Cool things to see and do on the Kāpiti Coast

1. Paekākāriki Escarpment Track
   Take in spectacular views of Kāpiti Island from high above the Kāpiti Coast on one of the region’s finest walking experiences. The 10km Paekākāriki Escarpment Track, part of the national Te Araroa Trail, runs from Paekākāriki to Pukerua Bay, and is for adventurous walkers that love stunning scenery. To find more details head to www.wellingtonregionaltrails.com/trails/escarpment-track

2. Queen Elizabeth Park
   This regional park protects acres of natural coastal dunes as a recreational reserve. From off-road biking, walking tracks through sensitive wetlands, horse-riding breaks in the park and on the beach, to spaces for large picnics. Visit the Wellington Tramway Museum and enjoy tram rides every weekend and public holiday (except Christmas Day) from 11am - 4.30pm. The site of former Māori settlements and Camp Mackay, home to 20,000 US Marines during WWII.

3. Kāpiti Coast Cycle Trail
   16.3km beach way off-road, paved trail from Raumati South to Te Horo, this trail is popular with cyclists, walkers, runners and horse-riders of all levels. The gradient is gentle and the paved surface makes it ideal for wheelchairs, prams and scooters. The path weaves along the edge of the expressway, around regenerating wetlands, linking the townships of the Coast. Combine with the 5.4km Te Aro a Whaeroba (Raumati South to Paekākāriki) and you have over 22km of off-road pathway to explore the Kāpiti Coast.

4. Raumati Village Boutique Shops
   The boutique shops in the seaside village of Raumati may surprise you - everything from homewares to fashion, designer labels (new or vintage) rub shoulders with gifts, flowers and French patisseries.

5. Paraparaumu Beach Market
   Running for over 20 years, the Beach Market takes over Maclean Street each Saturday morning, delivering fresh locally grown produce, baked and preserved goodness, and community spirit. Bring a big shopping bag!

6. Kāpiti Island Nature Reserve
   Only 5km off Paraparaumu Beach, Kāpiti Island is an un-fenced nature reserve unlike any other. Home to a huge variety of birds including a number of critically endangered species, the 10km long 1,965 hectare island sanctuary has been predator-free since 1998. Many bird and lizard species that are rare or extinct on the mainland are thriving on the Island. This protected haven is now home to NZ’s largest population of Little Spotted Kiwi – over 1200 birds! Boat trips run daily from the footbridge in the scenic Otaihanga Domain, an expansive tree-fringed park beside a shallow stretch of the river - ideal for water games in summer.

7. Tuatara Tasting Room
   The Tuatara Brewery Tap Room is a non-prententious, casual, and relaxed environment - fostering great hospitality. Everyone is made to feel welcome from beer connoisseurs on strict tasting business, to groups popping in for an after work pint or two, or enjoying a range of wine, cider and soft drinks. A visit to the tap room is a great chance to rub shoulders with award-winning brewers, and there are regular beer tastings with a range of ales and stouts. You can take a little Tuatara home with you too!

8. Southward Car Museum
   Housing one of the world’s rarest and most valuable vehicle collections, Southward Car Museum is considered the premier privately owned automotive collection in the Southern Hemisphere. The grounds include stunning landscaped gardens with a lake and bush walk. There are regular theatre and music performances in the Southward Theatre and exhibition facilities. Refreshments available from the gift shop.

9. Walkanae River Trail
   A walk, ride or cycle around the 10km (or smaller loops) tree-lined Walkanae river trail is a restorative experience at all times of the year. The river also acts as a “bird corridor”, which birds such as kākā and bellbirds fly through between Kāpiti Island and the Tararua ranges. Start at the bridge in the scenic Otaihanga Domain, an expansive tree-fringed park beside a shallow stretch of the river - ideal for water games in summer.

10. Walkanae Estuary
    The Walkanae estuary is a beautiful natural bird sanctuary, protected and managed by DoC and dedicated volunteers who are focused on restoring it. Over 100 bird species drop by or call the estuary and lagoons home. Easy tracks and boardwalks through wetlands and dunes will take you up close to the birds. Take a guided tour of the estuary birdlife with www.kapitiwildlife.co.nz

11. Walkanae Saturday Market
    Every Saturday morning, those in the know head to Walkanae Park for a great fresh food market. Local growers (fruit, flowers and veges), bakers, nurserymen and apiarists, coffee roasters, and olive oil producers put on a bumper display of their craft. There is something different every week.

12. Ngā Manu Nature Reserve
    The 14 hectare Ngā Manu reserve comprises many habitats, including the largest remnant of lowland swamp forest on the Kāpiti Coast. You can see tuatara, kereru, fantails and kākā. Volunteers offer free guided forest walks at the weekends and a highlight for children is the eel feeding every day at 2pm. Book into the kiwi night experience Thursday to Sunday nights for a chance to come up close with our national bird. www.ngamanu.org.nz

13. Ruth Pretty's Cooking School
    Pretty by name and nature, Ruth’s place is a foodie’s delight. Open Tuesday to Sunday 9am to 4pm, Ruth Pretty’s kitchen shop and Garden Room cafe is locally famous for its coffee and cake deal. Set in a rustic glass-covered outdoor area, it is the perfect place to unwind. The locals make a beeline for the Ginger Gems! You’re not a true foodie until you’ve graduated from one of Ruth’s Cooking school classes. www.ruthpretty.co.nz

14. Penray Gardens
    People will drive 50km or more to visit Penray Gardens, for the chance to pick (in season) strawberries, raspberries, apples, chilies, tomatoes, beetroot, courgettes, limes and more. Open November-June, they also sell their own gourmet sauces, relishes and dressings, plus award-winning local olive oil. Visit their Facebook page for up-to-date picking information.

Māoriland Hub
    The Māoriland Hub is a centre of excellence for Māori Film and Creative Arts. It is a home for the Indigenous, a home for the arts, a home for ideas and conversations – he whare tapere, he whare kōrero.  Open to the public year-round in Ōtaki Village, the Māoriland Hub is a creative space that provides access to the creative arts. Here you will find the Toi Matarau Art Gallery, the annual Māoriland Film Festival and so much more. www.maoirlandhub.co.nz

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Finding cool things to see and do on the Kapiti Coast

Beautiful beaches of the Kāpiti Coast

With 40km of sandy, west coast beaches each with their own character, you’re spoilt for choice on the Kāpiti Coast. From surfing to surf casting, to spending the day swimming, playing in the sand and watching the sunset over Kāpiti Island, there’s a beach for everyone.

1. Te Horo Beach
2. Peka Peka Beach
3. Walkanae Beach
4. Paraparaumu Beach
5. Raumati Beach
6. Paekākāriki Beach

Kāpiti Coast NZ

MAP OF THE KĀPITI COAST

2022

Kāpiti Coast NZ

KāpitiCoastNZ.com

www.kapitibirdtours.co.nz

Tuatara Tasting Room

KāpitiCoastNZ.com

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