

# Kaimai to coast

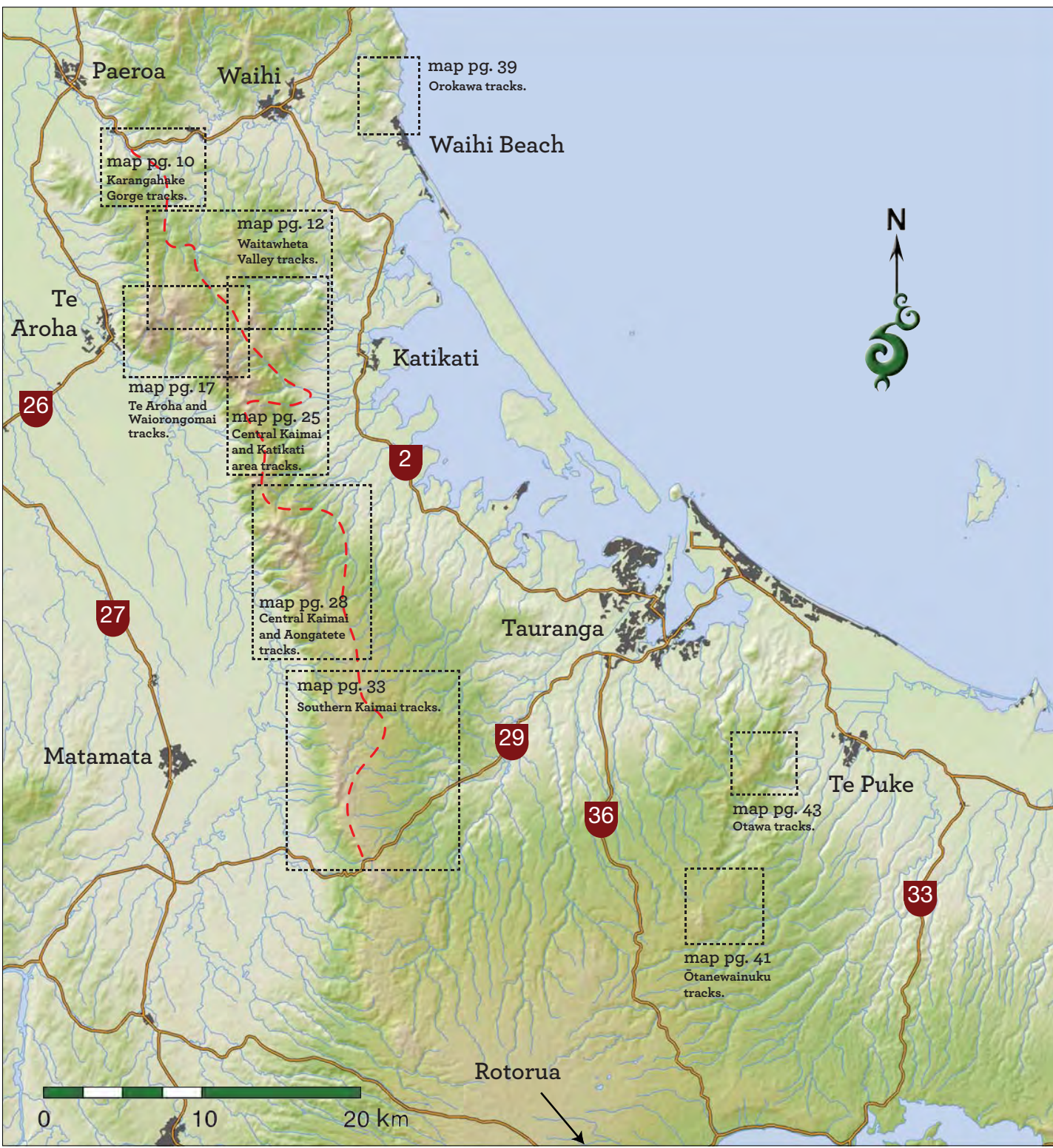
## Walks and tramps

Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park and surrounding area



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

Activity planner											
Karangahake Gorge	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				8
Waitawheta valley		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		12
Te Aroha and Waiorongomai		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		15
Katikati area		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			22
Southern Kaimai and Mamaku Plateau		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		30
The North South Track		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		35
Orokawa Scenic Reserve		✓					✓			✓	39
Otanewainuku Forest		✓					✓		✓		40
Otawa Scenic Reserve									✓		40
Kaituna Wetland	✓										44



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# Welcome

The areas covered in this booklet are significant to the iwi of Te Arawa, Tainui, Takitimu and Mataatua waka. The Kaimai Range formed a barrier between the Bay of Plenty and Waikato regions to early Māori inhabitants and European settlers.

Today, the Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park covers an area of approximately 37,000 ha and features over 350 km of walking and tramping tracks, including the Kaimai Heritage Trail, which represents some of the best examples of 19th-century New Zealand mining heritage. Historic pack-horse tracks and bush tramways are still visible in many places within the park, along with building ruins and other relics from the gold mining and logging era.

This booklet is a guide to walks and tramps in the following DOC-administered areas:

- Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park
- Orokawa Bay Scenic Reserve
- Otanewainuku Forest
- Otawa Scenic Reserve

## Kaimai Heritage Trail



The Kaimai Heritage Trail helps to bring these stories to life in the following locations:

- Karangahake Gorge
- Waitawheta valley
- Waiorongomai valley.

Walks that feature historic sites are marked with the Kaimai Heritage Trail logo in this booklet.

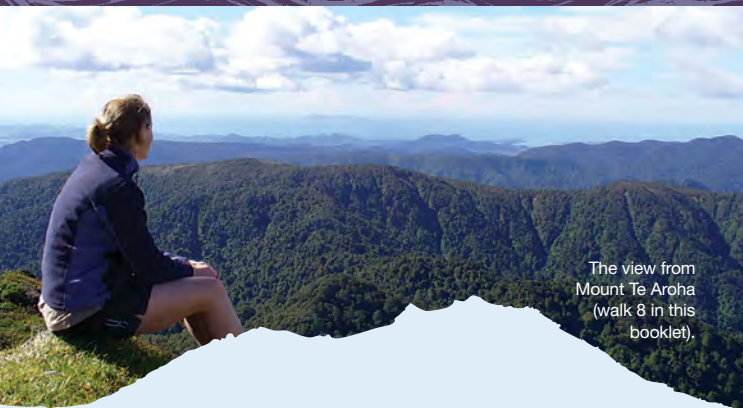
## Getting there

Destinations in this booklet are all within easy driving distance of Auckland, Hamilton, Rotorua and Tauranga. The Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park stretches from Karangahake Gorge in the north almost to Rotorua in the south and is bordered by State Highways (SH) 2, 26, 27, 29 and 36. The nearest towns are Paeroa, Waihi, Katikati, Tauranga, Matamata and Te Aroha, all of which are serviced by regular buses. Air New Zealand also runs services to and from Hamilton, Rotorua and Tauranga airports.

## Plan and prepare

Before you go, know the Outdoor Safety Code – 5 simple rules to help you stay safe.

- 1. Plan your trip** – make sure you have the right gear and know what to expect. See [doc.govt.nz/plan](http://doc.govt.nz/plan)
- 2. Tell someone – Safety is your responsibility.** Leave your trip details with a trusted contact. See [adventuresmart.nz](http://adventuresmart.nz)
- 3. Be aware of the weather** – New Zealand's weather changes rapidly and can be very cold at any time of the year. Rivers can rise quickly after heavy rain. Check the weather forecast and be ready to change your plans.
- 4. Know your limits** – be realistic. Choose a trip that is suitable for the skills and experience of your group.
- 5. Take sufficient supplies** – take clothing for all conditions, including rain, sun and cold, and wear sturdy walking shoes or boots. Carry a map (available from the Department of Conservation's Tauranga Office and information centres), a compass, a first aid kit and a survival kit.



The view from Mount Te Aroha (walk 8 in this booklet).

*tiakina, hākinakinatia, whakauru*  
PROTECT | ENJOY | BE INVOLVED

## Fire restrictions

There is a year-round restriction on lighting fires in the Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park. Please report any fires immediately by calling 111.

If you see any safety hazards in the park, please report them to your nearest DOC office or call 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468).

**DOC HOTline**  
**0800 362 468**  
Report any safety hazards or conservation emergencies  
For Fire and Search and Rescue Call 111

## Natural history

The high northern part of the Kaimai Range is comprised of ancient volcanic rock that has been uplifted along the Hauraki fault line, its highest point being Te Aroha mountain at 952 m. The land has been tilted on an angle to form a steep scarp slope facing the Hauraki Plains to the west and a gentler slope down to the Tauranga basin in the east. The range is covered by a sheet of volcanic rock called ignimbrite.

The Mamaku Plateau to the south is a flat sheet of ignimbrite that erupted from the site of Lake Rotorua/Te Rotorua nui ā Kahumatamomoe 140,000 years ago.

## Historic heritage

Specks of gold were first found in the Wairoa River above Kaimai village in 1867, drawing prospecting parties to the area. Mining soon began, with a large number of mines and associated industry (such as the huge Victoria Battery) being built and operated in the area. This new industry caused a huge demand for timber, with kauri first being taken from within the park around 1875. Felling of the park's native trees stopped in the 1970s but gold mining continues to this day at Waihi.

## Flora and fauna

The area hosts a wide range of vegetation, from dense low-altitude forest to windblown scrub and grassland. The park marks the northern limit of kāmahī, red beech and silver beech and is the southern limit of the mighty kauri. This unusual combination of semi-coastal and montane plant species makes the forest composition unique and highly significant.

The park is also the natural home of many native birds. More common native birds such as tūī, bellbird and kererū are readily seen and heard from within the park, while the rarer whitehead, kākā, kōkako, kiwi and kārearea/New Zealand falcon can also be found, with small remnant populations of the endangered kiwi and kōkako occurring in the northern part of the Mamaku Plateau. Both long- and short-tailed bats also call the Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park home, along with the threatened striped skink, some rare invertebrates, including the Te Aroha stag beetle and pūpū rangi/kauri snail, and small genetically distinct populations of the endangered Hochstetter's frog.

Introduced animal pests such as possums, goats, pigs, deer, mustelids and rats threaten the health of the forest and the ongoing survival of native species. To address this, DOC carries out pest control at key sites and encourages recreational hunting.

Much of the vegetation in the park has also been modified by human activity. In the late 1880s, the gold mining industry generated a huge demand for timber, resulting in kauri being extracted in large numbers for use in mine construction and as fuel for gold extraction processes.

## Didymo

Didymo is a microscopic alga that attaches itself to stream, river and lake beds, smothering rocks and submerged plants.

This pest has caused huge problems in New Zealand's waterways in recent years.

Fishing equipment, tramping boots, swimming togs, kayaks and any other equipment that may have been in contact with water can transfer didymo to new rivers and streams, making it vital that all equipment used in and around waterways is thoroughly cleaned to prevent the spread of this invasive species.

See [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/didymo](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/didymo) for more details.



BETWEEN WATERWAYS

Photo: Leon Berard



## Kauri dieback

Kauri dieback is a serious threat to our magnificent native kauri trees. This microscopic fungus-like pathogen only affects kauri and is spread by soil and soil water movement, root-to-root contact, and human and animal carriers.



Symptoms of kauri dieback include yellowing of the foliage, the loss of leaves, canopy thinning and dead branches. Affected trees can also develop lesions that bleed resin, extending to the major roots and sometimes girdling the trunk as 'collar rot'. Kauri dieback can kill trees and seedlings of all ages.

### Why are kauri important?

Kauri are a cornerstone of the indigenous forests of the upper North Island of New Zealand. They are one of the largest and longest-living tree species in the world, reaching ages of more than 1,000 years. Kauri played an important role in many aspects of Māori culture, being integrated into creation mythology, rituals, war, art and everyday life. Māori regard the kauri as a rangatira (chiefly) species because of its ecosystem-supporting role. The plants, animals and ecosystems that kauri create and support are indirectly under threat from kauri dieback.

### You can help

- Clean shoes and equipment before and after visiting areas where kauri grow.
- Keep to the defined park tracks and to the boardwalks around the giant trees themselves at all times. Any movement of soil around the roots of a tree has the potential to spread the disease.
- Report sightings of diseased kauri to 0800 NZ KAURI or visit [www.kauridieback.co.nz](http://www.kauridieback.co.nz).

### CLEAN YOUR GEAR



Remove soil from footwear



Spray footwear to disinfect



Always stay on the tracks and off kauri roots

## Map symbols



Campsite



Hut



Shelter



Historic site



Lookout



Parking



Canoeing/kayaking



Fishing (license required)



Information centre/i-SITE



Hunting (permit required)/Recreational hunting in the park

For more information on recreational activities within the park, see page 47.

## Track classifications

The walking times stated in this booklet and on park signs are estimates only, so please allow extra time for slower walkers or adverse weather conditions. Additional time should also be allowed for sightseeing and rest stops.



**Short walk:** Easy walking for up to an hour.

The track is well formed; there may be steps or slopes. Suitable for most abilities and fitness levels. Walking shoes required.



**Walking track:** Easy to moderate walking from a

few minutes to a day. The track is mostly well formed; some sections may be steep, rough or muddy. Walking shoes required.



**Tramping track:** Challenging day or multi-day

tramping/hiking. The track may have steep grades. Suitable for fit, experienced and adequately equipped people. Tramping boots required.



**Route:** Unformed track, suitable only for people with high-level backcountry skills and experience.



**The North South Track** A multi-day tramp that uses rugged, unmarked routes in places. This track is marked on maps in this booklet using the North/South symbol. See page 35 for further details.

# Northern Kaimai tracks

## Kauri track upgrades 2018–2019

Additional funding for kauri protection has allowed a large amount of upgrade work to be undertaken along the tracks with kauri present. These upgrades included eliminating muddy sections and improving drainage, installing boardwalks and viewing platforms to protect kauri roots, and re-routing parts of some tracks. New wash stations have also been installed at all track ends leading to the kauri zone. Many of these tracks are now more enjoyable for visitors and offer safer opportunities to view the magnificent kauri in this area.



Kauri (*Agathis australis*)

## Karangahake Gorge

The Karangahake Gorge is packed with history and beauty, much of which is accessible through a variety of short walks. This is the best place to see the amazing mining heritage of New Zealand, with old mine buildings and machinery being seen along most of the walks. The main access to the area is via SH2 at Karangahake. The nearby Victoria Battery site and Owharoa Falls are also accessible from Waikino on SH2, while longer walks and overnight tramps can be accessed from Karangahake via the North–South Track and Mangakino Pack Track.

**Warning: beware of flooding and rockfalls. Do not enter the Ohinemuri River gorge or the Crown Tramway Track during heavy rain or strong winds.**

For more information, see our separate publication *Karangahake – New Zealand's gorge of gold*.



A torch is recommended for mine tunnel exploration.



## 1. Windows Walk

1 hr, 2.5 km (return)

See the very best Karangahake has to offer. The Windows Walk boasts beautiful scenery and spectacular mining remnants, and features an information trail with signage to help you enjoy a memorable trip.

From the Karangahake Reserve car park, cross the suspension bridge over the Ohinemuri River and then the lower Waitawheta Gorge bridge. Climb the stairs and follow the track through mine building ruins and into the old gold mining tunnels, which have four ‘windows’ looking down on the river gorge far below. Cross the gorge again on the upper Waitawheta Gorge bridge and turn right onto the Crown Tramway Track to return to the car park.



## 2. Karangahake Mountain

4 hr, 4.3 km (return)

A network of tracks provides access to the summit and forested flanks of Karangahake mountain. From the Ohinemuri River suspension bridge, take Scotsman’s Gully Track and then turn left onto the road. Continue for 30 min and then turn right onto the Karangahake Mountain Track. This track is fairly steep and can be slippery when wet. Continue to the turnoff for the summit. The track narrows and is very exposed to the elements for the last few hundred metres before the summit. Return the same way.



## Alternative route via Old County Road Track

This old road travels east around the mountain from the start of the Karangahake Mountain Track. It is an easy grade and gives views of the gorge in open sections.

For a loop back to the car park, follow the road to the Old County Road from the marked junction. Allow 3 hr to complete the loop in addition to time spent climbing the mountain.



Impressive industrial heritage in Karangahake Gorge.



## Karangahake Gorge tracks



### 3. The Crown Track 1 hr, 3 km (one way)

Take this scenic walk through historic mining country to the Dickey Flat Campsite. A torch is recommended for passing through the 200-m-long tunnel along this track. From the Karangahake Reserve car park, cross the suspension bridge over the Ohinemuri River and head uphill. Follow the Crown Tramway Track alongside the true left bank of the Waitawheta River. Cross the suspension bridge and continue upstream on the Crown Track past the Crown Stope and a picturesque swimming hole (40 min from the start), and then walk through the tunnel. A bridge crosses the Waitawheta River just before you reach Dickey Flat. Return the same way or pitch your tent for a relaxing overnight stay (fees apply).



The Crown Track follows the Waitawheta River up the gorge.



Exploring the relics of the Karangahake Gorge.

### 4. Karangahake Gorge Historic Walkway 2 hr, 7 km (one way)

This walk is along a section of the shared walking and cycling Hauraki Rail Trail between Karangahake Gorge and Waikino. From Karangahake Hall, cross the bridge to walk through the old 1 km-long rail tunnel. The eastern portal of the Ohinemuri gorge offers a spectacular loop back to Karangahake. The track passes an old rock quarry where a short side track leads to an attractive waterfall. From the Waitawheta Road crossing the scenic Owharoa Falls is 200 m up the roadside. Take extra care when walking along the road to the falls. The walkway finishes at the Victoria Battery site near the Waikino Station Café and Goldfields Railway.

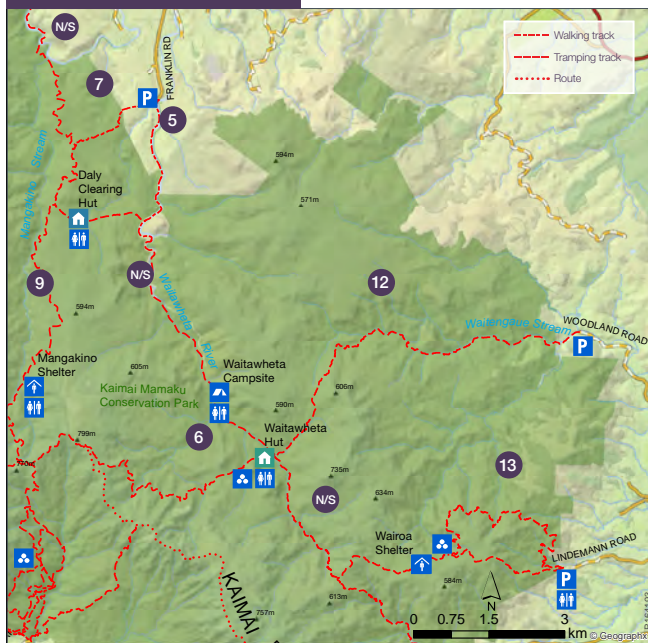
Dogs on leads are permitted.

# Waitawheta valley

Explore this beautiful river gorge by following the historic logging tramway, along which you will see giant kauri and logging relics. You can also stay at the 26-bunk Waitawheta Hut, which is built on the original site of the 1920s kauri timber mill (this hut must be booked online before you visit at [doc.govt.nz/huts](http://doc.govt.nz/huts)). Information panels and the restored tramway along the Waitawheta Tramway Track vividly describe the local history and heritage. An overnight adventure leading to the Waiorongomai valley is also accessible from here, connecting Waitawheta to the gold mining relics and historic spa town of Te Aroha via the top of the Kaimai Range.

Access to the valley is from the end of Franklin Road near Karangahake and Waihi. The walking tracks start by crossing private farmland for the first 30 min or so. Please take care and follow the orange markers.

## Waitawheta valley tracks



## 5. Waitawheta Tramway to Waitawheta Hut 3 hr, 7.5 km (one way)

Follow in the footsteps of our ancestors by retracing the Waitawheta Tramway upriver into the heart of old kauri country to reach the site of the historic Waitawheta sawmill next to Waitawheta Hut. Enjoy the regenerating forest above you as you navigate the gorge.



This track starts by crossing private farmland before entering the Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park. After 1 hr, the track crosses a large suspension bridge and passes a replica log bogie (tram cart). A loop track near the bridge offers a short detour to the site of an old electricity pylon. Continue south from here along the tramline through the spectacular Waitawheta Gorge. The track passes through a tenting site 30 min before reaching Waitawheta Hut. Return along the same track or spend the night to explore more of the park. Please note: Waitawheta Hut must be booked in advance at [doc.govt.nz/waitawheta-hut](http://doc.govt.nz/waitawheta-hut).



A replica logging bogie on the Waitawheta Tramway Track.

## 6. Waitawheta Hut to Waiorongomai via Waipapa Track 7 hr, 14 km (one way)

Complete your Kaimai adventure by taking the historic Waipapa logging tramline and the old pylon line pack-horse track to the Kaimai ridge and exploring the amazing mining tramway at Waiorongomai. You will need transport arrangements to return you to Franklin Road, or wherever you started your journey. The Waipapa track leaves Waitawheta Hut and travels west to meet the north/south dividing ridge. Here it links with the old gold mining Crimson Thread Track that leads to the Waiorongomai valley.



## Alternative routes to Te Aroha township

Once over the Kaimai ridge, trampers can choose to bypass Waiorongomai and continue on to exit the park at Te Aroha township instead via the summit of Te Aroha mountain or the Tui Mine Track.



### 7. Daly Clearing loop

4 hr, 7.5 km (return)

Walking from the Franklin Road car park, look out for the steps leading off the road to your right and take this track uphill through private farmland for 30 min before entering the Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park. A highlight along this track is the extensive groves of nīkau nestled under tall tawa, kohekohe and pukatea forest. At the next junction (45 min from the start), turn left and follow the Mangakino Pack Track until you reach the next junction with the Daly Clearing Loop Track. Daly Clearing Hut is about 15 min from here. After the hut and a small stream crossing, the track drops down steps to meet the Waitawheta Tramway Track. From here, head north to return to Franklin Road.



Pukatea  
(*Laurelia novae-zealandiae*)

## Te Aroha

At 952 m, Te Aroha mountain is the highest point in the Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park. A number of tracks lead up and around this distinctive landmark and the abandoned mines and mine trails nearby. Additional short walks and mountain bike trails around Te Aroha Domain are provided by Matamata-Piako District Council and listed in a separate publication (available from the council or local i-SITE). Further to the south, the Waiorongomai valley features a number of day walks along old gold mining pack tracks and tramways. Both Te Aroha and Waiorongomai are significant cultural and historical areas. Longer overnight walks and Waitawheta Hut can be accessed from here via the Waipapa Track and North-South Track. See map on page 17.



### 8. Te Aroha Summit

3 hr, 3.9 km (one way)

This track ascends almost 1 km.

Follow the track from the Mokena Geyser in Te Aroha Domain up the well-benched track for 45 min to the Whakapipi lookout, which offers views over the Hauraki Plains. The Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park begins just above this lookout. The track climbs the mountain quite steeply for another 2 hr to reach the summit. Te Aroha mountain provides 360-degree views across the Waikato and Bay of Plenty regions, and Mounts Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and Taranaki are also visible on a clear day. Be prepared for alpine weather conditions at the summit. Return to Te Aroha Domain via the same track (most direct route).



Ferns are abundant in the forested walks of the Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park.

### **Alternative route via Tui Mine Track** 3 hr 30 min, 8.4 km (one way from summit)

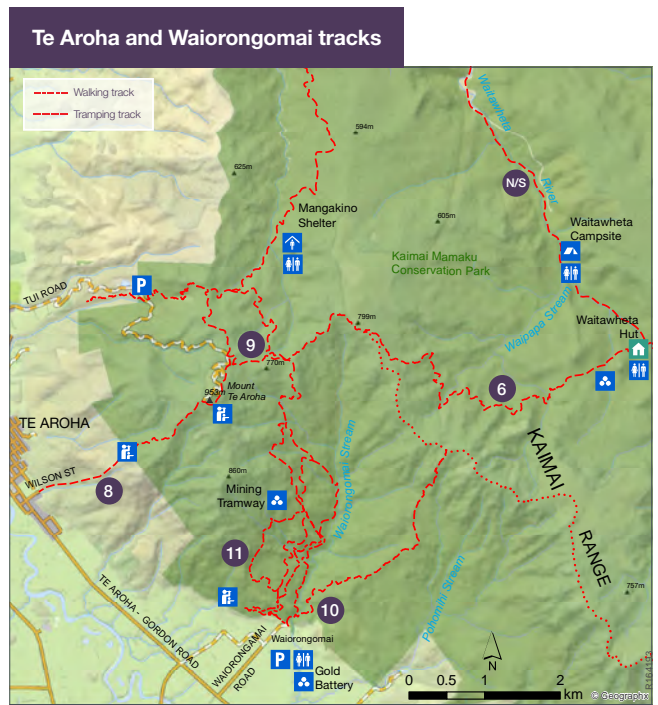
This track begins at the summit of Te Aroha mountain and leads back to Te Aroha Domain. Descend from the summit via the stairways and steps on the northeast side. After 20 min, you will reach Dog Kennel Flat at an intersection with Mountain Road. The track then continues north to the Tui saddle before descending steeply down a rocky section to the west, after which it follows the road for about 15 min before joining a marked bush track on the left. Just below here is the recently remediated Tui Mine site. The track crosses Mountain Road and meanders down through lowland forest of pūriri and kohekohe, leaving the park at the junction with the Tui Domain Track. Follow the Tui Domain Track through regenerating native forest and shallow mountain streams for 1 hr 30 min to reach the Mokena Geyser in Te Aroha Domain. Side tracks offer alternative exits to Hamilton Street or a detour to the No.22 spring. Look out for cyclists as you cross the marked mountain bike track.

### **9. Te Aroha summit to Waiorongomai saddle** 50 min, 1.5 km (one way)

This track begins at the summit of Te Aroha mountain and leads to the Waiorongomai saddle. A number of longer overnight tramps can also be accessed from here. Descend from the summit on the northeast side and follow the historic Plutus Claim Track eastwards. After 30 min, the track meets a junction with the Mangakino Pack Track at the Waiorongomai saddle and the Crimson Thread Track, which heads east. Return the same way or follow one of the alternative routes below.

### **Alternative route from Waiorongomai Saddle to Tui Saddle**

Walkers can take a more challenging loop walk back to Te Aroha township via the Tui saddle. Follow the Mangakino Pack Track north for 1 hr to reach a junction with the Tui Saddle Track and then head west up to the Tui saddle. From here, follow the Tui Link Track back into town.



### **Alternative route from Waiorongomai saddle to Waipapa Track**

Follow the Crimson Thread Track east and join the Waipapa Track, which leads to Waitawheta Hut (3 hr from Waiorongomai saddle to the hut).

### **Alternative route from Waiorongomai saddle to Waiorongomai**

Head south to reach the Waiorongomai valley (2 hr to the road end).



Tramway headframes and winding gear like this (now replicas installed by DOC) can be seen at Waiorongomai. Photo: courtesy of Te Papa Tongarewa

## Waiorongomai

Walks at Waiorongomai start from the car park at the end of Waiorongomai Loop Road.

The history of gold mining in this area has left a multitude of tracks, offering a variety of loop walk alternatives that cater for all levels of fitness.

These tracks follow historic pack-horse tracks and mining access ways, including the historic Piako County Tramway, which has been restored and protected. Information panels describe and illustrate the events of the past. Longer overnight walks can also be accessed from here via the Mangakino Pack Track and Waipapa Track. Consult a park map for further information.



### 10. Low Level Loop 2 hr, 5.5 km (return)

This well-graded track takes in several significant sites around the lower Waiorongomai goldfields. From the car park, the track winds up the valley through regenerating bush, crossing a few small streams and passing by a small tunnel and a pipeline. After about 1 hr, the loop turns south again at the signposted junction and joins the Piako County Tramway at the base of Butlers Incline. The rail is still in place here, giving a sense of how the tramway worked. The walk then descends along the tramway to the top of the Fern Spur Incline, offering views to the south. It is a short walk down the hill from here to the car park.

### The Piako County Tramway experience

This ‘...engineering feat of the era’ consists of four horse-drawn sections intersected by three very steep ‘self-acting’ inclines, enabling the tramway to climb from 60m to 500m in 5km. About 3km of the original tramway rail remains, creating a unique visitor experience. Allow 6hr return to fully explore the features of this amazing historic site.



Kohekohe  
(*Dysoxylum spectabile*)

Fern Spur Incline offers great nearby viewing opportunity just above the car park. A 15 min uphill walk brings you the top of the incline. From here, there is an informative 1 hr loop back to the car park via the Low Level Loop tunnel. Follow the second level to Butlers Incline for fine examples of tram rail. Climb the 407m up the steep incline to be rewarded with the restored ‘winding gear’ display at the top – but be aware of slippery sleepers on the way up!

For alternative return to the car park from here, take the picturesque Cadman Track. On the way to May Queen Incline you will see an old 7-tonne rand air compressor. A steep (360m) climb up the May Queen brings you to the fourth level section, where you can see the complex laid rail at the winding gear site. Follow the tramway and cross a high suspension bridge into a short tunnel. From there it is a few minutes on to the tramway termination at Premier Creek.

For longer tramps, from Premier Creek the Mangakino Pack Track gives access to Te Aroha Mountain, Waipapa Track and the Waitawheta valley.

### Alternative route via New Era Branch Track

This is an alternative way to approach the head of the valley. It is very steep, so it is better to climb up than to come down due to the risk of slipping. Take the New Era Branch Track to the right at the junction with the Low Level Loop just before reaching Butlers Incline. There are three stream crossings that can be difficult after rain. This 1 hr track meets up with the Piako County Tramway just below the May Queen Incline, which offers more loop walks in the upper valley. Add 1hr to reach the May Queen Incline. Return the same way or via Butlers Incline.



Tracks follow historic tramways through the bush.

### Pylon Peak Track and loop

To summit: 3 hr, 4.4 km

Loop: 6–7 hr, 13.7 km

**Note: This route is only suitable for very fit and prepared trampers.**

The Pylon Peak Track was opened in 2015 to avoid spreading kauri dieback disease to the nearby kauri grove. This track branches off the Low Level Loop at a junction (with a sign) about 5 min along the loop walk. The route crosses the Waiorongomai River and then climbs up to and follows a ridgeline before steeply climbing to the Pylon Peak and joining up with the old North–South Track. There are still a few remains of the steel power pylons that were used for the power line linking the Horahora hydroelectric power station with the Waihi Gold Mine and Victoria Battery, Waikino. The power station was built in 1913, making it the first large power station to be built in the North Island. There are extensive views of the Waikato from the junction between the Pylon Peak Track and the North–South Track, which is reached after 2 hr 30 min. Return the same way or continue along the North–South Track, linking north onto the Waipapa Track or south to Te Rereatukahia Hut.

### 11. High Level Pack Track

2 hr 30 min, 4.3 km (one way)

This track climbs steadily up the valley towards the Waiorongomai saddle. It closely followed the path of the Piako County Tramway to give access to the upper valley for miners and packhorses. Follow the signs to the High Level Pack Track from the car park. Continue straight on at the junctions with the Low Level Loop and the Buck Rock Track, which is reached after about 30 min. The path crosses a number of streams before ascending to a bridge across Butlers Incline. The following junction gives access to a number of other tracks, and opportunities for a variety of loop walks up to 6 hr duration. The High Level Pack Track branches to the left and continues upwards, passing several mine portals and waterfalls. It levels out just before the old mining camp known as Quartzville and then descends to a junction just above the May Queen Incline. Return the same way or do a loop walk by taking the Low Level Track heading south. Longer tramps are accessible by continuing north from the May Queen Incline over the Waiorongomai saddle to Waitawheta, Karangahake and other destinations.



# Central Kaimai and Katikati area tracks

This area is also rich in gold mining and logging history. A number of large, remnant kauri trees are accessible as short walks, while longer day tramps offer panoramic views of the western Bay of Plenty and the Waikato. A number of different tracks also provide access to overnight tramps via the North–South Track. Access to this part of the park is via SH2 near Katikati using Woodland, Lindemann, Wharawhara or Hot Springs roads or via Thompsons Track (see map page 25).

## 12. Waitengaue Track to Waitawheta Hut 4 hr, 9.8 km (one way)

From Woodland Road, the track follows the fence line and crosses Wairoa Stream. At the next junction, take the Waitengaue Track westwards before crossing the Waitengaue Stream twice. The track then follows the river and a side creek before climbing over a saddle. The Waitengaue Track continues along the tramway with a river crossing and then follows a tributary. After crossing a steep saddle, the track descends into the Waitawheta valley. Turn right at the junction and walk 100 m to another junction. The hut is 100 m up from here.

## 13. Lindemann Loop Track 5 hr, 11 km (return)

This track begins at the end of Lindemann Road and can be walked in either direction. The track loops around to the Wairoa valley where the last of New Zealand's kauri dam driving history took place between 1935 and 1941.

The loop follows the old packhorse access tracks to and from the dams area. Go through the gate to the kauri dieback hygiene station at the track junction. There are two track choices here: to the left is a steep climb up a ridge for about 1 hr to the forest country above; to the right is a gently climbing Lindemann Pack Track – a pleasant walk with views, streams, fine vegetation and the remains of old kauri dams. *A nearby junction at the dams, 3 hr 30 min – 4 hr from the start) towards the old Wairoa Shelter site will lead you to Waitawheta Hut, taking about 3 hr from the kauri dams junction.*

From the kauri dam junction, continue to follow the loop track back down to the car park at Lindemann Road, which is reached after 1 hr.

## 14. Wharawhara Tramway Track 4 hr, 6 km (one way)

The track begins at the 1902–09 Cashmore Kauri Sawmill site next to the Wharawhara Road car park. The track passes the Katikati water treatment plant [at] the junction with Te Rereatukahia Track. Follow the Wharawhara Tramway to its end, crossing the Wharawhara River many times. The track then zigzags steeply up the ridge on an old benched bullock access path until it reaches the track junction at the Wharawhara Saddle. To the left, Waitawheta Hut is 2 hr down the valley. The junction to the right leads to the Wairoa Dams shelter site, reached after 1 hr, and then to the Lindemann Road end (2 hr 30 min from the junction).

### Alternative route via Te Rereatukahia Track

Take the turnoff to the Te Rereatukahia Track (10 min from the road end) and access to Te Rereatukahia Hut (2 hr total from the end of Wharawhara Road).

## 15. Tuahu Track 5 hr, 11.9 km (one way)

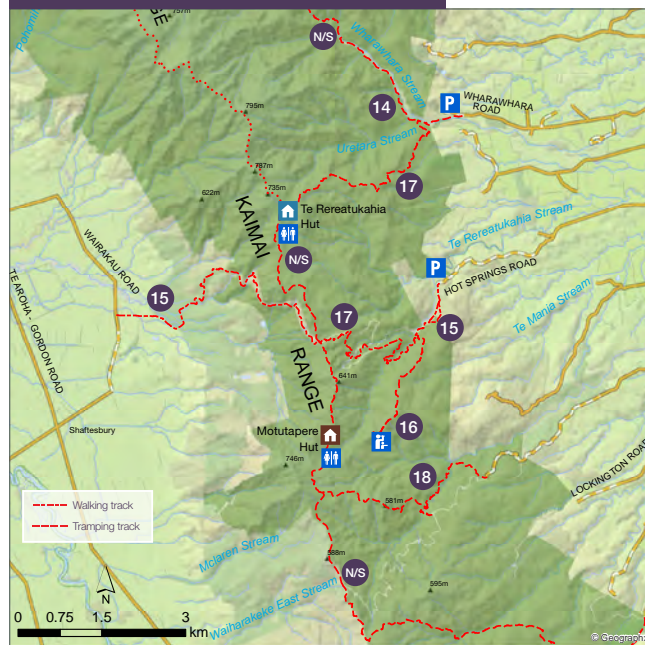
This is an east–west crossing of the Kaimai Range that can be walked in either direction and provides access to a number of shorter walks and scenic loop tracks. From the car park at the end of Hot Springs Road, follow a well-benched and graded track that winds through attractive native forest featuring young kauri rickers and juvenile rimu trees. After the turnoff to the Tuahu Kauri Track, the path soon crosses Te Rereatukahia Stream and climbs on a moderate grade through several gullies to meet the North–South Track at Tuahu saddle. The path then travels along the western escarpment of the Kaimai Range, offering views of the Waikato. From here, the track descends gradually until it leaves the Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park and enters the Waihou valley pine forest. The track then follows access roads through the forest for 1 hr to Wairakau Road.

### Alternative route to the Tuahu Kauri

Follow the Tuahu Track for 20 min and then turn left onto a side track that leads to a platform surrounding one of the largest kauri trees in the Bay of Plenty. Return by the same route. This walk takes 50 min return.



## Central Kaimai and Katikati area tracks



## 16. Sentinel Rock Lookout Track 5 hr, 5.4 km (return)

This track branches off the Tuahu kauri tree platform approximately 25 min from the car park (see walk 15). After a steep climb, it travels along an undulating ridge to a view of Sentinel Rock, an isolated rock outcrop east of the main ridge of the Kaimai Range. The view of the surrounding valley is spectacular on a clear day.

## 17. Te Rereatukahia Hut Track 3–6 hr, 9.5–15 km (one way)

This walk links Hot Springs Road with Te Rereatukahia Hut and the Te Rereatukahia Track. Since the disestablishment of part of the loop track, the easiest route to Te Rereatukahia Hut is from the end of Hot Springs Road. Follow the well-formed track at the end of the car park for about 3 hr to reach the hut. Return the same way or exit via Wharawhara Road. From the hut, Te Rereatukahia Track continues towards Wharawhara Link along a flat ridge top before descending steeply. About 1 hr after the hut is a junction with a track leading to the end of Wharawhara Road.

## 18. Eliza Mine Track Loop 5 hr, 7 km (return)

From the car park at the end of Thompsons Track (see page 25), descend along a bulldozed path until it passes a small stream and meets the Eliza Mine Track. The track then climbs to join a historic pack track that was built to convey supplies and equipment to the mine by pack horse. The track follows the gully above the stream for 1 hr before reaching the Mount Eliza junction. From here, follow the steep ridge to the Eliza mine, where a small clearing marks the site of the miners' camp and ore testing plant.

The main mine entrance is to the left. To complete the loop, return to the junction and continue to follow the path up the valley. The path crosses the Waitekohe Stream and zigzags upwards to meet Thompsons Track. Follow this roughly formed road back down to the car park. Keep a look out for four-wheel drive (4WD) vehicles and mountain bikes on this shared road.



Emergent trees tower above the bush understorey.

## Alternative route via Mount Eliza and the North–South Track

From the Eliza mine area, continue upwards along the Mount Eliza Track to a short prospecting drive before continuing to the summit of Mount Eliza (40 min from the mine). The track then continues westwards for 1 hr to join the North–South Track. Motutapere Hut is a 20-min walk northwards from the junction of the Mount Eliza Track and the North–South Track.

## Aongatete

Walks at Aongatete take you through pūriri and kohekohe forest and along the Aongatete River. Pest control is undertaken in this part of the park by the Aongatete Forest Restoration Trust. Tracks start at the car park, which is situated at the end of Wright Road off SH2 between Tauranga and Katikati. Park in the car park before the gate to the lodge and refer to the map on site.

## 19. Aongatete Nature Trail 15 min, 640 m (return)

This family-friendly short loop takes you through a lowland forest area and provides interpretive signage to explain the local environment. You will also learn about the forest layers, geology of the Kaimai Range, conservation and pests.

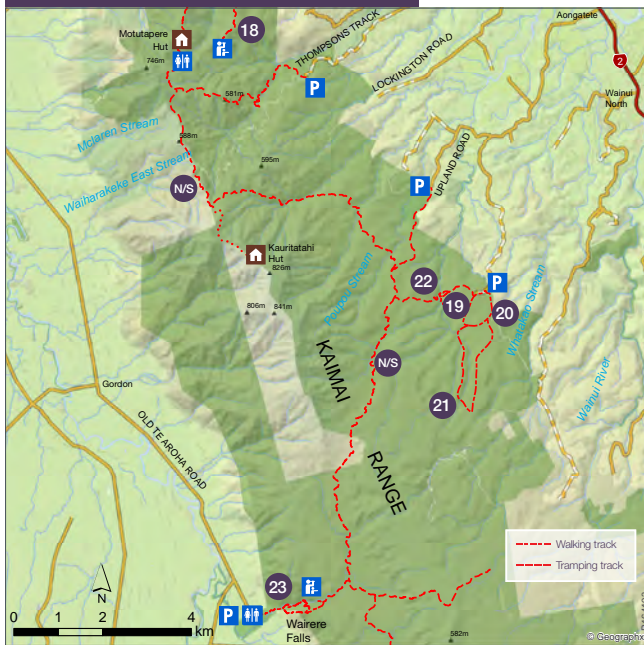
## 20. Aongatete Short Loop Track 1 hr, 2.2 km (return)

From the track entrance at the car park, follow the well-marked Short Loop Track until you reach a junction where the Long Loop Track continues straight ahead. Turn left for a gentler, well-graded walk through bush, emerging near the car park after about 1 hr.



Pūriri  
(*Vitex lucens*)

## Central Kaimai and Aongatete tracks



### 21. Aongatete Long Loop Track 3 hr 30 min, 6.4 km (return)

This is a more difficult track with short, moderately steep sections and stream crossings. Follow the Short Loop Track to the junction and continue straight ahead. Follow the path through the bush, crossing a small stream and walking alongside another one, before the track rounds a corner and begins to head back to the road. Continue through bush until another junction with the Short Loop Track is reached. Take the path to the right and make a short descent back to the car park.

### 22. Aongatete Link Track to swimming hole 30 min, 475 m (one way)

The Aongatete River may be accessed from this track, which starts at the car park. About 15 min along this track, a left branch leads off to some attractive swimming holes, which are worth exploring. Upgrades to the track in 2019 have helped to reduce the risk of slipping in damp conditions.

### Alternative route to the North-South Track

The Aongatete Link Track reaches a junction with the North-South Track about 40 min from the car park. From here, you can access longer walks to Thompsons Track or Wairere Falls.

### Aongatete Forest Project (AFP)

The Aongatete Forest Project is administered by the Aongatete Forest Restoration Trust in partnership with Forest and Bird and aims to restore the animal and plant life to 500 ha of native forest in the Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park to demonstrate the value that widespread pest control can deliver to the region. Since 2005, volunteers have worked to restore the health of the forest and have witnessed increased numbers of rifleman in the area. With the support of DOC, they have also reintroduced endangered species such as king fern and dactylanthus to the area.

For further information about becoming a volunteer or joining the Aongatete Forest Project, visit [www.aongateteforest.org](http://www.aongateteforest.org)



# Southern Kaimai and Mamaku tracks

This part of the Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park, which is immediately north of SH29, features bush walks along historic tramways, as well as the spectacular Wairere Falls and a couple of basic huts that are suitable for overnight tramps and hunting. The Mamaku Plateau is more remote and has fewer walks for recreational users. This area can be accessed via Whakamarama, Ngamuwahine, and Old Kaimai roads and SH29 on the Bay of Plenty side, or Te Tuhi and Goodwin roads on the Waikato side. Alternatively, it can be accessed from the southern end of the North-South Track, which begins at the Kaimai summit on SH29.



## 23. Wairere Falls Track

3–4 hr, 5 km (return)

A spectacular view of the Wairere Falls can easily be seen from Old Te Aroha Road. This walk is accessed from the end of Goodwin Road (see map page 33). From the car park, follow a well-formed track through moss-covered rocks and tree roots to meet up with the river, where the track crosses several bridges. The track then steadily climbs up steps to the base of the cliff and passes through a grove of nikau and kohekohe before leading to a lookout platform with a spectacular view of the falls (45 min from the road end). The falls drop 153 m over the steep escarpment, which is part of the Okauia fault line. In spring, look out for the apricot-coloured flowers of the taurepo plant on the rocky valley walls. The track then climbs further, with plenty of steps and staircases in the steeper section. At the top of the hill, the track passes through forest before reaching the falls lookout after about 90 min. Return the same way.



### Alternative route

From the top of the falls, take the Wairere Track east to the North-South Track. Please note that this section is not as well maintained as the climb to Wairere Falls.



## 24. Ngamarama / Te Tuhi Track

6 hr, 11.7 km (one way)

This is an east-west crossing of the Kaimai Range that can be walked in either direction and also provides access to overnight tramps via the North-South Track. Start at the end of Whakamarama Road, along the 'Pā Kereru Track, which descends for 600 m to a junction. Take the Ngamarama Track to the right and follow an old tramline until you reach an open clearing. The track then leaves this tramline and climbs a steep ridge to join another tramline heading southwest. From here, the track descends into the Waiteariki basin. This track crosses two streams before meeting the junction with the North-South Track. It then continues westwards for 1 hr before dropping down the steep western escarpment of the Kaimai Range to the farmland below. The marked route passes through private land to Te Tuhi Road, so please keep to the track. Te Whare Okioki is reached after a 3-hr tramp from Te Tuhi Road or a 4-hr tramp from Whakamarama Road.

### Te Whare Okioki

Te Whare Okioki, which can be translated as 'the resting place', was built in 2019 by hunting and tramping volunteers of the Kaimai Ridgeway Trust, who continue to maintain it for the benefit of all. This hut is on the site of the previous Ngamuwahine clearing and shelter on the North-South Track, 1 hr south of the Te Tuhi / Ngamarama / North-South track junction. This area is culturally significant to Ngāti Hinerangi, who provided ongoing support throughout the establishment of this hut.



Stairways help in the climb to the top of Wairere Falls.

## 25. Leyland O'Brien Tramline Track

2 hr 30 min, 6.3 km (one way)

This track links Whakamarama Road with the North-South Track, following the old Leyland O'Brien tramline. From the end of Whakamarama Road, walk down the Pā Kereru Track for 100 m until you reach a junction. Take the left track, which runs beside the headwaters of the Ngamuwahine River. This first section is flat. After about 1 hr 30 min, the track crosses the river and the tramline climbs towards the junction with the Ngamuwahine Track (see walk 26). It is 1 hr 30 min to the end of Ngamuwahine Road from this junction. The track continues southeast for a further 30 min to meet up with the North-South Track. Return the same way or carry on the North-South Track to reach Te Whare Okioki.

## 26. Ngamuwahine Track

1 hr 30 min, 3.5 km (one way)

This track climbs up through bush and crosses a river behind the lodge at the end of Ngamuwahine Road, before levelling out on a ridge. The track finishes at an intersection with the Leyland O'Brien Tramline Track (see walk 25). Return the same way.

### Alternative route

From the end of the track, take the Leyland O'Brien Tramline Track north towards Whakamarama Road (1 hr 30 min to the road end). Alternatively, take the Leyland O'Brien Tramline Track south to access the North-South Track. Hurunui Hut is a 1 hr walk south and Te Whare Okioki a 2 hr walk north from this junction.

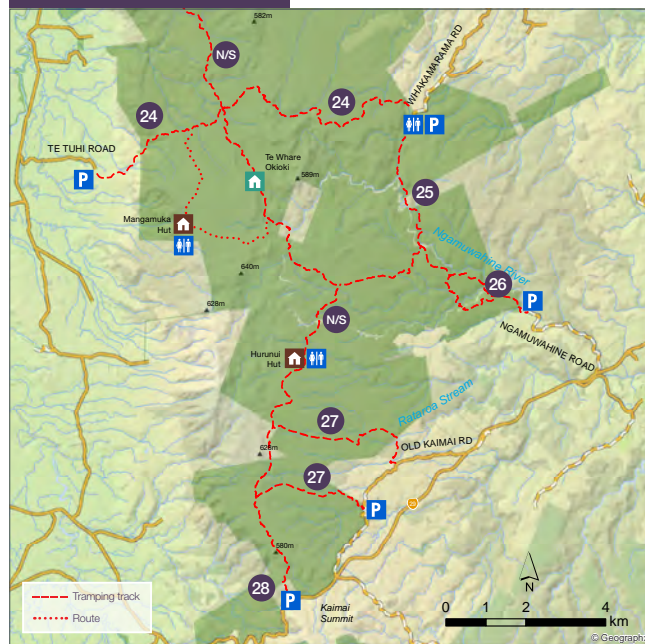
## 27. Henderson Tramline Loop Track

3 hr 30 min, 9 km (return)

This track includes a section of Old Kaimai Road and can be walked in either direction.

Starting from the Old Kaimai Road car park at the Tuakopae Stream bridge, follow the track across the stream to a junction, where a short side track leads down to the base of a waterfall and a large swimming hole. The main track joins up with the western branch of the Henderson Tramline. At the end of the tramline, the track follows haul lines to the summit. Follow the North-South Track north from the summit until you reach the junction with the northern branch of the Henderson Tramline.

### Southern Kaimai tracks



Follow this tramline east and then join a track through the bush to the park boundary. Walk along the edge of cleared land beside a fence and then cross two large streams before reaching Old Kaimai Road. Follow the road west back to the start.

## 28. Kaimai Summit Loop Track

20 min, 500 m (one way)

Some beautiful large canopy trees, understorey and groundcover plants, lichens, ferns, orchids, and epiphytes can be seen along this walk. The track starts at the northern end of the car park at the Kaimai summit on SH29 and crosses a small stream, which can be impassable after heavy rain. Follow the North-South Track for about 10 min until you reach a track junction. The loop then returns along a short ridge before dropping down to meet up with the road again 50 m below the car park.

### Alternative route

This track gives access to the North-South Track and the rest of the park. Hurunui Hut is 2 hr 30 min from the Kaimai summit car park on SH29.

## 29. Rapurapu Kauri Track 3 hr, 5 km (return)

This track features mature tawa/  
podocarp forest with many fern species  
in the understorey, a stream with  
swimming holes and three impressive  
kauri trees growing near their southern  
limit. The track starts at a car park on  
the Waikato side of the Kaimai Range  
on SH29 (track not shown on the maps  
in this booklet). It passes through  
open shrubland before entering bush.  
The track continues on an easy grade  
for 20 min before descending to the  
Rapurapu Stream, which it crosses eight  
times before reaching the kauri grove.



Tawa  
(*Beilschmiedia tawa*)

**Note: Stream crossings may become impassable after heavy rain.**

Return the same way.

## 30. Woods Mill Track 3 hr, 8.5 km (one way)

This track is found on the northern side of SH5 between Rotorua and Tirau (track not shown on the maps in this booklet). An access track leads to the old tramway, which provides an easy descent towards an old mill site. The track then continues along the main tramway to a ridge above the Waiomou Stream, at the end of which it descends into the Waiomou Stream, finishing at a 3-m-high waterfall. Return the same way.

# North-South Track

 7 days, 82 km (one way)

The North-South Track is marked on maps in this booklet using this symbol. This is a multi-day tramp on rugged tracks. Route-finding skills and a map of the Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park are essential when following this track. The following itinerary is a guide only. Huts are available along most of the track, but at least 1 night of tenting is required in the middle section. The walk can be broken up into longer or shorter days, or you can exit the park at any of the side tracks. Please consult DOC's Tauranga Office for further information and to purchase maps and hut tickets.

## Karangahake Gorge to Daly Clearing Hut 5 hr 30 min, 13.4 km (one way)

See map page 10. This route follows the Crown Track from Karangahake and features historic mining relics and scenic views of the gorge. Dickey Flat is reached in 2 hr. From here, follow the Dickey Flat Track which continues upstream beside the Waitawheta River, passing some of the Waitawheta valley's best trout fishing spots. **Note: take care with the wide river crossing 1 hr from Dickey Flat.**

After a further 15 min, the route crosses the Mangakino Stream then joins the Mangakino Pack Track. After a 30 min steep climb, the grade eases southward for 2 hr, passing the Deam Track Junction before arriving at a junction with the Daly Clearing Track. Follow this for 15 min to reach Daly Clearing Hut.'

## Daly Clearing Hut to Waitawheta Hut 4 hr 30 min, 7.5 km (one way)

See map page 12. From Daly Clearing Hut and travelling east, the route drops gradually to meet the Waitawheta Tramway Track. Turn right and follow the track alongside the Waitawheta River, discovering the remains of the bush tramway as you go. Display panels explain the history and significance of the area to the New Zealand mining industry. The track climbs an easy grade and passes through the spectacular upper Waitawheta River gorge. Waitawheta Hut is at the old mill site, about 1 km beyond the Waitawheta Campsite.



## Waitawheta Hut to Te Rereatukahia Hut

7 hr, 13 km (one way)

See map page 25. From Waitawheta Hut, follow the Upper Waitawheta Valley Track south. You will cross side streams that can be difficult during heavy rain. The track ascends steeply up to the Wharawhara saddle junction with the Wairoa Dams Track (1 hr 30 min from the hut), then descends steeply into the Wharawhara valley to join the Wharawhara Tramway Track. The track then gradually descends, crossing several rivers as it travels down the valley. After 2 hr, the route joins the Te Rereatukahia Track southwards (the end of Wharawhara Road is about 10-min walk from this junction).

To continue on the North-South Track, take the Te Rereatukahia Track which climbs steadily again. Continue for 2 hr before reaching Te Rereatukahia Hut.



## Te Rereatukahia Hut to Thompsons Track

7 hr approx.

11 km (one way)

See map page 25. From Te Rereatukahia Hut, the North-South Track joins the main ridge, where several lookouts give wide views of the Waikato and Bay of Plenty regions. A junction with the Tuahu Track is reached after 1 hr 30 min. Continuing south, the track negotiates a number of rocky outcrops, including one section with a vertical steel ladder. The track then continues south and passes Motutapere Hut, which makes for a short-day option if you choose to stay here. The North-South Track then passes through plantation forest and native bush before crossing Thompsons Track, where pole markers show you



The remaining giant kauri can be seen from viewing platforms around the park.



The endangered Mount Te Aroha stag beetle (top). Hochstetter's frog species are still at home in the Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park (bottom). *Photo: Euan Brook*

the track south. Watch out for 4WD and motorcycle users on Thompsons Track, which is a legal road. The track continues up the hill before reaching the turnoff to Kauritatahi Hut. There are suitable tenting sites between Thompsons Track and this junction, as well as further south from here. Alternatively, it is another 1 hr 30 min to Kauritatahi Hut, although the track is technically a detour from the North-South Track and is quite a climb. Kauritatahi Hut offers the best views of any hut in the Kaimai Range and has three bunks as well as spaces for tents nearby.



## Thompsons Track to Wairere Falls

9 hr, 18 km (one way)

See map page 28. This is a long day of walking through some rugged terrain. The North-South Track travels eastwards from the junction with the Kauritatahi Hut track, descending steeply to the Kauritatahi Stream. Follow the track around the eastern side of the range, traversing a number of ridges and streams. The North-South Track then meets a junction with the Upland Track (30 min to the end of Upland Road from here) and continues south past a junction with the Aongatete Link Track before meeting the Aongatete Stream. After crossing the stream, the route climbs for 1 hr to a saddle and then descends into the headwaters of the Wairere Stream. There are several suitable tenting sites along the track in this vicinity.



## Wairere Falls to Hurunui Hut

6 hr, 12.2 km (one way)

See map page 12. The North-South Track continues eastwards along the Wairere Track for 15 min before branching southwards. The route then climbs southwards before descending into the Waiteariki basin and crossing a number of streams. Continuing southwards from the junction with Te Tuhi Track, the path enters Ngamuwahine River basin, where Te Whare Okioki is located (see walk 24). The track passes through this clearing before joining the Mangaputa Stream, from where it ascends to the Leyland O'Brien Tramline Track before branching southwards towards Hurunui Hut. After crossing the Mangaputa Stream for a second time and the Hurunui Stream, Hurunui Hut is finally reached. This is a basic hut with limited facilities.



## Hurunui Hut to Kaimai summit (SH29)

2 hr 30 min, 9.8 km (one way)

See map page 33. From Hurunui Hut, the North-South Track heads southwards towards the Kaimai summit. The track passes through bush, joining the Henderson Tramline for 1 hr before branching off to the south (Old Kaimai Road can be reached from this junction by following the Henderson Tramline North Branch to the east for 1 hr 30 min). The route continues to the south along an easy grade track and passes the junction with the Henderson Tramline Western Branch (1 hr to Old Kaimai Road from here). After ascending a small rise, the North-South Track reaches the Kaimai Summit Loop Track and ends at the car park on SH29.

# Reserves

## Orokawa Scenic Reserve



Dog walking, camping and lighting fires are not permitted in this reserve.

This popular coastal area can be explored as a short return trip from Waihi Beach. The track leads to a scenic beach, passing through pōhutukawa forest and with views of coastal cliffs and magnificent nīkau palms. Orokawa Scenic Reserve is home to rare native plants that struggle to compete with introduced weeds and are easily trampled, so please help us to protect this habitat for future generations by staying on the track and leaving your dog at home.

### Orokawa tracks



### 31. Orokawa Bay Track 45 min, 3.3 km (one way)

This track commences at the northern end of Waihi Beach and skirts the headland before reaching the beach at Orokawa Bay. It may be inaccessible during high tide and strong swells. Orokawa Bay is not considered safe for swimming due to the steep grade of the seafloor, but picnicking beneath the overhanging pōhutukawa trees is popular.



Orokawa Bay

#### Alternative route to Homunga Bay

The track leaves the northern end of Orokawa Bay along the coastline, skirting headlands and coastal cliffs and passing through small stream gullies to Homunga Bay. Return the same way to Waihi Beach or follow a pole-marked route through adjacent farmland to Ngatitangata Road. It is a steep climb from here to the road end. Allow 2 hr to reach Homunga Bay.

## Otanewainuku Forest and Otawa Scenic Reserve



**Dogs are prohibited in Otanewainuku Forest and all other reserves.**

Located south of Tauranga and Te Puke, Otanewainuku Forest features virgin bush that has never been logged and is home to a variety of native birds. A community-owned project to protect this forest has resulted in the protection of kiwi and the reintroduction of previously lost species such as kōkako. To get to the forest, take Oropi Road south from Tauranga and turn onto Mountain Road just past Oropi. There is a small car park, public shelter, toilet and picnic area by the road. Alternatively, access Mountain Road from No 2 Road near Te Puke.

Otawa Scenic Reserve can be accessed from Te Puke Quarry Road or Manoeka Road.



Rimu

(*Dacrydium cupressinum*)

### 32. Otanewainuku Summit Lookout Track 1 hr 30 min, 2.3 km (return)

The track to the summit lookout starts behind the shelter and is reasonably steep in parts, but the view from the top is worth the climb. A tower constructed on the summit (640 m) offers panoramic views from East Cape to Mount Tarawera and across the Mamaku Plateau to Mount Ruapehu. Return via the loop track to the car park.

#### Otanewainuku tracks



### 33. Rimu Walk 45 min, 1.8 km (return)

This walk starts opposite the shelter near the car park. It is a gently graded walk that features large rimu trees and finishes back at the road.

#### Alternative route

A well-marked route branches north off the Rimu Walk and undulates through the forest to the Whataroa Falls, which is a good picnicking spot. This track is not as well maintained as the Rimu Walk, so allow 1 hr to reach the falls. Beyond the waterfall, a track continues north to the main ridge track, which leads to Otawa Scenic Reserve (not on map). This track crosses private land.



## 34. Ottawa Trig Track

4 hr, 6.1 km (return)

Access to the reserve is across private farmland via a formed farm vehicle track to the south of Te Puke Quarry Road.

A small car park marks the entrance. Please leave gates as you find them as you cross this land. Entering the forest, the track follows the gently undulating ridgeline for 2 hr to reach the Ottawa Trig. Return the same way.

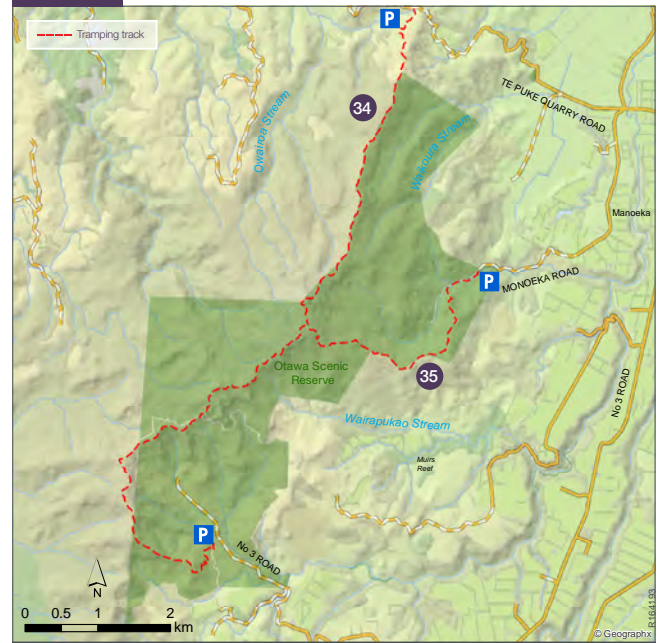


### Alternative routes

Continue along the track past the trig and follow it down a steep descent until you reach a junction. Head east from here for 2 hr to reach the end of Manoeka Road, passing a reservoir on the way (see walk 35).

Another path branches right from the Ottawa Trig Track leading to Otanewainuku. This track crosses private land and is not regularly maintained by DOC.

## Otawa



## Ōtanewainuku Kiwi Trust

Ōtanewainuku Forest is home to many birds, including kererū, whiteheads, robins and North Island brown kiwi. However, studies have shown that predators such as stoats, ferrets, dogs, rats, possums and feral cats are degrading the forest and decimating the bird population. The Ōtanewainuku Kiwi Trust was initiated by the local community and the Te Puke branch of Forest and Bird in 2002. In partnership with DOC, the Trust coordinates pest control, forest health monitoring, volunteer activities and public education in Ōtanewainuku Forest.



For more information about becoming a volunteer or joining the Ōtanewainuku Kiwi Trust, visit [www.kiwitrust.org](http://www.kiwitrust.org).



Photo: Andrew Walmsley  
([andrewwalmsleyphotography.com](http://andrewwalmsleyphotography.com))



## 35. Reservoir Track

15 min, 1 km (one way)

This well-defined track at the end of Manoeka Road crosses a stream before entering Ottawa Scenic Reserve. It then continues through a pūriri grove to a small clearing beside Te Puke's original water reservoir. Return the same way.



### Alternative route

Follow the Reservoir Track to below the reservoir and turn left to walk uphill. Continue for a further 1 hr 45 min to meet the Ottawa Trig Track (walk 34).

# Wetlands

## Athenree Wildlife Refuge Reserve



**Dogs, camping and lighting fires are not allowed in this Wildlife Refuge Reserve.**

This reserve is located on Steele Road between Athenree and Waihi Beach, adjacent to the Waiiau River. It boasts a short walking track around fresh and saltwater ponds that passes through regenerating coastal scrub and wetland. Protected for its wildlife habitat, the land here was gifted to New Zealand by the late Maurice 'Snow' Browne, who was a local farmer. Threatened animals such as bittern, banded rail and dotterel are known to nest here.

## Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve

This reserve is located northeast of Te Puke on Pah Road. It offers short walks and a viewing hide, providing excellent bird watching opportunities. Information panels describing the plants, animals, history and culture of the Kaituna wetland are featured on the short walks. Waterfowl hunting normally occurs here during May and June, at which time other recreational users are advised not to use the reserve.



# Huts and campsites

## Huts

A number of backcountry huts are available in the Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park. Hut tickets can be purchased from any DOC office or from local Visitor Information Centres in Rotorua, Waihi, Paeroa, Katikati, Te Aroha and Tauranga. Tickets are also available from the Hunting & Fishing New Zealand store on Chapel Street, Tauranga. Huts are free to stay in for children under 11 years of age.

### Serviced huts

Serviced huts have mattresses, a water supply, toilets, hand-washing facilities and heating with fuel available. They may also have cooking facilities with fuel and a warden may be present.

#### Waitawheta Hut

Soak up the historic atmosphere at Waitawheta and experience an introduction to backcountry living. This hut is both accessible and comfortable, featuring a fireplace, toilet and running water, and from here you can explore the nearby forest and kauri mill remains. Bookings are essential: visit [doc.govt.nz/waitawheta-hut](http://doc.govt.nz/waitawheta-hut)

#### Te Whare Okioki

Te Whare Okioki, or 'the resting place', was built in 2019 by hunting and tramping volunteers from the Kaimai Ridgeway Trust, who continue to maintain it for the benefit of all. This modern hut is a great hunting getaway experience and is surrounded by lush forest and plenty of space to picnic.

Bookings are essential: [visit doc.govt.nz](http://doc.govt.nz)

### Standard huts

Standard huts have mattresses, a water supply and toilets.

#### Daly Clearing Hut

16 bunks with mattresses. No fireplace. *One hut ticket per person.*

#### Te Rereatukahia Hut

12 bunks with mattresses and fireplace. *One hut ticket per person.*



## Basic huts

Basic huts provide basic shelter with limited facilities that include a toilet. There is no charge to stay at these huts.

### Motutapere Hut

3 bunks

### Kauritatahi Hut

3 bunks

### Mangamuka Hut

4 bunks, a meat safe for hunters and an open fire.

### Hurunui Hut

3 bunks.

## Campsites

Please respect the facilities provided and do not disturb other users. Booking is not available for any of these campsites. If camping outside Waitawheta Hut, please note that one hut ticket is required per camper.

### Dickey Flat Campsite



Relax by the river and take a stroll to Karangahake from the closest DOC campsite to the Hauraki Rail Trail. Dickey Flat Campsite can be accessed by vehicle and features flat camping areas, a compost toilet and readily accessible river water. Please note that no fires are allowed. Fees apply.

## Free of charge

**Waitawheta Campsite:** Toilet, river water only.

**Wairoa Shelter and tent sites:** Toilet, river water only.

**Mangakino Shelter and tent sites:** Toilet, river water only.

**Ngamuwahine tent sites:** River water only.



Fires are not permitted in these campsites or anywhere in the park or other reserves.



Puawhananga  
(*Clematis paniculata*)

## Recreational activities

In addition to exploring the 350 km of walking and tramping tracks, there are many other recreational activities you can enjoy in the park and other reserves.

### Hunting

If you wish to hunt on public conservation land, you will need a hunting permit. These are available free of charge and can be applied for online at [www.doc.govt.nz/hunting](http://www.doc.govt.nz/hunting)

Hunting permits are issued for 4 months, following which they must be renewed. If you are hunting with dogs, your dog registration must be presented to the local DOC office along with your permit.

### Dog walking

Dog walking is only permitted on the Karangahake Gorge Historic Walkway, and the Crown Track. Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times. Dogs are prohibited from all other reserves. Hunting dogs are not allowed without a permit, which can be obtained from DOC's Tauranga Office.

### Mountain biking

Mountain biking is only permitted on the Karangahake Gorge Historic Walkway (walk 4 in this booklet).

### Fishing

Orokawa Bay is a popular surf casting spot and the Waitawheta River is known for its trout. Freshwater fishing requires a license from Fish and Game New Zealand.

### Historic sites

There are many heritage locations within the park, particularly at Waiorongomai valley, Waitawheta valley, Karangahake Gorge and in the Katikati area. More information can be found online at [doc.govt.nz/kaimai-mamaku-park](http://doc.govt.nz/kaimai-mamaku-park), or by contacting your local DOC office or i-SITE.

## Further information

### Track maintenance and closures

Track maintenance work is ongoing in the park and may result in the occasional track closure. Regular track updates for the walks outlined in this booklet can be obtained by contacting DOC's Tauranga Office on 07 578 7677 or visiting [doc.govt.nz/footer-links/contact-us](http://doc.govt.nz/footer-links/contact-us)

### Useful contacts

#### Department of Conservation, Tauranga Office

Open Monday to Friday from 8.00 am to 4.30 pm.  
Closed public holidays and between Christmas and New Year.

253 Chadwick Road West  
Greerton West, Tauranga 3112  
Ph: 07 578 7677  
Email: [taurangainfo@doc.govt.nz](mailto:taurangainfo@doc.govt.nz)  
[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

#### Katikati Information Centre

Open Monday to Friday from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm,  
Saturday from 9.30 am to 2.00 pm and Sunday from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm.

36 Main Road, Katikati  
Ph: 07 549 1658  
Email: [katikatinfo@wbopdc.govt.nz](mailto:katikatinfo@wbopdc.govt.nz)  
[www.katikati.org.nz](http://www.katikati.org.nz)

#### Waihi Information Centre

Open Monday to Sunday from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm.

126 Seddon Street, Waihi  
Ph: 07 863 6715  
Email: [waihi.info@gmail.com](mailto:waihi.info@gmail.com)  
[www.waihi.org.nz](http://www.waihi.org.nz)

#### Paeroa Information Centre

Open Monday to Sunday from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm.  
L&P Café, Cnr SH2 & Seymour Street, Paeroa  
Ph: 07 862 8636  
Email: [pae.info@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pae.info@xtra.co.nz)  
[www.paeroa.org.nz](http://www.paeroa.org.nz)

#### Te Aroha i-SITE

Open Monday to Friday from 9.30 am to 5.00 pm, and Saturday, Sunday and public holidays from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm.  
Closed Christmas day.  
102 Whitaker St,  
Te Aroha 3320  
Ph: 07 884 8052  
Email: [info@tearohanz.co.nz](mailto:info@tearohanz.co.nz)  
[www.tearohanz.co.nz](http://www.tearohanz.co.nz)

### Other relevant DOC publications

- Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park map (2019 edition).
- *Karangahake Gorge - New Zealand's gorge of gold* brochure.
- *Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve* brochure

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable ground
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimise the effects of fire  
*Check before you light a fire - a ban may be in place*
- Respect wildlife and farm animals
- Be considerate of others



## Further information

### Rotorua i-SITE Visitor Information Centre

1167 Fenton Street  
Rotorua 3007

**PHONE: 07 351 7324**

**EMAIL: [rotoruavisitor@doc.govt.nz](mailto:rotoruavisitor@doc.govt.nz)**

**[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)**



COVER: Coastal track along Orokawa Bay. *Photo: Crave Photography*  
BACK: Wairere Stream below the falls, Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park.

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