



Summer at Tāpapakanga

## How to get there

Drive south on Highway 1, take the Manurewa off-ramp and head towards Clevedon. From Clevedon, follow the signs to Kawakawa Bay and on towards Orere Point. Just past Orere Point turn off East Coast Road, down Deery Road to the park.

For public transport information: phone Auckland Transport **09 366 6400** or visit [at.govt.nz](http://at.govt.nz)

## Please take your rubbish home

Your parks provide open space, fresh air, a home for native plants and animals, clean water, beauty and inspiration.

Help keep them this way.

- No bins
- No rubbish
- Better parks
- 

## Dogs

Dogs are allowed under control on leash on the park between 1 December and 30 June.

Dogs are allowed under control off-leash on the beach.

Dogs are prohibited on the park between 1 July and 30 November (lambing and calving season).

For detailed information phone Auckland Council on **09 301 0101** or visit [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

## Tāpapakanga Regional Park

Located just south of Ōrere Point, beside the Firth of Thames, Tāpapakanga takes you back to the world of the early settlers with its isolated beachfront homestead and pōhutukawa-fringed coast.

As well as its rich Māori and European history this beautiful park offers rolling farmland, a winding stream and expansive coastal views, all within easy reach of Auckland.

There is both a beach and fresh water lagoon that are ideal for swimming. Other recreational activities at Tāpapakanga include picnics, barbecues, camping, fishing, kayaking, family walks and mountain biking.

Tāpapakanga-a-Puku takes its name from a time when the kūmara propagation bed belonging to a local chief, Puku, failed.

## Plants and animals

Large spreading pōhutukawa are a highlight of this park's coastline. Inland, much of the park is pasture but many of the steeper slopes have been fenced-off from stock. These areas are re-vegetated with native species as part of the larger park restoration project. The best example of remnant native forest on the park is at the northwestern end, where you will discover pūriri, taraire, rewarewa, māhoe, tawa, tānekaha and tarata.

Tanguru (*Olearia albida*), a rare tree daisy that grows up to five metres tall, is found along this part of the coast. Its sweet-scented flower heads appear around autumn.

The most common coastal birds here are black oystercatchers (*tōrea pango*) and South Island (*tōrea*) pied oystercatchers, black shags (*kawau*), pied (*kāruhiruhi*) and little (*kawau paka*) shags, white-faced herons, black-backed and red-billed gulls (*tarāpunga*) and kingfishers (*kotare*).

Further inland look for paradise ducks and mallard ducks (*pūtangitangi*), pūkeko, pheasants, kererū (wood pigeon), fantails (*piwakawaka*), grey warblers (*riroriro*) and tui. Campers will hear the mellow sound of the morepork (*rūrū*) at night.



Morning view from the tent.



## Auckland Council manages 28 regional parks

For more information on any of these parks: phone **09 301 0101** or visit [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

## Volunteering

We would love to have your help with work in regional parks. Age and physical ability is no barrier as there are tasks and projects to suit all individuals and groups.

For more information on volunteering: phone **09 301 0101** or visit [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

## History

For many centuries Tāpapakanga was an important dwelling place for the Marutūahu iwi, especially Ngāti Pāoa and Ngāti Whanaunga.

In those days Tāpapakanga supported several large kainga (villages) each with extensive kumara and taro cultivations.

Archaeological sites on the park, mainly concentrated around the Tāpapakanga Stream and along the coastal strip, include three Māori pā, storage pits (*rua*), terraces (*tūāpapa*), shell middens (*ahu ota ota*), ovens (*umu*) and stone heaps indicating extensive riverside gardens.

The Māori relationship to this land is commemorated by two pou whenua (carved posts) at the park entrance. An interesting feature of these carvings is the representation of a European, James Ashby, depicted carrying an axe. Ashby settled on the land in 1899 and enjoyed a lifelong friendship with the local chief Tukumana Te Taniwha. James and his wife Rebecca built the existing homestead beside the beach in 1900. They raised 14 children on the property, which remained in family ownership until 1990.

Auckland Regional Council purchased a significant block of land in 1990 and officially opened Tāpapakanga Regional Park in 1995. The park recently increased to 197 hectares when the council purchased adjoining land in 2009.

## Park facilities

### Prime picnic spots

There are numerous free gas BBQs scattered along the fore shore of Ashby Beach, available on a first come first served basis or else feel free to bring your own. Please do not bring your own solid fuel BBQs due to the fire risk of disposing of the hot embers. This includes but is not limited to wood fire, coal and pellet BBQs.



View from the historic homestead.

# Tāpapakanga Regional Park



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Visit [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) or call **09 301 0101** for more information.



## Campgrounds

### Beach Front Campground

Beach Front Campground is tent only camping, located next to the Ashby Beach foreshore. Caravans and campervans are not allowed at this campground due to the topography of the site, to minimise potential damage to the pōhutukawa root systems, and to protect sensitive archaeological sites.

### Sea View Campground

Sea View Campground is a lovely place to camp, with flat and sheltered options for both tents and vehicle based camping. Although the sea view has been taken over by the regenerating native bush, it is only a 5 min walk to the lookout to watch the sunrise over the Firth of Thames or a 15 min walk down the Goat Track to enjoy all the beach and foreshore have to offer.

### Waikaha Stream Campground

This campsite is part of the Te Ara Moana Kayak Trail and is accessible by sea kayak only. People wishing to walk in should seek permission from Auckland Council on **09 301 0101**. For more information on Te Ara Moana check out [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/parks-recreation/get-outdoors/coastal-marine/Pages/te-aro-moana.aspx](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/parks-recreation/get-outdoors/coastal-marine/Pages/te-aro-moana.aspx)

## Staying overnight in selected car parks

### Tāpapakanga Stream and Kaparanui Stream Certified Self-Contained (CSC) campervan campgrounds

These two CSC vehicle sites are located on Deery's Road. The dedicated campervan sites offers two locations; one on the Tāpapakanga Stream and the other on the Kaparanui Stream. The sites offer shady stream-side camping.

## Other accommodation

Tāpapakanga bach offers extensive views across farmland to the distant Coromandel Range. The bach is a 3-bedroom farmhouse with capacity to sleep six, that overlooks Tāpapakanga Regional Park. The beach is a 20-minute walk away, following the white markers.

## Bookings

For information and bookings for these overnight facilities, phone **09 301 0101** or visit [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)



Beach Front Campground.

## Feature walks

### Farm Walk - - -

**2 hours, 6km**

Follow the orange markers from the carpark up the road before branching off just beyond the cattle stop. This walk takes you to the highest point of the park through open pasture where sheep graze.

### Historic Loop Track - - -

**30 minutes, 1.5km**

Follow the blue markers from the carpark. The Historic Loop Track takes you past the pā site and historic stone fields and returns to the car park.

### Tāpapakanga Coastal Walk - - -

**2 hours, 7.5km**

Follow the red markers along the coast from the carpark. At high tide the Tāpapakanga Stream, which flows around the impressive Māori pā, can be difficult to cross. An alternative route heads inland past the pā and then rejoins the track.

## Cycling

### Mountain Bike Track (intermediate) - - -

**1 hour, 7km**

This basic route is mostly through farmland, following the yellow markers. Only small sections of the track are on formed surfaces. The track will lead you up to the highest part of the park and to the southern fringes. There are great views and plenty of shady rest spots along the way. The track is a basic cross-country route only, and involves cross-slope and undulating terrain. A moderate level of fitness and experience is required.

## Sea kayaking

You can launch your kayak from the beaches at Tāpapakanga. Kayaking is best at high tide.

Tāpapakanga is part of Te Ara Moana – ‘the sea-going pathway’. This is a self-guided five day sea kayak tour along approximately 51km of Auckland’s picturesque south eastern coastline, connecting five of Auckland’s charming Regional Parks.

## Ranger contact details

To contact a park ranger use the phone at the information board just inside the park entrance and follow the instructions. If using a mobile phone, call **09 301 0101**.

## Stop kauri dieback

[kauridieback.co.nz](http://kauridieback.co.nz)

A disease known as kauri dieback (Phytophthora taxon Agathis), which is threatening the survival of kauri trees, has been identified in the Waitākere Ranges. Help prevent the spread of kauri dieback by keeping to defined tracks and cleaning footwear before and after your visit.

## Ranger recommendations

**Tips on how to make the most of your visit to Tāpapakanga Regional Park.**

### If you have two hours...

You will have a chance to take in the park’s highlights and get a feel for its history by viewing the carved pou at the entrance and the historic homestead by the beach. Relax and enjoy a swim at the beach and the shade of the beautiful pōhutukawa.



## Be safe in regional parks

### The water safety code

1. Be prepared.
2. Watch out for yourself and others.
3. Be aware of the dangers.
4. Know your limits.

### Land safety code

1. Choose the right trip for you.
2. Understand the weather.
3. Pack warm clothes and extra food.
4. Share your plans and take ways to get help.
5. Take care of yourself and each other.

### Key

Parking	Canoeing / kayaking	Historic site	Bach	Cemetery	Streams
Phone to contact ranger	Toilets	Mountain biking	Picnic area	No cars	Roads
Camping	Walking	Information	Swimming	Parkland	Non parkland
Certified Self-Contained (CSC) vehicle car park	Gate	Lookout	Barbecue	Bush	Sand

### If you have half a day...

Tāpapakanga is a great park for a family picnic or barbecue, but there is nothing like a swim, walk or mountain bike ride to whet the appetite, so take the chance to explore the park. Beyond the beach

you will find more of the area’s history in the form of two Māori pā sites and a family cemetery. Please treat these areas with respect.

### If you have a full day...

As well as exploring the park you may want to bring your kayak

or fishing gear for some water-based activities. If you’re kayaking we recommend you go north around the coast to Ōrere Point and if you are feeling really energetic, continue on to the beautiful remote beach at Tawhitokino Regional Park.