Huts and campsites

Two well-positioned huts allow for manageable walks of 1½ to 2 hours over the day-walk. Mt Heale Hut, opened in December 2013, provides spectacular views over the Hauraki Gulf and Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island, sits on the central ridge a half-hour walk from Mt Hobson (Mihikatua), the island’s high point. This tri-berthed hut has excellent sleeping and gas cooking facilities. Kaurana Hut is near sea level on the western side of the island. This is a tri-berthed hut and has a wood burner and gas cooking facilities. It is 3½ km from a general store, burger bar and Information Centre at Port Fitzroy.

In Department of Conservation (DOC) campsites are spread throughout the island. Akapoua and The Green are the two campsites on the Aotea Track route, providing places to camp the night before or after walking the track. The other four campsites are further from the track and require transport, or a long road walk, to the track starting point. See www.doc.govt.nz for more campsites details.

It is essential to book huts and campsites in advance – see Booking information and fees.

Rubbish

There is no free rubbish collection on Aotea/Great Barrier Island. DOC only provides recycling bins for bottles, cans and plastics at campgrounds during the main peak season. You should take your own rubbish to the Claris landfill site.

There is also a rubbish track, which only accepts orange rubbish bags that are available from camp hosts at DOC campgrounds (10 each).

Bookings in advance are essential for all huts and campsites. All prices include GST.

Bookings can also be made at the Visitor Centre, 137 Quay Street, Princess Wharf, Auckland. Phone: 09 379 6476 www.doc.govt.nz

Budget accommodation providers

Backpackers

- Great Barrier Lodge: www.greatbarirlodge.co.nz
- Orama Oasis Accommodation and Backpackers: 09 429 0349
- The Wiltshire: 09 429 0673
- Sunbeam Sanctuary: 09 439 0369
- Medlands Beach Backpackers: 09 439 1020
- Omata Ocean Accommodation and Backpackers: 09 439 1049

For more accommodation options

Pick up a Great Barrier Island Visitor Information Guide or visit www.thelobarrie.co.nz

Keeping an eye out for black petrel/larix

Once widespread on the North Island, breeding colonies of these large, burrowing seabirds are now confined to Aotea and Trywhitt’s “Red” Little Barrier Island. The main colony breeds here on the slopes of Mt Hobson (Mihikatua) between October and May each year. Mature birds spend months at sea flying as far as South America and only return to the island to breed. Watch out for them on the road at night.

Further information

Aotea / Great Barrier Island Base
Auckland / Aotea Track
PO Box 0962
Great Barrier Island
Private Bag 96002
Auckland 09
Phone: 09 429 0044
Fax 09 429 0063
www.doc.govt.nz

Guide or visit www.barrierwheels.co.nz for transport operators in the Aotea Conservation Park and www.barrierwheels.co.nz for transport operators in the Aotea Conservation Park.

Getting there

Aotea Conservation Park can be reached by boat or plane. Two airlines (Barrier Airlines and Fly My Sky) daily between Auckland’s Mangere domestic airport and the main island overlook in Claris. For road transport, the passenger and car ferry service three or four times a week according to season. Passenger bus and rental car services are available from Auckland to the Aotea Track and Aotea Conservation Park can be accessed by road. (See Transport operators in the Booking information and fees section.)
### Aotea Track description

**Day 1: Hot Springs to Mt Heale Hut**  
4 hr  
Starting from Whangaparapara Road, the Kaiaraara Tracks join at the Cool Springs Lookout and walk through the Kaiaraara Valley, where you can find the Hot Springs. After the hot springs, continue along the Kaiaraara Track and climb to the Mt Heale Hut.  

**Day 2: Mt Heale Hut to Kaiaraara Hut**  
3 hr  
Before starting the descent from Mt Heale Hut to Kaiaraara Hut, consider taking a side trip to the Mt Hobson (Himilates) summit for a 360° panoramic view. Himilates is a home to rare species such as albatross, kiwi, and tuatara.  

**Day 3: Kaiaraara Hut to Whangaparapara Rd**  
4 hr  
The return is a 4hr round trip following Forest Road.  

### What to expect

Aotea Track requires a moderate degree of fitness and the ability to carry a pack containing a sleeping bag, cooking and food requirements, and warm clothing. The track is sometimes steep and is scattered with several lengthy stairways. Tramping boots are recommended. Include sunscreen, raincoat/jacket, clothing for hot, wet and cold weather, sleeping bag, drink bottle, first aid kit, food, cooking and eating utensils, torch/batteries, and matches. Be aware of limited cell phone coverage on the track.  

### Your safety is your responsibility

New Zealand’s backcountry is renowned for its changeable weather and rugged terrain. Be aware that streams and rivers rise quickly during rain. Be prepared to turn back. Carry a pack containing a sleeping bag, cooking and food requirements, and warm clothing. The track is sometimes steep and is scattered with several lengthy stairways. Tramping boots are recommended. Include sunscreen, raincoat/jacket, clothing for hot, wet and cold weather, sleeping bag, drink bottle, first aid kit, food, cooking and eating utensils, torch/batteries, and matches. Be aware of limited cell phone coverage on the track.  

### Tell someone before you go

Tell someone before you start a trip on the track about your trip. You may prefer to walk the track in reverse, ending your journey at the Whangaparapara Rd.  

### Help stop the spread of kauri dieback

When entering existing tracks, use the boot-cleaning stations marked on the map.  

### DOC Hotline

1800 362 468  
 Köln: +64 021 03 04 52  
 Neuseeland 0800 362 468  
 Unknown phone numbers may be charges.