

Explore Pohutukawa Coast Region

Driving map and itinerary



Spectacular coastal scenery, gourmet food and wine, and the Auckland region's largest native rainforest – all in one day.

Explore

- Take a morning stroll through the beautiful **Auckland Botanic Gardens**, just 20 minutes from the city centre. Walk among more than 10,000 plants from around the world, set in spectacular themed spaces – if you're travelling with kids, don't miss Potter's Children's Garden. There's something blooming in every season and the grounds are dotted with fantastic sculptures created by New Zealand artists. Best of all, entry is free. Beat the rush and get there early – the gardens open at 8am.
- Enjoy the scenery as you head to **Whitford**, about 20 minutes' drive from the gardens. Browse the boutique stores and stock up on gourmet olive oils, sauces, jams, honeys, cheeses and liqueurs. Tasting before you buy is part of the fun.
- A peaceful 12-minute drive and you're in **Maraetai** on the spectacular **Pohutukawa Coast**, named for the red-flowering pohutukawa trees that line the white-sand beaches in summer. Take a dip at Maraetai Beach – these days a popular swimming spot, the beach is also the site of one of New Zealand's earliest European settlements.
- Dry off and enjoy a picnic on the grassy verges or enjoy lunch at one of the cafés overlooking the beach.
- Your next stop is nearby **Duder Regional Park**. There are lots of walking trails to choose from – try the two-hour Farm Loop through rolling pastures



to visit the grazing sheep and soak up the incredible sea views stretching across to **Waiheke** and Ponui islands.

- From here it's a 10-minute trip along the magnificent **Pacific Coast Highway** to the charming **Clevedon** region. Amid the green pastures you'll find a number of excellent boutique wineries. Pop in for a tasting and buy a bottle of something special to take home.

- Finish your day with a visit to **Hunua Falls**, a 30-metre waterfall carving through ancient volcanic rock. The falls are under a minute from the car park, but if you feel like stretching your legs, take the half-hour Upper Lookout Walk through native forest alive with birdsong.
- From peaceful Hunua, you'll be back in Auckland's buzzing city centre in 45 minutes, ready for dinner on the harbour's edge or a night on the town.

Got an extra day?

- Play a round of golf at one of the local courses or pop into the **Clevedon Village Market** and **Clevedon Farmers' Market**, on every Sunday. Visit the French-style markets at **Pine Harbour** on a Saturday morning for artisan breads, warm pastries, seasonal and organic produce, handmade chocolates, charcuterie and gourmet products from France, Greece, Italy, Spain and all over New Zealand.
- For another dose of beautiful scenery, walks and views, explore more of the **Duder and Omana regional parks** or the expansive **Hunua Ranges Regional Park**, blanketed by the largest native forest in the Auckland region.

**Be responsible, be safe – always ensure you have a sober driver when visiting wineries for tastings.*



**FREE UPGRADE
ON A 3+ DAY
WEEKEND***



**Terms and Conditions apply*

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