

CITY & SURROUNDS
TOWN BASIN
TŪTŪKĀKĀ COAST
WHANGĀREI HEADS
BREAM BAY & WAIPŪ

Whangārei District
Love it Here!

VISITOR GUIDE





NEW ZEALAND

EXPLORE

THE WHANGĀREI DISTRICT & TE TAI TOKERAU NORTHLAND

KEY TO MAP

- Twin Coast
- Discovery Highway
- Alternative tourist drive
- Other major roads
- Airports
- Cities and towns
- Journey planning – check with Waka Kotahi for road closure information.



TAKE THE SCENIC ROUTE

Follow the Twin Coast Discovery Highway signs and discover the best of both the east and west coasts.

DRIVE TIMES

Auckland	→	Warkworth	50 minutes
Warkworth	→	Whangārei	1 hour 30 mins
Whangārei	→	Pāhia	1 hour
Pāhia	→	Mangōnui	1 hour 15 mins
Mangōnui	→	Kaitiāia	35 mins
Kaitiāia	→	Ōmāpere	2 hours
Ōmāpere	→	Dargaville	1 hour 10 mins
Dargaville	→	Wellsford	1 hour 45 mins
Wellsford	→	Auckland	1 hour



NAU MAI, HAERE MAI KI WHANGĀREI TERENGA PARĀOA

📍 Hātea River Walk

KIA ORA, WELCOME TO WHANGĀREI

Just two hours north of Auckland lies our charming city, surrounded by beautiful coastal areas. Explore picturesque waterfalls, pristine beaches and lush forests.

Dive into outdoor adventures – kayaking, cycling, surfing and more. Discover our unique art trails and vibrant art galleries, including the extraordinary Hundertwasser Art Centre with Wairau Māori Art Gallery at the Town Basin.

Whether you're travelling through to the Bay of Islands, looking to escape the city or exploring New Zealand from afar, we invite you to experience Whangārei's manaakitanga. We welcome you with open arms and hope your time here leaves you with lifelong memories.

Whangārei

Need a little help
pronouncing Whangārei?
Try saying Far-ngah-ray with the
"ng" as in 'singer'.
And if you can get a soft roll
on the 'r', even better.
Easy aye!

WHANGĀREI TERENGA PARĀOA

Whangārei was a well established and thriving Māori settlement by the time Captain Cook arrived in 1769. Many prominent hill and land features around the harbour and river valleys show signs of being part of a pā (fortified village), garden or food storage pit.

Whangārei Harbour was also a key waypoint for the tribes of wider Northland for affairs south of Whangārei. The full name for Whangārei, Whangārei Terenga Parāoa, commemorates events from the 1800s and reflects this history.

In the Māori language, parāoa refers to the sperm whale, the largest toothed whale, and terenga describes a path taken by marine life. Terenga parāoa literally means "the gathering place of the whales" but is a colloquial expression that likened large gatherings of northern chiefs and their war parties to a pod of whales. This is because these war councils would meet on the islands in the upper harbour.

Early missionaries recorded up to 3,000 Māori regularly camping on the shores of this rich harbour, highlighting its significance as a meeting place for the northern tribes.

📍 Cover photo: Ruakākā Beach – Kirsty Halliday



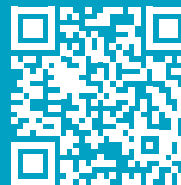
ACCESSIBLE WHANGĀREI

Whangārei has a mostly flat, compact city centre, which helps with easy access. Access Whangārei has a brochure, which provides accessibility information and a map, which highlights mobility parking spaces and accessible amenities, including toilets, attractions, accommodation, conference, shopping and dining options. Brochures and assistance are available at the Whangārei isite Visitor Centre or visit www.WhangareiNZ.com/accessible-Whangarei for more information.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Discover local itineraries, hidden gems and must-do activities, plus recommendations on where to eat, sleep and explore.

WhangareiNZ.com



CLIMATE

Whangārei District is part of Northland, New Zealand's warmest and only subtropical region, with an average of 2,000 sunshine hours every year. The hottest months are January and February, and winters are mild – there's no snow here!

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

Spring: (Sep-Nov) 17°C high, 10°C low

Summer: (Dec-Feb) 24°C high, 14°C low

Autumn: (Mar-May) 21°C high, 11°C low

Winter: (Jun-Aug) 16°C high, 07°C low

TALK TO THE EXPERTS

Local or visitor, our friendly team at the Whangārei isite Visitor Centre make it easy for you!

We'll help you plan your visit, not only in Whangārei but anywhere in Aotearoa!

We offer a FREE booking service for accommodation and activities with free maps and brochures, as well as a great range of giftware and souvenirs.

Event and transport tickets also available.

Open 7 days (closed only Christmas Day).

Whangārei isite Visitor Centre
Tarewa Park, 92 Otaika Road
09 438 1079

Event tickets 09 470 3032
info@WhangareiNZ.com

WhangareiNZ.com

Whangārei District
Love it Here!

 **Whangarei**
District Council



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Love our DISTRICT!

*Discover, explore and enjoy all the great things to see and do
in the subtropical Whangārei District.*

 Piroa Falls

HIGHLIGHTS

Culture

Take your knowledge, understanding and connection to tangata whenua to the next level with a genuine Māori cultural experience. Explore our natural taonga, our cultural centres and our guided journeys. **More on page 6**

Walks & Trails

Walk and hike year-round in subtropical Whangārei. Meander along an easy native forest path or challenge yourself with an all-day hike that follows an ancient Māori trail. Discover beautiful waterfalls, streams and rivers, white sandy beaches and coastal panoramas that will take your breath away. There is also a network of walks that connect the city and surrounding forests, including the fully accessible waterside Hātea Loop – Huarahi o te Whai walkway. **More on page 10**

Beaches & Water Activities

The Whangārei District has many superb harbour and east coast beaches, which fringe the Pacific Ocean. Explore secluded coves or long, sweeping white-sand beaches. Surf, swim, dive, snorkel, fish, kayak, paddleboard, wakeboard or just dig your toes into the sand and relax.

More on page 16

Waterfalls

Discover six stunning waterfalls, including the iconic Otuihau – Whangārei Falls, a picturesque 26m-high waterfall with picnic spots and native forest.

More on page 18

Gardens

The District's climate means a long growing season, lush gardens and 'farmgate' subtropical edibles. Enjoy public gardens and parks along with garden trail events. **More on page 31**

Cycling

Discover and enjoy a network of fun, scenic cycle paths, and a bike park with circuit, pump, BMX and mountain-biking tracks for riding all year round. **More on page 20**

Markets

Browse New Zealand's first growers market and many other wonderful craft, art, community and food markets, all with treasures to discover.

More on page 15

Art & Craft

Discover sculpture and art trails, murals, galleries, exhibitions, festivals and events showcasing unique works of art and craft in all mediums by local and international artists. **More on page 22**

Museums

Reflect on and learn about the fascinating history and heritage of the Whangārei District as told through unique collections that include Māori taonga (treasures), settler collections, vintage vehicles and fascinating clocks.

Wildlife

Visit Northland's only nocturnal kiwi house to enjoy the antics of our national bird, along with beautiful native gecko and fascinating weta. Explore the habitats of rare and special native species, including the pekapeka (long-tailed bat).

Kids' Stuff

Whangārei is family friendly, with fantastic parks, an adventure playground, numerous walking trails, mountains and sculptures to climb, fascinating bridges, jetties perfect for fishing, snorkelling spots, quirky clocks, historic jails, moa bones, kiwi sightings and so much more! **More on page 9**

Fishing & Golf

Whether you cast your line from a charter boat, a jetty, beach or rocks, our coastline offers a wealth of delicious kaimoana (seafood). Boaties will find plenty of easily accessible boat ramps from which to depart on an adventure. Prefer land activities? Why not tee off at a golf course in one of our beautiful rural or seaside locations.

Town Basin

Enjoy this riverside precinct packed full of superb experiences, including craft and art galleries, cafés and restaurants, shopping, fantastic playgrounds, markets and museums. The Town Basin also frequently hosts events and entertainment. **More on page 36**

Poor Knights Islands

A world-renowned marine and nature reserve that is a scuba and snorkelling paradise. Visitors who prefer to stay above water will still enjoy kayaking, paddleboarding or simply relaxing on board a comfortable cruise boat. **More on page 53**



Love our CULTURE!

Join us in celebrating the rich heritage and deep connection of the tangata whenua (Māori people) to the land, environment and community of Whangārei.

📍 Gathering seafood at Pātāua South

CULTURE

***E ngā manuhiri tūārangi ē!
Nau mai, haere mai,
Whakatau mai rā!
Whakatau mai ki
Whangārei Terenga Parāoa!
Ka tihe!
Tīhewa mauriora!***

Another name for the Māori people of New Zealand is tangata whenua, which means ‘the people of the land’. The tangata whenua of New Zealand are strongly connected to their land and environment.

As tangata whenua, we consider ourselves the original kaitiaki (protectors) of the land, forests and waterways of New Zealand.

As tangata whenua, we pride ourselves on manaakitanga or welcoming and caring for our visitors, so we hope that you may be better informed and enriched by both New Zealand's pre- and post-settler history.

Today, Māori make up nearly one third of the population of Whangārei, so you can expect to meet us wherever you go. From our creative Māori artists to our innovative and entrepreneurial business people, we are part of what makes both New Zealand and Whangārei special and unique.

Through the Māori Cultural Guide, we share many of the things and places we love and hold in high regard. Most of these have been provided to us by the environment, which is nestled in what we call Papatūānuku. The Whangārei Cultural Guide tells the unique stories and legends of Whangārei Terenga Parāoa. Download it from WhangareiNZ.com/kiaora.



📍 Hātea River, downstream from Otuihau – Whangārei Falls



The Library Pou



Parihaka Summit



Watch
Te Matau a Pohe,
the bascule bridge, lift
and open everyday
at 12pm noon.

Te Matau a Pohe

CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS

Mt Parihaka

Parihaka was sculpted by early Māori inhabitants into a pā or great fortress, reputedly the largest in all Aotearoa. Battles were fought and after the people of the pā were overwhelmed by attacking forces in the battle of Ōpārākau in 1827, a large section of the mountain was declared tapu (sacred). A special carved commemorative stone at the lookout summit represents the mauri (life essence) of the mountain.

Parihaka is accessible via walking tracks through beautiful native bush. The road to the summit is currently closed.

Heritage & Sculpture Trail

As part of the Hātea Loop – Huarahi o te Whai walkway, you can read the heritage panels telling the stories of both Māori and European settlement. Enjoy sculptures with significant cultural meaning, created by local artists.

Otuihau – Whangārei Falls

The waterfall and river have a spiritual, healing and cultural connection for tangata whenua. The waterways that flow in and out of Otuihau provided a variety of food sources especially tuna (eels) and kōura (freshwater crayfish). The base of these majestic falls is the beginning of the Hātea River, which flows to the Whangārei Harbour.

Ten Carved Pou

Ten carved pou (carved poles) representing many of the cultures that enrich Whangārei can be seen at the entrance to the Central Whangārei Library. Five of the poles were carved by, and represent Māori. In what is believed to be a world first, the rest have been carved or decorated by other cultural groups and one, the Generic Pou, represents all cultures.

Te Matau a Pohe

Te Matau a Pohe, the name of this rolling bascule bridge, means ‘The Fish Hook of Pohe’ and reflects the early history of the people of this area. The design is inspired by the shape of the Māori fish hook and the prows of waka (canoe). Pohe was the Māori chief who welcomed the first settlers to Whangārei. He was skilled in manufacturing traditional fish hooks that settlers used in preference to the standard English hooks made of steel. Pohe also built bridges between the two cultures during the first years of English settlement amongst Māori and used his ranking to protect many of the first settlers to the area of Whangārei.

Hihiaua Cultural Centre

Hihiaua Cultural Centre reflects the aspirations of ancestors to reclaim, restore, and revitalise Māori arts and culture. It serves as a contemporary precinct where people can engage with the community through living, learning, earning and playing, all while fostering cultural knowledge and skills. With a focus on education and exhibition of local arts and crafts, the centre is a testament to the strong local history and mana of local hapū.

KIDS' STUFF

There are heaps of activities for kids and families all around our District. Choose from horse trekking, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, learning to surf and mountain biking.

Playgrounds

Enjoy two of our most popular kids' playgrounds at the Town Basin, including Pūtahi Park with a water feature (expect to get wet!). Across the river is the incredible destination adventure playground with large scale climbing structures, sandpit and heaps of swings.

Walks

The Hātea Loop – Huarahi o te Whai is 4.2kms of fun with wide spaces, sculptures to climb, wildlife to spot and boats to watch. Don't miss Te Matau a Pohe (a bascule bridge) opening at 12pm noon each day.

The walk between A H Reed Memorial Park and Otuihau - Whangārei Falls is magic for kids. Follow the river, cross the bridges, discover loads of places to picnic, run and play. Have a 'race' from Mair Park to the top of Parihaka.

Fishing

Throw a fishing line off the jetty on the Hātea Loop or at one of the many others throughout the District, including the inner harbour jetties at Onerahi, Urquharts Bay or McLeod Bay, or the pedestrian bridges at Whananaki and Pātāua.

Bikes

Check out the BMX and skate parks at Riverside Drive, Onerahi, Ngunguru and Ruakākā, as well as the circuit and pump tracks, and coaching area at Pohe Island Bike Park.

Beaches

Choose from many sheltered beaches, often with shady trees and grassy areas to sit on. Some have playgrounds, picnic areas, BBQs and public toilets. Explore Tamaterau, the estuary at Pātāua South, Waipū Cove, One Tree Point, Whangaumu (Wellingtons Bay), Kōwhārewa Bay, McLeod Bay and Ōakura.

Wildlife

Come and visit Northland's only nocturnal kiwi house! Watch our playful national bird, the kiwi, foraging for food. You'll also get to see cool native geckos and interesting wetas. Whangārei also has plenty of beautiful bush walks, perfect for bug and bird spotting.

Jail, Bones, Trucks & Jeeps, Cuckoo Clocks & More

Discover an old jailhouse and real moa bones at Kiwi North. There's vintage and classic cars, motorcycles, trucks and jeeps at Packard Museum, and Claphams National Clock Museum has heaps of crazy novelty clocks and a cacophony of cuckoo clocks. If it's a rainy day, why not try to bowl a strike or beat the arcade?

Whangārei Libraries has a great selection of kids' books and resources, and activities for little kids and big kids are held regularly.



📍 Town Basin Playground fun



📍 Gecko at Kiwi North

Love our WALKS!

*Enjoy spectacular walks year-round in subtropical Whangārei.
Choose from trails in native forest, strolls on white sandy
beaches and tracks with superb coastal vistas.*

WALKS

Discover just a few of the amazing walks available in the Whangārei District. For more information, visit the [isite Information Centre](http://www.isiteinformationcentre.co.nz) or check out WhangareiNZ.com.

Hātea Loop – Huarahi o te Whai

A 4.2km shared loop path that follows the Hātea River, crossing three bridges and passing many interesting attractions along the way, including the Town Basin, with restaurants, cafés, shopping, and the Hundertwasser Art Centre with Wairau Māori Art Gallery. Also enjoy the Heritage and Sculpture Trails, murals, destination adventure playground, the Camera Obscura and Rolling Ball Clock. The entire loop is accessible for walking, jogging, bicycles, mobility aids, scooters and push-chairs.

Shared Paths Connect the City

Shared Paths are accessible, mostly off-road, sealed paths that can be walked or cycled. Dogs on leashes are allowed.

The 2.5km Raumanga Shared Path connects the suburb to the city centre via Tarewa Park and then joins with the 6.5km Kamo Shared Path, which follows the existing rail corridor and connects suburbs north of the city.

The 6.5km Onerahi Shared Path connects the city centre, Town Basin and Hātea Loop with the suburb of Onerahi and the Waimāhanga Network of walks. The Shared Path section is fully accessible.

The Boswell Track begins at the end of Waimāhanga Road and partially follows the course of a disused railway line, passing through a tidal ecosystem rich in mangroves. You can also enter or exit via George Point Road, the Waverley Street Link, or Cockburn and Pah roads. From Pah Road, the path follows the inner harbour along Beach Road to a playground, public toilets and the Onerahi boat ramp.

Hātea River Walk

Follow the tuna (eel) symbols down the Hātea River between Otuihau – Whangārei Falls and the Town Basin, immersing yourself in the sights and sounds of the beautiful river, native forest and farmland along the way.

The walk can be done in its entirety or enjoyed in shorter sections by accessing it at Mair Park, Whareora Road and/or A H Reed Memorial Park.

Otuihau – Whangārei Falls A loop walkway around a stunning 26m-high waterfall. Three viewing spots along the track offer fantastic photo opportunities and there are many picnic spots within the reserve.

The viewing platform closest to the carpark is wheelchair accessible.

A H Reed Memorial Park A remnant of the original Northland kauri forest with 500-year-old maturing kauri trees that can be viewed from a boardwalk in the forest canopy. The bubbling Wai Koromiko Stream runs through the middle of the park and there is a short detour to the 23m-high Pukenui Falls.

Parihaka Scenic Reserve & Mair Park to the Town Basin Walk past the stone footbridge, which takes you to Mair Park on the other side of the river, follow the markers at Vale Road and Ewing Road and onto the boardwalk through the mangrove forest. Cross Riverside Drive and the Canopy bridge to the Town Basin.

Mt Manaia

Mt Manaia's summit provides a superb 360° vista of the Whangārei Harbour, Bream Bay, Taranga and Marotiri (the Hen & Chickens) and out to the ocean. It rises 420m above the entrance of the Whangārei Harbour and the striking silhouette of the rock formations, remnants of volcanic action, provides the most iconic view of the whole District.

This is a vigorous hike up well-maintained tracks with around 1,000 formed steps. Manaia features a large variety of beautiful, mature broadleaf trees, along with impressive stands of nikau. It is an important habitat for kiwi and other native birds and wildlife, so strictly no dogs are allowed.

In Māori legend, the five key rock formations that make up Mt Manaia's skyline represent five people running a race across the mountain top; the paramount chief Manaia, his two children, Pito the beautiful wife he stole from the chief Hautatu and the aggrieved Hautatu who is in pursuit brandishing his mere (stone weapon). All five figures were struck by lightning by the God of Weather, Tāwhirimātea, and turned to stone.



Let the dogs out!



Let your dog off the leash at the **Dog Exercise Park** at William Fraser Memorial Park, purpose designed and built for dogs. More information about dog exercise areas can be found at: www.wdc.govt.nz/dogs

WALKS

Te Whara Track

Te Whara (Bream Head) Track is a challenging but rewarding hike. You will walk through some of the best coastal forest in New Zealand and be rewarded with truly breathtaking views of Northland's East Coast and offshore islands.

Dramatic volcanic outcrops and rock pinnacles are evidence that Whangārei Heads is part of a large family of dormant volcanoes. Rocks in the area can be dated back 135 million years and indicate that this land was part of Gondwanaland, the great continental mass that broke up and separated into smaller continental masses and islands in the Southern Hemisphere.

To minimise disturbance to the area and out of respect to local iwi, hapū and their ancestors, please do not venture off the marked tracks. No dogs are allowed.

Te Whara Track follows the ancient footprints of Manaia; a track that is at least 700 years old.

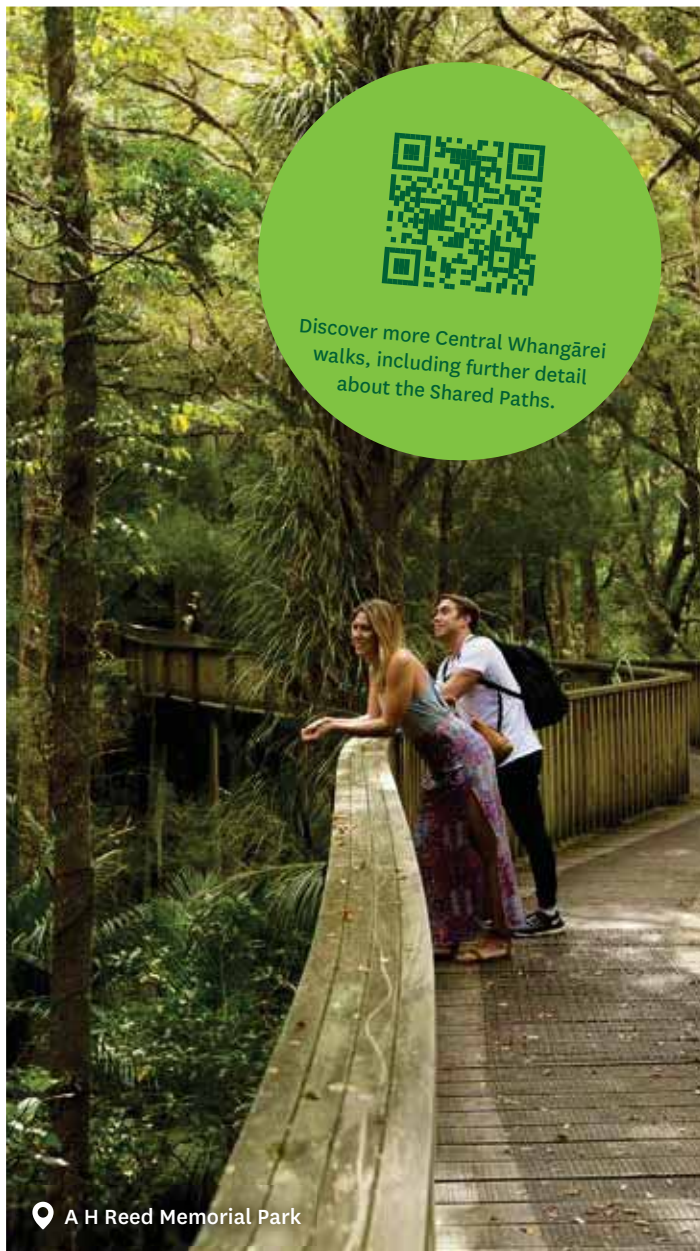
Te Whara was the principal wife of the rangatira (chief) Manaia. It was here that Manaia first met Puhi-moana-ariki, an early ancestor of the Ngāpuhi iwi and cautioned him with the words “Kei whara koe e Puhi i ngā tai e haruru ana” (You may meet with disaster from the tides that thunder there).

Manaia's wife is said to have slighted Puhi and was turned into stone. She stands as the projecting up-thrust rock at the eastern-most point of Bream Head, known as 'Te wahine iti a Manaia'. Visit www.doc.govt.nz for more information.



Te Araroa – New Zealand's Trail

From the north, Te Araroa enters the Whangārei District at the Helena Bypass and includes Whananaki, Matapouri, Pātua North and South, Taiharuru and Bream Head, and then through the Bream Trail onto the Mangawhai Walkway. Coastal camping, cabins and lodges are available along the trail. For detailed trail information, go to www.teararoa.org.nz



Note: this is a time exposure photograph showing glowworms brighter than normal

MILKY WAY GLOWWORM CAVE **WAIPU**

**BOOK ONLINE
GET 10% OFF**

Use discount code
WDLitHVG25-26

Get close up to thousands of dazzling glowworms

See and learn about word-famous glowworms in this pristine cave filled with crystal formations. Several guided tours are available daily. Booking online is best to secure a spot.

Take a walk on one of the many Jurassic bush walks. Visit for a day or stay several in the peaceful dark skies campground.



BUSH WALKING TRACKS | ROCK CLIMBING AND BOULDERING | MOTORHOME AND TENT SITES



LOCATION:

Less than 2 hours North of Auckland,
567 Waipu Caves Road, Waipu



GET IN TOUCH:

09 430 2722 | waipucaves@gmail.com
www.milkywaycave.co.nz

CENTRAL WHANGĀREI

Hātea Loop – Huarahi o te Whai	A fully accessible riverside walk that includes a sculpture trail and award-winning bridges. Dogs on leash allowed.	1 4.2kms	1 hour
Hātea River Walk	The full walk is between the Town Basin and Otuihau – Whangārei Falls. It follows the Hātea River and includes Mair Park and A H Reed Kauri Park. Dogs on leash allowed.	2 6kms	2.5 hours one way
A H Reed Memorial Park	Get up close and personal to giants of the forest with a treetop boardwalk among stately kauri trees.	1 890m loop	 25 min loop
Parihaka Scenic Reserve	Climb to the Parihaka summit where the lookout offers a panoramic view over the city.	3 2kms	 Up to 2 hours return
Otuihau – Whangārei Falls	This walk loops around the waterfall, crossing a footbridge at the bottom where a perfect photo opportunity awaits. Dogs on leash allowed.	2 1km	30 min loop
Coronation Scenic Reserve	Part of the larger Pukenui Forest and Western Hills that are the green backdrop for the city.	4 3.2kms	 1.5 hours one way
Onerahi Shared Path	A shared cycle and walkway that connects the Hātea Loop – Huarahi o te Whai walkway with Onerahi and the Waimāhanga Network.	1 6kms	1.5 hours return
Waimāhanga Network including Boswell Track	Part of this track is formed on a disused railway embankment. See the rich, diverse ecology of mangrove forests that grow between sea level and the high tide line. Dogs on leash allowed.	2 2.5kms	45 mins one way
Raumanga Falls	Walk through the Raumanga Valley Scenic Reserve to cascading 15m waterfalls with naturally formed pools. Dogs are allowed but must be under control at all times.	2 1km	30 mins return

TŪTŪKĀKĀ COAST

Matapōuri to Whale Bay	This trail follows the coast through native forest and has wonderful views of one of the world's most beautiful coastlines. Be sure to allow extra time for a swim and a picnic.	3 3kms	 1.5 hours return
Whangaumu Bay to Ngunguru Estuary	From the south end of Whangaumu Bay, a stepped track leads you to the lookout and then down to Ngunguru. Dogs on leash allowed.	2 1.5kms	1.5 hours return Only attempt two hours either side of low tide
Tūtūkākā Heads & Lighthouse	A heart-pumping walk with steep climbs and descents as well as spectacular views up and down the Tūtūkākā Coast.	3 2kms	 1.5 hours return Only attempt one hour either side of low tide
Whananaki Coastal Walkway	A well-graded track with remarkable coastal and rural views. Walk the longest footbridge in the Southern Hemisphere. Dogs on leash allowed on walkway only – strictly no dogs on the beach.	4 5.8kms	4 to 5 hours return
Mimiwhangata Coastal Park	Shady beaches, rocky shores, archaeological sites, farmland, native vegetation and bird-spotting.	3 500m to 4.5kms	 15 mins to 4 hours
Whangaruru North Head	Walk through native forest along ridgelines with panoramic views of the harbour and open coastlines.	3 2km and 4km loops	 2 to 4 hours
Tāheke Waterfall	A 3km loop track that features regenerating kauri. At 46m high, Tāheke Waterfall is the highest in Northland.	3 3kms	 1.5 hour loop
Waro Lake & Limestone Reserve	A lovely calm lake and karst landscape with superb limestone rock features.	1 2.2kms	 1 hour

WHANGĀREI HEADS

Mt Manaia	Manaia towers 420m above the Whangārei Harbour. This is a vigorous climb through beautiful native forest. The summit has breathtaking 360° views.	3 3.5kms	 2 hours return
Te Whara Track	Take up the challenge of this six-hour walk through pristine native forest. You'll be rewarded with awe-inspiring panoramas.	4 7.5kms	 6 hours one way
Smugglers Bay Loop Track	A loop walk that takes you past an historic WWII gun emplacement. Follow the coastal track and discover beautiful Smugglers Bay.	3 3km loop	 2 hours
Mt Aubrey – Reotahi Coastal Walkway	A walk that skirts the Reotahi Marine Reserve with views over to Marsden Point and Bream Bay.	3 2.8km loop	 2 hours
Peach Cove	This track runs up Bream Head Ridge and drops down into remote Peach Cove. Book the DOC hut and stay the night.	4 3.6kms	 3 hours return

BREAM BAY

Langsview Track from Bream Bay	This scenic section of the Te Araroa Trail explores the ridgeline of the Brynderwyn range. Access is via either Cove Road or Cullen Road in Waipū.	3 6.5kms one way	 3 hours one way
Pīroa Falls	A short walk through native forest to a small waterfall that is big on beauty.	2 400m	 15 mins return
Ruakākā Pipeline Road Track	The track follows a gas pipeline and provides access to the back of the Bream Bay sand dunes.	2 3kms	 1 hour one way
Waipū Caves Farm Park	Forest and farm walking tracks in a karst limestone landscape. <i>These walks are on private land and have a small admission fee.</i>	2-4 10kms	 30 minutes to all day
Waipū Caves Track	Passing through the Waipū Caves Scenic Reserve, this walk features karst limestone formations, open farmland and regenerating forest.	3 4kms	 1.5 hours return
Waipū Coastal Walkway	See rock formations similar to the famous pancake rocks at Punakaiki, and incredible views of offshore Taranga and Marotiri islands (the Hen & Chickens).	3 2kms	 1.5 hours return

Times for walks are guidelines only. Refer to www.wdc.govt.nz/walks and www.doc.govt.nz for more info.

Be safe – ensure you are appropriately prepared.

Walk Difficulty **1** Easy **2** Easy-Medium **3** Medium **4** Difficult

MARKETS

Whangārei is proud to host New Zealand's first growers market, held every Saturday morning all year round, where locals gather for fresh, high-quality produce. Don't miss the many other wonderful craft, art, food, pop-up and community markets held regularly throughout the District, each offering unique treasures to discover. The popular Artisans Market and Canopy Night (food) Markets are held at the Town Basin from Labour Weekend to Easter.



Food markets in Whangārei's city centre

Love our BEACHES!

With its proximity to the Pacific Ocean and over 100 beaches, the Whangārei District is truly a coastal paradise. Whether you are looking for breathtaking seascapes or exciting adventures, there's plenty to enjoy.



BREAM BAY

Ruakākā	Blue water and white sand as far as the eye can see. Lifeguards patrol in summer.	  30 mins
Langs Beach	Pōhutukawa fringed beach with white sand, rocky headlands and outstanding views of offshore islands.	  45 mins
Waipū Cove	A white sand coastal beach with handy shops, cafés and grassy areas – great for kids. Lifeguards patrol in summer.	  40 mins

WHANGĀREI HEADS

Tamaterau	Sheltered within the Whangārei Harbour, this is a great beach for kids.	 20 mins
McLeod Bay	A popular choice for families with sheltered swimming, playground, picnic and BBQ area.	 30 mins
Reotahi	A pebbly beach within a marine reserve that is great for snorkelling.	 35 mins
Smugglers Bay	Walk 20 mins over farmland and be rewarded by a secluded cove with white sand.	 40 mins
Ocean Beach	A popular surf beach with lifeguards on patrol in summer.	  45 mins
Taiharuru	A pristine example of the fascinating mangrove forest eco-system. Great kayaking.	 40 mins
Pātaua South	Choose from a sheltered estuary or ocean-side beach with a footbridge that links the two.	 40 mins
Pātaua North	A long sweeping ocean-side beach. Note that there is no vehicle access from Pātaua South. Drive via Whareora Road.	  45 mins



Summer lifeguards



Surf beach

TŪTŪKĀKĀ COAST

Ngunguru	A sheltered estuary alongside the Ngunguru village with playground, shops and cafés.	 25 mins
Whangaumu (Wellingtons Bay)	Plenty of shady trees and grassy spaces. Great for kids or relaxing with a book.	 35 mins
Matapouri	Cradled between rocky headlands, Matapouri offers great swimming for the whole family.	 40 mins
Whale Bay	A 10-minute walk through native forest opens up to this idyllic, secluded bay.	 40 mins
Woolleys Bay	Park right by the beach and enjoy bodysurfing.	  45 mins
Sandy Bay	One of the East Coast's most popular surf beaches.	  55 mins
Whananaki Estuary	A sheltered estuary with a store and the longest footbridge in the Southern Hemisphere. Enjoy great kayaking in the mangrove forest.	 45 mins
Moureeses Bay	At the end of a winding, gravel road, great surf and bodyboarding beach.	  50 mins

RUSSELL RD

Ōakura	Easily accessible from the road, this popular beach is sheltered from ocean swells.	 55 mins
Whangaruru Harbour and Bland Bay	A harbour with two beaches of very different character. Remote and beautiful.	 60 mins
Mimiwhangata Coastal Park	A challenging drive (take care) but you will arrive in paradise.	  1 hr 15 mins



Drive times are from Whangārei city and are approximate

Love our WATERFALLS!

*Grab your camera and discover our six beautiful
waterfalls, all with their own distinct personalities.*



📍 Otuihau – Whangārei Falls

WATERFALLS

Otuihau – Whangārei Falls

This picturesque waterfall is 26.3m-high and cascades over basalt cliffs. The viewing platforms above the waterfall give spectacular views of the falls and the forest below. Traditionally, this area was a good fishing spot for local Māori. There are accessible viewing platforms and you can choose from many lovely picnic areas. The carpark is located at Boundary Road, Tikipunga, 5kms from the city centre and is on the way to the Tūtūkākā Coast.

Pīroa Falls

A beautiful waterfall located at the base of the Brynderwyn Hills. Enjoy a short 10-minute walk through beautiful native forest, crossing the bridge over the Ahuroa River to arrive at the Pīroa Falls, part of the Waipū Gorge Scenic Reserve. The turn off to Pīroa Falls is off Waipū Gorge Road at the northern side of the Brynderwyn Hills - this is a gravel road so drive with care.

Omīru Falls - Wairua River

The 80km Wairua River was once a valuable food source for local Māori and a busy highway for waka (canoes). Omīru Falls was a major defensive point for iwi during inter-tribal warfare. Located 24kms west of Whangārei city, the waterfall can be viewed from the carpark.

Pukenui Falls

A 23m waterfall hidden away in the A H Reed Memorial Park, a remnant of the original kauri forests, which were once extensive throughout Northland. Follow the McKinnon Track and Waikoromiko Stream to the base of the waterfall.

Raumanga Falls

Enjoy the pleasant walk from Raumanga Valley Reserve, 3kms from the city centre, through native forest to discover the 15m cascading waterfalls with naturally formed pools.

Tāheke Falls

At 46m high, the Tāheke waterfall is the highest in Northland. A beautiful and diverse 3km loop track features regenerating kauri trees within serene native forest. Take the short detour to the viewing platform overlooking the waterfalls and enjoy the impressive view downstream over the Tāheke Scenic Reserve. The track to the falls is located at the end of Hoban Road, Whareora.



📍 Otuihau – Whangārei Falls



📍 Pukenui Falls



📍 Raumanga Falls

Love our CYCLING!

Discover a network of fun, scenic cycle paths, as well as circuit, pump, BMX and mountain bike tracks.



 Hātea Loop – Huarahi o te Whai

CYCLING

A Network of Shared Paths

Whangārei city has a network of approximately 50kms of Shared Paths cyclists can enjoy, from Raumanga in the south, through the city, around the Hātea Loop, out to Onerahi or north to Te Kamo and Tikipunga.

Parking Your Bike

Free and secure bike parking is available at Locky Dock bike-parking stations in some of the most popular destinations across the city, including the Town Basin, Cameron Street mall and the Pohe Island playground.



Pohe Island Bike Park

There's something for all cyclists, including an 800m circuit track, perfect for coaching road riders and para cyclists, as well as being a great place to race the kids. Focus on road safety in the traffic skills and coaching area. The beginner bike skills track has ramps, see-saws and slalom poles. How many laps can you do on the world-class pump track without pedalling?! The park also links to the Shared Paths network, creating multiple cycling routes around the city.

BMX

The whole family will enjoy the BMX track at Pohe Island, Riverside Drive.

Mountain Biking

Parihaka MTB Park is home to primarily Grade 3-5, flow and gravity-oriented trails and the Glenbervie MTB Trail offers 40kms of hand-cut trails ranging in grades and lengths. Connect with the passionate MTB community at www.WhangareiMTB.nz.

Ngunguru Old Coach Trail

The coach trail may have closed in 1950, but cyclists can still enjoy the 16km scenic ride between historic Scow Landing and the waterside Ngunguru village.



Parihaka MTB Park



BMX Track, Pohe Island



Pohe Island Bike Park



HeadsUp Adventures is a thrill downhill adventure park. Filled with tracks, trails & fields for monster scooters (New Zealand's first and ONLY), downhill mountain biking, and authentic forest paintball for groups to test their communication skills.

211 Whangārei Heads Road, Whangārei | 0210 890 9069 | www.headsupadventures.co.nz

Love our ART!

Discover trails, galleries and exhibitions showcasing unique works of art and craft in all mediums by local artists, many of them inspired by Whangārei's cultural, physical and spiritual environment.

The Hundertwasser Art Centre with Wairau Māori Art Gallery is an authentic Hundertwasser-designed building, the last to be built in the world and housing the largest collection of original Hundertwasser artworks outside of Vienna.

📍 Hundertwasser Art Centre with Wairau Māori Art Gallery

ART

Art in the Town Basin

Begin your arts and crafts journey in Whangārei at the Town Basin. The Sculpture Trail along the Hātea Loop showcases diverse artworks and tells the story of Whangārei. Shop for gifts, souvenirs or hand-blown glass, and discover unique pieces from the master jeweller.

Hundertwasser Art Centre with Wairau Māori Art Gallery

This centre celebrates Friedensreich Hundertwasser and contemporary Māori artists. Explore exhibitions with original artworks, tapestries and architectural models. Visit the Wairau Māori Art Gallery, the world's first dedicated Māori public art gallery. Climb the award-winning Afforested Roof for stunning views of the Hātea River and Whangārei cityscape. The centre also features a film theatre, MuseumShop, and Café-Restaurant.

Te Kākano (The Seed)

A standalone sculpture in the shape of a koru. Te Kākano was designed so local craftspeople could master the techniques required for the construction of the Hundertwasser Art Centre with Wairau Māori Art Gallery.

Town Basin Galleries

The Bach artists' collective gallery offers a diverse range of quality art and craft from Northland artists. Feel the heat of the furnaces while watching glassblowing expert Keith Grinter at Burning Issues Gallery, which specialises in New Zealand glass, ceramics and jewellery.

Reyburn House

Reyburn House is the oldest pioneer settlers' house in Whangārei and home of the Northland Society of Arts. Enjoy the permanent art collection and monthly exhibitions from talented local artists.

Whangārei Art Museum

The Whangārei Art Museum is Northland's public art gallery, and the permanent home of the city's art collection. Free to visit and open seven days a week, the Whangārei Art Museum presents a year-round programme of exhibitions, showcasing local and national voices in powerful and provocative exhibitions.

Hihiaua Cultural Centre

Hihiaua Cultural Centre is a dynamic and distinctive centre of excellence, featuring the Te Wairua Toi gallery, a whakairo (carving) workshop, and the adjacent Kai Toi Café. Visitors can explore a diverse showcase of authentic Māori art and unique creations by nationally and internationally recognised artists.

Art in Other Areas

Explore the wider Whangārei District and discover many more galleries featuring local and international artists' work in permanent and ever-changing exhibitions at superb locations.

Street Prints Manaia Art Trail

In 2019, some of the world's best street artists took part in the Street Prints Manaia, International Art Festival in Whangārei and 15 incredible large-scale art murals were completed. **Discover more on page 26.**

The Papermill

Gain a hands-on paper-making experience at this joyous, creative place where artists with disabilities craft beautiful products from natural and recycled materials.

Helena Bay Art Gallery

Discover emerging New Zealand artists, including contemporary Māori and Pacific artists, at this gallery set within superb subtropical gardens.

Tūtūkākā Gallery

Resident artist Steve Moase collaborates with other talented local and New Zealand artists to bring you a beautiful collection of art, sculpture, glass and jewellery.

The Quarry Arts Centre

Established in the early 1980s, this artists' cooperative is a thriving creative space set within a serene, bush-clad former quarry site. Workshops, events and exhibitions are held regularly.

Hangar Art & Framing

Showcasing the talents of a wide range of craftspeople and avant-garde contemporary and traditional artists, including painters, printmakers, sculptors, jewellers and glass artists.

Quest Art Space

The inner-city corridor at the entrance of the Quest Hotel is home to an ever-changing collection of local works curated by Creative Northland.



View or download the Northland Art Guide and discover galleries, artist studios and public artworks all around Whangārei and Northland.



HUNDERTWASSER ART CENTRE with Wairau Māori Art Gallery



Journey into the World of Friedensreich Hundertwasser!

Celebrating painter, architect, ecologist and visionary
Friedensreich Hundertwasser and contemporary
Māori artists. Experience architecture in harmony
with nature and individual creativity.

Open 7 days, 10am - 4pm
Guided tours available Thursday – Sunday.
Book online or at the door

Book your tickets online or at the door

For more details, visit
hundertwasserartcentre.co.nz.

81 Dent St, Whangārei

Ph: 09 430 4230

enquiries@hundertwasserartcentre.co.nz



TOWN BASIN SCULPTURE

Discover Whangārei through the heart and creativity of its artists. Many of the sculptures on the trail are a celebration of our place, our people, our history and our environment.



1 Te Kākano (The Seed) was created to give builders and artists the opportunity to adapt their skills for the construction of the Hundertwasser Art Centre with Wairau Māori Art Gallery, which was completed at the end of 2020.

2 Kaitiaki Manos Nathan, 2002. Fired clay. A two-metre-tall figure conveying both welcome and guardianship, the meaning of kaitiaki, to Whangārei Art Museum.

3 Parihaka Sandra Meyst, 2010. Oamaru Stone.

4 Te Rongopai Brothers Thomas, Stanford and George Wihongi, 2000. Carved totara. Te Rongopai symbolises the settlement of Whangārei and represents the early interaction between Māori and Pākehā inhabitants. It is a multicultural portrayal of the community, with the two figures represented in a contemporary style, rather than strictly traditional.

5 The Ghost Moth Warren Viscoe, 2004. Sheet aluminium and wood. Reflecting the persistence of nature, along with the rhythm, balance and symmetry of the building at Cafler Park it was originally designed for.

6 Sentinel 2000 Charlotte Fisher, 2000. Bronze and stone. In celebration of the millennium, this work alludes to peoples long past who inhabited this place - both indigenous Māori and colonising Pākehā. The forms are also evocative of the qualities of boats; textures in bronze of the ripples in the nearby river.

7 Lottie Kap Pothan, 1989. Paradise sandstone. Reyburn House is the oldest surviving settlers' house in Whangārei and home to the Northland Society of Arts. This sculpture commemorates Charlotte (Lottie) Reyburn, the first child born to the Reyburn family in New Zealand.

8 Punga Kim Groeneveld and Trent Morgan, 2011. Pine poles, corten steel, rope, stainless steel. Representing the history and presence of local Māori with its form referencing a hinaki (eel trap), while the poles, steel and rope pay homage to the area's current incarnation as a marina.

9 Kaitiaki Manu Rex O'Brien, 2016. Maungatapere Basalt. This kukupa (wood pigeon) shaped piece is a response to the first people arriving in New Zealand and the impact this had, "Kaitiaki Manu flying on the winds of change."

10 Aurere Journey of the Waka - Anna Korver, 2012. Takaka marble, basalt base. The story of the journey and the balance and protection found between the people, the land and the birds.

11 Dobbie Canopy Trish Clarke, 2011. Stainless steel. Based on the local flora of the area, this canopy reflects the work of author and fern collector H.B. Dobbie, who in 1910 donated 122 acres of land on the face of Parihaka to the Whangārei Borough Council to enable the area to be enjoyed by all.

12 Hei Matau Nigel Scanlon, 2014. Puhipuhi and Whakapara basalt. A reimagination of the hook in different textures. Both of the basalts used in the sculpture were sourced from the same mountain near Whakapara.

13 Legend of Reitū and Reipae John Ioane, 2011, Macrocapa wood, epoxy resin. Reitū and Reipae were twin sisters from the Waikato region who fell in love with the young chieftain, Ueoneone. Read how this love story plays out on the panels that are part of the Heritage Trail along the Hātea Loop.

14 Landfall Justin Murfitt, 2011, Concrete, reinforcing steel. These forms mimic seabirds landing, providing a sense of movement and arrival.

15 SWIRL Neville Parker, 2011. Steel pipe, cut and then carved. SWIRL depicts a natural event in the marine environment, the coming together of a community of fish to feed. SWIRL invites us to consider the strength and power available to us all when we work together.

16 Wave and Waka Chris Booth and Te Warihi Hetaraka, 2003. Carved and suspended stone. An enduring symbol of partnership for Aotearoa, the waka and immense stone wave forms rise from the Hātea River onto the shore, against the changing backdrop of harbour, hills, Mount Parihaka and the contemporary skyline. A landmark welcoming visitors arriving by sea, land and air.

17 Drift Miriam Von Mulert and Culham Engineering, 2015. Steel. Paula Green's poem Drift has been transformed into a steel sculpture, folded to seem like the empty page or a billowing sail, both anchored and ready to drift.

18 Intrepid Journey Steve Molloy, 2018, a tribute to Tuia Encounters 250 celebrations. Taranaki andesite and Whangārei basalt. Guided by the wind and the stars, our ancestors set forth on their intrepid journey. Using the knowledge from the past to use in the present and guide us into the future. They have travelled to come together and tell a story about our past as we speak of it in the present and will be told again in the future.

19 Camera Obscura Timatatanga Hou is a large-scale interactive sculpture, which reflects the Hātea River and Whangārei-te-rerengaparāoa maritime history. Enter the structure and experience the exterior environment in a new way through the Camera Obscura.

20 GiraGlob LGOP, 2022 a world-first innovative spherical structure that is a piece of furniture, a form of shelter and a work of art all in one.

MURALS & STREET ART

In 2019, some of the world's best street artists took part in the Street Prints Manaia, International Art Festival in Whangārei. Fifteen large-scale art murals based on the theme “Tuia te muka Tāngata” (Weaving the threads of Humanity) were created. The trail continues to evolve as additional works are added by talented artists.

- 1 **Untitled** Melinda Butt from Whangārei, New Zealand. Located in the Bank Street Gallery, 9 Bank St.
- 2 **Tuia Te Muka Tangata** Charles and Janine Williams from Auckland, New Zealand. Located at 168 Bank St.
- 3 **Tena ko te tumanako mo toku iwi – Hope for my people** Mike Tupaea from Whangārei, New Zealand assisted by Bub Dewes and Isaiah-Matthew Rameka. Located at the Town Basin.
- 4 **Untitled** Askew One/Elliot O'Donnell from New York City, USA (originally Auckland, New Zealand). Located at 17 Finlayson St.
- 5 **Kotahitanga – Unity** Earnest Bradley from Whangārei, New Zealand. Located at 70 John St.
- 6 **Respect Tomorrow** Bryce Williams and Jasmine Fuller from Whangārei, New Zealand. Located at corner of John Street and Dent St.
- 7 **CANDICE 00:00,02** Dourone from Spain and France. Located behind the ASB, Butter Factory Lane.
- 8 **Manaia** Mateus Bailon from São Paulo, Brazil. Located behind Quest Apartments, Butter Factory Lane.
- 9 **Opening up, Sharing the Colours, Communication is Connection** Gina Kiel from Wellington, New Zealand. Located at 26 James St.
- 10 **Untitled** Swiftmantis and Ephraim Russell from Palmerston North, New Zealand. Located behind Event Cinemas, John St.
- 11 **Alex and Carmilita** Lisa King from Adelaide, Australia. Located at 49 Walton St.
- 12 **HONGI – The Breath of Life** Millo from Rome, Italy. Located at back of the Police Station, Lower Cameron St.
- 13 **Selenaia** Fin Dac from Dublin, Ireland. Located at 10 Hannah St.
- 14 **Untitled** Amanda Valdes from Miami, USA. Located at 8 Hannah St.
- 15 **Kotahi** Uno Paola Delfin, from Mexico City, Mexico. Located at 88 Robert St.





QUARRY ARTS CENTRE
21 Selwyn Avenue, Avenues,
Whangārei
P: +64 9 438 1215
E: admin@quarryarts.org
www.quarryarts.org

We've supported artistic development of creatives in Northland since 1981. On our leafy, peaceful site creatives come together to connect, exhibit, teach and deepen their practices. All are welcomed to explore and use the grounds, gallery, kilns and workshop programme.



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Step into a world where heat meets creativity!
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Reyburn House | Art Gallery & Shop

Support Northland Artists by visiting this wonderful non-profit Gallery and shop at the Town Basin.
www.reyburnhouse.co.nz

Pick up unique gifts, wander through the Historic house or stroll the Heritage Rose gardens.



Free Entry!

📍 **Untitled, Amanda Valdes**



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100% Handmade in New Zealand
OPEN 7 DAYS

Burning Issues Gallery
Town Basin Whangārei

EAT & DRINK

Wood-fired roast lamb pizza, roadside hāngī, Greek mezze plates, smoked brisket with caramelised onion and blue cheese pies, Korean fried chicken, Vietnamese summer rolls, pāua wontons, Nutella Tim Tam brownies... shall we go on? The Whangārei District boasts a mouth-watering array of dining options. Pair pizzas with craft beer, enjoy seafood with a view over the water, and savour excellent coffee with your bacon and eggs. Discover divine handmade bagels and delectable raw, plant-based, and vegan treats and takeaways. Follow the locals' lead and grab the iconic Kiwi takeaway meal of fish and chips, wrapped up and enjoyed by the water or in a park. Finish off with ice cream made from New Zealand's finest cream and fruits, served in a cone.



Whale Bay

Markets for Foodies

With a subtropical climate and productive soils, the Whangārei District grows a bountiful array of quality produce, from exotic fruits to more common vegetables. And every weekend, locals flock to the many community markets across the District to chat with the growers and producers and buy their weekly supplies of seasonal, locally grown produce. The Whangārei Growers Market, held in the Water Street carpark in the city centre, was the first of its kind in New Zealand and now has over 100 growers and stallholders.

During summer and autumn, usually on Friday nights at the picturesque Town Basin, enjoy the family-friendly Canopy Night Markets with street food vendors providing a wide range of multicultural food. Choose your delicious dishes and tasty treats, then sit back and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere in this lovely shared space.



An advertisement for Jimmy Jack's Rib Shack and Craft Bar. The ad features a collage of food images including ribs, a burger, and a beer. The text reads: "Jimmy JACK'S", "RIB SHACK AND CRAFT BAR", "LEGENDARY AT RIBS", "FAMOUS FOR SO MUCH MORE", "117 BANK ST, WHANGAREI | PH: 09 430 0760", "OPEN TUESDAY - SUNDAY FROM 11.30AM", and "www.jimmyjacksribshack.co.nz". There is also a logo for "HOME OF THE STONEGRILL Experience".

楠火锅 NAN HOTPOT

We are Nan Hotpot, a proud ambassador of traditional Chinese hotpot culture, bringing the rich, bold flavours of China to your table. Specialising in premium broths and a truly immersive dining experience, every pot tells a story - come taste the difference!



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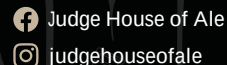


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EVENTS 2026

JANUARY

- Endless Summer Festival
- The Extravaganza Fair
- Manu World Champs – regional qualifier

FEBRUARY

- Kingston Calling - UB40 featuring Ali Campbell
- Northland Edible Garden Trail
- Hot Grill Summer

MARCH

- Whangārei Pride Festival
- Pasifika Fusion Festival
- Wild Kiwi
- Taste Whangārei
- Collaborationz

APRIL

- Whangārei Heads Art Trail
- Waipū Easter Carnival

MAY

- Sculpture Northland

JUNE

- Puanga Matariki Festival

JULY

- Waipū Winter Festival

AUGUST

- Polar Bear Surf Classic

SEPTEMBER

- Welcoming Week
- Multicultural Day
- Latin American Fiesta

OCTOBER

- Whangārei Fringe Festival

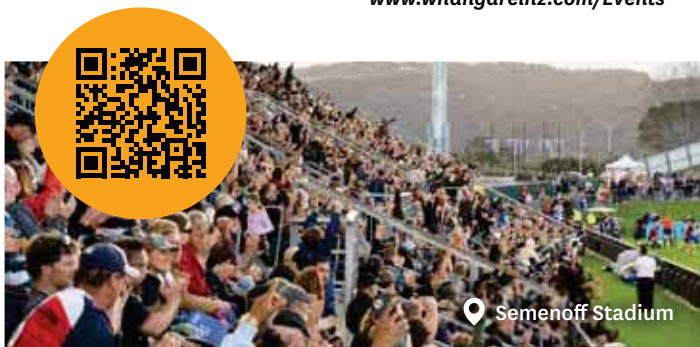
NOVEMBER

- Whangārei Lions Fireworks Spectacular
- International Rally of Whangārei
- Northland Amateur Filmmakers Festival

DECEMBER

- Christmas Festival
- A&P Summer Show
- Waipū Highland Games

For information on all these events and more, visit www.whangareinz.com/Events



📍 Semenoff Stadium



FORUM NORTH

Entertainment Centre



To find out more about what's on
at Forum North visit
www.wdc.govt.nz/ForumNorth

Tickets can be purchased for all shows
from Eventfinda or the Whangārei isite.



GARDENS

Whangārei Quarry Gardens

Set in 2.5 hectares of a disused quarry, the Quarry Gardens enjoy a unique microclimate ideal for growing an abundance of native and exotic subtropical plants. The gardens feature a lake, waterfall, walking paths, forest walks, a variety of garden styles and several historic remnants. Find a perfect picnic spot or enjoy the café.

Botanica

A small oasis of green in the centre of the city with colourful subtropical plants, exotic palms, orchids, cacti, succulents and native filmy ferns.

Cafler Park

Located across from Botanica and accessed via the pedestrian bridge that spans the Waiaeroia Stream is Cafler Park. Cafler Park offers a tranquil nature experience in the heart of the central city.

Within the park are the city's rose gardens, colourful flower gardens and mature trees offering shaded picnic spots. If you are lucky, you may spot eel swimming in the tidal river.



Whangārei's favourite horticultural haven

- Lush subtropical displays
- Dry cactus desert
- Japanese tranquillity
- Temperate house

Not to mention our famous native fernery and filmy fern house! Come and enjoy 'time out' no matter what the weather. There is a newspaper to read or just sit and relax. Our friendly team are always happy to see you and love to chat.



OPEN DAILY 10AM - 4PM

FREE ADMISSION

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P 09 430 4200 | www.wdc.govt.nz

Wheelchair accessible



WHANGĀREI QUARRY GARDENS

A subtropical oasis created and maintained by volunteers in the remnants of a former stone quarry, right in the heart of Whangārei.

With a diverse range of plants, stunning sculptures, historical ruins and our famous echo tunnels, Whangārei Quarry Gardens is fun for the whole family to explore. Our varied micro-climate and plant range means the gardens are beautiful year-round.

Guided walking and golf cart tours available on request, bookings essential.

Open 9am - 5pm, 7 days

www.whangareigardens.org.nz

37a Russell Rd, Kensington, Whangārei

(09)4377210

Quail Cafe open 9am - 3 pm Wed - Sun

CENTRAL WHANGĀREI





RESPONSIBLE CAMPING

Whangārei is an accredited Motorhome Friendly City. We recommend you stay at one of our holiday parks or campsites. To find out more about camping in public places, visit www.wdc.govt.nz/FreedomCamping

Whangārei District
Love it Here!

CENTRAL WHANGĀREI

Whangārei, Northland's only city and largest commercial hub, is nestled between the forest-clad ranges of the Western Hills, Pukenui Forest and Mt Parihaka, on the edge of the stunning Whangārei Harbour.

 Town Basin

WHANGĀREI CITY CENTRE



***not to scale**

There is much to explore within the central city, including the Town Basin marina precinct, a great place to grab a coffee or meal. Enjoy the craft and art galleries and soak up the atmosphere of a charming international yachting hub. From here, take an easy walk to the city centre, with both locally owned and nationwide retail stores and dining options.

1 The Town Basin Marina

This waterside destination offers cafés and restaurants, craft and art galleries, museums, shops and children's playgrounds. Enjoy the frequent markets and events amidst the ever-changing scenery of small pleasure craft and local and international yachts.

2 The Hātea Loop Walkway with the Sculpture & Heritage Trails

The Hātea Loop – Huarahi o te Whai is a 4.2km shared loop path that follows the Hātea River, crossing three bridges and passing many interesting attractions along the way, including the Town Basin, with restaurants, cafés and shopping. Also enjoy the Heritage and Sculpture trails, murals, destination adventure playground, the Camera Obscura and Rolling Ball Clock. The entire loop is accessible for walking, jogging, bicycles, mobility aids, scooters and push-chairs.

3 Hundertwasser Art Centre with 4 Wairau Māori Art Gallery

The Hundertwasser Art Centre with Wairau Māori Art Gallery celebrates painter, architect, ecologist and visionary Friedensreich Hundertwasser and contemporary Māori artists. Visitors can enjoy multiple spaces, including: the *Hundertwasser in New Zealand 1973-2000* exhibition with original artworks, tapestries, ecological work and architectural models, and the Wairau Māori Art Gallery, the world's first dedicated Māori public art gallery. On top of the building is the award-winning Afforested Roof with the golden cupola, which visitors can climb to gain sweeping views of the Hātea River and the Whangārei cityscape. The centre also houses a small film theatre, MuseumShop and Café-Restaurant.

5 The Artisans Market & The Canopy Night Market

The Artisans Market runs every second Saturday from Labour Weekend to Easter, excluding December when it runs weekly.

The Canopy Night Market is held monthly from 5pm to 8pm on Fridays through summer and brings together incredible street food vendors from both Whangārei and across the Northland region. Both markets are held at the Town Basin.

6 Whangārei Art Museum

The Whangārei Art Museum is Northland's public art gallery and the permanent home of the city's art collection. Free to visit and open seven days a week, the Whangārei Art Museum presents a year-round programme of exhibitions, showcasing local and national voices in powerful and provocative exhibitions.

7 Claphams National Clock Museum

With one of the largest collections of timepieces in the Southern Hemisphere, be surprised and delighted by Claphams National Clock Museum's over 1,000 unique and quirky clocks and watches. Guided group tours are available with advance booking via their website.

8 Rolling Ball Clock

A unique kinetic sculpture, with a striking wave form roof, and 35 "bowling balls" running on stainless steel tracks that perform various physical motions like banked corners, loop the loop, ride in elevators etc, as well as telling the time via timing racks. The sculpture features a central carved pou, which tells the story of Maramataka, the moon calendar.

9 Reyburn House Art Gallery

A vibrant art gallery in a historic house belonging to the Northland Society of Arts. Exhibitions, featuring New Zealand artists, change monthly and the shop has a fine selection of gifts.



📍 Claphams National Clock Museum

10 Hihiaua Cultural Centre

The Hihiaua Cultural Centre is the manifestation of the wish of local elders to reclaim, restore and renew Māori arts and culture. Out of their vision has risen what is now an award-winning architectural workshop, gallery and retail space filled with an eclectic exhibition of authentic Māori art and unique local creations from nationally renowned artists. Enjoy frequent events, performances and learning experiences at this very special place of cross-cultural awareness and understanding. Hihiaua is open from 10am to 4pm on Tuesday - Friday, 10am to 2pm on weekends, and by appointment on Mondays.

11 Te Matau a Pohe

Te Matau a Pohe, one of New Zealand's most innovative bridges, translates to 'The Fish Hook of Pohe'. Pohe was the Māori chief who greeted the first settlers in Whangārei. The bridge's bascule (lifting) design draws inspiration from the Māori fish hook and the prows of waka (canoes). You can stroll across the bridge as part of the Hātea Loop and watch it raise and lower daily at 12pm noon.

12 Camera Obscura – Timatatanga Hou

Walk into the large, dramatic structure, arrive in the Camera Obscura room and experience the exterior environment and bridge in a new way. The design of the sculpture reflects the Hātea River and the Whangārei-te-Rerenga-Parāoa maritime history.

13 Pohe Island Bike Park

This ultimate cycling destination features a smooth-surface circuit track, a traffic skills and coaching area, a beginner bike skills track, and a world-class pump track. All of this is just a heartbeat away from the city centre and connects to a network of trails around Whangārei.



📍 Camera Obscura – Timatatanga Hou

14 Whangārei Aquatic Centre

Indoor swimming pools, fitness centre, spa and sauna, café, wave pool and hydrosides for the kids. Located next to the Town Basin marina.

15 Whangārei Growers Market

New Zealand's first growers market offers an abundance of fresh, high-quality, locally grown produce every Saturday morning – no matter what the weather. Find a wide range of seasonal fruits, vegetables, plants and flowers, as well as preserves, honey, eggs and seafood, along with coffee, food stalls and live music. Open every Saturday from 6am to 10am.

16 Parihaka Reserve

Just a few minutes from the city centre, the Parihaka Reserve offers outstanding forest and riverside walks and many scenic and peaceful picnic spots. Take longer walks to the Parihaka summit track or A H Reed Memorial Park and Otuihau – Whangārei Falls. The Parihaka Reserve is a recipient of the prestigious international Green Flag Award, which acknowledges the world's best parks and green spaces.

17 Mt Parihaka

This ancient volcanic cone dominates the Whangārei skyline. A climb via one of the walkways from the Town Basin or Mair Park will take visitors to the summit via beautiful native bush for spectacular panoramic views of the city and its harbour. The war memorial at the summit lights up the sky at night.

18 A H Reed Memorial Park

Get up close and personal with native New Zealand forest. This remnant of original kauri forest features a tree-top boardwalk with impressive 500-year-old kauri trees and access to Pukenui Falls.

19 Otuihau – Whangārei Falls

A picturesque 26m-high waterfall set in native forest. Enjoy the view from easy-to-access viewing platforms and walk the short loop track to the base of the waterfall for fantastic photo opportunities.

20 Whangārei Quarry Gardens

Set in 25 hectares of a disused quarry, the Quarry Gardens enjoy a unique microclimate ideal for growing an abundance of native and exotic subtropical plants. The gardens feature a lake, waterfall, walking paths, forest walks, a variety of garden styles and several historic remnants. Find a perfect picnic spot or enjoy the café. Open daily, entry by donation.

21 Abbey Caves Reserve

A wonderful landscape with naturally sculptured, wild and surreal limestone outcrops and bluffs that are a photographer's dream. Walk beneath the mature podocarp-hardwood forest with fine specimens of pūriri trees.

22 Botanica

Discover one of the largest public collections of delicate native ferns in New Zealand, along with subtropical plants and cacti. Open daily, free admission.

23 The Papermill

A joyous, creative place where artists with disabilities craft beautiful products from natural and recycled materials. Gain a hands-on paper-making experience and purchase unique gifts. Open weekdays, 9am to 3pm.

24 Kiwi North Museum, Kiwi House & Heritage Park

At Kiwi North, you can discover living treasures such as native geckos, invertebrates, and kiwi in Northland's only nocturnal Kiwi House. Explore the Whangārei Museum to uncover local stories and feel like you've stepped back in time as you stroll through the expansive Heritage Park, surrounded by mid-19th century buildings and heritage clubs. Open daily, just a five-minute drive or bus ride from central Whangārei.

25 Packard Motor Museum

One of the largest collections of Packard automobiles anywhere in the world plus classic motorcycles, military, vintage and rare vehicles, and much more. Located 10 minutes from the city. Open Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm.

26 The Quarry Arts Centre

This forest-clad former quarry site is home to a local co-operative of artists and craftspeople. Wander through this rambling collection of studios, workshops, and galleries, and enjoy the small café. Grounds open daily, free admission.

27 Adventure Playground

An exciting destination play experience featuring climbing structures, slides, a large sandpit, many swings and space to run around. The park is along the Hātea Loop on the east side of the river. There is a large carpark (access off Riverside Drive) and toilets available.



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The Guardians

The kaitiaki (traditional guardians) of Bream Bay are the Patuharakeke tribe whose ancestral lands cover the whole area. In 1817, early settlers of Scottish heritage, who had journeyed from the other side of the world, also made their home here.



1 Waipū

Waipū Village is rich in Scottish heritage and boasts a great selection of local art, crafts, markets and cafés. The Waipū Highland Games are held on New Year's Eve and people come from around the world to dance and compete in traditional Celtic challenges. In July, the village hosts Waipū in Tartan with many Scottish themed events, including the Art N Tartan Wearable Art Awards.

2 Waipū Scottish Migration Museum

The amazing story of one of the world's greatest migrations – the Scottish Highlanders who travelled to Nova Scotia, Australia and then on to Waipū – is told through interactive award-winning museum displays and the UNESCO MOW (Memory of the World) listed collections. View the informative display, which records the local history prior to the settlers arrival.

3 Markets

The Waipū Boutique Market is held every second Sunday of the month at the Coronation Hall. Catch the Waipū Street Market on Auckland Anniversary weekend, Kings Birthday weekend and Labour weekend.

4 Waipū Cycle & Walkway

This community-led trail connects Waipū Village and Waipū Cove. As of late 2024, just one small section remains on Cove Road, with the rest following the purpose-built path.

5 Waipū Cove

A popular white sandy beach, patrolled by lifeguards over summer, with the river at the south end of the beach providing sheltered swimming. There is a beachfront campground and The Cove Cafe, Restaurant and Bar. The grass verge and trees make lovely, shady picnic areas.

6 Waipū Coastal Walkway

Along this trail, you will see and can climb, rock formations similar to the famous pancake rocks at Punakaiki. Stunning panoramas and secluded coves and beaches are revealed around every corner.

The walk is accessible from both ends via Cove Road. At the Waipū Cove end, access is across a usually shallow river, but do check the tides before embarking. A reasonable level of fitness and ability is required.

7 Langs Beach

A stunning white sandy beach framed by craggy headlands and gnarled trees, with wonderful views to offshore islands. This is an excellent spot for swimming, surfing and bodysurfing, or for a relaxing shoreline stroll.



Langs Beach

8 Waipū Caves Walkway

The 4km return walk climbs from the reserve by the Waipū Caves through karst limestone formations, climbing steeply through open grassland before ending at a gate on the ridgeline where you will be rewarded with panoramic coastal views. Return the same way you came. Some of the track passes through private property – please be respectful.

Waipū Caves Farm Park operate private tours on their nearby 130ha conservation and nature park. See glowworms, explore native bush with karst limestone and stay overnight at the campground.

9 Marsden Cove Marina

Featuring excellent marina and boating facilities, café, frequent markets and supply stores, this is a perfect base for boat owners to launch and explore the Whangārei Harbour, coastlines and offshore islands.

10 One Tree Point

On the edge of the Whangārei Harbour, One Tree Point has sheltered swimming beaches, easy access to local fishing spots and magnificent views of Mt Manaia across the channel.



Waipū Coastal Walkway

11 Ruakākā Racecourse

Where the surf meets the turf and horse racing events are held throughout the year. Ruakākā Beach is just a short distance away and racehorses can often be seen galloping along the beach when in training.

12 Wildlife Refuges

The Ruakākā and Waipū estuaries provide a unique habitat for some of New Zealand's rarest birds, including the critically endangered tara-iti/New Zealand fairy tern. Birdwatchers may spot wrybill, reef heron and banded dotterel, and migrating godwits can be seen at certain times of the year.

13 Ruakākā Beach

A 13km expanse of white sand and surf, Ruakākā Beach is popular for a range of water activities, including surfing and kite surfing.

14 Surf Lifesaving

Surf Lifesaving clubs patrol Ruakākā Beach and Waipū Cove for the extended summer period, as well as hosting beach-education days and competitions throughout the year.

15 Uretitī Beach

Surf, fish, swim or simply relax at this beautiful sandy beach that offers stunning views to offshore islands. The south end of the beach is a popular naturist spot. Just a few hundred metres off the main highway, there is a Department of Conservation campsite in the sand dunes behind the beach.

16 Offshore Islands

The islands that can be seen from shore are Taranga and Marotiri (the Hen & Chickens) with Sail Rock just to the south. They are the remains of long dormant volcanoes, part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, and are now wildlife sanctuaries. Landing on the islands without a permit is prohibited.

17 Pīroa Falls

A short 10-minute track through forest and over the Ahuroa River leads to this small, ever so pretty waterfall.

18 Langsview Track

This 6.5km (one way) track follows the top of the mountain range and has fantastic coastal and inland views. The ranges are host to many native bird species, as well as the rare hochstetter frog. The track winds through private farm land and forestry roads. Access is either via Cove Road or Cullen Road.

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Ruakākā Beach



Marsden Cove

An aerial photograph of the Whangārei Heads coastline. The image shows a steep, green hillside covered in dense forest, including many pōhutukawa trees. The coastline is rugged with rocky outcrops. In the foreground, two yellow kayakers are on the deep blue water. The sky is visible at the top, showing some clouds. A decorative pattern of overlapping circles is overlaid on the left side of the image.

WHANGĀREI HEADS

Driving along Whangārei Heads Road offers one of the most picturesque road trips you can imagine. The route closely follows the harbour, winding through bays adorned with pōhutukawa trees, and provides breathtaking views. The journey concludes at the East Coast, where you can gaze out over the Pacific Ocean.

1 Onerahi

A loop drive or walk around Whangārei's airport and Beach Road will reward with gorgeous views of the Whangārei Harbour. The Onerahi foreshore has a children's playground, boat-launching ramp, jetty to fish from and sheltered swimming at high tide.

2 Matakōhe-Limestone Island Scenic Reserve

Matakōhe-Limestone Island, a sanctuary in the Whangārei Harbour, was once a Māori pā (village) and, in later times, a limestone quarry and cement works. The island is a great kayaking destination, the ruins are fun to explore and there is a sheltered picnic hut. Volunteers are replanting the island which, is now a refuge for rare and threatened wildlife, including kiwi. Before visiting the island, please complete a biosecurity check, i.e. check your belongings for ants, skinks and other stowaways before arriving, and please leave your pets behind.

3 Onerahi Shared Path

The Onerahi Shared Path is an accessible off-road, sealed path that connects the Hātea Loop with the Waimāhanga Network. Continue along the Waimāhanga Network to reach Beach Road, Onerahi.

4 Waimāhanga Network including the Boswell Track

The Boswell Track, suitable for walkers, cyclists and buggies, begins at the end of Waimāhanga Road, partially follows the course of a disused railway line and passes through a tidal ecosystem rich in mangroves. You can also enter or exit via George Point Road, the Waverley Street Link, or Cockburn and Pah roads.

5 Tamaterau

This harbourside picnic spot is just a short drive from the city centre and is great for swimming, sailing and windsurfing. Also enjoy the short coastal cliff walk between two lovely inner-harbour beaches.

6 Parua Bay Marina

The Parua Bay Marina has launching for trailer boats and easy access to the inner harbour, Bream Bay and the coast. Just around the corner, the historic Parua Bay Tavern provides refreshments and meals on the water's edge.

7 Parua Bay Village

The Parua Bay village is a small, active community with shops and cafés. Events are held throughout the year, including a local craft market, based on the strong creative community.



Whangārei Harbour from Mt Manaia

8 McLeod Bay

The seaside village of McLeod Bay sits beneath the watchful gazes of Mt Manaia and Mt Aubrey. Enjoy the playground, picnic and BBQ areas, and sheltered swimming. The St James Church on the foreshore was built in 1858 and is still used for Sunday worship. A floating wharf provides a good fishing spot and marks the start of the coastal track to neighbouring Reotahi Beach.

9 Mt Aubrey

From the Tiller Park carpark, this track passes between two large rocks before climbing Mt Aubrey. Admire the expansive views over Pātaua, Whangārei Heads, Mt Manaia and the Pacific coastline. This walk can be extended to include the Reotahi Coastal Walkway.

10 Whangārei Harbour Marine Reserve

The reserve has two sites, one at Waikaraka and another at Reotahi that includes Motukaroro Island. At Reotahi, swim among large boulders, explore rock pools, and kayak and snorkel around the island. The reserve is an important nursery for a wide range of fish and marine life. There are strong tidal currents, so fins and a wetsuit are recommended.

11 Norfolk Avenue Lookout

Turn off Reotahi Road for a dramatic view of Marsden Point and the port. There is a children's playground and picnic area at the end of the avenue.

12 Early Settlers Memorial

At the base of Mt Manaia, a plaque commemorates the District's early European settlers. This includes Scottish Highlanders named McLeod, McGregor and Urquhart, who lent their names to several local beaches. Discover more about their remarkable migration at the Waipū Scottish Memorial Museum.

13 Mt Manaia Track

The majestic rocky outcrop of Mt Manaia dominates the skyline, towering 420m above the Whangārei Harbour. A vigorous one-hour climb up through beautiful native forest takes you to the summit for breathtaking 360° views.

14 Taurikura

This pleasant sandy beach is popular with families for its sheltered swimming, picnic areas and playground. Taurikura has a natural volcanic causeway or 'jetty' that projects from the shore into the middle of the bay.

In Māori legend, the volcanic causeway is an unfinished work by the great chief Manaia who had a lover across the harbour. Unfortunately, this union was ill fated, so the bridge was never completed.



15 Urquharts Bay & McKenzie Bay

Urquharts and McKenzie bays are located at the outermost reaches of the Whangārei Harbour. Urquharts Bay has safe boat launching and the carpark at the end of the bay leads to a range of walkways, including Busby Head and Te Whara Track.

16 Smugglers Bay Loop Track

From the Urquharts Bay carpark, this two-hour loop walk takes you around Busby Head to Smugglers Bay. The walk passes an historic World War II gun emplacement at Home Point, built as a defence against possible invasion. The six-inch naval gun was aimed with the help of a camouflaged radar station on the ridge above Ocean Beach.

17 Smugglers Bay

Park at Urquharts Bay and walk 20 minutes up and over farmland to this secluded white sandy beach. Be aware, you may meet curious cattle along the way!

18 Ocean Beach & Kauri Mountain Beach

At the end of Whangārei Heads Road is Ocean Beach, popular for surfing, bodyboarding or just relaxing. Dolphins are often seen just offshore and surf lifeguards patrol in the summer. A memorial to commemorate the sinking of the only navy ship lost to enemy action in New Zealand waters during World War II can be seen at the lookout. You can also start or finish the superb Te Whara Track from here.

Over the dunes to the north of Ocean Beach is Kauri Mountain Beach, a remote and wild 5km-long beach.

19 Bream Head Scenic Reserve & Te Whara Track

The steep rocks that form Te Whara Bream Head are the eroded remains of a range of volcanoes which erupted approximately 20 million years ago. Bream Head is one of the country's premier coastal forest reserves and a refuge for a variety of rare flora and fauna, including kiwi. Te Whara Track follows an ancient Māori trail between Urquharts Bay and Ocean Beach. Allow six hours one way for this hike, which has magnificent coastal and harbour views. Shorter walks can be taken, such as the three-hour return hike to Peach Cove with a Department of Conservation hut available for overnight stays (booking required). This area is an important kiwi and wildlife habitat. Strictly no dogs are allowed.

The imposing peninsula of Bream Head Scenic Reserve is of special significance to the Ngāti Wai Iwi (tribe). The mountain, Te Whara, is revered as an ancestor and the area the tracks pass through is considered wāhi tapu (a sacred place).

Help save kiwi

Whangārei District is making great progress in bringing the iconic kiwi bird back to our wild forests. PLEASE, never take your dog, even on a leash, into forests or tracks that are signposted – **no dogs**.



20 Huitau Bay (McGregors Bay)

Find pōhutukawa trees, safe swimming, clear waters for snorkelling and rock pools to explore at remote Huitau Bay.

21 Taiharuru

The inlets of the Taiharuru estuary provide a pristine example of Northland's mangrove forests, a fascinating ecosystem that nature lovers will enjoy. Kayak the clear waters and see unique plants and wildlife up close.

22 Pātāua South

This coastal community is a step back in time, with an estuary on one side and sandy surf beach on the other. Kayak the estuary or cross the long footbridge to Pātāua North to enjoy the ocean-side surf beach.



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 Daisy Bay, Tūtūkākā – Iain Urquhart



**not to scale*

TŪTŪKĀKĀ COAST





The Tūtūkākā Coast was populated by the Māori people of the Ngātiwai iwi, whose successors live along the coast today and are regarded as the children of the seas.

Drive through stone-wall country and discover a coastline with superb sandy beaches, spectacular seascapes and natural harbours. Enjoy world-class diving, snorkelling, surfing, swimming, fishing and walking.

1 Ngunguru Village

This delightful coastal village is a wonderful place to enjoy a picnic by the water. There is sheltered swimming, a boat ramp and water-ski lane. Watersport equipment, including kayaks, surfboards and stand-up paddleboards are available for hire online and from the nearby Tūtūkākā Marina.

2 Ngunguru Sandspit

Across the estuary from Ngunguru village lies the pristine Ngunguru Sandspit, one of the few unmodified sandspits remaining in New Zealand. It has significant cultural, spiritual, historical and environmental values, particularly with local tangata whenua (indigenous peoples), the Te Waiariki and Ngāti Wai iwi. You are welcome to visit the spit, but please tread with care. Access is by boat only and strictly no dogs are allowed.

3 World-Class Dive Destination

The Tūtūkākā Coast offers outstanding dive experiences. Learn to dive or improve your skills. Training from Open Water through to Instructor ratings is available at PADI accredited dive centres. Then enjoy the incredible waters, teeming with wildlife, off the coast or at nearby islands.

4 Tūtūkākā Marina & Village

The Tūtūkākā Marina lies at the head of a small natural harbour that is a fishing port, coastal waypoint for local and international yachties, and home to a fleet of private launches and charter boats for diving and fishing. There is a small cluster of shops, including a general store, art gallery, dive shop, surf shop and great casual dining and bar options. Enjoy frequent markets through summer.

5 Deep Sea Fishing

Trophies for several world-record catches are displayed at the Whangārei Deep Sea Anglers Club. Charter a boat and choose your fish – marlin, kingfish, snapper, hapuka, trevally and more.

6 Tūtūkākā Head Walkway

This one-hour return track takes in beautiful scenery, including panoramic views of the Poor Knights Islands, Tūtūkākā Coast and Pacific Ocean.



Overlooking Tūtūkākā Marina, Schnappa Rock is a unique fale style restaurant & bar. The perfect venue for post-dive drinks & dining, a romantic meal, quiet drink, family or work celebration.

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7 Poor Knights Islands Marine Reserve

These world-renowned islands, 24km off the Tūtūkākā Coast, are a breathtaking marine and nature reserve, densely populated with rare and unique plants, birds and fish life. Beneath the ocean surface, spectacular water clarity and warm subtropical currents provide a rich, varied and abundant sea life. Steep cliffs plummet 100m below sea level, broken only by caves, archways and fissures that are habitats for over 125 species of fish, soft corals, sponges, vibrant anemones, kelp forests, stingrays and myriad other life forms. This makes the islands one of the most spectacular dive sites in the world.

Tawhiti Rahi is the Māori name for the largest of the Poor Knights islands. The second largest island is Aorangi and the largest of the islets is Motu Kapiti.



📍 Diving at Poor Knights Islands

8 Tūtūkākā & Kukutauwhao Island Walk

A walk that will get the heart pumping, from the steep climbs and descents, as well as the breathtaking views up and down the stunning Tūtūkākā Coast at the top. Check tides as crossing to the island should only be done an hour either side of low tide. Do not attempt to cross in rough sea conditions.

9 Twin Wrecks Diving Adventure

Just off the Tūtūkākā Coast, two large navy vessels, the Tui and the Waikato, lie underwater at diver-friendly depths. The ships are colonised with sea life and have purpose-cut access points to allow exploration.

10 Scow Landing

Long ago, sailing scows were loaded here with coal and timber destined for the Auckland market. It is now a great spot to launch your kayak and explore the winding Ngunguru River.

11 Ngunguru to Whangaumu Bay Walkway

A lovely walk, accessed from either Whangaumu Bay (south end of the beach) or Ngunguru (Te Maika Road) with secluded beaches and rocky outcrops. Start two hours each side of low tide for each direction of your walk and allow 40 minutes each way.

12 Te Maika Headland

Tūtūkākā Block Road passes the secluded harbourside beaches of Church Bay, Kōwhārewa Bay and Pacific Bay before ending on the coast at Whangaumu (Wellingtons) Bay. These sheltered harbour beaches offer great swimming and grassy picnic spots.

13 Matapouri Bay

A spectacular white-sand coastal beach and sheltered, peaceful estuary. There is a walkway with spectacular coastal views via the coast to Whale Bay (20 minutes one way).

14 Whale Bay

A piece of paradise, this secluded beach has white sand and a forest-fringed beach. The only access is via a walking track from the carpark on Matapouri Road (allow 10 minutes) or a longer walkway (20 minutes) from neighbouring Matapouri Beach.

15 Woolleys Bay

Fantastic for bodysurfing and picnics on the grassy areas, with easy access and parking from the main road.

16 Sandy Bay

Sandy Bay is one of the East Coast's most popular surfing destinations and is suitable for all abilities. Learn to surf or enjoy horse-trekking in this beautiful place. From here, the road turns inland, weaving through farms and valleys before rejoining State Highway 1 at the village of Hikurangi.

17 Hikurangi, Waro Lake & Limestone Reserve

Turn off State Highway 1 and take a break in this quaint rural village. Explore the fascinating karst limestone formations at the Waro Limestone Reserve and Waro Lake, also a popular picnic and swimming spot. The Hikurangi Museum tells the stories of early settlers and the coal mining industry of 1890. Play a round at the Hikurangi Golf Course with stunning rural vistas. The nearby water adventure park has a wakeboarding cable with New Zealand's largest inflatable water course.

18 Whananaki

Turn back time, relax, reconnect with yourself and the elements. Well off the beaten track, the farmland and forest, estuary and beaches of Whananaki provide laid back coastal beauty with great examples of the classic kiwi bach. There are camping grounds and a store. The road continues beyond the small village along a series of stunning ocean beaches and forest-clad headlands.

19 The Longest Footbridge

For something completely fun, check out the Whananaki Footbridge, the longest footbridge in the Southern Hemisphere, stretching 395m across the Whananaki Estuary. Park outside the community hall (grab an ice cream from the store) and follow the track that runs alongside the school. The bridge spans the estuary and is a popular fishing spot for locals and visitors alike. If you're lucky, you'll see stingray in the water beneath.

20 Whananaki Coastal Walkway

A walkway offering stunning coastal views. The Capitaine Bougainville Monument along the track commemorates Northland's worst maritime disaster, when a freighter bound for Sydney sank in 1975 after an onboard fire, claiming 16 lives. You can access the track from the end of McAuslin Road at Sandy Bay or from Whananaki South. The walkway takes two hours one way.

21 Mimiwhangata Coastal Park

This Department of Conservation Reserve has a stunning landscape and shoreline, fringed for 1km seaward by a specially designated marine park. The property is run as a working farm, with stock excluded from the sensitive areas. The park is home to threatened bird species, including one of the world's rarest water fowl, the brown teal or pateke. Camping at the secluded Waikahoa Bay is a magical experience. Be ready to carry your gear the last few hundred metres as there is no vehicle access. Note also that the road in may not be suitable for long vehicles.

22 Ōakura Bay

This sandy beach is a popular holiday destination and a great base from which to explore the Whangaruru Harbour. The bay is sheltered from ocean swells by several outlying islands and provides great swimming for all ages. There is a fishing store, general store, fuel pumps and boat-launching ramp. Fishing and diving charters are also available.

23 Whangaruru Harbour

Remote Whangaruru is a large harbour with several small communities on its shores. Pods of dolphins and orca may be seen off the coast and in the harbour. The Department of Conservation manages regenerating forest and calls of the little brown kiwi can be heard at night. It is a lovely place to explore by kayak or boat and offers safe anchorage for passing yachts.

24 Bland Bay

Bland Bay, on the northern shores of Whangaruru Harbour, has two beaches of very different character. There is a sheltered bay on the harbour side and an exposed Pacific Ocean surf beach only 400m away across a flat isthmus. A large campground bridges the gap between the two beaches. The harbour and isthmus are the historic home of Ngātiwai and the area is dotted with pā sites. Although most are on private land, a pā on the Kirikiri headland has open access.

25 Pātāua North

Take 'a road less travelled' and arrive at the sweeping white sands and blue waters of Pātāua North where the surf is often pumping. It connects to Pātāua South via footbridge only.



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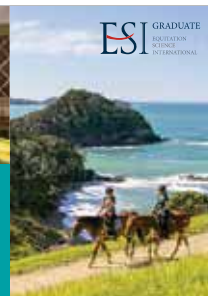
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