

DISCOVER

West Auckland

Tāmaki ki te Uru

West Auckland © Todd Eyre

the wild west coast

EXPLORE NATURAL TREASURES

This spectacular region is bordered by native rainforest, surf beaches and a stunning coastline. There is loads on offer, from fantastic wineries where you can wine and dine and high-energy activities such as surfing and mountain biking to secluded black-sand beaches and brilliant coastal walks. For the creative amongst us, this arty region is packed with galleries waiting to be discovered. You'll also find a plethora of fun activities to keep the kids entertained.

- GOOD TO KNOW**
- Much of West Auckland is rural and remote so hiring a car is highly recommended.
 - Guided tours are also top notch and generally leave central Auckland to explore beaches, wineries and galleries.
 - The Waitākere Ranges Regional Park saturates the western region with native forest, over 250km of walking tracks and waterfalls.
 - Kauri trees are some of the world's largest but they're under threat from an untreatable Kauri Dieback Disease.
 - A number of tracks in the Waitākere Ranges have been closed to help prevent the spread of Kauri Dieback Disease. Check what's open at aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/protectkauri.
 - Surfers love the powerful waves at Bethells Beach and Muriwai, but swimming is not advised due to unpredictable rips.

© The New Zealand Automobile Association Incorporated 2019. All rights reserved. Published in November 2019 by AA Tourism Publishing. T. 09 966 8720 • E. tourism.inquiries@aa.co.nz
FRONT COVER IMAGE: Gannet colony, Muriwai, West Auckland © Luke Thurlby



roaring waves

UNTAMED BEACHES

Strung like black pearls, the wildly beautiful beaches that line the coast are what the region is best known for. Wandering along the black sand (shoes may be necessary on hot days) and splashing around in shallow surf are quintessential summer experiences in this neck of the woods. The big surf here is powerful and spectacular, but only experienced surfers should attempt to ride it. Swimmers must always swim between the red and yellow flags.

BEST BEACHES

WHATIPU
Whatipu is windswept, moody and memorable. Swimming isn't advised, but with vast dunes, caves and historic Māori sites, there's still plenty to explore. Access is via an unsealed road.

TE HENGA (BETHELLS)
More sheltered than some of the other west coast beaches, this spot makes for a great day out with its surf beach and lagoon (swimming in the lagoon is not recommended). There's also huge sand dunes at nearby Lake Wainamu to explore.

MURIWAI
With strong surf pounding onto a long expanse of black sand, Muriwai is popular with walkers, swimmers and experienced surfers. Horse riding and surf lessons are available too. Check out the accessible mainland gannet colony at its southern end.

PIHA
This popular beach has some of the best surf in Auckland. Take a surf lesson or explore the rocky edges, and refuel at the Piha Café afterwards.

Although beautiful, these beaches are dangerous – only swim when lifeguards are on duty and only between the red and yellow flags.

Muriwai sea cave, West Auckland

coastal gems

EXPLORE NATURE

There are coastal gems all over West Auckland, and these are best explored on tracks ranging from cliff-top tracks high above long stretches of black sand to boardwalks through suburban mangroves.

TE HENGA WALKWAY
One of the AA's 101 Must-Do's for Kiwis, this walkway runs between Te Henga (Bethells) and Muriwai and takes in rugged cliffs, lagoons, amazing sand dunes and brilliant views of the pounding surf.

PIHA'S LION ROCK
Sitting majestically between Piha and North Piha beaches watching over the thundering surf, Lion Rock is an iconic sight. A steep track leads you to a high point for breathtaking views of the coastline.

ANAWHATA BEACH TRACK
For beauty and solitude, take the turn-off before Piha and take a 20-minute walk from the car park to Anawhata Beach. The track down to the beach can be steep in places but you'll be rewarded with a beautifully rugged beach minus the crowds.

OTHER WALKS

- OPANUKU STREAM PATH
- ŌRĀTIA STREAM LOOP
- MANUTEWHAU WALKWAY
- HENDERSON CREEK LOOP
- TE ATATU PENINSULA WALKWAY

Nature Te Taiāo

Muriwai Beach, West Auckland

Auckland Regional Map

CENTRAL AUCKLAND
Home to world-class cuisine, excellent theatres, galleries and museums, outstanding events and a diverse range of fun attractions.

EAST AUCKLAND
From golden beaches and secluded regional parks to superb food and living museums, East Auckland appeals to all.

NORTH AUCKLAND
Stunning white-sand beaches, beachside suburbs with buzzing dining scenes and a flourishing wine region.

WEST AUCKLAND
Bordered by native rainforest and a stunning wild coastline, creative West Auckland is home to Auckland's oldest wine region.

SOUTH AUCKLAND
A multicultural melting pot where culture, vibrant markets, gorgeous gardens, adventure and fun family attractions combine.

HAURAKI GULF & ISLANDS
Peppered with beautiful, distinctive islands where you can sip fine wine, enjoy scenic seclusion and climb a volcano.

Official Visitor Map West Auckland

Te Mahere Manuhiri mō Tāmaki ki te Uru

FREE 2019/20

aucklandnz.com/visit

North West COUNTRY

WINE BEER & FOOD FESTIVAL

THE MUTTON BIRDS

THE BLACK SEEDS

MILLY TABAK & THE MILTONES

LOCAL FOOD & BEVERAGE:

COLAB BREWERY, COOPERS CREEK, THE HUNTING LODGE, HALLERTAU, KUMEU RIVER, LIBERTY BREWING CO, MAMA'S BREW SHOP, THE RIVERHEAD, SOLJANS ESTATE, THE TASTING SHED, WESTBROOK WINERY & MORE.

SAT 15 FEB, 12-7

THE HUNTING LODGE WAIMAUKU
TICKETS FROM EVENTFINDA / BUSES / FREE PARKING

THE HUNTING LODGE LOOP

Te Uru is a regional gallery that operates from an award-winning building in Titirangi village, gateway to the Waitākere rain forest and Auckland's famous West Coast beaches. Step inside for extraordinary exhibitions, exceptional architecture and spectacular views.

420 Titirangi Rd, Titirangi, Auckland
Monday-Sunday 10am to 4:30pm
Closed Christmas Day, Easter Friday, ANZAC morning
Free entry | teuru.org.nz

WAIKĀKĀRE CONTEMPORARY GALLERY

A Titirangi Rudolf Steiner School Initiative.

Titirangi Village Market

Last Sunday of the Month
February to November
+ 2nd and 3rd Sundays of December
10am - 2pm

An abundance of great art and crafts stalls, delicious foods and live entertainment

Titirangi War Memorial Hall, 500 South Titirangi Road
@titirangivillagemarket

View from Arataki Visitor Centre, Waitākere, West Auckland © Peter Burchell

the best of the west

Muriwai Gannet Colony, West Auckland © Pete Gomez

BACKWATER CRUISES
Amble up the Upper Harbour from central Auckland aboard a ferry bound for The Riverhead, one of New Zealand's oldest taverns. Following the path of ancient Māori, arrive for lunch after 90 scenic minutes on the water.

SECRET SPOTS LAKE WAINAMU, TE HENGA/BETHELLS BEACH
This is a hidden gem unknown even to most Aucklanders. From the car park at Bethells Road, climb over the immense sand dunes or follow the stream around the edge to Lake Wainamu. Walk the lake's perimeter, jump off the jetty or scale the huge dunes.

MURIWAI'S GANNET COLONY
The gannet colony at Muriwai's Otakamiro Point is an easy walk from the beach. The best time to visit is between August and March when around 1200 pairs of gannets return from their ocean wanderings to nest on the cliff-top.

Protect kauri for future generations

Scrub. Spray. Stay on the track.

- Always use the cleaning stations installed on major tracks.
- Stay on the track and off kauri roots.
- Find out more about kauri dieback and the closures here: aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/protectkauri

get active

ADVENTURE OUT WEST

Adventure He Whai Mātātoa

AWOL Canyoning Adventures West Auckland

SKYDIVE Auckland Parakai, West Auckland

WOODHILL FOREST West Auckland

MOUNTAIN BIKING
Woodhill Mountain Bike Park in the majestic Woodhill Forest is home to 100km of purpose-built trails and jumps.

SKY DIVING
Feel the incomparable thrill of freefalling through the skies above West Auckland and head to Parakai to experience the highest commercial skydive in the North Island. From 20,000ft, the coast-to-coast views are phenomenal.

TREE ADVENTURES
Take to the treetops of Woodhill Forest on an exhilarating challenge course of suspended obstacles and ziplines, with different levels to match confidence, age and ability.

• PLAY GOLF
• GO SURFING
• TAKE A HORSE TREK
• ZOOM DOWN HYDROSLIDES
• GO INDOOR ROCKCLIMBING
• KAYAK TO RIVERHEAD

Piha Beach, West Auckland © Luke Thurlby

skydive Auckland

skydiveauckland.com | 0800 921 650
\$30 OFF & FREE pickup from Auckland City.
Quote: 'AA MAP', direct bookings only. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

1 map ref D3

THE HIGHEST Skydive in NZ 20,000ft

CANYONING AUCKLAND

EXPERIENCE OUR WILD & RUGGED WEST COAST!

BOOK AN AWOL CANYONING ADVENTURE
0800 462 965 | AWOLCANYONING.CO.NZ

2 map ref E10

AWOL CANYONING



Art & Culture
Te Toi me te Ahurea

Kaipara Coast Sculpture Garden, West Auckland

culture calls

THIS IS A CREATIVE AND ARTISTIC REGION WHERE ARTISTS TAKE THEIR INSPIRATION FROM THE STUNNING SURROUNDS.

TE URU WAITĀKERE CONTEMPORARY GALLERY

West Auckland's public art gallery in Titirangi blends inspired architecture, an impressive setting and top-quality art. Curated exhibitions are always smart, thought-provoking and surprising.

ARATAKI VISITOR CENTRE

More akin to a mini-museum with trail information and detailed displays, this visitor centre in Oratia has an impressive pou (elongated post or carving) that represents the region's Māori heritage while the spectacular views hint at what's to come.

KAIKAPARA COAST SCULPTURE GARDENS

In Kaikapakapa, you'll find a trail that leads you through beautiful gardens, past a selection of works by artists both local and from further afield.

HELENSVILLE RAILWAY MUSEUM

Check out the museum at the historic railway station in Helensville. You'll find it open on the weekends from 11am to 3pm with a working railway model on display.

Wine Regions
He Rohe Wāina

The Hunting Lodge, Waimauku, West Auckland

wonderful wine

Head to Kumeu to experience the outstanding wine of Auckland's oldest wine region.

Some of the best-known names in New Zealand wine come from here, along with smaller boutique winemakers. Modern cafés and restaurants have also popped up alongside established eateries throughout the area, so make a day of it.



WINE THREE WAYS

TAKE A TOUR

The easiest way to explore the region's fabulous wine is on a tour with plenty of delicious food and wine tasting, and best of all, no driving!

SELF DRIVE

Download the Kumeu Wine Country wine trail map so you can pick and choose your stops. You'll find it on www.kumeuwinecountry.co.nz.

TAILOR-MADE TOURS

Create a unique and personalised wine tour with companies who can create the perfect itinerary to suit your tastes and pace.

THE HUNTING LODGE

An expansive estate in Waimauku with a winery, bottling works, cellar door, restaurant, café and pretty gardens.

SOLJANS ESTATE

A family owned winery in Kumeu that excels in pinot gris, chardonnay and pinotage, with a cellar door and restaurant.

COOPERS CREEK

Visit the cellar door to taste their fine range of wines and stroll through the gardens. Located in Kumeu.

KUMEU RIVER WINES

Taste the world-class chardonnay produced here at their cellar door.



Taste
Tāwara

fantastic food

Dining, West Auckland

LOCALLY MADE

West Auckland has developed a fantastic food scene, with local orchards producing sweet, juicy fruit, vineyards and breweries offering exquisite dining and a wide range of hearty suburban eateries.

DON'T MISS

JUICY FRUITS

In season, go strawberry picking and gorge on fresh strawberry soft-serve, or stop at orchards for the crunchiest apples and the best fresh juice in New Zealand.

CAFÉ CULTURE

West Auckland does cafés well. Titirangi has plenty, Little Sister Café in Henderson is a stand-out, and The Bethells Café, just metres from the sand is a charming shack that's been serving beach-goers for 40 years.

ORGANIC GOODIES

Being so rural, the bounty of fresh organic fruit and veg is plentiful. Shop at Huckleberry, complete with on-site café; Organics Out West, and Boric Food Market, where the produce arrives minutes after being picked.

RESTAURANTS

THE TASTING SHED, KUMEU

An entrée-style gastronomic voyage that creates the ultimate dining experience.

THE BRICKWORKS

A dining hub in New Lynn offering flavours from around the world, a movie theatre and a fairly-light festooned courtyard.

BREWERIES

HALLERTAU, RIVERHEAD

This brewery and restaurant is a shining light for diners, beer fans and home brewers. Brewery tours are also available.

LIBERTY BREWERY

An intriguing brewery in Helensville with quirky award-winning beer and a tap room.



map ref G6

New Zealand's Oldest
Riverside Tavern

Award Winning Hospitality at The Riverhead

...the Historic Tavern
Open 7 days

The Landing
Our Fully Licenced Restaurant

The Portage Bar
Our Classic Kiwi Bar

The Boat House
Our Functions Centre
with free live music on Sundays

Come by Car: 33 York Terrace, Riverhead (20 minutes from the City)
Telephone 09 412 8902 www.theriverhead.co.nz

or come by boat...

The Redboats departs
Westhaven Marina 09 834 7337
0800REDBOAT

Only accessible by boat at high tide.
Book online: www.theriverheadexperience.co.nz

map ref F6

Heritage Collection Waitakere Estate

Heritage Collection Waitakere Estate, Auckland City's Rainforest Retreat, is a 4-star boutique hotel located in the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Park. From its ridge top position the hotel enjoys stunning views of the forest and city beyond. Facilities include a restaurant, lounge bar, extensive grounds and on-site forest walks. The hotel rooms have Juliet balconies with rainforest views, super king-size beds and large rainhead showers.

The surrounding Waitakere Ranges Heritage Park has spectacular West Coast surf beaches, many forest walking options, vineyards, farmers' markets and many other attractions. Heritage Collection Waitakere Estate is located 30km from downtown Auckland, and a similar distance from the Auckland Airport.

573 Scenic Drive, Waitakere, Auckland
www.waitakereestate.co.nz | Phone: +64 9 814 9622

map ref F10

Trippy

West Auckland's Adventure

Auckland's very own shuttle bus to Piha where you can stay for the day or camp overnight

- Enjoy a free tiki tour around Piha's valley, town and beach to help you make the most of your visit.
- We will highlight the best places to visit and explore from surfing to hiking and can arrange surfboard rentals, surf lessons, beach gear, and accommodation.
- Group tours also available.
- Shuttle from Central Auckland \$25 One Way / \$40 Return.

Call 0508 874 779 or
[visit www.trippy.co.nz](http://www.trippy.co.nz) for more information

map ref E10

map ref D8

Muriwai Surf School

Located on Auckland's beautiful west coast only a 35min drive from the central city. Daily introduction to surf lessons held with qualified professional coaches including all equipment. Massive surfboard and wetsuit rental range available for short or long-term hire.

Open: 10am-6pm.

458 Motutara Rd, Muriwai • M: +64 21 478 734
E: info@muriwaisurfschool.co.nz • www.muriwaisurfschool.co.nz

map ref D8

MURIWAI GOLF LINKS

Spectacular Muriwai. Overlooking the ruggedly beautiful West Coast. To play Muriwai is to play the game as nature intended. Links golf at its best. Restaurant and bar open Tues to Sun. The Muriwai Golf Shop offers members and visitors a range of golfing apparel, golf balls, tees & other accessories. Rated as New Zealand's 12th best course.

09 411 8454 | www.muriwaigolfclub.co.nz
muriwai@golf.co.nz | 101 Coast Road, Muriwai

map ref D7