Aotea Track is a 2-night, 3-day walk and has alternative access. There are two huts on the walk: Mt Heale and Kaiaraara. The track is a mix of steep, climb, stumps, and steps.

Day 1: Hot Springs to Mt Heale Hut

Time: 3–5 hours

Starting from Whangaparapara Road, the Raukite Springs Track leads to the end of Whangaparapara Road. Continue a few hundred metres and turn left onto a dirt road, which becomes the Aotea Track. You will see signs for the track on either side of the road. The track is well marked, and you will see a few vehicles along the way. After a brief climb and descent, join Tramline Track (North), which leads to the Kaiaraara Campground. The track is well signed, and you will see the Kaiaraara Campground on your left. The track is a mix of steep, climb, stumps, and steps.

Day 2: Mt Heale Hut to Kaiaraara Hut

Time: 3 hours

Begin from Mt Heale Hut with a steep 5-minute climb of dark rock and mud to join the Kauri Track, which descends to Kaiaraara Hut. Before starting the descent, a 5-minute walk to the left leads to the Kaiaraara Hut. From here, follow the Kaiaraara Hut Track through a dense canopy of kauri trees. The track is well marked, and you will see the Kaiaraara Hut on your right. The descent is a mix of steep, steps, and mud. You will see a few vehicles along the way. After a brief climb and descent, join Tramline Track (North), which leads to the Kaiaraara Campground. The track is well signed, and you will see the Kaiaraara Campground on your left. The track is a mix of steep, climb, stumps, and steps.

Day 3: Kaiaraara Hut to Whangaparapara Rd

Time: 3 hours

This last day is an easy grade route with no major cli.


Huts

- Adult $27 per night, child (under 5) free
- Fullers

Campgrounds

- Adult $27 per night, child (under 5) free
- Bookings can also be made at the Visitor Centre, 137 Quay St, Princess Wharf, Auckland. Phone: 09-373 6476.

Budget accommodation providers

- Budget Lodging
- Budget Lodging

Transport operators

- Getting there
- Great Barrier Airlines
- FlyMySky
- Fullers

Aotea Track description

the last day is an easy grade route with no major climbs. Follow the Forest Road, and you will see the Kaiaraara Hut. Before starting the descent, a 5-minute walk to the left leads to the Kaiaraara Hut. From here, follow the Kaiaraara Hut Track through a dense canopy of kauri trees. The track is well marked, and you will see the Kaiaraara Hut on your right. The descent is a mix of steep, steps, and mud. You will see a few vehicles along the way. After a brief climb and descent, join Tramline Track (North), which leads to the Kaiaraara Campground. The track is well signed, and you will see the Kaiaraara Campground on your left. The track is a mix of steep, climb, stumps, and steps.

Keep an eye out for black petrels

Once widespread on the North Island, kauri dieback disease now thrives in the Bay Hauraki and on Great Barrier Island. The disease is defined as kauri logging and milling tramway routes. A few kauri stands remain, such as the Kaiaraara Campground and the Kaiaraara Hut. The heart of the forest is now protected.

What to expect

Aotea Track requires a moderate degree of fitness and the ability to carry a pack containing a sleeping bag, cooking and eating utensils, and some food. The track is sometimes steep, and you will see a few vehicles along the way. After a brief climb and descent, join Tramline Track (North), which leads to the Kaiaraara Campground. The track is well signed, and you will see the Kaiaraara Campground on your left. The track is a mix of steep, climb, stumps, and steps.

Day 1: Hot Springs to Mt Heale Hut

Time: 3–5 hours

Starting from Whangaparapara Road, the Raukite Springs Track leads to the end of Whangaparapara Road. Continue a few hundred metres and turn left onto a dirt road, which becomes the Aotea Track. You will see signs for the track on either side of the road. The track is well marked, and you will see a few vehicles along the way. After a brief climb and descent, join Tramline Track (North), which leads to the Kaiaraara Campground. The track is well signed, and you will see the Kaiaraara Campground on your left. The track is a mix of steep, climb, stumps, and steps.

Day 2: Mt Heale Hut to Kaiaraara Hut

Time: 3 hours

Begin from Mt Heale Hut with a steep 5-minute climb of dark rock and mud to join the Kauri Track, which descends to Kaiaraara Hut. Before starting the descent, a 5-minute walk to the left leads to the Kaiaraara Hut. From here, follow the Kaiaraara Hut Track through a dense canopy of kauri trees. The track is well marked, and you will see the Kaiaraara Hut on your right. The descent is a mix of steep, steps, and mud. You will see a few vehicles along the way. After a brief climb and descent, join Tramline Track (North), which leads to the Kaiaraara Campground. The track is well signed, and you will see the Kaiaraara Campground on your left. The track is a mix of steep, climb, stumps, and steps.

Day 3: Kaiaraara Hut to Whangaparapara Rd

Time: 3 hours

This last day is an easy grade route with no major climbs. Follow the Forest Road, and you will see the Kaiaraara Hut. Before starting the descent, a 5-minute walk to the left leads to the Kaiaraara Hut. From here, follow the Kaiaraara Hut Track through a dense canopy of kauri trees. The track is well marked, and you will see the Kaiaraara Hut on your right. The descent is a mix of steep, steps, and mud. You will see a few vehicles along the way. After a brief climb and descent, join Tramline Track (North), which leads to the Kaiaraara Campground. The track is well signed, and you will see the Kaiaraara Campground on your left. The track is a mix of steep, climb, stumps, and steps.

Keep an eye out for black petrels

Once widespread on the North Island, kauri dieback disease now thrives in the Bay Hauraki and on Great Barrier Island. The disease is defined as kauri logging and milling tramway routes. A few kauri stands remain, such as the Kaiaraara Campground and the Kaiaraara Hut. The heart of the forest is now protected.

What to expect

Aotea Track requires a moderate degree of fitness and the ability to carry a pack containing a sleeping bag, cooking and eating utensils, and some food. The track is sometimes steep, and you will see a few vehicles along the way. After a brief climb and descent, join Tramline Track (North), which leads to the Kaiaraara Campground. The track is well signed, and you will see the Kaiaraara Campground on your left. The track is a mix of steep, climb, stumps, and steps.

Day 1: Hot Springs to Mt Heale Hut

Time: 3–5 hours

Starting from Whangaparapara Road, the Raukite Springs Track leads to the end of Whangaparapa Road. Continue a few hundred metres and turn left onto a dirt road, which becomes the Aotea Track. You will see signs for the track on either side of the road. The track is well marked, and you will see a few vehicles along the way. After a brief climb and descent, join Tramline Track (North), which leads to the Kaiaraara Campground. The track is well signed, and you will see the Kaiaraara Campground on your left. The track is a mix of steep, climb, stumps, and steps.

Day 2: Mt Heale Hut to Kaiaraara Hut

Time: 3 hours

Begin from Mt Heale Hut with a steep 5-minute climb of dark rock and mud to join the Kauri Track, which descends to Kaiaraara Hut. Before starting the descent, a 5-minute walk to the left leads to the Kaiaraara Hut. From here, follow the Kaiaraara Hut Track through a dense canopy of kauri trees. The track is well marked, and you will see the Kaiaraara Hut on your right. The descent is a mix of steep, steps, and mud. You will see a few vehicles along the way. After a brief climb and descent, join Tramline Track (North), which leads to the Kaiaraara Campground. The track is well signed, and you will see the Kaiaraara Campground on your left. The track is a mix of steep, climb, stumps, and steps.

Day 3: Kaiaraara Hut to Whangaparapara Rd

Time: 3 hours

This last day is an easy grade route with no major climbs. Follow the Forest Road, and you will see the Kaiaraara Hut. Before starting the descent, a 5-minute walk to the left leads to the Kaiaraara Hut. From here, follow the Kaiaraara Hut Track through a dense canopy of kauri trees. The track is well marked, and you will see the Kaiaraara Hut on your right. The descent is a mix of steep, steps, and mud. You will see a few vehicles along the way. After a brief climb and descent, join Tramline Track (North), which leads to the Kaiaraara Campground. The track is well signed, and you will see the Kaiaraara Campground on your left. The track is a mix of steep, climb, stumps, and steps.

Keep an eye out for black petrels

Once widespread on the North Island, kauri dieback disease now thrives in the Bay Hauraki and on Great Barrier Island. The disease is defined as kauri logging and milling tramway routes. A few kauri stands remain, such as the Kaiaraara Campground and the Kaiaraara Hut. The heart of the forest is now protected.