

About Waiheke

Waiheke Island is in the Hauraki Gulf of New Zealand 17.7km (about 35 minutes by ferry) from Auckland. Of the Hauraki Gulf islands, it is the second-largest (after Great Barrier Island), the most populated and the most accessible by regular ferry and air services. Waiheke is the third most populated island in New Zealand, after the North and South Islands. Waiheke Island has a permanent population of around 8,000 residents. Much of the population lives close to the western end of Waiheke Island, at or close to an east-west isthmus between Huruhi Bay and Oneroa Bay which, at its narrowest, is only 600 metres wide.

Island Stats

The island is 19.3km long from west to east and varies in width from 0.64km to 9.65km, and has a surface area of 92sqkm. The coastline is 133.5km, including 40km of beaches. The port of Matiatia at the western end of the island is 17.7km from Auckland and the eastern end is 21.4km from Coromandel. It is very hilly with few flat areas, the highest point being Maunganui at 231 metres. The climate is slightly warmer than Auckland with less humidity and rain and more sunshine hours.

Location	Hauraki Gulf
House Coordinates	S 36.78618 E 175.04664
Area	92sqkm (36sqmi)
Length	19.3km (12mi)
Width	0.64-9.65km (0.40-6.0mi)
Coastline	133.5km (83.0mi)
Highest point	Maunganui (231m (760ft))
Regional Council	Auckland Region
Demographics	
Population	7,689 (as of 2006)
Density	83.58/km ² (216.5Å /sqmi)
Ethnic groups	New Zealanders

History of Waiheke Island

Discovered and settled by Maori approximately 1000 years ago, Waiheke translates to "cascading waters". Some Maori legends relate that one of the pioneering waka (canoes) to New Zealand came upon the island. The first traces of Europeans arrived with the missionary Samuel Marsden in the early 1800s, several years after Captain Cook passed by and acknowledged the island in his travels through the Hauraki Gulf.

Places of Interest

Signs of Maori occupation on Waiheke Island still exist today. Archeological sites are scattered over the island including more than forty pa sites, cooking pits and terraced areas.

Stony Batter Historic Reserve and Defense Complex

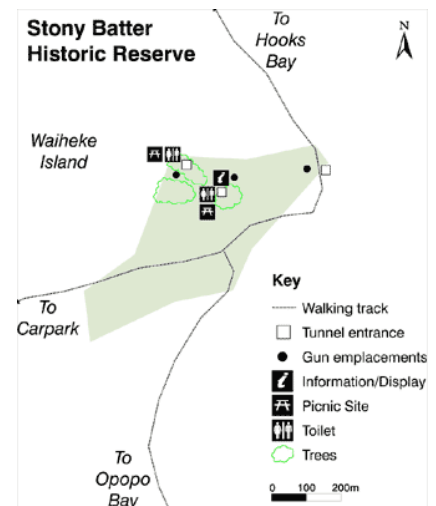
Located on the eastern tip of Waiheke is Stony Batter, a historic WWII defense complex that is accessible by walking through countryside with striking views of the Hauraki Gulf and Coromandel Peninsula. Stony Batter today is open to visitors to walk through the network of underground tunnels and chambers that link to magnificent gun emplacements. The purpose of the complex was to provide outer harbour protection in case of an invasion.

The area got its name from some unusual rock formations deposited as a result of volcanic activity more than 8 million years ago.

Stony Batter is a 10 to 25 minute walk to the tunnels from the carpark off Man O' War Bay Road. Look for direction signs.

Allow 30 to 90 minutes to explore the fort. Bring a torch for the underground tunnels. Guided tours and information are available on site.

The Stony Batter Protection and Restoration Society was formed to restore the Stony Batter defence complex. To find out more about their work or how you can be involved, visit their museum and information centre at Stony Batter.



THINGS TO DO

There is plenty to do on the "Rock" so have a look over the recommendations below and take a surf on the many sites about the island so you can make a plan. If you want adrenalin get on a mountain bike and check out the new trails or take a sky dive, if you are into nature the top end of the island has bountiful wildlife and if you are just into chilling out and relaxing then you must visit the vineyards and beaches.

The wine and food on the Island is so good we have dedicated a whole section to it - [check out the wine tab.](#)

Below are some links and recommendations.

try www.tourismwaiheke.co.nz; www.waiheke.co.nz; www.gotowaiheke.com; www.justwaiheke.co.nz

Beaches

You're right on the doorstep of Palm Beach, a 10 minute downhill stroll from Casa del Mar. Palm Beach and adjoining Little Palm are great swimming beaches for all ages - just be aware that Little Palm (far left of the beach around the point) is a well-patronised "nudie beach".. The surf at Palm Beach is generally low enough so that well-supervised littlies are quite happy, yet there is enough to keep bigger kids with boogie boards busy for an afternoon

The main beaches are:

Onetangi Beach - A 1.87kmlong, north-facing beach lining Onetangi. For many years it has been the site of the Onetangi Beach Races.

Oneroa Beach - located along the northern side of Oneroa township - the main shopping area. A favourite mooring spot for yachts over summer

Little Oneroa Beach - A small, beach at the east end of Oneroa Beach, separated by a protruding cliff wall.

Palm Beach - Similar in shape to Oneroa Beach (complete with protruding cliff wall on the east end, that separates a small, private beach), it gets its name from the mature phoenix palms at the east end.

Little Palm Beach - A small beach at the west end of Palm Beach, famed among nudists.

Blackpool Beach - The south-facing counterpart of Oneroa Beach, lining Blackpool, popular for kayaking and windsurfing.

Surfdale Beach - A beach on the southern side of Surfdale, separated from Blackpool Beach by a small, protruding peninsula. Also popular for kitesurfing.

Cactus Bay - Considered by many Waihekeans as the island's most perfect beach, and with nearby Garden Cove, a romantic place for picnicking. The beach is accessible only by boat or kayak, as its land access was blocked off by a private landowner.

Should you wish to venture further, there are many other smaller bays sprinkled around the island such as Rocky Bay, Sandy Bay and Enclosure Bay .

Boating

Waiheke is the perfect destination for boaties. For trailer boats, there are boat ramps at Matiatia and Kennedy Point. There are loads of sheltered bays for water skiing and wake boarding. If fishing and diving are your things, there are numerous spots. Check out Motohi Channel, Park Point, Thompsons Point, The Noisies and Hooks Bay. If you are an explorer, circumnavigating Waiheke is highly recommended. There are some fabulous bays only accessible by boat, especially at the south end and on the north-eastern side of the island.

If required, Waiheke has a Coastguard service - phone 09 372 8353

Island Walks

[Research the walkways](#) before you go. They are all spectacular and the varying levels will suit all.

Whether it is the quiet solitude and unique fragrance of the native bush or the stunning views from cliff-tops and headlands which appeals, Waiheke's walkways offer a diversity and tranquility rarely found so close to the city. There are many areas of historic interest and large tracts of reserve land. The numerous native wood pigeons are fascinating to observe and beautiful in flight. This information details the island's major walkways, and their side trips, which can either shorten or lengthen the walk, according to preference.



Things to do

A simple walk from the house goes around the coast from Palm Beach.



Key Events

Waiheke is renowned for the annual Easter Jazz Festival (book early!) which takes place at selected venues around the island over the holiday period.

The Onetangi Beach Races are horse racing combined with a family fun day held in late February.

More recently Waiheke has also started its own Wine Festival, usually held in February.

There is also the bi-annual Sculpture on the Gulf, fishing competitions and guided evening walks amongst other things! Check out any of the websites listed later on for further current information.

Other Stuff

Cycling

There is a new MTB trail and club now on waiheke. For keen bikers log onto <http://wmbc.co.nz> to get the trail maps.

Golf

For those keen to try their luck there is a local 9-hole golf course.. To book a tee time, call 09 372 8886 (Green fees \$20pp).

Movies

Don't go past the Waiheke cinema if you are keen to catch a movie while you're here - relax and enjoy the entertainment from a comfy sofa. It's located at Artworks in Oneroa.

Market

There is a wonderful market every Saturday morning until midday in Ostend, incorporating wonderful home-made spreads and chutneys, fresh vegetables, crepes, fresh breads and a weird and wonderful assortment of all kinds of "treasures". Always humming and worth checking out for the interest value alone!

Sundays bring the Ostend Farmers Market from 10-2pm full of quality produce and artisan goods.

Art

There are a number of large and small art galleries on the island - check out The Red Shed at Palm Beach (at the end by the bus turning point), the Waiheke Community Art Gallery in Artworks at the top of Oneroa and Rockit Gallery in Oneroa township under the Lazy Lounge



WINE AND FOOD



Waiheke has some of the best wine and food in the world. Make sure you visit some of the wineries during your stay.

In fact it is well catered for overall in the dining-out stakes, from quick takeaways to top-end dining. After extensive research our recommendations are:

RESTAURANTS

Cheap & cheerful - Lazy Lounge (Oneroa); Oneroa Fish & Chips, Adjadz Indian (Oneroa), Passage Rock (Te Matakū Bay)

Quality cuisine - Nourish (Ostend) - great for brunch, and on-season dinner, Vino Vino (Oneroa), Cafe da Stefano (Surfdale) - fabulous pizzas!

Splash out - Cable Bay, Casita Miro, Mudbrick, Te Whau

Vineyards

Go to our website to access the links to all these vineyards

Awaroa Vineyard

The organic Awaroa vineyards are situated on west facing slopes, nestled among native bush in the middle of Waiheke Island. Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon are the main varieties planted.

Cable Bay Vineyards

Cable Bay Vineyards is forging a reputation for crafting exquisite wines that are known from their subtlety, elegance and depth. Our commitment to growing outstanding grapes, combined with traditional winemaking techniques, produces appealing wines with layers of interest that evolve in the glass.

Destiny Bay Vineyards

Destiny Bay Vineyards is nestled in a small, wind sheltered valley. The combination of gently contoured slopes, a warm northern aspect, cracking clay soils, and meticulous winemaking practices, creates an ideal environment to craft Cabernet blends that are delicately balanced, full-bodied, and distinctive.



Island of wine & food



Edbrooke Vineyard

Jeremy Edbrooke has 3 hectares planted in red Bordeaux varieties, partly because it is a wine style that appeals to him, but also because it's a wine style that Waiheke seems most suited to.

Fenton Estate

Fenton Twin Bays Vineyard is perched on a north facing coastline property that spans two small bays separated by a peninsula upon which is the attractive holiday home of Barry and Meg Fenton.

Goldwater Estate

Goldwater Estate was established in 1978 by Kim & Jeanette Goldwater when they pioneered wine growing on Waiheke Island with the planting of the island's first vinifera vineyard. Overlooking the picturesque Putiki Bay, this 21 acre vineyard is renowned for its Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Chardonnay and more recently, Syrah.

Isola Estate

Isola Estate has its own unique vineyard, nestled in the 'Onetangi Belt', arguably Waiheke's best grape growing region.

Jurassic Ridge

Our small family run vineyard and winery, named for its geology, aims to make small quantities of premium hand-crafted wines from intensively managed Syrah, Montepulciano, Pinot Gris and Cabernet Franc. Our vines are separated by a thin layer of soil and clay from the eroded core of an ancient mountain ridge composed of massive sequences of folded and contorted Jurassic greywacke - a major feature of our terroir.

Kennedy Point Vineyard

Kennedy Point vineyard was established in 1996 on 13.5 acres at Kennedy Point. The property has beautiful north facing slopes and 1.5 acres are now planted in vines. Today, following sustainable viticulture and organic practices, the hand tended vines produce wines that reflect the essence of the land. Another 5 acres are planted in a variety of olive trees and there is a guest house and winery tucked amongst the giant old Pohutakawa.

Man O' War

This rugged and beautiful coastline was "Discovered" in 1769 by Captain James Cook, and today we take responsibility for maintaining its beauty and integrity for future generations.

Miro Vineyard

Established in 1993 on a spectacularly steep site in the Onetangi Basin, Miro Vineyard is a family affair. Wine makers Cat Vosper and Barnett Bond produce a range of silky smooth Bordeaux blends, a rose and the unique aperitif Madame Rouge.

Mudbrick Vineyard

The Vineyard is one of the most picturesque in the world. If guests tire of watching the vines grow, the view can certainly cope with the scrutiny! Guests can gaze over rolling countryside down to the waters of the Hauraki Gulf, scattered with Islands, and out to the distant City beyond.

Obsidian Vineyard

There's a well known saying among winemakers that great wines are made in the vineyard. At Obsidian, we certainly see our vineyard as one of the most important contributors to the quality of our wine.

Owhanake Bay Estate

Waiheke Island is renowned for producing world-class red wines and more recently white wines as well. Our vineyard was planted in 2000 and is producing superb wine. Our focus is on quality wine rather than volume.

Passage Rock Wines

Passage Rock Wines is set in the sheltered and tranquil valley of Te Matuku Bay, here we grow grapes to their optimum ripeness to produce World class Syrah, our range of white wines are fruity and people friendly, our reds are rich dense and full bodied. A must visit winery on Waiheke Island. In addition to our Te Matuku Bay vineyard, Passage Rock has vineyards in Oneroa and Rocky Bay.

Peacock Sky Vineyard

Peacock Sky Vineyard - planted 1999. Almost three hectares of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Malbec planted on an elevated, west facing site at Onetangi.

Poderi Crisci

Poderi Crisci is a small family owned vineyard. We have an Italian influence in style and a respect of nature with a minimal intervention on the wine making process. Our focus is on quality above all else.

Ridgeview Estate

Ridgeview Estate Ltd first commenced planting in 1995 and became a family owned business in 1999. Plantings consist of Chardonnay, Pinot Gris, Viognier, Syrah, Malbec and Merlot.

Saratoga Estate

Concentrating on being among the best wine producers on Waiheke Island, Saratoga Estate will continue with the highly acclaimed 'Rose', and introduce a reserve label 'Veritas'. Our recently built winery is an ideal venue to host private functions or weddings.

Stonyridge Vineyard

Stonyridge are dedicated to producing the finest Cabernet blend wine in the world (Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot). This involves meticulous organic viticulture and traditional winemaking.

Te Motu Vineyard

Te Motu is a huge Cabernet Sauvignon dominant wine with Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Syrah and Malbec. It is matured in wood for nearly three years and bottled aged for another three years before release. Intensely fragrant, richly opulent, pure in flavours of berry and plum with delicate spice, smokey oak and chocolate tones on palate end. Te Motu 2002 is released and available now, direct from the vineyard, at select fine wine stores and online www.temotu.co.nz.

Te Whau Vineyard

With breathtaking 360-degree views, stunning architecture, exquisite food and New Zealand's finest wine list, (including its own five-star wines), Te Whau Vineyard and Restaurant is a truly unique winelovers experience.

The Hay Paddock

This 12-acre vineyard in the Onetangi Valley, Waiheke Island, is planted in Syrah vines sourced from the Hermitage region of the Rhone Valley. Owners Bryan Mogridge and Chris Canning are industry pioneers who believe Waiheke and Syrah are the perfect partners for the production of a hand-made wine of the highest quality.

Topknot Hill Vineyard Waiheke Island Brewery

Topknot Hill Vineyard and Waiheke Island Brewery, situated in the beautiful Onetangi Valley, offers a selection of wines made from 100% Waiheke Island grapes and naturally brewed craft beers. Nestled amongst the vines are activities including archery and laser claybird shooting. Sample locally made products in our Taste Waiheke area.

View East Vineyard

Located at the Eastern End of Waiheke Island on Cowes Bay road near the small coastal settlement of Orapiu our Vineyard is situated on the ridge with breathtaking views out over the Waiheke Channel with Ponui, Rotoroa and Pakatoa Islands in the foreground, and the Coromandel and Hunua Ranges in the distance.

Woodside Hill

Our goal is to use the sheltered northerly aspect of our 1 Ha vineyard to produce a Waiheke Merlot/Cabernet Franc blend to be proud of.

Waiheke Island of Wine VINEYARD LOCATIONS



The Good Old Days

