



## Cape Reinga to Ahipara

(Map 001, 002, 003, 004, 005, 006)

<b>Northern Start</b>	Cape Reinga
<b>Southern End</b>	Boat ramp, Kaka St, Ahipara
<b>Distance</b>	100.5km
<b>Time</b>	4 days
<b>Tramping Standard</b>	Tramping track

### Route

There are limited locations where camping is allowed between Cape Reinga and Ahipara - we suggest the following plan:

- Day One - Cape Reinga to Twilight Beach campsite (12km)
- Day Two - Twilight Beach campsite to Maunganui Bluff campsite (28km)
- Day Three - Maunganui Bluff campsite to Hukatere Lodge/Utea Park (30km)
- Day Four - Hukatere/Utea Park to Waipapakauri Holiday Park (17km) or Ahipara (a further 14km)

**Please DO NOT FREE CAMP in the Aupouri Forest that runs alongside 90 Mile Beach, stick to the above locations.**

Generally there is water available in these locations - in extremely dry times the tank at Twilight Beach may run out so unless you are aware of recent rain, it is advisable to carry enough water from Cape Reinga to reach Maunganui Bluff.

*From Cape Reinga, the track heads towards the West Coast, leading you down past steep cliffs and over rocks to the long, sweeping Te Werahi Beach. **Note: You are best to set off at a lowish tide to make the rock scrambling and stream crossing safer & easier. Carry enough water for your first day.***

Beyond Te Werahi Beach, you will experience gorgeous peach-coloured dunes, unusual dune grasses, and views of Cape Maria Van Diemen and Motuopao Island. You follow orange marker posts over Herangi Hill, pass the turnoff to Cape Maria Van Diemen and along cliff tops of flax and manuka scrublands, before dropping down to Twilight Beach. Exit the south end of Twilight Beach on the 4WD track next to the orange marker. Just above the south end of Twilight Beach (12km from Cape Reinga) is a small campsite with toilet, water supply and a covered area - recommend stopping here, then planning to reach Maunganui Bluff (28km away) the following day. Please camp within the grassed area ONLY, not in the pine trees.

The track climbs up and over Scott Point then drops down to Ninety Mile Beach, crossing a swamp via a boardwalk and down a steep set of steps. (While passing over Scott Pt, you will need to watch carefully for a quad motorbike track which veers right off the main 4WD track. The marker may be very difficult to see.)

**Note: If you come to a farm gate and a paddock, you will need to double back about 10 minutes, as you have gone the wrong way.**

Follow Ninety Mile Beach south for approximately an hour until you come to Te Paki Stream mouth. This is a popular vehicle entrance/exit to the beach so be prepared for cars and tourist buses around there and further south. (From the stream mouth, it is 1 hour upstream to the road should you wish to exit the beach here).

From Te Paki Stream, you walk down the beach to Ahipara. Try to time your walking to avoid high tide as in parts the water can come all the way up to the dunes and make for either wet feet or a need to walk in the hilly dunes.

Landmarks you'll pass are The Bluff (40km from Cape Reinga), Hukatere (68km) & Waipapakauri (85km).

Leave the beach at the Kaka St boat ramp and find your way into Ahipara village, a popular holiday and surfing hotspot at the

southern end of Ninety Mile Beach and 14km west of Kaitaia.

## Other Information

### General Information

*Te Araroa's northern terminus in the North Island is at Cape Reinga, which is accessible by road. Kaitaia is the most northern gateway town to Cape Reinga, servicing a population of approx. 5200. An alternative is Kerikeri which has the advantage of being on trail, should you want to leave gear.*

**Tide times are important for coastal routes - W:** [www.niwa.co.nz/our-science/coasts/tools-and-resources/tides](http://www.niwa.co.nz/our-science/coasts/tools-and-resources/tides)

### Cape Reinga

#### General Information

[Far North I-SITE Visitor Information Centre](#) - Te Ahu, Corner Matthews Avenue and South Road, Kaitaia - P: 09 408 9450 - E: [kaitaia@visitnorthland.co.nz](mailto:kaitaia@visitnorthland.co.nz)

[Department of Conservation Information Office](#) - 25 Matthews Ave, Kaitaia - P: 09 408 6014 - E: [kaitaia@doc.govt.nz](mailto:kaitaia@doc.govt.nz)

#### Getting there/away

[InterCity](#) - P: 09 583 5780 - E: [info@intercity.co.nz](mailto:info@intercity.co.nz) - From Auckland - Kerikeri - Kaitaia

[Air New Zealand](#) (Link) - P: 09 357 3000 / 0800 737 000 freephone

#### Transport to Cape Reinga Trailhead

*There is no public transport, however the following operators can assist.*

[Harrisons Cape Runner](#) - P: 09 408 1033 / 0800 227 373 freephone - E: [capetours@xtra.co.nz](mailto:capetours@xtra.co.nz) - Departs 9am daily from Kaitaia

[Sand Safaris](#) - P: 09 408 1778 - E: [info@sandsafaris.co.nz](mailto:info@sandsafaris.co.nz) - 9am daily departures from Kaitaia \$50 per adult

[Naked Bus](#) - P: 0900 62533 Call costs

[Salt Air](#) - P: 09 402 8338 / 0800 472 582 - Charter flights to Cape Reinga

[Tuatua Rentals](#) - P: 0274 858453 - E: [info@tuatua rentals.co.nz](mailto:info@tuatua rentals.co.nz) - Offers transfers from Paihia and Kerikeri (both \$75) or Kaitaia (\$50) - enquire about transfers to/from other parts of the Northland trail.

**Arthur Lancaster** can provide drop-off service to Cape Reinga and/or long-term parking at Paua Bay. P: 09 4097500. Arthur can also advise on commencing the walk at Spirits Bay.

Tuatahi Airport Shuttle - Alex Nankivell - P: 021 08753196

Far North Tours (Johanna Maaka) - P: 09 409 8152 or 0204152878 - E: [farnorthtours@gmail.com](mailto:farnorthtours@gmail.com) - pickup from Kaitaia iSite, can include a shopping stop and/or guided tour on way to Cape Reinga. From \$80pp or \$60pp in groups of two or more.

#### Detour option to accommodation

*Note: 13km by stream & road to Waitiki Landing Park - SH 1 (20 kms south of Cape Reinga)*

[Waitiki Holiday Park](#) - P: 09 409 7508 - E: [manager@waitikiholidaypark.co.nz](mailto:manager@waitikiholidaypark.co.nz) - Camping, cabins & backpackers, restaurants & takeaways, convenience store & internet café, drop off & pick up service for hikers.

### Ninety Mile Beach

#### Accommodation

[Gunnypas B&B](#) - located an additional 22km by road - 5373 Far North Rd, Ngataki - P: 09 4098108 E: [gunnypas@xnet.co.nz](mailto:gunnypas@xnet.co.nz) - Pickup and dropoff service available. Meals also available.

**The Bluff** Maunganui Bluff campground - This is a private camp operated by a local Trust. They are supportive of Te Araroa and happy for walkers to stay here however please be sure to pay a \$10/night fee (carry some cash) into the secure honesty box so the reputation of Te Araroa is maintained, or this privilege will be at risk. Take care using the water and check all taps are off - water gets very low in summer. Look to the stream on the right of the campground (when looking inland from the beach), there is a bathtub there for water resupply - while the water is fresh from a nearby spring, we'd still recommend treating. Please respect that walkers are allowed to camp here with permission, be sure to camp on the grassed area of the campsite and don't go into the pine forest to camp.

#### Hukatere

[Hukatere Lodge & Hukatere Camping Ground](#) - 809 Hukatere Rd, Houhora - P: 09 4098705 or 021 884145 -

E: [info@hukatere.com](mailto:info@hukatere.com) -

Located right on Ninety Mile Beach

[Utea Park](#) - Hukatere Rd, Houhora - P: 021 804002 (Paul) - E: [uteapark@gmail.com](mailto:uteapark@gmail.com) - transport/advice also available.

#### Waipapakauri

With direct access to 90 Mile Beach, communal kitchen, hot showers and flush toilets. Tent sites and 5 4-person cabins. Payment is by koha - recommended \$10pp tent site or \$15pp for a cabin (transportation, food and any other service upon request)

[Ninety Mile Beach Holiday Park](#) - 6 Matai St (off West Coast Rd), Waipapakauri - P: 09 406 7298 or freephone 0800 367 719 - E: [ninetymilebeach@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ninetymilebeach@xtra.co.nz) - Located at Waipapakauri Boat ramp (entry/exit to the beach)

### Ahipara

### Getting there/away

[Busabout Kaitaia](#) - P: 09 408 1092 - E: admin@cbec.co.nz

### Accommodation

[YHA Ahipara](#), 168-170 Takahe St, Ahipara - P: 09 4094864 0800 888988 E: [ahipara@yha.co.nz](mailto:ahipara@yha.co.nz)

[Baylinks Motel](#) - 115 Takahe St, Ahipara - P: 09 409 4694 - E: baylinks@xtra.co.nz

[Ahipara Bay Motel](#) - 22 Reef View Rd - P: 09 409 4888 or 0800 906 453 - E: [baymotel@ahipara.co.nz](mailto:baymotel@ahipara.co.nz)

More can be found at [www.ahipara.co.nz](http://www.ahipara.co.nz)

### Resupply

[Superette Supermarket](#) - 4 Takahe St, Ahipara - P: 09 409 4828

### Kaitaia

#### General Information

[Far North I-SITE Visitor Information Centre](#) - Te Ahu, Corner Matthews Avenue and South Road, Kaitaia - P: 09 408 9450 - E: [kaitaia@visitnorthland.co.nz](mailto:kaitaia@visitnorthland.co.nz)

[Department of Conservation Information Office](#) - 25 Matthews Ave, Kaitaia - P: 09 408 6014 - E: [kaitaia@doc.govt.nz](mailto:kaitaia@doc.govt.nz)

### Getting there/away

[Kaitaia Airport Shuttles](#) - P: 09 408 0116

[InterCity](#) - P: 09 583 5780 - E: [info@intercity.co.nz](mailto:info@intercity.co.nz) - From Auckland - Kerikeri - Kaitaia

[Air New Zealand](#) (Link) - P: 09 357 3000 / 0800 737 000 freephone

### Accommodation

[Main Street Lodge](#) - P: 09 408 1275 - E: [mainstreet@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mainstreet@xtra.co.nz) - 235 Commerce St, Kaitaia

Private rooms, dorm rooms, kitchen, luggage storage, assistance with bookings.

### Resupply

[Pak N' Save Supermarket](#) - 111 North Rd, Kaitaia - P: 09 408 6222

[4 Four Square Supermarket](#) - 65 Commerce St, Kaitaia - P: 09 408 1133

### Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track on Ninety Mile Beach and Kaka St boat ramp
- Tides, waves & rivers - safer at low tide
- Small stream crossings
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Few water sources
- Take care on wet rocks - can be slippery

### Requirements

- No fires

### Amenities (Start)

- Car park
- Toilets

### Amenities (On Route)

- Basic camp site Twilight Beach - 2 DOC self-sufficient camping sites. One at the very northern end, among the rushes with a small stream for water (if not dried up). At the south end, there is a larger and more sheltered campsite behind the dunes just before the orange marker. It is best to bring water to this campsite.



## The Northland Forests

(Map 006, 007, 008, 009, 010, 011)

<b>Northern Start</b>	Boat ramp, Kaka St, Ahipara
<b>Southern End</b>	Puketi Recreation Centre, Waiare Rd
<b>Distance</b>	98km
<b>Time</b>	4-5 days
<b>Tramping Standard</b>	Tramping track

### Route

From the boat ramp on Ninety Mile Beach, head up Kaka St, turn right into Takahe Rd, right into Foreshore Rd, left into Roma Rd, right onto Kaitaia-Awaroa Rd then walk approx. 4.5km (past Pukeko Pa) to the start of the Herekino Forest Track on the left/east side of Herekino Saddle.

### Herekino Forest Track - 15km / 8hr

Walkers should aim to get through Herekino Forest in one day, and to achieve that (in good conditions) look to set out from Ahipara no later than 10am. This would see you exiting herekino Forest approx. 6pm - note, in good conditions.

***Adjacent to the road, there is a cleaning station - please give your boots a thorough clean, removing all mud - this helps prevent the spread of kauri dieback disease.***

The track climbs steeply for the first kilometre through mixed bush with views to Te Oneroa O Tohe - Ninety Mile Beach. At 300 metres the track opens on to low scrub, bracken and orchids. Listen here for the distinctive u-tick calls of fernbirds.

A high ridge allows glimpses northward across the Aupouri Peninsula before a descent to the first large kauri. The track picks up an easy ridgeline then turns at right-angles down to the Rangiheke Stream and its rock pools. The stream is splash-through, but the cable strung side to side will help if the water is high.

***Water: It is recommended when crossing the Rangiheke Stream that you refill your water supplies to get you through to Takahue, as supplies en route may not always be clean.***

The kauri grove, one of the largest groups of big kauri in the north, is about two hours in. The track emerges soon after on to an old forestry road then enters again into forest, passing disused logger huts and ascending Taumatamahoe.

A viewpoint on the way up gives a glimpse of Kaitaia, and the 558 metre summit of Taumatamahoe is the highest point en route. Cellphones work at the top, and are useful to time any pickup. The track's steep, root-crossed descent, joins a farm track - Veza Road - and 100m from the end of the forest track is where you'll find the "Tramp'Inn" accommodation - look out for the sign.

Veza Rd leads to an exit on to Diggers Valley Road. This exit is distant from any settlement, and day walkers will need to have arranged transport back to town.

***At the end of the track, there is another cleaning station - please give your boots a thorough clean, removing all mud, and a squirt of disinfectant - this helps prevent the spread of kauri dieback disease.***

### Takahue Route - 11.5km / 3-4hr

From the Herekino Forest Track exit on Diggers Valley Rd, follow the windy metal road south for approx. 1.2km to where a

gated forestry road leaves Diggers Valley Rd east into forestry land. Follow the forestry tracks (with sporadic orange markers) 3.5km east to Waitohue Rd.

**Take extreme care on the forestry tracks as some forestry activity is still taking place.** As there is some heavy truck traffic on Diggers Valley Rd and in the forestry land, do not wear earphones through this section and wear a hi-viz vest or pack cover. Just before the final hill up to Waitohue Rd, the track crosses a forded stream - this can rise quickly after rain and tends to pool around the ford. When the ford is flooded, it can be a little easier to cross 50-100m upstream. The track uphill can be muddy and slippery after logging traffic - do take care.

**This stream is an ideal spot - for walkers heading in both directions - to give your footwear a clean between the Herekino and Raetea Forests - please take a couple of minutes to do this to help prevent the spread of kauri dieback disease.**

Please do not camp or light fires through this short forestry section.

When at Waitohue Rd, turn left/NE and follow the road into the small settlement of Takahue.

**\*\* Note that there can be a lot of logging traffic on Waitohue Rd, which can be narrow in parts. We advise EXTREME CARE here, wear a hi-viz vest or pack cover and dont listen to headphones while walking this road.**

Turn SE on Takahue Saddle Rd for 2.5km alongside the Takahue River until the junction with Warner Rd.

### **Raetea Forest Track - 18km / 9.5hr**

**\*\*This track has little or no water sources - the stream adjacent to Takahue Saddle Rd is the last reliable water source.**

From the junction with Warner Rd, follow the old Takahue Saddle Rd (just a track now) as it turns away from the River ( **\*\*last chance to fill your water bottles until Mangamuka**) and climbs steeply through farmland for 2km. At the saddle, turn off left/East into the Raetea Forest. It's a rough climb up to the ridge and on to a 580m peak.

The Raetea Forest has some of the highest peaks in Northland, so expect cloud and rain. The bush track follows the ridge line on a largely west-east basis past:

- The 744m Raetea summit
- An unnamed highpoint of 727m (past a junction with a track leading north on a route out to SH1)
- The 638m Kumetewhiwhia summit
- The 445m Umaumakaroro summit

The track then descends through bush and private farmland to Makene Rd, Mangamuka. The exit is into the yard of a house - they are used to walkers and happy to have you pass through - a hello and/or thank-you always goes down well. There are a number of working dogs here whose bark is literally worse than their bite. Walk steadily down the driveway and you'll be fine.

Walk NE to the junction with SH1. From the junction with SH1 & Makene Rd, keep following SH1 for 6.5km. This takes you through Mangamuka settlement and then south to Mangamuka Bridge. Turn east onto Omahuta Road and walk 5km to the junction with Jacksons Road & Omahuta Forest Roads. (This connection 13km / 3hr)

### **Omahuta Puketi Forest Track - 31km / 2 days**

**Omahuta Puketi Forest Track is a challenging, wet route using river canyons - subject to flash floods. You need good equipment and navigation skills. Only go in dry weather.**

**Warning: Some beehives en route, poison and trapping for possums, rats and mustelids occurs within this forest. Goat control operations using contract hunters also occur within this forest.**

**For forest hygiene and visitor safety reasons it is requested that in Omahuta and Puketi Forests camping is restricted to the sites recommended by DOC - those being Apple Dam and Puketi Forest HQ (eastern edge of Puketi Forest). These sites have been identified for camping as they are away from kauri therefore reducing the risk of spreading kauri dieback disease and will be poison exclusion zones for possum control operations. Therefore please plan around using only these two sites.**

From the junction, head east on well-formed single track forestry roads (vehicles are rare). 700m up Omahuta Forest Rd, continue straight ahead onto Kauri Sanctuary Rd.

Keep travelling uphill for approx. another 6km past an airstrip on your left and occasional beehives tucked into the forest (just button up and walk gently past). The next major junction is where Kauri Pa Road runs off left. That's the one to follow.

**Detour to Apple Dam campsite: to camp, turn right into Kauri Sanctuary Road for 500m. A grassy 4WD track runs downhill on the left to a modest but pretty campsite with water tank/stream/dam and a long drop toilet. The kauri sanctuary is further down this same road. To avoid the spread of kauri dieback please do not camp around kauri.**

Back on route, continue along Kauri Pa Road a further 1km, then fork right onto Blackbridge Road (more 4WD track).

Follow along to cross a concrete ford over a stream (NB: if water is flowing over the top of it, do not proceed as this means water levels in the Mangapukahukahu gorge will be too dangerous). Then climb a further 1.5km until at the top of the climb, a 4WD track leads left along a soft ridge leading down to Mangapukahukahu Stream. The track is easy to follow down, past two

old forestry skid sites. At the second/lower one, a track goes through the pampas grass on the right-hand side. It leads to a rough track (with orange markers) down through trees to the Mangapukahukahu Stream.

**The stream is through a gorge and is subject to flash floods in heavy rain. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO GO FURTHER IF THERE IS HEAVY RAIN IN THE REGION.**

As long as the weather is clear, walk SE criss-crossing between shoal banks in the stream for 2.5km until meeting up with the Waipapa River. Just before the junction between Mangapukahukahu and the Waipapa, keep a sharp eye out for a small track that will take you down to a shallower crossing point - immediately south (right) of the junction a track leads up the bank, and descends to a shoal where it is better to cross. It will be deep if you try and cross at the junction!

Take a lot of care and allow plenty of time when walking between the intersection of the Mangapukahukahu Stream and the bottom of the Pukatea Ridge Track, as it can be very slippery particularly after rain.

A short but very muddy climb up the bank meets up with the Lower Waipapa River Track. While parts are very rough, it is well-marked. Walk 2.5km NE to the streamside junction with the Pukatea Ridge Track. (The alternative is to try wading between shoal banks in/out of the Waipapa River but there are some deep sections).

The Pukatea Ridge Track climbs steeply and then on up the ridge through young kauri for 3.5km to meet the Takapau Track.

From the junction of Pukatea Ridge & Takapau Tracks, head NE for 300m to the junction with Walnut Track & Pirau Ridge Road (a well-formed 4WD road). Follow Pirau Ridge Road east for 9 km to the Puketi Forest Headquarters, Waiare Rd. There's a serviced DOC campsite here with toilets and shower, camping fees apply \$8 per person per night. There is also a DOC hut with electricity, a fire and full cooking facilities \$18 per person per night. Take care on Pirau Ridge Rd as vehicles and cyclists also use this road.

**Wet Weather bypass option:** Continue south (from Omahuta Rd turnoff) on SH1 for 22km, turn left into Puketi Rd and walk 9km to Waiare Rd, turn left and walk a further 2.5km to rejoin the Te Araroa route onto the Mangakaretu Track (Puketotara Farm).

**Note:** The Mangakaretu Track has seasonal closures for lambing - if that affects you, continue straight along Puketotara Rd from the Puketi/Waiare Rd intersection.

## Other Information

### The Northland Forests

#### Background Information

Local Maori know the forest as Orowhana, and the saddle as Te Arai, the door, where spirits pause before fleeing north to Cape Reinga. Poupou totems mark the sacred site and the central pou is carved in honour of Taunaha, an ancestor.

The Herekino (Orowhana) Track was a joint project between Te Araroa Trust and the Department of Conservation. Two other DOC tracks diverge from the Herekino Forest track - a tramp from Herekino Saddle through to the Kaitaia-Awaroa Road via Pukepoto Access Road takes 6.5hrs, and the tramp through to Larmer Road end, via the Kaitaia Walkway takes 11 hours. Te Araroa Trust acknowledges the assistance given by the people of Whakamaharatanga Marae, also Te Runanga o Te Rarawa, and the Herekino Landcare Group in establishing the main track.

**Water:** It is recommended when crossing the Rangiheke Stream that you refill your water supplies if required.

### The Northland Forests

#### General information

[Far North I-SITE Visitor Information Centre](#) - Te Ahu, Corner Matthews Avenue and South Road, Kaitaia - P: 09 408 9450 - E: [kaitaia@visitnorthland.co.nz](mailto:kaitaia@visitnorthland.co.nz)

#### Local transport/support

*Some local accommodation places will provide transfers. Ask when you book.*

**Peter Griffiths of Takahue** - Can provide a drop-off and pick up service for a small fee and some backpacker accommodation is available. Contact him in advance on P: 09 408 3685.

#### Local guide

**Roger Gale** - P: 09 409 3807 - E: [roger@treeskills.co.nz](mailto:roger@treeskills.co.nz) - is available for guiding through Herekino and Raetea Forests

#### Accommodation

Tramp'Inn (Alan and Hayley Tubbs) - 1479 Diggers Valley Rd (eastern exit of Herekino Forest) - P: 09 4088851 - E: [bullandchicken@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bullandchicken@xtra.co.nz)

Rustic 13-bunk hut and tentsites (by koha - \$10/night), (cold) shower, drinking water and cooking facilities.

Peter Griffiths of Takahue - P: 09 4083685 - Can provide limited backpacker accommodation.

[DOC Puketi Recreation Centre \(Campsite and Hut\)](#) - Waiare Rd, Puketi Hut booked through DOC - Pewhairangi / Bay of Islands - E: [bayofislandsbooking@doc.govt.nz](mailto:bayofislandsbooking@doc.govt.nz)

## Resupply

**Mangamuka Bridge Dairy** - SH 1 Mangamuka Bridge - P: 09 401 9184 - takeaways available.

Opening hours: Mon-Fri: 7am - 6pm / Sat: 8.30am - 5pm / Sun: 9am - 3pm (these hours may shorten in winter)

It is recommended when crossing the Rangiheke Stream that you refill your water supplies if required.

## Puketi Recreation Area

[DOC Puketi Recreation Area](#) - is located in Puketi Forest, near the [Puketi Forest Hut](#)

Turn off SH10 at Pungaere Rd, 600m north of Waipapa and follow signs to the camp. Access: 7km of gravel. Accessible to vehicles

and you can park next to your campsite.

Location - NZTM2000 coordinates: E1672203, N6103217 / Latitude: -35.25809716, Longitude: 173.75371779

Campsite Fees - Bookings are not required for the campground. Adult (18+ years): \$8 per night, Child (5-17 years): \$3 per night, Infant (0-4 years). FreePay at the self-registration stand at the campsite. Please ensure you have the correct funds to pay your camping fees, there is no change facility on site.

Campsite Facilities:

- Approximately 20 campsites
- Cold showers
- Long drop toilets (there is usually toilet paper available, however it pays to take your own)
- Cold water tap
- Fires are currently not allowed due to the increased fire risks during summer

## Puketi Forest Hut

[Puketi Forest Hut](#) - There are several places that you can access the recreational area from. The recommended entry point is from SH10 approximately 600m north of the Waipapa Township.

Turn left along Pungaere Road past the sign directing you to the Puketi Forest Park. Follow Pungaere Road for approximately 15 km. Take care as part of the road is gravelled. At a T-intersection, turn left, follow the road for about 2 km. The entrance of the recreational area will be on your right.

Puketi Forest Hut Fees - Adult (18+ years): \$18 per night, Youth (11-17 years): \$9 per night, Child/Infant: (0-10 years): free

Bookings are essential. [Book Puketi Forest Hut online](#)

*If using alternative routes, refer to local maps as there is no DOC signage at other possible entry points to the Puketi Forest.*

Puketi Forest Hut Facilities:

- 18 beds (two-tier platform bunks)
- Cold tap water - The water is not treated, you may wish to boil it before drinking
- Electricity
- Gas hob with wok burner
- Underbench fridge (small)
- Indoor fireplace (wood is sometimes available – check the wood store, otherwise take your own)
- 1 cold shower
- 2 non-flush toilets
- Indoor tables
- Mattresses

## Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track Take care walking on roads, particularly SH1
- Poisons & traps
- Forestry operations Take care between Diggers Valley Rd and Waiotehue Rd
- River canyons - flash floods. Use bypass in times of heavy rain
- River crossings - Never cross flooded rivers
- Small stream crossings
- Weather extremes
- Few water sources - carry plenty of water, refill whenever you can.
- Bush track can get muddy and slippery - take care.

## Requirements

- Wear hi-viz clothing/pack cover and don't use headphones

## Amenities (Start)

- Car park
- Toilets
- Shop
- Accommodation YHA Ahipara

## Amenities (On Route)

- Shop Mangamuka
- Basic camp site Apple Dam





## Mangakaretu to Kerikeri

(Map 011, 012)

<b>Northern Start</b>	Puketi Recreation Centre, Waiare Road
<b>Southern End</b>	Stone Store, Kerikeri Basin
<b>Distance</b>	24km
<b>Time</b>	8hr
<b>Tramping Standard</b>	Easy tramping track

### Route

#### **Mangakaretu Track - 20km / 6hr**

*From the Puketi Recreation Centre, walk south down Waiare Road for 3km. Cross the stile, into Landcorp's Puketotara Farm.*

***Follow the markers and stiles and watch out for the farm animals. Note: move gently, never put animals in a corner or separate mother and offspring; when going through a herd of heifers or steers, be steadfast but wary as they are excitable.***

This 3km marked route crosses rolling pasture to Mangakaretu Road. Follow this gravel road 5km in a NE direction before re-entering the farm at a marked stile. Follow the markers/stiles NE before turning S to sidle around Maungaparerua (241m), with its wide outlook across the Bay of Islands. The route then traverses some soft ridge paddocks in a SE direction before turning sharply E and dropping steeply down towards Maungaparerua Stream. At the bottom of the hill a stile leads over the fence into scrub and a short track winds down to the Maungaparerua Stream. Follow the stream NE for 1.5km to its junction with the Kerikeri River. Continue on to cross the river on a swingbridge and follow the track under the SH10 bridge. After coming under the bridge, come up from the riverside into the parking bay/picnic area adjacent to SH10.

#### **Kerikeri River Track - 6.5km / 2hr**

Use the stile from the picnic area on SH10 and follow the Te Araroa and orange track markers around a private residence before coming back alongside the Kerikeri River. There can be from time to time single-wire electric fences along this stretch - generally easy to get across or under, however do take care to avoid getting a shock. There's an electrified gate to go through, easily done using the plastic insulated handle - leave it as you find it.

Continue following orange markers through pleasant totara groves alongside the river for 3km until joining with DOC's Kerikeri Walkway near Rainbow Falls Rd. There one can view the 27m high Rainbow Falls that tumble over the basalt lava fields which flowed into the river valley after long past volcanic eruptions.

From then on, the track is a well-developed and marked bush track. It passes through stands of young kauri & totara. It also passes the remains of a powerhouse built as part of a hydro-electric generation scheme which operated between 1930-67.

Follow this track all the way to the picnic area/carpark area on Landing Road, then cross the footbridge over the river to New Zealand's oldest house, Kemp House (1821-22) and the world renowned Stone Store (1832-36) on the Kerikeri Basin.

### Other Information

#### **Mangakaretu Track**

#### **Seasonal closures**

Check the status of this track as it crosses farmland, it is regularly closed for:

- Lambing (April 29 - September 14)
- The last weekend in February
- Occasional summer closures for clay mining

**Alternative Bypass route: Puketotara connection**

- From the Puketi Recreation Centre, follow Waiare Rd south for 4.5kms
- Turn east onto Puketotara Rd for 13.5kms to SH 10.
- Turn north on SH 10 for 600m. On the eastern side of the road, just over the bridge and on the north banks of the Kerikeri River is the picnic layover (no facilities).

## **Kerikeri**

### **Background Information**

The Kerikeri Basin is where Maori welcomed missionaries in 1819 to establish a Church Mission Settlement. This established the framework for New Zealand's bi-cultural society. Kerikeri is both a beautiful place in the Bay of Islands, and one of New Zealand's most historic sites.

### **General information**

More information about Kerikeri please refer to: W: [www.Kerikeri.co.nz](http://www.Kerikeri.co.nz)

[Paihia I-Site Information Centre](http://Paihia I-Site Information Centre): The Wharf 69 Marsden Road, Paihia - P: 09 402 7345 - E: [bayofislands@i-SITE.org](mailto:bayofislands@i-SITE.org)  
[DOC - Department of Conservation](http://DOC - Department of Conservation) - Bay of Islands area office - 34 Landing Rd, Bay of Islands - P: 09 407 0300 - E: [bayofislandsbooking@doc.govt.nz](mailto:bayofislandsbooking@doc.govt.nz)

### **Getting there/away**

[Air New Zealand](http://Air New Zealand) Link - from Auckland airport - P: 0800 737 000 or 09 357 3000 - [www.airnewzealand.co.nz](http://www.airnewzealand.co.nz)

[Salt Air](http://Salt Air) - P: 0800 472 582 or 09 402 8338 - E: [info@saltair.co.nz](mailto:info@saltair.co.nz) - from Kerikeri or Paihia

[Bay Of Islands Airport](http://Bay Of Islands Airport) - for flight and shuttle transport info.

[InterCity](http://InterCity) - P: 09 583 5780 - E: [info@intercity.co.nz](mailto:info@intercity.co.nz) - From Auckland - Kerikeri - Kaitaia

[Naked Bus](http://Naked Bus) - P: 0900 62533 Calls costs

[Kerikeri Taxis, shuttles and Tours](http://Kerikeri Taxis, shuttles and Tours) - P: 09 407 9515 or 021 407 951 - E: [info@kerikeritaxis.co.nz](mailto:info@kerikeritaxis.co.nz)

### **Accommodation**

[Kerikeri Top Ten Holiday Park & Aranga Backpackers](http://Kerikeri Top Ten Holiday Park & Aranga Backpackers) - 23 Aranga Rd, Kerikeri - P: 09 407 9326 or 0800 272 642

[Hone Heke Backpackers](http://Hone Heke Backpackers) - 65 Hone Heke Rd, Kerikeri - P: 0800 407817, 09 407 8170 E: [stay@honeheke.co.nz](mailto:stay@honeheke.co.nz)

[Pagoda Lodge & Luxury Camping](http://Pagoda Lodge & Luxury Camping) - right on the Trail, just after the Stone Store, Kerikeri - P: 09 407 8617

### **Resupply**

[New World Supermarket](http://New World Supermarket) - 99 Kerikeri Rd, Kerikeri - P: 09 407 0200

[Countdown Supermarket](http://Countdown Supermarket) - 1 Fairway Drive. Kerikeri - P: 09 407 6163

### **Local Transport / Assistance**

Derek Miller lives in Haruru Falls and is happy to provide assistance to TA walkers - transport etc - anywhere between Puketi and Russell Forests

Derek [spikebowler@hotmail.com](mailto:spikebowler@hotmail.com) 0212 544 919 or 09 4027717

### **Potential Hazards**

- Vehicles on road or track
- Farming operations
- Small stream crossings
- Open drains
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Occasional washouts next to rivers/streams - take care

### **Requirements**

- Keep to the track
- No litter
- No dogs
- No camping
- No fires

### **Amenities (Start)**

- Car park
- Picnic area
- Toilets
- Standard Campsite
- Accommodation Doc cabins & Puketi Hut. Book on +9 407-0300

### **Amenities (On Route)**

- No amenities
- Carpark on SH10 adjacent to Kerikeri River



## Kerikeri to Waitangi

(Map 012, 013)

<b>Northern Start</b>	Stone Store, Kerikeri
<b>Southern End</b>	Waitangi Bridge, Paihia
<b>Distance</b>	21km
<b>Time</b>	4-5hr
<b>Tramping Standard</b>	Easy tramping track

### Route

*From the historic Kemp House & Stone Store on Kerikeri Basin, leave Kerikeri Rd & follow the Kororipo Pa Track which curves around the headland to the SE. Once on the headland, follow the wide pasture track SW until a DOC marker post identifies a track heading SE down into a gully and over a pedestrian bridge to Pa Rd. Walk SE up Pa Rd & turn NE into Kerikeri Inlet Rd. Continue on for 2km to a forest gate & the northern end of Te Wairoa Rd - the start of the Waitangi Forest Track. This route is a mix of footpath, grass, easy walking track & road berm.*

### Waitangi Forest Track - 14.5km / 3hr

As it leaves Kerikeri Inlet Road the trail ascends gradually through young pines for 2.6km to a road junction. At this junction head W, leaving Te Wairoa Rd and onto Skyline Rd.

Skyline Rd twists and turns for 8.7km through the forest - keep a close eye on navigation, or use a GPS - to connect to Te Puke Rd.

*At this point, anyone with an interest in Te Araroa history may want to make a quick detour by turning NW up Te Puke Rd and a short way up you can see a plaque and the Te Araroa cairn, assembled from local volcanic rock by Kerikeri sculptor Chris Booth and restored in 2014, which marks the opening of this route - the very first Te Araroa track!*

Turn SE onto Te Puke Rd and continue on 1km to pass Mt Bledisloe (105m) before turning East onto Haruru Falls Rd, leaving the forest behind you emerge onto Tau Henare Drive, Waitangi. Follow the road through the Waitangi Golf Course past the Waitangi Treaty grounds and continue down to the Waitangi Bridge.

### Other Information

#### Kerikeri

#### **Background Information**

*Kororipo Pa served as a coastal village, a fortified base for war parties and a trading post*

#### **Accommodation**

[Pagoda Lodge & Camping Ground](#) - 81 Pa Rd, Kerikeri - P: 09 407 8617 or M: 021 071 8688 - E: info@pagoda.co.nz

### Local transport / Assistance

Derek Miller lives in Haruru Falls and is happy to provide assistance to TA walkers - transport etc anywhere between Puketi and Russell Forests

Derek - [spikebowler@hotmail.com](mailto:spikebowler@hotmail.com) 0212 544 919 or 09 402 7717

### Waitangi

Original Te Araroa brochure available from [www.teararoa.org.nz/userfiles/file/brochure/waitangi3.pdf](http://www.teararoa.org.nz/userfiles/file/brochure/waitangi3.pdf)

### Background information

*Te Araroa's first-ever track-opening plaque February 7<sup>th</sup> 1995. Then-Prime Minister, Jim Bolger whisked a yellow tarpaulin off a local volcanic stone embedded with lines from A. R.D. Fairburn's poem 'To a Friend in the Wilderness'—*

*I could be happy, in blue and fortunate weather,  
Roaming the country between you and the sun*

*South of here, the trail follows the same route as the path that once connected the now-vanished Maori village Okura with Waitangi. It passes Mt Bledisloe (105m) and a short diversion to the summit lookout is worthwhile. The large swathe of land on view from this low summit, includes the Waitangi Treaty Grounds below. The track descends past Mt Bledisloe before turning east (left) onto Haruru Falls Rd then Tau Henare Drive and past the Waitangi Golf Course, to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds.*

### Waitangi Treaty Grounds

Open daily from 9am -6pm (January and February) and (9am - 5pm) during the rest of the year.

Daily guided tours and Maori Cultural performances are available.

*On February 6<sup>th</sup> 1840, New Zealand's founding document was signed here between Lieutenant-Governor Hobson, representing of the British Crown and Maori chiefs. The manicured lawns and the solemn kaitiakitanga that surround the place indicate the importance now placed on the treaty. The Treaty Grounds (including the colonial Treaty House) and 1000 acres of land were gifted to the nation in 1932 by the former Governor General, Lord Charles Bledisloe. As a British aristocrat, he perhaps saw more clearly than Pakeha New Zealanders then did what the Treaty of Waitangi meant to Maori, and the nation. Te Whare Runanga (carved meeting house) was opened on the 6 February 1940, 100 years after the signing. It stands facing the Treaty House, the two buildings together symbolising the partnership agreed between Maori and the British Crown, on which today's Aotearoa New Zealand is founded.*

*Whare Waka Café is located within the Treaty Grounds. Hangi & Concert evenings are scheduled from 1 December to the end of March on Tuesday and Thursday evening.*

### General Information

- There are many side roads in this forest so take care you are on the correct road.
- The track passes through the Waitangi Endowment Forest - part of New Zealand's conservation estate, a further gift to the nation by Lord Bledisloe, in 1936.
- The Waitangi Treaty Grounds, are open daily from 9am - 6pm (January and February) and 9am - 5pm during the rest of the year. Daily guided tours and Maori cultural performances are available.

### Local transport / Assistance

Derek Miller and Michael Champtaloup both live in Haruru Falls and are happy to provide assistance to TA walkers - transport etc anywhere between Puketi and Russell Forests

Derek - [spikebowler@hotmail.com](mailto:spikebowler@hotmail.com) 0212 544 919 or 09 402 7717

Michael - [michael.champtaloup@gmail.com](mailto:michael.champtaloup@gmail.com) 0276 921 465

### Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track
- Forestry operations
- Bikes and horses

### Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Leave gates as you find them
- No dogs
- No vehicles

### Amenities (Start)

- Full range of amenities in Kerikeri



## Paihia to Opua Coastal Walkway

(Map 013)

<b>Northern Start</b>	Waitangi Bridge, Paihia
<b>Southern End</b>	Opua Wharf, Opua, Bay of Islands
<b>Distance</b>	8km
<b>Time</b>	2hr
<b>Tramping Standard</b>	Mixed grade

### Route

From the Waitangi Bridge, follow the coastal Marsden Rd via beach or footpath south through Paihia township.

At the southern end of Paihia Beach (i.e. junction of Marsden & Seaview Rds by toilets/carpark), you have 2 options:

1. When the tide is out, follow the coastline from Paihia Beach around to Haumi Bay.
2. If the tide is in, take the footpath south on Seaview Rd to Haumi Bay.

From the southern end of Haumi Bay, follow the signed track beside/under the bridge and around the coast to the east until you reach Opua.

The track provides wonderful views of the Veronica Channel.

(Note: if planning to kayak to Waikare - see next section - it is easier to launch from the Paihia beach, details in Waikare Connection information)

### Other Information

Available are a full range of amenities (population 1770)

### Paihia

#### General / Visitor Information

[i-SITE Visitor Information Centres](#) - The Wharf, Marsden Rd, Paihia - P: 09 402 7345 or 0800 363 463 -

E: [paihia@visitnorthland.co.nz](mailto:paihia@visitnorthland.co.nz) -For further information on Paihia and Russell log onto: W: [www.paihianz.co.nz](http://www.paihianz.co.nz) and

W: [www.russellnz.co.nz](http://www.russellnz.co.nz)

#### Local transport / Assistance - Between Puketi and Russell Forests

Derek Miller lives in Haruru Falls and is happy to provide assistance to TA walkers - transport etc - anywhere between Puketi and Russell Forests.

Derek [spikebowler@hotmail.com](mailto:spikebowler@hotmail.com) 0212 544 919 or 09 4027717

#### Getting there/away

[Air New Zealand](#) or See Kerikeri

[InterCity](#) - From Auckland - Kerikeri - P: 09 583 5780 - E: [info@intercity.co.nz](mailto:info@intercity.co.nz)

[Northliner Express Coach Service](#) - P: 09 307 5873

[Naked Bus](#) - P: 0900 62533 Calls costs

[Kerikeri Taxis, shuttles and Tours](#) - P: 09 407 9515 or 021 407 951- E: [info@kerikeritaxis.co.nz](mailto:info@kerikeritaxis.co.nz)

[Passenger Ferry](#): For Paihia - Russell. Departs on demand every 20 minutes from 8.30am until late.

Last ferry 1 September to 30 October 7.30pm, 1 June to 31 August 5.30pm. Tickets are purchased on board. Waitangi drop-off subject to conditions

### Accommodation

There are many options available, however options include:

[YHA Bay of Islands \(Paihia\)](#), Corner of Kings & MacMurray Rds, Paihia - P: 09 402 7487 E: [bayofislands.paihia@yha.co.nz](mailto:bayofislands.paihia@yha.co.nz)

[Waitangi Holiday Park & Mayfair Lodge backpackers](#) - 1 Tahuna Rd, Waitangi - P: 0800 55 6660 or 09 402 786 -

E: [waitangiholidaypark@xtra.co.nz](mailto:waitangiholidaypark@xtra.co.nz)

[The Pickled Parrot](#) - Greys Lane, Paihia - P: 09 402 6222 - E: [thepickledparrotnz@gmail.com](mailto:thepickledparrotnz@gmail.com)

\$15pp camping (incl continental breakfast), 10% discount on dorm/private rooms when you are a Te Araroa walker.

[Centabay Lodge](#) - 27 Selwyn Rd, Paihia - P: 0800 402746 - E: [centabay@xtra.co.nz](mailto:centabay@xtra.co.nz)

### Accommodation en route

[Beachside Holiday Park](#) - 1290 SH 11, Paihia - P: 09 402 7678 Freecall 0800 55 6660 - E: [info@beachsideholiday.co.nz](mailto:info@beachsideholiday.co.nz)

[Opua Motel](#) - 24 Franklin St, Opua - P: 09 402 7632 - E: [opua.motel@xtra.co.nz](mailto:opua.motel@xtra.co.nz)

### Resupply

[Countdown Supermarket](#) - 9 Blackbridge Rd, Paihia

[4 Four Square Supermarket](#) - 41 Williams Rd, Paihia

[Opua General Store](#) - next to Russell Ferry Ramp - P: 09 402 7575 - E: [opuastore@paradise.net.nz](mailto:opuastore@paradise.net.nz)

### Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track
- Take care around water, slippery rocks.

### Amenities (Start)

- Car park
- Picnic area
- Toilets
- Shop Cafe at Waitangi Visitor Centre

### Amenities (On Route)

- Full range of amenities in Paihia
- Accommodation YHA Bay of Islands, Paihia - see above



## Waikare Connection

(Map 013, 014)

<b>Northern Start</b>	Opua Wharf, Opua, Bay of Islands
<b>Southern End</b>	Waikare
<b>Distance</b>	13km (water) 21.5km (road)
<b>Time</b>	Variable
<b>Tramping Standard</b>	Mixed grade

### Route

#### Waikare Connection

*Two options exist to negotiate the Waikare Inlet through to the start of the Russell Forest Track - by water or by road. There is also the option to ferry to Russell (from Paihia, and a chance to explore some of New Zealand's history in Russell) or Okiato (from Opua) and connect with Sheryl Wikaere and travel with her to Waikare - there will be a cost involved and this is unsuitable for bigger groups.*

#### **Water**

Kayak up the inlet with [Bay Beach Hire](#) (click for info poster), phone 0800 611440 or 021 1894204. This company is based on the beach at Paihia, and if you're going to kayak up to Waikare, Paihia is a better start point than Opua. It's better to travel in a group or two or three, which will reduce costs. The paddle from Paihia to Waikare takes between 3-4hr depending on weather conditions and fitness levels, and should only be done by persons with some experience. Cellphone reception is zero once past Marriott Island so GPS or good map skills are needed.

Pricing - 2 persons \$100pp, 3 persons \$90pp, 4 persons \$80pp, 5 persons \$75pp, 6 persons or more \$70pp.

Includes kayak hire, pack transport to Waikare, kayak pickup, dry bags, maps, full safety equipment.

Further details at [www.baybeachhire.co.nz](http://www.baybeachhire.co.nz)

#### **Road**

From Opua, take the vehicular ferry over the Veronica Channel to Okiato. From there, follow Aucks Rd for 4.5km to its junction to the Russell-Whakapara Rd. Turn right and follow that road for 10km before turning right onto Waikare Rd. A further 7km brings you to Waikare landing, and Waikare Valley Rd directly opposite.

If you want a more relaxing route between exiting the ferry and joining with the Russell-Whakapara Rd, then turn left into Pipiroa Rd soon after leaving the ferry and link to the "Okiato to Russell Walkway". This goes through wetland, bush, and around cliffs to rejoin Aucks Rd just before its junction with the Russell-Whakapara Rd. It is several kilometres longer than walking directly through to the Russell-Whakapara Rd on Aucks Rd, but does take you off-road and is a good coastal meander if you have time.

#### Waikare

For information re Waikare amenities, contact Sheryl Wikaere on P: 027 3093476 E: [peter1.sheryl@gmail.com](mailto:peter1.sheryl@gmail.com)

Sheryl can occasionally supply transport from Russell to Waikare (outside work hours), contact her to discuss timing and cost. Sheryl also has tenting available for walkers at Waikare (koha/donation please) - call Sheryl, or information at the Russell GAS station.

Sheryl's place is 1km from the Russell Forest at 228D Waikare Valley Rd, just phone or text to arrange.

Note that Sheryl's place is "off the grid" - composting toilet available on request and kauri dieback cleaning facilities available, please make use of these!

For information regarding Waikare amenities contact Sheryl Wikaire

### Other Information

#### Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track If kayaking, be alert for other water users
- Poisons & traps
- Small stream crossings
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold

#### Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Respect private land
- No litter
- No dogs Or allowed on a lead (Kiwi Zone)

#### Amenities (Start)

- Accommodation Opuia Seaview Motel 09 402 7632

#### Amenities (On Route)

- Accommodation Orongo Bay Holiday Park, Russell 09 403 7704. Wairoa Park, near Russell 09 403 7255.





## Russell Forest to Whangarei Heads

(Map 014, 015, 016, 017, 018)

<b>Northern Start</b>	Waikare
<b>Southern End</b>	Jetty at McLeod Bay (southern end), Whangarei Heads
<b>Distance</b>	137km
<b>Time</b>	6 days
<b>Tramping Standard</b>	Tramping track

### Route

**SOME PARTS OF RUSSELL FOREST HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY KAURI DIEBACK DISEASE - PLEASE TAKE CARE AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS TO WASH BOOTS ON WAY IN AND WAY OUT OF FOREST.  
A RAHUI (*traditional Maori precautionary closure*) HAS BEEN APPLIED AT THE PUNARUKU ROAD END OF THE TRACK AND THE ENTRY/EXIT POINT FOR THE TIME BEING IS VIA PAKAKAURI ROAD.**

This is a really enjoyable section where - if you're lucky - you'll meet some of the finest Trail Angels Te Araroa has to offer!

### **Russell Forest Track - 18km / 8hr**

From the Waikare landing, Waikare Valley Road past the Waikare School, urupa (cemetery) and farms 3km to a roadbridge across the Waikare River. It then begins to narrow, and after a further kilometre you must ford the Waikare River. On a good day this is no more than ankle deep, and you can cross adjacent to the twisted remains of a concrete power pole laid on the river bed. It's a good opportunity to wash your boots and equipment on your way in and out of the forest - Russell Forest has confirmed cases of kauri dieback. After rain, it can be dangerous.

The track ahead runs parallel to the Papakauri Stream. This track is a Maori road, a surveyed access into Maori land blocks where the public does not have access by right. It was made part of Te Araroa after a series of meetings at Waikare Marae with the landowners. Please treat it with respect. After 1.5km the track tails out, and for the next 4km you're walking up the stream. This 4km across shoals and boulders will take longer than you anticipate, and you shouldn't attempt the route after or during heavy rain. If conditions are right though, it's a beautiful walk.

Where the stream finally intersects the Russell Forest Walkway, follow signage left (east) out to Papakauri Road/Russell Rd.

*Turn right to head south on Russell Rd. From the junction of Punaruku Road & Russell Rd, continue south passing the Oakura turnoff (2.7km) and the small settlement of Mokau (4km) until reaching the junction of Russell Rd & Webb Rd, Helena Bay. From the junction of Russell & Webb Rd, follow Webb Rd 1km to the start of the Helena Ridge Track.*

### **Helena Ridge Track - 9km / 4hr**

From Webb Rd, climb the stile under the "High Chapparal" sign and make use of the cleaning station to ensure no dirt/mud on your footwear.

We follow an old farm track that sidles around steep pasture where manuka trees are re-generating. Through a small bush before the benched track ends and we begin to climb a steep hill to meet a ridgeline that undulates through regenerating bush. While there is the occasional short scramble, the track is well formed and easy (though uphill most of the way) walking. We come through here with agreement from a number of landowners so please respect this and do not make camp anywhere on this track.

At the highest point, the track turns east, alternating between pasture, farm track and native bush. Here you can enjoy

glimpses of the magnificent canopy of large native trees below and the coast in the distance. When on farm track you may encounter some closed gates, often stretchy electrified wires - carefully use the plastic handles to open and leave gates open or closed as you found them.

At the very top there is another cleaning station and please use this to again carefully remove mud from your footwear. The last kilometre is an easy gravel farm track bringing you to Kaiikanui Rd - turn left (E) here and walk 1km to the start of the Morepork-Onekainga Track.

### **Morepork-Onekainga Track - 13km / 4-5hr**

From Kaiikanui Rd, enter DOC's Kaiikanui Forest and 200m in, make use of the cleaning station to ensure no dirt/mud on your footwear. Follow a well-benched track for about 4km, past Hansens Hill (where the bench turns sharply NE).

Be aware that around this 4km mark, the track moves off into the bush to the right off the bench. At this junction, there are few large trees for markers so it can be missed. The route follows markers through trees to meet up with the Forest's NE boundary fence. It follows the fenceline much of the way down into a gully before a steep climb up to a cleared and grassy high point (218m) with spectacular views out to the coast and the Poor Knight Islands. You are now on private land belonging to the Waetford whanau, so please respect the privilege.

Continue on old bush tracks in a SE direction down ridgelines to some pretty little streams before climbing steeply all the way up again (174m down then up). At the top, you climb stiles onto well-formed farm tracks. After 500m, turn left off the farm track and cross 200m through a small pine plantation (there are no markers allowed on these pines so navigate carefully) to a boundary fence just west of the Onekainga Trig (227m) and more views. Stay on the track and follow the fenceline past the pine and then down the ridgeline in native bush for 1.5km. By now you have left the Waetford block, and are in the Harman's farm and just as you leave the bush, have lovely views over the inner Whananaki estuary. There is another cleaning station here and again, please remove all mud from your footwear before continuing.

For the last 800m, you begin following the markers down the fenceline and then cross a pasture (look for the lone tree) then down the other fenceline and along a small creek. There may be magnificent Charolais bulls grazing. If so, walk slowly and quietly, waiting for them to move if need be. At the southern end of the property, over the stile, you emerge onto Whananaki North Rd.

***Please note: Private farm land and Kiwi and Pateke nesting area; Open daylight hours only; NO dogs, horses, bikes, guns, fires or camping. Electric fences.***

*Walk 800m SE along Whananaki North Rd. Look for the track sign in bush on the south side. The track leaves the road and circles around a paddock fenceline to reach a stop bank on the side of the Whananaki Estuary. From there, the track follows along the Estuary to the Whananaki Footbridge, entrance to the Whananaki Holiday Park and the Village.*

### **Whananaki Coastal Track - 7km / 2.5hr**

From Whananaki North village, there's a track next to the school which leads to the footbridge. Once across, head east along the estuary (if the tide is high, there is a 1km detour by road around the back of the settlement) around the small settlement and over the spit before heading south on Pukekawa Rd parallel to the shore.

There is a possible diversion via a short, steeper track to the Capitaine Bougainville Memorial on the north point of Oruaea Bay. Great views from here along the coast.

Please note that there is limited beach access from the track – i.e. only at Sheltered Bay.

Beyond Pitokuku Point, a grassy track goes behind private baches and over a stile to join up with a well-graded pohutukawa-lined farm track/driveway with excellent views of the coast and the Poor Knight Islands. Continue on the driveway until reaching the gate at McAuslin Rd.

*Leaving the gate at the north end of McAuslin Rd, head south down the road and turn east onto Matapouri Road. Follow the road (looking out for traffic) past Sandy Bay and Woolleys Bay, enjoying the beautiful beaches as you go. Just before Matapouri Bay, the road climbs over a small hill and you pass DOC's walkway to Whale Bay, which adds a spectacular 1km to your walk for those wanting a small diversion. On coming down the road into Matapouri, take Clements Rd to the west and follow it for 2 km. Near the end, there are several letterboxes on the NW side of the road. On the south side of the road, you'll see a stile by a gate. Just through the gate is the information sign for the next track.*

### **Matapouri Bush Track - 7km / 2.5-3.5hr**

From the Clements Rd stile, the track follows a pasture driveway where horses may be grazing. From here, the track climbs through delightful private pasture lands, a small block of recently harvested pine forest and regenerating bush where significant efforts are being made to preserve kiwis and remove their predators.

It then enters Matariki Forest's harvested pine and eucalyptus plantation where you can currently enjoy occasional views of the Coast.

You then follow the orange markers SE down a forest road (unsigned Seaview Track) for approx 1km, before turning west into another forest road (unsigned Oyster Track). This forest road dissects a DOC native bush reserve and passes Tane Moana, a breath-taking giant kauri tree, before coming back into forest lands on a high point with great views up and down the valley

(now that the pines have been cut).

At a skid site, the road merges into a narrower, metalled track that descends through newly harvested & replanted forest land.

Leaving the forestry lands at a stile, the last 200m of the track crosses pasture to another stile. After short walk through bush, you emerge onto Waiotoi Rd, above Ngunguru. Follow this downhill to the village.

### **Ngunguru**

From Waiotoi Rd, turn right/SW onto Ngunguru Rd. Just 200m down this road is the Ngunguru Village shops. If you need food supplies, now is a good time to get them as the next shops on the trail are 2-3 days walk away.

The Ngunguru River Boat Crossing is another 1km walk past the shops SW along Ngunguru Rd.

Take the first left into Papaka Rd and walk 80m to the edge of the estuary.

It is essential to ring or txt James Johnston 24 hrs prior to your boat ride on 021 0242 1632.

James will do his best to pick you up at a time that suits you - text ahead to ask.

The boat arrives at [Nikau Bay Camp and Cabins](#). Here you have the option of staying the night either tenting or in a cabin. Hot showers and kitchen facilities are also available, all at discounted rates to Te Araroa walkers.

From Nikau Bay walk W for 8km along the scenic Ngunguru Ford Rd to connect to the Mackerel Track - which begins to the S just where the gravel road becomes sealed.

*Should you not wish to take this route via Nikau Bay, please see the road walk alternative.*

### **Mackerel Forest Track - 4km / 1.5hr**

The track passes through private forest and may be subject to occasional closures due to forestry operations.

Open daylight hours only.

**NO dogs, guns, vehicles, camping or fires.**

**Note: Two river crossings - never cross flooded rivers.**

From the forestry gate, the track follows Mackerel Rd (a forest road) largely downhill through a pine forest. At the bottom of the hill, it crosses the Waitangi River which is usually knee/thigh depth. From there, the track follows the river bank through a recently harvested area of the forest.

It then turns South to meet and cross the Taheke River – at the shallower ford between the deeper pools - and clambers up the southern bank. The track continues on the true right river bank until meeting an old logging track that climbs steeply up and around a pine-covered hill before dropping down to a logging gate on Pataua North Road.

*From Mackerel Forest Track logging gate, follow Pataua North Road 13km to the Pataua North settlement.*

**\*\*Please note** that once you near the coast, it is private land between the road and the beach so unfortunately walking the beach is not an option here - please stick to the road.

### **Taiharuru Estuary Route - 7km / 2hr**

From the Pataua River footbridge, walk south on the main road out of Pataua. After 1½km, look for a Council Reserve, on the left where Pataua South Rd runs along the Taiharuru Estuary.

**Tide information: Check the best times for walking on [www.niwa.co.nz/our-services/online-services/tides](http://www.niwa.co.nz/our-services/online-services/tides) (use Marsden Point information)**

Walk through reserve, then be very careful entering the estuary as there can be deep mud. Head straight SE to the rocky point (Pukemanu). On rounding that follow the two white markers out on the sand bank. After rounding the next point stay right out in the water well away from the mangroves.

*Alternatively - to enjoy some Northland hospitality - just after the point a wide gap in the mangroves leads past electric fencing to an unfenced grass area. Through the gate is Beasley Road. Turn left onto the gravel road, and Tidesong B&B is 400m ahead.*

*Drinks, meals, a rest, campsite, beds available, and a boat crossing to keep feet dry.*

*[www.tidesong.co.nz](http://www.tidesong.co.nz) or ph 09 4361959 . Happy to accept Koha (donation).*

If you are not heading to Tidesong and are ready to cross, stay well out beyond the mangroves and head for the furthest white pole ahead (orange marker) marking the shallowest crossing place.

Look for the prominent bare clay bank, south side, (orange marker), and walk up to cross the stile on top. Follow the SE fenceline over pasture, then along a driveway to Taiharuru Road (opposite #406).

### **Note**

This accessway is public land. Please ensure at all times that you do not enter private property

Turn SW down Taiharuru Rd for 500m to Harambee Rd. 1km up this road is the small parking area.

### **Kauri Mountain Track - 3km / 1.5hr**

The track starts by winding up a long driveway, past private homes. (Use the stiles provided and leave gates as you find them as sheep sometimes graze the driveway). The coastal views north are spectacular.

Near the top of the driveway, follow orange markers to climb over a stile & up through pasture, then regenerating bush to the trig (where the view is blocked by bush). From there, follow the orange-marked bush track down the southern side to Kauri Mountain Rd.

**Tide information:** Check the best times for walking on [www.niwa.co.nz/our-services/online-services/tides](http://www.niwa.co.nz/our-services/online-services/tides).

### **Ocean Beach Walk - 9km / 3hr**

**Wildlife Sanctuary - avoid dune nesting sites - NO dogs allowed.**

From the carpark, walk 2km SE down this gravel Kauri Mountain Rd to a farm gate (look for TA logo, orange marker). Enter the paddock here, leaving this gate as you find it, and follow the farm track across a paddock heading straight towards Ocean Beach. A few clay steps cut into the bank take you down to the beach.

When you're first on the beach there is a stream/occasional estuary that changes shape a lot - do check it before attempting to cross and on some occasions, if the tide is high you're best to wait for the tide to drop a little.

Head south down the beach running parallel with DOC's Ocean Beach Recreation Reserve.

Near the southern end of the beach, a sand track leads up to a carpark, toilet and Ocean Beach Rd. Note a freedom camping bylaw is in place that prohibits camping in this carpark.

**Tide information:** Check the best times for walking on [www.niwa.co.nz/our-services/online-services/tides](http://www.niwa.co.nz/our-services/online-services/tides).

**Please take care when opening gates that you leave them as you find them. There may be farm animals on this track.**

### **Bream Head (Te Whara) Track - 7km / 5-6hr**

**Please note:** Low tide is preferably the best time for the very first part of this track.

**Tide information:** Check the best times for walking on [www.niwa.co.nz/our-services/online-services/tides](http://www.niwa.co.nz/our-services/online-services/tides).

**This is a conservation area - no domestic animals are allowed (including birds, cats and dogs) and a freedom camping bylaw means Peach Cove is the only option in the Bream Head Scenic Reserve**

Walk to the southern end of Ocean Beach and climb to the ridge beyond. The track is well formed but steep. Continue on past a WWII naval radar station to the Bream Head/Te Whara summit. It's worth the short detour to the viewing platform. The rock formations & coastal views are spectacular.

Half way along the ridgeline, there is the track exiting to the north/Ocean Beach Rd and another going steeply down to the south & Peach Cove (DOC hut - not included in back-country hut pass). This is a detour - see details in extra info.

Continue along the ridge to Mt Lion (Matariki) then down a lot of steps to Urquharts Bay, passing the Busby Head loop track.

Great coastal views from many parts of the track.

*To continue Te Araroa south from this point onwards, you'll need to get across the channel to Marsden Point.*

*The descriptions that follow are still on the northern side of the harbour and simply take you along a waterfront area.*

*You don't have to complete these - the sooner you get a boat ride, the sooner you're heading directly south again, and not just sidling west.*

*We recommend using the people listed below - you can try your luck waiting for a passing boatie but they may not be able to take you, so can be unreliable. If you do get picked up - be sure to offer a koha (voluntary donation) towards fuel costs.*

### **Boat Charters**

Duncan Thorpe and Peter Cross can get people across from Reotahi Bay to Marsden Point.

Call them as far in advance as possible - 021 08381171.

*If you need to go to Whangarei City for re-supply, there's good hitchhiking from here on along the road.*

From the carpark, follow Urquharts Bay Road north onto Whangarei Heads Rd. After 5km, turn south on to Bay View Road and walk down to Little Munroe Bay.

### **Reotahi Track - 3km / 1hr**

The wide, gravelled track begins on the lower slopes of Mt Aubrey overlooking Little Munroe Bay. It goes around the harbour's

edge to Reotahi Beach (& boat ramp) taking in stunning sea views and passing the historic remains of a freezing works. Very noticeable is the hum coming from the Marsden Point Oil Refinery, just across the 1.5km channel, and the start of the Te Araroa's next coastal section.

**(\*\* Note if you are hoping to wait and find a lift across to Marsden Point, you are better waiting here at Reotahi than continuing around to McLeods Bay, and note that on the Te Araroa maps, the route line ends at Reotahi)**

From the northern end of Reotahi Bay, there is a dirt track heading off the side of Reotahi Beach Rd. It climbs the hill to a playground at the end of Norfolk Rd. Head up the road to a driveway just past #34. Take this driveway and turn right (north) over the front lawn past the last house. Beyond it are steps leading down to a small footbridge. This track leads to Matuku Street. Follow this, then up to the end of Darch Point Rd where a well-defined track follows the headland around to the jetty at McLeod Bay.

**For more information on the Whangarei Harbour crossing and Marsden Point please visit the Northland Regional Council's website following this link: <http://www.nrc.govt.nz/Living-in-Northland/On-the-water/Safe-boating/#marsdenpt>**

#### **Note**

Toilets, cafe, phone, accommodation available at the Whangarei Heads village and at Marsden Cove marina you will find a cafe, toilets and phone facilities.

#### **Other Information**

##### **Waikare**

For information re Waikare amenities, contact Sheryl Wikaire on P: 027 3093476 E: [peter1.sheryl@gmail.com](mailto:peter1.sheryl@gmail.com)  
Sheryl also has tenting available for walkers at 228 Waikare Valley Rd (koha/donation please) - call Sheryl, or information at the Russell GAS station.

Sheryl's place is 1km from the Russell Forest at 228D Waikare Valley Rd, just phone or text to arrange.

Note that Sheryl's place is "off the grid" - composting toilet available on request and kauri dieback cleaning facilities available, please make use of these!

##### **Helena Bay**

Oakura Motels and Holiday Park - Te Kapua St, Oakura - P: 09 4336803  
[Whangaruru Beachfront Camp](#) - Ohawini Rd, Oakura Nth - P: 09 4336806

[Hopewell B&B](#) - 1349 Russell Rd, Helena Bay Hill - P: 09 4339608

There is a DOC campground at Waikahoa Bay in the Mimiwhangata Coastal Park, see info [here](#)  
It is 4.5km from the Webb/Kaiikanui/Mimiwhangata Rd junction down to the coastal park then a further 1km over a hill to the campground. If you wish to stay here - DON'T take the Helena Ridge Track and instead continue along Webb Rd. When leaving Mimiwhangata, continue uphill on Kaiikanui Rd and rejoin the route at the Morepork Track.

#### **Note**

The DOC Back Country Hut pass does not apply and bookings are essential in peak season - see [link](#) for further details.

##### **Morepork-Onekainga Track**

**KIWI Area - NO DOGS allowed.**

The Morepork track is well used by DoC for predator control, consequently there are a number of different colored markers for traps and bait stations. Stay clear of those and follow the orange markers. The last kilometre, before the Morepork Track joins onto the Onekainga Track, requires a little more focus, as you will have left the well benched track and are now following a smaller, less obvious track where some sections get worked over by wild pigs.

***The Onekainga section of this track is on private land - bush and farm, please respect this privilege. Open daylight hours only. NO dogs, horses, vehicles, guns, litter or fires.***

***It is recommended to use GPS and Topo maps for this track.***

##### **Whananaki**

###### **Accommodation**

[Whananaki Holiday Park](#), Whananaki North Rd, Whananaki - P: 09 433 8896 - E: [whananaki@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:whananaki@vodafone.co.nz)

###### **Resupply**

Whananaki Beach Store - 2162 Whananaki North Rd, Whananaki Beach - P: 09 433 8466

## Matapouri

### Getting there/away

[A 2 B Auckland Airport Direct Shuttle](#) (to/from Whangarei/Matapouri/Tutukaka) - P: 09 459 5221 or 027 273 7307

### Accommodation

[Tui Cabin](#), 2km up Clements Rd, Matapouri Bay - (just past #152, 500m off the route) - P: 09 434 4977 or 027 3783046 - E: [bobgilbert@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bobgilbert@xtra.co.nz) - Two double bedrooms, gas cooker, fireplace, (warm) showers.

### Resupply

[Matapouri Store](#) - 954 Matapouri Rd, Matapouri Bay - P: 09 434 3706

### Public amenities

Toilet facilities are available at the beach.

## Ngunguru

**Note: If the sea conditions are good, an alternative is to sea kayak from Ngunguru to Pataua North.**

[Pacific Coast Kayaks](#) - Mark Garry - P: 09 436-1947 or M: 021 1295-921- E: [pc.kayaks@gmail.com](mailto:pc.kayaks@gmail.com)

Offer a shuttle trip from Ngunguru to Pataua or Taiharuru, with a lunch stop at Goat Island (lunch provided). Pataua has a camping ground but Taiharuru is closer to the start of the track. This is a **guided trip** as there are a few hazards such as a bar crossing at Pataua. They do not hire kayaks out to solo paddlers. Pacific Coast Kayaks will carry hikers' packs to the take-out point where hikers can resume their journey. As there is additional mileage involved and a driver has to do a pickup, the cost is more than a usual day trip. It is therefore cheaper if people join up with other hikers so that the transport costs can be shared.

### Getting there/away

[A 2 B Auckland Airport Direct Shuttle](#) - (to/from Whangarei/Matapouri/Tutukaka) - P: 09 459 5221 or 027 273 7307

### Accommodation

[Tutukaka Coast Motor Lodge](#) - 2015 Ngunguru Rd, Ngunguru - P: 09 434 3840

[Goldstones](#) - 8 Papaka Rd, Ngunguru - P: 09 434 3095 - E: [watersedge@goldstones.co.nz](mailto:watersedge@goldstones.co.nz)

[Sam's Bush Retreat](#) - Waipoka Rd, Kiripaka P: 09 4375375 or 021 0690937 - Mention Te Araroa to get a discount

[Baches to rent - Coastal Holiday Homes](#) - P: 09 434 4146 or 027 482 6408 - E: [info@coastalholidayhomes.co.nz](mailto:info@coastalholidayhomes.co.nz)

[The Riverbank Homestay and B&B](#) at 12 Old Mill Lane, Ngunguru - P: 09 946 0074

The owners Hilton and Melva Ward offer free evening meal to walkers who book the B&B and mention Te Araroa. Best to book ahead to ensure availability. Campsite also available for koha.

[Mila's Backpackers' Ranch](#) - 48 Kakariki Rd, Ngunguru - P: 09 4344113 or 021 08578821

Campsites \$10pp/night - caravan, dinghy, horses, kayak available

[Nikau Bay Camp and Cabins](#) - 999 Ngunguru Ford Rd, Ngunguru - P: 021 02421632 (texting preferred) - E: [ngunguru@live.com](mailto:ngunguru@live.com)

James Johnston is your host at this beautiful spot on the southern shore of the Ngunguru Estuary.

The camp has tent sites, and showers/cooking facilities and James can help get you across the estuary via boat/kayak. You'll need to text him at least a day in advance to arrange this. Then its a nice walk along Ngunguru Ford Rd out to continue the route south.

### Resupply:

[Ngunguru 4 Square](#) - Main Rd, Ngunguru - P: 09 434 3858

## Taiharuru Estuary

### Accommodation

[Tidesong B & B](#) - Beasley Rd, Taiharuru - P: 09 436 1959 - E: [stay@tidesong.co.nz](mailto:stay@tidesong.co.nz) - They also can provide lunch, afternoon teas, dinghy rides across the Estuary as well as advice and transport.

[Taiharuru Walkers Camp](#) - 54 Harambee Rd, Taiharuru - P: 02102829102 (Louis) - E: [taiharuru10@gmail.com](mailto:taiharuru10@gmail.com) - Cabin with hot shower, beds and kitchen. Lots of tent space. Some food supplies, tea/coffee plus food and drink for sale. \$15pp/night.

[Stonelee Cottage](#) - Beasley Road, Pataua South, Whangarei - P: 09 436 5200

[Treasure Island campground](#) - Mahanga Rd, Pataua South - P: 09 436 2390 - E: [treasure@xtra.co.nz](mailto:treasure@xtra.co.nz) - Please note: Not usually open in winter months, and the basic supply shop is only open for 6 weeks, over the peak summer period.

### Local Information / Assistance

For local knowledge, info on tides or water transport and pick ups, contact Ros & Hugh Cole-Baker of Tidesong P: 09 436 1959.

## Ocean Beach/Bream Head (Te Whara) Track

**Detour option available:** This is a 25 minute one way detour and a great spot for overnighting or a swim.

[Peach Cove \(DOC\) standard campsite and hut](#) (8 person). Pre bookings are required as this hut is locked - P: 09 470 3300



### Shop/Re-supply (limited)

Taurikura General Store - 2311 Whangarei Heads Road (opposite Taurikura Road) - P: 09 434 0151 - has some groceries and icecream. May be closed outside height of summer - best to call ahead if you're relying on it.

### Accommodation

Jaggers camp - camp for koha/donation - look out for orange marker at (379km) on Ocean Beach south of Kauri Mountain.

Please call ahead to book - P: 09 4340747 or 021 2431347 - water, toilets, showers (cold), camping, caravan, cabin

[Taurikura Studio Apartment](#) - 2397 Whangarei Heads Rd, Urquharts Bay - P: 09 434 0895

[Appin Cottage](#) - 2432 Whangarei Heads Rd, McKenzie Bay - P: 09 4340819 - E: [dougiechowms@orcon.net.nz](mailto:dougiechowms@orcon.net.nz) -

Self contained cottage in its own garden, queen size bed, linen, shower, TV, fridge, microwave, washing machine, self-catering.

Also available camping in the shelter of a bamboo grove. \$20 per tent includes water, microwave and garden long-drop toilet.

Enquire with Dougie about crossing to Marsden Point - conditions permitting.

### Getting there/away

[A 2 B Auckland Airport Shuttle](#) - (to/from Whangarei, Marsden Point, Ruakaka, Whangarei Heads) - P: 09 459 5221 or 027 273 7307

[Stans Van Passenger Service](#) - RD 4, Whangarei Heads - P: 09 434 0024

### Accommodation

[Sparkling Waters Lodge B & B](#) and self contained accommodation available - 346 Ocean Beach Rd, Whangarei Heads Ocean

Beach - P: 09 434 0979 or 021 949 189 - E: [jagould@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jagould@xtra.co.nz)

[SALT self contained studio apartments](#) - 75 Blue Horizon Rd, Whangarei Heads - P: 09 434 0785 - Available also is pick up/drop off for walkers with afternoon tea.

[WHY \(Whangarei Heads Yoga\) Retreat](#) - 16 Reotahi Rd, Whangarei Heads - P: 022 1608950 -

E: [whangareihedisyoga@gmail.com](mailto:whangareihedisyoga@gmail.com)

[Seaside Anchorage](#) - 13 Stuart Rd, McLeod Bay - P: 09 4340161 - E: [northern2@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:northern2@slingshot.co.nz)

[Bream Head Getaway](#), 310 Ocean Beach Rd, Whangarei Heads - P: 09 4340655 or 021 550249 (Melissa). Healthy and wholesome food packs for sale as you pass through, and water top-ups available before heading onto Bream Head. Luggage storage/drop-off available for those staying so you can walk Bream Head with a daypack.

[Thistle Do](#), 25 Beach Rd, Reotahi, Whangarei Heads - P: 09 4340006 or book via website

Terry Gill has tentsites and amenities available for walkers from \$10pp - 2489 Whangarei Heads Rd, Mckenzie Bay - P: 09 4340544 or 027 6002276 - E: [the.green.bus.stop2489@gmail.com](mailto:the.green.bus.stop2489@gmail.com)

[Nook Paradise](#) - Parua Bay - P: 021 613569 (Brenda) - E: [nookparadise@gmail.com](mailto:nookparadise@gmail.com) - B&B accommodation in comfortable house with private native bush and beach setting. Located 15min drive from Urquharts Bay. \$45 per person per night, free wifi, comfortable bed, hot shower, option for breakfast included \$10 extra per person. Pickup available from Ocean Beach, Urquharts Bay \$8pp - arrange when booking. Ride to Whangarei CBD or Reotahi boat ride available on pre-arrangement for small fee.

### Unguided walk package

[Bream Head Coast Walks](#) - 395 Ody Rd, RD 4, Whangarei Heads - P: 09 434 0571 - E: [Claire@coastwalks.co.nz](mailto:Claire@coastwalks.co.nz) - W: 3 day unguided walk package for up to 12 pax, season 1 October - 31 May - bookings are essential.

### Boat Charters

Duncan Thorpe and Peter Cross can get people across from Reotahi Bay to Marsden Point.

Call them as far in advance as possible - 021 08381171.

### General Information

Toilets, cafe, phone, accommodation available at the Whangarei Heads village

For more information on the Whangarei Harbour Crossing and Marsden Point please visit [Northland Regional Council](#)

### Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track Take extreme care on road walks
- Farming operations
- Forestry operations
- Tides, waves & rivers - safer at low tide
- River crossings - Never cross flooded rivers
- Small stream crossings
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold

### Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Respect private land

- Leave gates as you find them
- No dogs
- No horses
- No firearms
- No vehicles
- Wear hi-viz clothing/pack cover and don't use headphones

#### Amenities (Start)

- No amenities
- Toilets Toilet available at Sheryl Wikaire, see contacts

#### Amenities (On Route)

- Shop - see Trail Notes
- Accommodation along route - see Trail Notes





## Bream Bay Walk

(Map 018, 019, 020)

<b>Northern Start</b>	Marsden Pt (beach)
<b>Southern End</b>	Cnr Cove and Cullen Rds, Waipu
<b>Distance</b>	27km
<b>Time</b>	7hr
<b>Tramping Standard</b>	Easy tramping track

### Route

#### **Bream Bay Walk - 16km / 4hr**

From Marsden Point, walk south along the beach (low tide is best).

**Tide information:** Check the best times for walking on [www.niwa.co.nz/our-services/online-services/tides](http://www.niwa.co.nz/our-services/online-services/tides)

If you want respite from an easterly wind, there is a 3.5km inland DOC track which starts beyond the oil refinery (end of Mair Rd) & follows a pipeline to end behind the Mighty River Power station at Ruakaka (end of Sime Rd).

9km down the beach is the Ruakaka River mouth, which can be hazardous to cross on foot and should **only be done at low tide**.

Turn W and walk 400m along the estuary shoreline. This is a wildlife sanctuary with many migrant and wading birds, so please do not walk inside the fenced off nesting areas. Opposite the rock/concrete wall (on the south side) is the best place to cross. (For assistance contact Simon Ellison, who can assist with a kayak crossing. Please arrange a day in advance, and a koha - donation - is appreciated. Ph 432 8668 or 021 233 6748)

Another 6km brings you to a sign on the sandhills for a track leaving the beach and going over the dunes to Tip Rd.

From the beach, follow Tip Rd west. Turn south onto Uretiti Rd, and south again onto Nova Scotia Drive. This will take into the heart of Waipu. To leave Waipu township, take Cove Road to the SE and follow it 6.5km to the junction with Cullen Rd.

### Other Information

**Note:** For hikers heading north from Marsden Point to Reotahi, the marina at Marsden Cove is a good point to organise a trip across the harbour.

#### **Ruakaka**

##### **Detour option available**

The Marsden Point Oil Refinery Visitors Centre, Marsden Pt, Ruakaka - P: 09 432 8194

Display includes a 130sqm working scale model and an impressive 20 minute light and sound show. Photographs, records and models show the huge pipeline that stretches from Marsden Point all the way to Wiri in South Auckland.

##### **Detour off the beach to Ruakaka Town Centre, Marsden Point Rd.**

For more information log onto - [Ruakaka Visitor Information](#)

##### **Getting there/away**

[Marsden flyer - Ruakaka Shuttle Services](#) - P: 09 432 8158

[A 2 B Auckland Airport Direct Shuttle](#) - (to/from Whangarei, Marsden Point, Ruakaka - P: 09 459 5221 or 027 273 7307)

## Accommodation

[Ruakaka Reserve Motor Camp](#) - 21 Ruakaka Beach Rd, located on the beachfront/estuary - P: 09 432 7590 - E: [ruakaka@ihug.co.nz](mailto:ruakaka@ihug.co.nz) - Tent sites and cabins

[Breame Bay Motel](#) - 67 Breame Bay Drive - P: 09 432 7166 - E: [enquiries@breamebaymotel.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@breamebaymotel.co.nz)

[Karawai Lodge](#) - 24 Karawai St, Ruakaka - P: 0275 700600 - E: [karawai lodge@gmail.com](mailto:karawai lodge@gmail.com) - ask for the "Te Araroa rate"!

[Uretiti Beach DOC Campsite](#) - located between beach and SH 1, 5km north of Waipu - P: 09 432 1051 - Campsites, toilets, water, cold showers. No bookings.

## Resupply

[SuperValue Supermarket](#) - Town Centre, Marsden Road, Ruakaka - P: 09 432 7400

[4 Square Supermarket](#) - Town Centre - Marsden Road, Ruakaka - P: 09 432 7873

## Health

[Ruakaka Medical Centre](#) - Shops 8-9 Marsden Point Road, Ruakaka - P: 09 432 7211

## Waipu

### Getting there/away

[InterCity](#) from Auckland - P: 09 583 5780 - E: [info@intercity.co.nz](mailto:info@intercity.co.nz)

[Northliner Express Coach Service](#) - P: 09 307 5873

### Accommodation

[Waipu Wanderers BBH backpackers](#) - 25 St Mary's Rd, Waipu - P: 09 432 0532

[Camp Waipu Cove](#) - 869 Cove Rd, Waipu - P: 09 432 0410 - Cottages, camping and backpacker accommodation. Mention you are walking Te Araroa for a **25% discount!**

[Zany B&B](#) - Coralie Betts - 298/11 Cove Rd, Waipu - P: 09 4321517 or 027 6585217

[DragonSpell Retreat](#) - Cullen Rd, Waipu (look out for the signs at very end of Cullen Rd, 7.5km up from Cove Rd) - P: 0275077750 - E: [cosmickali@gmail.com](mailto:cosmickali@gmail.com)

### Resupply - Waipu

[4 Square Supermarket](#) - 43 Town Centre, Waipu - P: 09 432 0004

[4 Square Supermarket](#) - Town Centre - Marsden Road, Ruakaka - P: 09 432 7873

## Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track
- Tides, waves & rivers - safer at low tide
- River crossings - Never cross flooded rivers
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold

## Requirements

- No litter
- No dogs
- No taking plants
- No camping
- No fires

## Amenities (Start)

- Car park
- Toilets

## Amenities (On Route)

- Full range of amenities at Ruakaka Township
- Basic camp site Uretiti Beach



## Cullen Brynderwyn Walkway

(Map 020)

<b>Northern Start</b>	Cnr Cove and Cullen Rds, Waipu
<b>Southern End</b>	Carpark at junction of Cove and Bream Tail Rds
<b>Distance</b>	14km
<b>Time</b>	5-6hr
<b>Tramping Standard</b>	Tramping track

### Route

From the junction with Cove Road, follow Cullen Rd up hill for 7.5km. The road changes from sealed to 4WD track (at about the 4km mark) and eventually intercepts DOC's Brynderwyn Walkway (a graded farm track).

**Note - there is forestry harvest traffic on Cullen Rd, generally operating Mon-Fri (and occasional Saturdays) 5am-4pm. Please observe any signage and traffic management instruction, particularly when felling is taking place near the road. We recommend you wear hi-viz vest and/or pack covers.**

Turn east and follow DOC's Brynderwyn Walkway. You walk over a highpoint of 297m then past the Trig at 276m for magnificent views in every direction.

The track continues down a steep spur, skirts around gullies, into regenerating bush. The final 2.5km exits through a housing development onto Cove Rd. Please follow the marked route, including the short bush walk as you near Cove Rd (this is part of the access agreement).

### Other Information

#### Brynderwyns

##### Accommodation

[DragonSpell Retreat](#) - Cullen Rd, Waipu (look out for the signs at very end of Cullen Rd, 7.5km up from Cove Rd) - P: 0275077750 - E: [cosmickali@gmail.com](mailto:cosmickali@gmail.com)

#### Mangawhai Heads

##### Accommodation

[Mangawhai Lodge](#) - 4 Heather St, Mangawhai Heads - P: 09 431 5311 - E: [info@seaviewlodge.co.nz](mailto:info@seaviewlodge.co.nz)

[Mangawhai Backpackers - Coastal Cow](#), is at 299 Molesworth Dr, Mangawhai Heads - P: 09 431 5246

E: [mangawhaibackpackers@gmail.com](mailto:mangawhaibackpackers@gmail.com)

[Mangawhai Heads Motel or Camping Ground](#), Mangawhai Heads Rd, Mangawhai Heads - P: 09 431 4675

### Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track
- Poisons & traps
- Farming operations
- Forestry operations
- Small stream crossings in paddock?
- Few water sources

### Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Respect private land
- No litter
- No dogs
- No horses
- No firearms
- No vehicles
- No taking plants
- No fires

### Amenities (Start)

- Full range of amenities in Waipu
- Accommodation Some nearby B&Bs



## Bream Tail Mangawhai Walkway

(Map 020)

<b>Northern Start</b>	Carpark at junction of Bream Tail and Cove Rds
<b>Southern End</b>	Beach carpark, Wintle St, Mangawhai Heads
<b>Distance</b>	7km
<b>Time</b>	3.5hr
<b>Tramping Standard</b>	Easy tramping track

### Route

**Tide information:** Check the best times for walking on [www.niwa.co.nz/our-services/online-services/tides](http://www.niwa.co.nz/our-services/online-services/tides)

From the DOC carpark, follow the no-exit Bream Tail Road (like a private driveway) as it climbs up hill through farmland offering spectacular views of the coast. Please leave farm gates as you find them. Use stiles where provided.

After 1.8km, you leave the road & follow markers across pasture to reach another tarmac driveway (part of a subdivision). Turn right for a few metres then it's back into pasture and down a SE spur, across a marshy area at the bottom, then straight up by the bushline and over a steep hill.

Follow the well-benched track that then zigs NE down into a bush gully (kauri galore) then zags up the other side to come out at another section of tarmac driveway. Just over the bank on the other side of it is DOC's Mangawhai Walkway. Turn right/south and follow the track along the cliffs and down to the beach. Continue along the beach to the carpark at Mangawhai Heads.

### Other Information

#### **Mangawhai Heads**

##### **General / Visitor Information**

[Mangawhai Volunteer Tourist Information Centre](#) - Molesworth Drive, Mangawhai Heads - P: 09 431 5090 -

E: [infocentre@mangawhai.co.nz](mailto:infocentre@mangawhai.co.nz)

Extensive amenities - shop, phone, toilets & accommodation in the surrounding Mangawhai area - Wood St shops, Moir St village & various.

##### **Accommodation**

[Mangawhai Heads Motel](#) - Mangawhai Heads Rd - P: 09 431 4675 - W: [www.mangawhaiheadsholidaypark.co.nz/](http://www.mangawhaiheadsholidaypark.co.nz/)

[Mangawhai Backpackers - Coastal Cow](#), is at 299 Molesworth Dr, Mangawhai Heads - P: 09 431 5246

W: [mangawhaibackpackers@gmail.com](mailto:mangawhaibackpackers@gmail.com)

[Mangawhai Lodge](#) - 4 Heather St, Mangawhai Heads - P: 09 431 5311 - E: [info@seaviewodge.co.nz](mailto:info@seaviewodge.co.nz)

[Mangawhai Heads Motel or Camping Ground](#), Mangawhai Heads Rd, Mangawhai Heads - P: 09 431 4675

[Mangawhai Travellers Rest](#) - 4 Insley St, Mangawhai Village (opp 4 Square) - P: 09 4315389, 021 02377242 (Alan/Lisa) -

E: [mangawhaitravellersrest@gmail.com](mailto:mangawhaitravellersrest@gmail.com) \$20-25pp bed inside, \$15pp camping incl free wifi, recharging, shower and toilet.

Debbie's Flax Studio - Mangawhai Heads Rd - P: 021 519480 - E: [debbiesflaxstudio@gmail.com](mailto:debbiesflaxstudio@gmail.com) - Double bed studio, hot alfresco shower, kitchenette, tea/coffee provided - \$50pp

[Tara Retreat](#) - 247 Tara Rd - E: Glen/Nicola [tararetreat@gmail.com](mailto:tararetreat@gmail.com) - Cottage/caravan accommodation and a FREE vegetarian meal for Te Araroa walkers. Wifi, massage therapy and yoga available.

## Resupply

[4 Four Square](#) - 3 Wood Street, Mangawhai Heads - P: 09 431 4656

[Mangawhai Deli](#) - Shop 2, 7 Wood Street, Mangawhai Heads - P: 09 431 5887

### Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track
- Poisons & traps
- Farming operations
- Tides, waves & rivers - safer at low tide
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Few water sources

### Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Respect private land
- Leave gates as you find them
- No litter
- No dogs
- No horses
- No firearms
- No vehicles
- No bikes
- No taking plants
- No camping
- No fires

### Amenities (Start)

- Car park