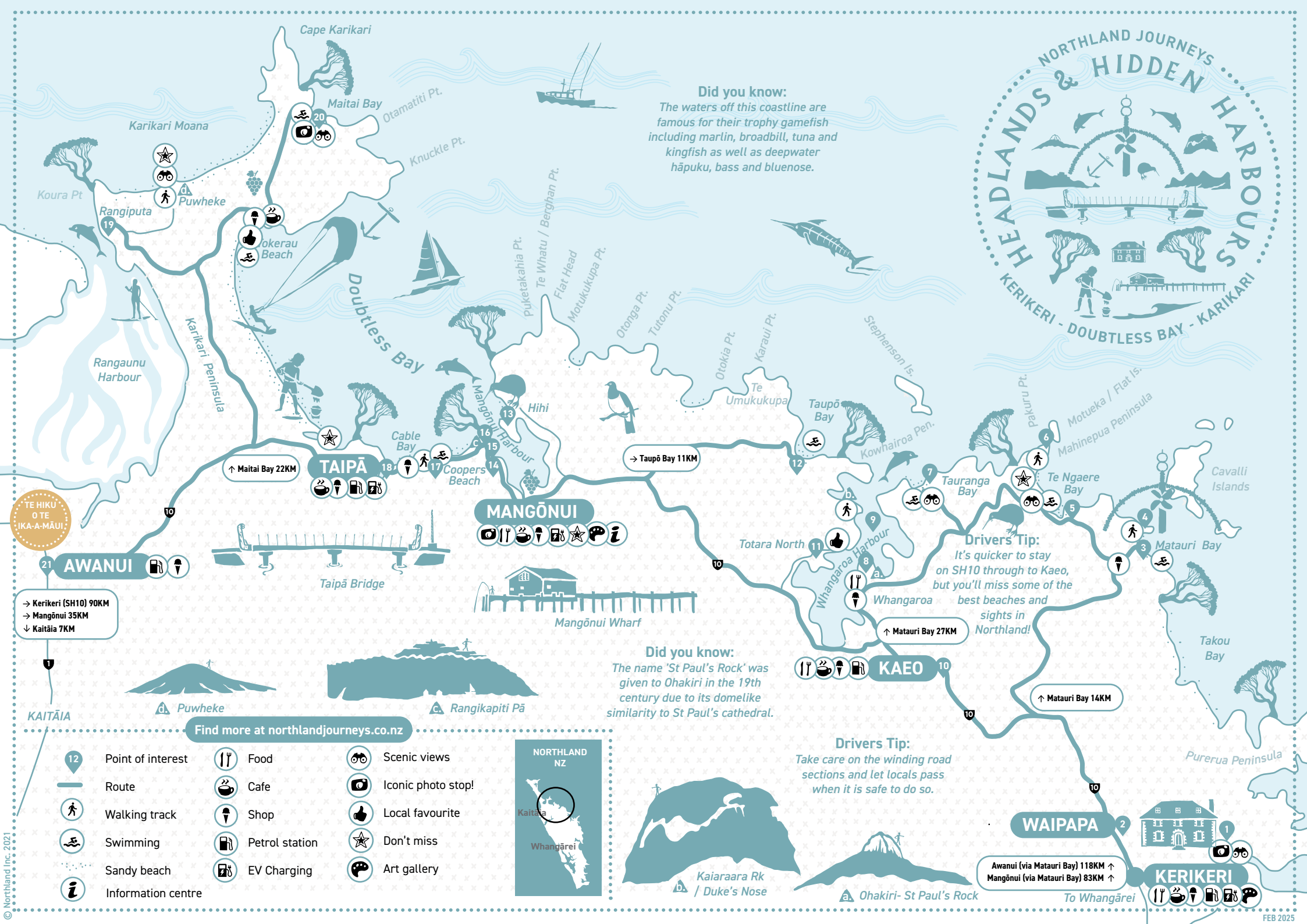
NORTHLAND JOURNEYS
HEADLANDS & HIDDEN HARBOURS
KERIKERI - DOUBTLESS BAY - KARIKARI
Did you know:
The waters off this coastline are famous for their trophy gamefish including marlin, broadbill, tuna and kingfish as well as deepwater hāpuku, bass and bluenose.
Cape Karikari
Maitai Bay
Otamatiti Pt.
Knuckle Pt.
Karikari Moana
Koura Pt
Rangiputa
Puwheke
Okerau Beach
Doubtless Bay
Karikari Peninsula
Rangaunu Harbour
Puketakahia Pt.
Te Whatu / Berghan Pt.
Flat Head
Motukukupa Pt.
Otonga Pt.
Tutonu Pt.
Otokia Pt.
Karaui Pt.
Stephenson Is.
Te Umukukupa
Taupō Bay
Kowhairoa Pen.
Pakuru Pt.
Motueka / Flat Is.
Mahinepua Peninsula
Cavalli Islands
Tauranga Bay
Te Ngaere Bay
Matauri Bay
Takou Bay
Purerua Peninsula
Hihi
Mangōnui Harbour
Cable Bay
Coopers Beach
TAIPĀ
↑ Maitai Bay 22KM
→ Taupō Bay 11KM
MANGŌNUI
Taipā Bridge
Mangōnui Wharf
Totara North
Whangaroa Harbour
Whangaroa
Drivers Tip:
It's quicker to stay on SH10 through to Kaeo, but you'll miss some of the best beaches and sights in Northland!
↑ Matauri Bay 27KM
KAEO
↑ Matauri Bay 14KM
Did you know:
The name 'St Paul's Rock' was given to Ohakiri in the 19th century due to its domelike similarity to St Paul's cathedral.
Drivers Tip:
Take care on the winding road sections and let locals pass when it is safe to do so.
WAIPAPA
Awanui (via Matauri Bay) 118KM ↑
Mangōnui (via Matauri Bay) 83KM ↑
To Whangārei
KERIKERI
TE HIKU O TE IKA-A-MĀUI
AWANUI
→ Kerikeri (SH10) 90KM
→ Mangōnui 35KM
↓ Kaitāia 7KM
KAITĀIA
Puwheke
Rangikapiti Pā
Kaiaraara Rk / Duke's Nose
Ohakiri- St Paul's Rock
Find more at northlandjourneys.co.nz
Point of interest
Route
Walking track
Swimming
Sandy beach
Information centre
Food
Cafe
Shop
Petrol station
EV Charging
Scenic views
Iconic photo stop!
Local favourite
Don't miss
Art gallery
NORTHLAND NZ
Kaitāia
Whangārei
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HEADLANDS & HIDDEN HARBOURS

The Headlands and Hidden Harbours journey is the trail of hidden treasures, beautiful beaches and rocky outcrops, small coastal settlements and heritage towns. As well as the distinctive headlands, there are many rocky topped maunga (mountains and outcrops) you'll see from the road, or better yet enjoy the view from the top.

You could spend a lifetime exploring this beautiful coastline and always be kept guessing about what's around the next corner.

Just off the main road (State Highway 10) are so many hidden gems for your journey to include. So allow time to explore off the beaten track. Pick a harbour, a headland walk or bay, take some provisions and enjoy a picnic with an amazing view. Or simply just get to know and enjoy the quaint towns along the way. Either way you are in for a feast of treats!

1 **Kerikeri Basin**
Layers of history and culture swirl around the Kororipo Heritage Park, the 'whirlpool', at the head of Kerikeri Inlet. A perfect place to go treasure hunting, you'll find the Kerikeri Basin, two of NZ's oldest buildings - the Stone Store and Kemp House, Kororipo Pā, recreated Māori village - Te Ahurea and much more.

2 **Waipapa**
Waipapa is a great place to stock up, fuel up, saddle up and prepare yourself to get off the beaten path, where you'll uncover some hidden Northland gems.

3 **Matauri Bay**
Amazing views of the Cavalli Islands unfold as you reach the coast and descend into Matauri Bay. You'll soon see why it's such a popular place with beach goers, surfers, fishers and divers.

4 **Rainbow Warrior Memorial**
A signposted walking track inside the camping grounds leads up Pukepika headland, the site of sculptor Chris Booth's Rainbow Warrior Memorial, overlooking the site of the sunken vessel. A beautiful and special place.

5 **Te Ngaere Bay**
Surrounding headlands make Te Ngaere a very sheltered and safe swimming beach, and the pohutukawa trees provide shade, all making for a lovely picnic spot.

6 **Mahinepua Peninsula**
A gleaming gem from any angle, Mahinepua is an absolute stunner of a location and features an amazing peninsula walk providing great coastal views and access to sheltered bays.

7 **Tauranga Bay**
This exquisite kilometre-long stretch of north-facing pink sand is one of the North's favourite swimming, camping, holiday and beach-lazing spots.

8 **Ohakiri - St. Paul's Rock**
Whangaroa Harbour reveals itself if you drag yourself up Ohakiri. Walk up through the manuka bush to the top of a volcanic 'plug' and be greeted with 360 degree views of the surrounding area. A chain helps you climb the last 30m.

9 **Whangaroa Harbour**
Get yourself out on Whangaroa harbour to take in breathtaking sights! The amazing volcanic rock formations like the Duke's Nose, bush, birdlife and fishing will leave you speechless and wondering what's hidden around the next corner. Will it be a waterfall, a leaping dolphin, a school of kingfish or an odd-shaped balancing rock?

10 **Kaeo township**
There is gold to mine in the shops and historic places here in Kaeo, a small town that takes its name from the NZ freshwater mussel found in local rivers. Try the vintage shops, Mad Hatters Cafe, mutton pies and an amazing chemist for starters.

11 **Totara North - Gumstore**
Totara North is the site of an old timber mill and boatyard and is home to the Gum Store, part pub / part living museum. It's definitely worth a look around if you like your pubs quirky, rustic and with lots of character.

12 **Taupō Bay**
Taupō Bay is a famous Northland holiday spot and obviously an amazing beach and surf break, but can you spot the hidden gorilla in the headland rock?

13 **Hihi**
An often overlooked spot is Hihi with its prime location, beaches, holiday park and the Butler Point whaling museum, historic 1840s house and gardens (entry by appointment).

14 **Mangōnui township**
Locals say there are 20 beaches within 20 minutes from Mangōnui but don't rush off too soon as there is much to do here. Legend has it the ocean-going waka (canoe) Ruakaramea was guided into the harbour by a shark, after which chief Moehuri named the harbour Mangōnui (which means 'large shark'). The shark had great taste because Mangōnui is a beautiful place to base yourself. From the boutique shops, local pā sites, heritage buildings, over the water buildings and of course a feed of famous fish and chips, it's a unique place.

15 **Mangōnui wharf**
Watch commercial fishing boats unload their treasure or get a rod and reel and try and catch your own. The Mangōnui wharf is always an interesting place to have a look around.

16 **Rangikapiti Pā**
Explore this amazing local landmark along the well formed walking tracks, with magnificent views to be had.

17 **Coopers Beach / Cable Bay / Taipa**
What do Kupe, a 1902 telegraph cable linking Canada with NZ and ice creams have in common? They are all connected to this stretch of lovely coastline. The views of Doubtless Bay will have you wanting to stop and take photos here: beaches, lagoons, pohutukawas, pā sites, cafes and don't forget an ice cream or two!

18 **Taipā Bridge**
Don't just drive over the Taipā bridge, get out of your car and experience all of it. Grab a local coffee and explore its beautiful carvings. They are linked to the story of Kupe landing here in Taipā around 900AD. You might also see fish schools or some locals 'dropping bombs and manus'.

19 **Rangiputa**
Located on the Karikari Peninsula and at the mouth of the hidden harbour, Rangaunu. Incredible white sands make for tropical looking waters. Head to nearby Puwheke hill to get up high and enjoy the views.

20 **Maitai Bay / Waikato Bay**
You won't believe your eyes when you see these pohutukawa-fringed, white-sandy, horse-shoe beaches and... If you've got a tent, you won't believe your luck, it's a DOC campsite, you've struck gold.

21 **Awanui**
Awanui is located at the headwaters of the hidden Rangaunu Harbour and at the road junction of SH10 and SH1. It's the perfect place to fuel up and check out the antiques store.

Must Do's

Get off the beaten track
The joy in this journey is discovering what's just off the main road (State Highway 10). So ensure you have plenty of time to explore.

Enjoy local
The sub-tropical climate and fertile soils of the area mean outstanding local produce. Enjoy local markets, famous Kerikeri oranges, locally grown wines at Dancing Petrel and Carrington Estate or visit the Ikarus coffee plantation (by appointment).

Float about
Give yourself time to float out with the tide and float back in again (so to speak). You'll be amazed what you discover, whether you're floating about the beach, up a harbour, about an antiques store or upon an old wharf pontoon.

Get up high
This landscape is full of surprises, make sure to climb a hill, headland or peak and watch it all reveal itself beneath you.

Beach life
This place is a true beach paradise, and no journey through this neck of the woods would be complete without a trip to the beach or ten.

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