

# Oruaiti Reserve

## [formally known as Point Dorset]



### Facilities



Ferry



Parking (Along Breaker Bay Road or in Seatoun and walk along the eastern cliff face)



Dog walking (On leash)



Walking tracks



Swimming (Note: Nudist Beach)



Scuba diving



Fishing



Boating (Ramp at Tarakena Bay)



Kayaking



Bird watching



Look out



### Highlight

Oruaiti Reserve is the tip of the Miramar Peninsular. The peninsular is the body of the taniwha Whaitaitai who died while escaping the harbour. Climb to the gun emplacements or enjoy views of the spectacular wild coast.

### Description, values & significance

Oruaiti Reserve is the gateway to Te Whanganui-a-Tara (Wellington Harbour), consisting of eight hectares of coastal bush escarpment (steep hillside) at the tip of Miramar Peninsula (Motu Kairangi). Point Dorset is one of the pou tohutohu (signposts) guarding and protecting the harbour entrance. It was once part of the Fort Dorset military base, which has been closed since 1991. Enjoy stunning views south across the harbour, up the Hutt Valley and across to the Pencarrow Heads and Lighthouse.

### Accessibility/How to get there/particular time of year to visit

Oruaiti Reserve is located between Seatoun Beach and Breaker Bay on Wellington city's eastern coast. Access is from the Pass of Branda at Breaker Bay, Steeple Rock (Ludlam Street) in Seatoun, or Churchill Park and the play area (Hector Street) in Seatoun. Breaker Bay is served by a commuter bus (No 30) which runs on weekdays to the city in the morning and to the beach in the afternoon. There is no bus service to Breaker Bay in the weekend. You can also access via the ferry from Queens Wharf or Eastbourne which goes to Seatoun then walk to the Hector Street entrance at Churchill Park and the play area.

### Threatened species/species of interest

A great place to view vegetation common to Wellington's exposed coastal escarpments, dunes and rocky shoreline. Oruaiti Reserve provides habitat for some nationally vulnerable and declining bird, lizard and plant species and is an important coastal habitat for little blue penguins, oystercatchers and white faced herons. The peninsular was an island until geological uplift in the 15th century connected it to the mainland. This special place remains under the kaitiakitanga (guardianship) of the Taranaki Whānui iwi.

### Key threats

Breaker Bay is a highly modified habitat. The key threats are from a suite of weeds including pasture grass, ice plant, karo, boneseed, marram and cape ivy. Rabbits also pose a problem. Pests prevent native plant regeneration and threaten native wildlife, in particular, penguins and seabirds nesting at the site. Restoration is planned for the recreational reserve.

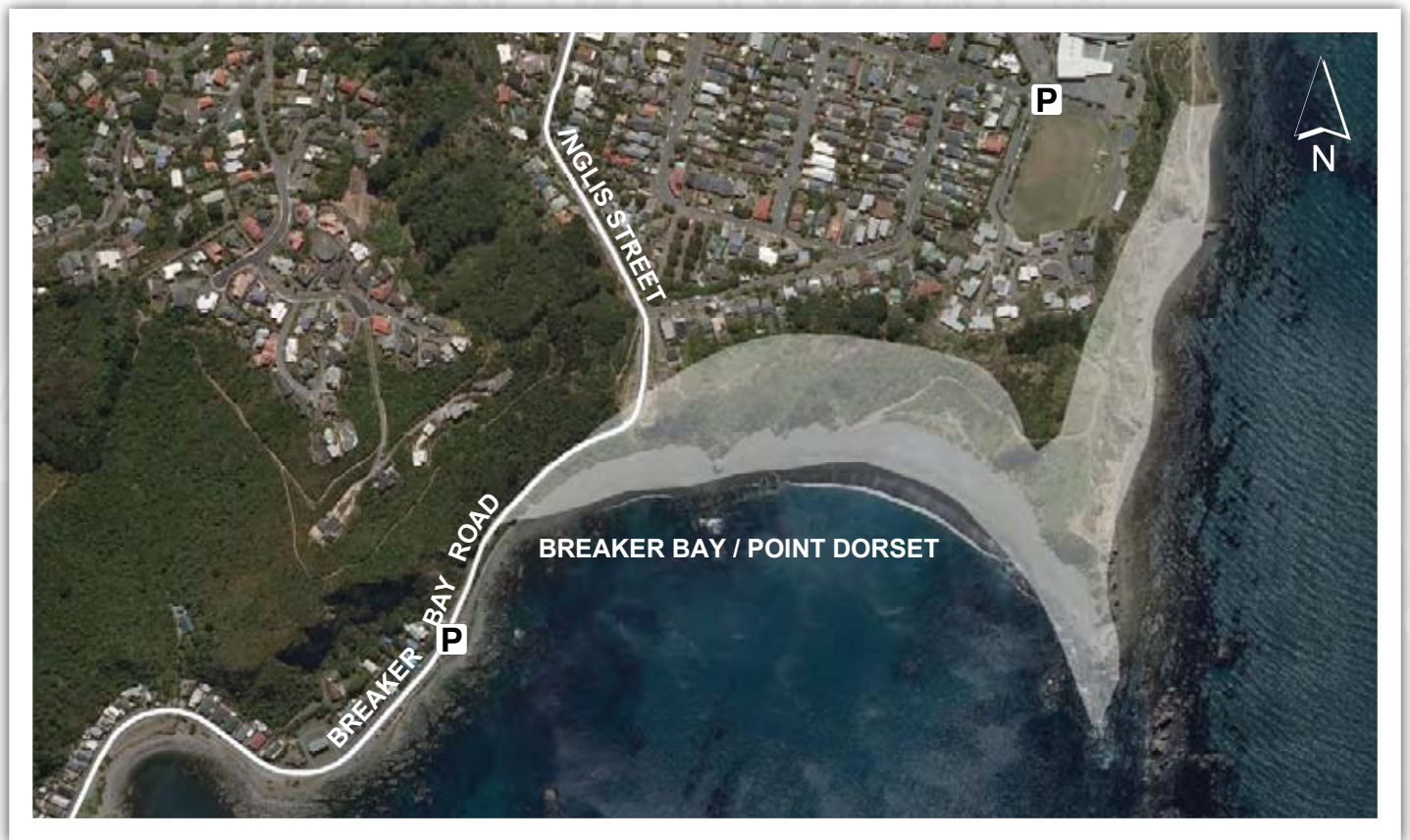
## Walks (length)

The Eastern walkway goes via Miramar Peninsula, the Pass of Branda, Tarakena Bay and also Point Dorset. Walking around to Point Dorset is under an hour, you can extend the walk along the Eastern Walkway on the opposite side of the Pass of Branda, down to Tarakena Bay and around the South Coast. There are many sites of cultural and historical significance around the reserve.

## Walks (grade)

The walk around Oruaiti Reserve is steep in places but easy.

## How to get there



## Manager

Wellington City Council and Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust

## Protection status

Recreation Reserve

## Community Involvement

Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust