

Motutara Track, Motutara Recreation Reserve

Leading to a secluded beach on a headland with incredible coastal views, the Motutara Track is an excellent outing from the holiday hotspot of Whananaki.

At first, the track climbs steeply through private farmland before reaching a ridge and joining a gravel road within the popular Motutara Farm campsite. Once the road reaches the bottom of the hill, the start of the track can be found on the far right, near the coastline on the south side of the headland. From here it continues through farmland, climbing steeply with views of the white sand Kings Beach below and out to the Poor Knights Islands on the horizon.

Soon the track rounds a ridge, revealing views of an unnamed beach. This marks the start of a network of mown tracks that run through the farmland on the heads, most of which aren't marked on the topomap, and you can spend an hour or so picking-a-path around the reserve.

From the far end of the beach, a track continues up a small valley before climbing to a ridge on a pohutukawa-lined cliff top that looks down onto the sea and a rocky shore.

The track soon reaches the main ridgeline that leads to the end of the heads, with impressive views of the white sand beach of Whananaki South and down the coast towards Sandy Bay. To the west, you can see down the Whananaki Inlet with the rolling forested hills of Northland in the background.

A track continues down towards the end of the peninsula. Shortly before the heads, a sidetrack leads to a large pool, with turquoise water sheltered by a rocky reef which is worth a look.

From the heads, we retraced our steps along the main ridge, forming a loop back to the campground, where we'd set up our tent beneath a large pohutukawa tree at the end of Kings Beach.

Wild file

Access Rockell Bay Road

Grade Easy

Time 2hr

Distance 4.5km loop

Total ascent 77m

Topo50 map AW31

Elevation Profile



Motutara Track, Motutara Recreation Reserve

NZ Topo50 Plus North Island. Copyright © 2015 Crown Copyright Reserved, LINZ

www.memory-map.com



