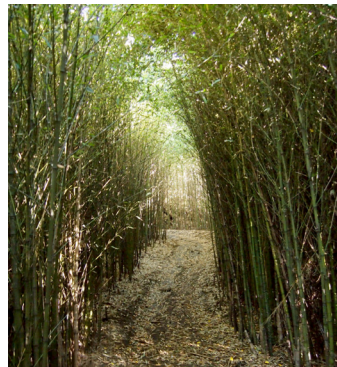


START TOUR HERE

A MOKAU MUSEUM – Started by the Whittaker Family in their store down the road. As the museum grew the community came together and built the current museum building in 1994. Since then, it has grown with the addition of the old School Dental Clinic and the original jail, which was built in 1878 by Mr Edward Gough who was also the local Undertaker. Come here to play or listen to a pianola, watch movies in the Jailhouse Theatre, and browse around the many displays.

B LOOKOUT ABOVE DAIRY FACTORY – cross the State Highway safely and walk to the steps to look down onto the Dairy Factory and Te Kauri Road

C LOOKOUT – Walk to the top of the cliff at the end of Takarei Tce to look across to the Flowerpot, the bridge, and the river mouth.



WALK THROUGH THE BAMBOO PLANTATION – After coming out of the bamboo plantation check out the walkway down to the sand where you will walk past a waterfall, and into the Butter Cave (as long as the tide is out)! There are steps opposite the Butter Cave that will take you up to Tokopapa Street.

The Butter Cave gets its name from when the dairy factory was first built the butter was stored in the cave until chiller storage was built.

D LOOKOUT – Tokopapa Street gives a great vantage point to view the stone formation known as the Flowerpot which is also a very popular local swimming site. You can also see the butter cave and waterfall from this vantage point.

E POINT ROAD STEPS – Walk down these steps to get to the river mouth. Turn left at the bottom of the steps to go to the Butter Cave, or turn right to go up the coast toward Awakino.

F MEMORIAL SEAT – A seat has been placed here in memory of John McIndoe (Black Mac). This seat looks across the sea towards the White Cliffs, and Mount Taranaki.

G DRIVEABLE TRACK TO THE SAND – Gravel track that can be used to walk or drive down to the sea/sand. Ideally 4x4 vehicles use this track.

H MOKAU CEMETERY - resting place of many 'identities'. You can also look down to the beach where the beach races were held. They went from 1925 until c1998.

J MOKAU MINE – In 1942 the mine washed up on the shore. It is known as the 'German Mine' but was later discovered to be one of our own.



THE MOKAU RIVER

Boats came over the bar, up the river to the Coal Mines and Timber Mills. Ships carrying timber would then sail to Sydney from Mokau.

The Pilot Station on the hill above the estuary entrance flew a flag to guide them.



The original Tainui canoe anchor stones.



Crossing the Mokau in a punt before the bridge.



The Mokau Estuary



Mokau circa 1940



Established in 1893 ...
And still going strong!

History of Mokau

Mokau (Māori: Mōkau) is a small town on the west coast of New Zealand's North Island, located at the mouth of the Mokau River on the North Taranaki Bight.

Mokau is in the Waitomo District and Waikato region local government areas, just north of the boundary with the New Plymouth District and the Taranaki Region.

State Highway 3 passes through the town on its route from Te Kuiti to Waitara and, eventually, New Plymouth.

The Mokau River Bridge opened in 1927.

Mokau is a popular location for whitebaiting and other fishing including for kahawai (mainly found at the river mouth) and snapper (which are found right along the coast in several spots).

Mokau also has a couple of outstanding surf breaks that, in the right conditions, can produce waves of up to 6 ft (1.8m).

The Mokau River is a feature of the area and enjoys a colourful and interesting history.

At its mouth, the Mokau River is confined by a sand bar, and on the raised beaches formed during the past, iron sand dunes have been deposited.

The river is tidal for some distance upstream. From near Piopio the river enters a broadly open, low-rounded topography above the steep-walled, narrow limestone gorges.

In pre-European times the Mokau River marked the boundary between the Tainui and Taranaki tribal areas; in particular, the territory was often under dispute between Ngati Maniapoto and Ngati Tama.

Although a small tribe, Ngati Tama, held their own against all comers until the early part of the nineteenth century when two battles altered the traditional power balance in the district. About 1815 there was a disastrous battle, Nga-tai-pari-rua, against Ngati Rakei on Mokau beach.

Six years later a strong Maniapoto war party, armed with muskets, invaded the district.

There was a fierce engagement at Pararewa in September 1821, when the Ngati Tama and Te Ati-awa were heavily defeated and Tupaki, the great Ngati Tama war chief, was killed.

After this, the remnants of Ngati Tama joined Te Rauparaha's trek south to Cook Strait.

Their departure left Taranaki open to the depredations of Te Wherowhero and his Waikato.

The river for its whole length once formed the boundary between the Auckland and Taranaki Provinces, and today forms the boundary between the land districts.

The port, Mokau, at the mouth of the river, is no longer used.

The meaning of the name is obscure.

One variant is "winding stream"; another, that the river was named Mokau by Turi from his having slept there.

SELF DRIVE/WALK GUIDE



Learn About Our Early Beginnings
Self - Guided Tours

Or

Guided Tours by Previous Arrangement



Mokau Museum