

## 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](mailto:10000steps@sportnorth.co.nz).

### January's Walk of the Month – **Matauri Bay**

It is the holiday season and what better way to spend time with friends and family to work off that excess food you may have eaten over Christmas, than to step outdoors and go for a walk. At this time of the year the opportunities are endless, however if you need a little inspiration to find a walk in your area you can view all of the past Walk of the Month articles on the 10,000 Steps Northland website under the 'Resources & Activities' tab. Another good site to check out is the Department of Conservation – [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz).

The walk this month takes us to the beautiful Matauri Bay and the Rainbow Warrior Memorial monument. To get there take the signposted turn off to Matauri Bay (Matauri Bay Road) from SH10. It is approximately 15km from the turn off to the Matauri Bay shop (a good cycle ride if you are staying in the area for a few days) at the top of the hill, and another 2.5 - 3km down to the beach carpark.

At the northern end of the bay is the Matauri Bay Holiday Park which is a popular holidaying spot. You are unable to park your car there unless you are staying at the campground. Visitors must park their car at the designated beach carpark.

The Bay is a beautiful long sweeping white sand beach flanked by cliffs and rocks at each end. From end to end it is 1,250 steps (1km) one way. It is a popular swimming, surfing and fishing area. It is also home to the Greenpeace Rainbow Warrior vessel that was re-sunk in the bay near the Cavalli Islands and is now a popular dive spot.

At the northern end of the bay on top of the hill, now stands the Rainbow Warrior Memorial sculpture which you can reach by walking. From here you will also get fantastic views of the bay and the Cavalli Islands.

The walk starts at the base of the hill inside the campground. From the beach carpark to the start of the walk is 520 steps (415m) one way. It is a short climb to the top from the base, only 420 steps (335m) one way, however it is steepish and the track is uneven in places so wear appropriate footwear. The stunning views at the top, is worth the short amount of huff and puff to get there.

Enjoy another Northland gem!



*Pictured above - Matauri Bay, looking down from the walk to the Rainbow Warrior Memorial*



*Pictured above - The Rainbow Warrior Memorial*