

Walk of the Month

Welcome to 10,000 Steps Northland's 'Walk of the Month'. Each month a stunning walk somewhere in Northland will be highlighted. If you have a favourite track or walk in your community, contact us by email at 10000steps@sportnorth.co.nz.

Decembers' Walk of the Month – **Shipwreck Bay/Tauroa Point (Ahipara)**

Summer is officially here and for many Northlanders that means spending time at one of our beautiful beaches. If you are heading to the Far North this summer, stop by Ahipara and take a walk around the rocks from Shipwreck Bay to Tauroa Point.

To get there, take the road to Ahipara from Kaitiāia (this is signposted on SH1). Once you enter Ahipara, head down Foreshore Road. You will pass several grass reserve areas which are great for picnicking and the only public toilets available for use as there are none at the start of the walk. Eventually the road starts to climb up a small hill and at the top, where you will also get great vistas of the bay and 90 Mile Beach, the road will turn into a well maintained gravel road for a short while that drops back down into the bay. At the end of the road there is a small carpark area next to the Te Kohanga campground or if you have a 4WD vehicle you can drive onto the beach. The area from the Te Kohanga campground gate to the rocks and waters edge is looked after by the Te Kohanga Trust and the area from the rocks onward by the Te Takutai Moana Trust.

The walk is only walkable 3-4 hours either side of low tide as the rocks become covered at high tide so check the tides beforehand if you wish to do the walk.

Starting your walk from the carpark, head towards the rock headland. Along the way you will pass the remnants of the paddle steamer "Favourite" which sank in 1870 giving the common English name to the bay – Shipwreck Bay. From here continue to walk around the flat rock headland. Be cautious if the rocks are wet as they may be slippery, and of the vehicles, dirt and quad bikes that also drive around the rocks as it is a popular recreating area for fishers, surfers, dirt bikers and beach goers.

The walk would also be great for the kids as along the way you can see many rock pools, sea life and interesting rock formations. If you are keen, there is also great sand boarding further around.



Pictured above – View looking down to Shipwreck Bay & Tauroa Point



Pictured above – View looking toward the sand dunes around Tauroa Point

The walk from the carpark to the first sand beach after the rocks is approximately 1,750 steps (1.4km) one way. You can continue on another 2,250 steps (1.8km one way) to get to the large sand dunes.

Enjoy another Northland gem!

*Pictured to the side –
view along the way
around the rocks*

