



TITAHI BAY MURALS WALKING TOUR



What is this walking tour all about?









Follow our walking tour to view some of the community art murals in Titahi Bay. You can start anywhere in the loop but the best car parking is on Bay Drive near the northern beach entrance. All these murals were created by local artists or ones with very strong links to Titahi Bay. Children might like to keep an eye out for the elusive Titahi Bay fairy doors that sometimes appear in this suburb! (The boxes are for ticking off successful observations)

How long will it take?

The whole loop will take between 1- 2 hrs depending on walking speed and viewing stops required, but you will be well rewarded with wonderful views and interesting historical and geographic features along the way. The loop can be shortened in various ways or done in separate events for those who need to start with something shorter. There are also opportunities to grab an icecream or coffee along the way and if you follow the suggested route it finishes next to a café! Enjoy!

The route

- From the car park in Bay Drive head towards the beach. Just past the toilets is the start of the high tide track or the navigators walk. Enjoy the beautiful glimpse of the beach and mana and the South island framed by flaxes and coastal forest. These views wouldn't have changed much from those seen by the four explorers depicted by four pou along the track.
- When you reach the zig zag concrete path up the hill take it and join the walkway in front of the cliff-top houses heading south.
- Just as you reach the turnaround on beach Rd turn left down a walkway. This walkway has been planted with thousands of swan plants (and hence lots of Monarch butterfly's in season) by local butterfly enthusiast Isobel Jackson.
- **(Mural #1)** Xoe Halls 4 piece monarch butterfly mural celebrates Isobel's efforts to beautify this public space in her neighbourhood.

- Carry on to the end of the walkway and turn left, heading towards the tennis club. At the tennis club turn right and out into Main rd.
- Cross the road at the safe crossing point and straight ahead is a walkway to Jillett Park (William Jillett was an early Titahi Bay farmer and ran a horse drawn coach service to Porirua)
- As you pass the children's playground, on your left is **(Mural #2)**  Antz June, a local graph artist celebrated the park in his street art style (entirely using spray can) in 2014
- Carry on through the park then turn left into Jillett St. 40 m up the road is Antz second mural on this walk. **(Mural #3)**  In 2012 Antz decorated the shopping centre depicting iconic Titahi Bay land and seascapes.
- Cross the road and head down Mana Ave until the corner with Kapiti Cres .
- **(Mural #4)**  A number of panels were put up on the Whitford-Brown Community Trust Building in Feb 2015. (The trust provides social and vocational activities and training for people with intellectual disabilities – (If you are passing between 10am and 2pm - feel free to drop in and meet the community that work here). The artists were Titahi Bay local, Tracey Waters and long -time Whitiriria polytech art tutor, Rudy Lopez.
- Continue down Mana Ave to Dimock St, turn right and enjoy **(Mural #5)**  Ruth Robertson Taylor's Jan 2015 work on the corner dairy. (This building used to be one of two independent petrol stations in Titahi Bay). Ruth has lived in 'The Bay' for 8 years and is always inspired by her wonderful views of Mana Island.
- Head along Main Rd back towards the beach. **(Mural #6)**  On your left you will notice the RSA and its mural depicting a WWII scenes
- **(Mural # 7)**  Staying on Main Rd after Kapiti Cres corner, you will come across Xoe Hall's April 2015 work on the concrete bus stop. Xoe spent time talking with locals at the 2014 Titahi Bay fair to get ideas for her project. It has retro 1960's themes. These were the years when Titahi Bay really got rocking as a suburb. These old style concrete bus stops are potentially due for replacement with modern varieties. Xoe and others believe in extending their useful lives by making them much loved parts of the urban infrastructure.
- Stay on Main Road, at the tennis club cross the road and head down Park Ave. At the corner, head straight ahead down the walkway to the beach and enjoy the spectacular views of the Bay and Mana Island.
- Find the zig zag path again to the high tide track and follow this to the surf club.
- **(Mural # 8)**  On the surf club building Ranga Tuhi painted this Southern Right Whale breaching in Titahi Bay, in honour of this once common species that was hunted here by the first European settlers of the Bay. It was named the Right Whale by the whalers as it yielded good quantities of whale oil when boiled down. Numbers of Right Whale have been increasing in recent years as recorded by DOC whale watchers when they observe the whales on their migration through Cook straight to breeding grounds in warmer waters. Maybe we will see them again one day breaching in Titahi Bay!
- **(Mural #9)**  On the front of the surf club, Ian Taylor created this work in 2012 in celebration of 100 years of surf lifesaving in New Zealand. Titahi Bay surf club has been a stalwart of the NZ surf club scene for most of those 100 years, Winning many national titles and saving many locals from drowning in the process!

- From the surf club make your way north either on the beach or if high tide back via the high tide track.
- At low tide; see if you can identify any of the fossilised tree stumps that grew here before the sea levels rose dramatically after the last ice age.
- Near the road entry to the beach see if you can find the point where the telephone cable connecting the North Island to the South came ashore. (The old batch-like building on the corner section is called Cable house)
- Also in this area; can you find the old WWII pill box, built in case it was needed to help repel the Japanese Navy.
- Continue along the beach from the road entry until you arrive at **(Mural #10)** on the wall of one of Titahi Bay's iconic boat sheds. This is Antz June's 3rd work on this walk and is a nod to Matariki (the Maori new year) as it was painted in June 2015.
- **(Mural #11)** Carry on along the beach heading north. The toilet block ahead carries one of the oldest and a much loved mural in the Bay, Adair Davis's work depicting sea life of Titahi Bay. (the trail goes up the hill from here but a short detour past the toilet block takes you past some more boatsheds and some excellent rock pools and fishing spots.)
- Next is a bit of a steeper climb up the walkway to Terrace Rd, but you will be rewarded with wonderful views of the Bay, often including surfers, boat sheddies and all sorts of aquatic goings on. There are also great viewing spots of Mana island (NZ's first sheep farm – now a DOC wildlife sanctuary); the Marlborough Sounds (South Island) ; and a peep of the end of Kapiti Island. Ngati Toa waka would regularly travel these waters in the 1820's – 1840's sometimes involving huge war parties of several hundred waka. Under Te Rauparaha the first time a warrior paddled the straight **(Te Moana –a –Raukawa)** they had to do it blindfolded!
- The small round green hill visible south of Titahi Bay and close to the coast is Komanga Point said to be the landing place of Kupe – the first human to set foot on Aotearoa!
- On a very clear day in winter, it is possible to see the snowcapped peak of Mt Taranaki if you look in a north west direction (about 25° west of the south corner of Kapiti island)
- Walking north, down Terrace Rd – see if you can identify the old Ngati Ira defensive pa site on a small peninsular on your left. This was abandoned when Ngati Toa defeated the Ngati Ira people in the 1820's.
- Also visible in this direction is the sail shape of Mt Whitiriria. Titahi bays iconic hill is almost exactly 100m high and part of the route for the Porirua Grand Traverse off road fun run every April. Other points of interest are the two radio masts built during WWII and (until the skytower was built in Auckland) were the highest manmade structures in NZ.
- Also see if you can see Titahi Bay's classic Ian Athfield designed house sitting on the clifftops of Whitiriria.

- Turn first right (Lambley Rd) then first left (John St) then first right (Richard St).
- **(Mural #12)** walking down Richard St you will come across Porirua's weirdest bus stop! – it is back to front. In Dec 2014 Ian Taylor spent time depicting Titahi Bay characters waiting at the bus stop on the back/front? of it. (Please observe this from the safety of the footpath on the opposite side of the road.)
- From here it is a short walk back to the car park, but feel free to grab a coffee and something to eat and continue to enjoy the beach.
- Present this guide with 20/30 boxes ticked and any under 10year olds in your party is eligible for a free kiddie cone ice- cream from the Lifeboat Café (25/30 for under 16's! –you might get asked some questions about the walk or show a selfie to prove you've done it though!)



Thanks for taking the time to enjoy this wonderful part of our City.

To report any public facilities that may need repair or Porirua Council attention, (or to provide some positive feedback) please phone PCC on **2375089** or email your request to **enquiries@pcc.govt.nz**