Off the Beaten Track

**POUTO POINT**
Explore the dune lakes and lonely lighthouse on the remote spit that forms the northern head of the Kaipara Harbour.

**PUREORA FOREST PARK**
Hike to the summits of Mt Pureora and Mt Titiraupenga, or cycle the two-day Timber Trail through the regenerating forest.

**SUGAR LOAF ISLANDS MARINE PARK**
Take a guided kayak trip or boat tour to these rugged islets off New Plymouth, home to 10,000 sea birds and a colony of NZ fur seals.

**LAKE ROTOKURA**
Hidden within the southern fringes of Tongariro National Park, this tapu (sacred) lake is accessed by a kilometre-long walk lined with ancient beech trees.

**RIMUTAKA CYCLE TRAIL**
It might start at Wellington Harbour, but this three-day ride traverses isolated hill country before landing at the little-visited western end of Palliser Bay.

**OLD RUSSELL ROAD**
Meander to the Bay of Islands by way of this less-travelled back road. Along the way, stop to explore remote beaches and scenic reserves.

**KAIMAI MAMAKU FOREST PARK**
This 75km-long, forest-wreathed mountain range provides a wild backdrop to the Bay of Plenty, separating it from the fertile plains of the Waikato.

**LAKE WAIKAREITI**
The vast mountainous wilderness of Te Urewera is the mist-shrouded home of the Tuhoe people. This secluded lake is reached by an hour’s walk through dense native bush from Lake Waikaremoana.

**WHIRINAKI TE PUA-A-TĀNE CONSERVATION PARK**
Hike through podocarp forest to remote canyons, waterfalls, streams and lookouts, or tackle the 16km mountain bike track.

**CASTLEPOINT**
While it’s easily reached by windy country roads, few travellers make it to this obscure stretch of Wairarapa coast. Take time to enjoy the beach and hike to the lighthouse and a vast limestone cave.