



Waihihi Stream.

## How to get there

Drive south on State Highway 1 and onto State Highway 2 before turning off onto Mangatangi Road. From there take Kaihua Road to Kaihua, on the coast. Turn left onto East Coast Road. Whakatīwai is 4.5km from Kaihua on the left. Waharau is 4km further along East Coast Road.

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 parks but are prohibited during lambing and calving season (between July and November).

Dogs are allowed under control off leash on the foreshore of the East Coast Road Reserve north of Waharau. For detailed information phone Auckland Council on **09 301 0101** or visit [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

## Waharau and Whakatīwai Regional Parks

Waharau Regional Park forms the eastern gateway to the Hunua Ranges and a series of loop tracks traverse the foothills and link with some of the more rugged tramping tracks that cross the Hunua Ranges. The park extends from the gravelly shore of the Firth of Thames (Tikapa Moana) into the eastern foothills of the Hunua Ranges.

The coastal part of the park lies between the Waharau Stream in the north and sandy Waihihi Bay in the south. Inland there are campsites, barbecues and walking tracks.

The Māori name Waharau means 'the ever changing stream mouth' and refers to the stream that winds its way down from the eastern Hunua Ranges and flows out into the Firth of Thames.

Whakatīwai Regional Park is characterised by a series of gravel ridges that are unique in the Auckland region and also internationally significant. The park includes a shelly sand foreshore and is a haven for migratory birds such as godwits (Kuaka) and knots.

Many of the tracks, back-country campgrounds, and connections to the Hunua Ranges Regional Park have been closed to protect the large extents of kauri forest. A detail survey and re-opening plan is currently in development but will take time to enact.

## Māori Heritage

The Tainui canoe landed on the beach at the southern edge of Waharau Regional Park in the 14th century, with Maori explorers bestowing the name Waihihi on the beach. This area was originally known for its aute (paper mulberry) grove, imported from the Pacific, and for its beautiful karaka groves, one of which still grows on the foreshore.

Ngāti Whanaunga, a subtribe of Ngāti Puku, occupied the land from the 17th century and still maintains an urupā (burial ground) on the park.

Waharau was one of the larger Māori settlements along the coast in the late 1800s and was a summer residence of the Māori King from the 1890s. This connection is maintained with the Tainui campground on the park.

## Plants and animals

The regenerating kānuka-dominated forest on the lower slopes is home to a wide variety of plant species, from club mosses (pūkohu) and filmy ferns (mauku) to ground orchids (tutukiwi)



## 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)

and liverworts. Coral lichens (pukoko) give bushes a magical 'goblin-like' appearance.

Regenerating mixed kauri and hard beech (tawai) forest grows on the higher slopes beside plentiful tānekaha, rewarewa, hīnau and tōwai and are home to a regenerating population of Hochstetters Frog. The nearby gullies are draped in tawa forest with emerging rimu, northern rata, kahikatea, totara and the rare and endangered King Fern.

Sea and shore birds along the coast include spotted shags (pārekareka), New Zealand dotterels (tūturiwhatu) and both species of oystercatchers (tōrea), while inland in the forest are kererū (wood pigeon), tomtits (miromiro), fantails (piwakawaka), grey warblers (riroriro), tūi and bellbirds (korimako).

## History

### Waharau

European settlers milled the area's kauri and beech from the 1860s. They shipped the timber to Auckland and across the Firth of Thames/Tikapa Moana to the gold mining settlements on the Coromandel Peninsula.

The Auckland Regional Council (ARC) purchased the park between 1970 and 1973 to provide access to Hūnua water catchment land. It was subsequently developed as a regional park and was opened by the Māori Queen in 1979.

### Whakatīwai

Whakatīwai Regional Park is characterised by a series of gravel ridges which are unique to the Auckland region, and internationally significant because of their association with the Chenier plains at Miranda. The gravel ridges extend nearly one kilometre inland and abut the foothills of the Hunua Ranges. They run parallel to the coastline for 5-6 kilometres from just north of Wharekawa to Kaihua in the south. The gravel ridges are composed of a series of ridges and hollows, with a height difference of approximately one metre. The gravel itself is eroded greywacke, carried down rivers from the Hunua Ranges. The gravel ridges have been significantly modified through farming practices and roadworks. They are now one of the few legally protected portions of the Whakatīwai Gravel Fields and therefore require special management to protect and enhance them.

## Park facilities

### Prime picnic spots

You can find your own favourite spot and picnic with friends and

# Waharau and Whakatīwai Regional Park



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



family any time at Waharau and Whakatīwai Regional Parks.

Feel free to use the gas-fired barbecues provided at Waharau or bring your own gas barbecues. 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.

## Campgrounds

There are two campgrounds to choose from at Waharau. These campgrounds are open in summer. They are sometimes closed in winter because the ground is too boggy.

### Blackberry Flats Campground

This is a beautiful campground in the summer. It is often closed in winter due to ground being too boggy.

### Tainui Campground

Facilities at this camp include caravan power points, flush toilets and hot water showers. In winter kayakers journeying on the Te Ara Moana (sea going pathway), can still utilise Tainui Campground. However, bookings must be facilitated through Auckland Council's customer call center. Due to ground conditions vehicle access may not be available over this time.

As part of recognising the importance of the area as a summer camp for tangata whenua, Tainui Campground is handed back to the Waahi Pa Trust during the months of December to early February. All are welcome to stay over this time, bookings must be made directly through Waahi Pa Trust. Call Auckland Council on **09 301 0101** to find out how.

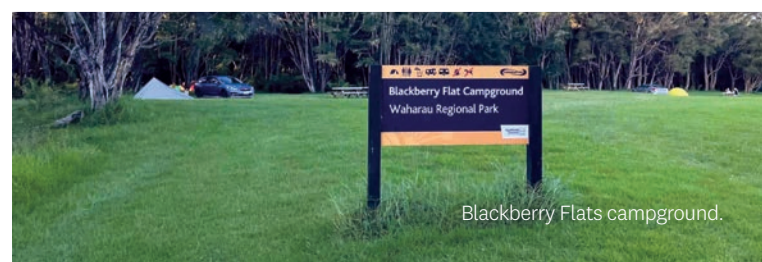
## Staying overnight in selected car parks

Summer (daylight savings): Certified Self-Contained (CSC) campervans can stay for one night in the CSC parking area.

Winter Special: CSC campervans can stay up to three nights in the CSC parking area when the vehicle-based campground is closed. The Blackberry and Tainui vehicle-based campgrounds offer up to seven nights' stay for CSC vehicles.

## Bookings

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



Blackberry Flats campground.

# Ranger recommendations

## Waharau Bush Walk

45 minutes, 2.4km

This short, gentle walk starts at the information building. Green markers guide you through regenerating forest with lovely tree ferns.

## Waharau Ridge Track

3.5 hours, 11km

Follow the red markers along Waharau Ridge Track as its loops through both regenerating and mature forest. Stop for a picnic on the main ridge and take in the panoramic views over the Firth of Thames/ Tikapa Moana with the Coromandel Peninsula beyond.

## Pūriri Grove Track

30 minutes, 1.4km

Follow the purple markers through the pūriri grove for easy access to the beautiful winding Waihihi Stream. Here, shady banks make a lovely setting for a picnic.

## Te Ara Moana – the sea going pathway

A 51km self-guided sea-kayak / waka trail along Auckland’s picturesque eastern coastline starts and finishes at Waharau Regional Park. Complete the full five day journey in one go, staying at five of Auckland’s charming regional parks, or break it down into smaller day trips.

Visit [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) for more details.

## Fresh kai moana on the barbeque

Try your hand at surf casting or digging for cockles then cook them up on one of the park barbeques for the freshest of feasts.

## Kaiaua Coastline

The Kaiaua Coastline is known as the Shorebird Coast for a reason. Come check out the abundance of sea birds along the foreshore and pop into the Miranda Shorebird Centre along the way.

## Did you know?

The name Waharau means ‘the ever changing stream mouth’ and refers to the stream that winds its way down from the eastern Hunua Ranges.

## Waihihi Stream

Take the time to explore the Waihihi Stream, with its shallow rocky bed and moderate flow. It’s home to an abundance of critters and fish species. However, please take care and help protect this habitat by not disturbing plants, rocks and minimising silt irritation by moving carefully through this environment.

## Best lookout across Ti Kapa Moana and the Firth of Thames

Make the effort to hike the ridge track up to Adams Lookout. Not only will you be rewarded with stunning views out towards the Coromandel when you get there, but there are plenty of ‘Instaworthy’ shots along the way. For the adventurous, pack a tent and stay at Adams Lookout Campground and take in the views of a magical east coast sunrise while listening to the dawn chorus.

## Whakatīwai

Although the tracks connecting Whakatīwai to the Hunua Ranges and Waharau Regional Parks are currently closed due to kauri dieback disease, the front country of this regional park still has much to offer the intrepid explorer or geography enthusiast.



## Be safe in regional parks

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>The water safety code</b>          | <b>Land safety code</b>                        |
| 1. Be prepared.                       | 1. Choose the right trip for you.              |
| 2. Watch out for yourself and others. | 2. Understand the weather.                     |
| 3. Be aware of the dangers.           | 3. Pack warm clothes and extra food.           |
| 4. Know your limits.                  | 4. Share your plans and take ways to get help. |
|                                       | 5. Take care of yourself and each other.       |

Key					
Parking	Toilets	Information	Dump station	Campground	Streams
Phone to contact ranger	Walking	Lookout	Barbecue	Parkland	Roads
Camping	Gate	Drinking water	Shelter	Bush	Non parkland
Certified Self-Contained (CSC) vehicle car park	Environmental /YMCA Lodge	Tramping track	Hot water shower	Track closed	Sand
Canoeing / kayaking	Mountain biking	Picnic area			

Check out the internationally significant stone fields and gravel fields but make sure you step with care as not to disturb the fragile ecosystem that supports rare and wonderful vegetation and wildlife.

## Ranger contact details

To contact a park ranger, use the phone located on the outside wall of the Waharau Hall as you enter the main park area and follow instructions. If using a mobile phone, call **09 301 0101**.

## Stop kauri dieback

**kauridieback.co.nz**  
Waharau and Whakatīwai are currently under a Controlled Area notice that requires all users to ensure no soil, seeds or organic matter is brought into the parks. Please clean vehicles and equipment prior to coming and use all hygiene stations as appropriate.