







Help take care of this reserve

In a marine reserve all forms of freshwater and marine life, along with all habitats, are protected.

Do not:

-  Fish (using any method, it is **strictly** prohibited)
-  Take your dog or any domestic pet
-  Collect any marine life or habitat (this includes taking shellfish, sand, rocks, shells and seaweed, dead or alive)
-  Disturb or harm marine life or the marine environment
-  Feed the fish
-  Discharge any waste or drop litter.

Doing any of these things could result in a fine of up to \$250,000 and/or up to 3 months imprisonment.

Enjoy the marine reserve by boat. Take care not to damage marine life by dragging your anchor or allowing your boat to rest on tidal flats at low tide.

If you see anyone committing offences or behaving in a suspicious way please call the DOC HOTline
0800 362 468

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Report any safety hazards
or conservation emergencies
For Fire and Search and Rescue Call 111



Marine reserve boundary markers, like the one shown here, define the reserve area.

Know before you go

- There are toilets at Orapiu Wharf only.
- Take plenty of food and water as there are no shops at this end of the island.

Important:

- Take care when walking as there are cliff-top sections and parts of the track are steep. You'll need good walking footwear, and protection from rain, wind and sun.
- Keep to the tracks and respect private property.
- Do not light fires.

The tidal mudflats support wading birds like tōrea/variable oystercatcher and tūturiwhatu/New Zealand dotterel (right). Please stay away from nesting shorebirds like NZ dotterel and oystercatchers between September and February. Their nests are difficult to see, but are usually above the high tide mark. Stick to the track or walk on or just below the high tide mark or lower where tide allows. Disturbing adults when they are nesting could cause the eggs to 'cook' in the sun.



Photo: Rod Hay

Keep kauri standing

Kauri dieback is a fungus-like disease that kills New Zealand kauri trees. To help keep Waiheke's kauri safe, always remember to clean your gear, e.g. shoes, equipment, before and after walking the tracks.



For more information

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137 Quay Street
Auckland 1010
Phone: 09 379 6476
Email: aucklandvc@doc.govt.nz
www.doc.govt.nz

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New Zealand Government

Te Matuku Marine Reserve

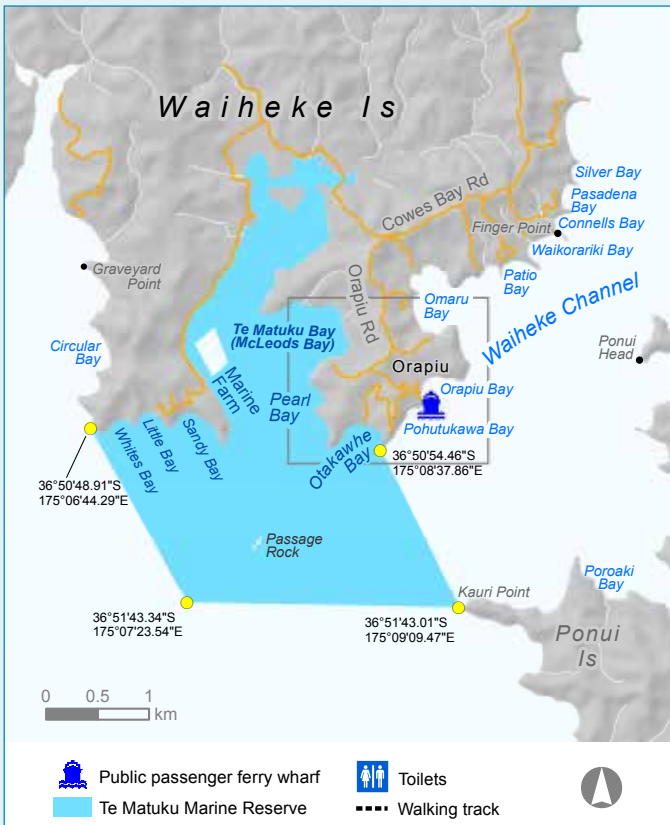
Waiheke Island, Auckland

Hauraki Gulf Marine Park



Hauraki Gulf
Marine Park
Ko te Pataka kai
o Tikapa Moana
Te Moananui a Toi

Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



About the reserve

Te Matuku Marine Reserve protects one of Waiheke Island's largest undisturbed estuaries, unique in the Auckland region. Surrounded by native bush, the marine reserve is home to a wide variety of marine, fish and bird life. Established in 2005, it is one of five marine reserves in the Auckland region.

Marine reserve boundaries

The 690 ha marine reserve includes all of Te Matuku Bay (McLeods Bay) and extends into deeper water across the Waiheke Channel, beyond Passage Rock. There is a small pre-existing oyster farm within the deeper waters of the reserve that is technically not part of the reserve.

The marine reserve boundaries are from the mean high water mark around Te Matuku Bay and the bays at its entrance (Whites Bay, Little Bay, Sandy Bay and Otakawhe Bay), out to a line level with Kauri Point on Ponui Island (Chamberlins Island). See the map.

What are marine reserves?

Marine reserves are the 'national parks' of the sea - areas set aside for the total protection of species. There are approximately 45 marine reserves throughout New Zealand and within our Exclusive Economic Zone.

The benefits of marine reserves

Marine plants and animals, along with their habitat, are able to thrive without fishing, shellfish gathering, pollution or other

disturbances. This also makes them ideal places to study marine ecosystems.

Activities

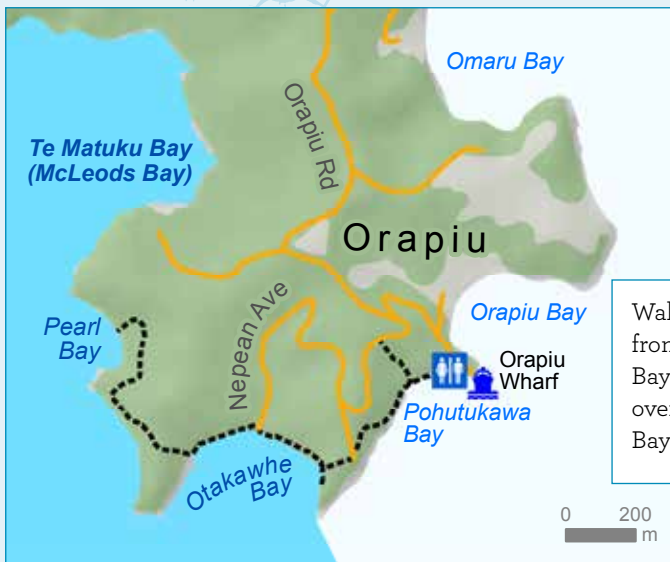
Swim, dive, snorkel, explore by boat or kayak, and enjoy the beauty of this special place. *Note that water within the tidal bay is often murky and not always suitable for snorkelling.*

Getting there

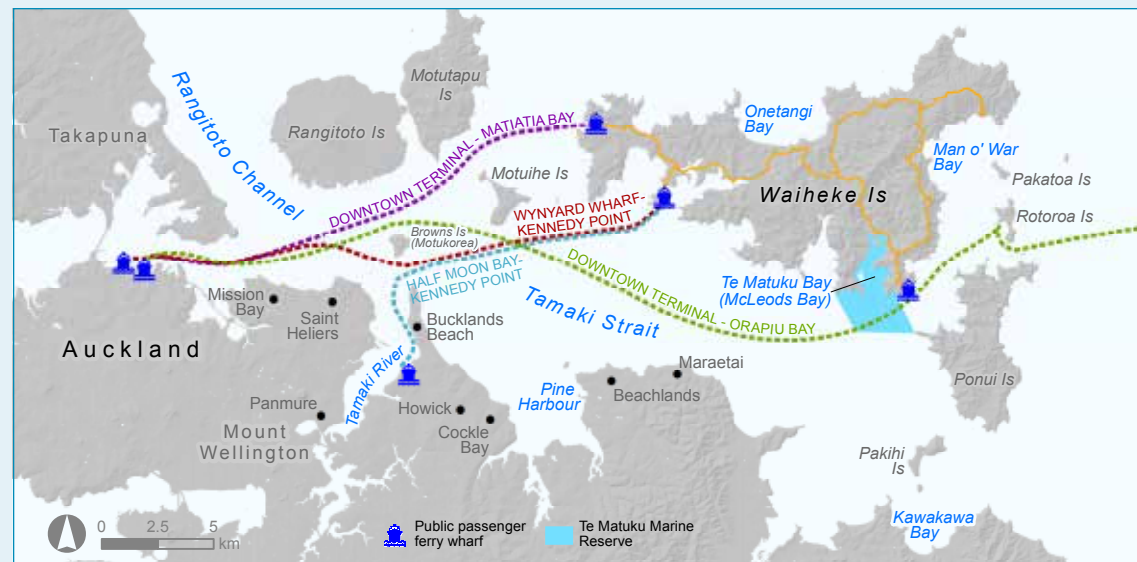
Te Matuku Marine Reserve is located in the more remote, rural south-east corner of Waiheke Island, where there is no public bus service. Your options are:

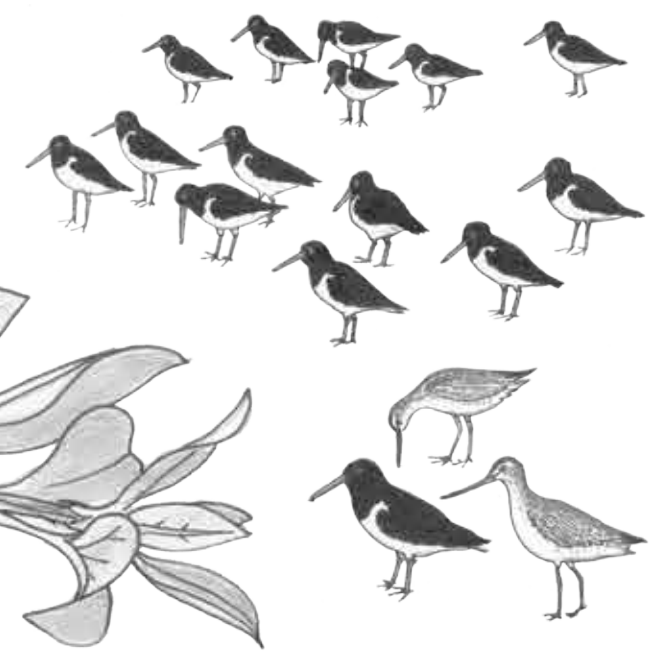
- Visit the area by car - your own or a hire car.
- Explore the area by foot (see map). Te Ara Hura is a network of tracks across Waiheke Island. See www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz. Take part in the annual Waiheke Walking Festival www.waihekewalkingfestival.org
- 360 Discovery run a ferry service from central Auckland city to Coromandel town, stopping at nearby Orapiu Wharf. See www.360discovery.co.nz.
- Explore the marine reserve by private boat or kayak (your own or chartered/hired). Otakawhe Bay is a good place to launch kayaks but be aware of the tidal currents at this bay.

For the most up-to-date information on getting there, see www.doc.govt.nz/tematuku.



Walk the track ----- from Orapiu Wharf to Otakawhe Bay (15 mins, 1 km), then walk over the hill to sheltered Pearl Bay (15 mins, 1 km).





Early origins

In pre-European times Te Matuku Bay was an important food gathering and waka (canoe) landing place for Māori living in the coastal settlements and nearby mountain pā of Maunganui, the highest point on Waiheke Island. Thick shell middens in the bay are evidence of its past bounty of kaimoana (seafood).

Ngāti Paoa are tangata whenua (people of this land) and traditional kaitiaki (guardians) for Waiheke Island. Other iwi, such as Hauraki and Ngāi Tai, also have ancestral ties to this area, which is of historic, cultural and spiritual importance to these tribes.

Te Matuku Bay was Waiheke's earliest European settlement but all that remains are the sites of the first school and the pioneer cemetery at the head of the bay.

Special natural features

A special feature of the reserve is its diverse mix of habitats. It has saltwater wetlands, broad intertidal mudflats, low-lying islands, shell spits, rocky shorelines and the deep water of the Waiheke Channel around Passage Rock. Each of these distinct marine habitats provides homes for particular groups of plants and animals.

The surrounding area

Birds like kererū/New Zealand pigeon, riroriro/grey warbler, pīwakawaka/fantail, tauhou/silvereye, kōtare/kingfisher, ruru/morepork and tūi can also be found in the surrounding forested areas. Kākā are becoming more common and pīpīwharau/shining cuckoo visit Waiheke Island each year. Native fish like kōura, banded kōkopu, tuna/eel and koeke/common shrimp can be found in the freshwater streams in the area.

A place for birds

Two shell spits on the eastern side of Te Matuku Bay are important roosting and nesting areas for native and overseas migrant shorebirds. The tōrea pango/variable oystercatcher, Caspian tern and the endangered tūturiwhatu/New Zealand dotterel all nest on these spits.

Annual migrants such as kuaka/godwit, huahou/knot, sandpiper and turnstone breed on the Siberian and Alaskan tundra in their northern summer then fly south to avoid the winter there, and enjoy another spring and summer in New Zealand.

Our internal migrants, ngutuparore/wrybill and tōrea/pied oystercatcher, which breed along the shingle banks of the South Island's braided rivers, are frequent visitors to northern harbours over winter. Other coastal birds that live in or use the bay are tūturiwhatu/banded dotterel, tara/white-fronted tern, matuku moana/reef heron and pūweto/spotless crane. The matuku/Australasian bittern, a rare wetland bird, has been recorded in the bay.

The estuary

The estuary extends over 28 hectares of mudflats towards the land. A sequence of plants - from eel grass on the mudflats through mangrove and salt marsh, to maritime fringing bush and finally up into lowland broadleaf forest - is special because such natural successions of changing plant communities are now rare in northern New Zealand.

The soft mudflats and sands provide rich pickings for wading birds at low tide and, as the tide rises, juvenile flounder and mullet move in to feed on this abundant invertebrate marine life in the bay. The quiet mangrove inlets are important breeding places for fish.

Close to the head of Te Matuku Bay, mangroves grow in dense stands and are havens for mud snails, mud crabs and other creatures which feed on the leaf litter. They also provide a refuge for the birds that feed on these animals. There are dense shellfish beds - particularly cockles in the intertidal sand flats.

Gobies and triple fins (fish) are abundant in the tidal channels, as are sand and yellow belly flounder. Eagle rays and short-tail stingrays are common in summer. In the bar, rig/spotted dogfish, kahawai and snapper can be found. Short-fin eels and yellow eye mullet are common in the mangroves and upper reaches of the tidal creeks and at low water the sand dollar/snapper biscuit is often quite abundant.

Rocky shores

The entrance to Te Matuku Bay has rocky shores and gravel beaches where common seashore snails, chitons, acorn barnacles, small black mussels and tubeworms abound. Unfortunately, this area has also been colonised by the introduced Pacific oyster.

Passage Rock and offshore

The bay's fine muds extend out into the Waiheke Channel. Typical mud dwellers found here include burrowing polychaete worms, sea stars, sand dollars and gastropods.

Extensive beds of horse mussels and large seaweeds, common in the gulf, grow around Passage Rock, which is also habitat for crayfish and snapper. Tarāpunga/red-billed gull, karoro/black-backed gull, tara/white-fronted tern and kawau paka/little shag nest on Passage Rock.

