

# The complete guide to camping on the Coromandel

Freedom camping rules  
and handy tips for visitors



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Visit an information centre or check out [thecoromandel.com](http://thecoromandel.com) for ideas on what to do, what to see and how to get there. Contact our Council if you have any questions.



# Find a paid campground

[thecoromandel.com](http://thecoromandel.com)

Destination Hauraki-Coromandel's website has listings for holiday parks and campgrounds, as well as baches, backpackers, bed and breakfast, glamping, holiday homes, hotels and resorts, lodges, motels and self-contained apartments.

[freedomcamping.org](http://freedomcamping.org)

Tourism Industry Aotearoa's website.

[campermate.com](http://campermate.com)

Download the CamperMate app.

[doc.govt.nz](http://doc.govt.nz)

Find a campground on public conservation land.

*Our fresh water is a precious resource so please use sparingly. Ask tourism operators about their environmentally friendly practices.*







## Department of Conservation

### *Te Papa Atawhai*

### Campsites and accommodation

DOC provides a range of accommodation options on the Coromandel Peninsula which include huts, two shared ranch-style lodges, a cottage and a bach as well as numerous camp sites. All are bookable online: [bookings.doc.govt.nz/web](http://bookings.doc.govt.nz/web)

The two northern Coromandel farm parks have five campgrounds: Waikawau Bay and Stony Bay on the eastern side, Fletcher Bay and Port Jackson on the north coast and Fantail Bay on the western side. There are campgrounds in the southern Coromandel at Broken Hills (Puketui Valley Road) and Wentworth Valley as well as ten campsites in the Kauaeranga Valley.

Bookings for Waikawau Bay, Port Jackson and Wentworth Valley are essential over Christmas and New Year. These and other listed campsites require online bookings, whereas Kauaeranga Valley campsites can be booked online or at the visitor centre there.

Resident managers, on site during summer months, oversee camp facilities, enforce camp rules and collect fees. Camping outside designated areas is not permitted. See [doc.govt.nz](http://doc.govt.nz) for fees.

## DOC CAMPGROUNDS LIST

### NORTHERN COROMANDEL

*(Please boil water before use)*

All Coromandel campsites are pack in, pack out - there are no rubbish or recycling facilities. Rubbish and recycling can be taken to our Council's Refuse Transfer Station (RTS) in Coromandel Town at 525 Hauraki Rd.

Check [tcdc.govt.nz/rts](http://tcdc.govt.nz/rts) for other RTS hours and locations.

#### Fantail Bay campsite

Campsite category: Standard

Facilities: Water from tap Toilets Showers (cold)

#### Fletcher Bay campsite

Campsite category: Standard

Facilities: Water from tap Toilets Showers (cold)

#### Port Jackson Conservation Campsite

Campsite category: Standard

Facilities: Water from tap Toilets Cooking shelter Showers (cold)

#### Stony Bay campsite

Campsite category: Standard

Facilities: Water from tap Toilets Showers (cold)

#### Waikawau Bay campsite

Facilities: Water from tap Toilets Showers (cold)

### HIKUAU

#### Broken Hills, Hikuai

Campsite category: Standard

Facilities: Toilets Water from tap

### WHANGAMATĀ

#### Wentworth campsite

Managed by a commercial operator

Campsite category: Standard

Facilities: Water from tap Toilets Cooking shelter Picnic Table Showers (hot)

### KAUAERANGA VALLEY

#### Booms Flat, Kauaeranga Valley

Campsite category: Standard

Facilities: Toilets. Dogs are allowed, on lead at all times. Open from Labour Day weekend until Easter.

*Continued on following page*

## DOC CAMPGROUNDS LIST [cont]

### Catleys, Kauaeranga Valley

Campsite category: Standard

**Facilities:** 🚻 Toilets 🪑 Picnic Table 🚰 Water from stream  
Open from Labour Day weekend until Easter.

### Hotoritori, Kauaeranga Valley

Campsite category: Standard

**Facilities:** 🚻 Toilets 🚰 Water from stream.  
Dogs are allowed, on lead at all times.

### Kahikatea Powered site, Kauaeranga Valley

Campsite category: Standard

**Facilities:** ⚡ Power 🚰 Water from stream  
There are no toilets in the campground as it is only for self-contained vehicles.

### Shag Stream, Kauaeranga Valley

Campsite category: Standard

**Facilities:** 🚻 Toilets 🪑 Picnic Table 🚰 Water from stream  
Open from Labour Day weekend until Easter.

### Totara Flat, Kauaeranga Valley

Campsite category: Standard

**Facilities:** 🚻 Toilets 🚰 Water from stream

### Trestle View, Kauaeranga Valley

Campsite category: Standard

**Facilities:** 🚻 Toilets 🚰 Water from stream

### Wainora, Kauaeranga Valley

Campsite category: Standard

**Facilities:** 🚻 Toilets 🚰 Water from stream

### Whangaiterenga, Kauaeranga Valley

Campsite category: Standard

**Facilities:** 🚻 Toilets 🪑 Picnic Table 🚰 Water from stream

### Billygoat Basin campsite, Kauaeranga Valley

Campsite: Backcountry

**Facilities:** 🚻 Toilets 🚰 Water from stream

Filtered water is available outside the Kauaeranga Visitor Centre.

Please check alerts and updates on tracks and facilities on the DOC website or contact the Visitor Centre on 07 868 9080 or [kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz)

For information on other DOC accommodation see: [doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/coromandel](https://doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/coromandel)

## DOC freedom camping policy

Freedom camping is permitted on DOC land, with a few exceptions. You cannot freedom camp in DOC-administered scenic reserves or recreation reserves (unless signs say otherwise), nor in areas where freedom camping is prohibited or restricted. Follow all signs and check the DOC website to see where you can and can't freedom camp. If you are unsure, contact your local DOC Visitor Centre. [doc.govt.nz/freedomcamping](https://doc.govt.nz/freedomcamping)

### Prohibited

The DOC website (search for freedom camping) lists all areas where freedom camping is prohibited and at the time of printing these included the following locations:

- Cathedral Cove carpark, Cathedral Cove Recreation Reserve
- Kauaeranga Visitor Centre carpark, Coromandel Forest Park
- Kauaeranga Valley Road end carpark, Coromandel Forest Park
- Muriwai Walk carpark, Port Jackson
- Waikawau Beach boat ramp carpark, Waikawau Bay Farm Park Recreation Reserve
- Waikawau Beach access carpark (west)

[doc.govt.nz/camping](https://doc.govt.nz/camping)



# Our freedom camping rules

If you stay overnight in an accessible public place other than in a campground, then you're probably freedom camping. We have freedom camping rules for all public areas that our Council owns or manages and you need to comply with these or risk an infringement.

## The big rule

You must be in a certified self-contained vehicle if you want to freedom camp. If you're a tourist and don't know if your rental vehicle complies, ask your rental company.

We have areas around the Coromandel that need protecting from freedom camping. Some areas are either prohibited to all freedom camping, or restricted with conditions.

If you stay in a restricted area these conditions apply:

1. Park only in the designated (sign-posted) area.
2. Depart by the sign-posted time.
3. Stay a maximum of two consecutive nights, unless otherwise sign-posted.
4. NB: some areas such as sports ground car parks have a further condition that: Notwithstanding restriction 3, all freedom campers must depart on Saturday mornings.



Certified self-contained freedom camping only.



Use this QR code with your mobile phone (you can download the app for free) It will take you to our camping page on our website.

[tcdc.govt.nz/freedomcamping](https://tcdc.govt.nz/freedomcamping)

*Be firewise - observe fire bans indicated on signage and at the Fire and Emergency NZ website [checkitsalright.nz](https://checkitsalright.nz)*



## Freedom camping on the Coromandel

We have three classifications for freedom camping on the Coromandel:

- Allowed
- Restricted
- Prohibited

*You must be in a certified self-contained vehicle if you want to freedom camp.*

### Allowed

For public areas that our Council owns or manages, freedom camping in a certified self-contained vehicle is permitted, subject to any other controls that may be in place.

### Restricted

Certified self-contained freedom camping is permitted, and the further conditions on the previous page apply. To freedom camp in restricted areas campers must park in the designated area, which is sign posted. For details and maps of the restricted areas go to: [tcdc.govt.nz/freedomcamping](https://tcdc.govt.nz/freedomcamping)

### Prohibited

Freedom camping is not allowed in prohibited areas under our Freedom Camping Bylaw. There are several reasons why an area is prohibited, including habitats for endangered species, need to protect public access to reserves, and for health and safety reasons. For more details and maps of prohibited areas go to: [tcdc.govt.nz/freedomcamping](https://tcdc.govt.nz/freedomcamping)



# Driving the Coromandel

The Coromandel is one of New Zealand's great road trip destinations. To review the status of State Highways on the Coromandel, please visit the Waka Kotahi (NZ Transport Agency) website, [nzta.govt.nz](http://nzta.govt.nz).

Waka Kotahi manages State Highways.

For updates our Council roads, go to our website [tcdc.govt.nz](http://tcdc.govt.nz) or our Facebook page [facebook.com/ThamesCoromandelDistrictCouncil](https://facebook.com/ThamesCoromandelDistrictCouncil)

## Information for drivers

- We drive on the left side of the road
- We have many hilly, narrow or winding roads that mean your journey may take longer than you expect.
- You must carry your driver licence on you at all times. If your licence is not in English, you must carry a translation from an approved translator.

## Dump stations

The following locations have dump stations where you can empty your campervan toilet and wastewater. Our Council locations are free of charge. Charges may apply at holiday parks where customers are not staying.

### THAMES/THAMES COAST

*Our Council dump station at Thames BP station, 100 Banks St, Thames.*

#### Dickson Holiday Park

Victoria St, Tararū

#### Te Puru Holiday Park

473 Thames Coast Rd

#### Tapu Creek Campervan Park, Tapu

285 Tapu-Coroglen Rd

#### Tapu Camp

723 Thames Coast Rd, Tapu

### COROMANDEL TOWN

*Our Council dump station at 115 Whangapoua Rd next to the water treatment plant.*

#### Coromandel TOP 10 Holiday Park

636 Rings Rd, Coromandel Town

### COLVILLE

#### Papa Aroha Holiday Park

1091 Colville Rd

#### Anglers Lodge

1446 Colville Rd

#### Colville Bay Motel & Campground

85 Wharf Rd, Colville

### KŪAOTUNU

#### Kūaotunu Campground

33 Bluff Rd, Kūaotunu

### WHITIANGA

*Our Council dump station at Abrahamson Dr, off Moewai Rd.*

#### Mercury Bay Holiday Park

121 Albert St, Whitianga

#### Harbourside Holiday Park

135 Albert St, Whitianga

#### Mill Creek Bird & Animal Encounters

365 Mill Creek Rd, Whitianga

#### Whitianga Campground

6 Bongard Rd, Whitianga

### MERCURY BAY SOUTH

#### Flaxmill

1031 Purangi Rd, Flaxmill Bay

#### Cooks Beach Holiday Resort

874 Purangi Rd

#### Hāhei Holiday Resort

41 Harsant Ave

#### Hot Water Beach TOP 10

Holiday Park

790 Hot Water Beach Rd

#### River Glen Holiday Park

& Campground

2436 Tapu-Coroglen Rd, Whitianga

### WHENUAKITE

#### Seabreeze Holiday Park

1043/1 Tairua-Whitianga Rd, Whenuakite

### TAIRUA

*Our Council dump station, corner of Ocean Rd and Paku Dr.*

#### Tairua Holiday Park

4 Manaia Rd

### PĀUANUI

*Our Council dump station next to Pleasant Pt boat ramp.*

#### Pāuanui Glade Holiday Park

58 Vista Paku

### ŌPOUTERE

**Ōpoutere Coastal Camping**  
(Oct – April). 460 Ōhui Rd

### WHANGAMATĀ

*Our Council dump station, Martyn Rd.*

#### Whangamatā Motor Camp

104 Barbara Ave



# RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

– “PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT” –



PLEASE DO NOT DUMP RUBBISH



IF YOU CAN'T FIND A BIN, OR IF THE NEAREST BIN IS FULL, TAKE YOUR RUBBISH TO ONE OF OUR REFUSE TRANSFER STATIONS

## LOCATIONS FOR DROPPING OFF YOUR RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

**Coromandel Town**  
525 Hauraki Road,  
Coromandel Town  
07 866 7616

**Matarangi\***  
101 Matarangi Drive,  
Matarangi  
07 866 5427

**Whitianga**  
237 South Highway,  
Whitianga  
07 866 2954  
*(new location on Moewai Rd opening in 2023)*

**Tairua\***  
3 Red Bridge Road, Tairua  
07 864 7639

**Pāuanui\***  
887 Hikuai Settlement  
Road, Pāuanui  
07 864 7949

# TIAKI PROMISE

— WHILE TRAVELLING IN NEW ZEALAND I WILL —

CARE FOR LAND, SEA AND NATURE,  
TREADING LIGHTLY AND LEAVING NO TRACE

TRAVEL SAFELY, SHOWING CARE  
AND CONSIDERATION FOR ALL

RESPECT CULTURE, TRAVELLING  
WITH AN OPEN HEART AND MIND

HOW TO CARE FOR NEW ZEALAND



PROTECT  
NATURE



KEEP NZ  
CLEAN



DRIVE  
CAREFULLY



BE  
PREPARED



SHOW  
RESPECT

TAKE THE TIAKI PROMISE, TIAKI MEANS TO CARE FOR  
PEOPLE AND PLACES

[TIAKINewZealand.com](http://TIAKINewZealand.com)

**Whangamatā\***  
2755 SH25 Waihi-  
Whangamatā, Whangamatā  
07 865 9723

**Thames**  
102 Burke Street, Thames  
07 868 9637

\* These locations have 24/7  
drop-off facilities for rubbish and  
recycling.

For all opening hour times go  
to [tcdc.govt.nz/rts](http://tcdc.govt.nz/rts)

## PORTABLE RUBBISH COMPACTORS

We have compactors for rubbish  
that we can move around to meet  
demand. Check their locations at  
[tcdc.govt.nz/rubbishcompactors](http://tcdc.govt.nz/rubbishcompactors)





# Ask a local

## Our local information centres

We've got many Visitor Information Centres on the Coromandel that can point you in the right direction.

You can also check the Destination Hauraki-Coromandel website for up-to-date information on events, activities and accommodation: [thecoromandel.com](http://thecoromandel.com)

### Thames Information Kiosk

Goldfields Mall | 100 Mary St | [thecoromandel.com/towns/thames](http://thecoromandel.com/towns/thames)

### i-SITE Whitianga

66 Albert St | 07 866 5555 | [info@visitcoromandel.co.nz](mailto:info@visitcoromandel.co.nz)  
[thecoromandel.com](http://thecoromandel.com)

### Whangamatā Information Centre

616 Port Rd | 027 311 4102 | [whangamatainformationcentre@gmail.com](mailto:whangamatainformationcentre@gmail.com)  
[thecoromandel.com/towns/whangamata](http://thecoromandel.com/towns/whangamata)

### Tairua Information Centre

2 Manaia Rd | 07 864 7575 | [admin@tairua.co.nz](mailto:admin@tairua.co.nz) | [tairua.co.nz](http://tairua.co.nz)

### Pāuanui Information Centre

23 Centreway | 07 864 7101 | [family-friends-fun@pauanui.co.nz](mailto:family-friends-fun@pauanui.co.nz)  
[experiencepauanui.co.nz](http://experiencepauanui.co.nz)

### Coromandel Town Information Centre

74 Kapanga Rd | 07 866 8598 | [info@coromandeltown.nz](mailto:info@coromandeltown.nz)  
[coromandeltown.nz](http://coromandeltown.nz)

### Kauaeranga Visitor Centre (DOC)

Kauaeranga Valley Rd, Thames | 07 867 9080  
[kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz) | [doc.govt.nz](http://doc.govt.nz)

For all enquiries call our friendly Customer Services Team on our 24/7 contact number, they'll be happy to hear from you:

## Phone 07 868 0200

*Offices in Thames – Coromandel – Whangamatā – Whitianga*

*District Office: 515 Mackay Street, Thames*

*Opening hours: 8am – 4:30pm (Mon-Fri)*



**THAMES  
COROMANDEL  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**



[tcdc.govt.nz](http://tcdc.govt.nz)