

Walk Waiheke

Te Ara Hura

Linking a network of tracks – from the fun to the full-on. A 100km walking trail all around Waiheke Island.



*Paoa ki uta, Paoa ki tai
Ki Waiheke
Ki Maunganui
Ki Tikapa
Haere mai ki Hauraki
He aute tē āwhea
Ko Paoa te tangata*

Te Ara Hura pays homage to all those who have come and gone. Ngāti Hura is the hapū of Ngāti Paoa who are recognised as the principal Mana Whenua tribe on Waiheke Island. Ngāti Paoa acknowledges our hapū Ngāti Kapu, Te Uri Karaka and Te Patukirikiri.

"Parekaiangaanga whakarauora"

Parekaiangaanga (Ngāti Tai) and Rautao (Ngāti Maru) who with their son Kiriuaua lived on Waiheke; and Kapetaua (Te Patukirikiri) are the eponymous ancestors through whom their tribal association to Waiheke exists.

Ngāti Paoa's genealogical links are to both ancestral waka of Tainui and Te Arawa. The Te Arawa waka landed at Te Pūtiki o Kahumatamoemoe (the top knot of Kahumatamoemoe) around the 1350s. Rangihoua – the day of renewal – relates to the relashing of their waka following their arduous journey from Hawai'iiki. On the Tainui waka at Horuhoru, (now known as Gannet Rock) they heard the the water lapping on the rocks. This reminded them of their departure from Hawai'iiki, and their lamenting gave rise to the names Tikapa Moana (for the Hauraki Gulf), and Horuhoru/ Hotuhotu – which means heartfelt and uncontrollable sobbing.

At Karaka Bay in March and July 1840, 23 Ngāti Paoa tupuna signed Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Most of these tupuna had genealogical links and close ties to Waiheke.

As kaitiaki (guardians) over their waahi tapu and the environment, Ngāti Paoa's interests can be summarised through an historical account of events linked to occupation on Waiheke. Ngāti Paoa are active in their kaitiakitanga responsibilities and in ensuring strong relationships are upheld to achieve this.

Ngāti Paoa welcome you to enjoy the beauty of Te Motu Arai Roa (now known as Waiheke) and ask that you respect our taonga, leaving only your footprints and taking away your blessed memories.

Nau mai ki te motu o Ngāti Paoa. Nā te Iwi o Ngāti Paoa.

Te Ara Hura – the discovery path of stories

For the first time, the network of walking tracks around Waiheke has been linked into a continuous 100km route all around the island. It's the best way to see the real Waiheke, one step at a time.

Start and finish where you like. Walk in either direction. Te Ara Hura can be a challenging multi-day adventure – or easily walked in stages at your own pace.

A Te Ara Hura adventure can be built around overnight stays, tastings or great meals at vineyards, and top-up stops at cool cafes.

If you're here just for the day, look out for the free maps at island info centres, and the signs at the beaches. Or simply follow Te Ara Hura marker posts to stay on the trail.

You're not restricted to the main track only. If you like the look of a side trip or a short-cut pathway – go for it. It's your walk, but please respect private driveways.

Keep an eye on the the Auckland Council website for updates on new developments in Te Ara Hura and the Walk Waiheke network.

Te Ara Hura takes you through four distinct parts of the island. Which Waiheke experience do you want?



Te Ara Hura markers will lead you right around the island.

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Headlands

Million dollar views, Hauraki Gulf highlights, the best of what Waiheke has to offer. An introduction to the highlights of the island – all in one accessible space.



Art on the walkway during headland Sculpture on the Gulf.



Rocky outcrops, small deep coves, and a splendid sense of freedom.

From Mātiatia – the gateway to Walk Waiheke

The Headlands walks radiate from the ferry terminal at Mātiatia, a significant place for locals, tangata whenua and those who have come afterwards. All Waiheke Islanders attach special meaning to this place.

There are rewarding walks from here. A feature of this area is the many walking links to Oneroa, the village centre of Waiheke Island.



Headlands walks give you plenty of grandstand views of the Hauraki Gulf.

On the way to Oneroa, is the bush-clad valley of Atawhai Whenua, a Forest & Bird reserve. The young forest here is the vision of one man, Don Chapple, who devoted his life to single-handedly re-planting the bush.

The headlands on either side of this bay are stunning. The northern headland carries a walk with endless views, past the strategic site of Mokemoke Pā, around to Oneroa via Owhanake Bay. This part of the track can be challenging in places, but is equally rewarding. Please respect signs for private land. If the tide is in at Mātiatia, look for the signposted high tide route.

Every second January, the walkway on the southern side hosts *headland Sculpture on the Gulf*, a fabulous outdoor exhibition of contemporary sculpture. There are also links from this track to Cable Bay, Jurassic Ridge and Mudbrick vineyards.

The southern headland walk can be continued to Te Miro and Church Bay, and beyond that round Park Point. On each of these longer walks, short-cuts, or 'bail-out' options are available.

Both the Owhanake and Park Point walks would work nicely as a first leg of your Te Ara Hura adventure – if you choose to begin at Mātiatia.

Local knowledge



Food and provisions

There are supermarkets, chemists and shops in Oneroa and Ostend, and cafes at Surfdale, Palm Beach and Onetangi. There are no shops east of Onetangi. The island has no specialist outdoor or tramping shops.



Drinking water

There is a water fountain on Mātiatia wharf. Treated water is not generally available on the walkways, so please take it with you.



Accommodation

Waiheke has a wide range of accommodation options – including backpackers, baches to rent, B&Bs, campgrounds, luxury lodges, motels, resorts. Check out accommodation options online, in advance.



Careful

There are many steep or clifftop sections on Te Ara Hura. You'll need good walking footwear, and please be careful in these parts. New Zealand's sun is very strong. Wear hats and sunscreen.



Dogs

Please keep dogs under control on all the walkways, and pick up droppings. Please do not disturb any wildlife. **No dogs allowed in parts of Whakanewha Regional Park and on Te Ara Hura between Trig Hill Road (Onetangi) and Orapiu Road, and near Park Point.**



Transport

Buses leave from Mātiatia to Oneroa, Palm Beach, Ostend, Rocky Bay and Onetangi. Their return trips link to ferry departures. Cars, scooters, bicycles and electric bicycles can be rented at Mātiatia. Taxis or shuttles can pick you up wherever Te Ara Hura reaches a road.



Bicycles

Te Ara Hura is primarily a walking track. There are places where Te Ara Hura will share the road with mountain bikes and cars.



Cellphone coverage

There's coverage on most hilltops and headlands – but missing in some secluded or inland areas.



Beaches 'n' Baches

In the villages, but off the beaten track. Always close to a cafe. Quiet and quirky walkways full of essential island character – and of course, Te Ara Hura threading through them.



Get close up with the real Waiheke – a mix of the quirky and the flashy.

How to pretend you're a local

Te Ara Hura wanders through the villages of Oneroa, Palm Beach and Onetangi (on the northern side of the island) and Blackpool, Surfdale, and Ostend (on the southern side).

At Oneroa you'll find great art galleries, the library, cinema, theatre, the post office, cafes, ice-creams, and shops. Locals call it 'town'.

The eastern end of Oneroa Beach marks the narrowest part of Waiheke. It's just a few hundred metres here across to Blackpool Beach.

This north coastline is made of sandy beaches separated by rocky headlands and reefs.

The south side is more tidal, with mudflats supporting a range of wading birds, and quiet mangrove inlets being important breeding places for fish. Te Ara Hura takes the unhurried old route, meandering around Okahuiti wetland.

If you happen to be walking through Beaches 'n' Baches on a Saturday morning, a 'must-stop' is at the Ostend Market. There's also a supermarket and hardware store in Ostend.

Despite being in the most built-up area of the island, Beaches 'n' Baches walks still provide great opportunities for bird-watching. Blackpool Beach is a special destination



The many safe beaches in this area are great for families.

for kūaka (godwits). These birds migrate annually to Alaska, flying back south non-stop – the longest migration flight known. And all of the Island supports a healthy population of kererū (New Zealand pigeons).



Blackpool hosts kūaka, our amazing longhaul visitors, October – March.

Looking after our island

Waiheke Island is special in many ways. For one, there are no possums here – so trees are not under attack, and provide more food for native birds. You'll see a high number of kererū (New Zealand pigeon) while on the island. Locals are doing what they can to help the forest recover, and to encourage more birds.

Every home on Waiheke is responsible for collecting (and disposing) its own water. So it's good manners to conserve water anywhere on Waiheke.

How we do things: our environmental care code

Help us protect our plants, wildlife and natural heritage.

- Please don't litter, and remove rubbish.
- Keep streams and sea clean.
- Keep to tracks and respect private property.
- Keep dogs under control and remove droppings. Please respect local dog rules. The beaches around Park Point, at Whakanewha, and Te Matuku Bay are a nesting place for rare New Zealand dotterels, so dogs are not allowed there.
- Do not light fires.
- Where necessary, share the road considerately with vehicles, cyclists and horse riders.

Keep kauri standing

Kauri dieback is a fungus-like disease that kills New Zealand kauri trees. To help keep Waiheke's kauri safe always remember to clean your gear e.g. shoes, equipment, before and after walking the tracks.

Contacts

Auckland Council
Parks, walkway information, bookings for Whakanewha campground 09 301 0101

Waiheke Island Visitor Information Centre
09 372 1234

Medical attention
09 372 8756 or
09 372 5005

Fullers ferries
09 367 9111

Sealink ferries
Half Moon Bay vehicle ferries 09 300 5900 and
0800 732 546

Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society
09 372 7662

Emergencies 111



Forest Heart

Beautiful native bush, old trees safe from possums, regenerating new forest and streams, wetlands and birds aplenty.
The living core of Waiheke, where you'll escape the hustle and bustle.



Majestic pōhutukawa trees line the ridge on the Onetangi Reserve.

Welcome to green space

Waiheke has been planned around the idea of settlements separated by green belts. The Forest Heart is a significant green swathe across the island, from Whakaneuwha Regional Park, through the Rangihoua / Onetangi Sports Park and the Forest & Bird reserve to Onetangi. Here you can also walk across the island, from tidal estuaries to long sandy beaches.

Te Ara Hura goes through Whakaneuwha Regional Park, and up to Trig Hill – one of the highest points on the island, and with views to match. At Trig Hill, you have the option of cutting through to Onetangi Beach (across a narrow part of Te Ara Hura), or continuing to Awaawaroa and Te Matuku Bays.

At this point, you're heading into the more rural part of the island, so please plan your logistics accordingly. There are no shops at Rocky Bay, or east of Onetangi.

The little settlement of Omiha / Rocky Bay is nestled in the Forest Heart. You could say Rocky Bay has only recently joined the republic. This was a world apart, an 'island within an island' and home to eccentrics and artists and diverse free-thinkers. It still is. The road over this hill was built only in 1956.

This central area of the island also holds a concentration of the vineyards that have made Waiheke world famous for producing top-quality Bordeaux reds. And some award-winning olive groves. A side trip from Te Ara Hura will get you to their tasting rooms.

You'll also be walking through memories of dramatic Māori history: there were significant pā (fortified villages) at Rangihoua Putiki-o-kahu, the sacred hill at the sports park, and Whakaneuwha. A bloody battle in 1821 led to Waiheke being abandoned until Ngāti Paoa returned in the 1830s.

Camping is available at Poukaraka Flats Campground, a short detour from the carpark with the sculpture at Whakaneuwha. Make sure you book first: call 09 301 0101 or visit the Auckland Council website.

The northern coastline of the Forest Heart is centered on Onetangi Beach. The annual Beach Races held here are a long tradition going back over 100 years. The races were stopped in 1924 because authorities thought locals were wasting too much money on betting. Revived in 1983, the races are now a charity fund-raiser.



Please avoid New Zealand dotterel nests on the Whakaneuwha foreshore.



Far End

A place apart – big skies, big views, and fresh air therapy.

Where your expansive vision is rewarded

In the Far End, you're only 35km in a straight line from downtown Auckland – but you'll find yourself in a remote and uncrowded rural landscape, with equal helpings of green, blue and headspace.

This is the part of Te Ara Hura where there are greater distances to cover between refreshment points, so do plan to take enough food, drink and tramping gear.

A new track along the shoreline of Te Matuku Bay, between Passage Rock Vineyard and Orapiu Wharf, and on the edge of the marine reserve, is a highlight of the Walk Waiheke network. It will be opened in 2015.

At Orapiu you'll be looking straight across at Ponui Island, farmed by the Chamberlin family for generations, and home to a recognised breed of donkeys.

North of Orapiu is Man O' War Bay, and the Man O' War vineyards, the biggest wine makers on the island.

The bay is named for the fact that Captain Cook stopped here in 1769, to collect fresh water and careen the HMS *Endeavour* to scrub the bottom clean. Cook noted the numbers of kauri trees growing there, which made good masts for warships.



Stony Batter, a laid-back defence posting during the Second World War.