



Photo: Cathedral Cove Dive & Snorkel

About the reserve

Te Whanganui-o-Hei / Cathedral Cove Marine Reserve was established in 1992 to protect and restore the diversity of the marine environment. The reserve protects 9 km² of shore and sea on the eastern side of the Coromandel Peninsula between Hahei and Cooks Beach.

Reefs of hard rock, soft sediments, intricate caves and underwater arches provide habitat for plants, crustaceans, molluscs and fish.







Getting there

Te Whanganui-o-Hei / Cathedral Cove Marine Reserve is located at Hahei, a 2 hr 30 min – 3 hr drive from Auckland. There is a visitor car park on Pa Road. You can access the marine reserve on foot from the Mautohe Cathedral Cove Track.

From the sea, kayaking around the coastline is popular on a calm day, and the reserve offers wonderful opportunities for snorkelers and divers to discover the underwater scenery and wildlife. Commercial operators in the area offer boat and kayak tours, and accessible tours are also available.

Know the marine reserve rules before you visit

All marine life and habitat within the reserve is protected. Breaking the following rules could result in your vehicle, boat and equipment being seized, a fine of up to \$250,000, and/or up to 3 months' imprisonment:

-  No fishing of any kind.
-  No taking or disturbing any marine life, including shellfish and seaweed.
-  No taking any part of the seafloor, including rocks and shells.
-  No feeding the fish as this disturbs their natural environment.
-  No discharging any waste, sewage or litter.
-  No exceeding 5 knots in a boat or jet ski.

DOC rangers monitor this marine reserve and enforce the rules. To report an offence, call 0800 DOC HOT.

This information was accurate at the time of printing. For the latest information on DOC's policies and facilities, visit www.doc.govt.nz.

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0800 DOC HOT
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For safety hazards and conservation emergencies

The marine reserve is supported by The Friends of Te Whanganui-o-Hei Marine Reserve Trust. For more information, visit www.cathedralcovemarinereserve.org.nz.

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COROMANDEL

Te Whanganui-o-Hei / Cathedral Cove Marine Reserve





Kina barren.
Photo: Glass Bottom Boat Whitianga

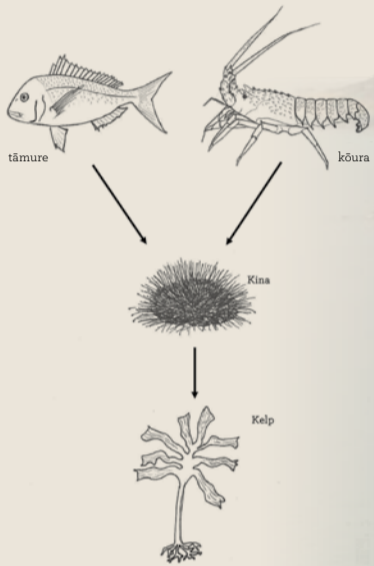


Healthy kelp bed.
Photo: Glass Bottom Boat Whitianga

Kina barrens

Kina barrens are areas of rocky reef that lack natural kelp cover. Kina graze on kelp and their population increase leads to dramatic losses in kelp cover. Kelp, such as *Ecklonia radiata*, is an important habitat and food source for marine communities, so when kelp forests are lost it affects the diversity and productivity of the whole ecosystem.

These barrens have become an ecological indicator for the overfishing of species that graze on kina, such as tāmure and kōura. Scientists have found that kina numbers increase when tāmure and kōura populations are reduced. Kina barrens are less common within marine reserves (including Te Whanganui-o-Hei), as natural predators such as tāmure and kōura have been able to recover.



Ngāti Hei iwi – guardians of the marine reserve

Te Whanganui-o-Hei Marine Reserve is part of the area first claimed by Hei, leader of Ngāti Hei, who arrived in 1350 AD on the *Arawa* waka. Hei settled his people in the area around Mercury Bay, asserting ownership by referring to Motueka Island as 'Te Kuraetanga-o-taku-Ihu' (the outward curve of my nose). The area was named 'Te Whanganui-o-Hei' (the great bay of Hei).

The descendants of Hei, as tangata whenua, still retain a strong ancestral and spiritual attachment to the site, and continue their role as guardians, or kaitiaki, of their rohe moana (coastal area).

Māori have practiced kaitiakitanga (guardianship) of natural resources such as kaimoana (seafood) for hundreds of years. The enablement of iwi guardianship over natural resources is central to DOC's conservation goals – DOC has therefore made iwi engagement and partnership integral to its management of marine reserves.

Meet the locals

There is a great diversity of life to see in the marine reserve. Here are some locals to look out for while visiting.



Tāmure/snapper



Haku/yellowtail kingfish



Kōura/rock lobster



Blue maomao



Clown nudibranch



Kōkiri/leatherjacket



Whai/stingray



Kaingārā/yellow moray



Kekeno/New Zealand fur seal



Sandager's wrasse

Photos: Cathedral Cove Dive & Snorkel



- Marine reserve
- Pā
- Parking
- Viewpoint
- Short walk
- Do not feed the fish
- Do not remove crayfish
- No fishing from a boat
- Public conservation land
- Picnic area
- Toilet
- Boundary marker poles
- Walking track
- Do not remove shellfish
- No fishing from shore
- No fishing with a net

What are marine reserves?

Marine reserves are areas of sea and shoreline where all marine life is fully protected. They are an effective conservation and marine management tool, that allows the marine life to thrive. The Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai (DOC) manages 44 marine reserves in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The benefits of marine reserves

As sanctuaries for all marine life, marine reserves create direct and indirect benefits for the whole ecosystem. Intensively fished species like tāmure / snapper and kōura / crayfish can recover, which in turn supports the resilience of the ecosystem. Sometimes these benefits extend beyond the reserve as fish and larvae 'spill over', supporting neighbouring habitats and populations – including some fished species.

Marine reserves also:

- ▶ give scientists the unique opportunity to study marine life free from fishing pressures
- ▶ provide educational opportunities for schools and visitors, helping to build awareness and promote the conservation of marine environments
- ▶ are great places for recreation – visitors can enjoy swimming, snorkelling, boating, kayaking and diving.

Did you know?

The coastline and islands around Te Whanganui-o-Hei were only formed about 8 million years ago from volcanic eruptions. These eruptions produced two kinds of rock, rhyolite and ignimbrite, and formed some amazing features both above and below the water.

Photos: Marie Everth

Stay safe in and around the water

The beaches at Te Whanganui-o-Hei / Cathedral Cove Marine Reserve are remote and not patrolled by lifeguards.

There are rip currents in the bay and there can be big waves. Boats and jet skis also sail in the bay and land on the beach.

Stay safe in and around the water by:

- ▶ watching for incoming tides and large waves
- ▶ visiting at low tide and when the seas are calm
- ▶ supervising children at all times
- ▶ staying out of the Mautohe Cathedral Cove archway when there is water in it.

Boating

Do not exceed 5 knots within 200 m of the shore or a dive flag, or within 50 m of any other boat or person in the water. Take extra care during the summer period as there are large numbers of people swimming, diving and snorkelling in the water.

Snorkelling and diving

Visitors to the area should dive in pairs. Snorkelers should wear a wetsuit and life jacket (or use another flotation device, such as a boogie board) when snorkelling in the marine reserve. This is particularly important for visitors who are not strong swimmers or not used to swimming in the open sea.

*Toitū te marae a
Tāne-Mahuta, toitū te
marae a Tangaroa,
toitū te tangata.*

*If the land is well and
the sea is well, the people
will thrive.*



Care for Aotearoa



Protect nature
Keep your distance and don't feed wildlife. Follow any rules restricting dogs, fires, drones or vehicles.



Be prepared
Stay safe in the outdoors by planning and preparing for your trip.



Keep NZ clean
Take all rubbish with you and use toilets where provided.



Show respect
Respect others, respect culture.



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



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OUR WAY TOGETHER