

The Loop

The Remuera Urban Storytelling Trail

nau mai – welcome!

Welcome to Remuera – one of Auckland’s oldest and most elegant suburbs. Escape the busyness of the CBD and spend time in our beautiful natural environments set among many Victorian style homes. Pick and mix your own route and learn more about our history and local attractions.

The Remuera Loop trail has something for everyone; archaeology, book stores, an art gallery, bird watching, things that appeal to foodies, coffee lovers, nature lovers, walkers, heritage enthusiasts – all packed into two interconnected loop walks. Or if fitness is what you’re looking for, there are plenty of options to use the volcano and reserves as outdoor gyms.

While you explore, do what the locals do and pick up some of the finest groceries on offer in Auckland. For decades the fruit and vegetable shop, the fish shop and the butcher have been icons of Remuera. There’s an abundance of options for lunch – enjoy one of the popular cafes along the street or pick up a picnic and head for one of our beautiful outdoor areas.



Highlights

- ▶ **Remuera Library**
- ▶ **St Aidan’s Church**
- ▶ **Waiata Reserve**
- ▶ **Remuera Township / Historic Post Office Building**
- ▶ **Ohinerau (Mount Hobson)**
- ▶ **Archaeological Site - Kumura Storage pits**
- ▶ **Training Hills (Mount Hobson)**
- ▶ **Mount Hobson Crater**
- ▶ **Trig Station**

A Remuera Library



Begin at Remuera Library, an architectural gem in the heart of Remuera. The friendly staff are always willing to help visitors and the building is just as stunning inside as it is outside. Collect a pamphlet from the Library to tell you more about Remuera's heritage as you walk. The historic building and shaded grounds are yours to relax in and enjoy.

When you are ready, turn right when you come out of the Library and continue down Remuera Road towards St Aidan's Church.

B St Aidan's Church



St Aidan's Church main entrance is located on Ascot Avenue. It is the Anglican Parish of St Aidan, Remuera. A tiny church was built in 1905 by eastern parishioners to save trudging to St Mark's each Sunday. Walk through the lynch gate and explore the leafy surroundings or enter on Ascot Avenue to explore the grounds.

When you are ready to continue the Remuera Loop trail, cross the road to Orakei Road and walk to number 32 Orakei Road where you will find the entrance to Waiata Reserve.

C Waiata Reserve



Enter Waiata Reserve next to 32 Orakei Road. This reserve offers a peaceful retreat among nature and is nestled between residential streets. Waiata in Māori loosely translates as 'song'; take time to listen to the different bird life abundant in this park. This 26 acre green space is a marvel of ever changing colours, mature trees, a babbling brook, and native bird life. Characterised by rolling slopes with large areas of open space and re-generating bush, the reserve has a pathway for pedestrians and pushchairs right through the park providing excellent year round access. It is a dog-friendly off-leash park. Meander your way across to

Waiata Avenue or keep walking down through the park and connect back to the trail via Waimea Lane.

As you walk up Victoria Avenue there are lots of examples of early settler architecture on this iconic road in Remuera. At the top of Victoria Avenue – where it meets Remuera Road – cross the road to your right at the pedestrian crossing, and walk towards the historic post office building now home to a bank.

D Township and Historic Post Office Building



Remuera Town Centre is one of Auckland's most established elegant shopping precincts. Remuera Pharmacy is among several shops that have been here for over a hundred years. Much loved by the locals, the hallmarks of this village are the quality fruit and veg shop, the butcher, and the fish shop which has stood in this spot for 100 years.

The Village Green is a pleasant diversion from Remuera Road offering grass, shade, seating, shops and cafes. The area was used for Council yards and stables after Remuera's amalgamation with Auckland City in 1915. Prior to this it housed Remuera's first fire station.

E Ohinerau (Mount Hobson)



Ohinerau (Mount Hobson) is 143m high volcano in the shape of a scoria cone built by lava fountaining from a central crater. There are two distinct areas of the reserve.

The northern side is reasonably formal with constructed, formed walkways which wind up the slopes through exotic and native planted trees, including the daffodil War Memorial located in the north east corner of the reserve. The southern side of the reserve is grazed pasture with clearly visible archaeological sites and grass tracks. From the summit and upper slopes of the cone there is a virtual 360° panoramic view of the city.

The ancient Māori name for the hill is Ohinerangi, 'the dwelling place of Hinerangi'. Later the hill became known as 'Remuwera', a corruption of Remu-wera meaning 'the burnt hem of a garment.' It is said to relate to an incident when a visiting chieftainess was killed and put in an umu (oven), still in her piupiu (skirt).

F Archaeological Site - Kumara Storage Pits



As you reach the top of the path, take in the stunning views across the city. Then climb the short stairs and look to your right. What you see are the remnants of storage pits used by Maori who lived here hundreds of years ago.

This is an archaeological site. It is estimated that 1,000 people once lived atop this Mount. These pits were used to store Kumara (a type of sweet potato) underground hundreds of years ago, so some could be eaten and the rest planted out in the next spring. Kumara were important to Māori as a source of carbohydrate.

G Outdoor Gym - Training Hills and alternative exits



From the kumara pits keep walking around the outside of the flat fenced area and you will see a steep path. Instead of training in the gym, why not try the cliff of a volcano? This steep slope, found by walking to the right of the fenced area, will burn the calories and work the leg muscles going up and down. More fun than the cross trainer. Get your fitness fix here or if you want to exit onto Dilworth Avenue, climb over the stile at the bottom of this path.

H Ohinerau (Mount Hobson) Crater



Follow the path towards the shelter at the top of the Mount, to your left a small path winds down towards a large round basin. This is the crater of Ōhinerau, the volcano you have just climbed. Here you see geological and archaeological features, such as the breached crater scoria cone and the groves and terraces.

I Trig Station



The structure that you can see sitting atop the summit is a 'Trig Beacon' - a geodetic survey mark (instrument used to measure the earth), it forms a component of New Zealand's geodetic system. It's one of a

network of Trig Stations across New Zealand that serve as a physical reference point. They are used in the creation of maps, charts and interestingly they are essential to determining property boundaries.

Follow the path back down the way you came to get back onto Remuera Road. Cross Remuera Road at the pedestrian crossing at the junction with Market Road to continue the Loop back to Remuera town centre.

J Chapel of the Holy Child (Kings College)

This pretty little chapel was converted from the original stables in 1927 - 1928. King's School began as King's College in 1896 and continues to educate young people.

Just before you reach Remuera shopping centre, you will see Garden Road on your left. This road was originally the driveway to Ladies College where New Zealand's greatest Aviatrix Jean Batten, the first person to fly directly from England to New Zealand, was a student. As you stroll down you will see some fine examples of arts and craft style architecture. Return up the hill and re-join Remuera Road to return to the town centre and a well-deserved cold drink.



Find out more about our place

Remuera Heritage Society: The society's purpose is to recognise, appreciate, preserve and share Remuera's past and present, by sharing their knowledge of Remuera's cultural, natural, and built heritage. The Remuera Heritage Walk explains more about the history of this place, download the brochure from this site or pick one up from the Remuera Library: <http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/newseventsculture/heritage/Documents/remueraheritagewalk.pdf>

Remuera Business Association: Live. Life. Local. Dine, drink, play and shop in Remuera. Remuera shopping village offers a selection of small independent shops and boutiques, a bustling Supermarket, famous fruit & veg shop, some wonderful cafes and restaurants and a range of professional services. The village is compact and easily walkable, and there's plenty of free parking. A full directory of Remuera shops, services and community groups, how to get here, the best parks, walks and playgrounds nearby, community news and local events can be found on www.remuera.org.nz. Whether you're a local or visitor, we look forward to welcoming you in Remuera.

Remuera Library: Located on 429 Remuera Road. The friendly local staff at the Remuera library are always willing to help visitors and can provide information about Remuera and surrounding areas. There are heritage displays relating to the local area free for viewing here.

Getting here from the City Centre

Bus: Buses depart from Customs Street opposite Fort Lane near the Britomart transport centre every 20 minutes. Hop on the 625, 635, 645, 655, 685, or 695 and get off opposite the library on Remuera Road.

Train: Trains depart from Britomart Transport Centre every 15-20 minutes. Hop on the ONE or STH train and get off at Remuera Train Station, Epsom. Go up the stairs and turn left onto Market Road, following signs for Remuera. At the top of Market Road turn right onto Remuera Road and continue until you reach the library at 429 Remuera Road.

Car: It's a 7 km drive from the CBD to Remuera Road. There is limited paid parking options along Remuera Road and in car parks near the town centre.

Historic photo acknowledgements:













Historic Post Office Building: Terry Sutcliffe. Remuera Heritage Society.

The Remuera Loop

The Remuera Loop Trail
4.5 km (60min)

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|---|---|
|  Cafe |  Lookout |
|  Restaurant |  Toilets |
|  Photography |  Library |
|  Picnic Area |  Bus Stop |
|  Parking |  Train Station |
|  Shopping |  Church |

