


## Getting there



## Plan and prepare


It is important to plan and prepare your trip and be well equipped. Before you go, know the *Outdoor Safety Code* – 5 simple rules to help you stay safe:

1. **Plan your trip:** Take a map/track brochure and remember to buy hut tickets for overnight stays.
2. **Tell someone** responsible where you are going and your estimated return time. See [www.adventuresmart.org.nz](http://www.adventuresmart.org.nz).
3. **Be aware of the weather:** Check weather forecasts before you go on 0900 999 24 or [www.metservice.com](http://www.metservice.com).
4. **Know your limits**
5. **Take sufficient supplies** and consider taking a personal locator beacon - available for hire from Taranaki/Egmont National Park Visitor Centre (North Egmont).

 Weather on the mountain changes rapidly. You must be well prepared with suitable clothing and equipment for all weather and conditions. Snow, high rainfall and storm damage can make tracks impassable – many rivers and streams are unbridged. Check with visitor centres for up-to-date track information

## Your safety is your responsibility

## Dogs

 Dogs and other pets are **not allowed** in Egmont National Park, even inside vehicles.



## Further information

*For park information, hut tickets and Konini Lodge bookings:*

**Taranaki/Egmont National Park Visitor Centre (North Egmont)**  
(Open daily)  
Egmont Road  
Inglewood  
Phone: (06) 756 0990  
E-mail: [egmontvc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:egmontvc@doc.govt.nz)

**Dawson Falls Visitor Centre**  
(Limited opening hours—check DOC's website)  
Manaia Road  
Kaponga  
Phone 027 443 0248  
E-mail: [egmontvc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:egmontvc@doc.govt.nz)



### Check, Clean, Dry

Stop the spread of didymo and other freshwater pests.

Remember to Check, Clean, Dry all items before entering, and when moving between, waterways.

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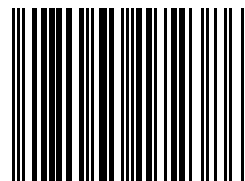
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Cover photo: Tramper crossing the Ahukawakawa Swamp on the Pouakai Circuit, Egmont National Park.  
*Photo: K Davies.*

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



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# Pouakai Circuit

Nga hiko o Mouna Taranaki  
Egmont National Park



Department of Conservation  
Te Papa Atawhai

# Welcome

Nei rā te mihi atu ki ā koutou i raro i te korowai  
ō tō tātou nei tauheke a Taranaki.

Greetings to everyone who sits under the cloak  
of our ancestor Mounga Taranaki.

## The Pouakai Circuit



Egmont National Park's premier 2-3 day tramp offers spectacular views of Mt Taranaki and the surrounding countryside. The 25 km track passes through forest, alpine tussock fields and the unique Ahukawakawa Swamp.

Beginning at Taranaki/Egmont National Park Visitor Centre (North Egmont), the track can be walked in either direction. Two serviced backcountry huts with woodburners, toilets, water, bunks and mattresses provide overnight accommodation.

## North Egmont to Holly Hut (3-4 hr, 7.5 km)

The Holly Hut Track climbs through montane forest and subalpine scrub, passing the turnoff to the Plateau. Walk beneath the towering lava columns of the Dieffenbach Cliffs and cross the Boomerang Slip.

Once past the Kokowai Track turnoff, the track gradually descends to the Ahukawakawa Track junction. Turn left for a 5 minute walk to solar powered Holly Hut (32 bunks). Minarapa Stream just prior to the hut can be impassable after heavy rain.

From the hut, a 30 minute (one way) side trip along the Bells Falls track will take you to the towering Bells Falls/Te Rere o Taururangi (31 m).

## Holly Hut to Pouakai Hut (2-3 hr, 4.5 km)

Return to the Ahukawakawa Track junction and follow the boardwalk across Ahukawakawa Swamp. After crossing the headwaters of the Stony River/Hangatahua, the track ascends a ridge through mountain cedar to reach the Pouakai Track.

Turn left here to take a 1 hr 30 min (return) detour to Pouakai Trig (1440 m).

Turn right to follow Pouakai Track on to the Mangorei Track junction. Pouakai Hut (16 bunks) is a 5 minute walk down the Mangorei Track.

The Mangorei Track is a good exit from the circuit if weather conditions are bad (allow 2 hr to Mangorei Road end).



**Tramping Track:** Mostly unformed but has track directional markers, poles or cairns.

## Pouakai Hut to North Egmont (5-7hr, 13 km)

Return uphill to the Pouakai Track junction and turn left to traverse open tussock lands, passing the scenic alpine tarns (lakes) before skirting around Maude Peak.

The track then climbs Henry Peak (1220 m) before descending Kaiuauai Track to the Kai Auahi Stream. A small shelter on the true left riverbank is a good spot to wait for floodwaters to drop before attempting a crossing if the river is high.

From here, the track continues through lowland forest, crossing several small streams before reaching the swingbridge across the Waiwhakaiho River. A short climb leads up to the Ram Track junction. The quickest return to the visitor centre from here is via the road.



New Zealand falcon/Kārearea might be seen. Photo: DOC.



Melicytus drucei. Photo: DOC.

## Ahukawakawa Swamp—a special place

The mighty Ahukawakawa Swamp formed around 3500 years ago. This unique microclimate is home to many plant species, some unusual at this altitude, and others found nowhere else in the world.

Sedges, sphagnum moss, herbs, mosses and red tussock are common here, along with small orchids and flowering plants. The unique divaricating shrub *Melicytus drucei* is found only here and on the Pouakai Range.

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

## Warning

This map is not to scale and is not suitable for navigation. It is recommended that park users refer to the NZ Topo50 map Mt Taranaki or Mt Egmont BJ29.

Western North Island brown kiwi may be heard calling at night around Holly Hut. Photo: Ngā Manu Images.



An endemic giant land snail found on the Pouakai Range. Photo: DOC.

