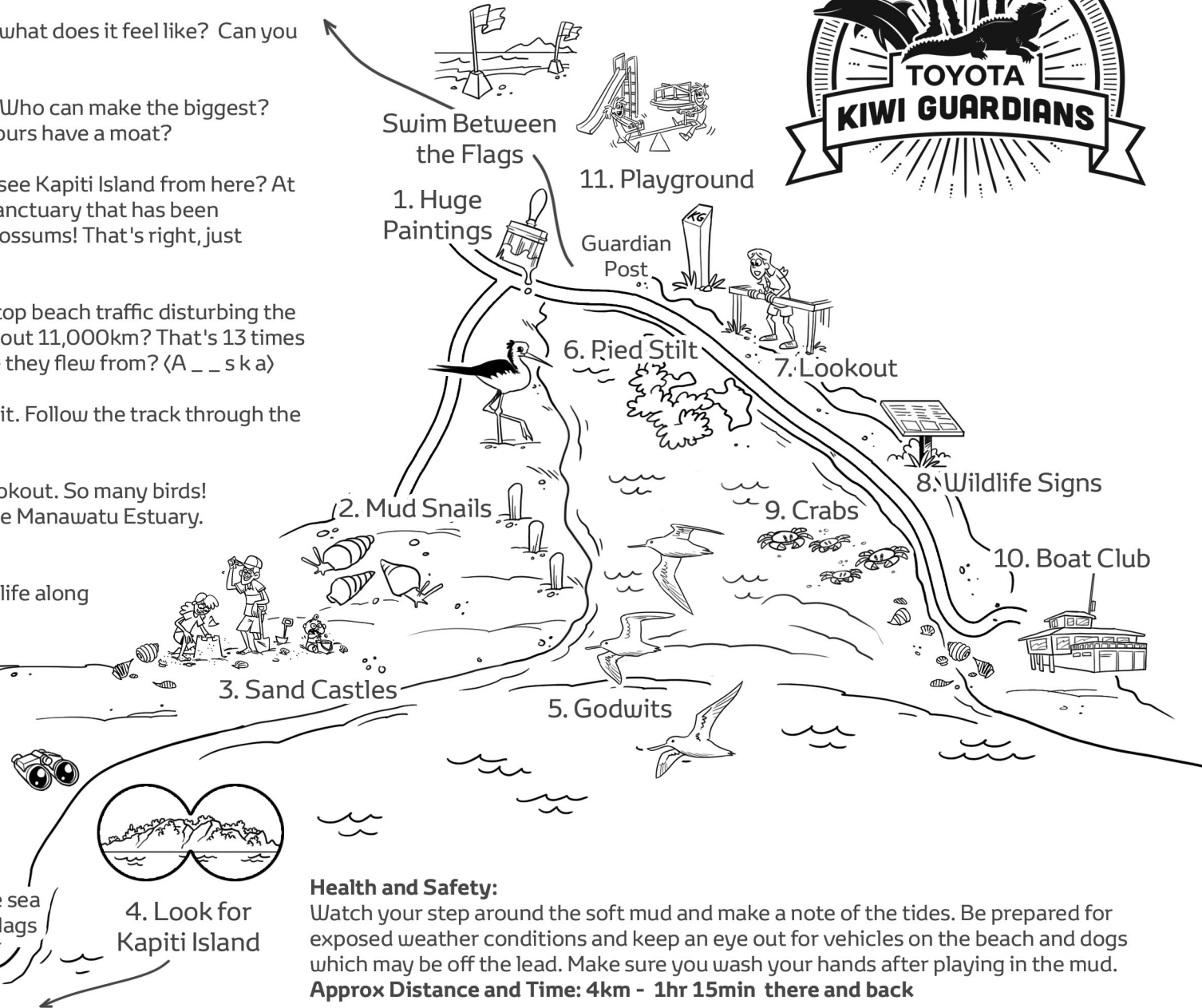


MANAWATŪ ESTUARY – BIRDS ON THE BEACH!

1. Huge Paintings: You made it! Find a nice shady park along Holben Parade and check out the huge paintings on the corner by the campground! Cool huh? Read the plaque - can you find out the story behind them?
2. Mud Snails: Squish the mud between your fingers, what does it feel like? Can you find any mud snails?
3. Sand Castles: It's time for a sand castle challenge! Who can make the biggest? And what can you find to decorate it with? Does yours have a moat?
4. Kapiti Island: Did you know on a clear day you can see Kapiti Island from here? At 10 km long and 2 km wide, Kapiti Island is a huge sanctuary that has been predator-free since 1998. No rats! No stoats! No possums! That's right, just paradise.
5. Godwits: Head back to the bollards. The bollards stop beach traffic disturbing the resting Godwits. Would you be tired after flying about 11,000km? That's 13 times the length of the North Island! Do you know where they flew from? (A _ _ s k a)
6. Pied Stilt: Head back the way you came into the spit. Follow the track through the pines. Can you find any Pied Stilt and Spoonbills?
7. Lookout: Walk down the Sunset Pathway to the lookout. So many birds! A total of 95 bird species have been recorded at the Manawatu Estuary. How many species can you spot?
8. Wildlife Signs: Can you find all the signs about wildlife along this path? What are their Māori names?
9. Crabs: What can you find under the rocks beside the walkway? Did you know Godwits eat crabs?
10. Boat Club: See how far the pathway takes you. Can you make it to the boat club? What has been the most interesting fact you have learned today?
11. Playground: Go back to the playground to have a well-deserved play. Feeling hot? Take a dip in the sea by the surf club! Remember to swim between the flags and slip slop slap and wrap! Woohoooooo!



Health and Safety:

Watch your step around the soft mud and make a note of the tides. Be prepared for exposed weather conditions and keep an eye out for vehicles on the beach and dogs which may be off the lead. Make sure you wash your hands after playing in the mud.

Approx Distance and Time: 4km - 1hr 15min there and back