

## Pre-visit preparation

### Weather conditions/cancellations

Safe passage of visitors to Kapiti Island is the responsibility of the boat operator. The boat operator will assess weather conditions early on the morning of the crossing.

*Passengers must contact the boat operator between 7 am and 7.30 am on the morning of the visit to confirm that the trip will proceed.*

### What to bring

Facilities for visitors are limited to a shelter, interpretation displays and toilets. **You'll need to provide your own lunch and drinking water, wear sturdy footwear, and bring warm clothing and a waterproof jacket.**

### Introduced animals and plants

Kapiti Island is a predator-free nature reserve. Please take care to ensure that insects, mice, rats or other animals do not stow away in your bags.

Weeds are also a threat to the island. Please ensure that your clothing, footwear and bags are free of plant material, including seeds and foliage.

*Visitors must inspect their bags before boarding the boat. Department of Conservation staff may also check bags to ensure the island remains pest free.*



Endangered, flightless takahē may be encountered at Rangatira and the north end of Kapiti Island. Takahē were introduced to establish a new population in a safe environment. *Photo: Jacqui McIntosh.*

## Take care visiting natural areas

New Zealand's backcountry is renowned for its changeable weather and rugged terrain. Be prepared for adverse conditions. Carry food and warm, waterproof clothing, even on short walks.

If you think there is a safety hazard in a conservation area, call the DOC HOTline or the nearest DOC office.

**DOC HOTline**  
**0800 362 468**

Report any safety hazards  
or conservation emergencies  
For Fire and Search and Rescue Call 111

## Further Information

For more information about Kapiti Island, visit our website [www.doc.govt.nz/kapitivisits](http://www.doc.govt.nz/kapitivisits) or contact:

DOC Wellington Visitor Centre

18 Manners Street, Wellington

Ph: +64 4 384 7770

Fax +64 4 384 7773

Email: [wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz)

For more information about recreation activities and conservation, see [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz).

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# Kapiti Island Nature Reserve

KAPITI COAST



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

## Kapiti Island Nature Reserve

Kapiti Island is one of New Zealand's most valuable nature reserves. Situated about 5 km off the west coast of the southern North Island, it's home to a number of native species that are either very rare or entirely absent from the mainland.

The island offers visitors a special opportunity to see these threatened species, including a number of native birds, thriving in a spectacular location.

Nature reserves are areas set aside for the protection of native plants and animals where human influence is kept to a minimum. The island has been free of predators since 1998.

For this reason, you must have a permit if you wish to visit the island; your chosen tourism provider will obtain the permit on your behalf.

*This brochure explains how to prepare for a visit to Kapiti Island and gives details of the authorised tourism providers who will obtain your permit for you.*

### Quick facts

- The island is 10 km long and about 2 km wide, covering an area of 1965 hectares.
- It is one of New Zealand's most important sites for bird recovery.
- The highest point on the island is 521 m above sea-level.



Rangatira boardwalk. Photo: Shane Hatwell.

## Arranging a visit to Kapiti Island

Two areas of Kapiti Island are open to the public:

- **Rangatira**, halfway along the eastern shore (maximum of 100 visitors per day)
- **North end** (maximum of 60 visitors per day)

Overnight stays are not allowed within the DOC-managed area of the island, but they can be arranged via a private lodge located at the north end.

### Getting to the island

In order to access the island you need to arrange and book transport and tours with one of the authorised tourism services below.

Kapiti Island is a popular destination all year round, especially in the summer. Bookings need to be made well in advance during the peak summer season.

*Kapiti Marine Charter—Ross & Fiona Leger*

Ph: 04 297 2585

Mobile: 027 442 4850

Freephone: 0800 433 779

Email: kapitimarinecharter@xtra.co.nz

Web: www.kapitimarinecharter.co.nz

*Kapiti Island Nature Tours*

Ph: 06 362 6606

Mobile: 021 126 7525

Freephone: 0800 KISLAND (0800 547 5263)

Email: bookings@kapitiislandnaturetours.co.nz

Web: www.kapitiislandnaturetours.co.nz

*Kapiti Tours Ltd*

Ph: 04 237 7965

Mobile: 027 248 1512

Freephone: 0800 KAPITI (0800 527 484)

Email: info@kapititours.co.nz

Web: www.kapititours.co.nz

*Private boats may not land at Kapiti Island Nature Reserve.*

### Boat departure and parking

Boats depart from the Kapiti Boating Club, Paraparaumu Beach, approximately 1h by car north of Wellington.

Visitors to Kapiti Island can park at the Kapiti Boating Club or in the car park across the stream from the club. To get to Kapiti Boating Club from the Paraparaumu traffic lights, turn into Kapiti Road and continue to the beach. The Boating Club is at the end of Kapiti Road.



A bellbird balancing on a harakeke/flax bush. Photo: Richard Gill.

## Your visit to Kapiti Island



When you arrive on Kapiti Island, you'll receive an introductory talk that covers safety issues, information about flora and fauna, and the history of humans on the island.

From there, the island is yours to explore via a number of walking tracks suited to a range of fitness levels.

### Bird spotting

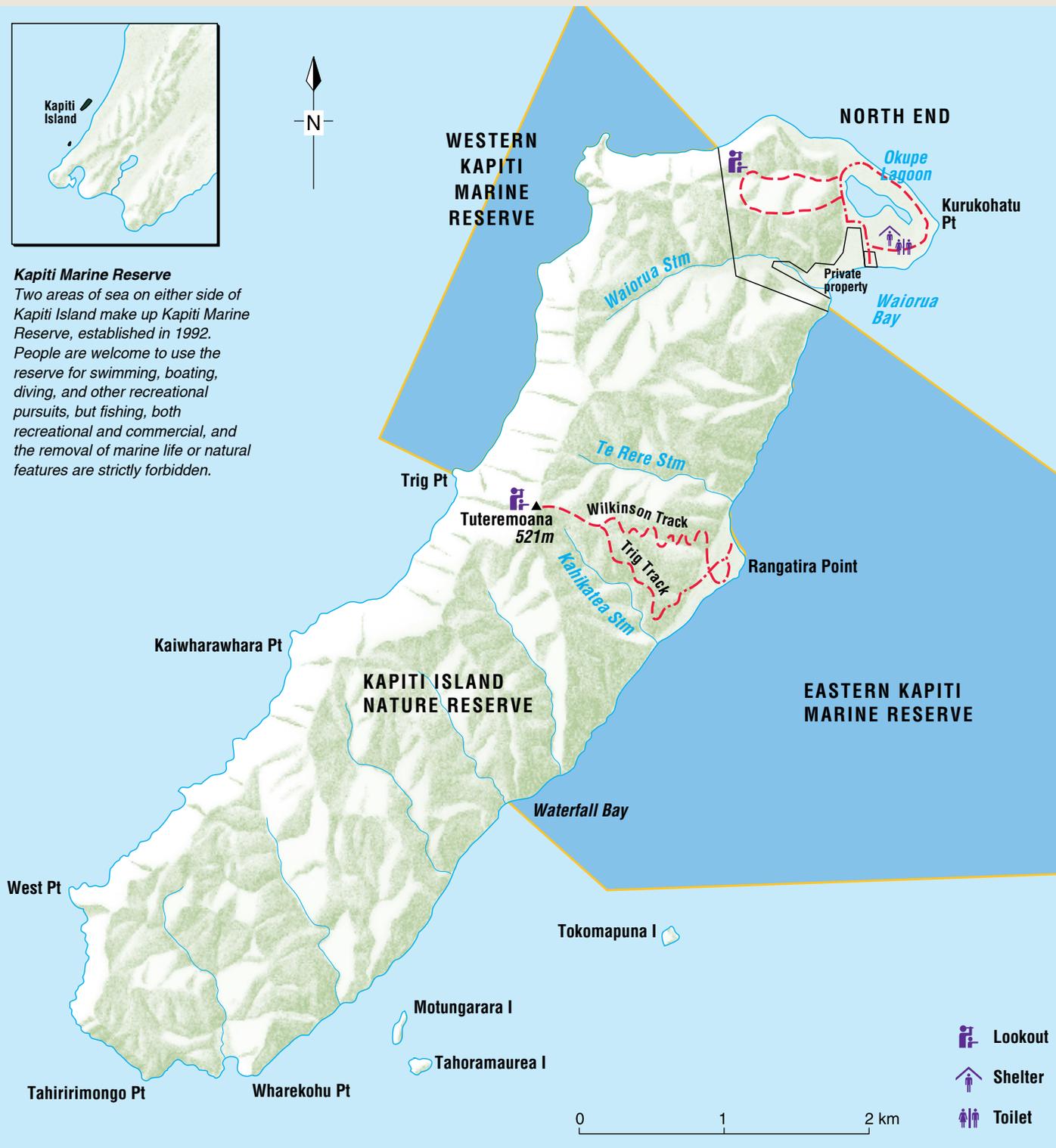
In the forest and shrubland you'll find tūī, bellbirds/korimako, weka, kākā, kererū and North Island robins. Saddlebacks/tieke, stitchbirds/hihi and takahē are also often seen.

Along the coast, you'll spot shag/kōau and gull species, white-fronted terns/tara, variable oystercatchers/tōrea pango and reef herons/matuku moana.

On the lagoon at the north end of the island, look out for scaups/papango, grey teals/tete and brown teals/pateke, black swans and royal spoonbills/kōtuku-ngutupapa.

### Please remember

- Keep to the marked tracks.
- Do not light fires. This includes barbecues and any form of cooking stove.
- Smoking is not permitted on the island.
- Everything on the island is protected, and nothing may be removed, including plant material, insects, lizards and birds.
- Do not feed or harass the birds.
- Please remove all your litter from the island and be ready to leave at the departure time announced by your boat operator.



# Rangatira

Take your pick of two walking tracks through the forest to view birds and the historic whare, the oldest building associated with nature conservation in New Zealand. A steep and sometimes slippery climb takes you through forest to Tuteremoana, the highest point on Kapiti Island at 521 m.

## Rangatira Flat

Rangatira shelter is a short walk from the landing area and nearby you'll find whaling tryptots—artefacts from the island's whaling history. Here you can explore the Rangatira wetland from the new boardwalk track.

## Wilkinson Track

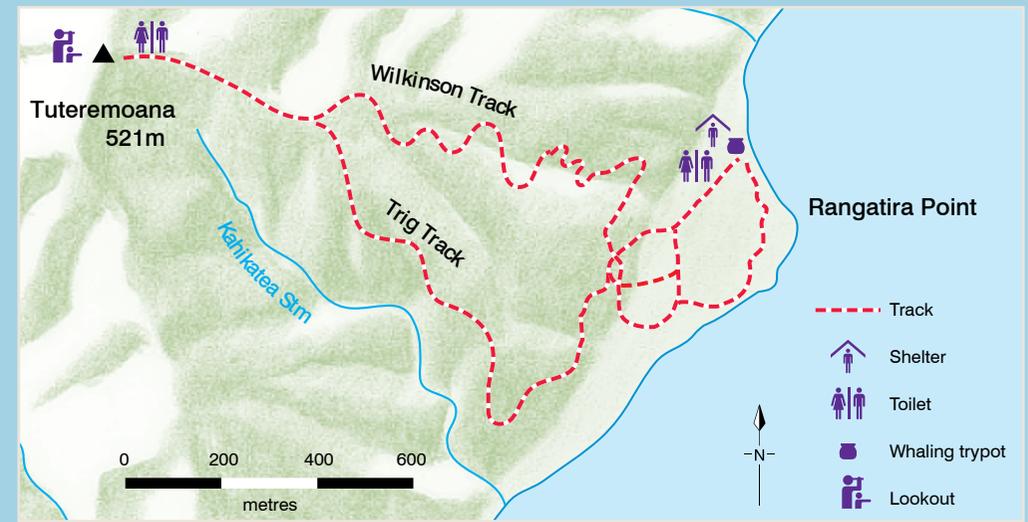
2 hr, 3.8 km to Tuteremoana. Well-formed track with a steady uphill climb. You'll pass a picnic area and hihi feeding station a third of the way up. This is an ideal track for all ages and fitness levels.

## Trig Track

2 hr, 2 km to Tuteremoana. Considerably steeper, with narrow, uneven sections. This should only be attempted by confident trampers with good sturdy footwear.



North Island kākā. Photo: Wendy Newton.



# North end

Walking tracks pass through grassland, shrubland, regenerating forest and coastline, and provide fantastic views of the freshwater Okupe Lagoon.

## Lagoon Walk

20 min, 850 m. All-year track to the northern coast of the island.

## Okupe Loop Walk

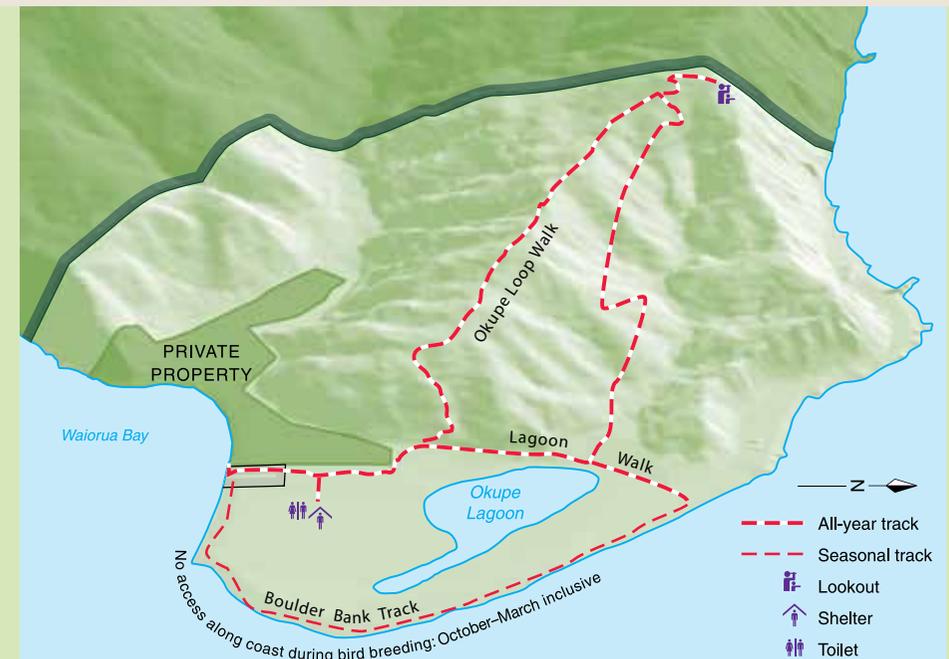
1 hr 30 min return, 4.8 km. Follows a gentle gradient to a lookout above the western cliffs (198 m).

## Boulder Bank Loop Track

Follow the coastline around the boulder bank. Closed October to March due to seabirds nesting.



Okupe Lagoon. Photo: Danny Parkin.



Oblique perspective of the northern end of Kapiti Island viewed from east to west. Not to scale.