

Auckland to Whangarei: Attractions on the way



Unless you want to spend your time in our fantastic region (Ocean Beach, Kauri Park, Whangarei Falls..... etc.), here are some suggestions for stops or detours on the way from or to Auckland.



1. Before setting off enjoy a coffee at **Takapuna Beach**, visit the **factory outlets** for Icebreaker, Billabong and RipCurl in Rosedale (exit Greville Rd - left into Tawa Rd - left into Rosedale Rd - right into 7 Triton Drive) or the huge **Westfield Albany Shopping Mall** next to the North Harbour Stadium (also exit Greville Rd).
2. SH16 would take you close to wild **Muriwai Beach** with a rare mainland gannet colony in a spectacular setting with great observation platforms.
3. Before Orewa on the right side of the motorway there is an **indoor ski and go-kart centre**.
4. **Orewa** is the first beach resort after Auckland with a long beach and many Thai takeaways. You can now take the **toll road** (pay at the rest stop or use our phone to pay by credit card) or the more **scenic drive** along the coast.
5. Relax in **Waiwera Thermal Park** or walk through beautiful rain forest up to the hill lookout in **Wenderholm Regional Park**.
6. The **Puhoi Historic Village** offers old buildings and a Bohemian museum.
7. At Warkworth you can drive to the beaches of the **Matakana Coast** (snorkel at **Goat Island Reserve**) or visit the **Ransom Winery** on the left side of SH1.
8. After Warkworth you can walk the **Dome Forest Walkway** to the summit and **Sheep World** offers fun for the whole family.
9. Turn off towards Dargaville to see the **Matakohē Kauri Museum**. Find out about how the early settlers of New Zealand logged the mighty Kauri trees of Northland and see how big they were. To the west of Dargaville **Baylys Beach** with 110kms of pure wide sand. Before Whangarei stop at the **Kiwi House & Whangarei Museum**, to visit the grounds is free.
10. Or take the scenic detour to **Langs Beach, Waipu Cove and Mangawhai Heads**, a beautiful coast line with the **Mangawhai Cliff Walk**. On the way back to SH1 stop at the **Scottish Settler's Museum** in Waipu.
11. The long **Ruakaka beach** with a view to the Whangarei Heads is worth a short stop, or take a stroll along the **Uretiti Beach Reserve**.
12. Just before Whangarei on the left is the **Longview Estate Winery**.

After entering Whangarei continue north on **State Highway 1**, past the i-SITE information centre on the left and past the turn off for Town Centre and Town Basin on the right. After 3kms and 3 traffic lights turn left into **Russell Road** at the brown sign for the “**Subtropical Quarry Garden**”.

Follow Russell Road almost to the end, just before you cross a bridge at **number 75 is our driveway Kensington Heights Rise**, to the right side of a wooden collection of mailboxes. We are **number 5**, the third house up on the left.

