



Whakanewha Bay.

How to get there

Take the passenger ferry from Central Auckland to Waiheke Island (Matiatia) or take your car with the Sealink car ferry from Half Moon Bay to Waiheke Island (Kennedy Point).

If you have caught the ferry, catch a shuttle bus from the ferry terminal at Matiatia to the park, or catch the Rocky Bay bus and get off at the Rocky Bay terminal.

From the Rocky Bay bus stop, walk up Omiha Road to Upland Road Track and onto the beach at the park. It will take about 40 minutes to walk from the bus stop to the campground, which is at the far end of the beach past the pā on the headland park. Follow the red marker posts to the campground to avoid the dotterel breeding area.

Follow the red marker posts for the Te Ara Hura Walkway.

For public transport information: phone Auckland Transport **09 366 6400** or visit **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 prohibited on the beach side of Gordons Road to protect the rare and vulnerable ground-dwelling birds in the area. Dogs must be kept under control in all other areas of the park.

For detailed information phone Auckland Council on **09 301 0101** or visit **aucklandcouncil.govt.nz**

Whakanewha Regional Park

Found on the south coast of Waiheke Island, near Rocky Bay, Whakanewha Regional Park is known for its mature forest, cascading stream and sweeping crescent-shaped beach cut in two by a forested headland. It is home to the only campground on the island making it popular with both local and international tourists.

At high tide the water is shallow, warm and ideal for children. Picnic spots on the foreshore are plentiful.

Whakanewha means “to shade the eyes from the setting sun”. The site became a regional park in 1994.

Plants and animals

Waiheke Island carefully guards its status as a possum-free island, enabling its forest and wildlife to thrive. The park is home to many rare birds including the New Zealand dotterel (tūturiwhatu pukunui). The coastal forest has taraire, kohekohe and old kākūka trees.

The dotterel is only found in New Zealand. It is a ground-dwelling bird that is very vulnerable to predators. With the help of volunteers the Whakanewha breeding programme has successfully assisted numerous chicks to fledge each season, contributing to the recovering status of this endemic and once endangered species.

Variable oystercatchers (tōrea-pango), white-faced heron (matuku-moana), pied stilts (poaka), caspian terns (taranui), paradise ducks (pūtangitangi) and godwits (kuaka) are also found feeding on the tidal flats.

To the south of the beach, a large wetland is home to bittern (matuku), banded rail (mohopererū) and spotless crane (pūweto).

The dotterel sculpture at Whakanewha Bay serves as a welcome and a warning to visitors. It symbolises guardianship of the New Zealand dotterel.



Relaxing at the beach.



Auckland Council manages 28 regional parks

For more information on any of these parks: phone **09 301 0101** or visit **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**

History

Whakanewha is steeped in Māori and European history. The numerous shell middens, pits, terraces and pā site on the headland remain from many generations of Māori occupation. Inhabitants of the pā gathered pipi, scallops and cockles from the Whakanewha foreshore.

Europeans began to use the area for trading, boat building and forestry in the 1830s.

In the 1850s, Māori cultivated the flat land, supplying Auckland with fruit and vegetables.



The Dotterel Sculpture.

Whakanewha Regional Park



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Visit **aucklandcouncil.govt.nz** or call **09 301 0101** for more information.



Park facilities

Prime picnic spots

You can find your own favourite spot and picnic with friends and family anytime at Whakanewha Regional Park. Feel free to use the gas barbecues provided or bring a portable gas barbecue. 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.

The park has a special bookable picnic site on the beach beneath an old pōhutukawa tree. It is a perfect place for weddings. Vehicle access can be arranged in the summer months.

Campgrounds

Poukaraka Flats Campground

The Poukaraka Flats Campground is open all year round and is located close to the park’s main beach, providing easy access to the nearby bush walks. A modern well-equipped toilet block, cold water showers and a free gas barbecue are available for use.

Whakanewha Certified Self-Contained (CSC) parking area CSC vehicles are able to book into the Whakanewha CSC parking area. This space is located in the Poukaraka Flats car park and allows visitors to enjoy all the joys of camping by the beach.

Visitors are able to stay for a maximum of one night in summer or two nights in winter. Please be aware there is no dump station on the island so you will need to plan and prepare to ensure you have capacity for the duration of your stay on the island.

Staying overnight in selected car parks

Campervans, vehicle units and Certified Self-Contained (CSC) caravans can stay overnight in approved sites for a maximum of one night (peak) and two nights in Winter (off peak). Conditions apply.

Note: there is no dump station on Waiheke Island so CSC vehicles must return to the mainland to empty and refill tanks.

Bookings

For information and bookings for these overnight facilities, phone **09 301 0101** or visit **aucklandcouncil.govt.nz**



Poukaraka Flats Campground.

Feature walks

Park Walk

2.5 hours, 5km

Explore the park in a loop walk that takes in many highlights including mature coastal forest, the scenic Cascades Stream and stunning views over the park and back to mainland Auckland. From the main car park take the Nīkau Track to join the Tarata Track. Turn right on this track and enjoy the walk to the small but beautiful waterfalls. From here, return back along the Tarata Track with its spectacular views over the park and the Hauraki Gulf to the mainland, and return to the car park via the Kōwhai Track and Gordons Road.

Cascade Walk

1.5 hours, 2.5km

Starting in the Sculpture car park, follow the Nīkau Track to the Cascades Stream with beautiful small waterfalls and informative interp panels. Return via the Central Track to the car park.

Rua Loop Track

35 minutes, 750m

Named after the distinctive kumara storage pits visible from the track, this walking loop starts at the noticeboard in the Sculpture car park. The loop takes you through mature native bush and provides great views over the park and across the water to the mainland. Return to your starting point via the foreshore.

Pā Loop Track

30-45 minutes, 1.5km

Starting either in the Sculpture car park or the Poukaraka Flats car park, explore the headland pā via Pā Loop Track and Rua Loop Track. Get rewarded with great views.

Sea kayaking

Sea kayaking is a great way to appreciate the park from the water. Rocky Bay can be quite tidal so check your tide chart if intending to launch or land at the park.

Stop kauri dieback

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 Whakanewha Regional Park.

If you have two hours...

Take a stroll along the beach and see how many rare birds you can spot. Please keep back from fenced-off wildlife areas. Take the Rua Loop Track to the pā site and lookout point at the headland. Cool-off with a swim in the clean, clear water of Whakanewha Bay (Rocky Bay).



If you have half a day...

You'll have time to take in the highlights above and also find your own perfect spot for a picnic in the park, or check out some of the walking loop tracks including the Tarata Track which allows you to learn more about some of Aotearoa's magnificent native trees with a Tree Trail along the way.

Alternatively hop on a mountain bike and take to the tracks, which will continue to be expanded in the coming years. Please be mindful of other users as these are often shared with both walkers and horse riders.

If you have a full day...

Spend the rest of the day exploring the park on foot (see feature

walks) or even on horseback. Also recommended is visiting the Cascades Stream or walking the Cathedral Track.

Ranger contact details

To contact a park ranger use the phone at Poukaraka Flats. If using a mobile phone, call **09 301 0101**.