

Coromandel Recreation

COROMANDEL PENINSULA



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhāi

Introduction

Getting there

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

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

At the southern end of the Peninsula, the Karangahake Gorge (SH 2) is the main route through from Paeroa to the beaches, forests and historic sites of the south-eastern part of the Peninsula as well as the Bay of Plenty.



Recreation information

There are many walking, tramping or hiking, camping, swimming and sightseeing opportunities on the Coromandel Peninsula. This brochure is a guide to the many recreational facilities north of SH 2 (Karangahake Gorge) provided by the Department of Conservation (DOC) for your enjoyment, including tracks, mountain-biking opportunities, campsites and accommodation.

For the purposes of this brochure, the Coromandel Peninsula has been divided into four zones: Northern Coromandel, Thames Central/Kauaeranga Valley, Kuaotunu to Pauauni, and Southern Coromandel. Each zone has its own special attractions.

Enjoying the outdoors safely

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

Be well prepared for all types of weather and conditions. Have a first aid kit and survival kit and know what to do if things go wrong. Safety is your responsibility. Check water levels before attempting to cross streams and rivers. Learn safe crossing methods.

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

Other activities

Mountain biking



A mountain bike track for more experienced bikers is situated between Fletcher Bay and Stony Bay at the top of the Peninsula. Mountain biking is also permitted on certain tracks in the Kauaeranga Valley and Maratoto Valley.

Off-road vehicles



Three tracks have been set aside for off-roaders at the end of Wires Road at Maratoto. One of these is specifically for motorcycles. Sometimes the gate is locked so if you intend to use the track, phone 027 524 2132 to check if it's open.

Horseriding



The Hotoritori area in the Kauaeranga Valley is generally available for horseriding, and horseriders may also use off-road vehicle tracks at Maratoto.

Hunting



Permits are required to hunt for pigs and goats on conservation land and can be obtained from the Kauaeranga Visitor Centre, Coromandel Field Centre (phone 07 866 1100 mornings only) and Hauraki Area Office (phone 07 867 9180). You can also obtain permits at www.doc.govt.nz/hunting if you don't intend to take dogs.

Snorkelling



Te Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve has a rich variety of underwater habitat and marine life for exploring with a snorkel. All marine life is protected.

Conservation

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

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

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

New Zealand dotterel/tūturiwhatu

This endangered bird can be found on a number of beaches on the Coromandel.

Please take care where you step and do not enter the roped off breeding zones at Waikawau or Opoutere. With only about 300 New Zealand dotterel on the Coromandel and 1700 nationwide, these birds need all the help they can get.



New Zealand Dotterel nest with chick

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



Kauri die back

Kauri are under threat from a disease caused by a soil pathogen. To prevent the disease from spreading, always clean your footwear, bikes and camping equipment thoroughly before and after use.

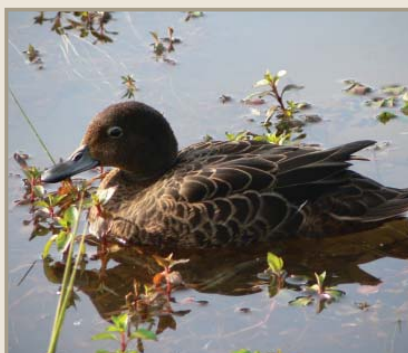


North Island robin/toutouwai

Over 100 North Island robins in total have been released at two sites near Moehau in 2009 and 2011. The birds began breeding successfully in 2010.



Pāteke/brown teal is one of New Zealand's rarest waterfowl. Following reintroductions and predator control, the pāteke population north of Port Charles is now doing well and increasing in numbers.



Archeys Frog

The Peninsula is an important site for the native Archeys frog. It does not have a tadpole stage and is found in forest habitat along the length of the Coromandel Range along with Hochstetter's frog.



Off-shore islands

There are many islands off the Coromandel Peninsula ranging in size from rock stacks of less than one hectare to islands as large as 1900 ha. Some are privately owned, some Māori owned and some are pest-free nature reserves or wildlife sanctuaries managed by DOC.

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

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

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



Mahurangi Island

Northern Coromandel

The long sandy beaches and pōhutukawa-clad coastline of northern Coromandel have a special attraction for visitors as a place to relax and enjoy the scenery, take part in water-based activities such as swimming, boating, kayaking or fishing, or to explore the many walks and tracks in the area.

Conservation Campsites

There are five Conservation Campsites to choose from.

Campsite fees per night: Adult \$9; child/youth (5-17 yrs) \$2; child under 5 free.

Fantail Bay: 50 km north of Coromandel town, Fantail Bay has a rocky beach front and great fishing and diving opportunities. It is a small campsite set amongst pōhutukawa trees, with space for 100 campers.

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



Fletcher Bay: 64 km north of Coromandel town at the road end, Fletcher Bay has space for 250 campers and is a great base for swimming, fishing and kayaking. The Coromandel Walkway and mountain bike track start and finish here.



Stony Bay: 55 km north-east of Coromandel town, Stony Bay has a stony beach with good fishing and diving opportunities and space for 250 campers. The Coromandel Walkway and mountain bike track start and finish here.



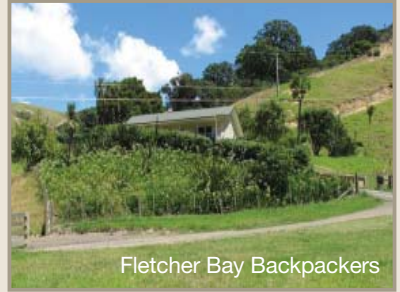
Waikawau Bay: 42 km north-east of Coromandel town, Waikawau Bay has a long, sweeping, white sand surf beach and room for 800 campers (see cover photo).

Note: You can book these conservation campsites online from November 2011 at www.doc.govt.nz. Bookings are essential in December and January. Phone bookings incur a booking fee.

Other accommodation:

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

Fee: \$25.50 per person per night. Maximum 16 people. Book online at www.doc.govt.nz. Phone bookings can be made via the Fletcher Bay camp manager: 07 866 6685 (booking fee applies).



Stony Bay bach: This small two-room bach (cabin) overlooking Stony Bay sleeps five, with two sets of bunk beds in the bedroom and a sofa bed in the living room. It has a full kitchen with fridge/freezer and microwave plus a hot shower and toilet. Phone DOC's Kauaeranga Visitor Centre for enquiries: 07 867 9080.

Fee: \$76.60 per night (sole occupancy). Book online at www.doc.govt.nz. Phone DOC's Coromandel Field Base 07 866 1100 to arrange key collection.



Thames Central/ Kauaeranga Valley

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

Kauaeranga Valley

The Kauaeranga Visitor Centre is your main port of call for track and camping information. It has excellent visitor displays and audiovisual aids exploring kauri logging history.

The Valley offers a wide range of activities from short walks to longer tramps as well as mountain-biking and horse-riding opportunities. There are also numerous swimming spots and historic relics from kauri logging days.



Conservation Campsites

There are eight Conservation Campsites in bush and stream settings up the Valley. These are: Shag Stream, Hotoritori, Whangaiterenga, Booms Flat, Catleys, Wainora, Totara Flat and Trestle View. Campsites are allocated on a first come, first served basis. Camping outside these areas is not permitted.

Fees per night: Adult \$9;
Child/youth (5-17 yrs) \$2; child under 5 free.

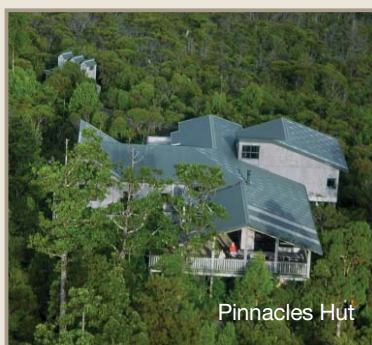
Huts

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

Fees per night: Adult \$15.30; child/youth (5-17) \$7.60; child under 5 free.

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

Fees per night: Adult \$15.30; child/youth (5-17 yrs) \$5.10; child under 5 free.



Note: Backcountry Hut Passes and Backcountry Hut Tickets are not valid for use at these two huts.

Book hut accommodation online at www.doc.govt.nz. Phone bookings through Kauaeranga Visitor Centre incur a booking fee. Accommodation and camping fees may change so check www.doc.govt.nz.



Backcountry Campsites (no vehicle access)

There are backcountry campsites (accessible via the track network) near the Pinnacles Hut (Dancing Camp), Billygoat Clearing and Moss Creek in the Kauaeranga Valley and at Crosbies Hut. All sites except Moss Creek must be booked online at www.doc.govt.nz or at the Kauaeranga Visitor Centre (booking fee applies).

Fees per night: Adult \$5.10; Child/youth (5-17 yrs) \$2.00; child under 5 free.

Kuaotunu to Pauanui

In this popular area of the Coromandel you will find a number of coastal walks including Cathedral Cove and also the Te Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve. Plant, fish and other animal communities thrive in the marine reserve, and the clear sheltered waters are perfect for snorkelling, diving and boating.

There is a wealth of historical and cultural heritage on the Coromandel with some historic sites dating back over 800 years, including some of the earliest settlement sites in New Zealand. Many sites are waahi tapu (sacred) so access is restricted or denied. Visitors must respect this, but other sites such as Opito Pā, Whitianga Rock and Te Pare Pā are accessible in this area.



Southern Coromandel

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

Conservation Campsites

Broken Hills

Turn off SH 25 opposite the Pauanui turn off and at the end of Puketui Valley Road is a secluded campsite beside the Tairua River. As well as exploring the many tracks in the area, there are opportunities for swimming, canoeing, trout fishing, bird watching and picnics.



Wentworth Valley

Turn off SH 25, 7 km south of Whangamata, into Wentworth Valley Road. At the end of the road you'll find a remote but spacious campsite with room for 250 campers. Walk from the campsite to the Wentworth Falls, Wentworth mines and a waterhole for swimming.

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

Fees per night: Adult \$9; Child/youth (5-17 yrs) \$2.00; child under 5 free.

When camping

DOC Conservation Campsites are family friendly and ideal for summer camping. Camping outside these designated areas is not permitted and may result in a fine (see www.doc.govt.nz/freedomcamping for more information).

Please remember

Fires: Light fires only in designated fireplaces where provided in campsites, otherwise, you may use gas or spirit burners but not charcoal barbecues. Taking wood from the surrounding forest, including dead wood is not allowed. NEVER leave fires unattended.

Dogs: You may bring your dog to the Hotoritori and Booms Flat Campsites in the Kauaeranga Valley, and the Wentworth Valley (but inform the Wentworth camp manager in advance). Dogs should be leashed at all times. They are **strictly prohibited** at all other campsites but are permitted on some tracks—check with Kauaeranga Visitor Centre. No other domestic animals are allowed, except horses on designated horse riding trails.

Water: As water at campsites is drawn from streams and rivers, it is recommended you boil or purify it before drinking. This reduces the risk of possible infections.

Toilets: Use toilets located in campsites. Certified self-contained campervans may use their own chemical toilet. For health reasons, pit toilets are not allowed.

Rubbish: Please put rubbish in bins or rubbish transfer stations where provided. Better still, take it home with you.

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

Northern Coromandel

1 Coromandel Walkway (7 hr return, 10 km)



Start from Fletcher Bay or Stony Bay. If a one-way journey is intended, arrange for transport to meet you.

The coastal walk crosses farmland and goes through coastal forest with views of the Pinnacles, Great Barrier Island (Aotea Island) to the north and Cuvier Island (Repanga Island) in the east. A circuit is possible using the mountain bike track (2) but this is much steeper and slippery in places.

2 Coromandel mountain bike track (8 km)



This is a challenging track over steep terrain between Fletcher Bay and Stony Bay. It follows a stock route across farmland and through regenerating forest and offers superb views over the coastline. There is a steep ascent and descent from either end.

3 Stony Bay fishing track (2 hr, 2 km)



Signposted on the roadside into Stony Bay, this track provides access to remote fishing rocks. The track is through regenerating bush and can be overgrown. At low tide, it is possible to scramble round the rocks back to the Stony Bay campsite.

4 Muriwai Walk (2 hr, 6 km)



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

5 Fantail Bay campground to bush (30 min)



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

6 Matamataharakeke (3 hr return)



Begin at the back of the Pump paddock at the Waikawau Campsite, crossing over a stile next to the Matamataharakeke Stream. The walking track is part of the original Waikawau to Kennedy Bay route used by gold miners and loggers. It goes up the main ridge past a series of lookouts giving views over bush-covered hills to coast and islands.

7 Papa Aroha (40 min return, 400 m)



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



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



Access is from the top of Harbour View Road or down a right of way beside 356 Wharf Road in Coromandel town. This area is regenerating bush with planted kauri. A side track leads to a pā site with spectacular views over the town and coast. This is an old mining area so for your own safety please keep to the marked track.

9 Taumatawahine (20 min return, 600 m)



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

10 Kaipawa Trig (3 hr return)



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

11 Tokatea Lookout (30 min return, 600 m)



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

12 Opera Point (15 min, 500 m)



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

13 New Chums Beach (1 hr, 1.5 km)



Cross the stream at the northern end of Whangapoua Beach and follow the rocky foreshore around to the headland. Here a walking track takes you over the saddle and down into New Chums Beach through nīkau and pōhutukawa. Enjoy a walk along the secluded white sandy beach.



14 Waiau Falls and Kauri Grove (30 min return)



Waiau Falls can be viewed from the roadside 7 km along the 309 Road. Another 1 km up the road, a 500-m walk takes you into one of the few mature stands of kauri on the Peninsula. The grove contains a 'siamese' kauri that forks just above the ground.

15 Waiau Summit (3 to 4 hr return)



This tramping track branches off the walk to the Waiau Kauri Grove and follows an old coach road to the 309 Road summit. Walk along the road to car park.



Kuaotunu to Pauanui

1 Opito Pā Historic Reserve (45 min return)



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

2 Waitaia (2 hr, 2 km return)



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

3 Rings Beach Lookout (45 min return, 500m)



At Rings Beach, park in the reserve by Waiari Stream and cross the road and bridge to the track entrance. The well-graded track is short and steep and takes you up to the repeater mast giving views over Matarangi and Whangapoua and coastline north and south. Significant plantings have been undertaken here by the Kauri 2000 Trust.



4 Whitianga Rock (20 min return, 400 m)



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

5 Te Pare Pā (15 min, 500 m)



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

6 Cathedral Cove (1 hr 30 min, 2 hr return)



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

7 Te Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve



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

7 The Gemstone Bay Snorkel Trail



Gemstone Bay is accessible by foot from the Cathedral Cove car park or by boat. It is a rocky bay fringed by pōhutukawa. The snorkel trail is marked by floating buoys that illustrate the marine habitats and associated marine life that live in the waters below them.

7 Mahuranigi Island (1 hr return)



You may land on this island but there are no facilities except a 1.4 km track, marked by poles, along its length.

Hot Water Beach

Hot Water Beach is located a few kilometres south of Hahei. For 2 hr either side of low tide you can dig into the sand, tap into the hot springs and create your own thermal pool. **But take extreme care if swimming in the sea as there are dangerous undercurrents.**



8 Whenuakite Kauri Loop (1 hr 30 min return)



From the Whenuakite car park 8 km north of Tairua on SH 25, go a short distance down the Lynch Stream / Sailors Grave track before branching off onto a loop track through regenerating kauri. There are good views over the forest before the 2.8 km track returns to SH 25.

9 Lynch Stream to Sailors Grave (5-6 hr one way)



From the Whenuakite car park, a tramping track leads down Lynch Stream to Otara Bay through coastal forest. Another 1-hr tramp takes you from Otara Bay to the Sailors Grave Road and Te Karo Bay. Arrange for transport to meet you. This track takes you through the heart of a community-based kiwi protection project.

10 Twin Kauri (30 min return)

Look out for the twin kauri on the roadside just north of Tairua, where there is a short loop track into the bush. Though short, the track is steep in places and can be muddy and slippery.



11 Pauanui car park to Cave Bay and Trig

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



Thames Central

1 Square Kauri (20 min return)



The 15th largest kauri on the Peninsula is found just west of the Tapu-Coroglen Road summit. It is estimated to be 1200 years old. The walk is short (150 m) but steep with 187 steps and offers good views across to the main Coromandel Range.

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



From the car park on Waiomu Valley Road, 15 min north of Thames, the walking track follows a formed road for 600 m before entering bush. Be prepared to get your feet wet as there are several stream crossings. After 25 min, a short side track leads to the old Monowai Gold mine battery site. Further up the main track the forest becomes more luxuriant and diverse, part of the Waiomu Ecological Area. A 10-min climb to the main ridge takes you to a stand of regenerating kauri.

3 Waiomu/Te Puru to Crosbies Hut (7–8 hr return)



These tracks start behind the two towns along the Thames Coast. The Waiomu track continues on for 2hr beyond the the Waiomu Kauri Grove (2) to Crosbies Clearing. The Te Puru track follows an easy gradient for 30 min before climbing up a ridge to Crosbies Clearing. From the clearing, it is an hour to Crosbies Hut.

4 Central Range tramping tracks

- Waiomu or Te Puru/Tapu Coroglen Summit (6 hr)
- Tapu Coroglen Summit / Crosbies Clearing / Kauaeranga Valley (9 hr)



These tracks can be overgrown at times and are recommended for the experienced trumper. For more information contact the Kauaeranga Visitor Centre.

5 Karaka/Waiotahi (6-hr circuit)

These two tracks are accessed off Waiotahi and Karaka Roads in Thames and climb up into the hills behind the town. A circuit is possible with a 30-min walk back along the road. The Karaka track is more rugged and overgrown and stream crossing can be risky after heavy rain. Alternatively, a longer tramp can be made by continuing on to Crosbies Hut and other tramping tracks down the main range.



6 Rocky's Walk (3-hr loop)



From the car park by Dickson Park Motor Camp in Thames, this walk climbs steeply before flattening out along a ridge. The track is uneven in places but offers good views over the Firth of Thames. There is a steep descent into Tinkers Gully and then a short walk back along road to car park.

7 Kauaeranga Valley



The Kauaeranga Valley, 13 km from Thames has eight campsites, one 80 bunk tramping hut, remote camping opportunities and numerous tracks and walks, both within the Valley and leading outside it. See the *Kauaeranga Valley Recreation* booklet for more information or contact the *Kauaeranga Visitor Centre*.

8 Piraunui Stream (4 hr return)



Access to this tramping track on the Kopu-Hikuai Road is just before the summit. A gentle grade descends through regenerating kauri forest then across private farmland to the Kauaeranga River. Carefully assess before wading across to the Shag Stream Campsite and the Kauaeranga Visitor Centre. Return by the same track unless you have arranged transport.

Track classification



Short walk—well-formed, easy walking for up to an hour. Few or no steps or slopes. Suitable for people of most abilities and fitness. Streams and river crossings are bridged. Walking shoes required.

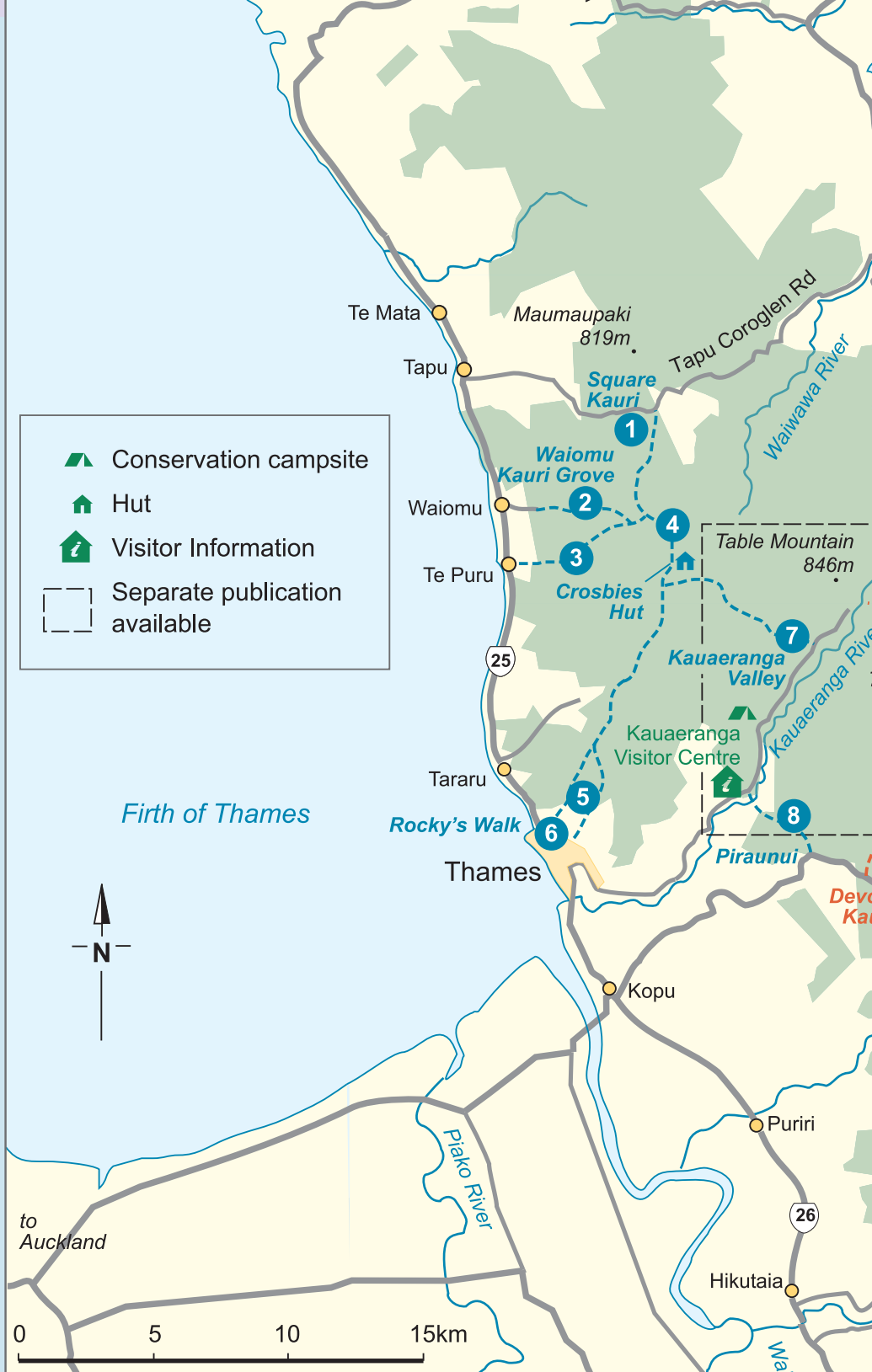


Walking track—easy to moderate walking from a few minutes to a day. Track is mostly well formed although some sections may be steep, rough or muddy. Stream and river crossings are bridged. Walking shoes or boots required.



Tramping track—challenging day or multi-day tramping/hiking. Mostly unformed with steep, rough or muddy sections. Suitable for fit, experienced, and adequately equipped people. Expect river crossings. Tramping/hiking boots required.

Note: Distances given are one way unless a loop circuit. Times given are based on an average family group. They are a guide only and may vary depending on weather and track conditions.



Southern Coromandel

1 Kaitarakihi (7 hr return)



Sign-posted from the summit of the Kopu-Hikuai Road, this track crosses rugged terrain, climbing to a height of 852 m. It is recommended for experienced trampers only. The track continues into Kauaeranga Valley or connects through to Broken Hills (3).

2 Devcich Kauri (2 hr return)



The Devcich Kauri Track branches off the Kaitarakihi Track to the right after approximately 45 min and takes you steeply down to an ancient hollow kauri.

3 Broken Hills (5 min to full day)



Accessible from two roads: off SH 25 at Hikuai or off the Kopu-Hikuai Road via Puketui Road. There are walking, camping, fishing, swimming and canoeing opportunities in the area. Impressive rock outcrops plus relics and tunnels from the gold mining and kauri logging eras are all part of the track network, which links through to Kaitarakihi and the Kauaeranga Valley. Please keep to tracks to avoid dangerous mine shafts. See *the Broken Hills Brochure for more information*.

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



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

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



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

6 Wentworth Falls (2 hr 30 min return)



From the campground at the end of Wentworth Valley Road there is a 3-km walking track to the Wentworth Falls. The track follows an easy grade alongside the Wentworth River, with two bridged crossings, before climbing to a good view of the falls. Return by the same track. (It is possible to continue via a tramping track through to Maratoto—see 11).

7 Wharekirauponga (3 hr 30 min return)



This track starts at the end of Parakiwai Quarry Road, 2 km south of the Wentworth Valley. The track is along an old horse-drawn tram track (muddy in places) and passes unusual andesitic (volcanic) rock formations enroute to the old camp and battery site for the Royal Standard Gold Mine. Beyond the battery site and tunnel are the Wharekirauponga Falls. The loop track beyond this point is steep and slippery in places. The return journey is 10 km.

8 Waimama (1 hr return, 600 m to Bay)



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

9 Maratoto/Golden Cross (1 hr 45 min one way)



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

10 The Wires Track (3 hr to Wires Plateau)



The track is signposted off Wires Road 500 m before the gate and car park. The first section is through private land so please follow marker posts. Two beautiful falls are found not far off the track on the Hamuti Stream.

11 Maratoto/Wentworth Crossing (5 hr one way)



Starting from either the Wires Track/Whangamata 4WD track on the Maratoto side or the Wentworth Valley on the eastern side, it is possible to traverse the range. Transport needs to be arranged for the end of the track.





Whitianga Rock

Te Pare Pa

Hot Water Beach

Whenuakite

Coroglen

25 Kauri Loop

9 Sailor's Grave

10 Twin Kauri

Tairua

Shoe I

Pauanui

11 Cave Bay

Slipper I

The Pinnacles 759m

Hihi 718m

3 Broken Hills

Kaitarakahi 852m

Devcich Kauri

4 Opoutere Beach

Onemana

Whangamata

Wentworth Falls

Mines Walk

6 Wentworth Valley

11 Maratoto Crossing

10 Wires Track

8 Waimama

Whiritoa

9 Golden Cross

7 Wharekirauponga

Paeroa

Waihi

Karangahake

Waikino

Ohinemuri River

Waihi Beach

to Hamilton

to Tauranga

Visitor Information

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

Department of Conservation
Kauaeranga Visitor Centre
Box 343, Thames 3540
Phone: 07 867 9080
Fax: 07 867 9095
Email: kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz

The **Kauaeranga Visitor Centre**, 13km up the Kauaeranga Valley near Thames, provides visitor information on the state of tracks, hut bookings, maps, and brochures as well as conservation advice. While the visitor centre has seasonal opening days and hours, there are information panels under the covered verandah.

Further information can also be obtained from DOC's Hauraki Area Office in Thames (corner Pahau/Kirkwood Streets).
Tel: +64 7 867 9180
Fax: +64 7 867 9181

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

- Protect plants and animals
- Bury toilet waste when tramping
- Keep vehicles off beaches
- Keep our coast, streams and lakes clean
- Leave gates as you find them and respect any access restrictions
- Camp carefully
- Keep to the track
- Respect cultural heritage
- Enjoy your visit and *Toitute whenua*/ leave the land undisturbed



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

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Suggestions for corrections or improvements should be emailed to: recreation@doc.govt.nz

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