



Tararua Ranges

(Map 069, 070, 071)

Northern Start	Junction of Gladstone and Poads Rd, Levin
Southern End	Otaki Forks, Otaki Gorge Rd
Distance	45km
Time	3-6 Days
Tramping Standard	Tramping track

Route

This section involves 3-6 days through forest and alpine terrain and includes many steep ascents and descents. It begins at 150m above sea level and reaches its highest point at Mount Crawford 1462m.

WARNING: Weather in the Tararua Ranges is notorious for deteriorating rapidly. Be prepared for extreme conditions at all times. There can be gale-force winds and heavy rain. Snow can fall in any season. Be prepared to wait out storms or for streams to subside after heavy rain. Do not cross swollen streams. Be sure to fill in intentions book at start of track.

The trail is divided into three stages of 1-2 days each, depending on fitness and weather conditions.

- 1) Poads Road (Levin) to Te Matawai Hut (900m), via Waiopehu Hut (960m)
- 2) Te Matawai Hut to Nichols Hut (1160m) via Dracophyllum Hut
- 3) Nichols Hut to Parawai Hut (Otaki Forks, Road End. 100m) via Waitewaewae Hut (310m)

Track Notes

If exiting from the Mangahao-Makahika Track, walk approximately 7km down Gladstone Road to Poads Road on left, crossing old concrete bridge and walking uphill to the car park and information boards.

From Levin, take transport for 7km to car park at end of Poads Road.

Poads Road to Waiopehu Hut - 9km / 4-5hr

This route to Waiopehu Hut (960M 18 bunks) involves a climb of 800m. The track initially crosses private farmland. Follow the white posts.

The Ridge Track to Waiopehu Hut veers right soon after entering the bush. The track is marked through the forested areas and the alpine areas follow a very defined ridge with some marking where possible. There is a pleasant lunch spot at a clearing about half an hour before the hut. The Waiopehu Hut is at the bushline offering good views across the plains and east to Tararua high peaks.

Waiopehu to Te Matawai Hut - 6km / 4hr

Climbs over Waiopehu Peak (1094m), Twin Peak (1097m), Richards Knob (985m) descends to Butchers Saddle (690m) before climbing to Te Matawai Hut. Ascent 500m, descent 600m.

Climb the 100 vertical metres to shoulder of Waiopehu Peak, then descend and climb Twin Peak (with memorial for person killed in major storm 1936) This part of the track is in scrub, offering good views of surrounding hills. Descend through leatherwood

and bush, then climb to Richards Knob where there is a track direction sign. At intersection of Gable End and Dora Ridge Tracks turn east and follow Dora Ridge Track down to Butchers Saddle and up to its junction with the Yeates Track, that connects with the south branch of Ohau River. Follow up the ridge to Te Matawai Hut and helipad.

Te Matawai to Dracophyllum Hut - 8km / 4-5hr

This route to Dracophyllum Hut (1100m, 2 bunks) climbs Pukematawai (1432m), along the main range, over Butchers Knob (1158m) then through bush to Dracophyllum Hut. 700m ascent, 500m descent.

Follow Northern Crossing Track up the ridge to shoulder of Pukematawai (sign where Main Range Track starts). Much of track is above the bushline and can be covered in snow in winter (June -September)

Descend on the Main Range Track over various bumps to the bushline beyond Butchers Knob. Dracophyllum Hut is another hour away through beech forest. (Small hut with 2 bunks & water tank).

Dracophyllum Hut to Nichols Hut - 5km / 4hr

The route to Nichols Hut (1160m, 6 bunks) Track climbs Puketoro (1152m) Shoulder of Kelleher (1142m) and Nichols (1242m) (all unmarked) along Main Ridge to Nichols Hut.

The track is mainly through bush, climbing into open at Puketoro and Kelleher (un-marked). At Kelleher Shoulder a cairn marks where the track descends down a steep tussock ridge, zig zagging down to bush. From here it follows an undulating ridge, finally climbing to top of Nichols(unmarked) from where the track descends through tussock to the hut, east of the saddle.

Nichols Hut to Waitewaewae Hut - 8km / 4-5hr

Route to Waitewaewae Hut (310m 16 bunks) via Mt Crawford 1462m. 380m ascent, 1240m descent.

Note: in strong winds and rain it may be necessary to stop at Nichols Hut until weather clears

Follow the ridge up the summit of Mt Crawford for great views of the Tararua Range, Kapiti Island, the coast and possibly Mt Taranaki. Descend to Junction Knob, turn right to Shoulder Knob, where the track re-enters the bush, and descends steeply to the Otaki River (bridged) and then Waitewaewae Hut.

Waitewaewae Hut to Parawai Hut - 10km / 4-6hr

Route to Parawai Lodge (100m altitude, 18 bunks) and Otaki Forks car park. Ascend to the Plateau (530m) then descend Saddle Creek (200m), and cross Otaki River swing bridge to carpark. 250m ascent, 460m descent.

Follow the marked track down the terrace the hut is on. The wet weather track then climbs and crosses a number of gullies and streams before the climb to the Plateau. These streams can be difficult and dangerous to cross in heavy rain. Be prepared to let levels fall during wet weather.

(Dry weather route - follow the track to Otaki Forks for a 100 or so metres along the terrace then drop down the bank on the unmarked route and cross the Otaki River. Below here the river bends around to flow east. Cross back to the west bank on the bend and head to the orange marker by a side stream just below the long slip in the west bank. Follow the markers and track up this stream (Arapito Stream) to join the main wet weather track where it crosses Arapito Stream. This point is signposted.)

After crossing Arapito Stream the track climbs up the valley crossing a number of gullies before reaching the Plateau. The track crosses Plateau Stream three times in a short distance before a short 20 to 30 metre climb to the saddle. From here the new track heads south along the ridge climbing gently. There are a couple of flat boggy sections on the ridge. From the ridge, the new track crosses a steep slope before dropping down to the old tram track. A well graded track leads from here to a swing bridge over the Otaki River. It then climbs over a terrace on the south side of the river before dropping to Parawai Lodge. The carpark and road are across another swing bridge beside the Waiotauru River.

There is a DOC warden located across the swingbridge near the overnight carpark.

If continuing on to the next section (Pukeatua) turn left at the road and continue for 2km to end of road: camping area, and start of Fenceline and Pukeatua Tracks. Otaki Township is 10km away down Otaki Gorge Road. Transport recommended as road narrow and winding.

Other Information

Weather in the Tararua Ranges is notorious for deteriorating rapidly. Be prepared for extreme conditions at all times.

Be prepared to wait out storms. Snow can fall in any season. Be sure to fill in intentions book at start of track

Views in the Tararua Ranges in clear weather are outstanding.

River swimming at Waitewaewae Hut.

Levin

Getting to/from the start

From the north Te Araroa enters the Wellington region at Poads Road, 7km from Levin (Taitoko). Levin has a full range of service and amenities available and is a good point for resupply.

General / visitor information

[Levin i-SITE Visitor Information Centre](#) - SH1 next to the adventure playground P: 06 367 8440.

Getting there/away

Levin is on [State Highway 1](#), and on the [North Island Main Trunk](#) Line with a [station](#) used by the [Capital Connection](#) long-distance commuter train between Wellington and Palmerston North - P: 0800 801 700

[InterCity](#) - P: 04 385 0520

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

Rental Cars - multiple options available

Accommodation

[Makahika Outdoor Pursuits Centre](#), is situated approx 1.7 km from the farm exit of the Mangahao-Makahika Section of the Te Araroa Trail. It is a residential leadership camp, booked most Mondays-Fridays, however, all 'trail-walkers' are welcome – anytime! We will readily find a bed for you, and worst case scenario we have acres of beautiful grasslands for your tents. You are welcome to have a night of luxury and book the cottage on AirBnB (Makahika Cottage-Levin), or (if available) access one of the 46 bunks in our Lodge.

Available: Hot showers, cold beer, dinner with your hosts, washing and drying facilities, re-stock (you can pre-order by emailing orders to Makahika@xtra.co.nz, you can pay electronically), PLBs on loan and trail knowledge (for the Waiopahu to Otaki Forks sub-alpine section). There is no charge for dinner with your hosts, tenting or a bunkroom, though you are welcome to gift a small koha to be used to support our Youth Justice Programmes. John and Sally Duxfield 06 367 8438 or email jsdux@ihug.co.nz OR Makahika@xtra.co.nz

Beni Paroli (AT hiker) P: 06 368 4570, 027 9304151 E: pepperonis@xtra.co.nz for pickup, shower, meal and bed - Levin;

[Levin Holiday Park](#) (camping, cabins & motel units) - 38 Parker Ave, Levin - P: 06 368 3549 - E: lhp@xtra.co.nz

[Totara Lodge Motel](#) - Cnr Devon & Bristol St - P: 06 368 4114 - E: reservations@totalodgemotel.co.nz

[Panorama Motel](#) - 170 The Avenue SH 1, Levin - P: 06 368 5401 or 0800 660 220 - E: admin@panoramamotel.co.nz

[Bentons Motel](#) - 2 York Street (Cnr of York - P: 06 367 8282 - E: bentonsmotel@xtra.co.nz

[Serendipity B&B](#) - 86 Macarthur St, Levin - P: 06 368 6766 - E: relax@serendipitynz.co.nz

Resupply

[New World Supermarket](#) - 21 Bath St, Levin - P: 06 368 6538

[Countdown Supermarket](#) - 15 Bristol St, Levin - P: 06 366 0050

Otaki

General / visitor information

[Otaki i-SITE Visitor Information Centre](#) - 239 Centennial Park, SH 1, Otaki - P: 06 364 7620 - E: otaki@i-SITE.org

Open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm / Sat 10am-3pm/ Sun 10am- 2pm

Maps NZTopo 50 series Levin (BN33), Shannon (BN34 briefly), Featherston(BP33)

Views in the Tararua Ranges in clear weather are outstanding.

River swimming at Waitewaewae Hut.

Otaki Accommodation

[Bridge Lodge Otaki](#) - 3 Otaki Gorge Road, Te Horo - P: 06 364 6667

Standard DOC camping ground 2km up road at School house Flat (near start of Pukeatua Track), \$6.00

Self-catering cottage on Gorge Rd, Te Horo - P: 06 364 3220.

[2 Campgrounds at Otaki Beach](#), - approx 6 km west of SH 1

[Otaki Manaaki B & B](#) - 102 Rahui Rd, Otaki - P: 0274 783 220

[Otaki Motel](#) - 260 Main Highway, Otaki - P: 06 364 8469 or 0800 662 243 - E: info@otakimotel.co.nz

[Railway Hotel](#) - 6 Arthur St, Otaki - P: 06 364 7165

Resupply

[New World Supermarket](#) - 155-163 Main Hlghway, Otaki North - P: 06 364 8640

[Countdown Supermarket](#) - Cnr Mill Rd & Aotaki St, Otaki - P: 06 364 9001

Transport

Otaki Forks Transport Options: Bookings Essential

If exiting at Otaki Forks the Gorge Road is narrow and winding - not safe for walkers.

Beni Paroli (AT hiker) 06 364 6261 pepperonis@xtra.co.nz for pickup, hot shower, meal and accommodation Otaki Beach.

[Pickup/dropoff from Otaki Forks](#) - P: 06 3643220 or 0274 426968 - E: pipsteele@xtra.co.nz

[Local Taxi Service](#) - Wally (retired) Phone 06 362 6319

[Paraparaumu Taxi Service](#) - Tues,Thurs, Fridays 10am-3pm P: 0800 508 294

Accommodation

For the closest self-catering rural cottage accommodation, and pickup/dropoff from Otaki Forks, P: 06 3643220 or 0274 426968 - E: pipsteele@xtra.co.nz

[Bridge Lodge Backpackers](#) - 3 Otaki Forks Rd, Otaki - P: 06 364 6667 - Accommodation. Camping Ground, Tent & Backpackers

Beni Paroli (AT hiker) 06 364 6261 pepperonis@xtra.co.nz for pickup, hot shower, meal and accommodation Otaki Beach.

Note

Track distances in the descriptions following are closest estimates. Times stated depend on fitness, weather conditions and how often you stop to take photos, snack or rest.

Potential Hazards

- Poisons & traps
- Farming operations Do not disturb stock
- River crossings - Never cross flooded rivers
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Weather extremes - be aware of weather forecast and be prepared to wait bad weather out if necessary

Requirements

- Keep to the track marked by blue poles
- Respect private land keep driveway clear at all times
- Leave gates as you find them
- Dogs on leash only
- No vehicles
- No bikes

Amenities (Start)

- Full range of amenities in Levin
- Car park Orientation signage, Intentions Book
- Toilets At Poads Road starting point.
- Shop in Levin

Amenities (On Route)

- Toilets At each hut except Dracophyllum
- Accommodation Tramping Huts - hut fees required



Pukeatua

(Map 071, 072)

Northern Start	Otaki Forks, Otaki Gorge Rd
Southern End	Waikanae River Bridge, SH1
Distance	25km
Time	1 day
Tramping Standard	Tramping track

Route

Pukeatua - 14km / 6-7hr

The first part of the Pukeatua Section climbs steadily through mixed forest with grass clearings that provide sweeping views of Otaki Forks and the Tararua Range. The highest point is at Pukeatua (812m). The track then descends back down towards the Waikanae River.

The Track

From the Department of Conservation information sign, follow the Fenceline Loop Track for 700m to a marked junction to Pukeatua Track.

The Pukeatua track takes a sharp left uphill turn to a south west ridge. The track is marked with DOC orange triangles, and later with 1.5m blue poles.

Continue up-hill for about 3hr with a hard right turn just prior to exiting the bush before Pukeatua (812m) and a good lunch spot. The track skirts the scrubby tops on the eastern side to Pukeatua Summit. From the summit the track follows the south side of a westerly ridge to a saddle and then northwest down a ridge to a broad ridge and intersection. Turn right at the fork (large orange triangles) following the DOC markers and down towards the covenanted land section and pine forest (where blue poles now mark the route). The area adjacent to the pine forest is private land covenanted with the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust to preserve native forest. Walkers are required to respect the protected area and stay on the marked track.

On reaching the stream go upstream for just 10m then left, crossing the stream on to a four-wheel drive track leading to a gate and metalled road.

Exit left and walk down the road, crossing the pedestrian bridge to the South Mangaone Road Car Park and track end.

From the car park continue down South Mangaone Road (5km) turn right into Ngatiawa Road (1km) and right into Reikiorangi Road (5km) leading to Waikanae Village.

If continuing on the next section (Kapiti Coast) after crossing the railway line and SH1 turn left and proceed south on footpath. Cross Te Moana Road (traffic lights) and down SH1 to the Waikanae River road bridge.

Other Information

Waikanae

Accommodation en route

Ruth Carter offers camping at their house immediately adjacent to the DOC carpark at the end of Mangaone South Rd -

contact her in advance on theoldemill@gmail.com

River Pa - 20 Reikorangi Rd - close to Waikanae en route - P: 022 053 3618 or just turn up. Self-catering, hot shower, indoor mattress, shared kitchen. \$10 koha/night.

Accommodation

[El Rancho Holiday Park](#) - 25 Kauri Rd, Waikanae Beach - P: 04 902 6287

[Kapiti Gateway Motel](#) - 114 Main Rd, Waikanae - P: 04 902 5876 - E: info@kapitigateway.co.nz

[Ariki Lodge Motel](#) - 4 Omahi St, Waikanae - P: 04 293 6072 - E: info@arikilodgemotel.co.nz

[Country Patch B&B](#) - 18 Kea St, Waikanae - P: 04 293 5165 - E: stay@countrypatch.co.nz -

[Birdsong Cabin](#) (B&B) - Winara Avenue, Kapiti Coast, Wellington P: 022 691 2255

[Riverstone B&B](#) - 111 Ngatiawa Road, Waikanae - P: 06 44 293 1936 / E: eppie@riverstone.co.nz

Missy Sinai - P: 027 6557012 - offers a shower and place to rest up near the end of the Mangaone South track.

Resupply

[New World Supermarket](#) - 5 Parata St, Waikanae - P: 04 293 3400

[Countdown Supermarket](#) - Ngaio Rd, Waikanae - P: 04 293 5532

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track
- Poisons & traps
- Forestry operations
- Small stream crossings
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Weather extremes
- Few water sources Only at start and finish

Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Respect private land
- Forestry operations - Track may be closed occasionally
- Leave gates as you find them
- No litter
- No dogs
- No horses
- No firearms
- No vehicles
- No bikes
- No taking plants
- No camping
- No fires

Amenities (Start)

- Car park
- Picnic area
- Toilets
- Phone and assistance at Caretaker's house. No cell phone reception.
- Standard Campsite close to start of track
- Accommodation Parawai Hut 2km from track start.
- Self-catering rural cottage on Gorge Rd, ph owner 06 364 3220 or 0274 426968 or email pipsteele@xtra.co.nz

Amenities (On Route)

- No amenities
- Phone Possible cell phone coverage at Pukeatua Summit



Kapiti Coast

(Map 072, 073)

Northern Start	Waikanae River Bridge, SH1
Southern End	Beach Rd, Paekakariki
Distance	22km
Time	6-7hr
Tramping Standard	Easy tramping track

Route

An easy day's walking after the rigours of Tararua tramping! The trail is virtually level walking for the whole 21km, taking in some of the Kapiti District's icons – the Waikanae River, an estuary and scientific reserve, Kapiti Island in full view from the beach, Queen Elizabeth Park, and the distinctive cafes and local art outlets in Paraparaumu, Raumati and Paekakariki.

Waikanae River - 4.5km / 1¼hr

From the Waikanae Bridge take track down river on the true right bank (north)
Follow main track downstream for 4.5km.
Cross Otaihanga foot bridge (NB the second bridge).

Otaihanga, Estuary & Scientific Reserve - 2.5km / ½hr

Exit bridge into Otaihanga Domain.
Immediately turn sharp right on river side of toilets.
Follow the true left bank (south side).
After 500m veer left to boardwalk and track through the Waikanae Estuary Scientific Reserve.
Ignore side tracks. After 15min join an older section of the Reserve Track that exits on to Manly Street.
Turn right and follow grass verge for 5min skirting the lagoons.
Just before the houses turn right, leaving the verge to enter another section of the Waikanae Estuary Scientific Reserve.
Follow boardwalks over swamp, sand dunes and on to beach.

Paraparaumu Beach to Raumati South - 8.5km / 3hr

At beach turn left (south) by yellow Marine Reserve triangles.
Weather and tide permitting keep on beach heading south for 8km.
Walking along the beach is safe and accessible right to Queen Elizabeth Park except in extreme high tides; in which case use local roads running parallel with beach. All streams are bridged.
When near to high-rise apartments, you can divert to cafes at the boat launch area.

Queen Elizabeth Park - 3.5km / 1½hr

Follow undulating Coastal Track - the one nearest to the sea - for about 1.5km to picnic and toilet area.
Turn left (inland) onto sealed road for 100m.
Turn right at next road intersection and follow along another 100m before rejoining the coastal track.

Approx 1.8km on (track now sealed) veer right to cross footbridge. Continue in front of Surf Life Saving Club to join north end of The Parade.

Paekakariki - 2km / ½hr

Continue along The Parade for 1.7km then turn left into Beach Road, Paekakariki's main street.
(The Te Araroa route continues right up Ames Street to the end, then north over the bridge alongside SH1 for about 20 metres to steps under the bridge. DO NOT cross SH1).

Other Information

Paraparaumu & Paekakariki

Getting to/from the track

The track starts and finishes on State Highway 1 so care needs to be taken if being dropped off by car, but there are suitable parking areas at both ends.

A regular train service from Wellington to Waikanae (The Kapiti Line), stops at Waikanae, Paraparaumu and Paekakariki.

Paraparaumu Accommodation

[Barnacles Seaside Inn BBH](#), 3 Marine Parade, Paraparaumu Beach - P: 04 9025856 E: barnacles@clear.net.nz

Marie Bismarck is a "Trail Angel" living near the Trail at Paraparaumu Beach and offers camping, water, shower for Te Araroa walkers. E: mariebismarck@gmail.com

Paekakariki Accommodation

[Paekakariki Holiday Park](#) - 180 Wellington Rd, Paekakariki - P: 04 292 8292

[Belvedere Motel](#) - Cnr Paekakariki Hill Rd and SH1 - P: 04 292 8478 belvedere.motel@xtra.co.nz

[Finn's Hotel](#) - 2 Beach Rd, Paekakariki - P: 04 292 8081 - E: finnskapiti@xtra.co.nz

[Paekakariki Beachfront B&B](#) - 136 The Parade, Paekakariki - P: 04 905 8595 - E: info@paekakarikibnb.co.nz

Resupply

Paekakariki Village Grocery Store - 11 Beach Rd, Paekakariki Village - P: 04 292 8020 - open 7 days

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track
- Tides, waves & rivers - safer at low tide . Will need to walk along road in certain conditions
- Small stream crossings
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Do not be tempted to take a short cut through the Waikanae Estuary, the sand can be very soft and dangerous at low tide

Requirements

- Respect private land
- Dogs on leash only
- No taking plants
- No camping Camp grounds at Waikanae & Paekakariki
- No fires

Amenities (Start)

- Full range of amenities In Waikanae
- Roadside parking only

Amenities (On Route)

- Full range of amenities Paraparaumu & Raumati Beach
- Toilets Waikanae River- Edgewater Reserve, Otaihangā Domain, village shopping areas & Queen Elizabeth Park
- Serviced Campsite Paekakariki in Queen Elizabeth Park
- Accommodation YHA Paraparaumu - see above



Paekakariki Escarpment Track

(Map 73, 74)

Northern Start	Beach Rd, Paekakariki
Southern End	Pukerua Bay shops on SH1
Distance	10km
Time	3-4 hours
Tramping Standard	Tramping track

Route

Conditions of the agreement giving public access to the land are that no horses, dogs, bikes or motorised vehicles are permitted.

Please do not jeopardise the future of the track by ignoring these requirements.

Keep to the track; do not walk on to farmland, or the rail tracks.

This new track from Paekakariki to Pukerua Bay runs high above State Highway 1 and the railway, reaching 220 metres above sea level. There are spectacular views, and it is one of the highlights of the Te Araroa Trail.

Be aware that it is steep, narrow and exposed, and crosses private property.

Please keep to the marked track and DO NOT enter the rail corridor (you risk a \$20,000 fine).

There are seats and interesting interpretive signs along the way but no amenities.

If section walking, please park thoughtfully - please park at the railway station NOT on Ames St.

Parking is extremely limited and the roadway is narrow.

The road is an emergency alternate SH1 route and any parking on the street makes this difficult.

Parking at the railway station is preferred for all track users.

From Beach Road in Paekakariki, turn south into Ames Street and walk to the far end, (800m), past the last house on the left. Turn hard left onto the footpath and walk north approximately 20m over the bridge alongside SH1.

Take the stairs under the bridge and onto the Escarpment Track – DO NOT cross SH1.

Initially the track undulates and passes through groves of coastal bush. After 10 minutes there is an open area (old quarry), seating and views worth stopping for. Continue on over a small bridge and a cantilevered section of pathway around a rock face.

From here, the track is over steep terrain, and there are no handrails on the steps. Children should be supervised.

The walk should not be attempted by those without a reasonable level of fitness, or who suffer from vertigo.

Suitable footwear should be worn and carry an extra layer in case the weather turns - it can be exposed up there.

Begin the steep ascent via steps and a zig zag path and continue up to the highest point of the track ("the Lookout"), before starting a descent down many steps. You will traverse 2 lovely sections of Kohekohe forest before another steep descent then cross 2 swing-bridges.

The track continues beside private property and the rail corridor. Continue along the old (now closed) Muri Station and go through Muri Park and onto Sea Vista Drive, cutting through the walkway to Pukerua Bay Railway Station.

Section walkers should park in the Pukerua Bay Railway Station carpark and enter the track from there - there is not

enough room to park safely at the end of Muri Rd.

From there, cross the railway track at the safe crossing point then proceed up a slight incline to Te Motu Rd, turn right and walk right to the end where you will cross the footbridge over SH1, then once on the western side of SH1 walk south a further 250m to the start of the next section.

Other Information

***The track is over steep terrain, and there are no handrails on the steps. Children should be supervised.
The walk should not be attempted by those without a reasonable level of fitness, or who suffer from vertigo.
Suitable footwear should be worn and carry an extra layer in case the weather turns - it can be exposed up there.***

Conditions of the resource consent and the agreement with Kiwirail giving public access to the land are that no horses, dogs, bikes or motorised vehicles are permitted.

***Please do not jeopardise the future of the track by ignoring these requirements.
Keep to the track; do not walk on to farmland, or the rail tracks.***

Potential Hazards

- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Weather extremes
- Few water sources No water sources on track - take with you
- Steep stairs - unsuitable for those with vertigo or cardio illness.

Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Respect private land
- No litter
- No dogs
- No horses
- No firearms
- No vehicles
- No bikes
- No camping
- No fires

Amenities (Start)

- Full range of amenities in Paekakariki
- Roadside parking only
- Toilets
- Shop
- Phone
- Accommodation

Amenities (On Route)

- No amenities



Ara Harakeke

(Map 074)

Northern Start	Pukerua Bay shops on SH1
Southern End	Station Rd, Porirua
Distance	13.5km
Time	3-3.5hr
Tramping Standard	Walking track

Route

This track comprises 3 short, easy sections:

- 1) Pukerua Bay to Plimmerton - 1hr 20min
- 2) Plimmerton to Paremata Bridge - 40min
- 3) Paremata Bridge to Porirua Railway Station - 1hr

Track Notes

Route continues south (right) along the footpath on the right hand side of SH1, passing a wooden sculpture, until it reaches Ara Harakeke ("Flax Pathway")

At Whenua Tapu Cemetery continue on Ara Harakeke past the large Taupo Swamp. At Northpoint St go south. Continue to the railway underpass on to Steyne Ave. Turn left, and just before Steyne Ave crosses the Main Trunk Line turn right to coastal pathway (still Ara Harakeke). Follow path then under railway, exit walkway across car park, and cross the Mana/Paremata Bridge over the Pauatahanui Estuary mouth.

Proceed to second pink pedestrian rail overbridge via the Paremata station platform. Exit overbridge to right along Paremata Crescent, becoming Papakowhai Rd. Continue along Papakowhai Rd then to Aotea Lagoon across the road on right. Toilets en route at Plimmerton & Aotea Lagoon.

Exit Aotea lagoon at main entrance (south). Cross Whitford Brown Ave. at pedestrian crossing and turn left, then right into Okowai Rd. Enter into the Gear Homestead grounds on the right. Exit Gear Homestead passing through the Adrenalin Forest. The Gear Homestead and the Aotea Lagoon both provide lovely picnic areas. If you are a dare devil, take time out for some heart-pumping action at the amazing [Adrenalin Forest](#) confidence course.

Turn right onto Aotea subdivision track to SH1. Left into SH1 walkway, then right on to The Ramp (roadbridge to Porirua City). Turn left immediately over bridge into Bullock Lane (beside estuary) and follow waterside path to Station Rd.

If continuing directly to Colonial Knob, take the 1.5km Raiha Walk to Elsdon (camp ground)

Other Information

Porirua

Provides a mixture of walkway cycleway, tramping tracks and road walking

General information

[Porirua i-Site](#) - Under the Canopies, Cobham Court, Porirua Central Business District - P: 04 237 5089

Accommodation option en route - Plimmerton

[Moana Lodge Backpackers](#) 49 Moana Road, Plimmerton - P: 04 233 2010 - E: info@moanalodge.co.nz

[Aquavilla B&B](#) 16 Steyne Ave, Plimmerton - P: 04 2336116 - E: info@aquavilla.co.nz

Accommodation

[Camp Elsdon](#) - 18 Raiha St, Elsdon, Porirua - P: 04 237 8987 - E: camp_elsdon@xtra.co.nz -

[Aotea Camping Grounds](#) - 3 Whitford Brown Ave, Papakowhai - P: 04 235 9599 - E: aoteacamping@vodafone.co.nz

A variety of motels and B&B's including [Amethyst Court Motor Lodge](#) and [Belmont Motor Lodge](#).

Resupply

[Pak N Save Supermarket](#) -12 Parumoana St, Porirua - P: 04 238 0601

[New World Supermarket](#) - Cnr Walton Leigh & Lyttleton Ave, Porirua - P: 04 237 0012

[Countdown Supermarket](#) - Cnr Parumoana and Lyttleton Ave, Porirua - P: 04 239 6060

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track Rail service vehicles/cycles Plimmerton-Paremata
- Tides, waves & rivers - safer at low tide Can walk beach at Plimmerton
- Few water sources

Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Respect private land
- No litter
- No taking plants

Amenities (Start)

- Car park
- Toilets At Pukerua Bay Shops
- Shop A few hundred metres up (south) road

Amenities (On Route)

- Picnic area Aotea Lagoon & Gear Homestead
- Toilets Plimmerton & Aotea Lagoon
- Shop Plimmerton



Colonial Knob

(Map 074, 075)

Northern Start	Station Rd, Porirua
Southern End	Mt Kaukau, Wellington
Distance	21km
Time	6hr
Tramping Standard	Tramping track

Route

Few capital cities offer walks with such spectacular views as the section of Te Araroa from Porirua to Wellington's suburbs of Johnsonville or Khandallah. On a clear day, the views stretch up to Mt Taranaki in the north, across to the South Island's Kaikoura Ranges and Marlborough Sounds, and embrace the city's attractive harbour and hillside suburbs. There is easy accessibility to the start and end points for the 21km walk.

Porirua to Elsdon - 3km / 45min

- From Station Road (adjacent to Porirua Railway Station), cross Lyttelton Avenue at pedestrian crossing and turn right.
- On Northern edge of New World Supermarket car park turn left onto pathway. Follow path to under-cover city centre & Information Centre.
- From Information Centre cross the carpark.
- Cross pedestrian crossing on Hagley Street and turn left.
- Cross Titahi Bay Road at crossing.
- Immediately cross Hagley Street again towards south.
- Follow the Raiha Walkway on right hand side of pine trees along grass verge.
- Follow signed route along grass beside Te Wananga driveway.
- Continue along walkway through to Raiha Street.
- Exit to right. Walk 200-300m to Colonial Knob Walkway car park on left (past Elsdon Camp).

Elsdon to Colonial Knob - 4km / 1hr

- Follow marked track up Colonial Knob.

Colonial Knob to Mt Kaukau - 14km / 4¼hr

- Follow markers down other side (blue) to edge of Spicer Forest.
- Cross stile turn right and follow fenceline on edge of forest.
- Turn left into forest following yellow circles through forest and down to the valley floor.
- Exit through gate and turn left into Ohariu Valley Road.
- Walk along road (approx 5kms) to crossroads. Straight through crossroads to Rifle Range Road to end. Enter Old Coach Road.
- (Optional exit into Johnsonville at Truscott Ave.) Continue along marked track towards television mast on Mt Kaukau.

Optional exit down to Woodmancoate Road, Khandallah.

Other Information

Ohariu Valley

Cellphone coverage: Good coverage along most of the walkway.

Refreshments

[Ohariu Valley Equestrian Centre & Saddleback Cafe](#) - 517 Ohariu Valley Road, Ohariu Valley - P: 04 4788 733 - E: info@saddlebackcafe.co.nz.

Allen Goh welcomes walkers to his house on Ohariu Valley Rd - first on right (southbound) after leaving Spicers Forest - look for sign marked "Rest Stop".

Camping (small charge), refreshment, wifi.

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track take plenty of care along Ohariu Valley Rd - it is narrow and twisting
- Farming operations Go around cattle and take extra care at calving/lambing
- Forestry operations in Spicer Forest (occasional)
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold along the tops
- Weather extremes along the tops
- Few water sources along the tops

Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Respect private land
- Forestry operations - Track may be closed occasionally
- Dogs on leash only allowed on the Northern Walkway sections. Other sections of the walkway are not suitable for dogs as they go through private farm land.
- No firearms

Amenities (Start)

- Full range of amenities in Porirua
- Car park
- Toilets
- Shop
- Accommodation

Amenities (On Route)

- No amenities Except in Suburbs
- Carpark Base of Colonial Knob - Raiha Road
- Toilets At Ohariu Cafe (open only Saturday-Sunday)
- Standard Campsite Elsdon Camp Ground at base of Colonial Knob



Ngaio

(Map 075)

Northern Start	Mt Kaukau, Wellington
Southern End	Cable Car Terminus, Wellington Botanic Gardens
Distance	10km
Time	3.5hr
Tramping Standard	Easy tramping track

Route

This section of Te Araroa follows the Wellington 'Skyline Track' then Bells Track to Ngaio (suburb). From Ngaio the route follows Wellington City Council's 'Northern Walkway' through Trelissick Park, over Te Ahumairangi Hill (Tinakori) and through Wellington Botanic Gardens, ending at the top Terminus of the Wellington Cable Car.

There are exits to Wellington suburban shops and city transport from Mt Kaukau (Khandallah), Ngaio and Wadestown.

Track Notes

From Mt Kaukau viewing platform head south/west down Skyline Track. In 30min turn sharp left (south) down steep Bell's Track to Awarua Street for approx. 1km.

200m before the bottom of Awarua St turn right into Cummings Park. Exit the park at Ngaio Library, turning right down Ottawa Road (joins Northern Walkway)

Follow Ottawa Road to the roundabout and continue straight into Waikowhai Road. After roundabout use pedestrian crossing and keep to footpath. Turn hard left down into bush clad Trelissick Park (before suburban rail underpass).

Soon after 'Wrightwicks Field' leave the Northern Walkway and follow Te Araroa signs along the valley floor. After the river gorge turn hard right to rejoin the Northern Walkway up a steep track to Hanover St. At top of Hanover St turn left into Wadestown Rd. Cross Wadestown Rd at bus toilets, go up steps to Weld St.

Head up Weld St, cross Margaret and Wade Sts. Near the top of Weld St turn sharp left (east) into Te Ahumairangi Park (previously "Tinakori Hill") on a gravel vehicle track. Follow Northern Walkway around side of hill with city views to St Mary St.

At the lower end of St Mary St leave Northern Walkway and turn right up Tinakori Rd for 300m. Cross over Tinakori Rd at pedestrian crossing and enter Wellington Botanic Garden through the 'Founders Gate'. Follow Te Araroa signs through the Gardens uphill to the Cable Car Terminal.

Other Information

Bypass in Trelissick Park through Northern Walkway if Korimako Stream flooded

Section along the tops are very exposed and prone to high winds.

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track
- Farming operations
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold High winds and rain are common on Skyline Track

Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Respect private land
- Dogs on leash only

Amenities (Start)

- Full range of amenities Johnsonville & Khandallah suburb offer all amenities and city transport
- Picnic area Woodmancoate street and Botanic Gardens
- Toilets Woodmancoate Street, Wadestown Rd, Botanic Gardens
- Shop Shops at Wadestown

Amenities (On Route)

- Full range of amenities in Wellington suburbs
- Toilets Roundabout at Ottawa Rd, Ngaio, Wadestown Rd and Botanic Gardens



Wellington City

(Map 075)

Northern Start	Cable Car Terminus, Wellington Botanic Gardens
Southern End	Junction of Oriental Parade and Carlton Gore Rd
Distance	6km
Time	2hr
Tramping Standard	Walking track

Route

This Section traverses the Botanic Garden, the City and around to Oriental Bay. There are many spectacular views of Wellington's picturesque harbour, a wander right past the New Zealand Government Buildings and a walk down Wellington's "Golden Mile" shopping strip - passing outdoor shops in Willis and Mercer Streets: Kathmandu, Macpac and Bivouac.

Botanic Garden - 2km / 30min

This section begins at the top of the Botanic Garden. From the north side of Cable Car terminal head north on a sealed level path past the Observatory and a sundial then downhill on the 'City to Sea' walkway. There are numerous garden paths but Te Araroa follows the 'City to Sea' walkway through the garden. You will pass various sculptures, go through native bush, pass a café, a large rose garden, a playing field and then head downhill through 'Bolton St Memorial Park'. A pedestrian bridge takes walkers across the main city motorway, then leave the City to Sea by turning hard left. Meander down past a white 12 storey high rise building to Bowen St. Just before the Bowen St exit, take a minute to inspect the cutout steel sculptures dedicated to Te Araroa - these were unveiled in 2017 by the Mayor of Wellington. Follow Bowen St down slope to Lambton Quay, passing the New Zealand Government Buildings (aka "the Beehive").

City, Waterfront, Oriental Bay - 4km / 1.5hr

This route begins at the corner of Bowen St and Lambton Quay. Turn right and follow Lambton Quay (Te Araroa plaques in pavement) through the main city shopping street (800m) until it merges with Willis St. Follow Willis St then turn left into Mercer St. Cross Victoria St and enter the Wellington Civic Centre. Walk through the centre and up onto a large wood decorated pedestrian bridge to the harbour. Descend the steps on left then turn right, pass large white water feature and walk out to the waterfront. Turn hard right (south) and follow the wharf past the Te Papa Museum and the boat harbour. Continue left and follow Oriental Parade (and beach) to the far end (east).

PLEASE NOTE...

In the city, the route is marked with brass plaques in the pavement. Along the waterfront the route is not heavily marked though somewhat obvious - follow the waterfront past Te Papa Museum to the far end of Oriental Bay. If you're thirsty, stop for a drink at one of the Te Araroa-themed drinking fountains en route.

Other Information

Wellington City

General information

[i-SITE Visitor Centre](#) - Civic Square, Cnr Victoria & Wakefield Sts, Wellington - P: 04 802 4860.

[DOC Visitor Information Centre](#) - 18 Manners St, Wellington - P: 04 384 7770 - E: wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz.

Getting there/away

[Interislander](#) ferry to/from Wellington & Picton - multiple departures daily - P: 0800 802 802

[Bluebridge](#) - P: 0800 844 844

[Air New Zealand](#) - regular flights to and from Wellington - P: 0800 737 000

[Jetstar](#) - P: 0800 800 995

[InterCity](#) - P: 04 385 0520

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

Rental Cars - multiple options available

Mana Bus - P: 09 367 9140

Accommodation

Full range of hostel, motel and other accommodation providers including:

[YHA Wellington](#) - 292 Wakefield Street, Te Aro, Wellington P: 04 801 7280 E: wellington@yha.co.nz

[Hotel Waterloo & Backpackers](#) - 1 Bunny St - P: 0800 225 725

[Base Wellington](#) - 23 Cambridge Tce - P: 04 801 5666

[BBH Lodge in the City](#) - 152 Taranaki St - P: 04 385 8560

[Nomads Capital Backpackers](#) - 118-120 Wakefield St - P: 0508 666 237

[Wild Zebra Backpackers](#) - 58 Tory St - P: 0508 00 5858

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track Multiple Road crossings through the city
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold

Amenities (Start)

- Full range of amenities in Wellington CBD
- Toilets en route
- Shop

Amenities (On Route)

- Full range of amenities
- Toilets
- Shop



Wellington South

(Map 075)

Northern Start	Junction of Oriental Parade and Carlton Gore Rd
Southern End	Shorland Park, Island Bay
Distance	11km
Time	3-4hr
Tramping Standard	Easy tramping track

Route

From a small picnic area about 100m before Carlton Gore Rd the route climbs uphill on to the slopes of Mt Victoria, following Wellington's 'Southern Walkway' for its full length right down to the south coast. Cover is mainly native bush but with various grassed areas, playing fields and two small pine tree plantations. There are short stretches of suburban roads.

From Mt Victoria the route is on a ridge and approximately parallel to Alexandra Rd, crossing the road several times. Early in the walk, keep an eye out for the "Summit Walkway" if you wish to pop up to the top to admire the views. There are numerous city walking tracks and mountain bike trails so keep focussed on the pink Southern Walkway signs. Some of these tracks are shared walking/cycle tracks, and cycle tracks also cross the walking tracks, so be alert.

The trail crosses Alexandra Park and passes the SPCA (animal) hospital and finally descends to Crawford Rd (major traffic). Cross Crawford Rd and climb up the narrow clay track. Turn left onto Paeroa St, right into Colville St and left into Coromandel St. At the top end of Coromandel St follow the steep paved zig-zag path onto the ridge amongst another small plantation of pine trees. Soon the trail climbs a few flights of steps and emerges into Truby King Historic Park. Exit the Park's long driveway and turn hard left onto Manchester St and very soon hard right onto Sutherland Crescent. This road ends at Melrose Park where the route skirts round the north side of the playing field which is also the Wellington Zoo boundary fence (see Hamadryas Baboon if you're lucky).

At the far side of Melrose Park turn left and climb a steep clay track to the summit of Mt Albert (use marked high route option). Continue along ridge top then veer right past the new concrete reservoir and head downhill to Mt Albert Rd. Turn hard left on to Mt Albert Rd then right into Buckley Rd. After 200m turn left downhill into Sinclair Park. This grassed valley merges into Buckley Rd Reserve. At the bottom of the grassed paddock turn right and follow Houghton Bay Rd to the coast. Cross the road to the sea. Turn right and walk along the coast (1km) to Island Bay. At Island Bay veer right into Reef St, cross the street and enter Shorland Park at the far end at 'The Parade' corner. Walk through Shorland Park to the sea boundary where there is a stone cairn memorial to the end (or beginning) of Te Araroa in the North Island.

Other Information

To reach the South Island and continue your walk you will need to return to Wellington to catch a ferry. Buses leave every 10 minutes from The Parade beside Shorland Park.

General information

[i-SITE Visitor Centre](#) - Civic Square, Cnr Victoria & Wakefield Sts - P: 04 802 4860.

Department of Conservation Visitor Centre - 18 Manners St - P: 04 384 7770 - E: wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz.

Getting there/away

[Interislander](#) ferry to/from Wellington & Picton - multiple departures daily - P: 0800 802 802

[Bluebridge](#) - P: 0800 844 844

[Air New Zealand](#) - regular flights to and from Wellington - P: 0800 737 000

[Jetstar](#) - P: 0800 800 995

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Accommodation

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[YHA Wellington](#) - 292 Wakefield Street, Te Aro, Wellington P: 04 801 7280 E: wellington@yha.co.nz

Hotel Waterloo & Backpackers - 1 Bunny St, Wellington - P: 0800 225 725 - W: www.hotelwaterloo.co.nz

[Base Wellington](#) - 23 Cambridge Tce, Wellington - P: 0800 2273 69 or 04 801 5666 - E: wellington@stayatbase.com -

W: www.stayatbase.com/hostels/new-zealand-hostels/base-wellington

[BBH Lodge in the City](#) - 152 Taranaki St, Wellington - P: 04 385 8560 - E: enquiries@lodgeinthecity.co.nz -

W: www.lodgeinthecity.co.nz

[Nomads Capital Backpackers](#) - 118-120 Wakefield St - P: 0508 666 237 - W: www.nomadsworld.com

[Wild Zebra Backpackers](#) - 58 Tory St, Wellington - P: 0508 00 5858 - E: reception@wildzebrabackpackers.co.nz -

W: www.wildzebrabackpackers.co.nz

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track Multiple road crossings
- Tides, waves & rivers - safer at low tide Take care on the south coast during storm conditions
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold

Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Respect private land

Amenities (Start)

- Full range of amenities in Wellington CBD
- Toilets Oriental Bay
- Shop
- Accommodation As above

Amenities (On Route)

- Toilets
- Shop adjacent to route