



## Waikare Connection - by Water

 Walking

Length

**11 km**

Journey Time

**Variable**

Region

[Northland](#)

Sub-Region

[Far North](#)

Part of Collections

[Te Araroa - New Zealand's Trail](#), [Te Araroa - North Island](#)

Following consultation with local iwi in the Russell Forest, it has been decided that we will re route Te Araroa around Russell Forest. The key reason to do this is to respect the concerns of local iwi around reducing the potential spread of Kauri Die Back by our walkers. We have developed a new route that will take our walkers to the eastern side of the forest, before connecting back up with the original trail at km 287 km


Two options exist to negotiate the Waikare Inlet from Paihia or Opuia through to the Punaruku Estuary on Whangaruru Harbour

- Waikare Connection - by Water
- Waikare Connection - by Road Bypass via the ferry from Opuia to Okiato.

There is also the option to ferry from Paihia to Russell (and a chance to explore some of New Zealand's history in Russell), and take the Russell to Okiato walkway until you get to the Gas station at the junction of Aucks road. Alternatively, connect with Sheryl Wikaere and travel with her to Waikare - (there will be a cost involved and this is unsuitable for bigger groups) Contact Sheryl on [peter1.sheryl@gmail.com](mailto:peter1.sheryl@gmail.com)

[Tide timetable for Waikere Inlet](#) 

### Waikare Connection - by Water - 11km

Kayak up the inlet with [Moana Kayaks](#) , phone Nick on 021 159 2185. This company is based on the beach at Paihia, and if you're going to kayak up to Waikare, Paihia is a better start point than Ōpuia. It's better to travel in a group of two or three, which will reduce costs. The paddle from Paihia to Waikare takes between 3-4hr depending on weather conditions and fitness levels, and should only be done by persons with some experience. Cellphone reception is zero once past Marriott Island so GPS or good map skills are needed. Plan to start around 3 hours before high tide to arrive at Waikare near the top the tide.

Includes kayak hire, pack transport to Waikare, kayak pickup, dry bags, maps, full safety equipment. Pricing - \$100pp, with minimum of 2 people

There is an approximately 18kms of kayaking. When you get to Sheryl's place (027 309 3476) you can stay there or walk north on Waikare Road

### Waikare Road - 6km

If you are not stopping at Waikare walk north on Waikere Road for 6kms to the junction with Russell Whakapara Road at km 269, joining the Road Bypass route

## Conditions

Track standard: mixed grade

### Potential hazards

- Vehicles on road or track.  
***When road walking, walkers should should wear high visibility clothing or accessories, not wear any earbuds, and remain vigilant for traffic.***
- If kayaking, be alert for other water users
- Poisons & traps
- Small stream crossings
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold

## How to get here

## Transport

## Accommodation

### Waikare

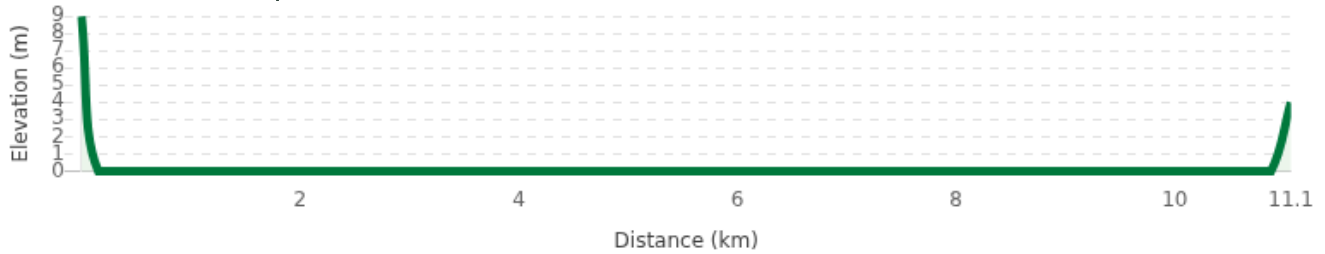
Waikare and the accommodation providers on Waikare Road are not located directly on Te Araroa due to the closure of Russell Forest and Papakauri Track in 2021. The accommodation options below are approximately 2 km off the current route

For information re Waikare amenities, contact Sheryl Waikare on P: 027 309 3476 E: [peter1.sheryl@gmail.com](mailto:peter1.sheryl@gmail.com)

- Sheryl's Place has tenting available for walkers at 228 Waikare Valley Rd (\$20) - call Sheryl, or information at the Russell GAS station. Sheryl's place is 1km from the Russell Forest at 228D Waikare Valley Rd, just phone or text to arrange. Note that Sheryl's place is "off the grid" - composting toilet available on request and kauri dieback cleaning facilities available, please make use of these!

## Food And Supply

## Track Elevation and Map



## More information

Before starting Te Araroa either as a through-walker of the whole country or a section walker, [please register on Te Araroa website](#). Please also [visit the website](#) or [download the app](#) for detailed maps, trail alerts and other relevant information.

This track is part of the Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa track database. Herenga ā Nuku has [maps and advice about public access to the outdoors](#).

We encourage you to continue gaining the skills and knowledge required for a safe trip. The NZ Mountain Safety Council has lots of free resources and information you can use. These can be accessed via [www.mountainsafety.org.nz](http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz).

We recommend trying these online learning tools:

- [Trip Planning](#)
- [Tramping/field Skills](#)
- [Basic Navigation](#)
- [River Safety](#)

Additionally, check out the range of helpful videos available from the NZ Mountain Safety Council [YouTube channel](#).

