

*E ai ki te kōrero ā ngā mātua tūpuna, nā Rakataura, te tohunga o runga i te waka o Tainui, te maunga nei, i tapaina mo tana hoa rangatira, a Kahurere. Na te āhua o te tetere o tōna haputanga, i tapaina ko 'Kakepuku-te-aroaro o Kahu'.*

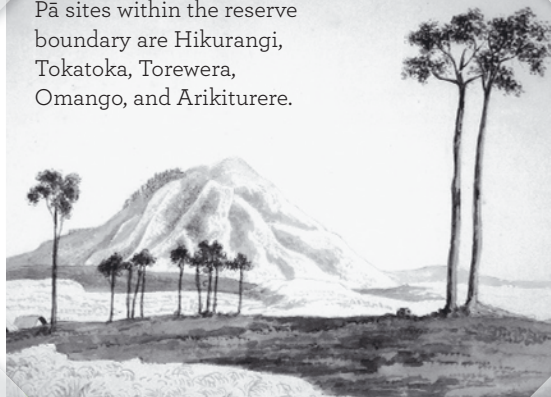
According to Maori tradition, Rakataura, a tohunga of the Tainui canoe named the mountain after his wife, the name referring to the advanced pregnancy of Kahurere. The full name of the mountain is 'Kakepuku-te-aroaro o Kahu' more commonly referred to today as 'Kakepuku o Kahurere'



Toutouwai  
(North Island robin)

Kakepuku was once densely settled by Māori but by the 1860s there was no one left living on the upper mountain. However, the area was still cultivated – peach and fig trees grew all the way up to the summit.

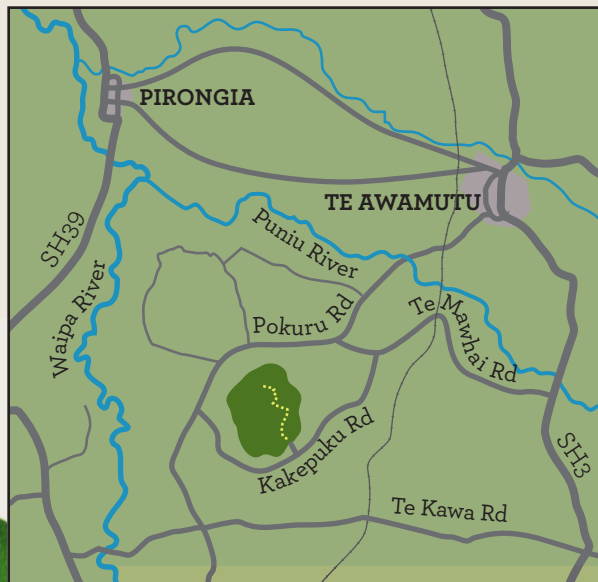
Pā sites within the reserve boundary are Hikurangi, Tokatoka, Torewera, Omango, and Arikiturere.



*"View of Koka Puka from Waipa and Otawau." by Joseph Jenner Merret. c.1814.*

Image: Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, NZ. E216-f181

## How to get there



# Kakepuku Historic Reserve



## For more information

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Published by  
Department of Conservation  
Te Papa Atawhai  
Private Bag 3072, New Zealand  
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November 2018

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This brochure was funded by a Waipa District Council grant and the Department of Conservation, and supported by the Kakepuku Mountain Conservation Project.

Cover photo: Kakepuku and kārearea (New Zealand falcon)



## Track Information

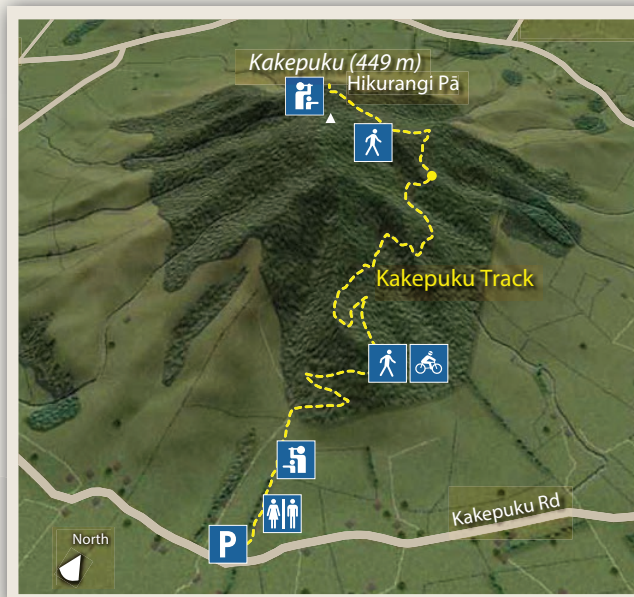
**To Hikurangi Pā and summit view tower:**

 1 hour 45 minutes, 3.7 kilometres

 Grade: Intermediate (3)

The first 5-10 minutes follow a wide easy path to a grassy area and low-level viewing platform. From there it is a steady climb on an old farm track that winds around Kakepuku to a point 400 metres below the summit. This is the end point for mountain bike access. Steps take you from here through the bush to the summit with its excellent views and historic features.

There is no water near the track so bring a drink with you.



Historic Reserve (upper mountain): Department of Conservation  
Recreation Reserve (lower mountain): Waipa District Council

## Green leaves...

A reserve was created in 1913 and the bush started to regenerate. Today the canopy is dominated by **tawa** with scattered **mangeao**, **kohekohe**, **rewarewa** and **pukatea**. Common understory species include **kawakawa**, **māhoe**, **hangehange**, **nikau palms** and a variety of **ferns**, including **para**, the rare king fern.

## and feathers

Look and listen for **miromiro** (tomtits), **pīwakawaka** (fantails), **riroriro** (grey warblers), **kererū** (wood pigeon), **tūi**, **toutouwai** (robins), **pīpīwharau** (shining cuckoos) and the introduced **rosella**.

## Volcanic Origins

This peaceful land was once afire with volcanic activity. Between two and three million years ago a chain of five volcanoes appeared along a NW-SE line of weakness. Kakepuku was largely shaped by alternating eruptions of lava and ash over a period of 100-200 years. From its summit you can see two more of these old volcanoes, Te Kawa to the east and Pirongia to the west. All are now extinct.



## Community restoration

Visitors to Kakepuku may be greeted by miromiro (tomtit), toutouwai (North Island robin), tūi or kererū. These birds are thriving as a result of Kakepuku Mountain Conservation Project (KMCP) implementing extensive animal pest control to improve the forest on the maunga. The group was set up in 1995 with the goal of reducing goats, rats and possums to levels where their impact on the forest and native birds would be minimal. Persistent pest control has resulted in the goats being eradicated. Since this time KMCP volunteers have released North Island robin and, over a six year period, 47 juvenile captive-bred New Zealand falcon (kārearea) have been returned to the wild.



Pukatea



Tawa



Kohekohe



Nikau



Miromiro



Kererū



Laurie Hoverd with a juvenile falcon prior to its release.



One of the volunteers out checking bait stations.