

Waitawa Regional Park



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



Park facilities

Prime picnic spots

There are three gas barbecues at Mātaitai Bay as well as one in each of the Hauraki Car Park and Mountain Bike Car Park picnic areas. **Please clean after use.**

Feel free to also bring your own cooker. 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, charcoal and pellet BBQs.

Waitawa Wharf

Waitawa Wharf is known for its deep water all-tide fishing and is extremely popular all year round. Please be considerate of others, and ensure you take all your rubbish with you.

Make sure you check out the the fishing rules including any catch limits, for the Auckland and Kermedec area on the NZ Fisheries website, before you arrive.

Campgrounds

Waitawa Bay Sea Kayak Campground

Nestled in Waitawa Bay, the campground has a shelter, toilet and basic water supply. Waitawa 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. For those not arriving by kayak, please note there is no vehicle access and all campers must walk to the site, Te Aroaro car park or Hoiho car parks being the closest.

Waitawa Certified Self-Contained (CSC) parking area

Located on the old Orica manufacturing site, the self-contained campground has hard stands that offer extensive coastal and inland views.

Other accommodation

Waitawa Bach

Waitawa Bach can sleep up to 6 people and offers a chance to take your time in experiencing all that Waitawa Regional Park has to offer over several days. With sweeping views over Waitawa Bay, easy access to the beach and distant views across to the Coromandel, there is no better place to escape the hustle and bustle of the city.

Bookings

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

Waitawa Regional Park

Located 50km from central Auckland on our south-eastern coast, Waitawa is made up of three small peninsulas with beaches, picnic areas, trails and accommodation. This is a recreation park, planned and developed with outdoor activities, exercise and fun in mind.

Walking, horse riding and mountain biking tracks have been created throughout the varied landscape on the park, in areas of former pine forest and regenerating native bush.

Look out for information panels that tell the story of Waitawa at prominent locations, special sites or interesting places or check out **Auckland Councils’ YouTube channel** to learn more about the significance of Pāwhetau Pā or how Waitawa was developed from a explosive manufacturing and testing site into a regional park.



Visitors can take the short walk to the Pāwhetau headland for spectacular vistas towards Pakihi and Pōnui Islands.

Māori Heritage

Waitawa is of great importance to Māori as it is located upon a traditional boundary line between Te Urikaraka (Ngāti Paoa) and Ngāti Kohua (Ngai Tai / Te Waiohua). The area has a long and rich history of human occupation, which is reflected in the numerous archaeological sites on the park and in the wider area. Sites of significance include Waitawa, Waipatukahu and Ruakākāriki kainga, the inland kainga of Papapōrutu, Oamio and Karioi the Pāwhetau, Ōrākau, Mātaitai and Kōheruārahi as well as cultivations at Te Aroaro.

Pāwhetau Pā remains one of Auckland’s best preserved headland pa sites with visitors able to easily identify remains of defensive ditches while appreciating the spectacular vistas out to Pakihi and Pōnui islands that made this such a good defensive position.



Plants and animals

The park contains a significant wetland and several smaller wetlands at the base of gully systems. Mature pōhutukawa line the coastal fringe. There is a population of the nationally threatened shrub Pomaderris rugosa.

The park has a tree planting programme in place to regenerate the original forest of the area.



How to get there

Take State Highway 1 south. After 22km, take exit 451 Hill Road and turn left onto Hill Road. After 0.8km you will reach a roundabout; turn right taking exit 2 onto Stratford Road. At the next roundabout, go straight through onto Alfriston Rd. In 3.9km turn right onto Alfriston-Ardmore Rd and then in 3.1km turn left onto Clevedon-Takanini Rd. Once you reach the T-junction turn left onto Papakura-Clevedon road, following this into Clevedon Village. Take the 2nd exit at the roundabout onto Clevedon-Kawakawa Bay Road and follow this for 12.8km, Waitawa Regional Park will be on your left.

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 on a leash are welcome on walking tracks within Waitawa Regional Park except during lambing season which runs 1st July to 1st December.

There is an off leash area at the far western end of Mātaitai Bay (farthest end of beach to wharf).

Dogs are prohibited from all mountain bike tracks, picnic areas and Waitawa Wharf.

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



Enjoying the water at Mātaitai Bay.



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**

Feature walks

Longer loop tracks

These tracks can be accessed from every car park in the Park and can be walked in either direction.

- Mātaitai Bay track** (black dotted line).
From the eastern end of the Mataitai Bay car park, visitors can access the 3 main loop tracks by following the white markers uphill on a well graveled track for 30-minutes. until you reach the Loop Junction beside the road just south of Te Kapa Moana car park.
- Kererū loop** —
1 hour, 3 km. This walk includes sections in regenerating bush, open farmland ridges and valleys on easy contour.
- Pīwakawaka loop** —
2 hours, 7 km. This walk takes in open farmland, at times walking on open ridge tops with extensive views across the park.
- Pūweto loop** —
2 hours 30 minutes, 7.5 km. This loop track completes a circuit of the park taking in Waitawa Bay, Pawhetau Pā, valleys, wetlands and open farm ridges which have extensive views across the park to the inner gulf islands.

Shorter loop tracks

- Pawhetau pa loop track** —
1 hour 10 minutes. This loop starts from the main gate road carpark. It travels across open farmland to Pawhetau Pā then visits Waitawa bay and the kayak campground before climbing back to the road through regenerating bush. From here you return to the car park on open farmland. It then returns to the carpark on open farmland ridges.
- Valley loop track** —
40 minutes. This loop begins from the Disc Golf car park near the Haybarn. Walk up the valley beside the wetland through regenerating bush. Climb onto the open farmland ridge to return to the carpark.
- Te Aroaro loop** —
30 minutes. Starting from the Te Aroaro car park, walk down the steps through regenerating bush to Waitawa Bay before returning back to the ridge top on a well graded track.

Mountain biking

The mountain bike track network at Waitawa, winds its way through a diverse landscape of open farm paddocks, native regnerating bush, and wetland filled gullies. Riders will be challenged with steep uphills and rewarded with flowing downhills, but all designed with families and beginners-intermediate riders in mind. Most tracks are specifically for mountain bikers, but please be aware others are shared with walkers, horse riders and other park users.

Park at the mountain bike car park for easy access to the track network and bike orientated facilities, to ensure you enjoy your ride.

Horse Riding

Waitawa offers horse riders an opportunity to explore the open farmland and sections of regenerating bush within Waitawa Regional Park. Riders can park their floats at the Hoiho Car park, were they will find purpose built facilities ready for use behind the “big green sheds”

Follow the black and white markers and remember to space out your ride lines when ground conditions are soft.

Horses may also swim at Waitawa Bay, but please be mindful of other users. Access to the bay is via the Waitawa Bach driveway.

Disc Golf

Waitawa also has two disc golf courses. For beginners or a quick game, park up at the Hoiho Car Park and try your hand at the Coastal 9 that loops through the coastal paddocks near Waitawa Bay. Alternatively, challenge your friends and whanau to a full 18-holes on the Waitawa Disc Golf Course. Parking at the haybarn, golfers of all levels will enjoy exploring the park as you wind your way through the re-generating



Key	
	Mountain bike parking
	Barbecue
	Camping
	Certified Self-Contained (CSC) vehicle car park
	Information
	Lookout
	Parking
	Fishing; surf casting
	Disc golf
	Phone to contact ranger
	Picnic area
	Mountain biking
	Canoeing / kayaking
	Toilets
	Walking
	Historic site
	Bach
	Shelter
	Horse-riding car park
	Ranger station
	No swimming
	No self-contained vehicles
	No access
	No entry
	Streams
	Roads
	Parkland
	Bush
	Wetland
	Non parkland
	Sand
	Grade 1: Easiest
	Grade 2: Easy
	Grade 3: Intermediate
	Grade 4: Advanced

native bush and farm paddocks. Check out the Auckland Council website disc golf page for course details. Players can check out course maps and details [here](#).

Ranger contact details

To contact a park ranger call Auckland Council from your mobile phone, on **09 301 0101**.



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.

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.