

VISITING WHANGANUI A HEI (CATHEDRAL COVE) MARINE RESERVE

NOTES FOR SCHOOLS AND EDUCATORS



Photo: Alan Cressler

Key information



The marine reserve is in the Hahei area of the Coromandel Peninsula. This popular marine reserve was created in 1992 and became New Zealand's sixth marine reserve in 1992. There are many opportunities for recreation and learning here, including walking, snorkelling, swimming and picnicking.

It can be very busy in summer. For more information and a map of this marine reserve, see: www.doc.govt.nz/te-whanganui-a-hei.

For information about the wider Coromandel area, see: www.doc.govt.nz/coromandel-brochure

Visitor facilities and parking

Parking is available at the Cathedral Cove lookout (end of Grange Road) during the off-season only. During the peak season, parking is available at Hahei Beach, and a park and ride service operates from the Hahei Visitor car park.

A privately operated water taxi is available from Hahei when sea conditions allow.

No drinking water is available in the reserve, and the closest food providers are approximately 2 km away in the Hahei township. There are 2 toilets (bio toilets) at Cathedral Cove beach, and 2 more at the Cathedral Cove lookout. Trees on the beach provide the only shelter at Cathedral Cove.



Self-guided activities for school groups

Litter survey

Try a litter survey on the beach. See page 9 of the DOC *Habitat Heroes: Explore your local marine environment* resource for instructions: www.doc.govt.nz/habitat-heroes-marine-resource. Survey sheets and guidance for beach clean-ups and litter audits are available at www.loveyourcoast.org.nz/learn (Love Your Coast/ Sustainable Coastlines).

Walks near the marine reserve

There are several scenic walks on land adjacent to the reserve:

- **Cathedral Cove Walk (1 hr 30 min return):** Explore Gemstone Bay, Stingray Bay, Mares Leg Cove and Cathedral Cove. See: www.doc.govt.nz/cathedral-cove-walk

Health and Safety considerations

In Coromandel, hazards occur from time to time (e.g. slips, flooding, track work). Please contact the Kauaeranga Visitor Centre for all public information regarding Coromandel tracks and current hazards, see: www.doc.govt.nz/kauaerangavc.

There can also be large waves at times and the area is often very crowded in summer. Please do not swim around tour operators. Teachers should also consider general risk management around water. See also general health and safety considerations for schools in marine environments: [Activity 8: Visiting Marine Reserves](#).

Please note: These notes are not a substitute for school safety planning.

Staff, students and the Board of Trustees of a school will need to consider other factors before conducting a visit outside the school and follow school procedures. Identifying and managing risks before the trip is essential, therefore a prior site visit is highly recommended.

Habitats and species in the reserve

Species seen in this reserve include: blue cod/pākirikiri, red moki/ngutere, pāua, leatherjacket/kōkiri, spotty/paekirikiri, banded wrasse/tāngāngā, scarlett wrasse/pūwaiwhakarua, kelpfish/hiwihiwi, goatfish/rarahi, blue maomao/maomao, rock lobster/crayfish/kōura, snapper/tāmure and sometimes orca/maki.

Snorkelling providers in the area

Experiencing Marine Reserves is an organisation that specialises in safe snorkelling experiences for school groups in marine reserves and at other sites. They provide all the gear and expertise. For more information see: www.emr.org.nz, email: info@emr.org.nz or view www.facebook.com/emr.mtsct.

Other education/ recreation experiences

For other suggested activities, see: www.doc.govt.nz/te-whanganui-a-hei.

PROTECT OUR MARINE RESERVES

They are special places that protect the species and habitats within them.

- No fishing of any kind
- Don't take or kill marine life
- Don't remove or disturb any marine life or materials
- Don't feed fish – it disturbs their natural behaviour
- Take care when anchoring to avoid damaging the sea floor
- Call **0800 DOC HOT** (0800 362 468) to report any illegal activity.

