point of the country which is what inspired its original name, Te Tai Rawhiti, which in the Maori language means The coast where the sun rises across the waters.

Gisborne was also the place where the European explorer, Captain Cook, first landed his boat upon discovering New Zealand all the way from England back in 1769. Even in those early days this district was a center of horticulture, thanks to its fertile soil and sub-tropical climate.

Soon after that, of course, the English settlers arrived and soon Gisborne was shipping its products to larger settlements such as Auckland and Wellington, (Q13) this began with maize and root crops but quickly expanded to butter, meat and wool from the agriculture settlements in the rich pastoral country near the famous Poverty Bay.

Wharves and jetties were built beside the sea to service the coastal traders. Many of these wooden structures can still be seen on Gisborne beaches today. Today, Gisborne continues to

export fresh produce to other regions of New Zealand, these wares include various award winning cheeses, and of course, the delicious lobsters and snapper fish harvested by hand from the local reefs and waters.

(Q14)As for exports to Asian markets there's an increasing demand for the regions oranges and lemons. Gisborne is also becoming well known nationally and internationally as the source of some top quality white and red grapes.

Now, what's on in Gisborne? Well, first up there's the annual Gisborne concert held every summer time, this is a great experience. (Q15) It's held in Waiohika Vineyard, which is near the traditional Maori meeting house or Marae of the same name. They bring in a piano player and opera singers who perform on a purpose—

built stage in a kind of natural amphitheater in the middle of the rose of grapes, it's a fantastic concert-like atmosphere, a really good night out.

What to do on a rainy day? I'd suggest a visit to (Q16) the show called "The Beach", which is on in Gallery One at Tairawhiti Museum, it's a big display, so it also takes up the hall next to Gallery One, and it's divided into different sections of the local culture like surfing, camping, fashion and so on. If you buy the book of the exhibition there's some interesting photographs in there.

(Attention: Listening instruction)

There's a lot else to see in Gisborne as well, you shouldn't miss the hot springs reserve, which has warm natural mineral pools and little houses where you can stay amongst the bush.

(Q17) Being very secluded and private, this resort is most favored by newlyweds who often book a cabin for their honeymoon.

The water is very therapeutic too, it's apparently good for your health to bathe there, though not recommended for pregnant women or the elderly.

Around the corner is Mahia Peninsula, (Q18) legendary as a New Year's Eve party destination for large crowds of university students after their graduation. The surfing and fishing here is excellent and it's a safe spot for swimming and diving too.

Now, (Q19) also good for kids is taking a raft or a jet boat ride on the Motu River. This sounds quite wild, doesn't it? But in fact, this activity is



often used by local primary schools who take big groups of young children, several classes at a time, out here for a bit of fun while they are on their school camp, no parents required, you can have some time out as this activity is a lot safer than it sounds and it's carefully supervised by the rafting company.

Finally, don't let's forget the Edan Woodlands Park which is really a huge tree nursery, you can walk for hours here in the peaceful green surroundings along a variety of tracks, (Q20) there's even a very nice walkway made wide enough for those in wheelchairs so that everyone can go along and enjoy mother nature at her best.