Welcome to The Coromandel

‘A walk in the park’, we say, when we want to infer that something is easy, effortless. Indeed, how good does it feel to inhale the fresh Coromandel air and clear the mind with an easily accessed walk?

Unlike the spectacular hikes in mountainous terrain managed by DOC, the walks mapped in this booklet are largely on TCDC land, with a few exceptions where walks lead to DOC tracks or traverse sections of private land, for which we are grateful to the owners and ask you to be respectful.

Taking in harbour and river margins, local heritage, playgrounds and playing fields, busy working wharves and along sandy beaches and coastal headlands, there is something for every level of fitness and plenty of treasures along the way.

The walks are unique, usually for a couple of hours or less duration and vary in the degree of difficulty but they offer something wonderful just the same.

This collection of walks was put together by a member of our Communications Team with input from our parks and reserves staff who work closely with the fantastic volunteers on our Reserve Groups. We also worked with friendly, knowledgeable staff at Waikato Regional Council, local heritage enthusiasts and others in the community who just love to walk.

View the icons as listed to see which walks are suitable for those with prams, dogs or requiring wheelchair access and please note, some areas do not allow for dog walking during dotterel breeding season or peak summer. You can also find out more about our future plans for walks around the Coromandel by going to www.tcdc.govt.nz/corogreatwalks

We welcome your thoughts and hope you enjoy making time for yourself with a good walk on the Coromandel - any time of the year.
Do your bit

TO KEEP KAURI STANDING

WHAT IS KAURI DIEBACK?
Kauri dieback refers to the deadly kauri disease caused by Phytophthora taxon Agathis (or PTA). Following DNA studies, this fungus-like disease was formally identified in 2008 as a distinct and previously undescribed species of Phytophthora.

Kauri dieback is specific to New Zealand kauri and can kill trees of all ages.

WHAT CAN I DO TO STOP IT SPREADING?
When you are around kauri:

• Make sure shoes, tyres and equipment are cleaned to remove all visible soil and plant material before AND after visiting a kauri forest.

• Please use cleaning stations installed on major tracks.

• Stay on the track and off kauri roots.

• Keep your dog on a leash at all times.

We all can help - tourists, hunters, trappers, trampers, runners, bikers, walkers. We all need to make it happen, rather than hope 'someone else' will do it.

Visit www.kauridieback.co.nz
The Coromandel Peninsula

Northern Coromandel

Eastern Coromandel

Thames & Western Coromandel

South Eastern Coromandel
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A growing number of people enjoy outdoor recreation. Many of us like to visit our rural, backcountry, coastal and road-end areas. With this rise in use has come an increasing impact on the natural environment. Damaged plants, unsightly rubbish, eroding short cuts, polluted water, and deteriorating facilities are now more common.

Fortunately, along with the increase in the number of visitors, a more sensitive attitude to the environment is developing. Many picnickers, trampers, hunters, walkers, campers and other visitors to our natural areas realise that we must adopt a more caring attitude to the environment.

To help protect the natural environment, please follow these guidelines on your visit:

- Keep to the track
- Protect plants and animals
- Respect our cultural heritage
- Remove rubbish
- Keep streams and lakes clean
- Bury toilet waste and use public toilets
- Camp carefully
- Enjoy your visit
Your Dog

RULES & REGULATIONS ON THE COROMANDEL

Dogs are subject to certain restrictions on our beaches and in some parts of our towns at different times of the year. The Department of Conservation also asks that you please help them look after our native wildlife by taking your dog only to approved dog areas when walking on DOC land.

Dogs must be on a leash except within our dog exercise areas, where they should still be under control. If you can’t see your dog and it doesn’t come back when you call, you don’t have your dog under control.

Dogs are prohibited from protected bird habitats. Look for signage around dotterel breeding times over the summer period.

In general, dogs are also prohibited from beaches between 9am and 7pm from late December until 8 February. View our dog exercise areas and more on restrictions related to dogs by searching ‘dogs’ in the A-Z of services at www.tcdc.govt.nz

DOGS ON DOC LAND

Dogs are allowed on leash at all times at Booms Flat and the Wentworth Campground.

KIWI AVOIDANCE TRAINING

Train your dog to save kiwi. Find out more at www.doc.govt.nz

What to do if you come across wildlife

If you come across wildlife on a track or reserve, don’t put yourself in harm’s way. Leave wildlife where you find it. Give it space and don’t touch it.

If wildlife is posing a threat to people, call DOC.

If you witness people harassing wildlife, call Police.

For any matters involving dogs, call TCDC on Ph 07 868 0200.
PLANNING YOUR TRIP
Seek local knowledge (see suggestions below), plan the route you’ll take and the amount of time you can reasonably expect it to take. Do not follow pink markers that lead to pest bait stations and are not formed tracks.

TELL SOMEONE
Tell someone your plans and leave a date for when to raise the alarm if you haven’t returned. If someone is missing, dial 111.

BE AWARE OF THE WEATHER
The Coromandel’s weather can be highly unpredictable and is particularly susceptible to heavy rain and floods. Check the forecast at www.metservice.com and expect weather changes.

KNOW YOUR LIMITS
Challenge yourself within your physical limits and experience.

TAKE SUFFICIENT SUPPLIES
Pack enough food, equipment, appropriate communication and emergency rations for the worst case scenario. Be aware that the Coromandel has limited cell phone coverage.

Search & Rescue
There are numerous voluntary Search and Rescue groups on the Coromandel that can give advice, including Kuaotunu Search and Rescue - find them on Facebook.

Local Knowledge Contacts

TCDC AREA OFFICES
Thames, Whitianga, Whangamata, Coromandel Town
+64 7 868 0200
info@tcdc.govt.nz
www.tcdc.govt.nz

DOC HAURAHI AREA OFFICE
Cnr Pahau and Kirkwood Streets, Thames
+64 7 867 9180
kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz
www.doc.govt.nz
Local Guides

COROMANDEL
Barbara Peddie,
Coromandel Discovery Tours
Coastal Walkway Fletchers Bay to Stony Bay, with charters to other Coromandel destinations available on request.
Ph. 07 866 8175 or 027 424 2775
info@coromandeldiscovery.co.nz
✦ www.thecoromandel.com

THAMES
Russell Skeets
Heritage walks and tours around Thames and surrounds.
Ph. 07 868 7955 or 027 417 860

John Isdale
Heritage walks and tours around Thames and surrounds.
Ph. 07 868 9725 or 07 868 6227

MERCURY BAY
Guided Insight Walks
Ph. 021 079 8889
karenverdurmen@hotmail.com

Sunkist International Backpackers
Walks and tours around Thames and surrounds.
Ph. 07 868 8808

Coromandel Nature Tours
Ph. 022 170 3433 or 07 8671381
info@coromandel-nature-tours.com

PAUANUI & HIKUAI
Damien and Sharon Johanson,
Remote NZ Journeys
Personalised walking tours
Coromandel-wide featuring regional history of Kauri timber logging and gold, an explanation of Maori Medicines and Foods of the Forest.
Ph. 07 864 8731 or 021 962 274
✦ www.thecoromandel.com

Coromandel Adventures
Ph. 0800 462676
info@coromandeladventures.co.nz

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✦ www.thecoromandel.com

TAIRUA
Tairua Ramblers Guides
Ph. 07 864 7575

Whangamata
Doug Johanson, Kiwi Dundee
Small group, private one day & multi day walks and tours Coromandel-wide.
Ph. 07 865 8809
✦ www.thecoromandel.com

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES
See back cover for our local information centres,
or visit www.thecoromandel.com or www.tcdc.govt.nz
Little Waikawau Reserve is a TCDC reserve from which you can walk to Big Waikawau for great fishing. There is a DOC campground at Waikawau and toilets located here. From Coromandel take the Colville Road for 22km to Whangaahei Junction, turn right into Port Charles Road, then right into Waikawau Beach Road and follow for 5km to the camp.

**Duration:**
2.5 hours approx

**Distance:** 4 kms approx
This TCDC walk is approximately 800m down to the sea and offers superb rugged, unspoilt scenery from pohukawa and nikau forest to amazing views over the sea. The carpark is located at Waihirere Rd and the return walk is approximately 1 hour. The track starts approximately 300m past Puriri Place, on your right.

**Duration:** 1 hr approx

**Distance:** 2.2 kms return
From the north end of Whangapoua beach, cross the stream to begin your walk along the rocky shoreline and over the headland to what was voted by The Observer newspaper as one of the Top 20 beaches in the world. The 1km long Wainuiototo Bay, or New Chum Beach, is approximately 30-40 mins walk via the Mangakahia Dr track over the saddle through spectacular nikau forest and huge pohutukawa. There is a public toilet at William Mangakahia Lagoon Reserve.

**Duration:** 1 hr 45 mins return approx

**Distance:** North end to New Chum 2.4 kms return approx

Allow plenty of time to enjoy the beauty and isolation of this world-renowned beach.
From the playground, shop and public toilet at Meri Te Tai Reserve, walk along the beachfront reserve at the middle of Whangapoua Beach to South End Reserve. From here walk alongside the road toward the harbour and a DOC walking track sign on a small grassy reserve (alternatively park your car here to start the walk). Follow the track through native bush and groves of nikau up to 10m tall, down stairs and across a small stream with lookout points to the clear waters of Whangapoua Harbour. Steps lead down to the white sandy beach from which you can continue walking around the headland to a hole in a rock with outstanding views of the Matarangi Spit.

**Duration:** 1 hr 45 mins approx

**Distance:** 4 kms return Meri Te Tai to Opera Pt

*The Ruakawa Pa site on Opera Point Historic Reserve offers exceptional coastal views. There is no formed track up the headland from the beach but allow 1.5hrs-2hrs to enjoy the beaches before returning along the same route.*
Park next to the playground on the foreshore at Long Bay to access a variety of walks. From the carpark head to the fish cleaning station in the middle of the bay, and read up on our native kauri tree at the kauri kiosk. The signposted tracks begin here, looping up a slow, easy climb to a tall kauri tree. You’ll pass a stand of juvenile kauri and then head down to the road leading to Tucks Bay on your right. Follow this road south to the track, returning to Long Bay.

**Duration:** Long Bay to Tucks Bay walk 1hr return approx

**Distance:** Tucks Bay Walkway 1.4 kms, 2.8 kms return

**Distance:** Long Bay Summit 2 kms, 4 kms return

**Distance:** Long Bay Kauri Track 950m

These walks offer fine views of the islands to the west. Allow an hour return. Public toilets, a shop and playground are among the facilities at Long Bay.
Start at Patukirikiri Reserve on Wharf Rd. Browse the working boatyard back toward town along Whangarahi River, one of the original landing sites for Iwi and European settlers. Look for the TCDC heritage sign for history of what was once known as ‘The Landing’ or in Maori ‘Tauranga’ and history of the Patukirikiri tribe, before returning back towards the carpark and continuing along the raised walkway on the edge of the mangroves towards Jacks Pt. From Jacks Pt head north toward Coromandel Wharf and experience the fresh sea air and commercial fishing boats. Return to the road and head north (currently no footpath) to McGregor Bay, a fine beach and Coromandel Wetlands opposite. Choose to return from here (approx one hour walk) or link up with the Wyuna Bay and Long Bay Walks detailed elsewhere in this book.

**Duration:** see map above for individual walk durations

**Distance:** 3.6 kms
Wyuna Peninsula features stunning vistas of the Hauraki Gulf and inner harbour and a glorious white sand beach (public toilet also here). Park at the carpark on Wyuna Beach and – if low tide permits – walk to pristine Ruffins Bay beach and return. Wyuna Lookout is another walk located half way back along the Peninsula, with limited parking but amazing views from a razorback ridge but caution needed around the cliffs. As you drive back toward Long Bay Rd, turn into Glen Fern Drive and look for the walkway signposts to your left (which lead to the beach) or at the end (directing you back to Wyuna Bay Rd).

**Distance:** Wyuna Bay to Ruffins Bay 500m

**Duration:** Wyuna Bay to Long Bay Rd 2.6 kms
On Te Kouma Road, park at the Sugarloaf Wharf carpark and head around the headland to see the remnants of the Ariki Tahi Pa Site, once the stronghold of the area. Take in the views of Te Kouma Bay and you’ll reach Hannafords Jetty from which fishing charter boats and the 360 Discovery Auckland Ferry arrive and depart. The next bay beyond is Heards Bay where your walk must end, since the next bay is private. Enroute back, after Hannafords Jetty, you can choose to walk up Kowhai Dr for a 30 minute bush walk that’s signposted on the road, offering great views of Te Kouma harbour.

*Duration*: Te Kouma to Sugarloaf
3hr return

*Distance*: 1.4 km one way Sugarloaf wharf carpark to Hannafords Jetty

*Distance*: Jetty to Heards Bay 700m one way
This bush walk is located at the rear of the town on TCDC land at the end of Moewai Rd. Signage explains the different native trees you’ll see on this walk and it is well signposted, however the track can get slippery after rain and in the wet months of winter so wear sturdy footwear. Allow 45 mins return for the walk.

**Duration:** 45 mins approx

**Distance:** 1.8 km approx

*A BMX track has been built here and the walk starts behind the bike park up the bush-clad hillside through native bush to a grove of 50 kauri trees and views through the bush to Mercury Bay and its islands.*
Starting from the Whitianga Wharf, walk north along the Esplanade and enjoy the views over Buffalo Beach and the islands of Mercury Bay, past the public toilets to the next heritage sign and giant anchor on Buffalo Beach Rd. You can choose to continue along the beach on a formed path, cross to Halligan Rd, left into Cook Dr where you’ll pass The Lost Spring, a natural thermal spring that has been developed into a luxury hot pool and day spa. After the Lost Spring, walk through the signposted council walkway on Cook Dr to School Rd Reserve. Take School Rd to Eyre Rd, right to Hannan Rd and left to end of Kenneth Ave through signposted walkway and right onto Albert St. From here view old heritage buildings on Coghill St and turn left onto Victoria St. Walk towards the harbour and complete your circuit.

**Duration:** 1.5 hrs approx

**Distance:** 6.4 kms return approx

*Whitianga heritage signs provide walkers with the opportunity to meander grassed and paved walkways around the town whilst stopping to read about historical sights along the way.*
This walk can be done from the carpark at Ferry Landing or take the ferry from Whitianga to begin the journey. From Ferry Landing carpark head right (in direction of the river inlet) and follow formed track for 5-10 minutes to Whitianga Rock or 10-15 minutes down to Back Bay. The walk continues through wetland and native bush with steep sections and tree roots, often making it slippery. Ascending through the bush near the top the track improves. There’s several seats overlooking Shakespeare Cliff before descending down the hill toward Front Beach, Flaxmill bay. Alternatively start at walkway signpost on Purangi Rd to walk to hilltop and lookout seats before returning back down to the road, along the footpath back to the ferry. Approx 3km walk requiring good fitness.

**Duration:** 1 hr 30 mins  
**Distance:** 3 kms loop approx

Look for the heritage trail signage by the wharf at Ferry Landing for details on historical features of the area.
A horse shoe-shaped lookout at the top of the iconic Shakespeare Cliff makes this - one of the Coromandel’s most outstanding vistas - safer and more accessible for visitors to enjoy. Parking is available at various points starting at Flaxmill Bay. A track at the eastern end of Flaxmill Bay leads up along the headland to a large grassy reserve with pohutukawa groves, before linking at the opposite end with a gravel road to the lookout and toilet at the top of the headland (this is the end point and there is no further access from the lookout). Allow at least an hour for this approximately 3km return loop.

**Distance:** Road to lookout
1.5 km return approx

**Distance:** Lookout to Flaxmill Bay over reserve
2 kms return approx

Stunning scenery that includes groves of old pohutukawa, wide open grassy reserve areas perfect for a family picnic, and meandering stepped paths down to white sand beaches and sculpted rock formations are all features of this network of easy to medium level walking tracks around Shakespeare’s Cliff Reserve.
13 Lonely Bay Walk

It’s approximately 30 mins return to walk down to Lonely Bay from the start of the track either at the road leading up to Shakespeare cliff lookout or from the Lonely Bay carpark. The track starts off the road to the lookout and includes some steep sections with steps carved from rock. It crosses a small stream. Approx 1km return.

*Duration:* 30 mins return approx

*Distance:* 1 km return approx

Allow plenty of time to enjoy the serenity of this isolated beach with clear waters, sculpted rocks, and ancient pohutukawa fringing the beach.
This is a popular DOC track leading visitors from the carpark to Cathedral Cove. The 1 hr 30 min return walk covers 2.5 km and boasts some of New Zealand’s most spectacular coastal scenery. A walking track gives access to Gemstone Bay, Stingray Bay and the beautiful sandy beaches at Cathedral Cove separated by a rock arch.

*Duration:* 1hr 30 mins approx  
*Distance:* 2.5 kms

*Take time to snorkel at Gemstone Bay which is a no-take zone that ensures snorkellers are rewarded with a wide variety of fish and marine life to marvel at in their natural environment.*
Start at the north end of Hahei Beach and head left into the dune track just before the surf lifesaving rescue tube into Tutaritari Reserve. Across the reserve, a track begins at an ancient pohutukawa tree that’s a recognised Tree of Distinction for its fascinating woolly roots. The track features steep but well-formed steps leading to sweeping views over Hahei beach and crosses private driveways but is well signposted. Continue up the footpath as you reach the end of the steps to reach the Cathedral Cove carpark, which features information signs on the history and natural features of the area. Return along the DOC track from carpark to Hahei Beach, which starts to the right of the wide open grassy reserve. Allow 45 minutes to 1 hr for the loop.

Part of the beauty of Cathedral Cove is its lack of development including facilities. There are no rubbish bins or picnic tables at the cove and only basic toilets so please follow the Environmental Care Code and remember all marine life is protected (no harvesting allowed).

Te Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) is one of the Coromandel’s most popular visitor attractions and is within the district’s only marine reserve or ‘no take’ area. There is so much to explore here including a variety of fish in their protected habitat at Stingray Bay on the track to Cathedral Cove, so allow a half day to full day excursion.
Park at Bull Paddock carpark opposite the campground entrance on the road in to Hot Water Beach and follow the walkway sign below the pa headland, along the stream through groves of young nikau, under a large pohutukawa trunk to sand dunes and the beach. The thermal springs are to your left here. Stroll right along the beach, rock hop across the stream and follow the walkway sign left along the base of the headland on a path that leads to some steep sections and steps before opening up to Pye Pl. Walk the footpath back to the shops and follow the sign-posted estuary walk back to Hot Water Beach Rd and the carpark. Allow 1hr plus diversions for a hot soak at low tide and visits to the local art gallery, surf shop and cafés.

*Hot Water Beach is a natural thermal wonder that draws people from all over the world to share in the delight of digging your own pool of hot water fed from an underground spring that surfaces 2hrs either side of low tide. It’s located off the headland in the middle of the beach and caution is needed when digging as temperatures can be extremely hot.*
Thames Local Historical Walks

These walks take in historic sites around Thames and were given names by which the areas were known in the Goldfield Era from 1867.

- **Tararu** *(Red Walk)*
  START: Kuranui Bay, Thames.
  FEATURES: Coastal Walk to Tararu, Bird-watching, Historic buildings, Art Gallery, Butterfly House. There are Low Tide and High Tide options for this walk.
  DISTANCE/TIME: 6km return/approx 1hr.

- **Grahamstown and Moanataiari** *(Orange Walk)*
  START: Danby Field Carpark: or Brown St, near Pak n Save.
  FEATURES: Thames Coastal Walkway as two circuits, Caledonian Mine site, first gold bonanza site, Thames Railway site, seashore life.
  DISTANCE/TIME: 6.5 km/2hrs plus diversions.

- **Grahamstown and Irishtown** *(Blue Walk)*
  START: Danby Field, beside Goldfields Shopping Mall.
  FEATURES: Expansive Views and Historic Places.
  DISTANCE/TIME: 6km/1hr approx.

- **Block 27 & Shortland** *(Green Walk)*
  START: Carpark at Danby Field, Queen St beside Goldfields Shopping Mall.
  FEATURES: Historic mining cottages, old oak trees, grand views, and Shortland Cemetery option.
  DISTANCE/TIME: 1 hr/5 km return approx.

- **Parawai and William Hall Memorial Reserve** *(Purple Walk)*
  START: Danby Field or Grey St, at base of Jacob's Ladder site.
  FEATURES: Grand views, historic places, William Hall Memorial Reserve, site of Hotunui, the meeting house now housed in Auckland Museum and frequented by thousands of visitors annually.
  DISTANCE/TIME: 6 km/1 hr approx.

- **Totara Pa** *(Yellow Walk)*
  START: Brown Street by Pak n Save, take Coastal Walkway section to Shortland Wharf or park at the wharf or Danby Field carpark.
  FEATURES: Historic cemeteries, old pa site, Kauaeranga Riverside walk and views.
  DISTANCE/TIME: 6 km/2 hours for return walk.
Walk along the esplanade reserve and connect to Tararu Walkway to the south and Ngarimu Walkway to the north over a distance of approximately 5-6km. This is a flat, easy walk with concrete path sections for people with buggies, bikes and disabilities.

**Te Puru Foreshore**

Located at Victoria St, off SH25, just north of Thames, you’ll find spectacular views from the top of this walkway and some interesting history at the base of the walk, where the former Tararu vegetable gardens are located. Here, vegetables were grown in Victorian times to provide food for the miners. The start of the track was recently upgraded. Duration: 2hrs. Toilets are at the Tararu Foreshore and at the Tararu Boat Ramp.

**Tararu Walkway, Tararu (Red Walk)**
The John William Hall Reserve is a former private nursery, which was operated in the early 1900’s by Mr John William Hall, a botanist and local chemist, who was widely recognised for the discovery of a separate Totara species known as Hall’s Totara. William Hall Reserve contains an incredible collection of nationally – and internationally – significant trees that were grown from seedlings in the early 1870s by JW Hall. It is believed to be the oldest arboretum in New Zealand. The site affords amazing sea views over the Firth of Thames and a network of walks through these giant treasures. The reserve is located in Thames off Mount Sea Rd, from Parawai Rd, and includes a landscaped carpark with signage. The following walk takes you to the reserve from Danby Field near the Goldfields Shopping Mall. Distance/Time is 6 km/1 hr approx.

(Continued on next page)
Stage One: Park at Danby St, walk towards wharves, left into Grey St. Follow Grey St across Pollen, MacKay and Rolleston Streets to TCDC walkway sign at base of stairs at end.

Stage Two: Up stairway of ‘Jacob’s Ladder’. Rest and view at seat under oak trees at the top. Walk up Mt Pleasant Rd, right into Harvey Cres, a 1950s state housing subdivision, to Hauraki Tce. Cross this road into Korokoro Crescent. Walk past playground to reserve. Follow path between fences into William Hall Memorial Reserve. Take right fork of path, enjoying exotic and native trees down to the stream and bridge (you can exit here onto Brunton St). Continue on gravel path, back through reserve and exit onto Currie St at top. Down Currie St, right into Mount Sea, left into Mount View Rd, walk to meet Grafton Rd. Opposite this intersection, at walkway sign follow track along former Thames Water Race to the top of Reservoir Rd. Down Reservoir Rd, turn left into Marshall Cres. Follow walkway sign down steps to Waikiekie Rd. Turn right, then left into Bowen Place. At its end a walkway sign leads over a bridge into the reserve, zigzagging out at Booms Ave. Turn right onto Booms Ave. Enjoy magnificent views and head down to Parawai Rd. The Thames Racecourse (est. 1880’s) has two race days every January. Head right along Parawai Rd, past the 1886 Holy Trinity Church (sometimes locally known as the Maori church), at mouth of Herewaka Stream and 1877 Brunton house to Fenton St, in vicinity of original site of Hotunui. Turn left here, then right into Heale St. At the end is the base of Jacob’s ladder in Grey St.
Shortland Cemetery is a valuable place of historic importance to the people of Thames and the surrounding district. The cemetery is sited on the foothills immediately behind Thames and provides extensive views across the township and surrounding districts. A great deal of the history of Thames is buried on this site. Local interest groups already contribute to the value of this significant historic place with the intention of keeping the interest in this site alive and well for the future.

This walk features historic mining cottages, old oak trees, grand views, and the Shortland Cemetery. You may like to start your walk at Edward St where you can admire views of Thames. A TCDC walkway sign directs you up stairs onto Sandes St. Cross here, go up St Patrick’s Row. At walkway sign on right, follow path to Augustus St, across Sealey St to Franklyn St. Sight original miner’s cottages. Left up Franklyn St to meet The Terrace. Turn left, walk past Graham St, turn right into Sealey St. At the top of Sealey St turn left for a 10min detour to old Thames Water Reservoir at the end of Hill St, or turn right to continue along Hill St to Richmond St, then left into Mill St, then pass the Consols Mine Shaft, then head down Cook St, right into Hill St, left into Hape Rd.

Stage 3: Option 1: Shortland Cemetery Detour:
Down Hape Rd, left at The Terrace and left into Vernon St, to explore the Shortland Cemetery on Danby St. Turn right then left down Mt Pleasant Rd. Follow to the oak trees at the top of ‘Jacob’s Ladder’.
The Grahamstown and Moanataiari walk features the Thames Coastal Walkway as two circuits, Caledonian Mine site, first gold bonanza site, Thames Railway site, seashore life.

Start at: Danby Field Carpark or Brown St, near Pak and Save.
Duration: Allow 2hrs plus diversions for the 6.5km walk.

Pram & Mobility scooter friendly
Grahamstown and Moanataiari, Thames
(Orange Walk)

Circuit A: to Kuranui Bay 4.6 km return
Turn left, walk past playground, turn left at roundabout, right into Brown St to Thames Coastal Walkway sign, at alternative parking place. Follow concrete path toward Karaka Bird Hide. Detour here then walk on beside mangroves, small gauge rail track and grand pohutukawa trees to site of original Grahamstown Station. A public toilet is here. Pass tennis courts to Victoria Park. Investigate 1902 Boer War Memorial, then follow shell path beside Croquet Club (1906) and Band Rotunda (1900). Follow gravel path towards sea to T-junction. Veer left, cross footbridge at Moanataiari sign. Pass remains of Burke St Wharf. Follow elevated concrete path to Kuranui Bay Reserve. Walk to end of bay to BBQ area. Cross Tararu Rd to footpath, turn right and head to Kuranui Creek, first gold bonanza (Shotover). On to Moanataiari Tunnel then old big pump, Caledonian Gold Mine (richest mine on the Thames) and finally, Stamper Battery. Turn right into Burke St and left into Beach Rd, walk beside A&G Price Foundry (1871), left into Williamson St, passing Royal Hotel (1904) on Brown St. Right into Brown St passing Sunkist Lodge, originally 1869 Lady Bowen Hotel and the Wharf Hotel/Lady Bowen (rafted here in 1868). Pass Pacific Hotel Corner on right, Scrip Corner on left. Admire old dwellings before reaching Mineralogical Museum (Te Aparanginui Urupa). Museum open 11am -3pm Wed-Sun. Return to carpark along Brown St.

Circuit B to Shortland Wharf 2.4 km return
From carpark, cross bridge, follow path behind Pak n Save. Cross footbridge, walk beside Danby Field and mangroves to the Richmond sign. Behind the retirement village the path leads over a footbridge to Shortland Wharf sign. Pass fisheries on the wharf, exit onto Queen St, opposite Grey St, turn left, head towards shopping mall, passing Thames Railway Station originally built in 1898 on the site of the Grahamstown Station (now Ngati Maru runanga office). Return to Danby Field parking area, or pass the playground and replica Wakatere paddle steamer, noting site of 1872 gasworks opposite, turn left at roundabout into Mary St, right into Brown St, and back to alternative carpark.
This walk features an old pa site, Kauaeranga Riverside walk and views. It is 6 km/2 hours approximately for the return walk. Start at Brown St by Pak n Save, take Coastal Walkway section to Shortland Wharf or park at the wharf or Danby Field carpark.

**Stage One:** From the Wharf turn right into Queen St. Head south to fitness centre carpark. Keep left of the building, walk onto grass to your left to see headstones from old Shortland cemetery. Or continue beside the Toyota car factory over Kauaeranga River bridge and follow path beside Ngati Maru Highway to Tony Ave where the concrete path becomes gravel. Continue to its end opposite Te Arapipi Rd. Cross the highway and head up Te Arapipi Rd, to Historic Places Information sign halfway. Enter the cemetery grounds and pa site, spend an hour or two wandering this now peaceful place, enjoying the surrounding views.

**Stage Two:** Head up Tony Ave to the Totara Close intersection. Walk down Totara Close to the TCDC walkway sign. Cross the grass to the footbridge that leads you down steps towards the Kauaeranga River and Maramarahi Rd. Turn left at the road and walk beside the river and back to the Ngati Maru Highway. Cross carefully, head right on the concrete path to return to town.
South Eastern Peninsula
From the Te Karo Bay (Sailors Grave) beach carpark, cross the estuary and walk north toward the headland. The historic sailors grave is signposted and just a few metres into the bush. Alternatively, park at the bottom carpark at end of road into Te Karo Bay and follow the track to the beach to avoid crossing the stream. From the beach you will need to walk another 100m to the start of the Otara Bay track over the headland, a walk of approximately 25 mins each way with a well-formed track and great views.

There is a basic toilet at the Sailors Grave carpark and a couple of beautiful locally-carved wooden picnic tables under shade. Allow 45 mins for the return walk to Otara Bay.

A 6km drive north of Tairua, Te Karo Bay is a magical spot with a fresh water estuary, ocean beach, Pohutukawa trees for shade and the neighbouring isolated Otara Bay which can only be accessed by foot.
From Tairua, drive north on SH25 toward Te Karo Bay/Sailors Grave and turn into Pumpkin Hill Rd immediately to your right at the Sailors Grave Rd turnoff. A small parking area is located approximately 2km down this road. Walk up the wide gravel path to a series of steep wooden steps and a summit with sweeping views of Tairua and Pauanui. The track still requires some work to make the lookout point safe for all visitors and is not recommended for people with small children.

**Duration:** 20 mins return

**Distance:** 250m

*This walk was recently developed by TCDC and affords great views over Tairua and Pauanui from a trig point lookout with the steep steps as access.*
Head to the Tairua Information Centre on the main road, SH25, Tairua and ask about the walking map for the Tairua History Trail. From the centre you can head either north up the Main Road or south over the Pepe Bridge following the plaques that tell some of the stories of Tairua. Allow 1hr for each walk, which are both suitable for pushchairs and people with disabilities. Toilets: At Pepe Playground, SH25, Mary Beach Reserve by Wharf, Paku Drive.

**Distance:** 1.5 - 2.5 km each circuit

**Duration:** 1 hr & 1.5 hr each circuit

**Pram & Mobility scooter friendly**

From the oldest remaining building in Tairua to the site of perhaps the oldest human artefact ever found in New Zealand, the trail features 40 plaques with fascinating stories from the past.
Mt Paku Summit Walk, Tairua

Although only 30 minutes’ duration, this is a more challenging walk not suited to those unsteady on their feet as it includes steps and steep rocky sections with no barriers. The reward is sweeping vistas of Pauanui, Tairua and the outer islands including Slipper Island. Local legend is that anyone walking to the Paku Summit is destined to return to Tairua. Park at Tirinui Crescent where a signpost marks the start of the track.

**Duration:** 30 mins return

**Distance:** 640m return
Starting at the Tairua Information Centre, cross the road to the Pepe Playground on the harbour side and continue along the estuary. Stroll along the estuary to the base of Paku, linking up with the Surf Club to Paku Hill walk. This is a flat, easy walk on grass reserve. Toilets are located on the main road at the start of the walk, and opposite the surf club on Tairua’s ocean beach. There are additional toilets at the Tairua Esplanade.

**Duration:** 1hr return

**Distance:** 3.2 kms approx loop
In 1967, brothers Tony, Ian, Guy and Bill Hopper had a vision for a beachside town with unique street environments that recognised external landscape features and incorporated meandering parks and pedestrian walkways. It was the foundation of what was to become a unique and much-loved community rich in character and a perfect place to walk and cycle from town to harbour to beach. Follow the formed pathways from the beachfront reserve to Pauanui’s many parks and playgrounds.
Local volunteers have carved the continuing sections of this track which can take up to 2hrs. It starts as an easy, flat walk on grassy reserve, through a delightful boardwalk section, and gets progressively more challenging and swampy in places. Start either at Waterways Parade or further down at the boat launching ramp and follow the walkway signs. You’ll traverse a section of boardwalk over mangroves in the harbour and enjoy fresh perspectives of the Tairua Harbour. Continue past Tangitarori Lane (another starting option), where another boardwalk leads through stands of pine, across a makeshift bridge* and through wetlands to a basic track that’s steep and wet in sections and requires sturdy waterproof boots most months of the year. This track leads all the way to Hikuai Settlement Rd where it ends opposite the entrance to Lakes Resort.

*Broken line indicates rough track where, at time of printing, a bridge had been removed. The Council is applying for consents to replace it.
A range of walking tracks of varying distances are located within the broken hills area at the end of Puketui Valley Road in Hikuai. For more information you can visit the DOC website at: www.doc.govt.nz/tracksandwalks
Park at the carpark (toilets located here) and cross the TCDC bridge to start your walks. You may either walk through the forest – approximately 2km - to the beach or at low tide, follow the track to the right before walking along the shoreline to see for yourself one metre deep layers of shell that make up a fascinating archaeological midden confirming people have lived here from as early as 1350AD.

**Duration:** 40 mins

**Distance:** 1.5 km return approx

*Bird watching enthusiasts can visit the southern end of the beach where the Wharekawa Harbour Wildlife Refuge protects a breeding area for New Zealand dotterel and the variable oyster catcher.*
Not a specified walking track but suggested here as a great focal point if you have children. Walk along the beach at Onemana and stop for a play at the fantastic destination playground that’s a favourite with children in towns nearby as well as in Onemana.
Start at the Moana Anu Anu Reserve as you enter Whangamata (before the causeway) and look for signage through Moana Point Reserve that directs walkers along the grassed trail. At Awarua Point look out for the plaque marking the place where Whangamata’s first ever shop was located. There are interesting views of the marina from this site. From the other side of the causeway a footpath links up to the back of the supermarket and behind the industrial area which backs onto the harbour.

**Duration:** 1 hr approx

**Distance:** 2 km approx

The Te Ara O Te Wairoa Walkway takes in the beauty of the Whangamata Estuary and Harbour while providing linkages to our network of reserves. Some of this walkway remains in grass and walkers are directed by signage while other sections include concrete paths and boardwalks.
Whangamata Beach is a gloriously long white sand beach popular with surfers, and an informal walkway on the dunes allows walkers to access formed walkways that link the beach with the town.
Mums Corner to Wentworth Valley Walk

Duration: 25mins approx

Distance: 1.4 km

Start your walk in town or south along the beach to reach this combined walkway-cycleway, that links Mum’s Corner on SH25 in Whangamata to the many attractions in Wentworth Valley to the south. Wentworth Valley features numerous DOC tracks for hiking and mountain biking and a campground. Dogs are allowed on leads on the TCDC Mums Corner to Wentworth Valley Walk. The gravel path crosses through the Whangamata Golf Course and passes the cemetery.
More Walks

The following walks are maintained by other organisations – particularly DOC. Visit the DOC website Coromandel Walking Tracks pages for more information on these walks at www.doc.govt.nz/tracksandwalks

- Walter Callaway Trail, Coromandel Town
- Matt Harray Track, Coromandel Town (private land)
- Rocky’s Goldmine Trail, Thames
- Broken Hills Recreation Area Walking Tracks, Hikuai
- Cathedral Cove Walk, Hahei
- Coromandel Walkway, Fletcher Bay to Stony Bay
- Fantail Bay, North Coromandel
- Kaipawa Trig Track, Whangapoua Road (SH 25) or Kennedy Bay Road
- Kauaeranga Kauri Trail, short walks, tramping tracks and walking tracks, Kauaeranga Valley
- Wentworth Valley Tracks, south of Whangamata
- Matamataharakeke, Waikawau Bay
- Muriwai Walk, Port Jackson
- Otautu Reserve to Port Jackson

Useful Sites

Wonder Walkers www.wonderwalkers.co.nz
Destination Coromandel www.thecoromandel.com
Department of Conservation www.doc.govt.nz/tracksandwalks
Echo Walk Fest www.echowalkfest.org.nz
Hauraki Rail Trail www.haurakirailtrail.co.nz

Various TCDC walks and heritage information is available on your mobile from www.myparx.com
Kuaotunu Beach

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LOCAL

Information Centres

i-SITE Thames
206 Pollen St
07 868 7284
thames@ihug.co.nz
www.thamesinfo.co.nz

i-SITE Whitianga
66 Albert Street, Whitianga
07 866 5555
info@whitianga.co.nz
www.whitianga.co.nz

i-SITE Whangamata
616 Port Rd, Whangamata
07 865 8340
info-whangamata@xtra.co.nz
www.whangamatainfo.co.nz

Tairua Information Centre
233 Main Rd, Tairua
07 864 7575
info.tairua@xtra.co.nz
www.tairua.info

Pauanui Information Centre
Cnr Vista Paku & Sheppard Ave, Pauanui
07 864 7101
family-friends-fun@pauanui.co.nz
www.pauanuionline.co.nz

Coromandel Information Centre
355 Kapanga Road, Coromandel
07 866 8598
coroinfo@ihug.co.nz
www.coromandeltown.co.nz