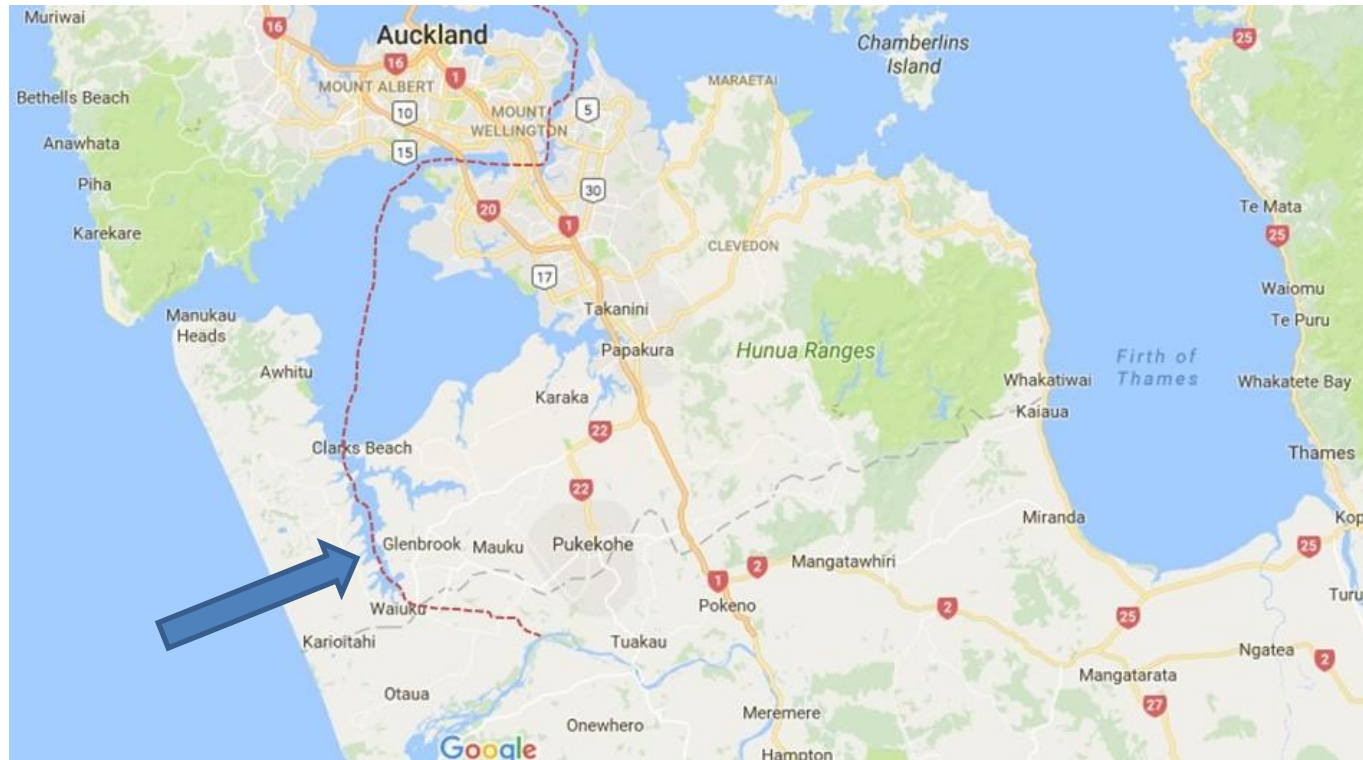


Te To Waka: *the Canoe Portage*



A little over 200 metres of land separates the waters of the Tamaki River and Manukau Harbour at *Te To Waka* in Auckland. This was the most important canoe portage in pre-European times, as the Manukau Harbour gave canoes access to the west coast.

Canoes could also sail to Waiuku where, after crossing another portage, they could enter the Waikato River and thereby access the interior of New Zealand. Canoes crossing in the opposite direction could paddle down the Tamaki River to the Waitemata, and then coast north toward Whangarei or east towards the Coromandel Peninsula.

Another option was to paddle to Riverhead on the Waitemata, then use another portage to access the Kaipara Harbour. From here they could travel along the northern Wairoa River to the Hokianga, the Bay of Islands or Whangarei. The Matawhaourua, or Matahourua, of Kupe, the Aotea, Tainui, Mataatua and Tokomaru are all said to have been hauled across *Te To Waka*.

Also visit <https://teara.govt.nz/en/map/2323/northern-landing-places>