

NZ Mega Auckland 2013

Self Guided Auckland Volcanic Geo Tour



Auckland is also known as the City of Volcanoes, this unique landscape is dotted with 48 volcanoes, all within 20km of the city centre. These volcanic cones provide some truly spectacular views and can be spotted across the region by looking for the tell-tale tall green pastures.

We have listed some of the more easily accessible and the most visible volcanic summits, and of course there are many caches and earthcaches located at each one, just waiting to be discovered. This is a fantastic opportunity to experience Auckland's volcanic field, plus it is suitable for all ages..... so have a bit of fun and Happy Caching in Auckland!

VOLCANOES

The Auckland Domain is Auckland's oldest park and one of the largest in the city with 75 hectares centrally located in Grafton. It contains the remains of an explosion crater and most of the surrounding tuff ring of the oldest, **Pukekawa Volcano**, which erupted between 140,000-150,000 years ago.

List of caches:

http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC29DF6_pukekawa-geology-field-trip-auckland
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC2DNE2_the-geo-quiz-cacheauckland
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC1KN3H_the-absent-minded-professor-auckland
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC3FK93_it-was-a-piece-of-pies-auckland
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC1WB5J_captn-morgan-auckland

Rangitoto Island is Auckland's most iconic natural landmark, with its distinctive symmetrical cone and wide-spreading lava flow, just off the coast. You can explore by foot, where you'll enjoy a scenic ferry ride across the harbour and a walk through New Zealand's largest Pohutukawa forest, see the lava caves and be blown away by the breathtaking views from the 260 metre high summit. Rangitoto is Auckland's largest, youngest and most recently formed volcano erupting only 600 years ago, it ejected as much lava as all the other Auckland volcanoes combined. Amazingly, although the island's lava field contains no soil in the usual sense of the word, more than 200 species of native trees and flowering plants, and more than 40 kinds of fern and several species of orchids grow on the island.

<http://www.nzmegastore.com/shop/walks/rangitoto-island-friday-25-oct>

Mt Eden (Maungawhau) is the most prominent of the Auckland Volcanoes, standing at 196 metres, it is also the highest natural point on the Auckland isthmus. The volcano erupted from two craters 28,000 years ago, with the last eruptions from the southern crater filling the northern crater, the majestic bowl-like crater is 50 metres deep. You can drive or climb up to the summit for a stunning expansive outlook over the city and the Waitemata Harbour beyond.

List of caches:

http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC16BR7_mountain-of-eden
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC27099_music-in-tahaki-auckland
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC14P4Z_garden-eden-auckland

One Tree Hill (Maungakiekie) is the largest volcano after Rangitoto, it stands at 183 m high, with three craters. Its lava flow covered 46 sqm and reached the Manukau Harbour. It is also the most culturally significant volcano, the highest point is topped with a Obelisk, and the grave of Sir John Logan Campbell, the 'founding father' of Auckland City. With more than 170 constructed terraces based around three Maori Pa (fortifications), One Tree Hill is one of the largest former Maori settlement complexes in New Zealand, and has even been claimed to be the largest pre-historic earth fort in the world. The volcano sits amongst the beautiful grassy parkland and gardens of Cornwall Park.

List of caches:

http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GCB5A9_aucklands-panoramic-paradise
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC198CQ_maungakiekie-crater-auckland
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GCPBYK_no-tree-hill-auckland
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC20M94_amjc12-none-tree-hill-auckland
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC3R73D_over-the-rock-wall-auckland
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC2KMKN_cornwall-hydratechnics-auckland
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC4MHHZ_root-of-a-tree-auckland
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC22QWE_s-t-r-e-t-c-h-or-k-n-o-t-auckland

Mount Hobson (Remuera) is a 143 m high volcanic cone, located in the Remuera suburb, to the east of the shopping district of Newmarket, it has been extensively modified by human use, first by Maori for use as a Pa (fortification) and later by use as quarry and pasture land before finally having a water reservoir installed in its cone to supply the surrounding area. Mt Hobson is named after Captain William Hobson who was the first Governor of New Zealand and co-author of the Treaty of Waitangi.

List of caches:

http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC2KRYP_its-all-about-the-cone
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GCJ2RX_hobsons-choice-auckland

Mt Albert (Owairaka) is 135m in height, and is one of the many extinct cones which are part of the Auckland Volcanic Field. It was formerly the site of a Maori Pa (fortified settlement). Extensive quarrying has reduced the height of the scoria cone by about 15m and significantly altered its shape, but a few remnants of Maori terracing are still visible.

List of caches:

http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC31X3W_91011-5-owairaka-mt-albert-auckland
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GCMG7E_owairaka-auckland
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC11R18_where-arrows-fly-auckland

Mt Wellington (Maungarei) is a 135m peak, it is the youngest onshore volcano, having been formed by an eruption around 10,000 years ago and is the largest of Auckland's scoria cones. It was named after the Duke of Wellington and was used by the local Maori as a Pa or hill fort.

List of caches:

http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC3JC7E_mt-wellington-earthcache
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC2HRWW_duke-mt-wellington-auckland
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC43Y9M_maungarei-walk-auckland

North Head (Maungauika, the Mountain of Uika) is a volcanic cone forming a headland, jutting out into the Waitemata Harbour from Auckland's North Shore. The original scoria scone has been substantially altered, first by marine erosion and later by the various generations of people who have occupied the headland. It boasts one of the most majestic panoramic views across the harbour, islands of the gulf and over the city. From here, you'll see just why Auckland is known as the City of Sails, with a constant stream of boats of all sizes cruising by.

North Head is also famous for its history as a strongpoint for Maori, European settlers and the Military, during the first and second World Wars. Popular with locals and visitors of all ages, it's an amazing experience exploring the tunnels, gun emplacements and other fortifications.

List of caches:

http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC2BN95_game-of-soldiers-the-trad-auckland
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC2BN97_game-of-soldiers-pvt-jims-mission-auckland
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC2BN94_a-game-of-soldiers-turns-to-nato-auckland
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GCG468_a-game-of-soldiers-auckland

Mount Victoria (Takarunga) is the highest volcano on Auckland's North Shore, rising to 87 m. Its lava flows now line much of Devonport's waterfront. An important Pa once occupied its slopes, and some of the pa's earthworks can still be seen. Named after Queen Victoria, the hill provides panoramic views of Auckland's Waitemata Harbour and the inner Hauraki Gulf. Over the years the peak and upper slopes have housed a signal station for shipping, artillery emplacements, farmland, and various concrete army bunkers, some from as early as the 1870s.

List of caches:

http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC1JFKW_bring-back-buck-with-a-view-to-go-2
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GCHPX4_there-is-no-mountain-auckland

LAKES IN CRATERS

Some of the craters were filled with water, forming lakes and basins. **Lake Pupuke** (100-150,000 years ago) was probably formed by lava flowing back into a collapsed crater, which filled with fresh water.

List of caches:

http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC1GFDV_to-row-or-paddle-auckland
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC1GTGX_cache-by-the-crater-auckland
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC1MFAB_x-sierra-november-echo-1-auckland

Tuff Crater (or Tank Farm) is the name of a volcanic explosion crater in the North Shore, near the approaches to the Auckland Harbour Bridge. Its Maori name is Te Kopua o Matakamokamo, meaning 'the basin of Matakamokamo'. Matakamokamo is an ancestral figure in Maori oral tradition who, during a domestic argument, is said to have inadvertently cursed the goddess of fire, Mahuika. As punishment, the goddess called on the parent god Mataoho, who had the necessary powers, to send up numerous volcanic eruptions to plague the hot-tempered man and his wife Matakerepo. The two eruptions that were eventually fatal to the couple were said to be at the sites of what is now called Tank Farm and Onepoto Domain respectively.

Part of the Auckland Volcanic Field, it was created by a series of explosive eruptions. Although its age is unknown it could be one of the older volcanoes in Auckland like its neighbours Onepoto and Lake Pupuke. Originally a freshwater lake, it later became a tidal lagoon when the sea levels rose after the last ice age. Tank Farm is mostly in its natural state, though some parts of the Tuff Ring were quarried and its name stems from the petrochemicals storage tanks located here during World War II.

List of caches:

http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC484FY_tuff-crater-little-dipper-auckland
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC1KTBJ_tank-farm-lookout-auckland
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GCRP9F_tuff-enough-auckland
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC265N3_s-milee-another-one-for-you
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC20868_amjc07-harbourside-auckland

Orakei Basin is one of the volcanoes in the Auckland Volcanic Field, it has an explosion crater around 700 m wide, with a surrounding tuff ring. After erupting about 85,000 yrs ago, it became a freshwater lake that had an overflow stream in the vicinity of the present Orakei Rd bridge. As sea levels rose after the end of the Last Ice Age, the lake, which by then had shallowed to a swamp, was breached by the sea and has been a tidal lagoon ever since.

List of caches:

http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC27M2B_orient-express-auckland
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC10EY9_the-johnny-b-cash-auckland
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GCTY0F_orakei-basin-hideaway-auckland

The Panmure Basin, also sometimes known as the **Panmure Lagoon**, is a tidal estuary within a volcanic crater or maar.

Panmure Basin is no different from a number of other volcanoes in the Auckland Volcanic Field, (each with one or more scoria cones inside their explosion crater), except that Panmure Basin's small central scoria cone was buried. The age of the Panmure Basin eruption is in doubt, as the one radiocarbon date appears to have come from a much older Pleistocene fossil forest directly buried beneath the ash of Panmure Basin on the side of the Tamaki Estuary.

List of caches:

http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC17WYX_panmure-basin-kaiahiku-auckland
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC22NDF_last-post-auckland
http://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC13DC7_colossal-crater-cache-auckland

