



# Hunua Ranges Regional Park



Falls Road.

## How to get there

The Hunua Ranges are one hour's drive from Auckland CBD. Travel south on SH1 and take the Papakura exit. Follow Beach Road across Great South Road and along Settlement Road. Turn right by Edmund Hillary School into Hunua Road. Follow Hunua Road through the Hunua Gorge to the Hunua village.

## Hunua Falls

Just before entering Hunua village, turn left into White Road, then right into Falls Road and follow this road to the Hunua Falls carpark.

## Wairoa Dam

Drive through Hunua village, continue for 8km and turn left into Moumoukai Road. Wairoa Dam is on the left about 1km along this road.

## Upper Mangatāwhiri

As for Wairoa but keep following Moumoukai Road to its end in the Mangatāwhiri Valley.

For public transport information: phone Auckland Transport **09 366 6400** or visit [at.govt.nz](http://at.govt.nz)

## Closed tracks

For the latest information about closed track visit [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/protectkauri](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/protectkauri)



Visit [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) or call **09 301 0101** for more information.



## Auckland Council manages 28 regional parks

For more information on any of these parks: phone **09 301 0101** or visit [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

## Please take your rubbish home

Your parks provide open space, fresh air, a home for native plants and animals, clean water, beauty and inspiration. Help keep them this way.

- No bins • No rubbish • Better parks •

## History

Māori used the hills and forests of the Hunua Ranges primarily as a source of food and timber, and as a refuge, rather than for permanent residence.

Rugged terrain, poor soils and difficult access meant this land was the last in the Auckland region to be settled by Europeans. From around 1870 parts of the forest were cleared for farming and for timber, but farming was always a marginal activity here.

The Hunua Falls have been a popular attraction for Aucklanders since Victorian times. Visitors would travel by steamer to Clevedon and take day trips to the waterfall.



Hunua Falls.

## Hunua Ranges Regional Park

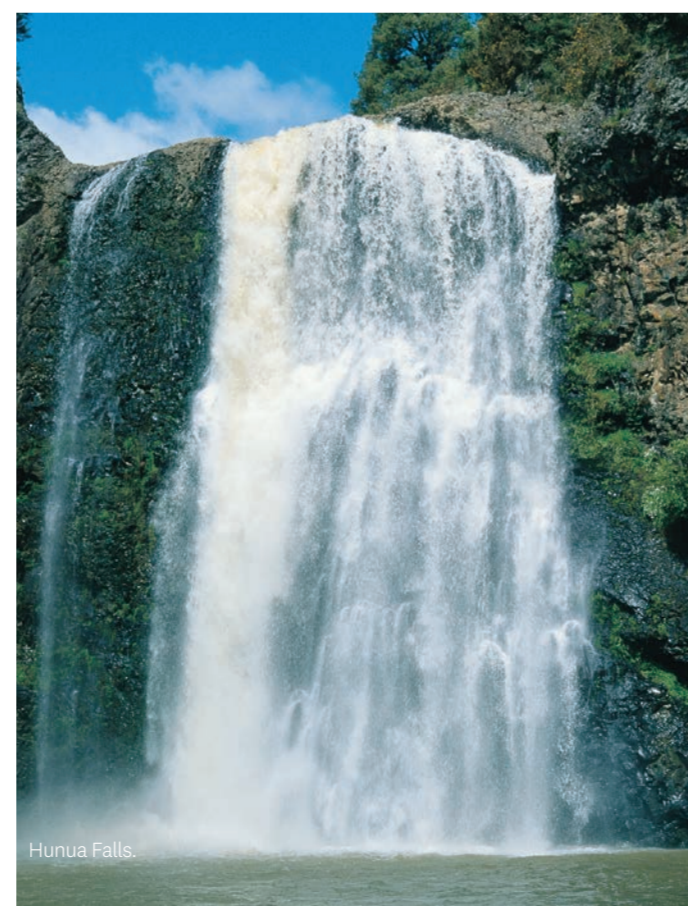
The Hunua Ranges frame the region's southeastern skyline and make up Auckland's largest forested landscape. More than 14,000 hectares of native forest filters about 2,300mm of rain annually into four dams, which supply much of Auckland's water.

The park itself features bush clad ranges with streams, waterfalls and magnificent views, tramping tracks and mountain biking. The Hunua Ranges are also home to Auckland's only mainland population of one of New Zealand's rarest birds the kōkako and is a refuge for the native Hochstetter's frog.

Two manganese mines have previously operated in the Hunua Ranges. During World War II, ore from a mine in the Moumoukai Valley was transported from the hilltop via a flying fox, to a railway on the valley floor.

However, water is the main resource taken from the Hunua Ranges. The four water supply dams include the Mangatangi Reservoir, which is New Zealand's third largest water supply dam and second largest earth dam. The extensive 169-hectare lake holds 37 million cubic metres of water and has an average daily yield of 101,100 cubic metres.

Auckland City Council began purchasing land in the Hunua Ranges for water supply purposes in the 1940s, acquiring almost all of the ranges by 1960. About 2200ha is planted with pine, that once harvested will be replanted with natives. Watercare leases this area from Auckland Council for the purpose of managing the catchment land to ensure the best possible quality of water enters the water supply reservoirs. Watercare is progressively reverting this land from exotic to native forest in one of the largest scale re-vegetation projects in NZ.



Hunua Falls.

## Plants and animals

The forest that covers the Hunua Ranges is home to an enormous variety of plants, animals and birds. It is special because it extends from sea level to heights of over 600 metres. The Hunua Ecological District contains 20% (450 species) of New Zealand's total native plant species, including more than half (over 100 species) of the country's native ferns and related plants. The ranges are also home to more than 600 species of fungi.

At 688 metres, Mt Kohukohunui is the highest point on Auckland's mainland and some of the plant species found near its summit are not found anywhere else in the region.

The Hunua Ranges are a haven for two special species – a legendary bird and a primitive frog. Thanks to more than 15 years of intensive pest control, the Hunua Ranges supports the only mainland Auckland habitat of the rare kōkako, which is renowned for its beautiful, haunting call. Māori legend has it that Maui returned tired and thirsty from a journey to the sun and was given a drink by the kōkako. As a reward, Maui stretched the legs of the kōkako (a weak flyer) so it could run and climb trees.

Today, Auckland Council and the Department of Conservation work together, helped by many volunteers, to reduce predators so the kōkako population is conserved and increased. The kōkako recovery area has also become home to the North Island robin and whitehead.

Hochstetter's Frog is one of the world's most unusual frogs. It doesn't make a noise and it doesn't have webbed feet. It is also the world's most primitive amphibian, a remnant from Gondwanaland. While this frog is found in the Hunua and Waitakere Ranges, you are unlikely to see it, as it is nocturnal, silent and extremely well camouflaged.



Kōkako.

## Dogs

The Hunua Ranges Regional Park is a great place to walk your dogs, or take them for a training run through the bush. However, please ensure you keep them close at hand and on their leash as this not only helps protect the unique wildlife that call the Ranges home from their curious snouts, but also helps maintain the forest health by minimizing disturbance of the undergrowth and potential spread of soil and kauri die back disease. To protect this unique environment and its taonga please also ensure human and canine friends stick to the tracks and refrain from exploring deeper into the bush.

Although most of the Hunua Ranges allow for dogs, there are areas where they are prohibited, such as the tracks around the Kōkako Management Area, within all campgrounds or near Watercare Dams, so please do your research while planning your trip. Maps outlining the different areas and dog bylaws can also be found in the Park noticeboards at Hunua Falls, Wairoa, Workman Road and near the Upper Mangatāwhiri Campground.



A young stand of kauri trees.

## Park facilities

### Prime picnic spots

Whether it is beside a dam, near a picturesque stream or high on a ridge, there are plenty of beautiful settings for picnicking in the Hunua Ranges. Find your own favourite spot or use the picnic tables provided at Hunua Falls, Wairoa and Mangatāwhiri.

Feel free to use the gas barbecues at Upper Mangatāwhiri. Please do not bring your own solid fuel BBQs due to the fire risk of disposing of the hot embers. This includes but is not limited to wood fire, coal and pellet BBQs. No open fires permitted.

## Accommodation

### Campgrounds

#### Upper Mangatāwhiri Campground

This campground is a great camping spot for families, located in a large grassy area with a stream to enjoy and lots of walking tracks nearby. It is an ideal place to take the bikes for the Moumoukai Mountain Bike Skills Area and the Mangatāwhiri mountain bike trails.

#### Remote campgrounds

There are eight remote campgrounds spread around the park accessed via tramping tracks. They have grassy areas for tenting with basic toilets and water.

Restrictions and conditions apply at some campgrounds. You can book up to six months in advance.

#### Educational group bookings

There are plenty of opportunities for large groups or educational programmes to utilise the campgrounds across the Ranges. For large group bookings or questions around potential education programmes please contact Auckland Council to speak with a park ranger.

#### Staying overnight in selected car parks

Certified Self-Containment (CRC) campervans, vehicle units and campervans can stay overnight for a maximum of two nights at Hunua Falls overnight parking area and Upper Mangatāwhiri overnight parking area. Conditions apply.

For camping information and bookings phone **09 301 0101** or visit [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)



Kauri tree on the Kauri Loop Walk.

## Lodges

Kōkako Lodge is nestled near Hunua Falls and is ideal for community groups, families or schools.

It has accommodation for 85 people with full kitchen and bathroom facilities. There are also facilities for kayaking and archery, a high and low ropes course, and an orienteering course. Phone Kōkako Lodge **09 292 4349** for more information.

## Stop kauri dieback

[kauridieback.co.nz](http://kauridieback.co.nz)

Hunua Ranges, Waharau, and Whakatiwai Regional Parks are currently under a controlled area notice that requires all users to ensure no soil, seeds or organic matter is brought into the parks. Please clean vehicles and equipment prior to coming and use all hygiene stations as appropriate.

Events wishing to apply for a permit in these parks will need a Kauri Dieback Management Plan. For further information call **09 301 0101**.

To check which tracks are open, visit [aucklandcouncil.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=090a929b13884cfdb17078f7bb41c8a4](http://aucklandcouncil.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=090a929b13884cfdb17078f7bb41c8a4)

## Volunteering

We would love to have your help with work in regional parks. Age and physical ability is no barrier as there are tasks and projects to suit all individuals and groups.

For more information on volunteering: phone **09 301 0101** or visit [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)



# Walking, tramping and mountain biking

The Hunua Ranges can be explored extensively on foot and in some areas by mountain bike. The feature walks on this page are a great introduction to the park with views, waterfalls, dams, native forest and its wildlife to discover.



Mangātangi Dam.

## Feature walks

### Hunua Falls Loop Walk

20 minutes, 800m

This is a great way to see the popular Hunua Falls from all angles and enjoy the surrounding forest. The track is clearly signposted from the Hunua Falls car park. The track climbs from the Wairoa River through beautiful lush forest, follows along a shady stream and arrives at an excellent lookout platform. Once you have soaked up the views, continue along the track as it loops through more of the forest and back to the base of Hunua Falls.

### Cossey-Massey Loop

3 hours, 8.3km

Combine the Cossey Gorge Track, Wairoa-Cossey Track and Massey Track to create this rewarding loop walk – a favourite of visitors to the Hunua Ranges. The track is metaled but still steep in places, winding in and out of the valley. Enjoy beautiful views, sparkling waters and impressive native forest, home to stands of mature kauri and other forest giants. The bridge over Cossey Creek is good place to take in the tranquil surroundings or take a rest by the streams edge where if your patient enough you may just spot some of the native freshwater species hiding in the shadows.

### Wairoa Loop Track

3 hours, 6.2km

The Wairoa Loop Track climbs from the south side of the Wairoa picnic site (off Moumoukai Road) to a lookout platform 1.5km from the entrance. The lookout is a short distance from the main track and provides magnificent views of the Wairoa Reservoir.

### Suspension Bridge Loop

1 hour 15 minutes, 3.9km

The loop combines the Suspension Bridge Track with part of the Wairoa Cossey Track. Start at the suspension bridge over the Wairoa Stream, near the car park on the Wairoa Reservoir Access Road (off Moumoukai Road). The walk takes you through lush vegetation, climbing to a spectacular lookout platform above the Wairoa Reservoir. Continue on the track to the junction with Wairoa Cossey Track. Turn right at the junction and follow the track back down to the road.

## Mountain bike trails

### Moumoukai Mountain Bike Skills Area

Park at the Mountain Bike Car Park on the left as you reach the bottom of Moumoukai Rd, and familiarise yourself with the lay of the tracks at the dedicated mountain bike noticeboard before warming up on the bike skills course but don't forget to help keep the forest free of Kauri Dieback disease by giving you bike a clean in the bike specific kauri die back station before heading into the valley.

### Valley Loop Track

1 hour 30 minutes, 14km

This easy grade loop follows Mangatangi Hill Road, Graeme White Road and Moumoukai Valley Road. Metal roads form a loop with shady spots for picnics and some good swimming holes in the river. You will need to cross Milne Stream at the end of Moumoukai Valley Road, then left onto Manning Road to return to the start. The best way is to start from the Mangatāwhiri car park and follow the river down through the paddocks to Mangatangi Hill Road.

### River Track

15 minutes, 2.6km

A medium grade track that detours off the Valley Loop Track 1km from the carpark. Take this track before the Moumoukai Farm Track.

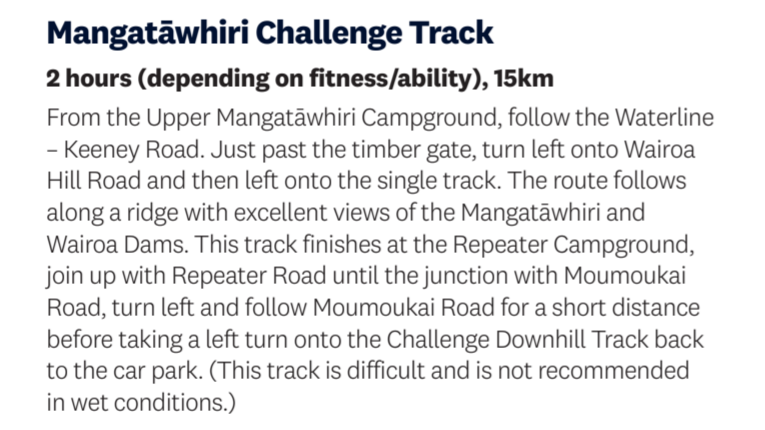
### Moumoukai Farm Track

1 hour 45 minutes, 15km

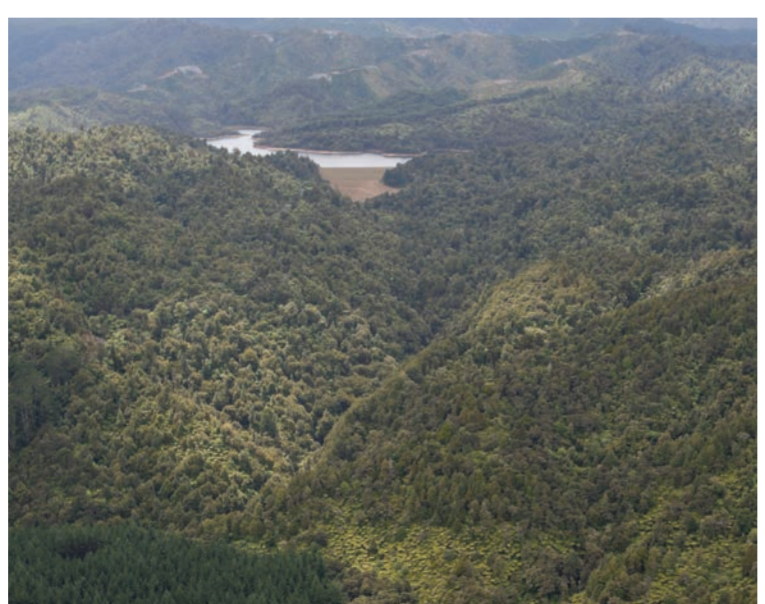
An intermediate grade track that detours from the Valley Loop Track, 3.5kms from the car park. Following the red markers, it winds through areas once cleared for farming where regenerating kākūka now borders the remaining paddocks. The single track crosses these paddocks and several small streams. You will need to cross Milne Stream at the end of Moumoukai Valley Road, then left onto Manning Road to return to the start.



Walking in the bush.



Alternatively continue down Moumoukai Road to the Upper Mangatāwhiri Campground.



The Cossey-Massey Loop takes walkers through impressive native forest to Cosseys Reservoir and back.



Key			



Hunua Falls Loop Walk.

## Remote tramping

The interior of the Hunua Ranges offers challenging tramps into remote areas requiring back country experience and navigation skills. These tracks should not be attempted without a detailed track map.

Remember to play it safe in the bush. Carry a detailed track map, warm clothing, food and drink, and always tell someone where you are going.

Do not attempt challenging tramps in bad weather. Remember to allow enough daylight hours, especially in winter.

## Ranger recommendations

### Tips on how to make the most of your visit to Hunua Ranges Regional Park.

#### If you have two hours...

Like many, you will want to make the Hunua Falls your first stop. Avoid the crowds by taking your picnic on one of the short walks or at the lookout off the Falls Loop track.

#### If you have half a day...

There is a great range of walks and mountain bike tracks that will give you an introduction to the park in half a day. The Massey-Cossey Loop is a great half-day walk, or go mountain biking in the Mangatāwhiri Valley.

#### If you have a full day...

You may want to take on a longer, more remote tramp into the inner Hunua Ranges. Make sure you are well prepared. Alternatively, for a more leisurely escape, head to the Wairoa Reservoir where you will find a picnic area on the edge of the dam, and a choice of walking tracks and lookout points to explore.

## Be safe in regional parks

### The water safety code

1. Be prepared.
2. Watch out for yourself and others.
3. Be aware of the dangers.
4. Know your limits.

### Land safety code

1. Choose the right trip for you.
2. Understand the weather.
3. Pack warm clothes and extra food.
4. Share your plans and take ways to get help.
5. Take care of yourself and each other.



International volunteers camping.

## Ranger contact details

Please be aware mobile reception is patchy across the Hunua Ranges and high points need to be sought. Coverage is not guaranteed.

To contact a park ranger use the phone at the information board at Hunua Falls, or use the phone at the car park near the Upper Mangatāwhiri Campsite. If using a mobile phone, call **09 301 0101**.



Regenerating forest.