



YOUR COROMANDEL TRACKS AND TRAILS GUIDE

Short walks and cycle trails
throughout Thames-Coromandel

Welcome to YOUR COROMANDEL TRACKS AND TRAILS GUIDE

Nau mai. Haere mai. A warm welcome to you. Nestled in a very special part of Aotearoa New Zealand on a peninsula famed for its sandy pristine coastline and beautiful bush-clad hills, Thames-Coromandel District has much to offer residents and visitors alike.

There are plenty of treasures to discover in this guide for people of all fitness levels – taking you from harbour and river margins, to heritage town centres, playgrounds, busy working wharves and the Coromandel's famous sandy beaches.

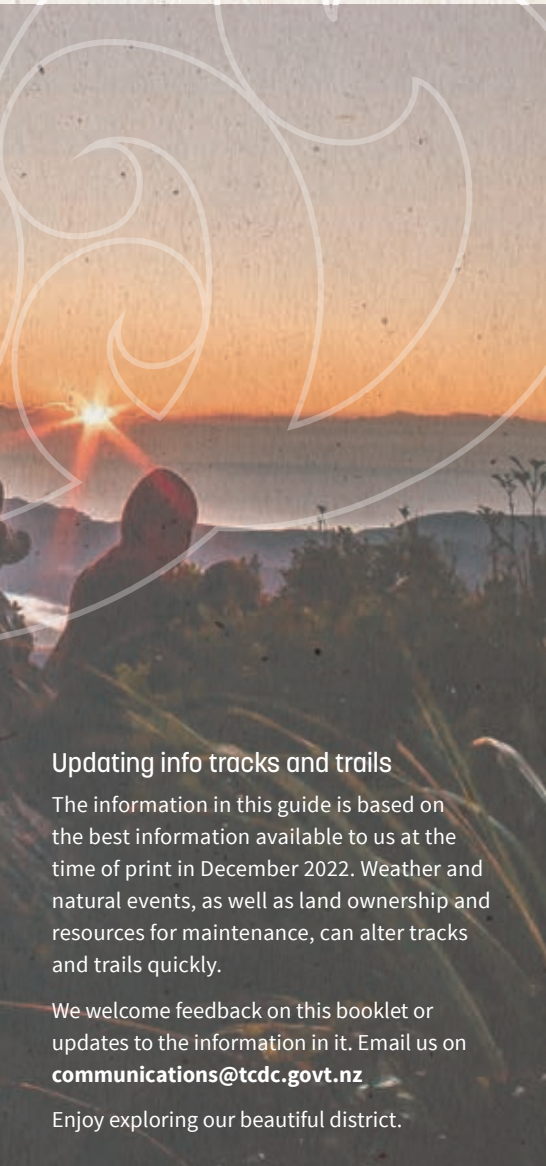
The walks in this guide are mostly short, easy excursions near our town centres, on a mix of public land owned by our Council or managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC), rather than more strenuous tramping routes.

In general, we have tended to use the word 'track' to cover more rugged rural routes, usually managed by DOC. Walks closer to towns have been called 'walks' or 'paths'. The word 'trails' covers mountain biking routes. Some routes are shared by cyclists and walkers. Be considerate of others. If you're on a bike, warn walkers you're about to pass, using your voice or a bell. And please take your rubbish away with you.

These walks and cycle rides take place on land that is of special cultural significance to the early inhabitants of Thames-Coromandel: the Māori people and the local iwi (tribes). These include the 12 Crown-recognised iwi: Patukirikiri, Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Pūkenga, Ngāti Hei, Ngāti Hako, Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Tamatera, Ngāti Paoa, Ngaati Whanaunga, Ngāi Tai, Ngāti Tara-Tokanui and Ngāti Rāhiri-Tumutumu. In addition, there are four non Crown-recognised tangata whenua groups: Ngāti Huarere, Ngāti Rongōū, Ngāti Tamatepō and Ngāti Pū.

When walking or cycling in the area, please show respect for local iwi, including obeying signs that ask you to keep to the track and stay away from areas of sacred cultural significance such as pā (remains of fortified villages) or urupā (burial grounds).

The Pinnacles at sunrise.



Updating info tracks and trails

The information in this guide is based on the best information available to us at the time of print in December 2022. Weather and natural events, as well as land ownership and resources for maintenance, can alter tracks and trails quickly.

We welcome feedback on this booklet or updates to the information in it. Email us on communications@tcdc.govt.nz

Enjoy exploring our beautiful district.



WHATUNGARONGARO TE TANGATA TOITŪ TE WHENUA

*As people disappear
from sight,
the land remains*

Wentworth Falls, Whangamatā.

CONTENTS

KEY

Walk

Cycle

Walk or cycle

Northern Coromandel

	Page
1 Wainuiototo/ New Chum Wilderness Walk.....	14
2 Tuataewa Nikau Grove Walk.....	16
3 Whangapoua Beach to Te Rehutae/ Opera Point Walk	17
4 Long Bay to Tucks Bay Walk.....	18
5 Kauri Block Walk	19
6 Ride Coromandel Bike Park	20
7 Wyuna Bay Beach Walk	21
8 Waiau Falls and Kauri Grove Lookout Walk	22
9 Stony Bay to Fletcher Bay Walk or Trail	23

Eastern Coromandel

	Page
10 Matarangi Bluff Scenic Reserve Track	26
11 Ōpito Bay to Crayfish Bay Walk.....	27
12 Whitianga Mountain Bike Park.....	28
13 Whitianga Waterfront and Town Heritage Walk and Bike Trails.....	29
14 Maramaratōtara Track.....	30
15 Te Ara o Hei Walk.....	31
16 Shakespeare Cliff Walks.....	32
17 Cathedral Cove and Hāhei Beach Walk.....	34

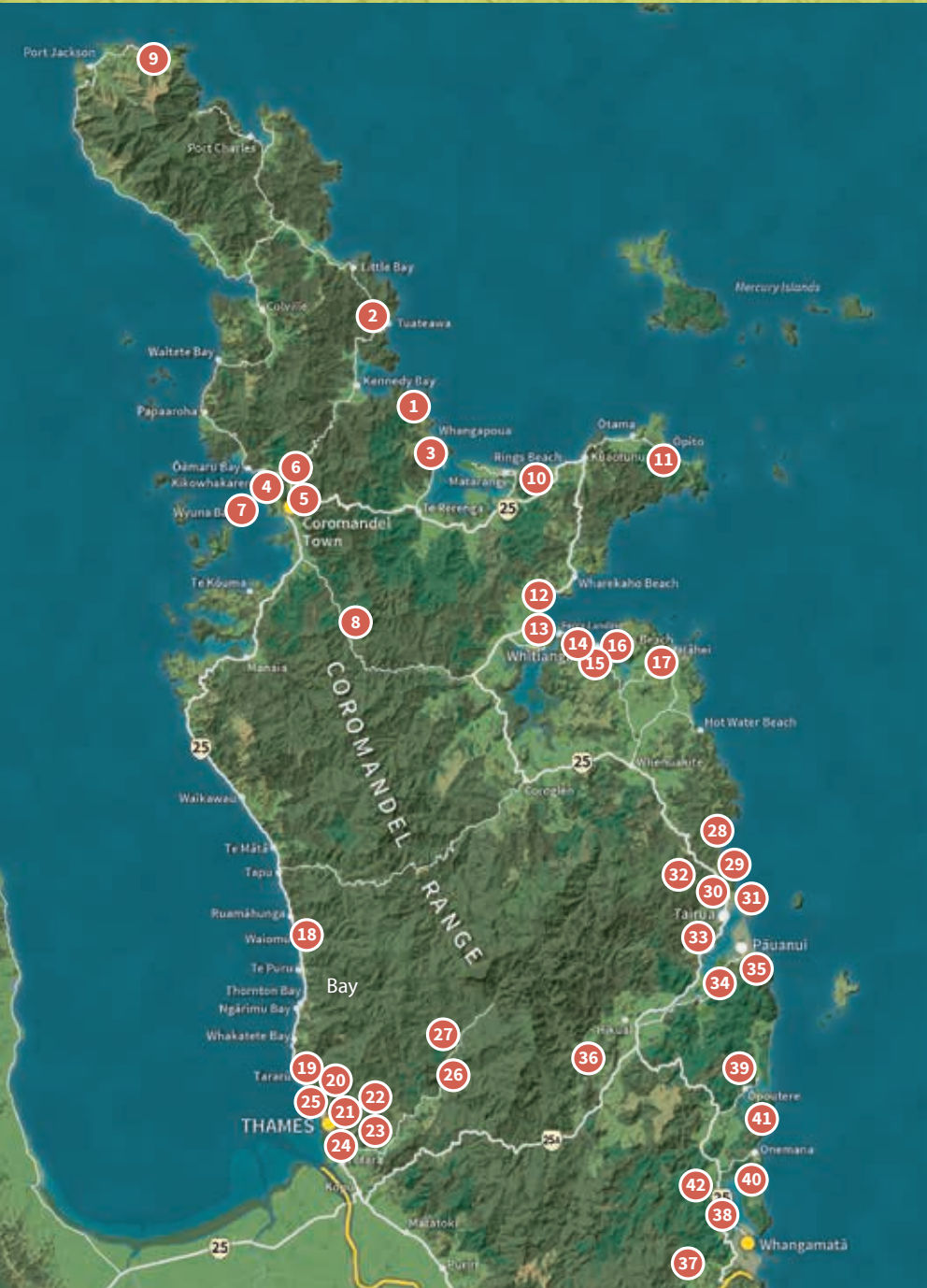
Thames & Thames Coast

	Page
18 Waiomu Kauri Grove Track.....	36
19 Rocky's Walk to Tinker's Gully.....	37
20 Moanataiari Mountain Bike Park.....	38
21 Karaka-Waiotahi Circuit	39
22 Shortland Cemetery and Miners' Cottages Walks.....	40
23 John William Hall Arboretum Tracks	42
24 Hauraki Rail Trail.....	43
25 Thames Coastal Pathway	44
26 Hotoritori Mountain Bike Park	46
27 Kauaeranga Valley Tracks and Walks	47

South Eastern Coromandel

	Page
28 Te Karo Bay to Ōtara Bay Walk.....	50
29 Pumpkin Hill Summit Walk	51
30 Tairua History Trail	52
31 Paku Hill Summit Walk	53
32 Pepe Loop Path.....	54
33 Red Bridge Track	54
34 Tairua River Trail	55
35 Mt Pāuanui Summit Track	56
36 Broken Hills Recreation Area Tracks	57
37 Wentworth Valley Falls Track	58
38 Te Ara O Te Wairoa (Moana Anu Anu Harbour) Walkway	59
39 Ōpoutere Forest to Beach Walks and Trails	60
40 Peninsula Lookout Walk	61
41 Pokohino Bay Walk.....	62
42 Whangamatā Mountain Bike Park ..	63

The Coromandel Peninsula





TIAKI MEANS TO CARE FOR PEOPLE AND PLACE, THE TIAKI PROMISE IS A COMMITMENT TO CARE FOR NEW ZEALAND, FOR NOW AND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

NEW ZEALAND IS PRECIOUS, AND EVERYONE WHO LIVES AND TRAVELS HERE HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO LOOK AFTER IT.

BY FOLLOWING THE TIAKI PROMISE, YOU ARE MAKING A COMMITMENT TO NEW ZEALAND. TO ACT AS A GUARDIAN, PROTECTING AND PRESERVING OUR HOME.

NAU MAI, HAERE MAI KI AOTEAROA, WELCOME TO NEW ZEALAND.

HOW TO CARE FOR
NEW ZEALAND



PROTECT
NATURE



KEEP NZ
CLEAN



DRIVE
CAREFULLY



BE
PREPARED



SHOW
RESPECT

TIAKI PROMISE

WHILE TRAVELLING
IN NEW ZEALAND I WILL

CARE FOR LAND, SEA AND NATURE,
TREADING LIGHTLY AND LEAVING NO TRACE

TRAVEL SAFELY, SHOWING CARE
AND CONSIDERATION FOR ALL

RESPECT CULTURE, TRAVELLING
WITH AN OPEN HEART AND MIND

TIAKINEWZEALAND.COM | #TIAKIPROMISE

Protecting Coromandel kauri

What is dieback disease?

Dieback disease is caused by the microscopic pathogen *Phytophthora agathidicida*. It affects the wellbeing of our important kauri.

Preventing the spread of dirt is the best way to protect kauri. Everyone can play their part to stop the disease from spreading by practising good hygiene when entering or leaving kauri forests, and sticking to the marked tracks.

SCRUB



Dirt free

SPRAY



Disinfection

STAY



On track

What can I do to stop it spreading?

When you are around kauri:

- make sure footwear and equipment are scrubbed clean to remove all visible dirt and plant material before AND after visiting a kauri forest
- please use a cleaning station where provided and follow the hygiene steps - this includes first scrubbing off all visible dirt and then spraying with disinfectant
- stay on the track and off kauri roots
- keep your dog on a leash at all times.

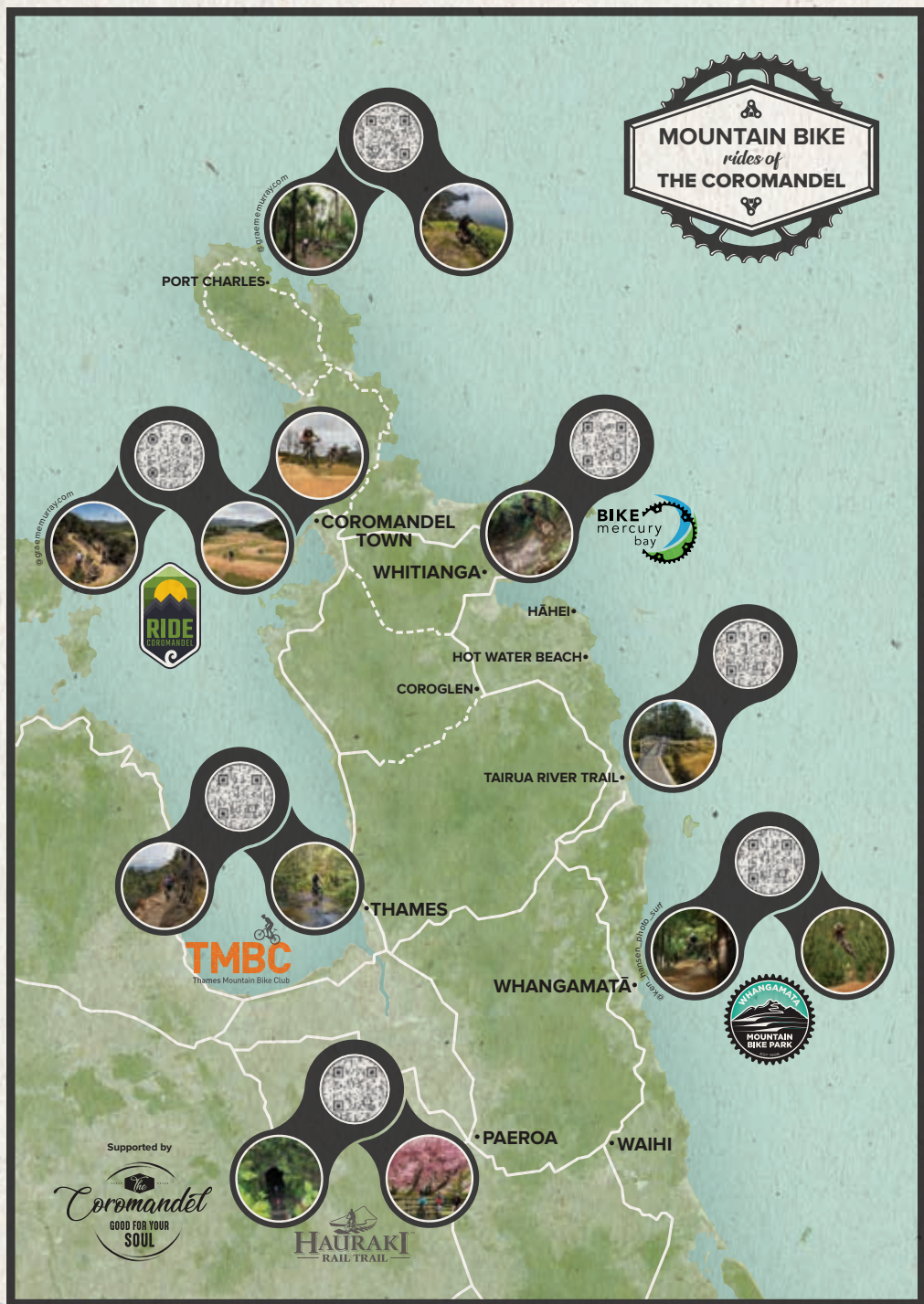
By following these steps we can all help protect kauri and ensure they remain standing into the future.

kauriprotection.co.nz

TIAKINA KAUORI

KAURI PROTECTION





Coromandel's cycle trails

Blessed with a beautiful coastline, bush-clad mountains, easy coastal routes and superb views, Coromandel is fast becoming known as an ideal cycling location.

The district is home to at least eight major cycling trails or networks:

- Ride Coromandel Bike Park
- Whitianga Mountain Bike Park
- Tairua River Trail
- Moanataiari Mountain Bike Park
- Thames Coastal Pathway
- Hotoritori Mountain Bike Park
- Whangamatā Mountain Bike Park
- Hauraki Rail Trail.

Most of them offer a full range of trails from family-friendly easy experiences to harder trails more suited to adrenaline junkies. Check out the listing for each trail. Grade 1 is suitable for novice riders, families

and others seeking easy, relaxing cycling experiences, while at the other end of the scale, grade 5 is for experienced mountain bikers with excellent off-road skills and a high level of fitness.

In this guide, we also include information on routes maintained by cycling enthusiasts that are shared with walkers as well. Remember to be considerate and share the paths gracefully.

Also, help prevent dieback disease. Wash your bike before you bring it to the district and ensure you use the dieback disease cleaning facilities at the beginning and end of trails.

What are you waiting for? Join the cycling revolution.



ROAD CYCLING SAFETY

- Check your bike regularly – brakes, wheels, tyres, chain, pedals, headset, crank, seat.
- Regularly check behind you.
- Work on your bike skills.
- Be seen – wear bright clothing, lights and reflectors.
- Ride at least 1m out from parked cars and watch for drivers opening doors.
- Claim the lane when the road width requires it, or when you need to position yourself for a turn or roundabout.
- Make eye contact with drivers.
- Scan ahead for potential hazards i.e. pedestrians, dogs or drivers who have not seen you.
- Know the road rules and follow them.



Hauraki Rail Trail – photo: Chris Parker.



More information:

For everyday riding tips:

bikeready.govt.nz/adults/tips-for-everyday-bike-riding-beginners-to-advanced

For more technical bike tips see the NZTA cyclists road code:

nzta.govt.nz

Check out:

nzta.govt.nz/walking-cycling-and-public-transport

To find a group/club in your region:

cyclingnewzealand.nz

For Hauraki Rail Trail status:

haurakirailtrail.co.nz

To report a State Highway road hazard:

0800 44 44 49

To report a local road hazard:

Thames-Coromandel District Council:

07 868 0200

Hauraki District Council:

07 862 8609

Matamata-Piako District Council:

07 884 0060

**Road Safety IS
EVERYONE'S Responsibility**

Find out more about our
cycle safety course on

07 868 0200

or check

tcdc.govt.nz/roadsafety

OUTDOOR SAFETY INFO

Plan your trip

Seek local knowledge, plan the route you'll take and the amount of time you can reasonably expect it to take. Often formal routes, particularly in the Department of Conservation (DOC) estate, are marked by orange triangles to help identify the track. Do not follow pink markers that lead to pest bait stations – they do not mark formed tracks.

Tell someone

Tell someone your plans and leave a time and 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 unpredictable and the region is particularly susceptible to heavy rain and floods. Check the forecast at metservice.com and expect weather changes.

Know your limits

Challenge yourself within your physical limits and experience.

Take sufficient supplies

Dress appropriately including good footwear. Take suitable waterproof outer wear if the forecast predicts rain. A hat and sunscreen are also suggested for warmer months. Pack enough food, equipment, appropriate communication and emergency rations for the worst-case scenario. Be aware that some parts of the Coromandel have limited cell phone coverage. Consider taking a distress beacon for emergencies.

For more information about safety preparation visit landsar.org.nz/prevent

Local knowledge contacts

Council Area Offices

Thames, Whitianga, Whangamatā,
Coromandel Town
07 868 0200
customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz
tcdc.govt.nz

Visitor Information Centres

See back cover for our local
information centres, or visit
thecoromandel.com



Search & Rescue

There are numerous voluntary Search & Rescue groups on the Coromandel that can give advice, including Kūaotunu Land Search and Rescue.

facebook.com/KuaotunuSAR



YOUR DOG

We are lucky to be able to take our best canine buddies almost anywhere, whether it's down to the beach or for a stroll into town for a bite to eat. However, to make it a place for everyone to enjoy, we have a few simple rules for dogs and handlers when sharing our beaches, reserves and public spaces, including tracks and walkways.

Dogs must be under control at all times. This usually means on a lead unless otherwise specified. Dogs are prohibited from protected bird habitats from Labour Weekend to 1 March, which includes dotterel and other wildlife breeding seasons. There are additional time restrictions on dogs on particular beaches and other public areas between 20 December and 31 January and on most public holiday weekends.

Note that there are specific rules and restrictions around cemeteries, sports fields and playgrounds.

If you're in doubt about when and where you can walk your dog, keep an eye out for signs and maps, pop into one of our Council offices or head to our website

tcdc.govt.nz/dogownerguide

DOGS ON DOC LAND

Public conservation land managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC) are places where our unique plants, animals and heritage are protected. Help look after our native wildlife by taking your dog only to approved dog areas if you're on public conservation land.

Check the DOC website **doc.govt.nz** for tracks where you can take your dog or visit DOC's Kauaeranga Visitor Centre.



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 the Police.

For any matters involving dogs, call our Council on 07 868 0200.

Northern Coromandel





SPECTACULAR NIKAU GROVES AND HUGE PŌHUTUKAWA

This wilderness walk takes you to one of the most stunning areas of the Coromandel. The path goes through privately-owned land, so it is a privilege to be given access. This permission could be withdrawn at any point. Please show the utmost respect to the land and owners, just as you should in every track or trail, by taking your rubbish with you.

Make use of the public toilets in Whangapoua at the north end of William Mangakāhia Lagoon Reserve (where you can park) and at Meri Te Tai Mangakāhia Reserve at the junction of Tangiora Ave, McMahon Ave and Mangakāhia Dr (where you can also park). Do not use the great outdoors as a toilet – not only is it culturally disrespectful, it also gets washed into our waterways, polluting them. Dogs are not permitted at Wainuiototo/ New Chum Beach all year around.

At the north end of Whangapoua Beach, cross the stream and begin your journey along the shoreline and over the neck of Motuto Point to a beach that is considered one of the best in the world. You will pass spectacular nikau groves and huge pōhutukawa. The path on this wilderness walk is rough in parts and good walking shoes are recommended.



It is also important to stay on the path and not wander off. Visitors trampling off-route areas risk causing landowners to close down the route. The headland is thought to possibly be the site of a pā (fortified village). Off-track walking and photographing on clifftops poses significant health and safety risks.

Duration: 1hr 30mins return approx

Distance: 2.5km return approx





SUPERBLY
RUGGED,
UNSPILT
SCENERY

Between Kennedy Bay and Waikawau Bay is Tuateawa. The walk from Waihirere Dr to the beach offers superbly rugged, unspoilt scenery from pōhutukawa and nikau forest to amazing views over the sea. From Kennedy Bay head north on Tuateawa Rd and turn right onto Waihirere Dr and park. The walk starts about 300m past Pūriri Pl, on your right.

Duration: 1hr return approx

Distance: 2.2km return approx



EXCELLENT VIEWS FROM THE TOP



From the playground, shop and public toilet at Meri Te Tai Mangakāhia Reserve, turn right along the beachfront reserve to South End Reserve and Te Rehutae Point (Opera Point), the site of Ruakawa Pā. From the beach, walk to Tangiora Ave and follow it to the DOC car park and the beginning of the loop track that goes up to the summit of the point and back along its shore. The path up to Matawera Pā is rugged and slippery. It goes through dense bush, nikau palms and ancient pōhutukawa. Traces of the pā can be seen at the summit. There are excellent views from the top of the point. The track then descends to the Whangapoua Harbour side of Te Rehutae Point along the sandy shoreline back to the beginning of the track.

Dogs must be on a lead at all times and kept to the track.

Duration: 2hrs return approx

Distance: 4km return approx



ACCESS TO A VARIETY OF WALKS



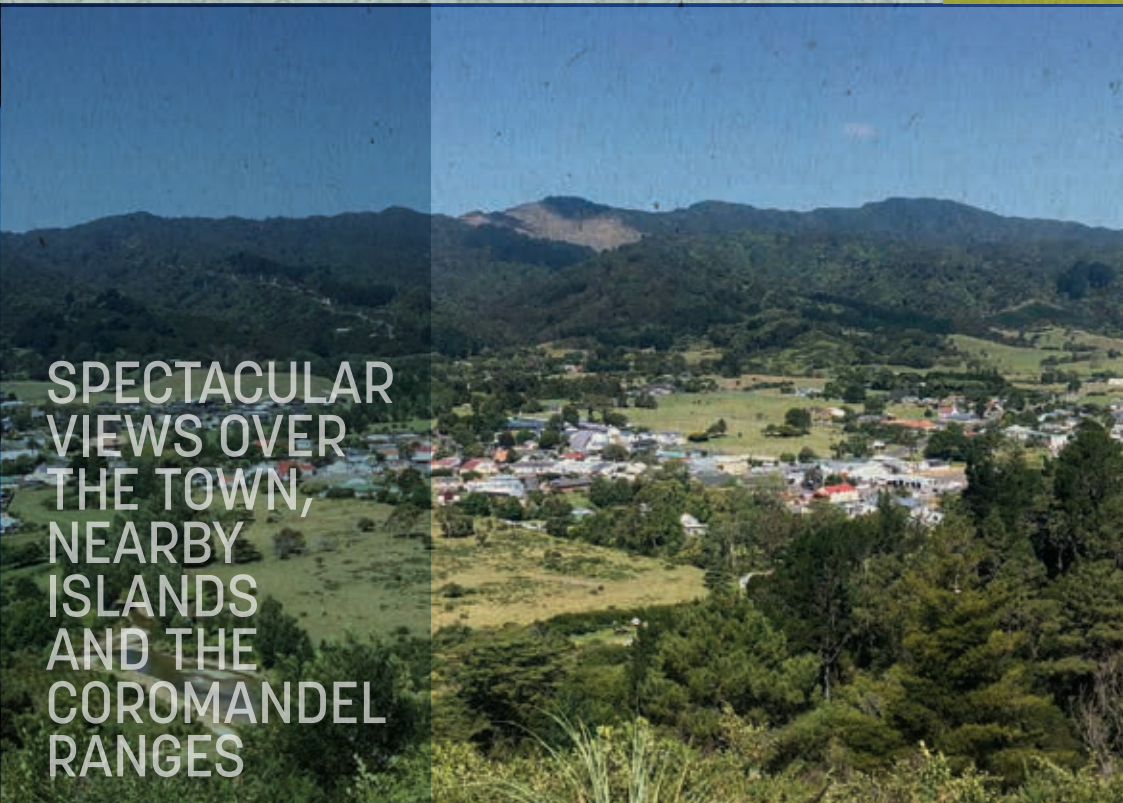
The Long Bay campground has access to a variety of walks. From the car park on the foreshore you can head to the fish cleaning station, where there are two entrances you can take. Both options will lead you to Tucks Bay Beach. The option on the right takes you through kauri trees and display boards where you can

read up and learn about different native trees as you climb your way to a tall kauri tree. The track will lead up to the gravel road, then you head down the road on your right leading to Tucks Bay. Follow this path as it returns you to Long Bay.

These tracks have been closed several times due to erosion damage from storms and wet weather. Take care when walking these tracks: the damage has been fixed but we advise caution.

Duration: 1hr return approx

Distance: 2.8km return approx



SPECTACULAR VIEWS OVER THE TOWN, NEARBY ISLANDS AND THE COROMANDEL RANGES

This track is on public conservation land but is a short, easy walk that is accessible from Coromandel Town and offers spectacular views over the town, nearby islands and the Coromandel Ranges. Access is from a right of way beside 356 Wharf Rd, opposite the access to Jacks Point Boat Ramp. Follow the path through regenerating bush and many kauri, planted by the Kauri 2000 Trust. Be sure to take the side track to the high point where there is an old pā site with panoramic views. The main track follows the ridge to where it emerges at Harbour View Rd. From here, either go down the road and back to town past the wharf on Long Bay Rd (no footpath) or take the path to the right that leads to Hauraki Rd which takes you back to Wharf Rd.

For a longer walking experience (about 70min one way), take the Harray Track from Harbour View Rd over the hills to the other side of Coromandel Town to Rings Rd.

Duration: 1hr 30mins return approx

Distance: 1.6km return approx

A PERFECT PLACE TO HEAD TO FOR AN EPIC RIDE SESSION



Ride Coromandel Bike Park is a central hub for mountain bike trails and cycling experiences in Coromandel Town, with a family-friendly focus and skills areas suitable for all levels of riders. Located on Hauraki Road in Coromandel Town, the park has a network of mountain bike trails, flow trails and gravity jumps for a wide range of riders and e-bikers, whether complete beginners or highly experienced. Professionally constructed grade 2, 3 and 4 descent trails and two intermediate grade single trails take riders alongside forests of 10,000 planted kauri. Two loop trails, Ara Tuatahi at 4.4km long and Rickers Return at about 1.8km, provide stunning views over the town and Hauraki Gulf, through native forest and Te Patukirikiri land. Or try out the all-weather Velosolutions pump track. Within coffee riding distance of Coromandel Town, the park is a perfect place to head to for an epic ride session or to speed up the gentle slope on your e-bike and enter the trails with a grin. To protect against dieback disease, please pass through the bike-specific wash station before you ride and also make sure you clean your bike before you visit the Coromandel. Trail dogs are welcome.



ridecoromandel.com

[instagram.com/ridecoromandel](https://www.instagram.com/ridecoromandel)

[facebook.com/RideCoromandel](https://www.facebook.com/RideCoromandel)



GLORIOUS CHILD- FRIENDLY BEACH

Wyuna Peninsula features stunning views of the Firth of Thames, Hauraki Gulf and McGregor Bay, and it contains a glorious child-friendly beach (with public toilets). Park at the car park at Wyuna Beach and, tide permitting, walk towards the tip of the peninsula to Ruffins Bay beach to the right and return. Explore the rest of the beach towards the base of the peninsula and then once you're back in the car return along the spine of the peninsula on Wyuna Bay Rd and then turn left at the T-junction with Long Bay Rd, then left again after about 120m onto Glenfern Dr where there is a walkway on the right which leads to Long Bay Beach. Here you can either walk down the beach or rejoin Long Bay Rd by car to where it ends at the Long Bay holiday park, where there are public toilets and access to the Long Bay to Tucks Bay Walk (see page 18).

Duration: Wyuna Bay to Long Bay 3hrs

Distance: Wyuna Bay to Long Bay Rd 2.6km

BEAUTIFUL NATIVE BUSH SURROUNDS THE FALLS

Waiau Falls can be viewed from the roadside 7km along The 309 Road from the Coromandel Town side. Beautiful native bush surrounds the falls and its popular swimming hole.

Another 1km up The 309 Road a short, easy walking track leads to the most accessible and mature stand of kauri on the Coromandel. The grove contains a 'siamese' kauri which forks just above the ground. No dogs are allowed on this track.

To help avoid the spread of dieback disease, stay away from kauri tree roots and clean your footwear and gear before and after visiting any kauri forest. See page 7 for more information on dieback disease.

Duration: 30mins return

Distance: 500metres



OUTSTANDING VIEWS ALONG THE COAST



Ride Coromandel Bike Park – photo: graememurray.com



From Stony Bay campsite head through coastal forest with views of Aotea/ Great Barrier Island and Repanga/ Cuvier Island. A signposted lookout 1hr 15min along the track provides a shorter walking option, with outstanding views along the coast north to Te Arika Tahi/ Sugar Loaf and south towards Port Charles. The track mostly follows an easy gradient but 45min from this lookout it descends steeply to Poley Bay. Swimming is hazardous because of submerged rocks. A short steep climb out of Poley Bay brings the track out on to farmland where it heads down to Fletcher Bay. The walk will take about three hours.



The mountain bike trail follows a stock route across farmland and regenerating forest with spectacular views. This is a steep traverse, often slippery, and only suitable for advanced and fit riders. From Stony Bay campsite, orange triangles mark the track, which turns left at the ford and past two houses. The track continues over farmland for a short distance and then heads up a steep clay track.

Allow 1hr 30min to reach the top with some steep pushes. The two tracks meet below a historic shepherd's hut just north of Poley Bay. Returning back to Stony Bay from this point is a gradual downhill on a shared walking trail.

doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/coromandel/places/northern-coromandel/things-to-do/coromandel-walkway



Eastern Coromandel



A BACK COUNTRY TRAIL FOR WALKERS AND RUNNERS TO ENJOY



Rings Beach, nestled between Kūaotunu and Matarangi, hosts a back country track for walkers and runners to enjoy.

The track can be accessed at both ends of Rings Beach and sits inside a 267ha conservation estate. There are hill climbs, one of which takes you up to the trig point with a great view overlooking Matarangi Beach. Native bush is regenerating, thanks to a tree-planting programme which started in 2010. It's also rich in birdlife, including several pairs of the native fernbird (mātātā). A loop of the track goes around a flourishing wetland.

The track was built entirely by volunteer labour and is now managed by the Rings Beach Wetland Group Inc. Dogs must be on a lead, and the track is not viable for bicycles, scooters or wheelchairs. Learn more at ringsbeachwetlandgroup.org.nz/our-track

Duration: 2hrs approx

Distance: 4.7km

SENSATIONAL VIEWS ACROSS MERCURY BAY

The only way to get to Ōpito Bay is via the Kūaotunu Village, following Black Jack Rd, through Ōtama Beach (which is a stopover all of its own) continuing along the gravel road another 20 minutes to get to Ōpito Bay.

At the northern end of the beach you can see Skippers Ridge – along with nearby Sarah's Gully – both sites of archaeological excavations in the late 1950s, which first found evidence of early Polynesian settlement in the North Island. Another significant historical site is the pā at the southern end of the beach. To take in the full experience, park at the northern end of the beach at the Skippers Rd reserve, making your way along the beach to the southern end where there is another public reserve and toilet. Just past the reserve continue along the beach to ascend the 196 steps up to the pā site where you get sensational views across Mercury Bay. You can carry on back down to the beach and around to Crayfish Bay, a small horseshoe-shaped bay. The walk is approximately three hours without stops and features regularly in the ECHO Walking Festival, which is held in April every year. echowalkfest.org.nz

Duration: 3hrs return approx

Distance: 6km return approx

TRAIL OPTIONS FROM NOVICE TO EXTREME



Only minutes north of the Whitianga town centre on Moewai Rd lie 17ha of mountain biking, BMX tracks and bushwalks that suit all ages and abilities. On leased land from our Council, Whitianga Bike Club has developed this facility with donations and sponsorship from local businesses. The park is free and offers about two to three hours riding for average riders with more than 20 trail options from novice to extreme. The BMX track has two loops with the faster leading into the slower and can be entered independently, with a kiddies track nearby. Alongside the bike trails is a walking route which also sidles around the perimeter of the Whitianga golf course and takes in a grove of up to 50 kauri trees and views through the bush to Mercury Bay and its islands. You could spend the day here with family and friends. There is a BBQ (bring your own gas bottle), badminton nets, rope climbs and frisbee court. Sunshade, drinking dispensers and a toilet are also on site. It's also dog-friendly and, in some parts, accessibility-friendly. You can download the trail map at trailforks.com/region/whitianga-bike-park



RUN, WALK, MOBILITY SCOOTER, WHEELCHAIR OR BIKE

From Whitianga Wharf to the end of Brophy's Beach you can either run, walk, mobility scooter, wheelchair or bike using the beachfront shared path. Features include: stingrays stencilled into the path, with input from well-known local artist Michael Smither; and the historic Buffalo anchor, a memorial to the HMS Buffalo wrecked in a storm in 1840. The shared path swings past a children's playground and the Taputapuātea Stream, a great spot for kids to swim. Amenities along the way include two BBQ sites, dog litter dispensers, three public toilets and several water stations. Another diversion is across from the Buffalo memorial anchor into Halligan Rd. Take a left into Cook Dr where you'll pass The Lost Spring, a natural thermal spring that's now a luxury hot pool and day spa. From here there's a signposted council walkway on Cook Dr to School Rd Reserve. Take School Rd to Eyre St, turn right to Hannan Rd, then left on Kenneth Ave to the end and through another walkway onto Albert St. From here you can view old pioneer buildings on Coghill St before turning left onto Victoria St. Walk towards the harbour to complete a circuit of the main town centre.



Duration: Whitianga waterfront (one way) 1hr

Distance: 3.5km

Duration: Town heritage circuit 1hr

Distance: 2.5km

STUNNING
VIEWS

Start at the walkway signpost on Pūrangi Rd facing Front Beach to get to the hilltop and lookout seats before returning back down to the road, along the footpath back to the ferry. Platforms all the way up to the lookout offer stunning views over the whole of Whitianga, Lonely Bay, Shakespeare Bay and the islands beyond Mercury Bay. There are public toilets at the Ferry Landing car park. No dog, mobility or bike access.

Please check the DOC website before you go as tracks may be closed for maintenance or due to natural weather events.

Duration: 50min approx

Distance: 3km approx



View from viewing platform at Stella Evered Memorial Park designed by Stellar Projects.

BEAUTIFUL NATIVE BUSH, HISTORIC PLACES AND STUNNING VIEWS


This walk goes from Ferry Landing to Cooks Beach, across to Pūrangi Estuary through beautiful native bush, historic places and stunning views. The first section from Ferry Landing to Pūrangi river is 4.5km, with the walk taking about 50mins.

Cross Pūrangi River by row boat. The service runs October – April. Phone 022 315 4829 to book ahead. From Boxing Day to the end of February it runs from 8am-6pm every day: \$5 one-way, \$8 return (bicycles possible). Explore Stella Evered Memorial Park Reserve's established pōhutukawa. A 5m-high viewing platform features views over Cooks Bay at the historic site of Captain Cook's first arrival in Aotearoa New Zealand 250 years ago.

The next section of the walk involves a path from Stella Evered Memorial Park to the car park at Lees Rd, which also links up to Cathedral Cove, taking about 50mins.

From here the Cathedral Cove Gateway walk from the Cathedral Cove car park to Cathedral Cove is a 30mins walk through bush-clad farmland from Lees Rd car park.

There is also a forest recently planted to commemorate the New Zealand soldiers who died in the battle of The Somme in 1916.



ONE OF THE COROMANDEL'S MOST OUTSTANDING VISTAS

In 1769 Captain James Cook was in the Mercury Bay area for 12 days, stocking up on provisions, carrying out ship maintenance and trading with local Māori. Stories say Cook either thought the cliff at the western end of Cooks Beach looked like William Shakespeare's head in profile or that the landscape looked so poetic he named it Shakespeare Cliff.

This headland is one of the Coromandel's most outstanding vistas, with the walk down to Lonely Bay a popular spot for wedding photos, thanks to its seclusion and scenery. Shakespeare Cliff is a great spot for picnics, has a public toilet, pōhutukawa groves and plaques detailing the area's history.

To get to Shakespeare Cliff, drive to the summit up a rough, narrow, twisty gravel track for a short mobility-friendly walk to a lookout point with stunning views. Take particular care driving this track in busy summer months where you may need to give way to cars coming the other way.



Alternatively, from the horseshoe-shaped reserve walk, park at the lower car park on the access track and walk down a steep track to Lonely Bay. The track down to Lonely Bay requires a decent level of fitness, as do other tracks. To return to Pūrangi Rd from Lonely Bay, facing the sea either turn left to walk around towards Flaxmill Bay or right to a track to Cooks Beach. You can also walk the route starting from Flaxmill Bay returning to Pūrangi Rd down the access road.

Allow at least an hour for the 3km return loop from Flaxmill Bay or 30mins return from Shakespeare Cliff to Lonely Bay.

Duration: Flaxmill Bay to Lonely Bay 1hr return approx

Distance: 3km return approx



ONE OF OUR
BUSIEST
VISITOR
ATTRACTIVE

Photo: Andy Belcher.

Te Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) is one of our busiest visitor attractions from October to April. This walk is within the district's only current marine reserve. There are no rubbish facilities on the track due to DOC's 'pack in, pack out' policy, so take your rubbish home. Use the Visitor Car Park off Hāhei Beach Rd. It is currently free and fits hundreds of vehicles, including campervans and tour buses, and has a public toilet. Parking at the beach and along road berms is discouraged. Bikes and dogs are not permitted on the Cathedral Cove walk, which is only accessible by foot. Drones are also prohibited.

There is a paid shuttle bus service from 1 October to 30 April, between the Hāhei Visitor Car Park to a starting point for the trail, at the top of Grange Rd.

See cathedralcoveparkandride.co.nz

There's an alternative track to Cathedral Cove off a private property on Lees Road. To access this, park at the signposted paid private car park on Lees Road.

facebook.com/Cathedralcovegatewaytrail/posts/carpark-located-on-lees-road-hahei-open-daily-from-830am-until-6pm-weather-depen/520984191729755/

cathedral-cove-gateway-trails.business.site

Thames & Thames Coast





STAND OF MATURE KAURI

This track is maintained by DOC and it's well-developed. Apart from the final ascent up steps to the stand of mature kauri, the general grade is not too challenging for walkers of moderate fitness. Park at the car park on Waiomu Valley Rd on the left about 200m past Lucy Rd and continue on foot up the road to where the track begins. Clean your footwear on arrival and departure at the cleaning station to help prevent the spread of dieback disease.

Duration: To the kauri grove 45mins approx

Distance: 2.5km





VIEWS OVER TARARŪ AND THE FIRTH OF THAMES

From the car park by Dickson Park Motor Camp on Victoria St in Taranū, this track climbs steeply before flattening out along a ridge. The track is uneven in places but offers good views over Taranū and the Firth of Thames. There is a steep descent into Tinker's Gully and then a short walk back along Victoria St to the car park. For more details, check doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/coromandel/places/coromandel-forest-park/things-to-do/rockys-walk-to-tinkers-gully

Duration: 3hrs

Distance: 6km return approx





NETWORK OF MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

The Thames Mountain Bike Club has created a network of mountain bike trails in the hills behind Thames, totalling 4.2km. The park features its well-known 'St John' grade 5 (expert level) downhill run to keep the adrenaline junkies happy, along with trail grades starting from 1 (easiest level) upwards to suit all skills levels.

Parking is at the end of Moanataiari Creek Road, which is on the north end of Thames by the St John Ambulance station. At the top of the access road behind the gate there is a flat area that's perfect for picnics, with great views over the Firth of Thames.



The Thames Mountain Bike Club maintains these trails. For more information see the club's website thamesmtb.club/trails



MANY REMINDERS OF THE GOLDMINING HISTORY OF THAMES



These tracks make a popular circuit and can be accessed either from Waiotahi or Karaka Roads. If you've got two cars available, you can leave one at each end to avoid walking the 2.2km between trailheads. While the Karaka Track up to the Red Bluffs is open to mountain biking, the Waiotahi Track is walking only. There is a small car park up Waiotahi Road where the walking track begins. An initial steep climb through regenerating bush levels off as you wind through hills. There is a great view across the Firth of Thames before the track dives back into the bush. After about two hours, the Waiotahi Track meets the Karaka Track. You can either carry on for several more hours to Crosbies Hut and other tramping tracks along the main Coromandel range or return to Thames via Karaka Track and the Red Bluffs. This is a great place to stop and enjoy the impressive views over the upper Kauaeranga catchment to Table Mountain.

While the Waiotahi Track is generally well-developed, the top section of the Karaka Track (between the Waiotahi/Karaka intersection and Red Bluffs) is rougher and has many boggy sections. From the bluff down to the start of Karaka Track, recent upgrading by Thames Mountain Bike Club has greatly improved the conditions. There is one stream crossing where you may get wet feet if there's been rain. Heading down the valley you'll pass reminders of the area's goldmining history. Many shafts and tunnels dug into the hills may be hidden by vegetation so keep to the marked track and please supervise children.



**KARAKA
ONLY**



Take a walk in Thames' historic Shortland Cemetery and meet our goldfield pioneers. The cemetery is high on a hill overlooking southern Thames and provides great views of the township and the Firth of Thames from between its imposing headstones.

The disused cemetery is of great historic importance to Thames and the surrounding district. When the goldfield opened in late 1867, settlers carried out burials at various parts of the township, including the old Kauaeranga Māori burial ground. Burials on the flat land created problems due to the high tide water level. Informal burials began to occur on the hills of Shortland. Realising these haphazard burials had to stop, the Warden of the Goldfield, James Mackay, offered six acres of land owned by himself and Ngāti Maru Chief Hoterene Taipari as a cemetery site. By 1870 a total of 117 people had been buried there, among them 41 children under the age of one.

Notable burials include: James McGowan, former Thames Mayor, MP and government Minister; Jane Dysart, one of the first military nurses sent overseas in WW1; and eminent astronomer John Grigg.

The Shortland Cemetery Walk features historic mining cottages, old oak trees and panoramic views. You can start your walk at the foot of Karaka St where a walkway leads upstairs, across

HISTORIC MINING COTTAGES, OLD OAK TREES, PANORAMIC VIEWS



Edward St, and then up to Sandes St. Cross here and go up St Patricks Row. A walkway sign on the right directs you downhill to Augustus St North. Cross Sealey St and continue straight to Franklyn St and turn left to The Terrace. Go left, walk past Graham St and turn right on Sealey St to Hill St. There you can turn left for a 10min detour to the top of Hill St where you can view the old Thames water reservoir. Or, turn right along Hill St to Richmond St where you can turn right on Mill St and continue to the Consols Mine site, down Cook St, right onto Hill St, then left on Hape Rd and down to Rolleston St where you can turn right and back to Karaka Rd.

To take in Shortland Cemetery, at the intersection of Hape Rd and The Terrace turn left on The Terrace and then left onto Vernon St. It turns into Danby St which you can follow to the cemetery. Go past the water tank to the upper cemetery to view the graves of John William Hall and Robert Rycroft, a soldier who survived the Battle of Waterloo. After you've explored the headstones and enjoyed the views, you can retrace your steps, or take Mount Pleasant Rd straight down to Jacob's Ladder to Grey St then head into the centre of Thames.

Duration: 1.5hrs approx

Distance: 4.2km, including Shortland Cemetery



PATHS THROUGH GROVES OF GIANT TREES OF MANY SPECIES

John William Hall Arboretum is New Zealand's oldest arboretum, established in 1872 by Thames chemist John William Hall. He began planting his three-acre property in 1872, initially to control erosion, when he became alarmed at the effect of rainfall on the area's deforested hillsides, the trees having been cut to make pit props for the goldmines. However, he also planted for habitat provision and research. Mr Hall was an amateur naturalist in the best tradition of the Victorian era. He is widely recognised for his discovery of a separate tōtara species known as Hall's tōtara, of which several specimens can be found in the reserve.

The site affords sweeping views over Thames and the Firth, and there is a network of well-developed, but steep in parts, paths through groves of giant trees of many species, including Hall's tōtara, Norfolk pine, oak, pūriri, rimu, mataī, western cedar, red cedar, pōhutukawa and kauri.

There is a car park at the top end of Mount Sea Rd; alternately, the arboretum can be accessed from Currie St, Brunton Cres or Korokoro Cres. You can easily spend an hour or more walking the various paths.



ONE OF THE EASIEST GREAT RIDES OF NEW ZEALAND



The Hauraki Rail Trail is one of the 23 Ngā Haerenga Great Rides of New Zealand. Ranked at Grade 1 (“very easy”), it is suitable for all ages, fitness and abilities. Leisurely riding takes cyclists through historic towns, lush farmlands, scenic coastlines and a historic railway corridor. With its gentle terrain, tour services, accommodation and restaurants, it’s one of the easiest Great Rides of New Zealand. The 197km trail can be completed in 4-5 days. Five sections ranging from 23km to 55km allow for excellent and manageable day rides.

The Thames leg of the trail starts at Shortland Wharf, heading south to the townships of Kōpū, Paeroa, Te Aroha, Waihi and Matamata. Here the trail divides, with one branch crossing the bridge, following the stopbanks along the Firth of Thames north to Kaiaua. Please note the construction work may close or reroute sections of the trail. Check the website for updates. The trail meanders along the seaside passing the Pūkoro-koro-Miranda Shorebird Centre. The other branch follows the old railway line past Matatoki, Pūriri and Hikutaia, towards Paeroa and through to Matamata. For more information, itineraries, and current trail status check the website or Facebook page. haurakirailtrail.co.nz

Duration: Thames to Kōpū 20mins cycle, 1hr on foot approx

Distance: Thames to Kōpū 7km one way





WALKING,
CYCLING,
ROLLER
BLADING,
RIDING A
MOBILITY
SCOOTER
OR A
SKATEBOARD

This flat, well-developed path runs along the foreshore of Thames from Shortland Wharf to Kuranui Bay, taking in wharves, railway stations and many historic sites. There is plenty of scope to cut into town at numerous points to either stop for food and drink, take in the sights, or make a loop by taking a shortcut back to your starting point. Or, park in the middle at Victoria Park and take in one section at a time.

Whichever way you go and whether you're walking, cycling, roller blading, riding a mobility scooter or a skateboard, please share this increasingly busy path with all users. Dogs must be on a lead.

From Shortland Wharf follow the path along the stopbank, past mangroves to Danby Field and then behind Goldfields Shopping Centre past the Pak'n'Save to Victoria Park. You'll pass the Karaka Bird Hide, Thames Small Gauge Railway and the old Grahamstown Railway Station. Opposite the railway station is the Thames School of Mines – run by Heritage New Zealand and open to the public – where the miners went to learn about rocks. To learn more about the history of Thames and its goldmining heritage, divert up Cochrane St to Thames Museum and further on to the Bella St Pumphouse, which still houses some of the giant machinery used to pump water out of the deep mine shafts. Back in Victoria Park, continue north past the Croquet Club and then turn left to follow the Coastal Pathway around the now-capped former landfill site to



Moanataiari. At the foot of Burke St are the old pilings from the Burke St Wharf. Continue along the path on top of the stopbank to Kuranui Bay Reserve where there is a sheltered BBQ, toilets and parking. From here you can follow Tararū Rd (State Highway 25) back towards town past the sites of the first gold bonanza and the richest mine in the Thames Goldfields before stopping at the Goldmine Experience to tour the mine shafts and see how a stamper battery worked.

From here you can turn down Burke St past A&G Price foundry (established 1868), turn left at Beach Rd, left again at Williamson St, passing the Royal Hotel (1904) on Brown St. Turn right here and on the left is the Lady Bowen (1867), now a B&B. On the corner of Brown and Albert streets is another fine old former hotel (now a private home), built in Auckland in the 1850s and barged to Thames in 1868 and named The Wharf, later renamed The Lady Bowen. You are now back at Victoria Park. Continue down Brown St to Cochrane St and turn left up to Pollen St to enjoy the heritage shopfronts and take a well-deserved break at one of the cafes in Grahamstown.

Duration: Shortland Wharf to Kuranui Bay 1hr cycle approx, more depending on how many detours past historic buildings are taken

Distance: Shortland Wharf to Kuranui Bay along the Coastal Pathway 3.5km approx.



A MIX OF NATIVE FOREST AND PINE FOREST TRACKS

The Hotoritori Mountain Bike Park is located in the Kauaeranga Valley. The park has 10.65km of trails catering for skill levels from grade 2 through to 5. These cross-country style trails start on a gravel entry road, then run through native forest and pine plantations, crossing a stream in a series of connected loops.

To access the park, follow the Kauaeranga Valley Road from Thames for 14km to the DOC visitor centre. Hotoritori is the first campground on the left, 3km north of the visitor centre. Entry is at the forest gate beyond the Hotoritori campsite. Follow the trail signs in an anti-clockwise direction. All the trails are well signposted.



The Thames Mountain Bike Club maintains these trails. For more information see the club's website thamesmtb.club/trails



WALKS ALONG EASY PATHS OR TOUGHER TRAMPING TRACKS



Photos: Felicity Jean Photography.



There are numerous walks along easy paths or tougher tramping tracks in the Kauaerānga Valley just outside of Thames. The most popular track is the Pinnacles Walk, which follows an old packhorse route for much of its 7km length to an impressive DOC hut (book ahead) and onwards to the Pinnacles summit (759m) and spectacular views of the bush, mountains and east coast of the Coromandel. Allow 7-8hrs return. Check the DOC website and the DOC Kauaeranga Visitor Centre up Kauaeranga Valley Rd for the latest information on all these trails.

DOC website: doc.govt.nz

Visitor Centre: 07 867 9080, kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz



South Eastern Coromandel



HISTORIC 'SAILORS GRAVE' IS SIGNPOSTED

From the Te Karo Bay (Sailors Grave) beach car park, cross the estuary and walk north towards the headland. The historic 'sailors grave' is signposted and can be found just a few metres into the bush. Alternatively, park at the bottom car park end of the 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 Ōtara Bay track over the headland – a walk of approximately 25mins each way with a well-formed track and great views.

There is a basic toilet at the Sailors Grave car park and picnic tables under the shade. Allow 45mins for the return walk to Ōtara Bay.

The track to Sailors Grave from Whenuakite is currently closed due to dieback disease. Check the DOC website for the latest information on this track and others in the Coromandel which may be affected by dieback disease. **doc.govt.nz**

Duration: 50mins return

Distance: 700m one way

MAGNIFICENT VIEWS OVER TAIRUA AND PĀUANUI

This 15-minute walk affords magnificent views over Tairua and Pāuanui from a trig point lookout.

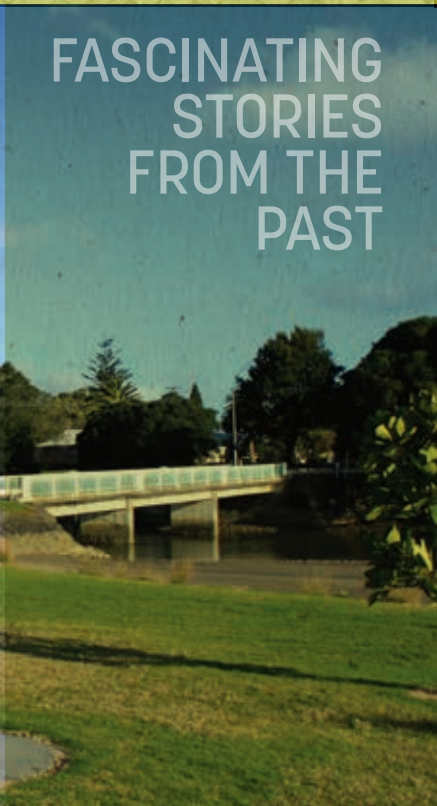
From Tairua, drive north on State Highway 25 toward Te Karo Bay/Sailors Grave and turn into Pumpkin Hill Rd immediately to your right at the Sailors Grave Rd turnoff. A small parking area is located approximately 2km down this road. Walk up the wide gravel path to a series of steep wooden steps and a summit with sweeping views of Tairua and Pāuanui. Gaze up towards the north-west to Moehau, the highest peak of the Coromandel. On a clear day views extend to Tūhua/Mayor Island and way down the coast to the Bay of Plenty.

Duration: 15mins

Distance: 250m



FASCINATING STORIES FROM THE PAST



Take a walk, or a few, through the history of Tairua on the Tairua History Trail, which takes in the social and built history of Tairua via 20 sites of local significance. From the oldest remaining building in Tairua to the site of the oldest human artefact found in New Zealand to date, the trail features fascinating stories from the past. The walk starts at Pepe Reserve, on Main Rd Tairua and takes about 45mins return. Grab the Tairua History Trail map from the local information centre to guide you on the walk.

Duration: 45mins return

Distance: 1.5km approx





THE REWARD IS A SPECTACULAR 360-DEGREE VIEW

Paku is the twin-peaked mountain at the head of Tairua Harbour where the estuary flows to the sea. The summit walk is relatively short (30-45mins return) and the last 15 metres is steep, but the reward is a spectacular 360-degree view of Pāuanui, Tairua and the outer islands including Shoe and Slipper Islands. There are also some great views of the coast looking north.

The track is accessed from the car park on Paku Dr, Tairua, where signposts mark the start of the track. Displays are placed at the summit identifying parts of the panorama and rich history of the area.

Directions: From Tairua town centre follow Manaia Rd, turn right into Paku Dr, and the car park is just past the playground, where the start of the track is signposted.

Duration: 45mins return approx

Distance: 640m return

32 PEPE LOOP PATH

33 RED BRIDGE TRACK



For a different view of Tairua, away from the ocean beach side, try the 3km **Pepe Loop Path** around the Pepe Estuary inlet. The loop path was created by the Walk Tairua Society, and takes you around the perimeter of the Tairua Golf Course through Council reserves, while taking in the swampland and its wildlife and birds, with views back up to the Coromandel Forest Park. The path is flat, with a pedestrian bridge over the Pepe Stream, and is suitable for bikes.

Park your car at the playground by Pepe Estuary and cross the road to start the path on Pepe Rd. While there are safety shields in place, please be aware of the neighbouring golf course and stay on the marked tracks. You can then continue your walk along the Tairua Estuary, towards Paku Mountain. This is a grassed area with no footpath, and there are signs detailing the birdlife found in Paku Bay. Choose to continue up Paku if you're feeling energetic or visit the Tairua Ocean Beach before returning to town.

Duration: 45min

Distance: 3km



This 3km **Red Bridge Track** in the Coromandel Forest Park is a well-guarded gem and a favourite running and riding track for Tairua locals. It's an approximately 3km bush track along the ridgeline, which is hilly in parts, but for those on bikes the steep climbs are worth the effort for the fun riding down. The views over farmland and across the estuary to Pāuanui provide a surprising sense of escape that belies its short distance from the Tairua main street. Access points are at the Hinemoa Tce cul-de-sac (upper access) and at the road end of Red Bridge Rd (lower access). You can park your vehicle at either point.

Duration: 45min

Distance: 3km





WIDE, WELL-FORMED AND LARGELY FLAT



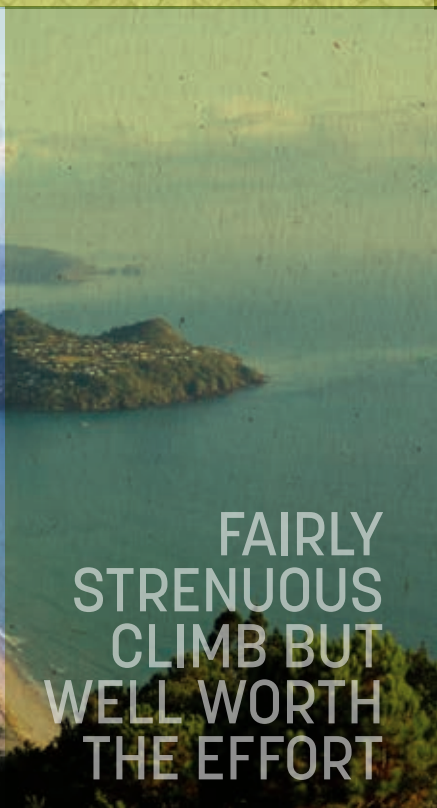
Formerly known as the Pāuanui-Tairua Trail, this shared trail starts by Ian Hopper's Rock at Waterways Parade, within the Pāuanui Waterways. It heads across a boardwalk in the Tairua River estuary before crossing a grassy reserve where it becomes a gravel trail as it winds its way through the WW1 Memorial Park before entering a pine tree glade which emerges at the Tangiteroria Stream bridge. The grade 2 trail essentially follows the southern bank of the Tairua River offering spectacular views of the river and the Pinnacles beyond. After crossing Duck Creek, the trail continues through bush and then turns across farmland back towards the river, where it currently ends. This trail is maintained by the Hikuai District Trust, while a community of local volunteers has helped restore native bird populations through extensive pest-trapping and tree-planting.

Suitable for walkers and cyclists, the trail is wide, well-formed and largely flat, with a few small hills. It is currently a 13km out-and-back journey, but there are plans to build a 120m bridge across the Tairua River, extending the trail along the northern bank to create a 15km link between Pāuanui and Tairua.

Duration: 3hrs return walking, 1hr return cycling

Distance: 13km return





FAIRLY
STRENUOUS
CLIMB BUT
WELL WORTH
THE EFFORT

Not for the faint-hearted, this is a fairly strenuous climb but well worth the effort when you get to the top, at 387m high. Enjoy a well-deserved seat at the summit and soak in the aerial view of Pāuanui, Tairua, the harbour and offshore islands.

This DOC track is found at the south end of the beach, accessed from the car park at the end of Pāuanui Beach Rd, and is well-formed and clearly marked. A good level of fitness is required as it's a steep, steady climb. Fitter walkers reach the summit comfortably within 30mins.

Coming down, take the direct track back straight down the hill to reach the car park, or you can take a longer route, veering right towards Cavé Bay for a slightly longer but more gradual descent. The final part of this longer track takes you back along the rocks for the final 200m.

Allow approximately 2.5hours to complete the trig track, or 15mins one way to complete the Ocean View loop track.

Duration: Trig track 2.5hrs approx

Distance: 4.8km

RELIQS OF THE PAST MINING ERA CAN STILL BE SEEN



A range of bushwalking tracks of varying distances are located within the DOC-managed Broken Hills area of the old goldmining settlement of Puketūi in Hikuai.

Relics of the past mining era can still be seen on the walks, and the Broken Hills Gorge also provides opportunities for a refreshing swim in the waterhole, canoeing, trout fishing, fossicking, rafting, bird watching, photography, picnicking and camping.

The easy walking tracks range from five minutes to 10 hours and include the Golden Hills Battery, Broken Hills Battery, Puketūi Walk, Water Race Tunnel Track and Collins Dr Loop.

For more information you can visit the parks and recreation page on the DOC website doc.govt.nz and search under Coromandel Forest Park.

Access is off State Highway 25 at Hikuai onto Morrison's Rd (50m north of the Pāuanui turn-off) then onto Puketūi Valley Rd. It is then 6km to the car park at the end of Puketūi Valley Rd.

Dogs are not permitted on these walking tracks.



A GREAT
ACTIVITY FOR
THE WHOLE
FAMILY

The DOC-managed Wentworth Valley Falls are close to Whangamatā and are an easy 3km walk that is a great activity for the whole family, including dogs (must be on a lead). It will take you about 1 hour and 15 minutes to reach the falls, strolling through regenerating forest beside the river. Turn off State Highway 25, 7km south of Whangamatā township, on to Wentworth Valley Rd (on the right as you're travelling south) to discover Wentworth River. At the end of the road you'll find a DOC campsite, picnic areas and a bush track with historic goldmining features that will lead you to the stunning two-drop waterfall.

From the lookout point of the waterfall you can head down for a swim at the base of the falls; however, this is a difficult climb down and caution is advised.

Experienced trampers can continue on to cross the main range Maratoto-Wentworth Crossing which is an advanced track and takes approximately five hours one-way.

Duration: 2.5hrs return

Distance: 6km return

TAKES IN THE BEAUTY OF THE WHANGAMATĀ ESTUARY AND HARBOUR

Te Ara O Te Wairoa Walkway takes in the beauty of the Whangamatā 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 formed paths and boardwalks.

You can easily access the walk from anywhere in Whangamatā with the option of walking from town past the supermarket and following the fitness trail through to Hetherington Reserve, also along the estuary edge behind the town's industrial area. Look for signage through Moana Point Reserve that directs walkers to the grassed trail as you enter Whangamatā (before the causeway). At Awarua Point you will find the plaque marking the place where Whangamatā's first-ever shop was located.





NUMEROUS WALKS AND MOUNTAIN BIKING OPTIONS

Photo: ModoDesign.

From Whangamatā drive north on State Highway 25 for 11km until you reach the turn-off to Ōpoutere, where there are numerous walks and mountain biking options. The car park to access the DOC-managed walk is approximately 4km down Ōpoutere Rd. The track starts by crossing a wooden footbridge and goes through pine trees. On reaching the beach, follow the track to the right before walking along the shoreline to see 1m-deep layers of shell that make up a fascinating archaeological midden confirming people have lived here from as early as 1350AD. At the southern end of Ōpoutere Beach lies the winding entrance to the Wharekawa Harbour which is protected by a spectacular sandspit. The spit is a breeding ground for several endangered species of native seabirds including the New Zealand dotterel and variable oystercatcher. A DOC ranger is on duty onsite during breeding season from November through to February. You can also explore the Ōhui rock pools at the northern end of the beach and into the state forest to visit the historic Phoenix goldmine. Stay at the Ōpoutere Coastal Campground and easily access the tracks and trails from there. opouterebeach.co.nz

Duration: 40mins return

Distance: 1.5km return approx

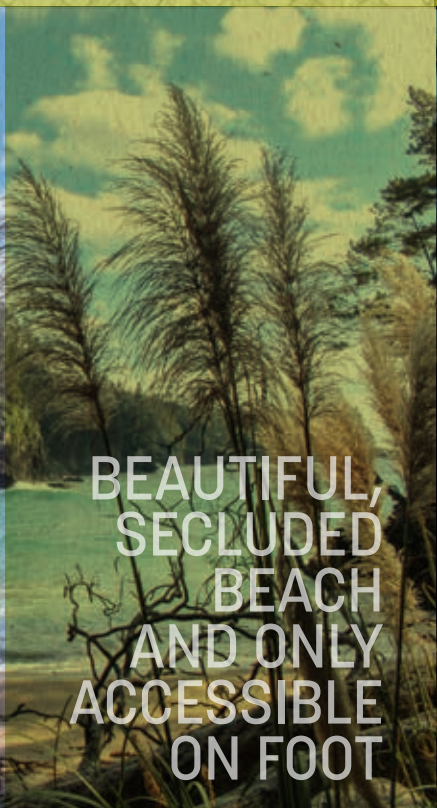




PICTURESQUE PICNIC AREA AND ASTOUNDING VIEWS

There are two recreation areas near Onemana in the Tairua Forest, about a 10-minute drive from Whangamatā. Off Tairua Rd (State Highway 25), on Whitihipirorua Rd, turn right at the top of the hill on the way to Onemana to access Peninsula Rd or left to discover Pokohino. To access these drive along the gravel roads at 30km/h for 10-15 minutes to reach the car parks. Please take care and be mindful of cyclists. Always check the signage first that access is possible. Due to active forestry harvest operations near Peninsula Lookout, access may not always be possible. Access may also be closed at short notice due to weather conditions, e.g. strong winds. Please obey signage and follow instructions such as: stop or no entry. This applies to both vehicles and cyclists, and is for your own safety and that of the harvesting crews. The road surface gets rough in summer due to the high volume of traffic. The forestry company opens the gates at 7am and locks them at 7pm so you must be out by then.

At the end of Peninsula Rd enjoy a picturesque picnic area and astounding views of Whangamatā and its harbour. No fires, cooking or camping are permitted. The track is relatively easy, and will take 15-25 minutes depending on which route you take around the bush-clad hillside. Peninsula Rd is also a popular mountain bike ride. Walkers only can also access a short but steep track which leads down to the secluded Te Ananui Beach.



BEAUTIFUL,
SECLUDED
BEACH
AND ONLY
ACCESSIBLE
ON FOOT

Pokohino Bay is a beautiful, secluded beach, only accessible on foot via a steep forest track. The track is in the Tairua Forest near Onemana, about a 10-minute drive from Whangamatā.

For information about getting there, access details and safety in this forestry area, please see page 61. On Whitipirorua Rd turn left at the top of the hill on the way to Onemana to access the Pokohino Bay track. Parking can be at a premium during peak times so it is recommended that you point your vehicle to the exit upon arrival. The road surface gets rough in summer due to the high volume of traffic. The access may be closed at short notice due to weather conditions.

The walking track itself is challenging and should only be accessed by people who are capable of walking back out. From the car park the track will take you about 15-20mins, winding down to a tiny tidal lagoon. Ascending back to the car park will take longer, depending on your level of fitness, given the steep slope. This walk is unsuitable for anyone with limited mobility and fairly stout shoes are recommended. The forest company opens the gates at 7am and locks them at 7pm. People locked in may be charged to be let out. Allow time to walk from the beach to your vehicle and to drive to the gate.

No fires, cooking or camping are permitted.

NUMEROUS WALKS AND MOUNTAIN BIKING OPTIONS



The Whangamatā Mountain Bike Park is located 4km north of town and features world-class single-track rides, with purpose-built flow trails and techie features to satisfy all skill levels from Grade 2 to Grade 5. Biking is for everyone. Ride out from town or make your way to 'Fred's Carpark' and see what all the hype is about. You won't be disappointed.

Make sure you pay a membership fee. You can't ride without one. Membership is crucial to keeping the park operational as a high-quality community asset and can be bought through the park's website whangamataridges.nz or the Hivepass app join.hivepass.app/wmtbpark

Please respect the cultural significance and mana whenua of the area while riding in the park. The park operates within a commercial forest block operated by Rayonier Matariki Forests. Keep an eye out for signs outlining forestry operations and comply with any instructions to stay safe.



For more information and to keep updated, visit:

facebook.com/WhangamataMTBPark

instagram.com/whangamata_mtb_park

Ask a local

LOCAL INFORMATION CENTRES

Our Visitor Information Centres can point you
in the right direction.

Whitianga Information Centre

66 Albert Street, Whitianga – 07 866 5555

info@visitcoromandel.co.nz

Whangamatā Information Centre

616 Port Rd, Whangamatā – 027 311 4102

whangamatainformationcentre@gmail.com

Tairua Information Centre

2 Manaia Road, Tairua – 07 864 7575

admin@tairua.co.nz

tairua.co.nz

Pāuanui Information Centre

23 Centreway, Pāuanui – 07 864 7101

family-friends-fun@pauanui.co.nz

experiencepauanui.co.nz

Coromandel Information Centre

74 Kapanga Rd, Coromandel Town – 07 866 8598

info@coromandeltown.nz

coromandeltown.co.nz

Kauaeranga Visitor Centre (DOC)

Kauaeranga Valley Rd, Thames – 07 867 9080

kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz

doc.govt.nz

Thames Information Kiosk

Goldfields Mall, Thames



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website thecoromandel.com for
suggestions on where to stay, play, eat
and things to do in the Coromandel.



tcdc.govt.nz

For opening hours of all the centres check tcdc.govt.nz/vic