



Pauatahanui Inlet

Route card No. 012 | Skill level: Beginners | Distance: 14 Km | Map no: BP32 | Tidal Port: Taranaki

Start/ Finish point: Grays Rd, Pauatahanui Inlet. Water ski club car park
HW/ LW: Porirua Harbour- 00 min HW, 16 min before Low water Port Taranaki

Tidal times/ notes: The inlet is very tidal and unless you know where the channels are it is best paddled 2 hrs either side of high tide.

Coastguard contact: VHF Channels: 16, 63. Callsign: Mana Coastguard, 027 530 3368
Comms coverage: Good cell phone and VHF coverage.

Introduction: If you want to get on the water and the wind is blowing in Wellington then this is the place to go. A very sheltered and safe area that can be paddled in most conditions. At the eastern end of the inlet is a wildlife sanctuary. The 50-hectare Pauatahanui Wildlife Management Reserve lies at the head of the Inlet. Four hectares are owned by the Royal New Zealand Forest and Bird Protection Society and protected under a covenant with the Queen Elizabeth II Trust. The rest of the reserve is owned by the Department of Conservation (DOC). A great place to spot all kinds of bird life.

Description: After putting in at the car park head south east along the shoreline toward the bridges at Paramata. Once under the bridges go past the marina and then head north out of Porirua harbour keeping to the left hand shoreline until you reach Onehunga Bay. This is a good place to stop for a break and it has public toilets there. On the return trip, once back under the bridges, carry on around the inlet keeping to the right hand side of the inlet and do a full circuit around the inlet and back to the car park.

Parts of the inlet can only be paddled 2 hrs either side of high tide so watch out for sand bars. The length of the trip can be shortened at any stage by cutting back across the inlet to the car park.

Hazards:

- Strong currents run through the area at the bridges so it pays to stay to the edge of the channel.
- Do not paddle down the centre of the channel under the bridges as this area is used by larger boats.
- A large number of small yachts and water skiers use the inlet so make sure you are visible and keep a good lookout.

Tourist Attractions:

[Pataka Arts and Museum](#)

Useful Links:

www.metservice.com

[Guardians Of Pauatahanui Inlet](#)

www.coastguardmana.org.nz

Please note;

Every care has been taken to ensure the information contained in this Trip Card is correct at the time of publication, but things change and you will need to confirm the information provided. You will also need to get further information to ensure a safe trip, this will include an up to date, relevant weather forecast and the ability to understand its implications for the area and talking to locals in the area to garner new information on any hazards in the area. It is also expected that an appropriate level of knowledge, skills and equipment are required to safely complete the trip. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are unsure of any information or you find the Trip Card needs updating. Cheers Peter Townend, Yakity Yak Kayak Club. Updated: November 2012



Accommodation:

John's Campsite

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Articles in NZ Kayak:

[Kayaking the Cotomandel](#) - by Phillip Donnell (p.donnell@snailmail.co.nz) Issue 64 Page 14

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