



## Govan Wilson to Puhoi Valley

(Map 023, 024, 025)

<b>Northern Start</b>	Junction of Govan Wilson and Matakana Valley Rds
<b>Southern End</b>	Junction of Ahuroa and Remiger Rds, Puhoi
<b>Distance</b>	37.5km
<b>Time</b>	1.5 days
<b>Tramping Standard</b>	Mixed grade

### Route

#### Govan Wilson to Dome - 15km / 6-7hr

**Please note: this track crosses private forestry land in the Waiwhiu Valley. Open daylight hours only - no camping, fires, dogs, horses, vehicles.**

Walk 3km to the end of Govan Wilson Rd to the marked steps up onto the track.

Once up the steps from Govan Wilson Road, follow the clay 4WD track (it passes a private home so please keep to the track). Enjoy the views & the rusty old bus while following along the ridge to the junction with Conical Peak Rd. Take the right fork and continue on this 4WD track until reaching a turnoff on the left onto a narrow bush track in DOC's Totara Scenic Reserve.

Follow the marked bush track which eventually descends steeply down the ridge into the Waiwhiu Valley. At the bottom of the hill, the track turns right across a small creek and follows the true right of the Waiwhiu Stream for approximately 1.3km. At this point, the track crosses the Stream (take care not to slip) to enter private forestry land.

The track joins the Waiwhiu Valley Rd (a private forestry road). Turn right and follow the road for some 300m; turn left into a clay 4WD road (Fisher Road - but sign keeps disappearing) which climbs steeply through pines. Just over the brow of the hill, the track turns off the 4WD road (easy to miss) into the pines for a short climb to the ridgeline and DOC's Dome Forest.

This narrow bush track now follows along the ridgeline through attractive podocarp and broadleaf forest with glimpses of the surrounding countryside and coast.

The track climbs to the Dome trig. Then there's a few more ups and downs along the ridge, including a steep scramble around large rocks, on the way to the Lookout platform with views across the Mahurangi Peninsula to the Hauraki Gulf. The track then descends 1km on upgraded walkway & steps to the Dome Cafe carpark and SH1.

#### Dome to Moirs Hill - 16km / 4-5hr

##### **Warning: Forestry & farming operations**

Immediately across SH1 from the Tearooms is Kraack Rd. Follow this road up to a forestry gate. Pass the gate, head along a SW forestry road. Take a left down another track heading southwards then cross westwards through regenerating native bush. This is thinly marked through to Smyth Rd.

Follow Smyth Rd south, turn right into Kaipara Flats Rd, then left into Streamlands/Swamp Rds.

Turn right (W) into Old Kaipara Rd and keep an eye out for the entrance to #121 when the route is marked up the driveway. Follow the markers up the driveway and around the edge of a fence (ie not up driveway to the house) then follow the marked fenceline up to and along the ridge to Edgerley Rd, please use the stiles. Give stock a wide berth - they are very friendly!

Follow Edgerly Rd 1km before turning right (W) onto Woodcocks Rd. A further 500m along take a left into Matthew Rd and running off the end of Matthew Rd is a forestry road to take you up to the summit of Moirs Hill. As the forestry track runs onto Moirs Hill Rd, continue straight ahead past DOC's Waihunga Track and past the radio transmission tower shortly after.

*Just east of the transmission tower, there is a Te Araroa-signed, 4WD track (Barkers Rd) that heads 1.7km south down to Ahuroa Rd.*

**Note:** stay on the clay/grass track. The gravel one you glimpse occasionally is a neighbouring forestry road. There are very few markers as there is just pine and gorse for much of the way.

### **Dunns Ridge Track - 2.5km / 1hr**

**Warning: Farming operations & predator control - please do not freedom camp in this area**

From the Ahuroa - J Tolhopf Road intersection, Head south 1km down J Tolhopf Rd until you pass a rural residential subdivision, then reach a widened area of sealed road with angle parking. Enter through the gate just past the carpark, and follow the fenceline up and over the ridge to the bushline.

From this bushline, follow orange markers across and through part of Dunn's Bush (a QEII reserve, with loop tracks back to Ahuroa Rd) until you pass the "Sugarloaf" rock formation. A stile is in place if you want to climb up to this very peaceful & picturesque spot with beautiful views across the valley and out to the coast.

Otherwise keep heading SE on the ridge and follow markers through the farm paddocks. The route briefly joins a farm track then leaves it again to follow the fenceline - please stick strictly to the marked route and follow the fenceline down and over stiles to Remiger Rd.

*Follow Remiger Rd 1km to the intersection with Ahuroa Rd - directly opposite you is a swingbridge onto the Puhoi Track.*

### **Other Information**

**For tramping tracks, it's recommended you carry appropriate safety gear including map, compass, whistle, warm clothing, raincoat, basic medical kit, strong footwear, food and water. Cellphones can work on the ridgelines.**

#### **General / Visitor information**

[Warkworth i-Site Visitor Information centre](#) - 1 Baxter St, Warkworth - P: 09 425 9081 - E: [info@warkworthnz.com](mailto:info@warkworthnz.com)

[DOC](#) - Unit 12, 30 Hudson Rd, Warkworth - P: 09 425 7812

#### **Getting there/away**

*Long haul bus services to stop 9km away at Warkworth, nearest town on SH1.*

[InterCity](#) - P: 09 583 5780 - E: [info@intercity.co.nz](mailto:info@intercity.co.nz)

[Northliner Express Coach Service](#) - Paihia - Auckland - Wellington - P: 09 438 3206

[Naked Bus](#) - P: 0900 62533 (calls cost)

#### **Local transport/Transport to Trailhead**

[Warkworth Taxis](#) - 54 Burtram St, Warkworth - P: 09 425 0000

[Matakabs](#) - P: 09 422 2244 or 0800 522 743

#### **Accommodation - Govan Wilson**

Twin Rimus (Matt and Jas) - 107 Govan Wilson Rd - P: 021 2057404 Matt. Camping (or in the barn if its raining), hot shower, wifi, a cold beer and coffee in the morning. \$20pp/night. Produce, chocolate, chips and extra drinks also available for purchase.

Mandy Logan is at 256 Govan Wilson Rd and happy to have walkers camp for the night - please contact in advance

[mandyf@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mandyf@xtra.co.nz)

#### **Accommodation - Warkworth**

[Mahurangi Backpackers](#) - 11 Wickens Place, Warkworth - P: 09 425 7513

[Walton Park Motor Lodge](#) - 2 Walton Ave, Warkworth - P: 09 425 8149 - E: [info@waltonpark.co.nz](mailto:info@waltonpark.co.nz)

[Ribbonwood B & B](#) - 7 Thompson Rd, Warkworth - P: 09 422 2685 - E: [berris@ribbonwoodwarkworth.co.nz](mailto:berris@ribbonwoodwarkworth.co.nz)

#### **Detour option for Accommodation - 2 km south**

[Warkworths Sheepworld Caravan Park](#) - Cabins & Camping - SH 1 Dome Valley Warkworth - P: 09 425 9962

#### **Accommodation - Dome to Moirs Hill Route**

[Nanekoti Homestay](#) - 111 Edgerley Road, Kourawhero, about halfway along the [Dome to Moir Hill Route](#) - P: 09 425 9756 - E: [nanekoti@bauer.org.nz](mailto:nanekoti@bauer.org.nz)

#### **Resupply**

[New World Supermarket](#) - 6 Percy St, Warkworth - P: 09 425 1040

#### **Refreshments**

Top of the Dome Café - 496 State Highway 1, Warkworth - P: 09 425 7794

### Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track
- Poisons & traps
- Farming operations
- Forestry operations
- River crossings - Never cross flooded rivers
- Small stream crossings
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Few water sources between Dome and Puhoi

### Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Respect private land
- Forestry operations - Track may be closed occasionally
- No litter
- No dogs
- No horses
- No firearms
- No vehicles
- No bikes
- No taking plants
- No fires in forest

### Amenities (Start)

- Full range of amenities at nearby Matakana Village
- Car park at Matakana Valley and Govan Wilson Rds intersection

### Amenities (On Route)

- Carpark
- Toilets
- Dome Cafe on SH1