



Pakiri Hill
Care must be taken on Pakiri Hill, a narrow, steep, winding and unsealed section of road

PAKIRI

LEIGH

MATAKANA

WARKWORTH

PUHOI

↓ Puhoi 42KM
↓ Auckland 81KM

↑ Leigh 22KM
↑ Matakana 9KM

↑ Warkworth 16KM
↓ Auckland 44KM

Te Hauturu-o-Toi Little Barrier Island
NZ's first nature reserve (est. 1896)



- Route
- Walking track
- Food
- Cafe
- Store
- Petrol station
- Electric car charging
- Swimming
- Scenic views
- Golf
- Surfing
- Iconic photo stop!
- Local favourite
- Don't miss
- Marine reserve
- Regional park
- Cycleway
- Museum

THE SHELTERED COAST

With a sheltered coastline offering stunning harbours, beautiful beaches and an emerald sea, it's easy to see why this journey connects with so many enjoyable destinations to explore.

Enjoy beaches offering family-friendly swimming, regional parks for walking then with the exercise complete, there are artisan creators of food, wine and art to discover. Even better, visit on a weekday and avoid some of the crowds and get to relax like a local.

There's an easy escape for everyone to enjoy whether it's an active day in nature or a relaxing day to replenish and restore.

1 Puhoi Bohemian Settlement
Settled by immigrants from Bohemia in 1863, Puhoi offers a unique historic village experience combined with quirky and eclectic places including a cheese factory, pub and distillery. Find more at www.puhoinz.com

2 Wenderholm Regional Park
Nestled at the mouth of the Puhoi River is Auckland's first regional park. It has a great beach for swimming, a boat ramp, picnic tables, or take shelter amongst the pōhutukawa trees and native forest - magic.

3 Mahurangi Regional Park
Divided by water into East and West, Mahurangi Regional Park is a water lovers paradise. Some areas are boat access only. The park offers a glimpse of the beautiful coastline, which is perfect for swimming, fishing, kayaking, diving and relaxing. Access Mahurangi East at Scotts Landing via Snells Beach.

4 Warkworth
Tucked in alongside the banks of the tidal Mahurangi River, the quaint township of Warkworth is definitely worth a walk around. Historic buildings, cafes and restaurants, walkways, playgrounds for the kids and plenty of riverside ducks to feed. The old Jane Gifford scow takes tours down the Mahurangi.

5 Scandrett Regional Park
Perched at the tip of the Mahurangi Peninsula, Scandrett has a lovely rural and coastal feel about it. Walk to Mullet Point past regenerating native forest and historic farm buildings.

6 Sandspit
Resting alongside the Matakana river/ estuary, Sandspit is a haven for boats. Spend some time down at the wharf, which is the departure point for Kawau Island. Watch the boats and birds and the tide coming in and out.

7 Kawau Island
Named after the Māori word for the shag (cormorant) bird, Kawau. The Island is a beautiful and unique mixture of early Māori history, copper mine ruins, Governor Grey's mansion and grounds, and classic contemporary kiwi lifestyle baches. Ferries travel daily from Sandspit, and Bon Accord Harbour is where Auckland boaties escape to.

8 Matakana Village
Lying at the heart of this sheltered coast, Matakana Village offers a unique boutique and artisan experience. Local produce, crafts, contemporary architecture, food and wine all combine here to excite your senses. Check out the village cinemas, toilets, sculpture trails and local art scene. This is the location of the Saturday Matakana Farmers Market. Find more at www.matakanacoast.co.nz

9 Omaha
Bring your jandals, surfboard, golf clubs, swimming togs, paddle board and walking shoes. Omaha beach is a coastal playground, with both a lovely white sand surf beach and a protected harbour.

10 Tāwharanui Regional Park
Through the pest-proof fence at the end of the Tāwharanui peninsula is New Zealand's first open sanctuary. Tāwharanui is conservation in action and a haven for many endangered native bird species like kiwi, takahē, robin and saddleback. A marine reserve also protects the local kaimoana. There is plenty to do here with walking and bike tracks, a lagoon, fishing, surfing and camping - it has some of the nicest white sand beaches in the Auckland region.

11 Whangateau
A historic shipbuilding settlement with wharf, old hall and seafront reserve where you can snorkel amongst the mangroves. Nearby, Tī Point is home to New Zealand's only zoo that specialises in reptiles.

12 Leigh
Escape to Leigh. It has that classic Kiwi seaside village feel, one that time seems to have forgotten. Leigh is a friendly, cosy, warm settlement with plenty of things to do and places to be by the sea. Find more at www.leighbythesea.co.nz

13 Leigh Harbour
Omaha Cove is a beautiful, small and sheltered harbour with a working wharf. It's a great place to whittle away some time, especially when the commercial fishing boats are unloading their catch.

14 Goat Island Marine Reserve
Established in 1975, Cape Rodney/Okakari Point Marine Reserve, better known as 'Goat Island', is New Zealand's first marine reserve and home to Auckland University's marine campus. Experience the amazing abundance of sea life here by giving diving or snorkelling a go, or stay dry in a see-through kayak or glass-bottomed boat. Whatever your preference, experiencing the amazing abundance of sea-life is a must. Check out the Marine Discovery Centre to learn more.

15 Pakiri
Take a short drive (unsealed) over the Pakiri Hill and you'll be rewarded with the beautiful white sands and clear waters of Pakiri Beach. A wonderful swimming, surfing, horse riding, surfcasting and relaxing beach location.

Must Do's

Enjoy nature

With more regional parks than you can poke a stick at, every trip to this coast will offer a uniquely different experience - from forest to sea and the wildlife in between!

Stick your head under

With countless beaches along this coast, and New Zealand's oldest marine reserve at Goat Island, there are plenty of opportunities to have a refreshing dip in the ocean.

Get arty

For every experience of nature there's an inspiring experience of art and culture along this journey, including art galleries and a number of sculpture parks.

Sample local delicacies

Earn a treat with a walk or swim first, then visit a local cafe, a farmers market or sample our local cheese, chocolate, ice cream, olive oil, honey and more.

Artisan food

Quality local produce and passionate hospitality means great local food. Check out the numerous and varied cafes, delis, eateries, artisan producers and of course the farmer's markets scattered around the region.

Wineries and breweries

The local micro-climate and artisan culture produces impressive wines. Be sure to check out what is happening at www.matakanawine.co.nz and don't miss sampling the local craft beers and cider either.

