

Walking

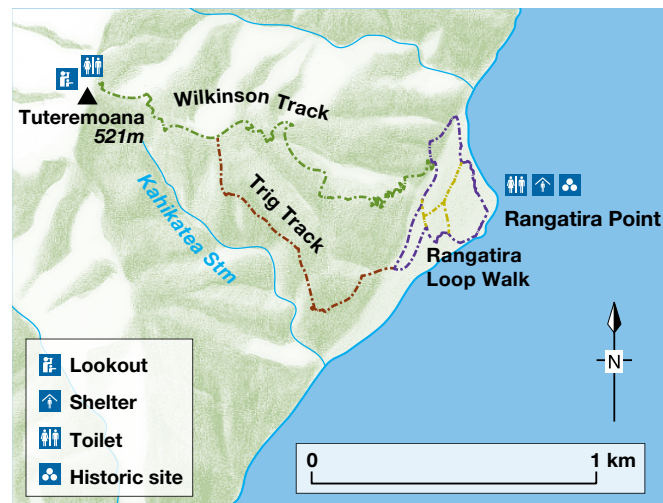
Track guide



Easy to moderate walking from a few minutes to a day; track mostly well formed, some sections may be steep, rough or muddy.

Rangatira

Walk through forest to view birds and the historic Whare, the oldest building associated with nature conservation in New Zealand. Or climb the track to Tuteremoana, the highest point on Kapiti Island at 521 m above sea level.



Rangatira Loop Walk

1 hr 30 min, 1.8 km (circuit)

Start at the Rangatira shelter, and enjoy an easy walk through regenerating forest and coastal shrubland. See whaling tryptops (artefacts from the island's whaling history) and the historic Whare. Explore the Rangatira wetland via a boardwalk, then walk around the coastal section back to the shelter. An ideal track for all ages and fitness levels.



Wilkinson Track

2 hr, 3.8 km (one way)

Walk to Tuteremoana along a well-formed track with a steady uphill climb. Pass a picnic area and hihi feeding station a third of the way up.



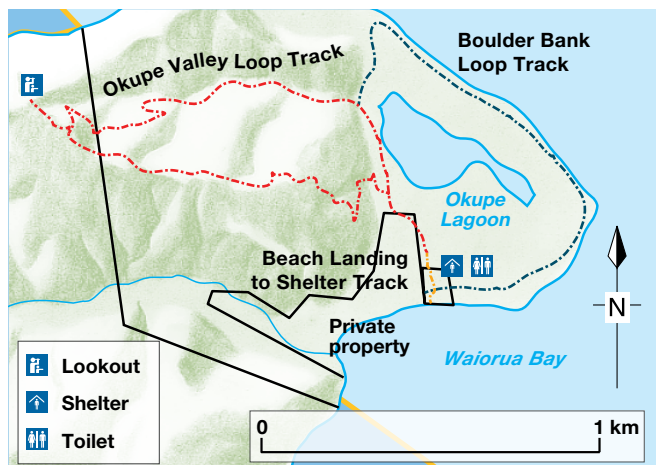
Trig Track

2 hr, 2 km (one way)

A more challenging walk to Tuteremoana, with narrow, uneven sections. It is considerably steeper than the Wilkinson Track. The Trig Track should only be attempted by confident trampers with good, sturdy footwear. This is an uphill track only.

North end

Walking tracks pass through grassland, shrubland, regenerating forest and coastline, and provide fantastic views of freshwater Okupe Lagoon.



Okupe Valley Loop Track

1 hr 30 min, 4.8 km (return)

This follows a gentle gradient to a lookout above the western cliffs (198 m).



Boulder Bank Loop Track

45 min, 2 km (circuit)

This walk follows the coastline around the boulder bank. This track is closed from October to March (unless with a guide) to avoid disturbing nesting seabirds.



Beach Landing to Shelter Track

5 min, 185 m (one way)

Start at the beach edge, finish at the junction before the North End Visitor Shelter.

Further information

For more information about Kapiti Island, visit our website www.doc.govt.nz/kapitivisits or contact:

DOC Wellington Visitor Centre
18 Manners Street, Wellington

Ph: +64 4 384 7770

Email: wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz

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Cover photo: View of Kapiti Island from Colonial Knob Scenic Reserve, Porirua.

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Kapiti Island Nature Reserve

Kapiti Coast



New Zealand Government

Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Kapiti Island Nature Reserve

Kapiti Island is one of New Zealand's most significant nature reserves, 5 km off the west coast of the lower North Island. The island is home to many native species that are either very rare or absent from the mainland.

At 10 km long and 2 km wide, Kapiti Island is a 1,965 ha sanctuary that has been predator-free since 1998. To keep the island predator-free, you must have a permit to visit. Your tourism provider will obtain the permit for you.

Getting to Kapiti Island

Two areas of Kapiti Island are open to the public:

- Rangatira, halfway along the eastern shore (maximum of 100 visitors per day)
- North end (maximum of 60 visitors per day)

Overnight stays are not allowed within the DOC-managed area, but can be arranged at Kapiti Island Nature Tours' private lodge at Waiorua Bay.

Boat departure and parking

Boats depart from Kapiti Boating Club at Paraparaumu Beach, about an hour's drive north of Wellington. Exit the expressway at Kapiti Road, and continue to the roundabout at Paraparaumu Beach. Park at the Kapiti Boating Club or in the car park across the stream.

Pre-visit preparation

Weather conditions/cancellations

Safe passage of visitors to the island is the responsibility of your tourism provider, who will assess weather conditions on the day.

Passengers must contact the tourism provider between 7.00 am and 7.30 am on the morning of the visit to confirm whether the trip will proceed.

What to bring

There are two visitor shelters and toilets on the island. You will need to bring your lunch and drinking water, wear sturdy footwear, and bring warm clothing, including a waterproof jacket.

Introduced animals and plants

Kapiti Island is a predator-free nature reserve. Ensure mice, rats, ants, and other animals and insects do not stow away in your bags.

Weeds and diseases found in the soil are also a threat. Take care that your clothing, footwear and bags are free of soil and plant material, including seeds and leaves.

- To ensure the island remains predator-free, you must inspect your bags and footwear for rodents, ants, seeds and soil **before** boarding the boat. Your tourism provider will demonstrate how to do this properly.
- Private boats, kayaks, jetskis, paddleboards, swimmers, etc **must not** land at Kapiti Island Nature Reserve.
- **No one** can land on the island without a permit.

Your visit

Before you arrive on the island you'll receive a biosecurity inspection and a boat safety briefing. Once there, you'll be given an introductory talk about the island's animals, plants and human history. After this, the island is yours to explore via walking tracks suited to a range of fitness levels.

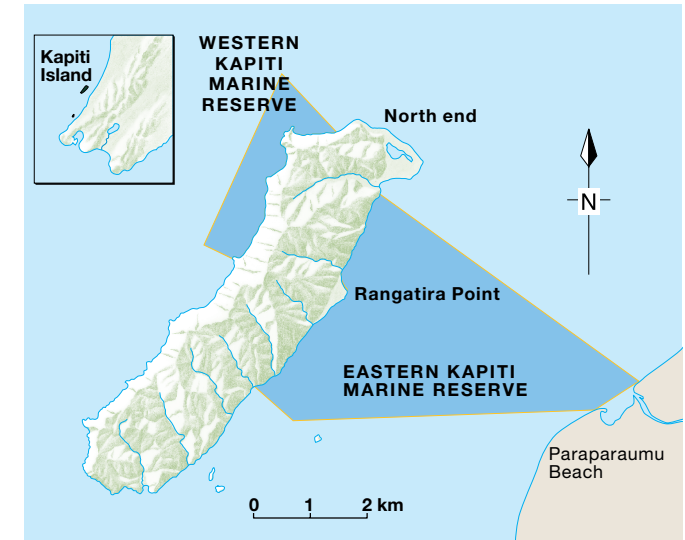
What you might see

There are lots of birds and animals in different habitats – kākā, tīeke/saddleback, hihi/stitchbird, and kōkako in the forests; takahē and weka on the flats; gulls and gannets along the coast. If you're really lucky, you might spot orca, seals and kororā/little penguins on the water. Whaling is a big part of Kapiti Island's history, so if visiting Rangatira, make sure you check out the trypots used to boil whale blubber nearly 200 years ago.

Remember

- Keep to the marked tracks and mowed areas
- Do not light fires – including barbecues and any form of cooking stove
- Do not smoke anywhere on the island
- Do not remove or interfere with anything, including plant material, feathers, insects, lizards, birds and shells – everything on the island is protected
- Do not feed or harass the birds
- Remove all your litter from the island
- Be ready to leave at the time announced by your tourism provider.

Kapiti Marine Reserve



Kapiti Marine Reserve was established in 1992 and is a special place where people can enjoy swimming, boating, diving or snorkelling. Everything in the marine reserve is protected; **no fishing of any kind is allowed**, including no taking or damaging of natural things such as seaweed, shells or shellfish.

Take care visiting natural areas

New Zealand is renowned for its changeable weather and rugged terrain. Be prepared for adverse conditions.

If you think there is a safety hazard in a conservation area, call the nearest DOC office or the DOC HOTline.

- Due to high fire risk, smoking and fires are not allowed.
- Help keep Kapiti pest free. Check and clean your gear for animals, ants, weeds, seeds and soil.

DOC HOTline
0800 362 468
Report any safety hazards
or conservation emergencies
For Fire and Search and Rescue Call 111



Travelling to the island

To get to the island you must book transport with one of the following authorised tourism providers.

Kapiti is a popular destination all year round, so booking in advance is recommended during the peak summer season.

Kapiti Island Eco Experience

Mob: 027 655 4739

Freephone: 0800 433 779

Email: glen.cooper@kapitiislandeco.co.nz

Web: www.kapitiislandeco.co.nz

Kapiti Island Nature Tours

Mob: 021 126 7525

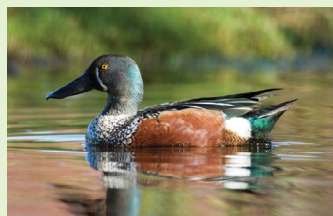
Freephone: 0800 KAPITI (0800 527 484)

Email: bookings@kapitiisland.com

Web: www.kapitiisland.com



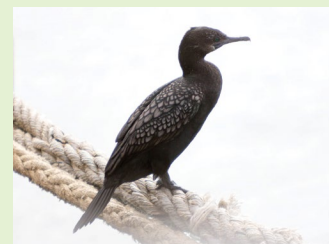
Australasian gannet/tākapu



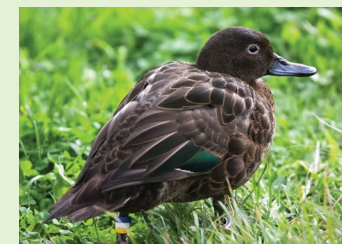
Australasian shoveler/
kuruwhengi



Bellbird/korimako



Black shag/kawau



Brown teal/pāteke



Silvereye/tauhou



Fantail/pīwakawaka



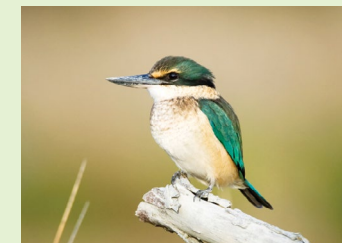
Kākā



Kākāriki/red-crowned
parakeet



Kererū/wood pigeon



Kingfisher/kōtare



Kōkako



Little blue penguin/kororā



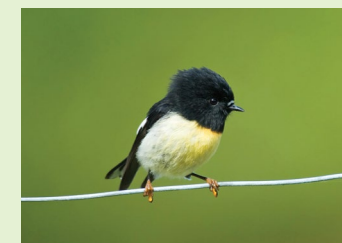
Little spotted kiwi/
kiwi pukupuku



New Zealand falcon/kārearea



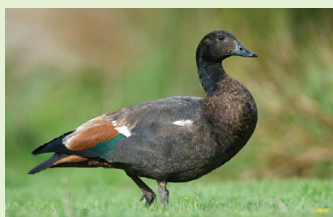
North Island robin/toutouwai



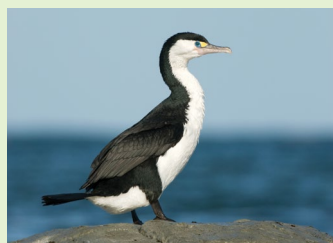
North Island tomtit/miromiro



Paradise shelduck/
pūtangitangi (female)



Paradise shelduck/
pūtangitangi (male)



Pied shag/kāruhiruhi



Pied stilt/poaka



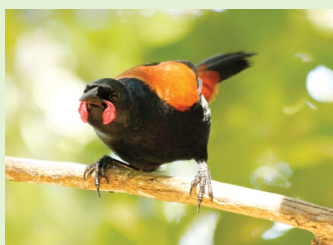
Pipit/pīhoihoi



Royal spoonbill/
kōtuku-ngutupapa



Ruru/morepork



Saddleback/tīeke



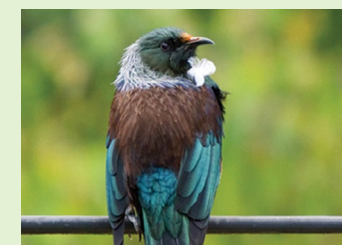
Stitchbird/hihi (female)



Stitchbird/hihi (male)



Takahē



Tūi



Variable oystercatcher/tōrea pango



Weka



White-capped mollymawk/toroa



White-faced heron/matuku-moana



White-fronted tern/tara



Whitehead/pōpokotea

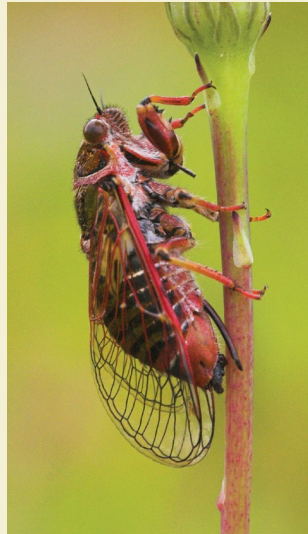
Invertebrates & lizards



Pūriri moth/pepetuna



Common copper butterfly/pepe para riki



Cicada/kihikihi



Copper skink



Common gecko



Ornate skink/moko



Tree wētā



Peripatus/ngāokeoke



Cave wētā



Giraffe weevil/tūwhaipapa



Stick insect/rō



Tunnel web spider/pūngāwerewere

Marine



Common dolphin/aihe



Eagle ray/whai repo



Orca/maki



New Zealand fur seal/kekeno

Historical artefacts



Historic whare



Trypot for rendering whale blubber