

Visitor information

We hope you enjoy your visit to the Coromandel. For more information go to the DOC website at www.doc.govt.nz or contact:

Department of Conservation
Kauaeranga Visitor Centre
Box 343, Thames 3540
Phone: 07 867 9080

Email: kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz
Facebook.com/kauaerangavc

COROMANDEL

Coromandel Recreation



The **Kauaeranga Visitor Centre**, 13 km up the Kauaeranga valley near Thames, provides visitor information on the state of tracks, huts, campsites and conservation. The Visitor Centre is open daily (except Christmas Day). Other activities are also offered from the centre.

There are i-SITES/Information Centres located in Paeroa, Waihi, Te Aroha, Thames, Whangamata, Pauanui, Tairua, Whitianga and Coromandel.



leave no trace
NEW ZEALAND

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable ground
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimise the effects of fire
- Respect wildlife and farm animals
- Be considerate of others

DOC HOTline
0800 362 468

Report any safety hazards
or conservation emergencies
For Fire and Search and Rescue Call 111

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Te Papa Atawhai

Introduction

Getting there

The Coromandel Peninsula is just a 1-2 hr drive from Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga, with the main access points at Kopu and Paeroa. The Kopu Hikuai Road is the main road across the range, providing access to the many beaches along the eastern coastline and to Whanganui A Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve. A few other roads cross the ranges but not all are sealed.

The coastal road from Kopu, Thames goes north along the western shoreline to end at Fletcher Bay, at the top of the peninsula. The road on the eastern side terminates at Stony Bay. It is possible to walk or cycle the 10 km between Fletcher and Stony bays. The roads are unsealed north of Colville.

At the southern end of the peninsula, the Karangahake Gorge (SH2) is the main route through from Paeroa to the beaches, forests and historic sites of the south-eastern part of the peninsula, as well as the Bay of Plenty.



Waikawau Bay. Photo: Bas Wardenier

Recreation information

There are many walking, tramping or hiking, camping, swimming and sightseeing opportunities on the Coromandel Peninsula. This brochure is a guide to the many recreational facilities north of SH2 (Karangahake Gorge), including tracks, mountain-biking opportunities, campsites and accommodation.

For the purposes of this brochure, the Coromandel Peninsula is divided into four zones: northern Coromandel, Thames central/Kauaeranga valley, Kuaotunu to Puauni, and southern Coromandel. Each zone has its own special attractions.

Enjoying the outdoors safely

Tracks are developed to different standards. Choose the right type of track to suit the skills and abilities of your group. Orange triangles are used to mark tracks where required. Other coloured markers are for pest-control purposes and should not be followed.

Plan and prepare

Your safety is your responsibility. Know the Outdoor Safety Code – 5 simple rules to help you stay safe:

1. Plan your trip
2. Tell someone
3. Be aware of the weather
4. Know your limits
5. Take sufficient supplies

Keep to the track – if you get lost, find shelter, stay calm and try to assist searchers. Leave your trip details with a trusted contact, in the hut Intentions Book, and at www.adventuresmart.co.nz. Carry a map (NZTopo50 series) and personal locator beacon, and at the end of your trip don't forget to let your contact know you are safe.

Check water levels before attempting to cross streams and rivers. Learn safe crossing methods.

More information at www.adventuresmart.org.nz.

In many places on the Coromandel Peninsula there is limited or no mobile phone coverage.

Warning: Mine tunnels/shafts are dangerous and may be hidden by vegetation. Keep to marked, official tracks. Do not enter tunnels unless clearly marked for public access.

Other activities

Mountain biking

The mountain bike track between Fletcher Bay and Stony Bay at the top of the peninsula is only for advanced riders, with good fitness. Cyclists can use the flatter Coromandel Coastal Walkway but should respect foot traffic. Hotoritori bike tracks in the Kauaeranga valley are managed by the Kauaeranga Mountain Bike Club, and cater to all riders. The Moanataiari bike trails north of Thames (accessed off Moanataiari Creek Rd) were created by the Thames Mountain Bike Club in partnership with DOC. See the bike club website for more information.

Off-road vehicles

The tracks for off-roaders at the end of Wires Road at Maratoto are currently closed. Contact your local club for the current situation. Check if the gate is unlocked by calling 027 524 2132. These tracks are generally closed in winter for maintenance.

Hunting

Permits are required to hunt on conservation land. Permits can be obtained from DOC's Kauaeranga Visitor Centre (phone 07 867 9080) and Hauraki Office (phone 07 867 9180) or online at www.doc.govt.nz/hunting. If hunting with dogs it is a condition of your permit that each dog undertakes Kiwi Aversion Training annually. Book this at the Kauaeranga Visitor Centre.

Snorkelling

Te Whanganui A Hei Marine Reserve has a rich variety of underwater habitat and marine life to explore. All marine life is protected.

Offshore islands

There are many islands off the Coromandel Peninsula ranging in size from rock stacks of less than one hectare to islands as large as 1,900 ha. Some are privately owned and some are pest-free nature reserves or wildlife sanctuaries managed by DOC.

Islands managed by DOC include the Mercury group (excluding Great Mercury Island (Ahuahū)), Cuvier Island (Repanga Island), the Aldermen Islands, and Whenuakura and Rawengaiti islands off Whangamata. These islands hold endangered fauna such as tuatara, Middle Island tusk wētā, Duvaucel's gecko, North Island saddleback/tīeke and Pycroft's petrel. There are also rare plants including Cooks scurvy grass, parapara and milk trees.

Many species that still survive on the offshore islands have been lost on the Coromandel Peninsula because of predators, weeds and loss of habitat. Keeping the islands pest-free requires ongoing vigilance. Boating activity increases the risk of introducing pests such as Argentine ants or rainbow skinks to islands as well as rat re-invasion (especially as rats can swim 200 m or more!). For this reason, landing is not permitted on any of the above-named islands. You may dive, sail, boat and fish around these special islands, but please do not anchor close to shore. If you have pets aboard, do not let them get ashore.

You are welcome to land at Mahurangi Island Recreation Reserve, off Hahei Beach and adjoining Whanganui A Hei Marine Reserve. There is a walking track the length of the island but no other facilities or drinking water, so make sure you go prepared.



Conservation

DOC is responsible for protecting New Zealand's natural and historic heritage. DOC manages threatened species, minimises biosecurity risks, restores and protects historic and cultural sites on public land, and encourages recreational use consistent with these values. Wherever possible these functions are carried out in partnership with the community and tangata whenua.

There is an array of native plants and animals on the Coromandel Peninsula. Two of the most distinctive trees are the pōhutukawa (its red flowers making a great blaze of colour along the coastline in early summer) and the kauri, the giant of the forest. Many forest birds such as the tūī, bellbird, fantail and kererū are still common; other fauna like Hochstetter's frog, New Zealand dotterel and brown teal/pāteke that were once widespread, are now threatened and actively managed by DOC.

Thanks to the efforts of community groups and landowners, kiwi numbers on the Coromandel have been steadily increasing, North Island robins have been successfully reintroduced to Moehau, and golden sand sedge/pīngao is once again stabilising many of the sand dunes.

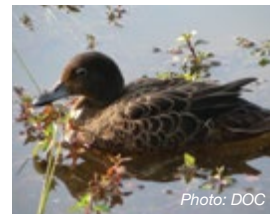
Long-tailed bat/pekapeka is one of only two surviving species of native bat. They are small (8–11 g), brown in colour and feed on insects. Little is known about their full distribution across the peninsula.



North Island robin/toutouwai Over 100 North Island robins were released at two sites near Moehau in 2009 and 2011. The birds began breeding successfully in 2010.



Brown teal/pāteke is one of New Zealand's rarest waterfowl. In 2002 the Coromandel Peninsula estimated population was only 20 birds. Due to reintroduction, intensive predator control and advocacy, the population has risen to about 650 today.



Coromandel striped geckos

were recently rediscovered on the Coromandel. More than 30 have now been sighted, mostly north of Tapu. This gecko is readily identifiable with three dark stripes running down the length of its body. The main body colour may vary from light grey to brown. If you see one on the Coromandel try to take a photo and contact DOC. With your help, we can identify its key locations and habitats, and threats to this secretive and rare lizard.



Archey's frog The peninsula is an important site for the native Archey's frog. It does not have a tadpole stage and is found in forest habitat along the length of the Coromandel Range. The similar-looking Hochstetter's frog is also found on the peninsula.



Coromandel brown kiwi are endangered, flightless, nocturnal birds endemic to New Zealand. Coromandel brown kiwi (CBK) are one of four types of North Island brown kiwi. There are estimated to be about 800 pairs across the peninsula. DOC protects them by trapping and poisoning predators, and by encouraging responsible dog ownership. Dogs must be on a lead in kiwi areas and preferably have undergone Kiwi Aversion Training. Individual CBK have been translocated to Motutapu Island as an insurance population.



New Zealand dotterel/tūturiwhatu This endemic shorebird was once rare in the Coromandel, but thanks to careful population management there are now around 450 birds nesting here, of about 2,000 nationwide. To help conservation efforts, watch your step, check dog regulations for each beach, and do not enter roped-off nesting zones.



NORTHERN COROMANDEL

The sandy-beached and pōhutukawa-clad coastline of the northern Coromandel has a special attraction for visitors as a place to enjoy the scenery, swim, boat, kayak or fish, or to explore its many walks and tracks.

Conservation campsites

DOC Conservation Campsites are family friendly and ideal for summer camping. Do not camp outside these areas – you may be fined.

Campsite fees per night:

Non-power sites: Adult \$13.00; child (5–17) \$6.50, children under 5 free
Power sites: Adult \$16.00; child \$8.00, children under 5 free
NZMCA DOC pass: free for camping. Fees for power: adult \$3.00; child \$1.00. Passes cannot be used between 20 Dec and 6 Feb.
Minimum site fee (19 Dec – 8 Feb inclusive): \$26 non-powered; \$32 powered

Fantail Bay: 50 km north of Coromandel town. Fantail Bay has a rocky beachfront and great fishing and diving opportunities. Camp in peaceful surroundings beneath pōhutukawa trees. A track with outstanding views leads to the bushline. 29 camping spaces for 100 campers.

Port Jackson: 58 km north of Coromandel town, Port Jackson has a lovely, sweeping, golden sandy beach and is ideal for water-based activity or walking along the coastline. 113 camping spaces for 450 campers.

Fletcher Bay: 64 km north of Coromandel town at the road end. This is a beachfront campsite in a farm setting. An ideal location for water sports, including swimming, boating, diving and fishing. The Coromandel Coastal Walkway and mountain bike track start and finish here. 118 camping spaces for 350 campers.

Stony Bay: 55 km north east of Coromandel town. This is a spacious (5 ha) campsite beside the coast. Walk or mountain bike to Fletcher Bay along the Coromandel Coastal Walkway. Good fishing and diving nearby. 122 camping spaces for 360 campers.

Waikawau Bay: 42 km north-east of Coromandel town. This spacious, family friendly, scenic campsite is nestled beside a stunning white sand beach. The untouched Waikawau Bay is a fabulous place to relax on the beach, fish, swim, kayak or explore. There are 21 powered spaces and 323 non-powered spaces, for 1,250 campers.

Note: Book these conservation campsites and other accommodation online at www.doc.govt.nz. Bookings are essential in December and January. Phone bookings incur a booking fee.

Fees may change – check www.doc.govt.nz.

Other accommodation:

Fletcher Bay Backpackers:

A comfortable ranch-style lodge with sunny verandah overlooking Fletcher Bay. There are 4 bedrooms with 2 bunk beds in each; a full kitchen with stove, microwave and fridge; a spacious lounge/dining room and a bathroom.



Fee: \$25.50 per person per night.

Maximum 16 people. **Book online** at www.doc.govt.nz. Arrange key collection with Fletcher Bay camp manager (Oct–Apr): 07 866 6685; or Port Jackson camp manager (May–Sept): 07 866 6932.

Stony Bay Bach: This cosy two-room bach (cabin) overlooking Stony Bay sleeps a maximum of five people, with two sets of bunk beds in the bedroom and a sofa bed in the living room. It has a full kitchen with a fridge/freezer and microwave plus a hot shower and toilet.



Fee: \$80 per night (sole occupancy).

Minimum 2 nights stay. **Book online** at www.doc.govt.nz. Operates on a keybox system. Use the code in your confirmation email to access.

Knox Coastal Cottage: A traditional kiwi bach overlooking Waikawau Bay estuary. It sleeps a maximum of 8 in 2 bedrooms. Full kitchen with stove, microwave and fridge/freezer; bathroom and laundry tub. Easy access to estuary and beach.

Fee: Varies from \$120 per night (low season) to \$250 per night (high season). **Book online** at www.bookabach.co.nz. Phone bookings can be made via Terry Whitehouse: 07 866 6903.

Waikawau Bay Lodge: A ranch-style lodge with sunny verandah overlooking Waikawau Bay. It sleeps a maximum 12 people in 3 bunk rooms. Full kitchen with stove, microwave, 2 fridge/freezers and BBQ; lounge, hot showers and toilets.



Fee: Varies from \$25 per bunk low season to \$1,960 for 7 nights (sole occupancy, maximum 12 people) during peak season. **Book online** at www.doc.govt.nz, or book by phone with the Waikawau Bay camp manager: 07 866 1106 (booking fee applies). Operates on a keybox system. Use the code in your confirmation email to access.

THAMES CENTRAL/KAUAERANGA VALLEY

South of Coromandel town are the best remaining examples of the majestic kauri that once cloaked the peninsula. Kauri logging industry in the 1870s to 1920s changed the face of the area forever. You can see kauri on a day trip or visit relics of the logging days in the Thames central zone and within the Kauaeranga valley, 20 min from Thames.

Kauaeranga valley

The Kauaeranga Visitor Centre is your gateway to the Coromandel Forest Park, offering information on all track and camping requirements. It has excellent visitor displays on the area's unique cultural, historic and natural features.

The valley offers a range of activities, from short walks to multiday tramps, mountain-biking, numerous swimming spots and historic relics.

Conservation campsites

There are eight Conservation Campsites in the valley: Shag Stream, Hotoritori, Whangaiterenga, Booms Flat, Catleys, Wainora, Totara Flat and Trestle View. Campsites are allocated on a first-come basis. Camping outside these areas is not permitted.

Fees per night: Adult \$13.00; child/youth (5-17) \$6.50; children under 5 free. Pay fees before setting up camp. Book online or at the Visitor Centre, or pay after hours with cash and registration details in the 'Campsite fee' box near the front door.

Kahikatea powered site

This site has space for 14 self-contained, certified campervans. Four large sites are available for buses. Book online or through the Kauaeranga Visitor Centre (07 867 9080). Collect keys for the power from the Visitor Centre (after hours by arrangement).

Fees per night: Adult \$13.00; child/youth (5-17) \$6.50; children under 5 free

Power (extra fee) – Adult \$3.00; child/youth \$1.00; children under 5 free

Cottages

There are two cottages – with bunk-bed sleeping for 8 and 10 – near the river, a 2-min walk from the Visitor Centre. They have fully equipped kitchens, hot water and showers. Bring your own linen. There is a large shared lawn.

Fees per night: \$80 per night for 2 people. \$20 each extra person per night. Minimum stay 2 nights.

Note: Backcountry hut passes and backcountry hut tickets are not valid for Pinnacles and Crosbies huts.

Book hut accommodation online at www.doc.govt.nz. Phone bookings via Kauaeranga Visitor Centre incur a booking fee.

Huts

Pinnacles Hut: Located in the upper Kauaeranga valley, it is a 3 hr walk from the road end. The hut has 80 bunks, mattresses, a cold shower, solar lighting, gas cookers and BBQ plus wood stove for heating. Bring your own cooking utensils. A warden is present at all times.



Fees per night: Adult \$15.00; child/youth (5-17) \$7.50; children under 5 free.

Crosbies Hut: Located on the Memorial Loop Track off the Main Range behind Thames, it is a 4-6 hr tramp from Thames or the Kauaeranga valley. The hut has 10 bunks, mattresses and a wood stove. Bring your own lighting, cookers and fuel, and cooking utensils.

Fees per night: Adult \$15.00; child/youth (5-17 yrs) \$7.50; children under 5 free. Can be booked online.

Backcountry campsites (no vehicle access)

There are backcountry campsites (accessible via the track network) near the Pinnacles Hut (Dancing Camp), near Crosbies Hut, at Billygoat Basin and at Moss Creek. All sites except Moss Creek can be booked online at www.doc.govt.nz or at the Kauaeranga Visitor Centre. There is a fee for phone bookings.

Fees per night: Adult \$5.00; child/youth (5-17 yrs) \$2.50; children under 5 free.

Dogs: You may bring your dog to designated areas and campsites in the Kauaeranga and Wentworth valleys. Dogs must be leashed at all times. They are **strictly prohibited at all other campsites** (unless accessing tracks). Dogs are permitted on some tracks – check with Kauaeranga Visitor Centre. No other domestic animals are allowed.

KUAOTUNU TO PAUANUI

Here you will find several coastal walks including Cathedral Cove and the Whanganui A Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve. Plant, fish and other animal communities thrive in the reserve, and its waters are perfect for snorkelling, diving and boating.



There is a wealth of historical and cultural heritage on the Coromandel with some historic sites dating back over 800 years. Access may be denied at wahi tapu (sacred) sites. Visitors must respect this, but other sites (Opito Pā, Whitianga Rock and Hereheretaura Pā) are accessible.

SOUTHERN COROMANDEL

You will see old mining relics such as tunnels, battery sites and building remains from walks and tracks in the Broken Hills, Parakiwai valley and Wentworth valley areas.

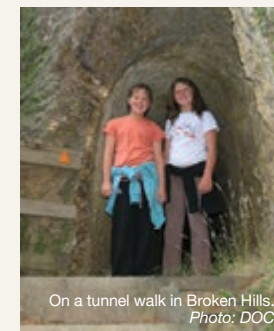
Conservation campsites

Broken Hills: Turn off SH25 opposite the Pauanui turn-off, and at the end of Puketui Valley Road is a secluded campsite beside the Tairua River. As well as the many tracks in the area, there are remains of gold mining and opportunities for swimming, canoeing, trout fishing, bird watching and picnics.

Wentworth valley: Turn off SH25, 7 km south of Whangamata, into Wentworth Valley Road. At the end of the road you'll find a remote but spacious campsite with room for 250 campers. Walk from the campsite to the Wentworth falls, Wentworth mines and a waterhole for swimming.

Bookings should be made over the summer holiday period via the camp manager: 07 865 7032. Dogs (but no other domestic animals) are permitted at this campsite.

Fees per night: Adult \$13.00; child/youth (5-17 yrs) \$6.50; children under 5 free.



When camping – remember

Fires

Fires are not permitted in DOC's Coromandel campsites. You may use gas or spirit burners but not charcoal barbeques.

Water

Water at campsites is drawn from streams and rivers, so boil or purify it before drinking.

Toilets

Use toilets located in campsites. Certified self-contained campervans may use their own chemical toilet. Pit toilets are not allowed.

Rubbish and recycling

Put rubbish in bins or rubbish transfer stations where provided or take it home with you.



Whanganui A Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve. Photo: Rose Graham

NORTHERN COROMANDEL

Keep to the tracks: there are dangerous old mineshafts in this area.

1 Coromandel Coastal Walkway (7 hr return, 10 km)



Start from Fletcher Bay or Stony Bay. If a one-way journey is intended, arrange for transport to meet you, or book into one of our accommodations before your walk (at www.doc.govt.nz). The coastal walk crosses farmland and goes through coastal forest with views of Great Barrier Island/Aotea to the north and Cuvier Island (Repanga) to the east. This is dual-purpose track, but bikers are requested to respect foot traffic as the track is narrow in places. A circuit is possible using the mountain bike track (2) but this is much steeper and slippery in places.

2 Coromandel mountain bike track (8 km)



This is a challenging track over steep terrain between Fletcher Bay and Stony Bay. It follows a stock route across farmland and through regenerating forest, and offers superb views over the coastline. There is a steep ascent and descent from either end. This track is only for advanced riders with a good level of fitness.

3 Muriwai Walk (2 hr, 6 km)



A coastal walk between Port Jackson and the Muriwai car park on the road to Fletcher Bay. Stunning coastal views across to Great Barrier Island/Aotea and Hauraki Gulf/Tikapa Moana.

4 Fantail Bay campsite to bush (1 hr return)



From the campsite, a tramping track climbs up to the bush line for 1.5 km, providing outstanding views along the coast. There is no access across the range.

5 Matamataharakeke (3 hr return)



Follow the sign from the main road to the back of Waikawau Bay Campsite. The track begins at the kauri dieback cleaning station. The walking track is part of the original Waikawau to Kennedy Bay route used by gold miners and loggers. It goes up the main ridge past a series of lookouts giving views over bush-covered hills to the coast and islands.

6 Papa Aroha (25 min return, 400 m)



This short walk adjoining the Papa Aroha Holiday Park, 14 km north of Coromandel town, meanders through coastal forest of pūriri, kohekohe and pōhutukawa and provides access to an attractive beach.

7 Kauri Block (1 hr 30 min return, 1.6 km)



Access is from the top of Harbour View Road or down a right of way beside 356 Wharf Road in Coromandel town. This area is regenerating bush with planted kauri. A side track leads to a pā site with spectacular views over the town and coast.

8 Taumatawahine (20 min return, 600 m)



Start 1 km north of Coromandel town centre just after Frederick Street. This 600 m, predominantly ponga bush walk comes out on Main Street and links back to Rings Road via a footpath.

9 Kaipawa Trig (3 hr return, 3.2 km)



Access the tramping track from Kennedy Bay Road summit (opposite Tokatea lookout) up a steep track past a relay station or from the Whangapoua Road (SH25) via an old benched mining road and vehicle track. The track takes you through regenerating native bush. The trig is halfway between the two roads. Spectacular views over Coromandel coastline and Hauraki Gulf.

10 Tokatea lookout (30 min return, 600 m)



From the summit of Kennedy Bay Road, a short steep walking track takes you to a lookout with views over the Coromandel landscape. The site was used for marine surveillance during World War II. An on-site map of the area names many landmarks and offshore islands. **Please keep to the marked track as there are old mine shafts in the area.**

11 Opera Point (15 min, 500 m)



At the entrance to Whangapoua, 17 km from Coromandel, a walk follows an old tramway from the car park beside the estuary to a pleasant beach and the site of Craig's sawmill built in 1862. The Raukawa pā site on the reserve offers excellent coastal views.

12 Waiiau Falls and Kauri Grove (30 min return)



Waiiau Falls can be viewed from the roadside 7 km along the 309 Road. Another 1 km up the road, a 500 m walk takes you to the most accessible mature stand of kauri on the peninsula. The grove contains a 'siamese' kauri that forks just above the ground.

THAMES CENTRAL

1 Square Kauri (20 min return)



The 15th-largest kauri on the peninsula is found just west of the Tapu-Coroglen Road summit. It is estimated to be 1,200 years old. Climb a short track to marvel at an unusual square-trunked kauri and enjoy the view across to Maunapuaki on the main Coromandel Range.

2 Waiomu Kauri Grove (2 hr 30 min return, 2.5 km)



From the car park on Waiomu Valley Road, 15 min north of Thames, the walking track follows a formed road for 600 m before entering bush. Your feet may get wet as you cross the two fords. After 25 min, a short side track leads to the old Monowai gold mine battery site. As the track moves into the Waiomu Ecological Area the forest becomes more luxuriant and diverse. A 10-min climb further up the ridge takes you to a stand of mature kauri.

Past the Kauri Grove, a tramping track continues for 4-5 hr to Crosbies Hut.

3 Central Range Tramping Tracks to Crosbies Hut



Access to Crosbies Hut via these tracks (4-6 hr one way).

- **Waiomu**
- **Te Puru:** this track requires several river crossings in the first 30 minutes before climbing up the ridge. Do not attempt after heavy rain.
- **Tapu Coroglen Rd Summit to Crosbies Hut:** no stream crossings but it is not recommended to leave a vehicle overnight at the summit.
- **Tararua Track** provides the shortest access to Crosbies Hut (4 hr one way) and the main range. This walk is rich in gold mining history and is maintained in partnership with the Kauaeranga Tramping Club. There is very little car parking available at the beginning of the track.
- **Tapu Coroglen Summit via Crosbies Hut to Kauaeranga valley** (9 hr one way.)

This track requires stream crossings near the beginning and is recommended for the experienced trumper. For more information contact the Kauaeranga Visitor Centre.

4 Karaka/Waiotahi (6 hr circuit)



These two tracks are accessed off Waiotahi and Karaka roads in Thames and climb up into the hills behind the town. A circuit is possible with a 30 min walk back along the road. The Karaka Track is more rugged and overgrown, and stream crossing can be risky after heavy rain. An alternative (longer) tramp is to continue to Crosbies Hut and take other tramping tracks down the main range.

KUAOTUNU TO PAUANUI

1 Opito Pā Historic Reserve (45 min return)

Access is along the unsealed Black Jack Road to the end of Opito Bay Road. The track drops to the beach and skirts the rocks below Tahanga Hill. At the base of the headland, climb the wooden steps to the summit. The Ngāti Hei pā site is at the southern headland.

2 Waitaia (2 hr return, 2 km)

Approximately 1 km south of Kuaotunu, turn into Waitaia Road and the track is signposted 1 km from the turn-off. It crosses private land and becomes a loop track through regenerating coastal forest with several small stream crossings. Picnic tables and seats are provided. The area is part of the Project Kiwi Kuaotunu Kiwi Sanctuary.

3 Matarangi Bluff Track (2 hr 30 min – 3 hr, 4.7 km loop)

At Rings Beach, park in the reserve by Waiari Stream and cross the road and bridge to the track entrance. The well-graded track is steep in places and takes you over to Goldfields Drive, Matarangi. A side track at the top of the ridge takes you to a repeater mast overlooking Matarangi Bluff, giving views over Matarangi, Whangapoua and the coastline north and south. Significant plantings have been undertaken here by the Kauri 2000 Trust.

4 Whitianga Rock (20 min return, 400 m)

From Ferry Landing (built in 1840), a walk with on-site information takes you through the remains of a well-fortified Ngāti Hei pā site. The pā was situated on top of the rock, guarding the entrance to Whitianga estuary.

5 Hereheretaura Pā (15 min, 500 m)

At the end of Pā Road, or at the eastern end of Hahei Beach, there is a walk up to Hereheretaura Pā. It is worth the climb for the views of the coastline and marine reserve.




6 Cathedral Cove (1 hr 30 min return)

Access is via the Cathedral Cove car park or Hahei Beach (allow a further 25 min each way for the latter). A kiosk provides a comprehensive overview of the history and features of the area, including the marine reserve. The 2.5 km walking track from the car park gives access to Gemstone Bay, Stingray Bay, and the beautiful sandy beach at Cathedral Cove with its natural rock arch. Watch out for rockfall hazards if walking through the arch.

Seasonal restrictions The car park is closed from 1 October to 30 April. A park and ride shuttle bus service operates from the visitor car park at the entrance to Hahei village.

7 Whanganui A Hei Marine Reserve activities

This marine reserve was established in 1992 and covers 9 km² of coastal waters from the northern end of Hahei Beach to the northern point of Mahurangi Island, across to Motukorure Island and south to Cooks Bluff. The coastal and island boundaries of the reserve are marked by yellow poles. All marine life within the reserve boundaries is protected. The clear, sheltered waters are perfect for snorkelling, diving and boating.

- **Gemstone Bay snorkel trail** is accessible via the Cathedral Cove car park from Hahei (use the park and ride shuttle bus 1 October – 30 April) or by boat. It is a rocky bay fringed by pōhutukawa. The snorkel trail is marked by floating buoys that illustrate the marine habitats and marine life that lives in the waters below them. 
- **Mahurangi Island (Goat Island) (1 hr return):** Mahurangi Island is pest-free, so follow biosecurity measures (check for seeds and stowaways, and clean dirt off all items) before accessing the track. The Mahurangi Island Track is only accessible by boat, and the single landing site on the western side of the island is only safe to use if the seas are calm.  

8 Whenuakite Kauri Loop (1 hr return)

From the Whenuakite car park 8 km north of Tairua on SH25, walk down to the bridged Manuka Stream, then climb to the loop track featuring numerous regenerating kauri. There are good views over the forest before the 2.8 km track returns to the car park.

9 Twin Kauri

Look out for the twin kauri on the roadside just north of Tairua, where there is a boardwalk for viewing.

10 Pauanui car park to Cave Bay and trig

A gentle 400 m walk through pōhutukawa-dominated coastal forest and occasional small beaches to Cave Bay (20 min one way). From Cave Bay the track climbs up through forest to the trig (2.5 km or 1 hr 30 min one way in total). An alternative but steeper route to the trig is via the signposted track at the car park (allow 1 hr 15 min one way). Views of Pauanui town can be seen from the trig.

Hot Water Beach

Hot Water Beach is a few kilometres south of Hahei. For 2 hours either side of low tide you can dig into the sand, tap into the hot springs and create your own thermal pool.

Take extreme care if swimming in the sea as there are dangerous undercurrents.

SOUTHERN COROMANDEL

1 Kaitarakahi Track (7 hr return, 8 km)

Signposted from the summit of the Kopu-Hikuai Road, this track crosses rugged terrain, climbing to a height of 852 m. It is recommended for experienced trampers only.

2 Broken Hills (5 min to full day)

Accessible from two roads: off SH25 at Hikuai or off the Kopu-Hikuai Road via Puketui Road. There are walking, camping, fishing, swimming and canoeing opportunities in the area. Impressive rock outcrops plus relics and tunnels from the gold mining and kauri logging eras are all part of the track network, which links through to the Kauaeranga valley. **Keep to tracks to avoid dangerous mine shafts.** See the Kauaeranga valley & Broken Hills recreation booklet for more information.

3 Opoutere Beach (45 min return, 1 km to Spit)

About 17 km north of Whangamata, turn off to Opoutere and cross the footbridge by the council estuary car park about 4.3 km from the turn-off. The Wharekawa Harbour Wildlife Refuge is an important nesting site for the endangered New Zealand dotterel. Take care not to enter fenced-off areas as they protect barely visible eggs that lie in shallow scrapes in the sand. **Dogs and vehicles are prohibited.**

4 Wentworth Mines Walk (30 min to picnic area, 1 km)

This walk starts at the concrete ford at the end of Wentworth Valley Road, 7 km south of Whangamata. The track passes through regenerating forest above the river before dropping down to it, opposite the picnic area. Two mine shafts are visible from the track.

5 Wentworth Falls (2 hr 30 min return)

From the campsite at the end of Wentworth Valley Road there is a 3 km walking track to the Wentworth Falls. The track follows an easy grade alongside the Wentworth River, with two bridged crossings, before climbing to a good view of the falls. Return by the same track. It is possible to continue to Maratoto via a tramping track through to Maratoto – see [10](#).

6 Wharekirauponga (3 hr 30 min return)

This track starts at the end of Parakiwai Quarry Road, 2 km south of the Wentworth valley. The track is along an old horse-drawn tram track and passes unusual andesitic (volcanic) rock formations en route to the old camp and battery site for the Royal Standard Gold Mine. Beyond the battery site and tunnel are the Wharekirauponga falls.

7 Waimama (1 hr return, 600 m to bay)



From the car park at the northern end of Whiritoa Beach, cross the estuary and look for the steps leading up through the bush. The walking track leads to Waimama Bay and another small cove. Explore pā sites, rock art, beautiful secluded beaches and rocky coastal platforms.

8 Maratoto/Golden Cross (1 hr 45 min one way, 4.3 km)



Accessed via the Maratoto road end at Hikutaia, or the Golden Cross road end at Waikino, this 4.3 km track takes you through an old mining area, regenerating broadleaf/hardwood forest and pasture land reverting to forest. There are some interesting landforms in the area.

9 Old Wires Track (3 hr to Wires plateau)



The track is signposted off Wires Road 500 m before the gate and car park. The first section is through private land so follow marker posts.

10 Maratoto/Wentworth crossing (5 hr one way)



Starting from either the Wires Track/Maratoto Track on the Maratoto side or the Wentworth valley on the eastern side, it is possible to traverse the range. Transport needs to be arranged for the end of the track.

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	Always stay on the tracks and off kauri roots

