

Moturua Island Scenic Reserve

Wai-iti Bay

When seen from the beach, du Fresne's hospital tent was on the left of the stream, and the forge was on the opposite side about the same distance from the sea. It was used to make iron bands that were needed for re-masting. Many of the sailors had scurvy and local residents frequently brought the patients fresh fish.

du Fresne

In the winter of 1772, the French expedition led by Marion du Fresne spent two months in the Bay of Islands repairing ships and letting men recover from the voyage.

Two camps were established, one on Moturua and another at Clendon Cove on the mainland for cutting spars. This was the first meeting of any length between Maori and Pakeha.

Marion hunted, fished and initially enjoyed the friendships of several Chiefs, particularly Te Kuri. However, the relationship went horribly wrong when one afternoon, Marion and some crewmen went across to the mainland to fish and were killed.

Historical reports suggest the French had offended local Maori by imprisoning a Chief and setting fire to a village. Before leaving New Zealand a month later, the French avenged Marion's death by sacking a pa on Moturua Island.

They also buried their claim to New Zealand in a bottle on the left bank of the Waipao Stream.

Safety Watch

Emergency Phone Numbers

For conservation related law enforcement eg illegal whitebaiting, vandalism of huts, tracks, signs etc, removal of plants on DOC land, killing or catching of native wildlife, fishing in Marine Reserves, disturbing marine mammals, strandings, sick or injured wildlife: **Phone 0800 362 468**

For fire and search and rescue emergencies: **Phone 111**

Russell Visitor Centre
The Strand, Russell
Phone (09) 403 9005

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ENVIRONMENTAL CARE CODE

- Protect plants and animals
- Remove rubbish
- Bury toilet waste
- Keep streams and lakes clean
- Do not light fires
- Keep to the track
- Consider others
- Respect our cultural heritage
- Enjoy your visit
- Toitu te whenua
(Leave the land
undisturbed)*



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Waipao Bay

Captain Cook landed here in 1769 to replenish the Endeavour's water casks and spent about a week in the area. Three years later the French explorer Marion du Fresne set foot here for a two month visit. (For more information, see the back page).

As you arrive in Waipao Bay, imagine their camp with a guard tent on the flat, a little to the left of the stream.

Bird Life

Pause a moment, look and listen. You may be lucky enough to see the North Island robin, which has been reintroduced to the island after becoming regionally extinct, also fantails, silver eyes, finches, sparrows, tuis, blackbirds and thrushes enjoying this more sheltered, moist area with its lush habitat.

16 North Island robins (*petroica australis longipes/Toutouwai*) were released here in 1986, from the Mamaku Plateau in the central North Island. At the last count, the population had grown to 30. The birds are concentrated in the south-eastern half of the island where the trees are tallest.

Robins are confiding birds and will approach humans to feed in areas of litter disturbed by feet -so keep looking. They are about 18 cm tall and feed on stick insects, wetas, grubs, spiders and earthworms.

Another threatened species released here is the Northland Island brown kiwi. These kiwi were salvaged when their habitat was destroyed by forest clearance.

Habitat

Moturua Island is a scenic reserve with rapidly regenerating native forest. The dominant vegetation is manuka and kanuka which creates an ideal nursery for young shrubs and tree ferns. Young Pohutukawa thrive along the coastal fringe.



Otupoho Bay

Notice the differences from Waipao Bay. Plant growth here is poor because of its exposed location. With little protection, the soil dries out quickly which means more stunted vegetation.

In 1772 there was a small village in this bay. Later Te Kemera sometimes lived here.

His descendants continued to live at Otupoho, farming sheep and cows with the 'cream boat' collecting milk and other produce. However, farming ended in 1968 when most of Moturua was bought by the Crown. Local people still call this place 'Homestead Bay'.

Waiwhapuku Bay

You are now walking down into an area which is historically important. During World War II minefields were laid in the Bay of Islands and this bay was a Control of Mines Base with housing and other camp facilities.

The houses were removed after the war, but some evidence of those days remains, including deep shafts and a Defence Observation Post that was built on Hikurangi Pa.

Hikurangi Pa

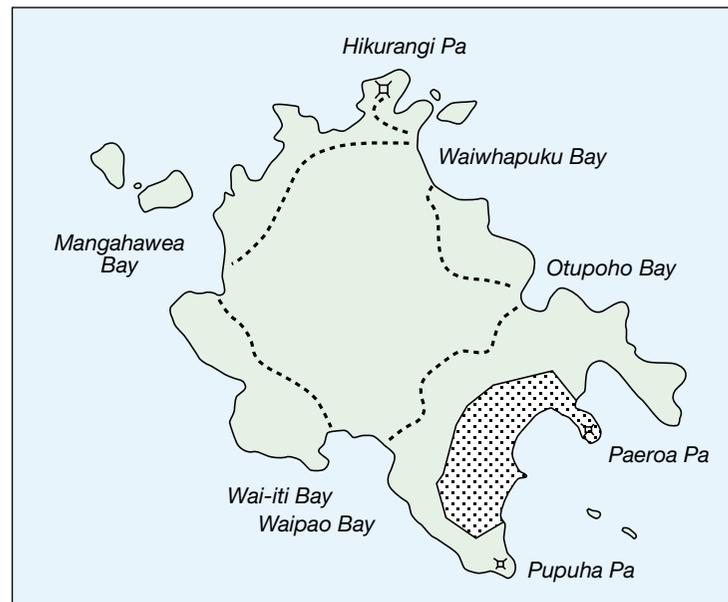
Panoramic 360 degree views from this headland are an obvious reason why this site was strategically important to Maori and Pakeha. A defence observation post built on the pa during WWII has considerably altered the site. Looking back towards Waiwhapuku Bay, the difference between vegetation here and Waipao Bay is obvious.

In 1983, a fire devastated a large part of this area. If you look carefully amongst the gorse and scrub you will see native plants such as ake ake, pohutukawa and cabbage trees re-emerging.

Mangahawea Bay

When and how the large, old palm tree by the stream arrived is a mystery. Some say it came with early Maori, others claim European explorers brought the palm.

You may also see New Zealand sea birds such as oystercatchers or even the threatened New Zealand dotterel searching for food on this open sandy beach.



- Moturua Island Scenic Reserve
- ▨ Private Property

To walk the full track, without stopping for a picnic or a swim, takes about 2 hours.

For your own safety, please stay on the track.

