



Coast to Coast Walkway

(Map 027)

Northern Start	Ferry Terminal, Quay Street, Auckland CBD
Southern End	Onehunga Bay Reserve, Beachcroft Ave
Distance	14km
Time	4-5hr
Tramping Standard	Walking track

Route

The hike that defines Auckland (just follow [this link](#) to a printable route map):

Please follow the map and signage in exploring the Auckland Isthmus. You proceed roughly as follows:

- Cross Quay St onto Queen St
- Customs St East
- Emily Place
- Princes St
- Auckland University - www.auckland.ac.nz
- Alfred St
- Grafton Rd
- Auckland Domain
- Auckland War Memorial Museum (adjacent to the route)
- Park Rd
- Mountain Rd
- Clive Rd
- Mt Eden Domain
- Owens Rd
- Cecil Rd
- Epsom Ave
- Through the Auckland College of Education
- St Andrews Rd/Melville Park
- Cross Gillies Ave to Kimberley Rd
- Cross Manukau Rd and park to Puriri Drive
- Cross Greenlane West Rd to Cornwall Park
- Pohutukawa Drive and Olive Grove and up to One Tree Hill summit
- Exit onto Haydn Ave then onto Manukau Rd and south through the Royal Oak roundabout
- Continue on Manukau Rd (this leaves the Coast to Coast Walkway temporarily) and through Jellicoe Park
- Grey St
- Quadrant Rd
- Arthurs St, and down a green corridor
- Onehunga Bay Reserve, across the bridge to Orpheus Drive

The Isthmus

Auckland has long been known as Tamaki Makaurau - the spouse desired by a hundred lovers." All who saw it for its fertile volcanic slopes sheltered fishing sites and access to the greatest waterway in New Zealand, the Waikato River, desired it.

The Coast to Coast walk takes you through landscapes shaped by 600 years of Maori occupation, and through some of our

finest natural and built heritage areas - woodland settings, windswept hills, charming parks and gardens, captivating architectural treasures, and fascinating geological landforms - all offering glimpses of times gone by. You will also experience panoramic views stretching across Auckland city and the region. Most impressive is the vista of Auckland's waterfront playground, the Hauraki Gulf, including the distinctive cone shape of Rangitoto Island.

The Auckland isthmus is New Zealand's narrowest neck of land, never more than nine kilometres from north to south and less than two kilometres east to west. Given the distance, Maori used these as canoe portages, from the Waitemata Harbour and Pacific Ocean on one side, to the Manukau Harbour and Tasman Sea on the other.

Trail viewpoints also show:

To the North - the waters of the Waitemata Harbour, the islands of the Hauraki Gulf and the 600-year-old symmetrically-shaped shield volcano, Rangitoto.

To the Northeast - an old volcanic chain, the Coromandel Range.

To the East - the uplifted greywacke bulk of the Hunua Ranges.

To the South - the more gentle rise of the Bombay Hills, another old volcanic field.

To the West - the remnants of a once-mighty volcanic chain, the Waitakere Range.

To the Southwest - the vast Manukau Harbour.

The Volcanoes

Regarded as still active, Auckland's volcanic field is geologically young, having produced mainly small-sized cones. Its pocket-sized volcanoes first erupted through the underlying isthmus rock over 50,000 years ago.

The Coast to Coast walkway passes five volcanic sites.

Albert Park, now a green shoulder of the Central Business District, is a small, now barely-recognisable volcano. The Domain volcano retains its central scoria cone, called Pukekaroa, and the smooth encircling mound from its initial eruption - the tuff ring. The walkway crosses the scoria cone and exits over the tuff ring to sidle past an adjacent scoria cone at Outhwaite Park.

Many rock walls made from the extracts of the old lava flows shape the trail's approach to Maungawhau (Mt Eden). To see a remnant of the old field and its original forest cover, follow the detour marked on the map. The trail crosses Maungawhau summit, at 196 metres the highest summit in the isthmus. The summit crater is virtually unmodified.

Maungakiekie (One Tree Hill) has three craters, two breached and one intact. The Coast to Coast walkway passes over the 183 metre high summit.

The People

Fertile volcanic slopes, access to sheltered fishing sites, strategic command of land routes, access to sea routes on either coast, and to the greatest inland waterway in New Zealand (Aotearoa), the Waikato River, gave the isthmus its Maori renown. The Maori name, Tamaki Makau Rau - the spouse desired by a hundred lovers - reflects that renown. As they contended for control of the isthmus, the tribes reshaped the volcanic cones into formidable pa sites.

In 1840, New Zealand's first Governor, Captain William Hobson, acquired some 3000 acres of isthmus land from the Ngati Whatua chiefs, a triangle whose base stretched some 12 kilometres along the Waitemata southern shore and whose apex was the summit of Maungawhau (Mt Eden).

Aside from the colonial governors, the best-known early Aucklanders were the Scot, John Logan Campbell. An adventurer and one of the first Auckland settlers, he became the city's most prominent businessman and mayor. He gifted Cornwall Park to the people of Auckland, with the park still run by a trust he helped to establish. As the walkway enters the park, it passes a statue of Campbell. His grave, with the Latin inscription *si monumentum requiris circumspice* - "If you want a memorial, look about you" - is on the summit of Maungakiekie.

Auckland city, including 65 islands in the Hauraki Gulf, covers the largest land area (63,174 hectares) of the region's four cities. It is governed by Auckland City Council, which has within its jurisdiction the largest population of any local authority in the country.

Auckland is ethnically diverse, containing some 181 different ethnic groups, in marked contrast to other parts of the Auckland region and the country as a whole. [Click here for more information about our people in Auckland city.](#)

The Urban Landscape

A warm climate, good rainfall and generous property sizes have encouraged an urban forest of mixed native and exotic trees with gardens at their feet. Street and park planting's date back to the 19th century. The oaks, often grown from acorns from English estates, and the plane trees brought from London reflect the colonial heritage. The distinctive pinnate shape of the Norfolk pines reflects Auckland's sea-route beginnings - brought to early Auckland in tubs and sold by sailors. Many native trees also prevail in the parks.

The city's early merchants built grand verandahed villas in Princes Street, establishing what would become, alongside the later bungalows, a prevailing architectural pattern.

Native birds include the iridescent blue kingfishers (kotare), fantail (piwakawaka), and tui - distinguished by a white throat tuft and a melodious call, and the large wood pigeon (kereru).

Whau trees, whose wood are as light as balsa and were once used by Maori for net floats, still grow on Maungawhau (the hill of

the whau tree). The trail passes a small forest of Totara and Rimu on the old volcano's southern slopes and Cornwall Park's many native trees include an avenue of Puriri, which the trail follows, and a young kauri grove. You will see introduced bird species en route, including the sparrow, blackbird, the thrush and rock pigeons in the parks. Sizeable grassy areas attract the large black and white magpie and the bright green and red rosella, both Australian immigrants.

Other Information

Auckland

DOC Visitor Centre

Shed 19, Princes Wharf - adjacent to "The Crab Shack" and overlooking the ferry terminal. Hut passes, booking advice and plenty of information and advice available.

General information and map

<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/en/parksfacilities/walkingtracks/pages/coasttocoast.aspx>

Places of interest en route

- Auckland University - www.auckland.ac.govt
- Auckland Domain - www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/whatson/places/parks/domain.asp
- Auckland War Memorial Museum - www.aucklandmuseum.com
- One Tree Hill & Cornwall Park - www.cornwallpark.co.nz
- Stardome Observatory - www.stardome.org.nz

Local transport

[Auckland Transport](#) for bus or train information

Accommodation

There is a wide variety of accommodation available throughout this section including:

Te Araroa preferred hostels (in Auckland CBD)

[YHA Auckland International](#), 5 Turner St, Auckland - P: 09 3028200 - E: aucklandinternational@yha.co.nz

[YHA Auckland City](#), 18 Liverpool St, Auckland - P: 09 3092802 - E: aucklandcity@yha.co.nz

[Scotty's Hostel](#) - 202 Onehunga Mall, Onehunga - P: 09 622 3266

Detour to Newmarket Shopping Centre

Includes a range of shops, supermarket, cafes, banks, pharmacies

Detour to Onehunga Shopping Centre

Includes a range of shops, supermarket, cafes, banks, pharmacies

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track Take care crossing roads - use crossings where possible
- Farming operations Take care around livestock in Cornwall Park

Requirements

- Respect private land
- Dogs on leash only in Cornwall Park

Amenities (Start)

- Full range of amenities
- Accommodation YHA Auckland International and YHA Auckland City - see above

Amenities (On Route)

- Full range of amenities