

Red Rocks Te Kopahou



Facilities

 Parking	 Horse riding	 Kayaking
 Information (Owhiro Bay entrance)	 Swimming	 Four wheel driving
 Dog walking	 Scuba diving	 Lookout
 Walking tracks	 Fishing	 Bird watching (shore birds)
 Mountain biking	 Boating	 Water fountain



Highlight

Te Kopahou is a unique Wellington asset. Enjoy this popular diving and fishing spot or travel the rugged and picturesque coast by foot or bike to visit the seal colony.

Description, values & significance

Some say Red Rocks got their name after becoming stained with the blood of the fabled explorer Kupe when a paua clamped and cut his hand. Others say the blood is from Kupe's daughters who gashed themselves on the rocks in grief when he left on another adventure. Te Kopahou has 600 hectares of unique coastal vegetation, fascinating geology, and historical sites to explore, or simply admire the outstanding views.

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

To get to Red Rocks, catch bus number 1 to Island Bay and get off at Reef Street. There is a 2.5km walk to the start of the walkway.

The pedestrian and vehicle entrances to the start of the Coastal Track towards Red Rocks are at the west end of Owhiro Bay Parade. The road continues from here but is only suitable for 4WD vehicles. Note that the gate closes at night.

You can also access the reserve from Happy Valley Road (The Tip Track), the Brooklyn wind turbine, Wright's Hill and Zealandia.

Visit Red Rocks between May and October to see the NZ fur seals.

Threatened species/species of interest

Te Kopahou supports many plant species adapted to the Cook Strait conditions in its coastal scrub, tussock and scree fields, including some threatened species. Lizards and birdlife (banded dotterel, shags, gannets and reef herons) and even the rare speargrass weevil all make a home here. Birds more commonly found inland can also be observed. Sinclair Head is a winter 'haul out' area for New Zealand fur seals fattening up ready for the breeding season.

Key threats

Dense scrub including taupata, stunted karaka, and manuka would once have dominated but deforestation, intensive browsing, fire, quarrying and pest animals have destabilised many cliff faces and altered the plant and animal community that once existed here reducing its suitability as a foraging and nesting site for shore birds.

Walks (length)

A variety of walks are available, from 1-6 hours. A 30 to 40 minute coastal walk leads from Owhiro Bay to the Red Rocks (Pari-where). The coastal walk continues on to Sinclair Head, where there is a New Zealand fur seal colony.

How to get there

Walks (grade)

Contains walks to suit all levels - easy, average or demanding, depending on which walk you choose.

Manager

Wellington City Council

Protection status

Red Rocks - Scientific reserve

Te Kopahou - Recreation Reserve *(there is a proposal to turn Te Kopahou into a Scenic Reserve but that might not be until late 2012)*

