

ANCIENT KAURI TRAIL MAP LEGEND

- Point of Interest
- Route
- Walking track
- Swimming
- Food
- Cafe
- Shop
- Petrol station
- Museum
- Scenic views
- Iconic photo stop!
- Local favourite
- Don't miss



KAURI COAST



Did you know?
The original masts from the 'Rainbow Warrior' now overlook Dargaville and the Waipoua River located outside the Dargaville Museum



→ Kaikohe 54 KM
→ Paihia 88 KM
↓ Dargaville 81 KM

Arai Te Urū
Kaitiaki o Te Wahapū o Hokianga Nui a Kupe

WAIMAMAKU

Waimamaku icons: walking track, cafe, shop, petrol station

MAUNGANUI BLUFF

Maunganui Bluff icons: walking track, scenic views

KAI IWI LAKES

Kai Iwi Lakes icons: walking track, swimming, local favourite

OMAMARI

Omamari icon: scenic views

↑ Omamari 81 KM
↓ Maungaturoto 64 KM

BAYLYS BEACH

Baylys Beach icon: walking track

DARGAVILLE

Dargaville icons: food, cafe, shop, petrol station, walking track, don't miss

RIPIRO BEACH

↑ Omamari 81 KM
↓ Maungaturoto 64 KM

Dargaville Museum
Gum Digger

Regenerating Kauri forest

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

Tokatoka Peak

Kumara Country

Historic Kauri Logging Country

↑ Omamari 81 KM
↓ Maungaturoto 64 KM

RUAWAI

Ruawai icons: cafe, shop, petrol station, walking track, don't miss

Did you know?
The Kaipara Harbour is one of the largest harbours in the world. It covers 947 kms² (366mi²) at high tide.

MATAKOHE

Matakohe icons: walking track, cafe, shop, petrol station, museum, don't miss

The Kauri Museum

PAPAROA

Paparoa icons: food, cafe, shop, petrol station, walking track

Pahi

MAUNGATUROTO

Maungaturoto icon: walking track

← Dargaville 64 KM
→ Whangarei 61 KM
↓ Auckland 111 KM

ANCIENT KAURI TRAIL

Through farmland and villages the wild, untamed West Coast, to the peaceful shelter of the kauri forests, prepare to be awed by a journey of dramatic contrasts.

Follow the road through the Kumara Capital, and feel the sea spray on your skin as you reach the ruggedly beautiful West Coast beaches. Further north, the ancient living forests wrap their deep green embrace around you. These mighty trees have supported lives and livelihoods for centuries. But despite their immense size and strength, these giants are also fragile. Humans have harvested their precious timber and gum over the centuries, and have now come to protect these great guardians of the forest.

Yet still a few living links to our ancient past stand - tall, strong and proud - like the ships and masts carved from their sturdy timber. Ships that weathered wild storms, and carried people safely to far off places.

Follow in the footsteps of the kauri loggers and gumdiggers of days gone by. But tread lightly on your journey, for the time has now come for us to play our part in protecting these majestic icons.

1 Maungaturoto

Fancy yourself a modern day gumdigger? This cute and quirky village has the first of many great second hand stores along this route, where you can stop and dig for precious nuggets.

2 Papanoa

Grand historic buildings like the former National Bank hark back to the glory days of this region. There are several good forest walks in the area too.

3 Pahi's Giant Moreton Bay Fig Tree

If you thought the only giant trees here were kauri, think again! This impressive Australian fig tree reaches nearly 30m high, with a canopy over 50m wide.

4 The Kauri Museum - Matakohe

Discover the fascinating story of our ancient kauri, and the people who have carved their livelihoods from these magnificent trees throughout the ages.

5 Ruawai

Ruawai has declared itself as the "Kumara capital of the world"

6 Tokatoka Peak Viewpoint

In the pioneering days, the river pilot would climb this volcanic peak to watch for ships. Are you as fit as he was? See how quickly you can reach the top!

7 Dargaville

A treasure-trove of cafes, restaurants and shops, as well as an impressive museum housing stories of gumdiggers and shipwrecks.

8 Dargaville Rail & River Cruises

Take a boat trip on the Northern Wairoa River, or drive a buggy down an abandoned railway line, for a unique perspective on the kauri trading routes of days gone by.

9 The Kumara Box

You can't come to the Kumara Capital of the World without visiting the wacky world of Ernie the Kumara King!

10 Baylys Beach

A short detour takes you to Baylys Beach on the wild West Coast - NZ's longest driveable beach, and a top spot for surfing, quad biking, horse riding and fishing.

11 Omamari Beach

If you can resist the lure of the Kai Iwi Lakes, a turn to the left on the same side-road will lead you to stunning Omamari Beach.

12 Kai Iwi Lakes

Set back from the wild West Coast breakers lies a hidden gem - sparkling freshwater lakes fringed by pristine sandy beaches.

13 Kaihu Tavern

Wet your whistle in historic countryside surrounds. Great friendly service, good pub grub and a garden bar with rural outlook.

14 Trounson Kauri Park

An easy 40 minute loop walk takes you under the canopy of a thriving kauri stand, and gives you a sense of what untouched kauri forests were once like.

15 Guided Night Walk

Nighttime is when the kauri forests really come alive. Experience the incredible sights and sounds of the ancient forest and its native wildlife residents.

16 Maunganui Bluff

For the more intrepid, a hike to Maunganui Bluff will get you out in the elements, and reward you with spectacular views up and down the coast.

17 Waipoua Forest Scenic Lookout

For incredible views of the forest, turn off just after you enter the Waipoua Kauri Sanctuary and drive to the old forest fire lookout.

18 Waipoua Forest Visitor Centre

Discover how Maori culture is intertwined with the ancient forests at this Iwi-run visitor centre, which also offers the opportunity to plant a young kauri tree.

19 Tane Mahuta

The ancient God of the Forest has been living for over 2,000 years. His lofty branches provide safe haven for a staggering array of plant and animal life.

20 Footprints Waipoua

Take a spine-tingling tour of our ancient trees by day, night or twilight, for a real sense of the spiritual connection with our oldest living treasures.

21 Hokianga Harbour

Sip a cool drink and quietly contemplate the ever-changing vista, as you watch the sun go down over the immense sand dunes from the deck of the historic Opononi Hotel.



Must Dos

Learn

A stop at The Kauri Museum in Matakohe is a must on your way north. The informative and entertaining exhibits provide context for the rest of your journey, and will enrich your experience of the kauri trees and the places you'll visit along the way.

See

Forget comparisons between height and girth. Every one of the kauri within easy walking distance of the road will leave you awe-struck and humbled. Te Matua Ngahere, The Four Sisters, The Yakas and Cathedral Grove are all just as worthwhile visiting as the famed Tane Mahuta.

Plant

After centuries of human destruction, why not leave your own legacy of regeneration? The Oranga Whenua reforestation project lets you plant a young kauri that your future generations will be able to visit in years to come.

Dig

Dig for buried treasures at one of the many second hand stores, op shops and craft shops along the way. Keen treasure hunters should check out Maungaturoto Second Hand, Empire and Shop & Brew in Papanoa, Ruawai Traders, Dargaville's Hospice, Lock Stock & Barrell and Lion of Judah, and Nelson's Ancient Kauri in Kaihu.

