

-  12 Point of interest
-  Route
-  Walking track
-  Swimming
-  Food
-  Cafe
-  Shop
-  Petrol station
-  EV Charging
-  Museum
-  Scenic views
-  Iconic photo stop!
-  Local favourite
-  Don't miss
-  '7 Stands of Kauri'

→ Kaikohe 54 KM
→ Paihia 88 KM
↓ Dargaville 81 KM

WAIMAMAKU

Drivers Tip:
Slow down and enjoy the scenery and fresh forest air through the winding roads of the Waipoua Forest.

If you have time to explore further, visit Rawene and Kohukohu which offer visible remnants of the pioneering days. Both were operational sawmill sites, with bustling populations centered on Kauri milling and are now home to a number of historic and heritage buildings.



Help stop the spread of kauri dieback. Clean your footwear and equipment and stay on the track. Also keep an eye out for kauri ambassadors who share knowledge about kauri trees, kauri dieback disease and Te Roroa Iwi Organisation



Did you know?

The kauri tree (*Agathis Australis*), is New Zealand's largest and most famous native tree. The kauri is related to the conifer tree and only grows naturally in the subtropical northern part of the North Island.



KAURI COAST



TASMAN SEA

Did you know?
The original masts from the 'Rainbow Warrior' now overlook Dargaville and the Northern Wairoa River located outside the Dargaville Museum.

Drivers Tip:
Keep an eye in the mirror and let the locals pass safely.



DARGAVILLE

↑ Omarepe 81 KM
↓ Maungaturoto 64 KM

Ripiro Beach



Gum Digger

Historic Kauri Logging Country

RUAWAI

Did you know?
The Kaipara Harbour is one of the largest harbours in the world. It covers 947 kms² (366mi²) at high tide.

KAIPARA HARBOUR

PouTo

Kaipara Harbour

Pou



ANCIENT KAURI TRAIL



Through farmland and villages the wild, untamed West Coast, to the peaceful shelter of the kauri forests, prepare to be awed by a journey of dramatic contrasts.

Follow the road through the Kumara Capital, and feel the sea spray on your skin as you reach the ruggedly beautiful West Coast beaches. Further north, the ancient living forests wrap their deep green embrace around you. These mighty trees have supported lives and livelihoods for centuries. But despite their immense size and strength, these giants are also fragile. Humans have harvested their precious timber and gum over the centuries, and have now come to protect these great guardians of the forest.

Yet still a few living links to our ancient past stand - tall, strong and proud - like the ships and masts carved from their sturdy timber. Ships that weathered wild storms, and carried people safely to far off places.

Follow in the footsteps of the kauri loggers and gumdiggers of days gone by. But tread lightly on your journey, for the time has now come for us to play our part in protecting these majestic icons.

1 Maungaturoto
Fancy yourself a modern day gumdigger? This cute and quirky village has the first of many great second hand stores along this route, where you can stop and dig for precious nuggets.

2 Paparaoa
Grand historic buildings like the former National Bank hark back to the glory days of this region. There are several good forest walks in the area too.

3 Pahi's Giant Moreton Bay Fig Tree
If you thought the only giant trees here were kauri, think again! This impressive Australian fig tree reaches nearly 30m high, with a canopy over 50m wide.

4 The Kauri Museum - Matakoho
Discover the fascinating story of our ancient kauri, and the people who have carved their livelihoods from these magnificent trees throughout the ages.

5 Ruawai
Ruawai has declared itself as the "Kumara Capital of the World"

6 Tokatoka Peak Viewpoint
In the pioneering days, the river pilot would climb this volcanic peak to watch for ships. Are you as fit as he was? See how quickly you can reach the top!

7 Dargaville
A treasure-trove of cafes, restaurants and shops, as well as an impressive museum housing stories of gumdiggers and shipwrecks.

8 Dargaville Rail & River Cruises
Take a boat trip on the Northern Wairoa River, or drive a buggy down an abandoned railway line, for a unique perspective on the kauri trading routes of days gone by.

9 The Kumara Box
You can't come to the Kumara Capital of the World without visiting the wacky world of Ernie the Kumara King!

10 Dargaville & Wairoa River Scenic Lookout, Pou tu te Rangi
The town, country and harbour views from the hilltop setting of the Dargaville Museum are amazing and makes for the perfect picnic spot.

11 Baylys Beach
A short detour takes you to Baylys Beach on the wild West Coast - NZ's longest driveable beach, and a top spot for surfing, quad biking, horse riding and fishing.

12 Omamari Beach
If you can resist the lure of the Kai Iwi Lakes, a turn to the left on the same side-road will lead you to stunning Omamari Beach.

13 Kai Iwi Lakes
Set back from the wild West Coast breakers lies a hidden gem - sparkling freshwater lakes fringed by pristine sandy beaches.

14 Kaihu Tavern
Wet your whistle while admiring this beautiful historic kauri building.

15 Trounson Kauri Park
An easy 40 minute loop walk takes you under the canopy of a thriving kauri stand, and gives you a sense of what untouched kauri forests were once like.

16 Guided Night Walk
Nighttime is when the kauri forests really come alive. Experience the incredible sights and sounds of the ancient forest and its native wildlife residents.

17 Maunganui Bluff
For the more intrepid, a hike to Maunganui Bluff will get you out in the elements, and reward you with spectacular views up and down the coast.

18 Waipoua Forest Scenic Lookout
For incredible views of the forest, turn off just after you enter the Waipoua Kauri Sanctuary and drive to the old forest fire lookout.

19 Tane Mahuta & Kauri Walks
Marvel at the ancient *Lord of the Forest* - Tane Mahuta, alive for over 2,000 years! Walk and discover Te Matua Ngahere, *Father of the Forest* and the Four Sisters, an unforgettable giant kauri experience.

20 Footprints Waipoua
Take a spine-tingling tour of our ancient trees by day, night or twilight, for a real sense of the spiritual connection with our oldest living treasures.

21 Hokianga Harbour
Sip a cool drink and quietly contemplate the ever-changing vista, as you watch the sun go down over the immense sand dunes from the deck of the historic Opononi Hotel.



Must Do's

Learn

A stop at The Kauri Museum in Matakoho is a must on your way north. The informative and entertaining exhibits provide context for the rest of your journey, and will enrich your experience of the kauri trees and the places you'll visit along the way.

See

Forget comparisons between height and girth. Every one of the kauri within easy walking distance of the road will leave you awestruck and humbled. Te Matua Ngahere, The Four Sisters, The Yakas and Cathedral Grove are all just as worthwhile visiting as the famed Tane Mahuta.

Dig

Dig for buried treasures at one of the many second hand stores, op shops and craft shops along the way. Keen treasure hunters should check out Maungaturoto Second Hand, Empire and Shop & Brew in Paparaoa, Ruawai Traders, Dargaville's Hospice, Lock Stock & Barrell and Lion of Judah, and Nelson's Ancient Kauri in Kaihu.

