



















-  Point of interest
-  Route
-  Walking track
-  Food
-  Cafe
-  Store
-  Petrol station
-  Electric car charging
-  Swimming
-  Scenic views
-  Iconic photo stop!
-  Local favourite
-  Don't miss
-  Surfing
-  Hot springs
-  Regional park
-  Museum
-  Art Gallery

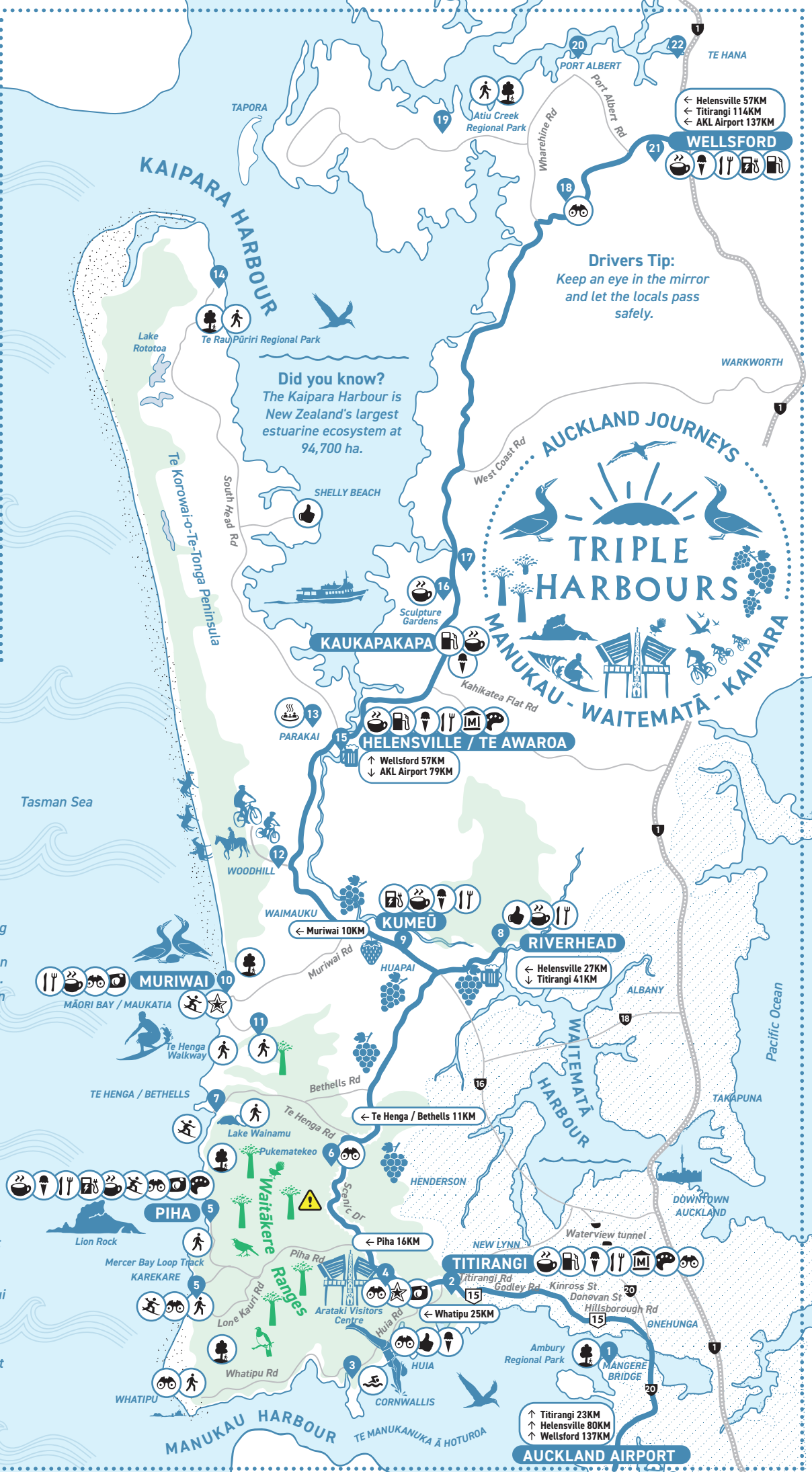


Love our Kauri

Reduce the chance of spreading Kauri dieback. Please: Ensure there's no visible soil on footwear, or any carried items. Use the cleaning stations when entering or leaving the tracks. Stay on the track at all times.



Did you know? With more than 16,000 hectares of native rainforest and coastline, the forests that cover the Waitākere Ranges are known to local iwi, Te Kawerau ā Maki, as Te Wao Nui o Tiriwā (The Great Forest of Tiriwā) after an ancestor who is said to have carried Rangitoto from the West Coast to its current location in the Waitematā Harbour.



Did you know? The Kaipara Harbour is New Zealand's largest estuarine ecosystem at 94,700 ha.

Drivers Tip: Keep an eye in the mirror and let the locals pass safely.



↑ Titirangi 23KM
↑ Helensville 80KM
↑ Wellsford 137KM

← Helensville 57KM
← Titirangi 114KM
← AKL Airport 137KM

↑ Wellsford 57KM
↓ AKL Airport 79KM

← Helensville 27KM
↓ Titirangi 41KM

← Te Henga / Bethells 11KM

← Muriwai 10KM

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TRIPLE HARBOURS

Discover or re-discover Aotearoa's largest harbours - the Kaipara and the Manukau - that open to the Tasman Sea. Also, look out across our busiest harbour, the Waitematā, that connects to the Pacific Ocean. Traverse Auckland's north-west in one journey and enjoy stunning views of all three harbours.

Travelling from harbour to harbour today is very different to how our earliest inhabitants navigated the harbours and rivers, including carrying their waka (canoe) overland. Today, we check Google maps and drive from point A to point B!

1 Ambury Regional Park
What better place to see views of Manukau Harbour and to escape the car for a short walk to stretch your legs. For those wanting more of a walk there's Mangere Maunga (mountain) right next door - enjoy the views from the crater of a long dormant volcano.

2 Titirangi
A village well worth exploring, surrounded by spectacular scenery and nature. Stop for a cuppa or meal, and discover art and views in historic McCahon House or the inspiring Te Uru Waitākere Contemporary Gallery.

3 Huia - Cornwallis - Whatipu
If you're up for an adventure and unafraid of gravel roads, then Whatipu Beach with its caves and sand dunes are a must-see. Enjoy a swim or relax at Cornwallis Beach, or explore Huia and its Settlers Museum.

4 Waitākere Ranges - Arataki Visitor Centre
This inspiring visitor centre is the gateway to the Waitākere Ranges, it offers spectacular views across Auckland and is a great source of local knowledge. If you're planning a walk in the ranges please speak with staff for the latest updates.

5 Kerekare Beach and Piha
No trip to this part of the world is complete without a walk, like to Kitekite falls, or a swim at a black sand beach. Stick to the patrolled areas if you're swimming - these beaches have serious surf - that's why you'll see so many surfers in the area.

6 Pukematekeo
The Pukematekeo Summit is a good old fashioned 'lookout' point offering forest, harbour and city views. And you won't need to pack your hiking gear as its only a hop, step and small jump from the carpark to the trig station at the summit!

7 Bethells / Te Henga
In addition to the beautiful beach there are some amazing black sand dunes, shaped by wind and water, that hide the sheltered Lake Wainamu. It's easy to warm up during a walk then cool off with a swim.

8 Riverhead
At the head of the Waitematā Harbour lies a town of 2,000 people with a rich history of connecting the north-west with the rest (by ferry). Make sure to check out the amazing local eateries!

9 Huapai / Kumeū
The country towns of Kumeū and Huapai have some hidden gems amongst the shops and cafes along the main road.

10 Muriwai Beach
Otakamiro Point is the site of one of our few mainland gannet (takapu) breeding colonies. The walk around the Otakamiro headland also provides informative interpretation of local Māori history and heritage.

11 Goldie Bush Walkway DOC (Kauri)
Choose from a short walk, an easy 2 hour walk (one-way) or a more demanding 4 to 5 hour loop walk in this area of forest where the track and facilities have been upgraded to reduce the chance of spreading Kauri dieback.

12 Woodhill
Multiple adventures await in this forest where you can mountain bike, horse ride, adventure in trees, four-wheel drive or motorcycle off-road and even take on a paintball challenge. Go to woodhillforest.co.nz for more information.

13 Parakai
Relax in naturally hot mineral pools. There are pampering and massage therapy options available, plus water slides and a large outdoor pool.

14 Te Rau Pūriri Regional Park
Enjoy the uncrowded south head of the Kaipara Harbour. Te Rau Pūriri is unique because it offers access to one of the best beaches on the Kaipara Harbour and the major lake (Lake Rototoa) on the peninsula.

15 Helensville
The Helensville district was originally known as Te Awara - "The Valley of the Long River". The town's character buildings are a highlight, as are the Museums featuring the history of the area. The Helensville Riverside Walkway is a great way to stretch your legs after your drive.

16 Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens
For a gentle and tranquil 1km walk, there's no place better than this sculpture and garden trail.

17 Omeru Pā Scenic Reserve
With three waterfalls - Omeru Falls, Waitangi Falls and Waitangi Stream Cascade - this is a great spot for swimming, or to have a picnic or barbeque.

18 Views of Kaipara Harbour
Keep your eyes peeled for a small rest area on this stretch of the highway - the views of the harbour and its rural catchment are spectacular! (Top tip: it's easier to turn into the rest area when driving north)

19 Atiu Creek Regional Park
Some visitors say Atiu Creek is the quietest of all the Auckland Council parks. It is also the furthest away from the city, but well worth the journey. Enjoy harbour views, sheltered bays and bush walks - but take care on the gravel road (maybe leave the sports car at home!).

20 Port Albert
Here's a great opportunity to get off the beaten track and explore Albertland. Learn about its fascinating history - the 3,000 hopeful inhabitants who arrived in 1862 and found themselves isolated. Their general store is still there and is famous for its fish and chips!

21 Wellsford
In addition to the cafes and shops selling gifts, homeware, antiques and books, there's the Albertland & Districts Museum that can provide more historical background on the area.

22 Te Hana Te Ao Marama - Māori Cultural Centre
Experience and learn about pre-European Māori life with a village tour that tells the inspiring history of the Māori Maiden 'Te Hana.' Pre-booking is recommended.

Must Do's

Harbour views

Capture the perfect shots of Auckland's harbours by stopping at our recommended photo stops, highlighted on our map.

Wineries and breweries

No journey to Auckland's north-west would be complete without sampling some of the region's finest wine and beer northwestcountry.co.nz/things-to-do/wine-country

Black sand, salty air

Any west coast beach with its fresh air and black sand will clear the senses and reconnect you with nature.

Action and adventure

The wild west coastline offers adventures in surfing, fishing and swimming. There are a multitude of adventures on and above ground at Woodhill, and for those wanting a little more altitude there's NZ's highest tandem skydive.

