



## Waipa Walk

(Map 037)

<b>Northern Start</b>	Taitua Arboretum, Taitua Rd
<b>Southern End</b>	DOC picnic area, Limeworks Loop Rd
<b>Distance</b>	28km
<b>Time</b>	1 day
<b>Tramping Standard</b>	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](mailto: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](mailto: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