Conservation Campsites

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Enjoy your journey!

Conservation Campsites are places to relax, enjoy and explore the great outdoors. This map highlights the campsites managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC) throughout New Zealand that are accessible by campervans and other vehicles.

Basic campsites and campsites difficult to access by road are not listed here, you'll find information on these campsites at doc.govt.nz/campsites.

Enjoy your journey!
WHAT TO EXPECT

SERVICED CAMPSITES $15* adult; $7.50 youth/child
Flush toilets, tap water, kitchen/cooking bench, hot showers, rubbish collection and road access for all types of vehicles. Laundry facilities, BBQs, fireplaces, cookers and picnic tables may be provided.

SCENIC CAMPSITES $10* adult; $5 youth/child
Toilets, tap water supply and vehicle or boat access. Wood BBQs and fireplaces, cold showers, picnic tables, a cooking shelter and rubbish bins may be provided.

NEW ZEALAND MOTOR CARAVAN ASSOCIATION (NZMCA) pass holders: check your pass for exemption dates or special conditions, and that your pass is valid at your intended destination.

STANDARD CAMPSITES $6* adult; $3 youth/child
Toilets (usually composting or pit), water supply (tap, stream, or lake) and vehicle or boat access. Wood BBQs and fireplaces, cold showers, picnic tables, a cooking shelter and rubbish bins may be provided.

AGE CATEGORIES FOR FEES:
Adult: 18+ years;
Youth/child: 5–17 years;
Infants: 0–4 years no charge.

* Some pricing exceptions do apply—check the individual campsite listing to confirm.

BOOKING AND PAYING FEES

Some campsites need to be booked in advance, either online at booking.doc.govt.nz or at any DOC Visitor Centre. If a booking is required, it is noted on this map. Charges may apply when booking through a Visitor Centre. Check the website as over time, more campsites will able to be booked online.

Where bookings are not required, pay fees via the self-registration system at the campsite, or at a Visitor Centre. Fees are generally charged per person, per night, and reflect the level of facilities and services provided. Powered sites are $3 extra per person.

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

NZMCA PASSES
New Zealand Motor Caravan Association (NZMCA) pass holders: check your pass for exemption dates or special conditions, and that your pass is valid at your intended destination.

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BELOW OF THIEVES

Remember to lock your vehicle and take your valuables with you.

PROTECT OUR WILDLIFE

Some of these campsites are in areas where native species are vulnerable to disease. You can prevent spreading disease by following some simple precautions, including cleaning gear before and after entering these areas. Look for notices at the campsites and local DOC Visitor Centres for details.

DIDYMO AND OTHER FRESHWATER PESTS

Didymo, also known as 'rock snot', is an exotic alga that invades waterways. This microscopic pest can be spread by a single drop of water. Even if you can’t see it, you could be spreading it.

CHECK, CLEAN, DRY: Stop the spread of didymo and other freshwater pests. A large number of Conservation Campsites are near rivers and lakes, so always remember to Check, Clean, Dry all footwear, bicycles, vehicles, fishing equipment and other items before entering, and when moving between, waterways. For more information and cleaning guidelines go to biosecurity.govt.nz/didymo or doc.govt.nz/stopthespread.

FREEDOM CAMPING

Experience New Zealand by camping responsibly. If you do wish to freedom camp, ask at Visitor Centres to find out where local restrictions exist as instant $200 fines now apply. For more information about freedom camping see doc.govt.nz/freedomcamping or camping.org.nz.

You could get a $200 instant fine by:

1. Freedom camping overnight where there is a no camping sign.
2. Freedom camping overnight where there is a self-contained sign and you are not using an approved NZ Standard self-contained vehicle.
3. Depositing waste while freedom camping.

GREAT WALKS

Visit doc.govt.nz/campsites, greatwalks.co.nz or greatwalks.govt.nz or doc.govt.nz/campsites/backcountry for more information. Some campsites need to be booked in advance, either online at booking.doc.govt.nz or at any DOC Visitor Centre. If a booking is required, it is noted on this map. Charges may apply when booking through a Visitor Centre. Check the website as over time, more campsites will be able to be booked online.

FREEDOM CAMPING

1. Plan ahead and prepare
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces
3. Dispose of waste properly
4. Leave what you find
5. Minimise the effects of fire
6. Respect wildlife and farm animals
7. Be considerate of others

SYMBOLES

State Highway = SH, Visitor Centre = VC, National Park = NP
KAURI DIEBACK
Kauri dieback is a disease that attacks and kills kauri trees. Some Conservation Campsites are located near kauri trees. To prevent the spread of kauri dieback, keep to the defined tracks, clean your footwear, tyres and other equipment before and after visiting kauri forest areas, and stay away from kauri tree roots.
Visit kauriedieback.co.nz or call 0800 NZ KAURI (0800 695 2874).

NORTHLAND

Tapotupotu

- **45** Relax at the northernmost campsite in New Zealand; swim, snorkel, surf or walk the Te Paki Coastal Track.
- **E–N 1574155-6189320 GETTING THERE:** Camp located at the end of Tapotupotu Road off Cape Reinga Road (SH1), 3 km south of Cape Reinga. **ACCESS:** Gravel, steep sections.

Kapowairua ( Spirits Bay)

- **45** Camp in a picturesque setting between the beach (Mum walk) and hills of the Aupouri Peninsula north of Kaihia.
- **E–N 1587447-6190362 GETTING THERE:** Follow signposts from Waitaki landing, off SH1, for 16 km along Te Hapua Road and then Spirits Bay Road. **ACCESS:** 16 km of gravel.

Rarawa

- **65** Camp among trees behind the white sand beach, surfing and fishing—but take care as the beach may be dangerous.
- **E–N 1607538-6157437 GETTING THERE:** 3 km north of Ngatiki along SH1 turn into Rarawa Beach Road. **ACCESS:** 4 km of gravel.

Maitai Bay

- **110+** Camp on the outer Karikari Peninsula in sheltered and private campsites.
- **E–N 1637275-6145711 GETTING THERE:** 25 km southeast of Kaihia on SH10, turn into Inland Road at Karikari Peninsula and follow, then into Matai Bay Road. **ACCESS:** 2 km of gravel.

Puketi

- **20** Camp close to kauri trees and look out for kiwi and short-tailed bats. 18 bunk hut and two 3 bunk cabins are also available.
- **E–N 1668562-6098074 GETTING THERE:** Turn off SH10 into Pungaere Road, 600 m north of Waipapa and follow signs to the camp. **ACCESS:** 16 km of gravel.

Puriri Bay

- **90** Overlooking the mouth of Whangaruru Harbour, with sheltered waters, walking, swimming and boating.
- **E–N 1723562-6085659 GETTING THERE:** Turn off SH1 into Russell Road, 15 km north of Whangarei. After about 30 km (north of Ngaiotonga) turn into Whangaruru North Road. **ACCESS:** Sealed. **BOOKING:** Required December – March; can be booked online. **NOTE:** Vehicle access to campsite closed 1 May – 31 October.

Otamure

- **130+** Camp in a beach-front setting with large pōhutukawa trees for shade.
- **E–N 1574155-6189320 GETTING THERE:** Go past Hikurangi on SH1, turn off at Whananaki North Road and travel 27 km. Campsite is 4 km past Whananaki shop and school. **ACCESS:** Sealed. **BOOKING:** Can be booked online.

Uretiti

- **300+** Camp behind the sand dunes at Uretiti Beach and explore the nearby Waipu caves or walk the coastal track.
- **E–N 1731842-6022426 GETTING THERE:** Signposted directly off SH1, approx 5 km north of Waipu. **ACCESS:** Sealed. **BOOKING:** Can be booked online.

Trounson Kauri Park

- **8** The campground is at the edge of the park, one of the best examples of hardwood forest in New Zealand.
- **E–N 1658996-6048743 GETTING THERE:** Turn off SH12 into Trounson Park Road, 40 km north of Dargaville. **ACCESS:** Sealed from south, gravel from north.
**GREAT BARRIER ISLAND (AOTEA)**

**Akapoua Bay**  
- **30** In a sheltered bay amongst pōhutukawa trees with good fishing, swimming and kayaking.  
  E–N 1812499-5994425  
  **GETTING THERE:** West coast, Port Fitzroy.  
  **ACCESS:** From Auckland via passenger/car ferry or air. Good boat access. **BOOKING:** Required; book online.

**Whangapoua**  
- **75** Sheltered campsite on the edge of Whangapoua estuary and surf beach. Adjacent to Okiwi Airfield (seasonal service).  
  E–N 1817893-5997238  
  **GETTING THERE:** Whangapoua Conservation Area, north coast of the island, near Okiwi, on the Whangapoua estuary. **ACCESS:** From Auckland via passenger/car ferry or air. **BOOKING:** Required; book online.

**Harataonga**  
- **60** Camp under mature trees between two streams, overlooking Overton Beach with great views of Rakitu Island.  
  E–N 1823001-5994150  
  **GETTING THERE:** Harataonga Recreation Reserve, east coast via Port Fitzroy Road to Kaitoke. **ACCESS:** From Auckland via passenger/car ferry or air. **BOOKING:** Required; book online.

**Awana Beach**  
- **60** Grassy campsites next to the child-friendly Awana estuary. Powerful surf break. Don’t forget mosquito repellent.  
  E–N 1822809-5990750  
  **GETTING THERE:** Awana Recreation Reserve, east coast, Awana. **ACCESS:** From Auckland via car/passenger ferry or air. **BOOKING:** Required; book online.

**Medlands Beach**  
- **70** This sheltered campsite overlooks a tidal stream, and a popular surfing beach, with safe swimming in the estuary.  
  E–N 1604620-5470020  
  **GETTING THERE:** Orawhata Creek Recreation Reserve, southeast coast, south end of Medlands Beach. **ACCESS:** From Auckland via passenger/car ferry or air. **BOOKING:** Required; book online.

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Visit kauridieback.co.nz or call 0800 NZ KAURI (0800 695 2874).
COROMANDEL

Due to demand during Christmas/New Year, we recommend you book from early to mid-October for northern Coromandel campsites.

WARNING: Coromandel weather can change very quickly, with rivers and streams rapidly reaching flood levels in heavy or prolonged rainfall. Coastal areas can also be affected.

Fantail Bay

- **Camp in peaceful surroundings beneath pōhutukawa trees; a track with outstanding views leads to the bushline.**
- **E–N 1808450–5955320**
- **GETTING THERE:** 50 km north of Coromandel. From Coromandel take Colville Road for 22 km to Whangahei Junction, then turn left and follow Port Jackson Road for 28 km. **ACCESS:** Gravel from Colville. **BOOKING:** Can be booked online.

Port Jackson

- **At the northern tip of the peninsula, this campsite is next to the beach, with stunning coastal views.**
- **E–N 1809781–5959816**
- **GETTING THERE:** 58 km north of Coromandel. Drive to Fantail Bay (as above) and continue along road for another 8 km. **ACCESS:** Gravel from Colville. **BOOKING:** Can be booked online.

Fletcher Bay

- **This is a beach-front campsite in a farm setting and an ideal location for water sports.**
- **E–N 1814136–5960540**
- **GETTING THERE:** 64 km north of Coromandel. Drive to Port Jackson (as above), but continue 6 km to the end of the road. **ACCESS:** Gravel from Colville. **BOOKING:** Can be booked online.

Port Jackson, Coromandel. Photo: Herb Christophers
### Waikawau Bay

**SCENIC**

- **Photo:** Herb Christophers

- **19** Next to a sweeping sandy beach; NZ dotterel and variable oystercatcher breed north of the campsite.

- **E–N 1833665–5888280**
- **GETTING THERE:** 100 m before the Kauaeranga Visitor Centre. **NOTE:** Open from Labour weekend (Oct) until 30 April.

### Kaaueranga Valley

The following eight campsites are beside the river in the Kauaeranga Valley.

- **SCENIC**

### Stony Bay

**SCENIC**

- **120+** This is a spacious (5 ha) campsite beside the coast with good fishing and diving nearby.

- **E–N 1816877–5956498**
- **GETTING THERE:** 55 km north of Coromandel. Take the Colville Road for 22 km to Whangaahei Junction, then turn right into Port Charles Road to Stony Bay Road and follow to end. **ACCESS:** Gravel from Colville. **BOOKING:** Can be booked online.

### Trestle View

**SCENIC**

- **30** Camp at the end of the valley, close to the Billygoat Basin Track and Webb Creek Track up to the Pinnacles.

- **E–N 1837150–5894401**
- **GETTING THERE:** 9 km north of Kauaeranga Visitor Centre, last campsite past the Visitor Centre.

### Broken Hills

**SCENIC**

- **45** Camp beside the Tairua River and explore the old gold mining area; swimming, canoeing and fishing nearby.

- **E–N 1843327–5889933**
- **GETTING THERE:** Turn off SH25 at Hikuai, opposite Pauanui turnoff. Follow Puketui Valley Road to end. **ACCESS:** Gravel.

### Wentworth

**SCENIC**

- **75** Once a large gold mining settlement, now a remote but comfortable campsite near Wentworth Falls and mines.

- **E–N 1849966–5874024**
- **GETTING THERE:** Turn off SH25 7 km south of Whangamata into Wentworth Valley Road and follow to the end. **ACCESS:** 5 km gravel, small stream ford. **BOOKING:** Required December – March. Ph 07 865 7032. Prior approval from camp manager required for dogs.
Arohena, Waikato. Photo: DOC

**WAIKATO**

**Arohena**

▲ 50 This campsite is on the western shores of Lake Arapuni on the Waikato River, perfect for fishing and water sports.

E–N 1832829-5772402 GETTING THERE: From Waipapa Road, turn into Puewhau Road, then Mangare Road, then Landing Road. Campsite is at the end of Landing Road beside the Waikato River. ACCESS: Last 1 km winding gravel. Tight corners for large motor homes.

**Ngaherenga**

▲ 16 Camp beside the towering podocarps that Pureora Forest is famous for. Look for kākā, kākāriki, robins and short-tailed bats in the trees around the campsite.

E–N 1823414-5734345 GETTING THERE: Barryville/Maraeroa Roads, off SH30, 20 km east of Bennydale adjacent to Pureora Field Base. ACCESS: Gravel.

**Kakaho**

▲ 25 Enjoy a private holiday with easy to reach services. Walk through thick forest before climbing to a stunning lookout.

E–N 1836778-5727610 GETTING THERE: Follow Link Road from Pureora Field Base or Kakaho Road from SH32. ACCESS: Gravel.
Cape Reinga

Kaitaia

Forest

Warawara Forest

Dickey Flat

Lake Tarawera Outlet

Matata Campground

Lake Okareka

Lake Okareka, Rotorua, Bay of Plenty. Photo: Nick Lambert

Matata Campground

A coastal setting next to the Matata wildlife refuge, with excellent fishing and swimming in a family campsite.

E–N 1930738-5800191 GETTING THERE: Off Arawa Street in Matata township. Campground is 200 m across causeway. ACCESS: Gravel.

Lake Okareka

Scenic lakeside campsite 15 min from Rotorua; swim or fish in the lake.

E–N 1894510-5770866 GETTING THERE: Head east out of Rotorua on SH30 towards Whakatane for 1.7 km. Turn right into Tarawera Road then left into Okareka Loop Road. At Okareka, turn left into Miller Road. Campsite is on the right where the seal ends. ACCESS: Sealed. NOTE: Not suitable for vehicles longer than 6 m.

Lake Tarawera Outlet

100+ Camp alongside the lake in a large and attractive campsite where trout fishing and water sports are popular.

E–N 1906584-5767895 GETTING THERE: Via private forestry roads from Kawerau township or boat access. ACCESS: Permit required for vehicle access via Kawerau. NOTE: Permits for road access are available at kawerauonline.co.nz or at the Kawerau Information Centre, ph 07 3236300.

Rerewhakaaitu—Ash Pit Road

Camp on the shores of Lake Rerewhakaaitu; water birds, good fishing, swimming and walking nearby.

E–N 1904399-5755182 GETTING THERE: Off SH38, turn into Rerewhakaaitu Rd and follow for 2.7 km. Turn into Brett Road and follow 4.5 km to camp entrance (on right). ACCESS: Sealed.

Rerewhakaaitu—Ash Pit Road

100+ Camp on the shores of Lake Rerewhakaaitu; water birds, good fishing, swimming and walking nearby.

E–N 1906898-5757487 GETTING THERE: Off SH38, turn into Rerewhakaaitu Road and follow for 2.7 km. Turn left into Brett Road and follow to end. Turn right into Ash Pit Road and follow 1.7 km to camp entrance (on right). ACCESS: 2 km of gravel.
**EAST COAST**

**Anaura Bay**

- **75** Camp next to a beautiful beach alongside a stream, surrounded by forest and coastal bush.

E–N 2064734-5754983 GETTING THERE: SH35, 85 km north of Gisborne, between Tolaga Bay and Tokomaru Bay. ACCESS: 4 km gravel road. NOTE: Open from Labour weekend (Oct) to Easter. Toilets NOT provided (bring your own chemical toilet). Dump station available December – February.

**Manganuku**

- **20** Camp beside one of the few remaining historic Howe truss bridges; good river fishing.

CENTRAL NORTH ISLAND

WARNING: Make sure you’re well prepared as alpine weather changes quickly. Check in at the Tongariro National Park Visitor Centre before heading out into the alpine environment.

38 Mangawhero

Camp in a mountain beech forest, beside a stream, a perfect base for exploring; in winter, skiing is 6 km away. A 32-bed lodge and 6 cabins are also available.

E–N 1819338-5657839 GETTING THERE: Whakapapa Village opposite Visitor Centre, 6.4 km along SH48, off SH47. ACCESS: Sealed. BOOKING: Required; ph 07 892 3897, email whakapapaholpark@xtra.co.nz or visit www.whakapapa.net.nz. FEES: Non-powered and powered: $19 adult or $11 child.

40 Mangawhero

Camp in the forest on the flanks of Mt Ruapehu, a good base for exploring the Tongariro National Park.

E–N 1809547-5637025 GETTING THERE: Ohakune Mountain Road, 2 km from Ohakune. ACCESS: Some gravel.

Mangawhero, Tongariro National Park, Central North Island. Photo: DOC
Lake Tutira

- **Camp at the southern end of this freshwater lake and walk to Table Mountain Trig for views over Hawke’s Bay.**
- **E–N 1936025-5850108**
- **GETTING THERE:** Off SH2 at Tutira, 50 min north of Napier. **ACCESS:** Sealed. **NOTE:** The lake may be subject to toxic algal blooms. Do not enter the water if signs advise not to.

Kuripapango

- **Camp at the edge of the park and raft down the Ngaruroro River or have a go at fishing.**
- **E–N 1886289-5634867**
- **GETTING THERE:** Beside Napier–Taihape Road (sealed) at Kuripapango. **ACCESS:** 1 km gravel road off main road towards river.
Ohinepane

*36* Camp in a remote setting—one of three road access points to the Whanganui Journey Great Walk—and listen for kererū, tūī and fantail, and brown kiwi at night.

**GETTING THERE:** Whanganui River Road, on SH43, 21 km from Taumarunui. **ACCESS:** Road or by river. **BOOKING:** Required 1 Oct – 30 April; can be booked online.

Whakahoro

*36* A large, flat, grassy site beside the river; a good starting or mid-point stop on the Whanganui Journey Great Walk.

**GETTING THERE:** 44 km west of Owhango, off SH4 at the end of Oio Road. **ACCESS:** Road or by river. **BOOKING:** Required 1 Oct – 30 April; can be booked online.
**WAIRARAPA**

**Kiriwhakapapa**
- **30** This is a lovely family campsite beside a creek, with an old logging and exotic (redwood) forestry trial area nearby.
- **E–N 1814686-5479284** **GETTING THERE:** Turn off SH2 15 km north of Masterton into Kiriwhakapapa Road, and follow 7 km to road end. **ACCESS:** 5 km gravel.

**Holdsworth**
- **150+** Enjoy walks, fishing and swimming near the campsite at the eastern park entrance beneath the Tararua Ranges. Holdsworth Lodge (sleeps 28) also available.
- **E–N 1808984-5468482** **GETTING THERE:** 2 km south of Masterton, turn off SH2 at signpost to Mt Holdsworth, Norfolk Road. Drive along road into Mount Holdsworth Road. Campsite 15 km from SH turnoff. **ACCESS:** Sealed.

**Waiohine Gorge**
- **50** This secluded campsite is at the head of two spectacular gorges above the Waiohine River.
- **E–N 1800980-5458936** **GETTING THERE:** From Carterton, drive through Matarata. Follow Moffats Road, Joseph Road then Waiohine Gorge Road to end. 18 km northwest of Greytown. **ACCESS:** Sealed.

**Corner Creek**
- **12** Camp is a 5 min walk from Palliser Bay; go fishing, surfing, walking, hunting and mountain biking.
- **E–N 1770503-5417757** **GETTING THERE:** 38 km south of Featherston, along Western Lake Rd to Wharekauhau Road. **ACCESS:** Gravel road last 5 km, two stream fords. Campsite access only from the eastern side of the Rimutaka Range.

**Putangirua Pinnacles**
- **50** Situated beside the Putangirua Stream; walk to the impressive Putangirua Pinnacles or drive to the seal colony.
- **E–N 1785772-5408882** **GETTING THERE:** Halfway between Cape Palliser and Lake Ferry. 58 km south via Martinborough and Lake Ferry Road. **ACCESS:** Sealed. **NOTE:** Water not always available, please take your own supply.
### WELLINGTON/KAPITI

#### Otaki Forks
- **150+ Open river terraces and regenerating bush surround the campsite, reflecting the history of the area.**
- **E–N 1787182-5471884**
- **GETTING THERE:** 1 km south of Otaki, turn into Otaki Gorge Road. Campsite is 19 km east of Otaki township.
- **ACCESS:** Gravel and narrow, with one stream ford.

#### Catchpool
- **150+ Camp beside Catchpool Stream close to walks in the Orongorongo Valley.**
- **E–N 1760876-5420387**
- **GETTING THERE:** Follow the Coast Rd south of Wainuiomata for 10 km to Rimutaka Forest Park entrance. Campsite is 2.5 km past entrance.
- **ACCESS:** Stream ford and some gravel.
- **NOTE:** Gates open summer 8am – 8pm; winter 8am – 6pm.