Welcome to Te Ara Manawa Hobsonville/Onekiteitea Coastal Walkway

When you visit Hobsonville Point we hope you’ll stay and explore the 5km Te Ara Manawa – Hobsonville/Onekiteitea Coastal Walkway, that hugs the Hobsonville Point coastline. No matter your direction of travel around the loop track, there’s plenty to see at every turn – be it public art, historic buildings, picture-perfect views or native bush and open skies.

Iwi have gifted the walkway the name, Te Ara Manawa - Hobsonville/Onekiteitea Coastal Walkway, means a ‘pathway amongst the mangroves’ of Onekiteitea (Hobsonville Point). The name also refers to the heartfelt intent to care for this special environment and all those who come to visit.

Welcome to the walkway… ready, steady, explore!

1. Catalina Bay
Catalina Bay is set to become a new precinct which will provide a social hub for the Hobsonville Point community and an exciting new destination for Aucklanders. Stage One of four – the refurbishment of the heritage buildings – will be completed in 2019. Three further stages will include 60-80 apartments, shops, office space and fun, friendly places to eat and drink.

The area played an important part in New Zealand’s military and aviation history. Once known as ‘The Landing’, it was laboriously carved out of the cliff face by pickaxe in 1928 to create a sandfacing platform for boats and seaplanes.

2. HARRIER POINT PARK
Harrier Point Park, on the corner of Launch and Boundary Roads, is one of the point’s most magical spots. With stunning sea views and native bush nearby, it offers everything from fitness and play equipment to shaded grassy spots, barbecues and picnic tables. Soon it will also be home to a 10-metre-tall pied shag sculpture, offering those who dare to climb up to the viewing platform an int he heart to view on par with that enjoyed from a three storey building. Don’t miss this park and its hidden charms – just keep an eye out for Estuarine, the sculpture on the gabion wall at the bottom of Launch Road, and venture up the nearby steps to find the park.

3. Mata
Expect the unexpected on the section of the walkway between Catalina Bay and Bomb Point. Here, the path has been deliberately disrupted by mats (measuring 30m x 30m). The circular landscape features intentionally placed along the way. Drawing on the Māori concept of whakarere, meaning to distort, the Mata provides opportunities to pause, see the surrounding landscape and rest awhile.

4. Meadow Clearing
After a stroll of exploring, there’s no better place to recharge the troops than the Meadow Clearing. Pick up something to eat from the Catalina Bay Farmers Market and take a short stroll along the coast to the clearing, an open space surrounded by native bush. There, you’ll also find our habitat markers – large posts with assortment with an assortment of holes and hollows that act as a home to insects and birds.

5. Bomb Point
Bomb Point was once the site of New Zealand’s largest Air Force explosives depot – home to bomblets, torpedoes, missiles and more. Thirteen robust brick magazines (storeys) remain, testament to the extensive facility that operated here as recently as 2001. Following a Treaty of Waitangi settlement with Te Kawaeau a Maki, Bomb Point has since adopted its official name of Te Onekiteitea Point, referencing the kāinga (Maori village) that was once located on the peninsula and the white clay Maori sourced here. Today it provides a place to roam, complete with a fenced dog exercise area.

6. Rifle Range
Time it right and you might just catch a show as you pass the Rifle Range. The range, built in 1940, has been transformed into an amphitheatre and comes alive with regular community events and performances. Traces of its past as an Air Force weapons training facility can still be seen with bullet holes peppered across the walls. Many New Zealanders honed their shooting skills at this very same spot.

7. Testing Bay
Operated by the Kaipatiki Project, the nursery located in the former Air Force engine testing bay. Operated by the Kaipatiki Project, the nursery is the place where seeds collected from the surrounding landscape are grown into seedlings. Kaipatiki volunteers plant the seedlings back on the coast to regenerate the bush. The plant nursery also welcomes visits from school and community groups who are keen to learn about the nursery and its hidden charms – just keep an eye out for Estuarine, the sculpture on the gabion wall.

8. HOBSONVILLE POINT PARK AND PLAYGROUND
Hobsonville Point Park straddles Buckley Avenue and includes an award winning playground with sculptural play equipment based on seedpod forms. This is where you’ll find Catalina Café. On warmer days there’s picnic tables outside plus plenty of room to put out a rug under a tree.

9. Catalina Community Gardens
Hobsonville Point Park straddles Buckley Avenue and includes an award winning playground with sculptural play equipment based on seedpod forms. This is where you’ll find Catalina Café. On warmer days there’s picnic tables outside plus plenty of room to put out a rug under a tree.

10. West Sunderland Bridge
Grab a glimpse of Herald Island through the tree canopy. Just past the bridge, you may notice Fern trunks have been incorporated into the bridge’s design, providing a tangible connection to the surrounding landscape.

11. East Sunderland Bridge
Elevating them above the gully floor below. Fern trunks have been incorporated into the bridge’s design, providing a tangible connection to the surrounding landscape.

12. Saint Mark’s Chapel Memorial Garden
Just one metre from Te Ara Manawa – Hobsonville/Onekiteitea Coastal Walkway lies a carefully planted garden rich with symbolism. The native grasses and appinthus have been planted in the shape of a cross, marking the site where Saint Mark’s Chapel once stood. Built in 1942 to complement neighbouring Mill House, the former Hobsonville Base chapel provided church services for about 80 worshippers, local families and Air Force personnel for many decades.

While it was moved offsite in 2005, the role it played in the area has not been forgotten. Indeed, the memorial garden, commemorative plaque and adjacent bench seat all offer an opportunity to rest and reflect, just as the chapel once did on this very same spot.

13. Mill House
The grandeur and elegance of a bygone era are on display as you pass the historic Mill House nestled in its park-like grounds. The homestead, which was built in 1927, served as the home of aviation pioneers, Doug and Audrey Miles until the outbreak of World War Two when it was absorbed into the surrounding Air Force base. No longer the venue for boating and tennis parties, the house instead became part of the Hobsonville Point ‘Officer’s Mess.

Today some of our youngest residents enjoy the historic building, which has been transformed once more into a Bear Park childcare centre.

14. Chichester Cottage
Small and simple but with plenty of heart, Chichester Cottage has stood the test of time. Built in 1929, “the shack” provided accommodation for owners’ Doug and Audrey Miles while they constructed their much grander home, Windover. Now called Mill House, nearby. Once their home was completed in 1929, the cottage at the end of the garden became a guest retreat used by visitors, including the renowned British cartoonist and aviator Sir Francis Chichester, for whom it is named. The newly renovated cottage is now owned by the Hobsonville Point Residents Society and is available for hire as a community venue.

15. Old Wharf Lookout
Engage your imagination for your visit to the Old Wharf Lookout, a card-boarded viewing spot from which to view the site of Hobsonville Point’s old wharf and the harbour beyond. Although the original structure has gone, leaving timber posts and nothing more than the cliff face by pickaxe in 1928 to create a sandfacing platform for boats and seaplanes.

16. Marlborough Oval and Married Officers’ Houses
In days gone by, the Marlborough Oval was off limits except during formal Air Force parades. While we’ve kept the oval’s shape, we’ve transformed it into an informal place for rest and recreation. Bench seats offer a spot to soak up the sun while an adjacent pocket park and communal table provide many ways in which to enjoy this beautiful green space at the centre of the Launch Bay precinct available for hire as a community venue.