



WALKING TRACKS OF THE WESTERN BAY

THERE'S no easier or more pleasurable way to enjoy the great outdoors of the Western Bay of Plenty than to step out for a leisurely walk.

Soothing for the soul, and good for your health, an outing on a walking track is an excellent opportunity to embrace and appreciate the beauty of the environment around you.

From short, easy coastal strolls to up-hill-and-down-dale tramps to testing bush trails, there's something for everyone.

Although most of these walks are in Council parks and reserves; some of the walks are managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). You can find out more information on these walks, marked with the DOC logo on the following pages by contacting the Tauranga DOC office.

Department of Conservation
253 Chadwick Road, Tauranga
Ph: 07 578 7677
www.doc.govt.nz



TRACK CLASSIFICATIONS

Walking times stated are only an estimate; please allow extra time for slower walkers or adverse weather conditions. Additional time should also be allowed for sightseeing and rest stops.



SHORT WALK



Well formed track with easy grades. Constructed to 'shoe' standard. Suitable for people of all ages and abilities



WALKING TRACK



A defined, formed track. Constructed to 'shoe standard'. Suitable for people of most ages and abilities. Some tracks may cross streams.



TRAMPING TRACK



Limited track formation, often with steep grades. Constructed to 'boot' standard. Suitable for fit, experienced and adequately equipped people. River and stream crossings may not be bridged.



ROUTE



Lightly cut marked or unmarked tracks, often with steep grades. Suitable for fit, experienced and adequately equipped people with good backcountry navigation skills

A NOTE FOR DOG OWNERS
AS AN OWNER, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO
KEEP YOUR DOG UNDER PROPER CONTROL AT
ALL TIMES. PLEASE REFER TO SPECIFIC SITES
WHERE DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED AT ANYTIME

KEY TO WALKS



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Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

OROKAWA SCENIC RESERVE

Where: Start at the northern end of Waihi Beach.



Walking times

Waihi Beach to Orokawa Bay

45 minutes one way

Orokawa Bay to William Wright Falls

1 ½ hour return

Orokawa Bay to Homunga Bay

60 minutes one way

Homunga Bay to Ngatitangata Road

1 ½ hour up, 30 minutes down

Pohutukawa Park Track

45 minutes return

THIS spectacular coastal reserve embraces panoramic ocean views, mature forest, pohutukawa-fringed bays, good rock fishing and picnic spots. There are several historic pa sites, as well as old gold-mine tunnels.

The Orokawa Bay walk begins at the northern end of Waihi Beach. (Occasionally you may have to delay your start due to high tides and a strong swell.)

A gently rising track skirts the headland before descending into stunning, pohutukawa-clad Orokawa Bay. The beach here gets deep very quickly and is not considered safe for swimming.

At the northern end of the beach, the track to William Wright Falls begins. On your way to these 30-metre-high falls you will have to make several stream crossings.

The track to Homunga Bay continues along the coastline, skirting headlands and cliffs. Return to Waihi Beach via the same route. An option is to park your car at Ngatitangata Road and clamber across farm land down to the track. It's not difficult, but coming back up is a seriously steep climb.

NO DOGS OR FIRES ARE ALLOWED WITHIN THIS RESERVE, EXCEPT ON THE POHUTUKAWA PARKTRACK, WHERE DOGS ON LEADS ARE ALLOWED.



ATHENREE VILLAGE

Where: Northern end of Tauranga Harbour.



Walking times

30 minutes one way.

THIS is an easy, pleasant stroll through Athenree Village on the shores of Tauranga Harbour.

The walkway starts from the children's playground on Waione Avenue. It wends its way along the grassy foreshore, passing beneath old pohutukawa trees, with views across the estuary to Bowentown.

Near the end of your walk you will need to skirt a small tidal inlet in the vicinity of Dr North Memorial Reserve.

Return the same way or come back via Pohutukawa Drive and Athenree Road.





BOWENTOWN DOMAIN

Where: Northern end of Tauranga Harbour.



Walking times

Anzac Bay to Shelly Beach

30 minutes one way.

Headland car park to Te Ho pa site

45 minutes round trip.



Walking times

Anzac Bay-headland loop via Shelly Beach

75 minutes round trip.

LOCATED on a rocky headland at the northern entrance to Tauranga Harbour, this 128-hectare reserve contains a number of pa sites dating back several hundred years.

Anzac Bay offers safe swimming, picnic sites and toilets and there is camping at the Bowentown Holiday Park adjacent to the ocean beach.

From the Te Ho pa site, which is easily reached, there are magnificent views of the harbour and the coast. To get here, follow the tracks from the motor camp or from the headland car park. From the car park you can drop steeply down to Cave Bay, a small beach at the harbour entrance, or you can walk to Te Kura a Maia pa site on the southern headland.

From Anzac Bay a wide grassy track leads westward up to an area where several tracks meet.

Straight ahead leads to Shelly Bay, a sheltered and safe swimming spot. Left takes you to a popular fishing area. Turning right leads to the summit. On the way up the summit track one passes a track which drops to the right leading down to the entrance of the Domain. Continuing on over the summit loop track, one is led down to the northern end of Shelley Bay.

Stunning views of the upper harbour, Kaimai Ranges and the ocean coastline are your reward when you walk these tracks.



TANNERS POINT

Where: Off Tanners Point Road, north of Katikati



Walking times

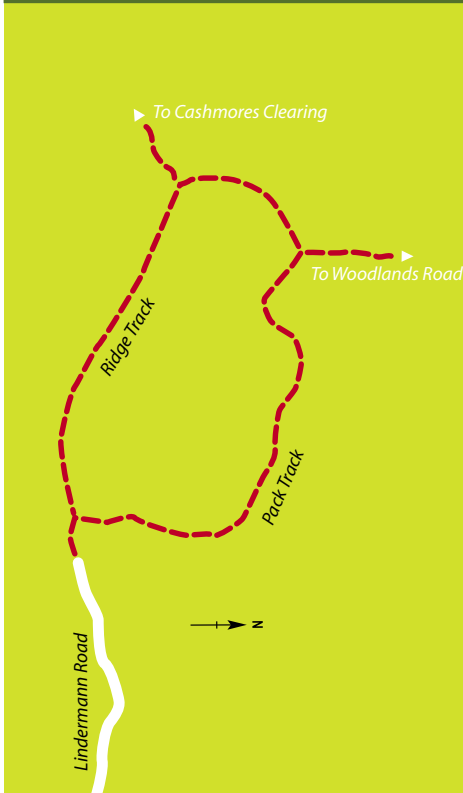
30 minutes one way.

A MOST enjoyable outing, this short walk leads you through a picturesque harbourside reserve.

The setting, plus picnic tables and toilets, makes it ideal for quiet family outings.

Start your walk at the beach near the jetty, continue along the pohutukawa-fringed track that follows the harbour's edge around to Moana Drive, then down to a sandy beach.

Return the same route or via Moana Drive.



TO REACH the start of the tracks to the Forest Park, go through the gate and 100m west across the saddle which was once the site of a Maori pa. Signboards here indicate the separate starts of the two tracks: Ridge track to the left, Pack track straight ahead. To the right is a farm track which should be ignored.

The Ridge Track enters the bush and climbs steeply up the ridge westwards. Higher up the grade eases and further

LINDEMANN ROAD

Where: Turn off SH 2, 1 km north of Katikati



Walking times

Ridge Track Kauri Dams 3 hours return

Pack Track 5 hours return

on the track starts to descend into the upper Wairoa Stream catchment. About 1¼ hours from the road the track passes an old Kauri dam. Continuing westward for about 10 minutes brings one to a track junction. To the right the Lindemann Road Pack Track leads back to the road past the site of the old cookhouse of a logging camp and via the longer northern route (see Route D). The branch to the left (southwest) leads towards Cashmores Clearing (which is a further one and a half hours away, at a higher elevation).

A few minutes along this track is a small manuka clearing which was the site of another Kauri dam. Continuing southwest along the track towards Cashmores Clearing for a further 15 minutes brings one to a pleasant grassy campsite and the open sided Wairoa

Shelter, a convenient place to rest and refuel before commencing the return journey to Lindemann Road.

Follow the Pack Track sign, making sure you don't mistakenly follow the farm track down on your right. The Pack Track follows a very easy upward grade, winding its way in and out of the bushy gullies until it emerges through some second growth scrub to overlook the Wairoa Valley and in the distance to the northwest, the Ananui Falls.

About 1¼ hours from the road the track branches. The branch to the right leads down into the Wairoa Valley and Woodlands Road (Route B). To the left, the Pack Track continues towards the upper Wairoa Kauri dams. The junction with the Lindemann Road Ridge Track (Route C) and Cashmores Clearing (to the right) is reached after sidling to the south for one hour. To visit the old Kauri dams (one to the left and two to the right) refer to the description in Route C. The return to Lindemann Road via the Pack Track will take practically as long as the upward journey. Returning via the Ridge Track is considerably shorter but much steeper down the ridge.



I'ANSON BUSH RESERVE

Where: Loop Road, off SH2 just north of Te Puna.



Walking times

up to 45 minutes return

THIS reserve is on land that was gifted to the QE II National Trust in 1987 by Keith and Takiko I'Anson.

Over the years it has been turned from pasture to native bush and a small lake - Lake Taki - has been formed by damming the Waikaraka Stream.

There are occasional clearings - ideal for a quiet picnic.

From the carpark, tracks go around the lake and then you pass through groves of young native trees. Continue downstream to Armstrong Road, then make your way back.



OMANAWA FALLS

Where: Off Omanawa Road (via SH29)



Walking times

30 minutes return

THIS walk takes you to the edge of the spectacular Omanawa Falls.

Drive up Omanawa Road for 11km and you will see the start of the track sign-posted on the left. It follows an old access route which was used in the construction of the Omanawa Falls hydro power station, commissioned in 1920.

The track leads down to the edge of the rugged Hidden Gorge Scenic Reserve, then sidles along a ledge carved into the rocky cliffs. There are hand-rails to assist you.

The scenery here is something special, with the falls cascading into a large pool in the Omanawa River far below.

The track ends abruptly at a locked steel door, to keep people out of the old underground power station which is no longer in use.



KATIKATI TOWN CENTRE

Where: Starts at Beach Road in Katikati.



Walking times

40+ minutes return.

FOR those who appreciate art in the landscape this is more of an experience than a brisk walk. The journey starts at the car park in Haiku Park reached via an access road on the northern side of Robert Harris.

There is ample scope to wander various pathways and appreciate the haiku verse carved into the boulders and pavement.

The Uretara Stream runs through the park. The main path leads over a footbridge, the downstream to the highway and Uretara Landing.



From the Landing, stroll up the main street to appreciate the murals and other works of art throughout the town centre. Rest at a cafe, or at the replica kauri dam water feature in Diggleman Park, before crossing the road and returning to your car.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

TUAHU KAURI

Where: Off Hot Springs Road, south of Katikati



Walking times

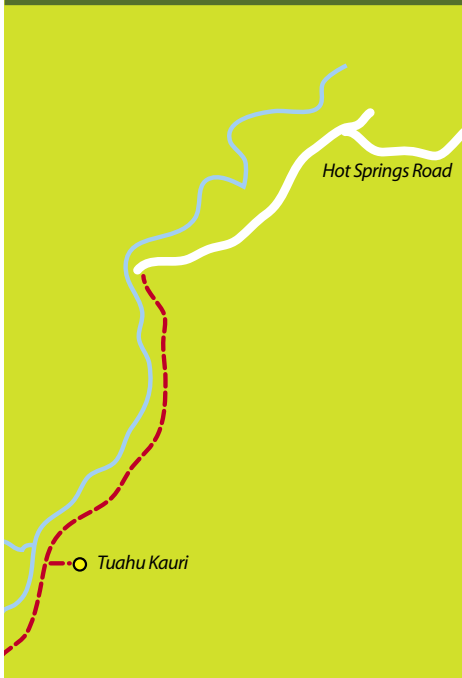
20 minutes one way.

A MAGNIFICENT kauri tree - one of the largest in the Bay of Plenty - awaits you on this walk. The kauri is known as Tuahu, named after its location on an old Maori route that was used as a bridle track in the 1890s.

Today's track starts at the end of Hot Springs Road. It is well-benched and graded and takes you into the Kaimai Mamaku Forest Park, through regenerating native forest where young kauri and rimu are thriving.

Beyond the Tuaha kauri, adventurous walkers may choose to explore other day walks and more challenging tracks in the Kaimai Mamaku Forest Park.

**NO DOGS OR FIRES ARE ALLOWED
IN THE PARK WITHOUT A PERMIT**



KAURI POINT HISTORIC RESERVE

Where: Off Kauri Point Road, north of Katikati



Walking times

80 minutes return.

THREE features in particular attract people to this reserve:

- The magnificent specimens of pohutukawa which line the shore.
- A long, wooden jetty that extends 200 metres out into the harbour.
- Several pa fortification sites.

To get to this reserve go to the end of Kauri Point Road, turn right and drive down to the carpark and toilets. The walkway starts down towards the jetty. It takes you in bush along the harbour's edge to the point, where the track doubles back and climbs up to a gate in the fenceline. From here the route is along the paddocks between the fenceline and Esplanade Road. After dropping down it links up with the northern end of Chelmsford Street. Here one has the choice of turning back to the carpark via Chelmsford Street, or continuing down and along near the shore to the end of Ongare Point Road.



URETARA STREAM WALKWAY

Where: Starts at Beach Road in Katikati.



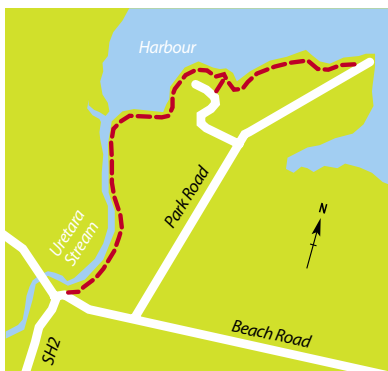
Walking times

45 minutes one way.

THIS popular walk follows the Uretara River out to the edge of the harbour.

It starts on Beach Road, at the site

of the Uretara Landing which played such a key role in the early settlement days. The walkway meanders along the esplanade reserve, downstream past farmland and private gardens, as well as estuary wetlands, before ending at Park Road Reserve. Return the same way or via residential streets. The walkway can also be accessed off Levley Lane.



AONGATETE LODGE TRACKS

Where: At the end of Wright Road, off SH2 between Tauranga and Katikati

your vehicle here as the gate may be locked at any time.



Walking times

Nature Trail Loop 15 minutes round trip

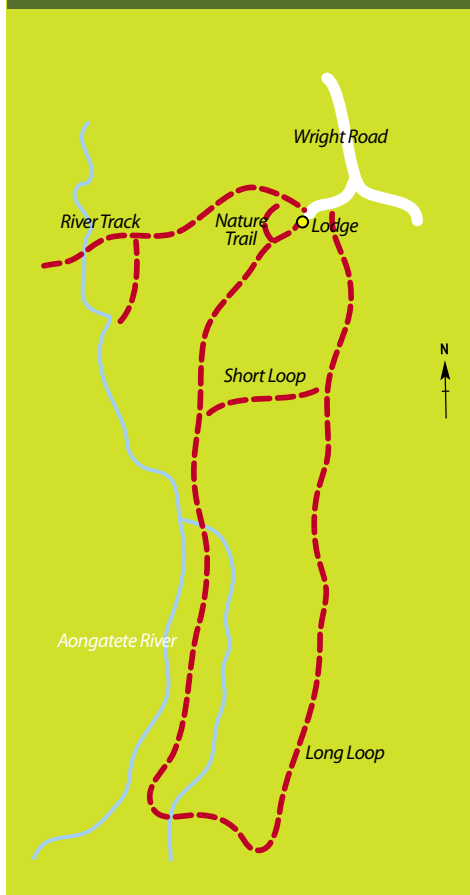


Walking times

Short Loop
60 minutes round trip.

Long Loop
Approx 3½ - 4 hours round trip.

Aongatete River
30 minutes one way.



SEVERAL outstanding walks start and end at the Aongatete Outdoor Education Lodge in the Kaimai Mamaku Forest Park. This lodge is set in an attractive bush environment - mainly lowland podocarps and native trees.

To get here, drive to the end of Wright Road.

There is a car park area before the gate to the lodge and it is advisable to leave

The main walking track starts at a sign at the west (Nettlingham Block) end of the lodge and takes you to a junction where the short Nature Trail Loop branches to the right. Continuing along the main track you reach a left-hand branch. The Long Loop continues straight ahead. (This is a more difficult walk; there are stream crossings and boots are recommended.)

Turning left takes you around the easier Short Loop. At the next junction, turn left again and soon you'll reach the edge of the bush. A stile crosses the fence into a paddock, and you return to the car park.

The walk to the Aongatete River starts on the western side of the lodge. In damp conditions the track can be slippery, so please be careful. After about 15 minutes, it branches left and leads to some attractive swimming holes.

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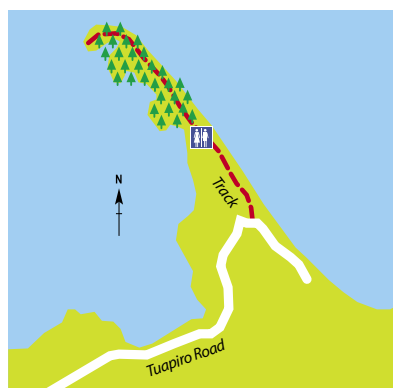
TUAPIRO POINT

Where: Off Tuapiro Point Road, north of Katikati



Walking times

30 minutes one way.



TUAPIRO Point is a small sandspit across the channel from Tanners Point.

At certain times of the year, a lot of seabirds gather here. Please take care not to disturb them, or any other estuary wildlife.

Retrace your steps or take a short detour and explore the grove of landmark pine trees on your return journey.

THIS WALK IS TIDAL - APPROPRIATE FOOTWEAR IS RECOMMENDED

GERALD CRAPP HISTORIC RESERVE & OMOKOROA PENINSULA

Where: At the end of Omokoroa Peninsula, 14kms north of Tauranga



Walking times

Domain to Bramley Drive via Historic Reserve

30 minutes one way.

Omokoroa Peninsula

Up to 2½ hours.

ON the picturesque Omokoroa peninsula there are a number of easy, pleasant walks. The most popular is a 40-minute walk that takes you round the tip of the peninsula and through the Gerald Crapp Historic Reserve.

From this reserve, which covers about 2 hectares, you get spectacular tree-framed views of the harbour and Matakana Island. The magnificent variety of mature trees - including a giant Moreton Bay fig - were mostly planted by the Crapp's, one of the first pioneering families in the area. The reserve is also the site of the Wai Huri pa.

The walk starts from Omokoroa Beach Domain, at the end of The Esplanade. Head along the beach and up into the reserve. Carry on around the point and along the cliff-top esplanade reserve, in front of many attractively gardened homes, and take in the views up Tauranga Harbour as you make your way to Bramley Drive.

From here, return the same way or via residential streets. Another very popular, but longer, walk takes in much more of the peninsula.

As well as from The Domain, there are accesses off Waterview Terrace and from the southern end of Hamurana Road. This walk takes you along the western foreshore past the golf course and on to Kayelene Place.

On the eastern side of the peninsula, Cooneys Reserve, on Margaret Place, leads down to the harbour. Follow the shoreline northwards and this will bring you to the southern end of The Esplanade.



PLEASE REFER TO SIGNAGE FOR PROHIBITED AND RESTRICTED AREAS FOR DOGS

TE PUNA QUARRY PARK

Where: Take Te Puna Quarry turn-off (signposted) west of Te Puna 10 minutes north of Tauranga, at the end of the Te Puna Quarry Park Road (off SH2).



Walking times

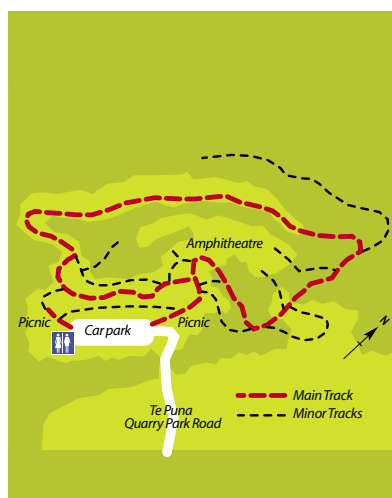
Main Track 45 - 60 round trip.

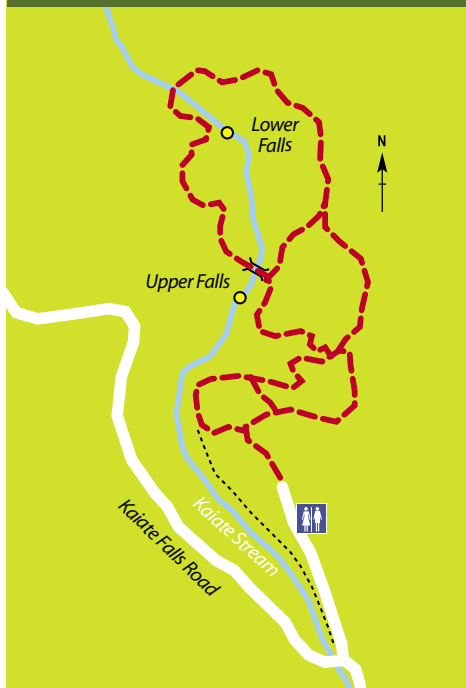
Secondary Track Various Options

THIS park is one of the most popular walks in our District. Covering about 32 hectares, it is a myriad of walking tracks, waterways, native and exotic gardens, garden art and restful picnic areas. From

the higher points there are stunning coastal views, extending from the Coromandel ranges to the eastern Bay..

The park is a disused quarry, which produced rock from 1911 to 1970, mainly for building roads and reclamations throughout the Bay of Plenty. After it was closed it was left neglected until 1993 when the Te Puna Quarry Park Society was formed by a group of local residents with a vision to turn it into a premier wilderness garden and artistic retreat. Granted reserve status in 1996, every year it gets better and better.





TE REREKAWAU (KAIATE FALLS)

Where: Off Kaiate Falls Road



Walking times

Up to 60 minutes return.

IN a pretty, bush-filled ravine where the Kaiate Stream drops over ignimbrite bluffs, a series of cascades and waterfalls combine to create Te Rerekawau Falls. They are sign-posted from Welcome Bay Road as "Kaiate Falls".

Drive up Waitao Road and after about 4.9kms turn left at Kaiate Falls Road. The scenic reserve containing the falls is a further 1km and a vehicle track leads to the car park.

The walking tracks are well formed, although quite steep in some places. The main track leads to the top, and then to the base of the upper series of falls before continuing downhill to the lower falls. Another track, just below the car park, follows the stream back to the road bridge. Track junctions are well sign-posted.



RAPARAPAHOE STREAM

Where: 7kms from Te Puke, off No 4 Rd.



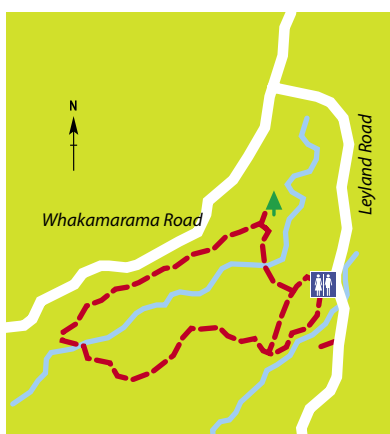
Walking times

60 minutes return.

THIS trail takes you down to the picturesque Raparapahoe Stream. The descent from the road and the climb back up are very steep in places, so only those who are fit and agile should attempt this walk.

To get to the starting point, drive up No. 3 Road and turn into No. 4 Road. Cross the bridge, turn immediately left and drive for 2.4 kilometres where there is a sign-posted roadside parking bay.

The track drops steeply through mature tawa forest. When it reaches the bottom of the gorge it continues upstream to a large pool at the base of a 3-metre waterfall - perfect for a refreshing dip.



PUKETOKI SCENIC RESERVE

Where: 12kms West of Tauranga, on Leyland Road (off Whakamarama Road).



Walking times

Short loop 20 minutes return.

Long loop 60 minutes return.

ONE of the oldest reserves in our District, this has been a popular bush walk and picnic spot for almost 80

years. Native bush dominates the reserve and the Te Puna Stream wends its way quietly through it.

The land was donated in 1926 by the Whakamarama Land and Timber Company. An old tramline, which forms part of the track system, is evidence of the early activities of this enterprise.

Both loop tracks are well developed and there are bridges across the streams.



OTAWA SCENIC RESERVE

Where: Te Puna Quarry Road off SH2



Walking times

Te Puke Quarry Road to Manoeka Road 4 hours one way

Manoeka Road to reservoir
15 minutes one way

THERE are two walks - a short one which takes you to an old dam which was Te Puke's original water reservoir and a half-day one which takes you across more hilly terrain.

If you want to walk to the dam, drive to the end of Manoeka Road. From the turn-off on SH2, it is 5.5 kilometres to the reserve entrance, where there is a grassy picnic area and sealed carparking. The last 1.6 kilometres of road is gravel.

To do the longer walk, drive to the top of Te Puke Quarry Road. You will need to cross private farm land to enter the reserve, where the track takes you to the Wharetetaraheho trig. A detailed map of this track is available from the Department of Conservation in Tauranga, at 253 Chadwick Road, Greerton.

NO DOGS OR FIRES ARE ALLOWED IN THE PARK WITHOUT A PERMIT.



MINDEN SCENIC RESERVE

Where: Ainsworth Road, off SH2 just north of Te Puna.



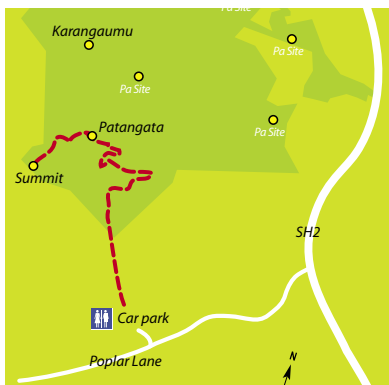
Walking time

15 minutes return.

If you like your walks short and sweet, you'll love this one!

Below the entrance to the reserve is a pond with waterfowl. The walk

follows a broad grassy avenue for 300 metres before entering the bush track. Follow up beside a small stream through regenerating forest dominated by rewarewa and mamaku tree ferns for about 10 minutes to a small bridge. Cross here and double back downstream to emerge at a pleasant open area with a picnic table. A little further on, swing hard right down to a bridge and then climb up to rejoin the route at the grassy avenue.



PAPAMOHA HILLS CULTURAL HERITAGE REGIONAL PARK

Where: 17km south of Tauranga - start at the car park off Poplar Lane (off SH2)



Walking times

60 minutes return.

THERE are many cultural features in this park that date back to the earliest days of Maori settlement. It is one

of the most historic landmarks in the Bay of Plenty and the views from the summit are absolutely breathtaking!

To appreciate it fully, you need to walk to the summit. There and back requires a reasonable level of fitness - some parts of the track are quite steep - and will take you about 60 minutes.



OTANEWAINUKU

Where: 25 minutes drive from Tauranga, on Mountain Road (off Oropi Road)



Walking times

Summit Track 90 minutes return

Rimu Loop Track 30 minutes return

Mountain Road to Whataroa Waterfall 60 minutes one way

AT 640 metres above sea level, Mount Otanewainuku offers some spectacular views.

Much of the mountain is covered in virgin forest and bird life is prolific. Podocarps, especially rimu, are common and tawa, kamahi and rewarewa form the canopy.

Maori legend says Tutanekai, lover of Hinemoa, leapt from the summit to escape his Rotorua enemies.

All three walks start at the small car park, where there is also a shelter, toilet and picnic area.

The summit track is reasonably steep in parts, but the breathtaking view from the top is worth the climb. A tower built by Army Territorials offers panoramic

views from East Cape to Mount Tarawera and Rotorua, and across the Mamaku Plateau to Mount Ruapehu.

The Rimu Loop Track starts from the opposite side of the road near the car park. It is a gently graded walk, with some impressively large rimu and tawa.

If you'd like to turn this into a longer walk a well-marked route branches off the Rimu Loop Track after 15 minutes and undulates through the forest to the Whataroa Falls. Explore this pristine stream, with its cascades and pools, before returning the same way.

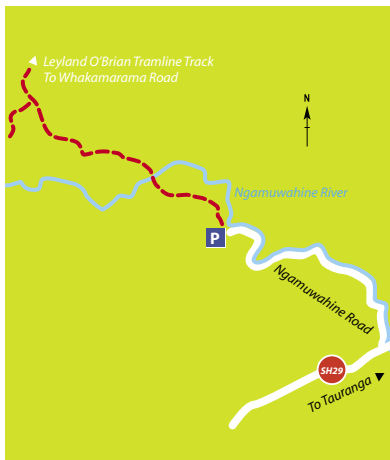
For the seriously-fit, beyond the waterfall a track continues north to the main ridge track which leads to Otawa Scenic Reserve. From here it is around 18.5 kilometres (9 hours) to Te Puke Quarry Road.

A detailed map of this track is available from the Department of Conservation in Tauranga, at 253 Chadwick Road, Greerton.

The Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust is working with the Department of Conservation to restore a healthy kiwi population to the Otanewainuku forest. Dogs pose a real threat to kiwi.



NO DOGS OR FIRES ARE ALLOWED IN THE PARK WITHOUT A PERMIT.



NGAMUWAHINE TRACK

Where: Off SH29, on left about 9km on the Tauranga side of the Kaimai Summit.



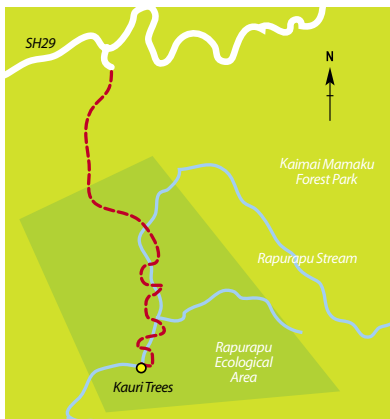
Walking times

1½ hours one way.

THIS track climbs up through bush and crosses a river behind the lodge at the end of Ngamuwahine Road, before levelling out on a ridge. The

track finishes at an intersection with the Leyland O'Brien Tramline Track. Return the same way.

Alternatively, from the end of the track take the Leyland O'Brien Tramline Track north towards Whakamarama Road (1 hour 30 minutes to road end). Or take the Leyland O'Brien Tramline Track south to access the North South Track. Hurunui Hut is nearby



RAPURAPU TRACK

Where: Off SH29, on left about 4km on the Waikato side of the Kaimai Summit



Walking times

75 minutes one way.

THREE majestic kauri trees in a mature native forest setting, and a pristine stream with safe swimming holes, are the main drawcards for this walk which is particularly popular in summer.

The whole area is an ecological reserve within the Kaimai Mamaku Forest Park, the walk starts from the car park just off SH 29, west of the summit.

For the first 600 metres you go through a previously grazed area that is being re-vegetated with radiata pine and tree lucerne as nursery crops. The track then enters a terrace of tawa forest and drops down to the Rapurapu Stream. Follow the stream and soon you will come to a boardwalk at the base of the kauri trees.

The largest tree is 1.79 metres in diameter and 14 metres to the first branch. All three kauri can be seen at once, from the rocks in the middle of the stream, just before climbing the boardwalk steps.

CAUTION: There are numerous stream crossings, so we advise against walking this track after heavy rain. Sturdy footwear should be worn.

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