

Anatoki and Historic Kill Devil Pack Tracks

Kahurangi National Park



Introduction

These two tracks can be linked, through the Stanley Valley, into a 3–5 day tramp. Some trip features are: beautiful beech forest, dramatic gorge scenery, old gold workings, Lake Stanley formed by a slip in the 1929 Murchison earthquake with its rock debris dam and the historic pack track section from Waingaro Forks Hut to Uruwhenua road end, passing two more historic huts: Riordans and Tin Hut.

How to get there

Turn off the State Highway, one kilometre south of Takaka Township, onto Kotinga Road. Follow this road until nearly the end. Turn right at the sign and follow the road 3 km to a small car park and intentions shelter.

Walking the track

Road end to Anatoki Forks Hut (8h)

From here follow the markers and ford Go Ahead Creek before sidling up the hill to join onto an old benched gold miner's track. **Note:** The land either side of the access track up to this point is private land. Please respect it and leave gates as you find them. Note also that the rivers and streams are not bridged and can be dangerous to cross when in flood. Further on, beyond an old slip, the track passes through an area of regenerating forest before entering a mixed beech/podocarp forest. The track then descends in a zigzag fashion to the Anatoki Bend. You are about half way to the hut. It is possible to camp here. From the Bend the track passes through many side gullies. Once at the Anatoki Forks Hut (standard hut, 6 bunks), you will see evidence of old gold workings in the area.

Anatoki Forks Hut to Waingaro Forks Hut (7–10h)

After a short distance from the hut a junction appears in the track. Take the left branch to head towards Waingaro Forks Hut. (The right branch crosses the Anatoki River and climbs steeply towards Adelaide

Tarn Hut.) The first 45 minutes follows the remains of water races. It is then a steady climb to the saddle, crossing and re-crossing a stream, before descending for 40 minutes to the Stanley River. Here lies a large clearing suitable for camping. Just less than one hour on from here and you reach the western end of Lake Stanley. On the true right of the South Branch of the Stanley River, at the western end of Lake Stanley is Soper Shelter. A historic tent-style replica hut built in April 2016 by the Golden Bay Alpine Tramping Club (GBATC) and Department of Conservation (DOC) staff. Tent camps are a hybrid between a hut and a tent and were once popular in New Zealand from the 1930s during the forestry service and deer stalker days. A further hour and you reach the eastern end of the lake. The large slip here is still unstable, therefore it's not safe to camp here. From here it is a further 3h–3h 30 min on to the historic Waingaro Forks Hut (basic hut, 4 bunks). The track passes through forest and gravel flats and climbs to avoid the gorge before the junction of the Waingaro and Stanley Rivers.

Waingaro Forks Hut to road end (6–7h)

A 200-metre walk upstream leads to a swingbridge across the rocky gorge of the Waingaro River. The track passes through beech forest and steadily climbs, on an old pack track, up the Lockett Range. Two hours on from the hut Skeet Creek is reached. Replenish your water bottle here. Beyond here the vegetation type changes to a more open stunted shrub land. A further 20–30 minutes on, the turn-off to Riordans Hut is reached. From the turnoff it's a further 30 minutes to Riordans Hut (basic hut, 3 bunks). Continuing on, the track passes through open vegetation providing good views along the Lockett Range. Look out for the restored Tin Hut, located in bush 60 metres below the track. The roof is visible from the track. The track then descends through regenerating bush, predominantly of gorse and bracken, in a series of zigzags, down the Kill Devil Ridge to the end of the track. Uruwhenua Road is reached and a further three kilometres will take you back to the State Highway near Lindsay's Bridge.

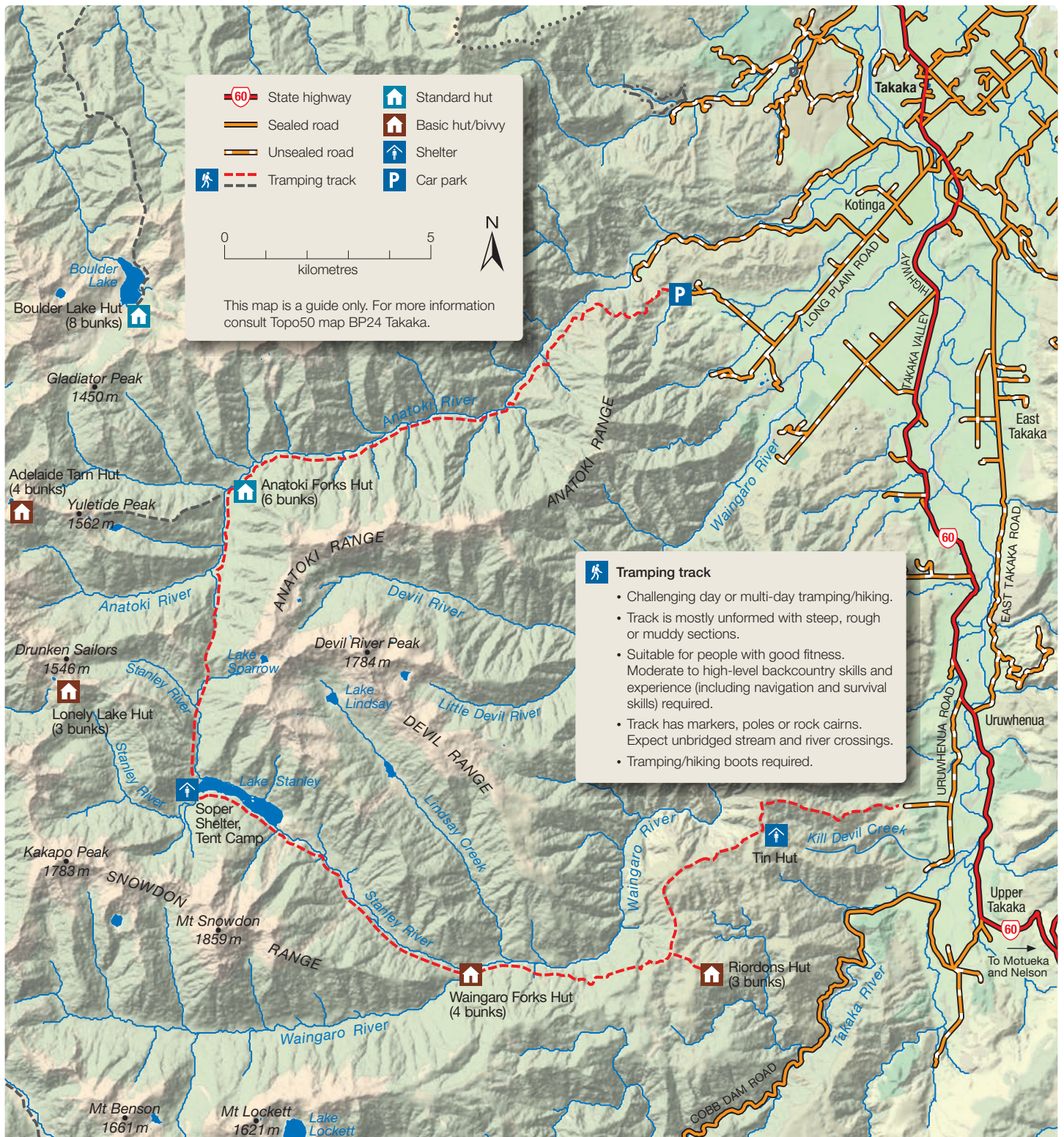
For your safety

The Anatoki and Historic Kill Devil Pack Tracks are classified as tramping tracks, suitable for experienced backcountry trampers only. Trampers need to carry and know how to use a topographic map. Topo50 map BP24 Takaka is the map that covers this area. Trampers should be well equipped and fit. The terrain is often rough. Rain and flooded streams can alter your plans and freezing conditions can occur at any time

of year. Always leave your intentions with your family or a friend. You can use the AdventureSmart Website www.adventuresmart.org.nz. Also, write your intentions in the hut books provided at each hut along the way.

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

Remember your safety is your responsibility. To report any safety hazards in the outdoors call DOC HOTline 0800 362 468.



Please remember

Home icon **To stay in the huts:** Backcountry Hut Tickets or a Backcountry Pass entitles you to stay in the huts. They can be purchased at a DOC visitor centre, Golden Bay Information Centre and most iSite's. Get your tickets or pass before you start the tramp.

Home icon **Standard huts** have mattresses, water supply and toilet. Wood heaters are provided at huts below the bush line. The Backcountry Hut Pass or Backcountry Hut Tickets are required.

Home icon **Basic huts** provide very basic shelter with limited facilities.. No charge.

Warning icon **Flooding:** In normal flows the unbridged rivers Anatoki and Stanley and all side streams are easily crossed, however in flood they can become impassable and you will need to be prepared to wait until floodwaters recede.

Warning icon **Wasps** are a known hazard and are particularly common from December until April. Carry antihistamine if you are allergic to their stings.

Warning icon **Water:** It is recommended you boil, filter, or treat drinking water.

No icon **Mountain bikes** are only allowed on Kill Devil Pack Track to Waingarō Forks Hut, 37.4 km return.

Hunting and fishing icon **Hunting and fishing:** Each hunter must carry a permit; each angler must carry a fishing licence.

Warning icon **Cooking:** There are no cooking facilities. Bring a portable stove.

No icon **Fire:** Use only dead wood in fireplaces at huts and shelters. Keep fires small and extinguish before leaving.

No icon **Rubbish:** There are no rubbish facilities in the backcountry. Take all rubbish away with you.

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable ground
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimise the effects of fire
- Respect wildlife and farm animals
- Be considerate of others



For further information

For more information about the Anatoki and Historic Kill Devil Pack Tracks contact:

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Riordons Hut. Photo: John Taylor