The Wide Blue Yonder awaits you on this circular route along the beautiful Tutukaka Coast. Start from either Whangarei or Hikurangi, and feel the lure of the ocean as you travel towards the coast. Catch your breath as you round a corner to reveal a glimpse of turquoise. Gradually the ocean unveils herself, inviting you to look, swim, paddle and dive headfirst into a limitless expanse of blue.

But why hurry? There are so many tempting side tracks along the way. Waterfalls, rock pools, ancient kauri trees and breathtaking views are all within reach. Be spoilt for choice by quiet beaches and bays. Explore the gentle waters of Ngunguru and Tutukaka Harbour. And be sure to experience the underwater wonders of the Poor Knights Islands Marine Reserve.

**INTO THE WIDE BLUE YONDER**

1. **Whangarei Falls**
   Call in for a quick peek at the falls, or spend a couple of hours exploring the bush walks that start here.

2. **Glenervie Stone Walls**
   The dry stone walls that line the roadside are a living legacy of the craftsmen who created them over 100 years ago.

3. **Glenervie Forest**
   Walkers and mountain bikers will find many trails to explore in Glenervie’s expansive pine forest and native bush.

4. **Orchards & Fruit Stalls**
   Grab a fruity pick-me-up at one of the orchards and fruit stalls that welcome the public.

5. **Kiripaka**
   This pleasant picnic spot by the river was once a loading point for boats carrying coal from the nearby mine.

6. **Scow Landing**
   A picturesque, shady reserve, with cartloads of mining history. You can also explore the river by boat, or hire a kayak from Ngunguru.

7. **Ngunguru**
   A great place to stop for an ice cream, saunter along the sandspit, or paddle the estuary on a kayak or SUP.

8. **Frying Pan Corner Lookout**
   Take a photograph or just take in the wide ocean views from this hilltop viewpoint. Look for the sharp bend shaped like a frying pan!

9. **Tutukaka Block Road Beaches**
   It would be easy to spend a day or more visiting all the serene and scenic beaches along this meandering side road.

10. **Tutukaka Marina**
    Take your pick from an abundance of water-based activities available at the marina, along with shops, bars and restaurants.

11. **Tutukaka Lighthouse Walk**
    On the bottom half of the tide, you can walk to the lighthouse on Tutukaka Head via a track at the end of Landowners Lane.

12. **Poor Knights Islands**
    Join a snorkelling or dive trip to these magnificent protected islands, and learn about the unique flora, fauna and history that make them such a special and unforgettable place.

13. **Tane Moana**
    After a couple of hours walk, you’ll encounter the largest kauri tree remaining on the east coast, and the second largest in NZ.

14. **Matapouri Bay**
    An irresistible expanse of white sand greets you at Matapouri. Dip your toes in, or join the locals with a flying leap off the bridge at high tide.

15. **Mermaid Pools**
    Walking over the hill from Matapouri will lead you to the Mermaid Pools - a natural rock pool that’s perfect for swimming at low tide.

16. **Whale Bay**
    If you’re looking for seclusion, Whale Bay is only accessible on foot, by way of a coastal track at the north end of Matapouri Bay.

17. **Woolleys Bay**
    A long, wide, sandy beach that’s popular with locals for swimming, picnics and beach games.

18. **Sandy Bay Surf Spot**
    Bring your board or hire one from the Tutukaka surf shop - this is one of the best surf spots on Northland’s east coast.

19. **Whananaki Coastal Walkway**
    A longer walk, but one that offers spectacular ocean views, as well as the longest footbridge in the Southern Hemisphere.

20. **Capitaine Bougainville Monument**
    A short side-track leads to a monument remembering those lost from the French freighter Capitaine Bougainville in 1795.

21. **Hikurangi**
    A scenic drive through native bush and farmland connects the rural township of Hikurangi with the coast.

22. **Waro Reserve**
    This curious boulder-strewn landscape is a great place to picnic, swim and jump into the clear blue waters of an old limestone quarry.

**Must Dos!**

**See**
Prepare to be ever more awestruck by the views of the wide open Pacific as you journey along the coast. There are so many photo opportunities you might find you’ve filled your camera before you reach half-way!

**Swim**
Stunning Matapouri Bay is the perfect place to cool off with a refreshing swim. But before you jump in, take a short walk over the hill where you’ll discover the magical Mermaid Pools.

**Paddle**
There’s so much more to see here than you can reach from the shore, so hire a kayak or paddleboard and explore all that’s on offer in the tranquil harbours of Ngunguru and Tutukaka.

**Dive**
Don’t miss the chance to experience the underwater world of the Poor Knights Islands Marine Reserve. Snorkel from the surface or dive deep into the Wide Blue Yonder, and open up a whole new environment that’s teeming with life, as well as fascinating natural and cultural history.