



Mercer to Rangiriri

(Map 032, 033)

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Northern Start | Skeet Rd, Mercer |
| Southern End | Rangiriri Bridge (Junction of SH1 and Churchill East Rd) |
| Distance | 25.5km |
| Time | 1 day |
| Tramping Standard | Easy tramping track |

Route

NO dogs, guns, camping or fires.

Track is impassable when the river is in flood. The Waikato is a dangerous river. Swimming is NOT recommended. Water erosion may undermine the bank near the river edge.

Whangamarino Redoubt Track - 2.5km / 45min

This is a very scenic route but the track is basic, hilly and can be slippery - so good footwear and reasonable fitness required. From the southern end of Skeet Rd, keep going straight ahead, following the fenceline and orange markers. When the fence ends, keep following the markers over farmland and through bush. From the high points, there are great views of the Waikato River and the Whangamarino wetland which is the second largest bog and swamp complex in the North Island.

Near the southern end of the track is the Whangamarino Redoubt (an historic site from the Maori Wars era). At a stile, you have the choice of going right past remnants of the war entrenchments and through DOC estate or straight ahead down to Oram Rd.

Whangamarino Wetlands Track - 5.5km / 2hr

From the Whangamarino floodgate, follow the markers underneath the railway line and the two highway bridges before coming up on the banks of the Waikato River and west of SH1.

Walk south as close as practicably to the Waikato River, past the mythological Taniwha lairs and through boggy wetlands and landscaped grasslands to the outfall by the former power station.

Just south of the old power station, veer west off the highway shoulder and follow the marked track along the stopbank. Continue on south along the river bank until you reach Dragway Rd. Turn west and follow the road to the end.

Waikato River - 17.5km / 6hr

Near the end of Dragway Road, an ignimbrite rock marker marks the trail head, engraved with a Waikato River verse from a Topp Twins song. Signage indicates walkers are under the protection of the Ngati Naho taniwha.

The first 9km from Dragway Rd to the Te Kauwhata Pumphouse is the most scenic part of the track. It follows farm tracks and the stopbank for three kilometres before ascending hilly terrain to a height of 35 metres, with good river views, before descending again to the flats. Kahikatea, cabbage trees and puketea alongside the trail give a hint of the original riverside vegetation.

Soon after, the track passes on to another farm frontage, climbing to another river viewpoint before crossing a swamp on a 30m boardwalk and exiting just north of the Pumphouse. (*The Pumphouse is accessible by Hall Road, if you want to arrange a pickup by car here*).

The track continues along the stopbank parallel to Churchill East Road for most of the remaining 8.5km to Rangiriri. (The quiet road shoulder is an option if you don't like moving past occasional cattle - wear hi-viz and don't use headphones).

Two kilometres south of the Pumphouse, watch for Tarahanga, an island that was used in former times as a Maori sentry post to detect invaders on the river. High priests here once uttered powerful incantations and sounded alarms through a rock structure known as Te Pahuu o Ngati Pou, warning of any impending danger.

Three kilometres along this route, the track diverts on to the road for nearly 2km, then returns to the stopbank again for the final 2km to Rangiriri Bridge. This last section sometimes grazes young bulls so, if you'd prefer, the road is again an option.

The trail ends near an old redoubt where, in 1863, British troops fought Waikato warriors in a bloody encounter. The nearby Rangiriri Battle Site Heritage Centre displays military relics and an audio-visual of the battle.

For those continuing south, it is safer to walk underneath the bridge then scramble up the bank to cross Rangiriri Bridge on the southern side of the road.

Other Information

Mercer

Getting to/from the start

The Waikato region conveniently starts near the Mercer Service Centre, SH 1, Mercer. It is well serviced by long haul bus companies

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

[Northliner Express Coach Service](#) - P: 09 307 5873

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

Rangiriri

Getting there/away

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

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

Accommodation

[Rangiriri Hotel](#) - 8 Talbot Street, Rangiriri (pub, bar, food & accommodation) - P: 07 826 3467

Cathy Miller is in Rangiriri, adjacent to the pub and cafe. There are camping and shower facilities, washing machine, food and a 4 bedroom guest house. Call/Text Cathy on 0274 404924.

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track
- Farming operations
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Few water sources
- Track is impassable when the river is in flood. The Waikato is a dangerous river. Swimming is NOT recommended. Water erosion may undermine the bank near the river edge. Supervise children closely.

Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Respect private land
- Leave gates as you find them
- No litter
- No dogs
- No firearms
- No camping
- No fires

Amenities (Start)

- Full range of amenities Mercer Service Centre
- Car park
- Toilets
- Shop
- Phone
- Accommodation

Amenities (On Route)

- No amenities



Rangiriri to Huntly

(Map 033, 034)

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Northern Start | Rangiriri Bridge (Junction of SH1 and Churchill East Rd) |
| Southern End | Hakarimata Scenic Reserve, end of Parker Rd |
| Distance | 21.5km |
| Time | 1 day |
| Tramping Standard | Easy tramping track |

Route

NO dogs, guns, camping or fires.

Once you've crossed the bridge, continue a further 150m around the first corner and there is a stile to take you across the first fence to this riverside track which runs parallel to Te Ohaki Rd. On a clear day, you'll see the orange-topped chimneys of the Huntly Power station standing in the distance.

1.5km in, past Maurea Marae, there's a monument to the Ngati Naho chief, Te Wheoro, whose personal history embodies the extraordinary stresses of colonial rule on Waikato Maori as they argued strategies to preserve tribal identity. Te Wheoro sided at first with the Crown. In 1857, he spoke against setting up a Maori king and, at the great conference of Maori leaders at Kohimarama in 1860, spoke again in favour of the Government. Governor Grey's British troops invaded Waikato territory in July 1863 and, in November that year, overcame the Maori redoubt at Rangiriri, forcing the Maori King, Tawhiao, out of Ngaruawahia to sanctuary around Waitomo and Te Kuiti. In the years that followed, Te Wheoro acted as an intermediary for the Government's negotiation with the King. As a Maori MP over the next two decades, Te Wheoro witnessed Government decisions he saw as racist and finally became an implacable critic of the Native Land Court. He came to believe local self-government was right for Maori and in 1884, in company with Tawhiao, he travelled to England to petition Queen Victoria for redress of Maori land seizures.

At 7km, the track comes up to the Huntly Golf Course. It cleaves to the river here, keeping behind a screen of trees, safe from the golf balls that ping up the 16th fairway. At the tee, it's safe to come out. The clubhouse is close by and open most weekends for hot food, maybe even a beer. Walkers welcome.

The track follows the stopbank out to Te Ohaki Rd, to circumvent the Huntly Power Station's ash ponds. It stays on the road verge for another kilometre before ducking back onto the stopbanks, crossing Maori land between Te Ohaaki Marae and the river, then exits back onto the road. For the last 200m it enters shady bush through the sculpture park in front of Huntly Power Station.

From the Sculpture Park, continue south along footpaths/road margins on Te Ohaki Rd - Harris Rd - Riverview Rd and then (500m into Hakarimata Rd) turn right (south-west) into Parker Road. Walk 800m along this road to [DOC's Hakarimata Scenic Reserve](#).

Other Information

Background Information

Signage at the track start offers walkers the protection of the taniwha, Tarakokomako, and names the seven now-vanished ancestral villages and the two existing marae en route.

Look out for the plaque carved with a taniwha and a greeting from Tainui:

- *Kia tupato kia pai to hikoi - Walk the path in safety*
- *Me te titiro whanui, kia koa - Look deeply and learn*
- *Ki nga taonga kei mua i a koe - From your surroundings*

A short detour beyond the sculpture park opposite Huntly Power Station, hidden from sight, is a modernist sculpture - an

immense and strikingly Maori figure -with poupou standing up from a reflective pool. This depicts the 1995 settlement of a grievance dating back to the 1860s when the largest land confiscation of any tribe was imposed on Tainui.

Huntly

General information

[Huntly I-SITE Visitor Information](#) - 156 Great South Rd, Huntly - P: 07 828 6406

Getting there/away

[InterCity](#) - Major North Island routes - W: - E: info@intercity.co.nz - P: 09 583 5780 - (call centre open 7am-8pm)

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

[BusIt](#) (Huntly & Hamilton) - P: 0800 800 401

Local transport

[Huntly Taxis](#) - P: 07 828 0100

Accommodation

Accommodation is available in Huntly, across the Tainui Bridge from the Te Araroa route on the eastern side of the river: [Lake Hakanoa Huntly Motor Camping Grounds and Holiday Park](#) - 5 Taihua St, Huntly - P: 07 828 8363 - 15 tent sites, 42 power sites, 4 onsite caravans, 3 cabins. On the shores of Lake Hakanoa

[The Essex](#) (2 kms beyond the southern trailhead) - 151 Main St, Huntly - P: 07 828 7179

[Manor Views](#) - 24 Upland Rd, Huntly - P: 07 8280171 or 021 959562

[Remember Then - Kauri Lane](#) - 26A Kauri Lane, RD1, Huntly (just to the south of Parker Rd where the route enters the Hakarimata Range) - P: Judy 027 2007096 - Camping and two furnished double rooms available, enquire about pickup/dropoff service.

Accommodation available on the following dates:

OPEN 1 August 2017 to 22 December 2017

CLOSED 23 December 2017 to 3 January 2018

OPEN 4 January 2018 to 25 February 2018

Resupply

[Fred's 4 Four Square](#) - Gordon Rd, Huntly - P: 07 828 7438

[Countdown Supermarket](#) - 16/18 Tumate Mahuta Drive, Huntly - P: 07 828 2041

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track - the Glenmurray Bridge is one lane with a VERY narrow footpath.
- Farming operations
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Beware flying golf balls! Also the Waikato River is dangerous. Don't swim in the river. Water erosion may undermine the bank near the river edge. Supervise children closely.

Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Respect private land
- Leave gates as you find them
- No dogs
- No firearms
- No camping
- No fires

Amenities (Start)

- No amenities
- Accommodation & food at the Rangiriri Hotel, Rangiriri Road, Rangiriri. Hosts John and Bev Gear. Phone 07 826 3467.

Amenities (On Route)

- Full range of amenities in Huntly
- Clubhouse cafe at Huntly Golf Club, 540 Te Ohaki Rd



Hakarimata Walkway

(Map 034, 035)

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Northern Start | Hakarimata Scenic Reserve, end of Parker Rd |
| Southern End | Waingaro Rd bridge, Ngaruawahia |
| Distance | 12km |
| Time | 6-7hr |
| Tramping Standard | Tramping track |

Route

The Hakarimata Track is steep, hilly and arduous but the bush and views are worth it.

The track from Parker Road starts on the Kauri Loop Track which leads up a long flight of steps then levels out to traverse a largely open face with views to the north. Continue up (southwards) from the Lower Lookout through stands of large rimu to the Upper Lookout with its spectacular views to the north and west.

Alternatively, take the Kauri Loop Track west of the Lower Lookout to walk on past an old pa site and through bush to the large kauri trees. A few minutes further on, there's the kauri grove bush viewpoint. This loop track takes you through to the Upper Lookout. (This will add on approx 1 hour to your day).

The Hakarimata Walkway starts from the Upper Lookout. Head in a southerly direction for 20 minutes to the southern lookout where there are excellent views south across Hamilton. The Walkway continues along the undulating crest of the Hakarimata Range with occasional views out to the west and east.

Approx 500m SE of highpoint 314, there is a rough exit track heading down in an easterly direction past a disused quarry to Hakarimata Rd on the western banks of the Waikato River. It's obviously used by locals as a shortcut to town but it is hand over hand in places.

The main ridge track continues southwards to the Hakarimata Trig at 374m high. Walking 200m south of the trig, take the track leading down towards the Mangarata Stream. This track - "the Summit Track" is a tremendous success story, where the local community have adopted it as a community wellbeing tool, and it wont be uncommon to see locals heading up or down the track (often multiple times) in their quest for better health outcomes. Kia kaha!

It comes out on Brownlee Avenue which connects with Hakarimata Rd. Follow the road south east until reaching the Waingaro Road Bridge over the Waipa River. Track officially ends on the eastern bank.

If you are after amenities, continue east across the railway and Great South Road to reach Jesmond St - the main business road in the small township of Ngaruawahia.

Other Information

Hakarimata Walkway

Background / Historical Information

Just north of Hamilton, Ngaruawahia is a significant place for Maori. It is the home of the Maori King and the magnificent Turangawaewae Marae. The marae is open only once a year, during the annual regatta, which is held on the nearest Saturday to the 17th March. Ngaruawahia is located at the junction of two great rivers - Waikato and Waipa. These rivers were once important canoe routes; later they served European settlers. Taupiri Mountain, which watches over Ngaruawahia, is sacred and

contains the Waikato's most significant Maori burial ground. You can walk to the summit for views of the region.

General Information

Functional facts: Approx. population 5000, limited accommodation, basic shops.

Accommodation

[Arrow Lodge Motel](#), 13 Market St, Ngaruawahia. P: 07 8248360 - E: arrowlodge@callplus.net.nz

[Remember Then - Kauri Lane](#) - 26A Kauri Lane, RD1, Huntly (just to the south of Parker Rd where the route enters the Hakarimata Range) - P: Judy 027 2007096 - Camping and two furnished double rooms available, enquire about pickup/dropoff service.

Accommodation available on the following dates:

OPEN 1 August 2017 to 22 December 2017

CLOSED 23 December 2017 to 3 January 2018

OPEN 4 January 2018 to 25 February 2018

Resupply

[Riverview Takeaway & Dairy](#) - 52 Great S Rd, Ngaruawahia - P: 07 824 7797

[New World Supermarket](#) - 7 Galileo St, Ngaruawahia - P: 07 824 8275

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track - take care on the one lane bridge
- Poisons & traps
- Few water sources

Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Respect private land
- No litter
- No dogs
- No firearms
- No fires

Amenities (Start)

- No amenities
- Car park

Amenities (On Route)

- No amenities



Ngaruawahia to Hamilton - Te Awa (The River)

(Map 035, 036)

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Northern Start | Waingaro Rd Bridge, Ngaruawahia |
| Southern End | Pukete Rd, Hamilton |
| Distance | 12km |
| Time | 3hr |
| Tramping Standard | Mixed grade |

Route

Potential hazards: Cyclists

Immediately after crossing the Waipa River, take a sharp left into Sampson St and follow it around, joining Broadway St, then onto the Lower Waikato Esplanade.

Follow this under the railway line and road bridge and immediately after the road bridge join the paved path - you're now on the Te Awa cycle/walkway - through the riverside reserve. Across the river is the Turangawaewae Marae, a very significant marae of the Maori people of New Zealand and the official residence and reception centre of the head of the Kingitanga (the Maori King Movement).

Te Awa continues along the river, continuing south as you leave Ngaruawahia. You'll see the Ngaruawahia Golf Course to your right and shortly after a spectacular green bridge will appear. Cross the bridge and you'll be on the true right of the river now.

The path will take you to Horotiu Bridge Rd, where you'll cross back over the Waikato River, and back down onto the Te Awa path along the river, with a small deviation away from the river just past the Fonterra dairy plant.

Other Information

Background Information

Just north of Hamilton, Ngaruawahia is a significant place for Maori.

It is the home of the Maori King and the magnificent Turangawaewae Marae. The marae is open only once a year, during the annual regatta, which is held on the nearest Saturday to the 17th March. Ngaruawahia is located at the junction of two great rivers - Waikato and Waipa. These rivers were once important canoe routes; later they served European settlers. Taupiri Mountain, which watches over Ngaruawahia, is sacred and contains the Waikato's most significant Maori burial ground. You can walk to the summit for views of the region.

Ngaruawahia Township

Getting there/away

[InterCity](#) - Major North Island routes - PH 09 583 5780 - E: info@intercity.co.nz

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

[BusIt](#) - (Huntly & Hamilton) - P: 0800 800 401

Accommodation

[Arrow Lodge Motel](#), 13 Market St, Ngaruawahia. P: 07 8248360 - E: arrowlodge@callplus.net.nz

[Remember Then - Kauri Lane](#) - 26A Kauri Lane, RD1, Huntly (just to the south of Parker Rd where the route enters the

Hakarimata Range) - P: Judy 027 2007096 - Camping and two furnished double rooms available, enquire about pickup/dropoff service.

Accommodation available on the following dates:

OPEN 1 August 2017 to 22 December 2017

CLOSED 23 December 2017 to 3 January 2018

OPEN 4 January 2018 to 25 February 2018

OR Detour west

[Waingaro Hot Springs Hotel & Camping Ground](#) - 2263 Waingaro Rd, Ngaruawahia - P: 07 825 4761 -

E: waingaro.hot.springs@clear.net.nz

Resupply

[Riverview Takeaway & Dairy](#) - 52 Great S Rd, Ngaruawahia - P: 07 824 7797

[New World Supermarket](#) - 7 Galileo St, Ngaruawahia - P: 07 824 8275

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track stay as far off SH1 as possible
- Be aware of cyclists on cycleway into Hamilton from Horotiu

Requirements

- Keep to the track
- No firearms
- No fires

Amenities (Start)

- Basic amenities available in Ngaruawahia Township.

Amenities (On Route)

- No amenities



Hamilton City

(Map 036, 037)

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Northern Start | Pukete Rd, Hamilton |
| Southern End | Taitua Arboretum, Taitua Rd |
| Distance | 18km |
| Time | 5hr |
| Tramping Standard | Walking track |

Route

Follow the Te Awa (a combined walk-cycle way) south through Braithwaite Park along the (true left) banks of the Waikato River to just south of (having passed under) the Claudelands Rd (and railway) Bridge. From here, you will traverse the city as follows:

Leave the walkway and take the Centennial Steps up onto Alma Street. Head out past the Novotel Tainui and turn left/SE into Victoria St. Almost immediately, turn right (SW) into Garden Place (an open-space mall). At the Captain Hamilton bronze statue turn right and walk through Centreplace shopping centre to Ward St (or if after hours continue through Garden Place past the Hamilton City Council building to the Ward St/Anglesea St intersection). Follow Ward St southwest to the intersection of Ward and Tristram Streets.

Here, walk W through Norris Ward Park and at the far side of the park (Seddon Rd) follow signs onto the Western Rail Trail which runs adjacent to the railway line, past the Hamilton Railway Station to Killarney Rd. Walk W along Killarney Road and through the Dinsdale Roundabout to Whatawhata Rd on the SW side.

Follow Whatawhata Rd until turning left (S) into Melva St. At the end of this street, is Tills Lookout.

Continue south-westward across farmland on a paved city walk-cycleway, turn left (SW) into Wallace Rd, turn right (NW) into Taitua Road and walk down the road to the Taitua Arboretum.

Other Information

Hamilton's Taitua Arboretum

Is a collection of mature trees on 20 hectares of open pasture, lakes and woodland gardens linked by a network of walking tracks and bridges. The park also features great views and wonderful bird life. Open 7 days from 8am to half an hour before dusk. Admission free.

Hamilton

General / Visitor information

[I-SITE Visitor Information Centre](#) - 5 Garden Place, Hamilton - P: 07 839 3580

[DOC Waikato Area Office](#) - 5 Northway St, Te Rapa - P: 07 838 3363

Getting there/away

[Hamilton Transport Centre](#) - National/regional bus services, shuttle services and taxis - Cnr Bryce & Anglesea Sts - P: 07 839 6650 - Facilities include - Café, toilets, showers, bike & luggage lockers, telephones & parking.

[InterCity](#) - Major North Island routes - E: info@intercity.co.nz - P: 09 583 5780

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

[BusIt](#) (Huntly & Hamilton) - P: 0800 800 401

[Dalroy express](#) (Hamilton - Auckland, New Plymouth & Hawera) P: 0508 465 622

[Daily Overlander Rail Service](#) between Auckland & Wellington

[Hamilton International Airport](#) - 15 kms south of the city - AIR NZ - P: 0800 737 000

[Super Shuttles](#) - P: 0800 748 885 or 09 522 5100 - E: reservations@supershuttle.co.nz - Airport shuttles

[Minibus Express](#) - P: 0800 64 64 28 or 021 685 099 - E: info@minibus.co.nz

Local transport

Free Hamilton City Centre buses - leave every 10 minutes Monday - Friday: 7am-6pm Mon-Fri and 9am-1pm Sat-Sun

[BusIt](#) - P: 0800 800 401

[Hamilton Taxis](#) - P: 0800 477 477

[Dial A Cab](#) - P: 0800 342 522

Accommodation

The Smith family (including a Te Araroa walker!) are trail angels offering campsite accommodation in North Hamilton, near the trail. Contact 0273233787.

There are many options available at a variety of levels, including the below:

[Microtel Backpackers](#) - 140 Ulster St, Hamilton - P: 07 9571848 - E: info@microtel.co.nz

[Backpackers Central](#) - 846 Victoria St, Hamilton - P: 07 839 1928

[Eagles Nest backpackers](#) - 937 Victoria St, Hamilton - P: 07 838 2704

[YWCA Hostel](#) - Cnr Clarence & Pembroke Sts, Hamilton - P: 07 838 2219 - E: hostel@ywcahamilton.org.nz

[Forty winks Backpackers Hostel](#) - 267 River Rd, Claudelands, Hamilton - P: 07 855 2033

[Js Backpackers](#) - 8 Grey St, Hamilton - P: 07 856 8934

Murray Pinkerton is section-walking Te Araroa and happy to accommodate walkers by cabin or campsite at his house on the W outskirts of Hamilton, just past Dinsdale. Contact him on 0274 952848 or mk_pinkerton@clear.net.nz

Detour to campsite

[Hamilton City Holiday Park](#) - Camping, cabins & self contained units - 14 Ruakura Rd, Hamilton - P: 07 855 8255 - E: hchp@xtra.co.nz

Resupply

[PakNSave Supermarket](#) - Clarence St, Hamilton - P: 07 839 4056

[Countdown Supermarket](#) - Cnr Anglesea & Liverpool Sts, Hamilton - P: 07 834 1490

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track - some walkways are shared with bicycles. Take care crossing roads.

Requirements

- No firearms
- No fires

Amenities (Start)

- Roadside parking only

Amenities (On Route)

- Full range of amenities can be found in nearby Hamilton CBD.
- Toilets at various points along official walkways & at public parks.
- Accommodation YHA Hamilton



Waipa Walk

(Map 037)

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Northern Start | Taitua Arboretum, Taitua Rd |
| Southern End | DOC picnic area, Limeworks Loop Rd |
| Distance | 28km |
| Time | 1 day |
| Tramping Standard | Mixed grade |

Route

This walk utilises footpaths, back road & SH road margins, pasture & river esplanade. Potential hazards: Vehicles; farming operations - please give way to farm animals; River crossings - NO access along Waipa River Banks if in flood. Respect private land; NO dogs.

From the Taitua Arboretum, head W on Taitua Rd, turn left/south onto Howden Road and continue straight ahead when it runs into O'Dea Rd. At the end of O'Dea Rd, continue over the stile - up the steps and onto the track some 2km to Walsh Rd. Turn right/north onto Walsh Rd and follow Walsh Rd (including a 90degree turn to the left) out to SH39, turning right/north onto SH39 and walking 1.5km to Whatawhata village, where a petrol station and tavern have refreshments for weary walkers.

Walk west on SH23 through the settlement of Whatawhata, over the Waipa River bridge and take the first left (S) into Te Pahu Rd. Here you will leave the road to walk on the true left bank of the Waipa River for a way.

Look for a track behind the church, on the river side of the fence, and follow the orange markers. The track runs through pasture and swamp to a footbridge and in places, goes along a farm race - please, always give way to cattle!

At one point, the track heads back onto Te Pahu Rd and across a road bridge (Paratawa Stream) before orange markers lead back onto the river reserve. Then it's back onto Te Pahu Rd to the junction with Old Mountain Rd.

Walk 4.5km SW on Old Mountain Rd (well past the quarry) to the start of the Kapamahunga Walkway.

Kapamahunga Walkway - 10.5km / 3-4hr

**** Note - this route closes 1 August to 10 November for lambing, please walk 7km south on Te Pahu Rd, then a further 5km west on Limeworks Loop Rd to re-connect to the route**

From Old Mountain Road, follow the white and/or orange markers southwards over farmland in the Kapamahunga Range. Note the entry point off Old Mountain Rd is a little obscure.

After 3.5km, you pass a rural airstrip to the west and the end of Waikoha Road to the east. Keep following the markers south for another 3km. As you come downhill to the river, continue further along the NW side of the river, skirting behind the limeworks, before coming out at the junction of Fillery Rd and Limeworks Loop Rd.

Follow the road SW until reaching the DOC picnic area by the Kaniwhaniwha Stream.

Please note: to access Karamu Walkway from the Karamu end, turn off Limeworks Loop Rd on to Fillery Rd, cross the one-lane bridge then follow the signs along a farm track to the carpark.

Other Information

Whatawhata Village

Accommodation

Backyard Bar and Eatery at the main Whatawhata SH39/SH23 intersection - P: 07 8298804 or 021 2846237 (Roger) - E: info@thebackyardbar.co.nz Free campsite with showers and toilet or cabin with bunk beds for \$15pp. A range of food and drinks available in the Eatery and friendly locals that are happy to chat with walkers. Owners live on site.
[Karamu Valley Lodge](#) - 207 Old Mountain Rd, Karamu, Hamilton - P: 07 829 3304 or M: 021 298 9407 - E: shona@karamuvalleylodge.co.nz - Pick ups & drop offs are available.

Resupply

[Whatawhata Service Centre](#) (fuel and basic groceries), 1335 Horotiu Road, Hamilton - Cnr SH 23 & SH 39 - P: 07 829 8225

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track
- Farming operations - please give way on all farm races.
- River crossings - Never cross flooded rivers - No access along Waipa River banks if in flood.
- Open drains
- Few water sources

Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Respect private land
- No dogs
- No firearms
- Always give way to farm animals.

Amenities (Start)

- Car park
- Toilets
- Shop Service Station at Whatawhata



Pirongia Traverse

(Map 037, 038)

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Northern Start | DOC picnic area, Limeworks Loop Rd |
| Southern End | Junction of Pirongia West Rd with Omanawa Stream. |
| Distance | 16.5km |
| Time | 1-2 days |
| Tramping Standard | Tramping track |

Route

This traverse of Pirongia Mountain starts with [DOC's Nikau Walk](#) - an easy stroll south from the Kaniwhaniwha carpark, following the stream through a forest of plantings. Shortly after leaving the farmland and just before a circular walk through beautiful native forest, you take the [Tahuanui Track](#) leading off to the South-East and a picnic/campsite clearing with toilets and the last opportunity for swimming before starting the ascent to the summit.

The [Tahuanui Track](#) then climbs steadily up a ridge through stands of tawa to the summit ridge where several tracks converge on the 959m summit of Pirongia. This would have taken you 4-5 hours so far. 30min beyond the summit in a westerly direction is the Pahautea Hut. It is generally a good idea to overnight in this hut and continue south the following day.

From the hut, you continue westward on the new Noel Sandford boardwalk, following the [Hihikiwi Track](#) with good views to the south. 1km below Hihikiwi Peak and about 600m before Te Akeohikopiro Peak, you take a new spur track heading off in a SW direction. Follow this all the way down to Pirongia West Rd.

Other Information

Weather on Pirongia

Weather conditions can change rapidly, especially at higher altitudes. Always carry a change of clothing, wet weather gear and sufficient food to cater for any emergency.

Accommodation - Pahautea Hut

[Pahautea Hut](#) is the only hut in the park. Sleeps 20 people on two platform bunks with mattresses.

It has a water supply (recommend you treat the water) but no heating or cooking facilities, so you should take a portable cooker.

There are also campsites and a camping shelter at the hut. Fires are not permitted.

What to expect on a tramping track:

- Track is mostly unformed with steep, rough or muddy sections
- Suitable for people with good fitness. Moderate to high level backcountry skills and experience, including navigation and survival skills required
- Track has markers, poles or rock cairns. Expect unbridged stream and river crossings
- Tramping/hiking boots required.

Potential Hazards

- Poisons & traps
- Small stream crossings

- Weather extremes Wait it out in hut if weather closes in.
- Few water sources
- Hut water may need to be treated.

Requirements

- Keep to the track
- No litter
- No dogs
- No firearms
- No fires

Amenities (Start)

- Car park
- Picnic area
- Toilets

Amenities (On Route)

- Basic camp site
- Accommodation Pahautea Hut with shelter, mattresses & water.



Pirongia to Waitomo

(Map 038, 039)

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Northern Start | Junction of Pirongia West Rd with Omanawa Stream |
| Southern End | Waitomo Walkway carpark, Waitomo Village |
| Distance | 43.5km |
| Time | 2 days |
| Tramping Standard | Tramping track |

Route

This is a sometimes steep, rough tramping track with some back country road walking. Please respect track closure during lambing - 1 August to 1 October each year.

Potential hazards: Vehicles; Farming operations - Leave gates as you find them; River crossings - never cross flooded rivers - one stream before connection with Ngatapuwaie Rd is dangerous after heavy rain; Respect private land; NO dogs, camping or fires.

From the Omanawa Stream, follow Pirongia West Rd in an southerly direction. After 2km, you'll reach the intersection with Pekanui Rd. Cross over it and continue S/S-W along Te Rauamoia Rd. After 5.5km, you'll reach SH 31/Kawhia Rd. Turn SE (left) and follow it 2.7km and turn SW (right) into Kaimango Rd. Follow Kaimango Rd for 7.5km to reach the intersection with Honikiwi Road. Veer W (right) and walk 50m to the small carpark on the S side of the road.

Cross the stile onto a formed farm road and follow the orange markers. Then 2km after the rural airstrip, look out for double orange markers. It is not obvious but the track goes over a stile here (while the formed farm road continues on) and into a bush track on an old timber trail.

Keep following the orange markers over high point #405 and past #513 – Omarama, and through to a woolshed near the N end of Mahoe Rd.

Take the gravel Mahoe Road which extends beyond the woolshed, and keep heading south 500m past a DOC sign "Omarama Scenic Reserve".

Immediately south of the Mahoe Rd/Orongo Rd intersection, there is a stile where you head east onto farmland. The route heads due east following a fenceline, with a couple of up and downs and small waterway crossings, however these are easily leapt.

1km in, you will encounter a grass airstrip. More than likely, it wont be in use however in the instances it is, please note as below.

This airstrip is a high risk area. If the airstrip, and/or the fertiliser shed adjacent, is in use - wait where the signs indicate, attract the attention of the site manager, and await their instruction to cross. DO NOT cross until invited.

After crossing the airstrip, continue along the marked fenceline some 400m, which eventually joins a graded track. Follow the track 700m until a stile takes you across a fence - and into a neighbouring property - where the route continues to follow a fenceline 1.5km through cut scrub until crossing another stile by the edge of more mature forest.

A lovely walk through the forest follows - navigate carefully the first 500m along the ridge, then it is slippery when wet on the downhill slopes - and there is a crossing of the Moakuraru Stream partway along the track. In "normal" weather this will be no

more than knee high but does come up after heavy rain. Be prepared to wait it out and if that's the case, recommend you head back N along the track to higher ground.

Once over the stream a gentle uphill before entering a track - look out for the markers on the right - that is based on the old logging routes, note the hand formed rock cuttings. Occasionally you'll get a good view out across the forest. Follow the markers through to the northern end of Ngatapuwa Road.

Walk the (approx. 2.5km) length of Ngatapuwa Rd (S/SE) into Te Anga Rd. Down the hill and just before the roundabout intersection, it joins up (to the right) with DOC's Waitomo Walkway which meanders beside the Waitomo Stream through a mixture of shady forest and open farmland. Turn east and follow the track into Waitomo Village. (Note: The Waitomo Walkway crosses Te Anga Rd, so it is possible to walk the final 1km to Waitomo Village along the road).

Other Information

South of Pirongia

Bartlam's Bush Homestay - 165 Pekanui Rd - P: 027 2943652 (Lynn) - E: lynnbartlam1@gmail.com
Caravan accommodation (incl bathroom) \$25pp, tentsite (incl bathroom) \$10, shuttle from/to trail (\$10), laundry \$8, dinner (incl homegrown meat and vegetables) \$25, breakfast \$8-12.

Waitomo

Note: that just before Ngatapuwa Road (when tramping south) you have to wade the Moakurua Stream. The crossing here is unsafe when in flood, so do not attempt the Mahoe Road to Ngatapuwa Road when there's been persistent rain in the area.

Waitomo Village/Caves

General information

The Waitomo Glowworm Caves Visitor Centre - 39 Waitomo Caves Rd, Waitomo - P: 07 878 8227 or 0800 456 922 freephone. Also includes a Restaurant & café.

Getting there/away

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

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

[Magic Bus](#) - P: 09 358 5600

Accommodation

[YHA Waitomo](#) - 600 Waitomo Caves Road, Waitomo P: 07 878 7649 E: waitomo@yha.co.nz

[Kiwi paka backpackers](#) - Hotel Access Rd, Waitomo - P: 07 878 3395 - E: waitomobackpackers@xtra.co.nz

[Waitomo Top 10 Holiday Park](#) - 12 Te Anga Rd, Waitomo - P: 0508 498 666 freephone or 07 878 7639 - E:

stay@waitomopark.co.nz

[Waitomo Caves Hotel](#) - School Access Rd, Waitomo - P: 07 878 8204 - E: info@waitomocaveshotel.co.nz

[Hamilton Tomo Group](#) - 155 Te Anga Rd, on the Trail route 1.5km before Waitomo Village - E: info@htg.org.nz

Friendly caving club hut with plenty of bunk rooms and space to camp. Hot showers, kitchen and large communal sitting room with wood burner and large deck. There is also space on the grounds for camping and outbuildings for drying gear. A warm hut to weather a wet day or just hang out in the sun and the caverns.

\$15pp/night for bunkbed, \$7.50pp/night camping - both include shower/kitchen. The club trips are held 1st Saturday of each month, email ahead if you'd like to join the trip - some equipment can be hired.

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track
- Poisons & traps
- Farming operations
- River crossings - Never cross flooded rivers - one stream before connection with Ngatapuwa Road is dangerous after heavy rain.
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Take extreme care crossing the airstrip 1km E of Mahoe Rd - if in use follow the instructions from the site manager

Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Respect private land
- Leave gates as you find them
- No dogs
- No horses
- No firearms
- No vehicles

- No bikes
- No camping
- No fires
- Wear hi-viz clothing/pack cover and don't use headphones

Amenities (Start)

- No amenities
- Roadside parking only - room for 3 or 4 cars.

Amenities (On Route)

- No amenities



Pehitawa Track

(Map 039, 040)

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Northern Start | Waitomo Walkway carpark, Waitomo Village |
| Southern End | Rora St, Te Kuiti |
| Distance | 17.5km |
| Time | 6hr |
| Tramping Standard | Tramping track |

Route

This is a medium-grade tramp, largely on farms and in bush but includes a small portion of road margin. The track is steep sometimes. Expect hills with 150-metre ascents and descents. It pauses on top of high karsts to stare across the King Country's low agriculture and tumbled limestone hills that rise to formidable volcanic summits – north to Pirongia, east to Pureora, and south to Ruapehu.

From Waitomo Village, take a short road walk east along Te Anga Rd, cut the corner to head south into Fullerton Rd. Follow it for 1km until you see a stile on the east (lefthand) side.

Cross the stile and follow the orange markers SE across open farmland, then up through a small gate and climb hand-formed track. You'll pass some enormous boulders - these are thought to have come from the Mangakino explosion - some 60km away!

Once up and over the ridge, the track then descends steeply through bush - this is very slippery when wet, do take care - and exits onto more farmland where you'll again follow markers SE along the fenceline, climbing again through bush and onto a ridge. Climb through regenerating bush and the track takes a 90deg turn towards the west, running through what Te Araroa veterans will remember (fondly?) as the infamous "Te Kuiti Tunnel of Gorse" - now nicely opened up and easily passable.

Exiting the bush, head over a stile and follow the marked fence to the next stile; then continue along the fenceline - now on the other side of it - and drop down to a farm race (giving way to any animals found on it). This is the farm of John Were. Look for a stile on the NE (lefthand) side after crossing a farm bridge over a stream and then head for a suspension bridge over the Mangapu River.

Once over the suspension bridge, the track heads through Pehitawa Forest (Queen Elizabeth II Trust-covenanted land and one of the finest remaining stands of Kahikatea trees). Follow markers up a ridgeline to a fence near the top of the hill and over a stile to Oparure Rd.

The following section is closed for lambing 1 Aug – 1 Oct each year (it can be avoided by taking a detour part way i.e. walking east on Gadsby Rd to SH3)

Cross over a stile on the southern side of Oparure Rd onto private farmland. At the top of a hill, are 2 stiles separated by a farm race. Just 50m NE of here is a viewing point of historical pohutukawa and holly trees (see information below).

Beyond these stiles, you will cross a bridged stream, another stile and then veer to the west (right). Partly up the next paddock, past a small stand of trees is the next marker & stile onto a farm track.

On the southern side of the track, cross over another stile to get back onto farmland and head south to trig point 263, then turn sharply E/NE to scramble through the pines to link up first with Brook Park Reserve's Red Trail, then the Blue Trail to exit on SH3 on the northern outskirts of Te Kuiti.

Turn south-east on SH3 and walk 1.5km onto Rora st, the centre of Te Kuiti township. Note two fine statues - a tribute to Sir Colin Meads (one of NZ's finest rugby players) adjacent to the railway station, and the shearing statue at the south end of

Rora St.

Other Information

Background / Historical Information

History behind the historic British holly and Maori pohutukawa trees:

In 1883 Maori chief Mahuki seized a railway surveying party, Wilson Hursthouse and others. Mahuki remained furious at Hursthouse's role in sacking the peaceful village of Parihaka. The Pakehas peered from their prison shed to see Maori writing their names on pigs before slitting the pig throats. Around then, the door of the cell crashed open and there stood their rescuer, Te Kooti, himself an outlaw. Whitiwhiti Joseph, great grandfather of the All Black Jamie Joseph, and a kinsman of Mahuki, celebrated the peace by planting two trees - a British holly and a Maori pohutukawa - on the spot where this happened.

Brook Park offers a country setting with panoramic views of Te Kuiti. The park is used as a farming operation by the Te Kuiti High School Charitable Trust, but pedestrian access is allowed at all times. Care must be taken not to disturb the sheep, especially during lambing.

Noted tree collections are scattered throughout the Park, i.e. Black Walnuts, Pinus Radiata tree crops, Rhododendrons including native trees such as Kauri and Rimu. In addition a recently developed Memorial Arbor offers a spectacular array of colourful trees in a peaceful setting.

Te Kuiti Township

General information

[Te Kuiti i-Site Visitor Information Centre](#) - Rora St, Te Kuiti - P: 07 878 8077

[DOC Maniapoto Area Office](#) - 78 Taupiri Street, Te Kuiti - P: 07 878 1050 - E: tekuiti@doc.govt.nz

Getting there/away

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

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

[Magic Bus](#) - P: 09 358 5600

[Daily Overlander Rail Service](#) - Between Auckland and Wellington - Departs from Rora St Station

Accommodation

[Casara Mesa Backpackers & camping - BBH Hostel](#) - 3km from information centre, Mangarino Rd, Te Kuiti - P: 07 878 6697

[Motel Te Kuiti](#) - Cnr Carroll & King Sts, SH3, Te Kuiti - P: 07 878 3448 - E: info@moteltekuiti.co.nz

[Panorama Motor Inn](#) - 59 Awakino Rd, Te Kuiti SH 3 - P: 07 878 8051 - E: panorama.motor@xtra.co.nz

[Waitomo Lodge](#) - 62 Te Kumi Rd Te Kuiti - P: 07 878 0003 - E: info@waitomo-lodge.co.nz

Resupply

[Te Kuiti Superette](#) - 205 Rora St, Te Kuiti - P: 07 878 8333

[New World Supermarket](#) - Te Kumi Rd, Te Kuiti - P: 07 878 8072

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track
- Farming operations Move steadily and quietly through livestock.
- Open drains
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Steep, muddy and slippery in parts.

Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Respect private land
- Leave gates as you find them
- No dogs
- No horses
- No firearms
- No bikes
- No camping
- Track partly closed for lambing & calving 1 Aug - 1 Oct each year.

Amenities (Start)

- Car park
- Picnic area
- Toilets
- Shop

- Phone
- Serviced Campsite
- Accommodation

Amenities (On Route)

- No amenities



Te Kuiti to Pureora

(Map 040, 041, 042, 043)

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Northern Start | Rora St, Te Kuiti |
| Southern End | Pureora Forest Park, Barryville Rd |
| Distance | 56km |
| Time | 2 days |
| Tramping Standard | Tramping track |

Route

Mangaokewa Reserve Track - 3km / 1hr

Potential hazards; Vehicles; Avoid this track when the river is in flood.

From the shearing statue, continue south along Waitete Rd for just over 1km, then turn left onto West Ahuroa Ford, taking a lot of care as it passes through operational areas with heavy vehicles, head alongside a wire mesh fence then turn right down by the river (without crossing the river).

Follow the Mangaokewa River along, heading upstream. The track skirts the Waitete Sawmill, and McDonald's Limeworks (*with a kiln producing burnt lime for roadworks, as well as lime ground for its many other uses from toothpaste to topdressing*). You also pass an old cement works, then cross over the river on a vehicle bridge.

Once across the river, the track follows a disused quarry road to an abandoned lime quarry site, with pipeline and wooden towers remnants (*limeworks and lime quarrying has been a traditional Te Kuiti industry*). The track ascends beyond the quarry to an elevation of 100m, with good views back across Te Kuiti and up the valley ahead. (*Te Kuiti High School students built the picnic table at this view point, and also, as you descend from here, the footbridges across small creeks*).

The track enters bush for the last kilometre, passing one pretty waterfall en route, then crosses the stream on a suspension bridge to reach Mangaokewa Reserve.

Mangaokewa River Track - 15km / 5-6hr

In the Mangaokewa Reserve, this track follows the Mangaokewa River throughout.

From the North end, be aware that other tracks lead away on both sides of the river so cross the swing bridge to the true left of the river - i.e. the Waiteti Viaduct carpark side of the river - and continue walking from the southern end of the carpark.

The first 2.5km of bush is groomed and nearly predator free thanks to the Mangaokewa Reserve Trust, which has also released native birds in there. You'll pass a huge kahikatea, and through the riverside bush may glimpse stalactites encrusting the far edge of the limestone gorge. The trail then crosses a fence we put in to keep sheep out of the reserve and breaks into farmland.

Just beyond here you'll see one of the best sights of the walk - primeval forest on the far side of the river - the unfarmed side. The track stays on farmland, passes an abandoned dunny, glissades through totara groves and has some great picnic spots on the way through. There are one or two steep slopes you sidle across so take care across those, particularly when wet underfoot. It enters the shade of pine and eucalypt forest near the southern end, then follows a farm track that takes you through to Mangaokewa North Road (note: there'll be a gate on a grass median track which evolves into a road).

Note: *If wanting to be picked up here, you'll need to have pre-organised transport out - it's a long way from anywhere and*

there's zilch traffic.

Continue SE on Mangaokewa Rd and follow it in an easterly direction for approx. 8.5km where it'll turn northwards for 2km, then turn easterly again (at the intersection with Waipa Valley Rd on the west side). Keep following it (it starts to turn south) for another 12km to meet up with SH30. Turn left/east onto SH30 and walk for 8km. Turn off the highway onto Maraeroa Rd on the south side. After 1.5km, take the road leading east/north/east for another 2km until reaching DOC's Pureora Forest Park Headquarters.

Other Information

Mangaokewa Reserve Track

Mangaokewa Reserve is a pleasant place for picnics, overnight camping, bush walks, swimming and other passive recreational activities. Public toilets are available within the picnic area.

Mangaokewa North camping

Some excellent local landowners (Sam and Laura) have established a campsite where the route passes through their property, approximately 200m N of the Mangaokewa North road-end. There is space for camping, a picnic table, toilet, water supply and basic shelter. There is a \$5pp charge which will help with their upkeep, payable into an honesty box there so please carry some cash from Te Kuiti (or from Taumarunui for NOBOs).

Pureora

General information

[DOC Pureora Base](#) - 198 Barryville Road, Pureora (off State Highway 30. It is 20 kms east of Bennydale) P: 07 878 1080

Accommodation

DOC's accommodation options include: [Ngaherenga campsite](#) & the [Pureora Cabins](#) (self-contained) in the beautiful surroundings of Pureora Forest Park (which lies between Te Kuiti, Taumarunui and Lake Taupo and is easily accessed by SH 30 and SH 32).

Resupply

Note: There is no retail shop or petrol station at Pureora.

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track - take care on roads
- Farming operations
- Forestry operations can mean occasional closures
- Avoid when river is in flood

Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Respect private land
- Forestry operations - Track may be closed occasionally
- Leave gates as you find them
- No dogs
- No firearms
- No fires
- Wear hi-viz clothing/pack cover and don't use headphones

Amenities (Start)

- Full range of amenities in Te Kuiti
- Car park
- Picnic area
- Toilets

Amenities (On Route)

- Carpark at Waiteti Viaduct
- Picnic area
- Toilets



Pureora Forest - The Timber Trail

(Map 043, 044, 045, 046, 047)

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Northern Start | Pureora Forest Park, Barryville Rd |
| Southern End | Hakiaha St (SH4), Taumarunui |
| Distance | 110km |
| Time | 5 days |
| Tramping Standard | Tramping track |

Route

500m east of DOC's Pureora Forest Headquarters is the Ngaherenga campsite, halfway between the two is the entry point to the Timber Trail.

It is recommended you plan to walk between formal accommodation locations on this route - Ngaherenga to Bog Inn Hut (20km), to Piropiro Flats campsite (18km), to #10 campsite (21km), to the campsite at the Ongarue terminus of the Timber Trail (17km), this will take you four days. Then into Taumarunui the following day (26km). Trail surfacing is good (it is also a cycleway) so faster walkers may like to do big days, however you should be aiming to stay at these locations.

The Timber Trail passes through magnificent podocarp forests of rimu, totara, miro, matai and kahikatea, as well as some exotic forestry and more open vegetation, offering extensive views of the surrounding landscape.

Utilising historic bush tramways, old bulldozer and haul roads, it features 35 bridges, including 8 large suspension bridges (the longest being 141 metres) and showcases the historic Ongarue Spiral, a marvel of engineering.

Commence along the [Timber Trail](#) on well-graded track for approx 9km through the Pikiariki Ecological Area before momentarily leaving the Timber Trail to take the Toitoti Track up and over the summit of Mt Pureora (a 1hr30 deviation) to take advantage of some of the King Country's most panoramic views of Lake Taupo, Mt Ruapehu and the Kaimanawa Ranges.

Descending from the summit and rejoining the Timber Trail, the route again follows the cycleway to the turn-off to the Bog Inn Hut. Leave the Timber Trail here, and shortly after a short track will lead to Bog Inn Hut for those wishing to sleep there. When leaving Bog Inn Hut, a short connecting path will put you back onto the Timber Trail, without the need to backtrack.

Heading south, you'll soon cross the first of the spectacular suspension bridges on this route, and another shortly after. The faint of heart shouldn't look down!

Its largely downhill from there to bathrooms at Harrisons Rest Area, then a further 12km to Piropiro Flats campsite.

Leaving Piropiro Flats, you'll climb through tawa and tanekaha forest to the 141m Maramataha Bridge which will again take the breath away, then a further climb to a cleared area known as 'the terminus', which was the most northern end of the 1950s Ellis and Burnand tramline. There are toilets at Mystery Creek and the #11 Camp, and shortly after you'll be at the #10 Camp, also with toilets.

From #10 Camp its mostly downhill all the way, with the Mangakahukahu Bridge and remarkable Ongarue Spiral the highlights of the day's walk.

At Bennett Rd, a campsite has been purpose-built for Te Araroa, with plenty of space to camp, a shelter and a toilet in the adjacent carpark. You should look to stay here then walk the 26km into Taumarunui the following day. There are no appropriate locations to freedom camp en route to Taumarunui.

From Bennett Rd, follow the Ngakonui-Ongarue Rd west, which runs onto the Ongarue Back Rd which is the route towards Taumarunui, some 24km away. Just north of Taumarunui you'll reach a roundabout - continue straight onto Golf Rd and follow it for 2.5km turning right/south onto Short St, then left/east into Hakiha St (SH4), the main street of Taumarunui - supermarket, food outlets, bank, pharmacy etc

Other Information

Accommodation

DOC Huts in the Pureora Forest Park

[Bog Inn Hut](#) - 4 bunks, mattresses & heating - Topo50 maps - Grid reference: NZTM2000, E1828988, N5726201

Note: Hut tickets must be purchased from DOC offices prior to your tramp.

[Timber Trail Lodge](#) - located adjacent to the Trail at Piropiro - P: 0800 8856343 - E: stay@timbertrailodge.co.nz - Dorm and private accommodation, includes dinner and breakfast.

Taumarunui

Accommodation

[Taumarunui Holiday Park](#) - 100 State Highway 4, South, Taumarunui P: 07 895 9345 - E: taumarunui-holiday-park@xtra.co.nz

[Grandads Cottage](#) - 298 Miro St, Manunui - P: 027 600 8998 or 07 8957358 - E: grandadscottage298@gmail.com

Budget accommodation, camping, internet available.

[Kellys Motel](#) - 10 River Rd, Taumarunui - P: 0800 554000 or 07 8958175 - E: stay@kellysmotel.co.nz

Family and studio accommodation.

[Epic Cycle Adventures](#) - P: 022 0237958 (Paul) - E: paul@epiccycleadventures.com - Can offer cycle hire for those wishing to cycle the timber Trail and/or shuttle service from Ongarue into Taumarunui. Their base is in the container alongside the campsite at the Ongarue end of the Timber Trail.

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track
- Poisons & traps
- Forestry operations
- Small stream crossings
- Weather extremes

Requirements

- Keep to the track
- No dogs without a permit from DOC
- No firearms
- No fires
- Wear hi-viz clothing/pack cover and don't use headphones

Amenities (Start)

- Car park
- Picnic area
- Toilets
- Basic camp site
- Accommodation ART DOC Gallery, Benneydale offers accommodation and/or transfer to/from start of the track at Pureora Forest Park. www.artdoc.co.nz Phone 07 878 4780.

Amenities (On Route)

- No amenities
- DOC Huts



42 Traverse

(Map 047, 048, 049, 050)

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Northern Start | Hakiaha St (SH4), Taumarunui |
| Southern End | End of Ketetahi Rd, Tongariro National Park |
| Distance | 71km |
| Time | 3-4 days |
| Tramping Standard | Tramping track |

Route

From Hakiaha St (SH4) in Taumarunui, head south (Turaki St and Morero Terrace) to cross the Whanganui River and get onto Hikumutu Rd for a long but pleasant walk through the countryside. Follow Hikumutu Rd through the small settlement of Hikumutu, past a brief encounter with the Whanganui River, then east to Owhango. You'll join Kawautahi Rd just before you get to Owhango, follow that E 1km to SH4. Then walk north 200m on SH4 and turn right/east into Omatane Rd on the southern edge of Owhango. Follow Omatane Rd, Onga St and Whakapapa Bush Rd to the start of the 42 Traverse. It is 27km from Hakiaha St in Taumarunui to Owhango.

42 Traverse (incl. Waione-Cokers Track) - 35km / 1.5 days

The track follows the 42 Traverse four wheel drive road for the first 22km - in wet conditions this can be very muddy/slippery - then branches off along the Waione/Cokers DOC track, then on to Access Road No 3 for a short while before a deviation northeast past the rich history of the Te Porere Redoubt before joining State Highway 47. A further 1.5km north there is the junction with State Highway 46 where there is accommodation.

(You may choose to walk down the entire 42 Traverse exiting on to State Highway 47 six kilometres further south. If you do so, turn left/north onto SH47 and continue north 9km to reconnect with Te Araroa at the Te Porere Redoubt exit onto SH47.)

A 7.5km road walk from the exit of Access Road No 3 to the turnoff for the start of the Tongariro Alpine Crossing (a further 1km up to the carpark) is along sealed highway, broken only by a small settlement near the junction of Highways 46 and 47 that has some accommodation.

Although not the official Te Araroa route, there are options from Taumarunui:

- do a daytrip from Taumarunui to experience the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, then kayak/canoe the upper reaches of the Whanganui River to Whakahoro and on to Pipiriki/Whanganui
- hire a mountain bike to ride the 42 Traverse, there are companies who will meet you at the other end to deliver your pack and collect the bike

Other Information

Transport to trailhead

There are several shuttle companies providing morning pick ups from nearby towns and delivery to the track start, i.e National Park, Ohakune, Turangi and Taupo. They include:

[Tongariro Expeditions](#) - Shuttle service to the Tongariro Crossing - P: 07 377 0435 - E: info@tongariroexpeditions.com (to/from Taupo, Turangi, Ketetahi, Whakapapa) - Multiple return times from the Northern end of the track (6 kms from the Holiday Park).

[Tongariro Alpine Hot Bus](#) - P: 0508 468 287 - E: bookings@alpinehotbus.cop.nz

[Mountain Shuttle](#) - (door to door shuttle from Turangi, Tokaanu, Whakapapa & Ketetahi) - P: 0800 11 76 86 freephone

[Matai Shuttles Transport](#) - 61 Clyde St, Ohakune - P: 06 385 8724 - E: mataishuttles@xtra.co.nz

Accommodation

[Tongariro Family Holiday Park](#) - State Highway 47, Tongariro - P: 07 386 8062 - Camping, cabins and units.

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track
- Poisons & traps
- Small stream crossings
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Weather extremes
- Waione-Cokers track currently unmarked - use topo maps or GPS

Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Respect private land
- No dogs
- No firearms
- Wear hi-viz clothing/pack cover and don't use headphones

Amenities (Start)

- Full range of amenities in Taumarunui
- Toilets
- Shop
- Accommodation

Amenities (On Route)

- No amenities on 42 Traverse
- Shop in Owhango