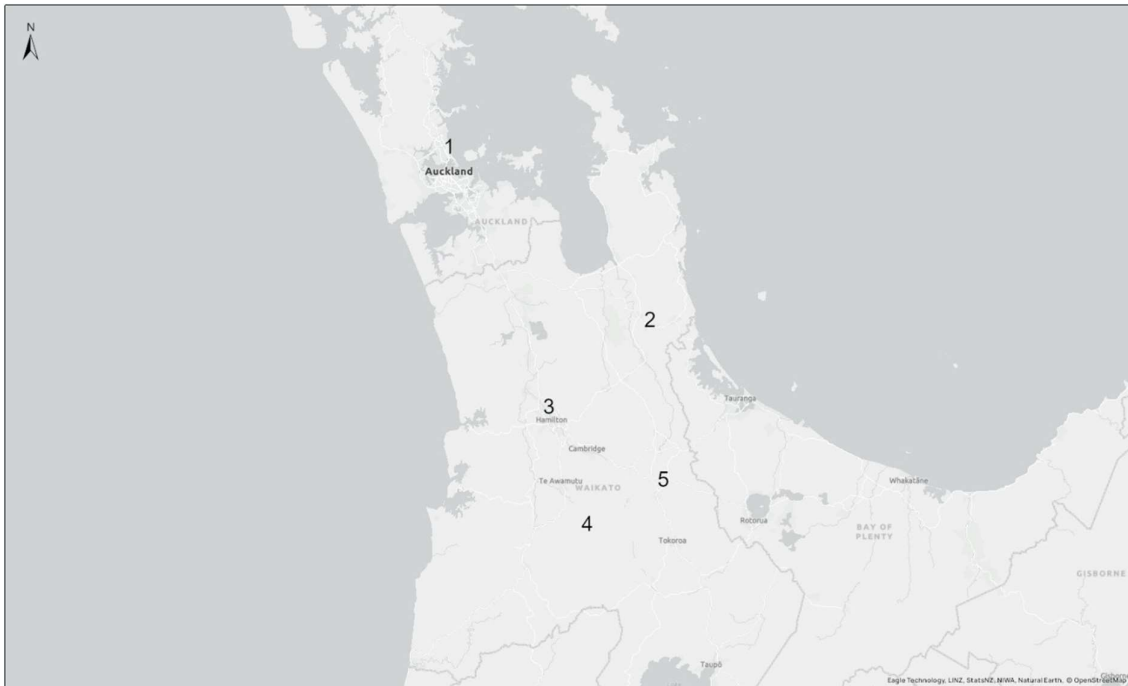


5 spots to get started Trout Fishing in the Auckland/Waikato Region

The Waikato region is a fantastic place for beginner trout anglers, offering a diverse range of fishing locations. With stocked lakes around Auckland, charming streams in Coromandel, and the expansive Waikato River, there's something for everyone. Here's a guide to five accessible spots, organized from north to south, and from early to late season.

To see the public land and access points we recommend our [access website](#) or [Outdoor Access Maps](#). We have inserted links for most rivers so you can view added information.



1. **Auckland lakes** (Best: May– November; Methods: fly/spin/bait)

Quarry Lake (at Lake Pupuke), Parkinsons lake and Lake Whatihua fish well in the cooler months (May-November). Spin and fly gear work well in our stock lakes but it is also easy to catch fish with a [float and bait](#). These lakes are periodically stocked with rainbows to provide some trout fishing close to Auckland. Quarry Lake is stocked for the Easter, winter and spring school holidays. Please watch our Facebook page to find release dates.

2. **Coromandel streams** (Best: April – December; Methods: fly/spin)

The [Ohinemuri and other Coromandel](#) peninsula streams are known for their early-season action, with plenty of trout eager to bite. The Ohinemuri is a popular fishery with easy access along Highway 2 or the Hauraki Rail Trail. Anywhere between the railway tunnel (just past Paeroa) and Waihi is likely to give good results. Other streams such as the [Kauaeranga](#) and [Waitawheta](#) are also great options. The picturesque scenery adds to the experience, making it a perfect spot for a day out

3. **Waikato River** (Best: May – Nov.; Methods: Spin/soft bait)

While the [lower Waikato](#) may not be the pristine water that anglers dream about, it does have a good population of catchable brown trout. Local experts target the edges, under overhanging trees and eddies with short casts using spinning rods and soft baits or spinners. The base of Karapiro Dam, Hamilton Narrows Boat Ramp, Hammond Park, The Point (Ngāruawāhia), Taupiri Boat Ramp, Huntly Walking Bridge, Waahi Stream outlet (Harris St Huntley) and Mercer Boat Ramp all hold trout until the Waikato River reaches 19°C and then the fish move up the Waipa tributaries.

4. **Waipa tributaries** (Best: October – June. Methods: Fly)

Once summer sets in, the higher elevation Waipa tributaries start to fish well. These spots are less affected by the summer heat, offering cooler waters for trout. The stunning natural surroundings make for an enjoyable fishing experience. The [upper Mangatutu](#) is a small stream with a lot of pressure. Public access above the Wharepunga Road bridge is easy and, although you will see plenty of fish, the bigger ones tend to be wary. However, it is a lovely stream with a good mix of brown and rainbow trout. Please avoid fishing in low summer flows as the fish are temperature stressed. If you enjoy fishing the Mangatutu try Pirongia Mountain streams like the [Kaniwhaniwha \(Limeworks Loop Road & Fillery Road\)](#), [Ngakoahia](#) or further south to the [Moakurua \(Honikiwi Road\)](#) and [Awakino \(Gibbon Road\)](#). Not all of the streams listed have public access so please check the [Outdoor Access Map](#) and knock on some doors to ask for permission where necessary.

5. **Waikato Spring Creeks** (Best: all year; Methods Fly/spin/bait)

Regardless of the season, Waikato's spring creeks are consistently good fishing spots. These waters remain cool and clear, handling rain without losing their fishing quality. They're perfect for those looking to cast their lines throughout the summer months.

As with all our spring creeks, the upper [Waihou](#) has high populations of mostly small rainbows with the occasional bigger fish. There are no gear restrictions on the Waihou but the section on Whites Road is perfect for dry fly and euro nymphing. While Te Waihou walkway is closed to walkers, anglers are legally able to walk around the fence and fish upstream. The walkway should reopen in some time in November. Another option is upstream of the SH5 road bridge on the true left (Western side). Construction of roadside barriers means that you will need to park a little further away than previously, but fishing is generally good. Waders are practically essential on the spring creeks due to the cold-water temperatures and care needs to be taken crossing this fast-flowing stream. If you like the upper Waihou the [Waimakariri](#) is very similar and just down the road (HW5). The [Pokaiwhenua](#) and [Little Waipa](#) are similar spring creeks that are also worth a look.