

Taputeranga Marine Reserve



Facilities



Bus



Dog walking
(On leash)



Kayaking



Parking



Walking



Bird watching



Toilets + changing
rooms at Princess Bay
(In places along shore)



Swimming



Cafe
(the Bach Café - along
The Esplanade between
Island Bay and Owhiro
Bay)



Wheelchair accessible
(Along the shore)



Snorkelling and
scuba diving: visit
the rock pools



Surfing
(Houghton Bay)



Pram accessible
(Along the shore)



Boating



Photo Credit: Steve Journée

Highlight

Encompassing Houghton Bay, Island Bay, Owhiro Bay and Taputeranga Island there is plenty to do. Beach comb the rock pools, snorkel the trail, swim the Snorkel Trail, dive the marine reserve anywhere along the coast, the scuttled F69, the wreck of the Yung Penn or stay dry and bird watch.

Description, values & significance

Created in August 2008, the Taputeranga Marine Reserve is 854 hectares of easily accessible marine habitat located on Wellington's doorstep. The reserve takes the full force of the southern ocean swells and lies in the confluence of three oceanic currents that shape the exposed shoreline and bring a rich mix of plants and animals together. The reserve hosts the Victoria University's Coastal Ecology Lab and the Island Bay Marine Education Centre. There are already measurable differences in the size and number of major fish and invertebrate species, and this effect will increase further over time.

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

Taputeranga Marine Reserve is located 6km from the Wellington city centre on Wellington's south coast. You can access Taputeranga Marine Reserve at any point from Te Raekaihau Point to Owhiro Bay Road, with parking at various points along this road. Island Bay is a central point from which to access the Reserve. There is a bus stop right at the Snorkel Trail, on the eastern side of Island Bay, opposite 194 The Esplanade. The marine reserve is best visited in a northerly, as it takes the brunt of southerly winds.

Threatened species/species of interest

Over 180 fish species have been recorded on Wellington's south coast including butterfish, blue moki, blue cod, banded wrasse, common and variable triplefin, spotties, seahorse, long-tailed stingray, and occasionally snapper. The area is particularly rich in invertebrates (animals without backbones). Octopus, rock lobsters, crabs, shellfish, worms, starfish, sea anemones, sea sponges and sea squirts thrive in the rich currents, and almost half of New Zealand's 850 seaweed species are here.

Key threats

Key threats to the marine reserve are development and pollution through streams, storm water and sewage outlets. These discharges carry harmful chemicals and toxins directly into the reserve. Free from the pressures of fishing in the marine reserves fish populations can thrive and become a valuable source population of many species, enhancing fisheries outside the reserve. Report anyone seen fishing in the reserve to the DOC hotline 0800 362 468.

Walks (length)

You can walk along the 5km edge of the marine reserve. For a more aquatic experience a snorkel trail has been developed at the eastern end of Island Bay, towards Elsdon Point, but there is great snorkelling throughout the coast, including at Princess Bay and at the Sirens.

Walks (grade)

The walk around the edge of the reserve is easy and relatively flat.

How to get there

Manager

Department of Conservation

Protection status

Full no take Marine Reserve: no fishing, no removal of seaweed, fish or any marine life forms, no netting, taking, killing, or disturbance, no polluting or littering.

Community Involvement

Friends of Taputeranga Marine Reserve.

Go to www.taputeranga.org.nz

