Kaimai to coast

Walks and tramps
Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park
and surrounding areas
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Welcome

The areas covered in this booklet are significant to the iwi of Te Arawa, Tainui, Takitimu and Mataatua waka. To early Māori inhabitants and later Europeans, the Kaimai mountain range formed a barrier between the Bay of Plenty and Waikato regions. Covering an area of approximately 37,000 hectares, Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park features over 360 km of walking and tramping tracks. The Kaimai Heritage Trail, a series of walks and sites within the park, 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.

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

- Karangahake Gorge
- Waitawheta Valley
- Waiorongomai Valley

Walks featuring historic sites are marked in this booklet using the Kaimai Heritage Trail logo.

Getting there

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

The outdoor safety code

Plan and prepare

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

1. Plan your trip
It is important to plan and prepare your trip and be well equipped. Make sure you have the right gear and know what to expect. See doc.govt.nz.

2. Tell someone
Safety is your responsibility – leave your trip details with a trusted contact. See adventuresmart.org.nz.

3. Be aware of the weather
Check the weather forecast and be ready to change your trip plans if necessary. New Zealand’s weather changes rapidly and can be very cold at any time of the year, and rivers can rise rapidly after heavy rain.

4. Know your limits
Choose a trip suitable for the skills, knowledge and experience of your group – be realistic.

5. Take sufficient supplies
Take clothing for all conditions, including rain, sun and cold. Wear sturdy walking shoes or boots. Carry a map (available from DOC Tauranga and from information centres), compass and first aid kit and survival kit. Make sure you have extra food in case the trip takes longer than expected.

tiakina, hākinakinatia, whakauru

PROTECT | ENJOY | BE INVOLVED
Neither long- nor short-tailed bats are present, along with the threatened striped skink and some rare invertebrates including the Mount Te Aroha stag beetle, plus snails such as Paraphanta busbii busbii (the kauri snail).

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

Much of the vegetation in the park has been modified by human activity. In the late 1880s the gold mining industry generated huge demand for timber. Kauri were extracted from the Kaimai in large numbers for use in mine construction and for fuel in gold extraction processes.

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

Symptoms of kauri dieback include yellowing of foliage, 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 a ‘collar rot’. The disease can kill trees and seedlings of all ages.

You can help
• Clean shoes and equipment before and after visiting areas where kauri grow.
• Keep to the defined park tracks at all times, and to the boardwalks around the giant trees themselves. 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.

Didymo
Didymo is a microscopic alga that attaches itself to streams, 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 gear, kayaks and any other equipment that may have been in contact with water can transfer didymo to new rivers and streams. It is 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 for more details.

Historic heritage

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

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

Track classifications

Walking times stated in this booklet and on park signs are only an estimate; please allow extra time for slower walkers or adverse weather conditions. Additional time should also be allowed for sightseeing and rest stops.

- **Short walk**: Well-formed track with easy walking for up to an hour. 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. 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. May have steep grades. Suitable for fit, experienced and adequately equipped people. Tramping boots required.
- **Route**: Unformed, suitable only for people with high-level backcountry skills and experience.

**The North South Track** is marked on maps in this booklet using the North/South symbol. This is a multiday tramp using rugged, unmarked routes in places. See page 35 for further details.

Map symbols

- Campsite
- Hut
- Shelter
- Historic site
- Lookout
- Parking
- Canoeing/kayaking
- Fishing (license required)
- Hunting (permit required)/Recreational hunting in the park
- Information centre / i-SITE
A self-guide mobile app is also available for the Windows Walk, featuring historic images and stories from Karangahake’s past. Download the My Parx app for free using your mobile device (search the My Parx app for ‘Karangahake’).

2. Karangahake Mountain

4 hours return, 4.3 km

A network of tracks provides access to the summit and the 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 minutes and then turn right on to 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 County Road Track

From the start of the Karangahake Mountain Track, this old road goes east around the mountain. It’s an easy grade along a wide path, with views of the gorge in the opening section. To complete a loop back to the car park, join the Mangakino Pack Track at the marked junction and return northwards. Allow 6 hours to do this loop in addition to climbing the mountain.

Northern Kaimai tracks

Karangahake Gorge

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

See our separate publication ‘Karangahake – New Zealand’s Gorge of Gold’ for more information.

A torch is recommended for mine tunnel exploration

1. Windows Walk

1 hour round trip, 2.5 km

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

From the Karangahake Reserve car park, cross both the suspension bridge over the Ohinemuri River, and then the lower Waitawheta gorge bridge. Go up the stairs and follow the track through mine building ruins and into the old gold mining tunnels. The tunnel has 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.

Alternative route to Woodstock pump house

Before returning to the car park, turn left at the end of the upper Waitawheta gorge bridge to take a short side-trip to the remains of the underground Woodstock Pump house.
4. Karangahake Gorge Historic Walkway

2 hours one way, 7 km

This walk follows a section of the old Paeroa to Waihi rail line, from Karangahake Gorge to Waikino, passing historic relics and the gorgeous Owharoa Falls along the way. This track is a shared walking and cycling trail as part of the Hauraki Rail Trail, and dogs on leads are also allowed. Take the old railway tunnel by crossing the Western Portal Bridge from River Road. Follow the track through the tunnel, over the bridge and then upriver. The track passes an old rock quarry established in 1914, and a short side track close to the quarry, which leads through bush to an attractive waterfall. The walk finishes at the Victoria Battery site, near to the Waikino Station Café and Goldfields Railway.

3. The Crown Track

1 hour one way, 3 km

Take this short walk through historic mining country through to the Dickey Flat Campsite. A torch is recommended for a 200 m tunnel on this track. From the Karangahake Reserve car park, cross the suspension bridge over the Ohinemuri River then 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 minutes from the start) and then through the tunnel. A bridge crosses the Waitawheta River just before you reach Dickey Flat. Return the same way or pitch your camp for a relaxing overnight stay (fees apply).

5. Mangakino Pack Track to Te Aroha Mountain

9 hours one way, 11 km

The Mangakino Pack Track can be accessed from Karangahake Gorge by following the walk to Karangahake Mountain (see walk 2). The Mangakino Pack Track leads southwards at a junction with the Karangahake Mountain Track, below the summit. It can also be accessed via the County Road track.
The track leaves Karangahake Mountain and travels south-east on a gently descending grade, crossing a bulldozed pylon line, before dropping down a steep spur to the junction with a section of the North South Track. Continue south from here, crossing the Mangakino Stream and ascending steeply for 45 minutes. The gradient then eases. Continue for an hour to meet the junction with the Deam Track (1 hour to Franklin Road end from here). Walk another 40 minutes to the junction with the track to Daly’s Clearing Hut (the hut is 15 minutes from here). The track then continues south, and is graded as a route, on an easy grade for 2 hours before descending into the Mangakino Stream. The Mangakino Shelter and Campsite is 100 m upstream from this point. The track then climbs steadily up to a junction. The fork to the right (west) leads to the Tui Saddle (30 minutes from this junction). The fork to the left (east) leads to the Waiorongomai Saddle (1 hour from the junction). Te Aroha and Waiorongomai walks can be accessed from here, as well as the North South Track and Waitawheta Hut via the Waipapa Track.

**Alternative route to Dickey Flat**

3 hours one way

This detour is an alternative route to the popular Dickey Flat Campsite. It leaves the Mangakino Pack Track after about 2 hours 30 minutes and heading north at the track junction, through a kauri grove and past some of the Waitawheta Valley’s best fishing spots. Caution must be taken with the river crossing just before the campsite.

A long loop walk can be completed back to Karangahake township by taking the Crown Track back to the Karangahake Reserve car park from Dickey Flat.

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**Waitawheta Valley**

Explore this beautiful river gorge by following the historic logging tramway. See giant kauri and logging relics and stay at the 26-bunk Waitawheta Hut, which is built on the original site of the 1920s kauri timber mill. Waitawheta Hut must be booked online before you visit at www.doc.govt.nz. Information panels and the restored tramway of the Waitawheta Tramway Track vividly describe the local history and heritage. An overnight adventure leading to the Waiorongomai Valley is accessible from here, connecting Waitawheta to the gold mining relics and historic spa town at Te Aroha via the top of the Kaimai range.
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 Te Aroha Mountain summit or the Tui Mine Track.

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### 6. Waitawheta Tramway to Waitawheta Hut

3 hours one way, 7.5 km

Follow in the footsteps of ancestors as you retrace the Waitawheta Tramway upriver into the heart of old kauri country, reaching the site of the historic Waitawheta sawmill next to Waitawheta Hut. Enjoy the regenerating forest above you as you navigate the gorge, with the meandering river below.

This track starts across private farmland before entering the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park. After an hour 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 campsite 30 minutes before reaching the 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 www.doc.govt.nz.

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### 7. Waitawheta Hut to Waiorongomai via the Waipapa Track

7 hours one way, 14 km

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.

### 8. Bluff Stream Kauri Track

4 hour round trip, 4.5 km

This walk features two giant kauri trees amongst a lush and varied forest featuring broadleaf, beech and podocarp trees. The path leaves the Tramway Track just as you enter the forest and crosses the Waitawheta River (take care at this river crossing and do not attempt to cross if the water is high or rising). The track passes through typical Kaimai dense bush and undulating terrain before turning right at a junction with the track to the Waitengaue Valley. The two giant kauri, measuring 3 m in diameter, are 100 m from here. The track then descends steeply to Bluff Stream and re-crosses the Waitawheta River. Follow the Waitawheta Tramway Track north to complete the loop and return to the Franklin Road car park; alternatively turn left and visit the log bogie display and old pylon site 15 minutes further up the Waitawheta Tramway before returning to Franklin Road.

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### 9. Daly’s Clearing Loop

4 hours return, 7.5 km

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 minutes before entering the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park. A highlight along this track is the extensive groves of nikau nestled under tall tawa, kohekohe and pukatea forest. At the next junction (30 minutes from the start) turn left and follow the Mangakino Pack Track until you
reach the following junction with Daly’s Clearing Track. Daly’s Clearing Hut is about 15 minutes 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.

Te Aroha

See map page 17. At 952 m, Mount Te Aroha is the highest point in the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park. A number of tracks lead up and around this distinctive landmark and the abandoned mines and mine trails nearby. Further short walks and mountain bike trails around Te Aroha Domain are provided by Matamata-Piako District Council and are 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.

10. Te Aroha Summit

3 hours one way, 3.9 km

This track ascends almost 1 km.

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

Alternative route via Tui Mine Track

3 hours 30 minutes one way from summit, 8.4 km

This track begins at the Mount Te Aroha Summit and leads back to Te Aroha. Descend from the summit via the stairways and steps on the north-east side. Dog Kennel Flat is reached after 20 minutes at an intersection with Mountain Road. The track then continues north to the Tui Saddle before descending steeply to the west down a rocky section, and then follows the road for about 15 minutes before joining a marked bush track on the left. Just below here is the recently
Waiorongomai walks start from the car park at the end of Waiorongomai Loop Road. The history of gold mining in the 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 horse pack 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 be accessed from here via the Mangakino Pack Track and Waipapa Track. Consult the DOC Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park map for further information.

11. Te Aroha summit to Waiorongomai Saddle

50 minutes one way, 1.5 km

This track begins at the Mount Te Aroha summit and leads to the Waiorongomai Saddle. A number of longer overnight tramps can be accessed from here. Descend from the summit on the north-east side. This track then follows the historic Plutus Claim Track eastward. After 30 minutes 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 on 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 via the Tui Saddle. Follow the Mangakino Pack Track north for an hour to reach a junction with the Tui Saddle Track, 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 hours to hut from Waiorongomai Saddle). See walk 9.

Alternative route from Waiorongomai Saddle to Waiorongomai

Head south to reach the Waiorongomai Valley (2 hours to road end).

12. Low Level Loop

2 hour round trip, 5.5 km

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 across a few small streams and passes a small tunnel and a pipeline. After about an hour, the loop turns back south at the signposted junction and joins the Piako County Tramway at the remediated Tui Mine site. The track crosses the 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 hour 30 minutes to reach the Mokena Geyser in the Te Aroha Domain. Side tracks offer alternate exits to Hamilton Street or a detour to the No.22 spring. Look out for cyclists as you cross the marked mountain bike track.

Waiorongomai

Waiorongomai walks start from the car park at the end of Waiorongomai Loop Road. The history of gold mining in the 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 horse pack 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 be accessed from here via the Mangakino Pack Track and Waipapa Track. Consult the DOC Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park map for further information.
base of Butler’s Incline. The rail still in place here gives a sense of how the tramway worked. The walk then descends along the tramway to the top of the Fern Spur Incline giving views to the south. It is a short walk down the hill from here to the car park.

**Alternative route from Butler’s Incline to Premier Creek**

Beginning at the bottom of Butler’s Incline, this track leads up the valley and connects with the Mangakino Pack Track and the Waipapa Track for longer overnight walks along the Kaimai Heritage Trail. From the Low Level Loop turn up the steep Butler’s Incline. Follow the Piako County Tramway, passing a junction with the High Level Track after 40 m. This section is a level grade with rail lines along most of the length. The track then crosses Diamond Creek before reaching an intersection, and then follows the historic Low Level Track up the May Queen Incline. The track continues along the tramway and passes another junction and a short but dark tunnel. The tramway finishes at Premier Creek. Add 1 hour 30 minutes to reach Premier Creek. Return the same way or take the Mangakino Pack Track north to the Waiorongomai Saddle.

**Alternative route via New Era Branch Track**

This is an alternative way to approach the head of the valley; it is very steep and is better to climb up than 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 Butler’s Incline. There are three stream crossings that can be difficult after rain. This track meets up with the Piako County Tramway just below the May Queen Incline. Add 1 hour to reach the May Queen Incline. Return the same way or via Butler’s Incline.

**Alternative route via Kauri Grove**

The route is very rough and should be treated with caution and experience. It features regenerating kauri forest and access to the site of the old Bendigo Battery. Take the turnoff from the Low Level Loop after 45 minutes (the junction is on the corner by the tunnel). Just before the battery site, the route crosses the Waiorongomai Stream and climbs very steeply to a junction with the old Pylon Line Route. After this the track descends to the north through a grove of kauri tree rickers then undulates with small stream crossings before meeting up with the New Era Branch Track. Add 3 hours to walk the Kauri Grove Route.
Central Kaimai and Katikati area tracks

Access to this part of the park is via SH2 near Katikati using Woodland, Lindemann, Wharawhara or Hot Springs Road, or Thompsons Track (see map page 29). The area is also rich in gold mining and logging history. A number of remnant large kauri trees are accessible as short walks, and longer day tramps offer panoramic views of Ananui Falls, Sentinel Rock, the western Bay of Plenty and the Waikato. A number of different tracks give access to overnight tramps via the North South Track.

14. Waitengaue Track to Waitawheta Hut

4 hours one way, 9.8 km

From Woodland Road the track follows along the fence line to a suspension bridge crossing the Wairoa Stream. At the following junction, take the Waitengaue Track westward before crossing the Waitengaue Stream twice (a rough emergency bypass avoids the two stream crossings). The route then follows the river and a side creek before climbing over a saddle to arrive at the Waitengaue Campsite. The track makes several river crossings before passing a junction with the track to the Waitawheta Valley via Ananui Falls and Bluff Stream. The Waitengaue Track continues along the tramway with a river crossing and then follows a tributary. After a steep saddle, it descends into the Waitawheta Valley. Turn right at the junction and go for 100 m to another junction; the hut is 100 m up from here.

Alternative route to Ananui Falls

This track climbs to the top of the falls themselves. Follow the directions for the Waitengaue Track (above) until the junction with the Ananui Falls Track and Bluff Stream Track. Take the path north. Return along the same route. 4 hours return from Woodland Road end.

15. Wairoa Track to shelter and tent sites

4 hours one way, 10.7 km

From Woodlands Road the path follows along the fence line to a suspension bridge crossing the Wairoa Stream. This walk then follows the Wairoa upstream to meet the Wairoa Tramway, which it follows for 30 minutes to the first of several river crossings. The track then climbs up a steep spur, passing through a notable stand of kauri rickers. Spectacular views over the Wairoa Valley to the Ananui Falls are visible from the junction with the Lindemann Road Pack Track (it is 2 hours to Lindemann Road from here). The route continues southward for a further 25 minutes before reaching the junction with another track to Lindemann Road (1 hour to road from here). Just past this junction is the site of an historic kauri dam. The track then crosses a small stream and climbs up a short distance to follow a water race, which was used to help collect water for the dam. It then follows along the bed of an old log chute before reaching the Wairoa shelter and tent sites.

Alternative route leading to North South Track

From Wairoa shelter the track continues through the bush and picks up an early bullock track, climbing over a hill and joining the North South Track at the site of Cashmore’s Clearing.

16. Lindemann Loop Track

5 hours round trip, 11 km

The track begins at the end of Lindemann Road and can be walked in either direction. Go through the gate to the track junction after 40 m. The easiest direction is to take the right-hand Lindemann Pack Track. This path runs up a
short spur before levelling out. After approximately 2 hours the track meets a junction with the Wairoa Track. This is a pleasant open spot that gives excellent views over the Wairoa and Waitengaue valleys. To the northwest the Ananui Falls are clearly visible. Take the Wairoa Track southwards until meeting the junction with the Lindemann Ridge Track to the east. Follow this track back down to the car park at Lindemann Road, which is reached after 1 more hour.

**Alternative routes**

From the first junction with the Wairoa Stream Track, a detour of a few minutes down the steep track to your right (north) takes you to a significant kauri grove.

From the junction with the Lindemann Ridge Track, continue south on the Wairoa Stream Track to arrive at the Wairoa shelter and Campsite. The North South Track is accessible from here.

18. **Kauri Grove Walk**

40 minutes return, 2 km

The path enters the park near the end of Hot Springs Road, about 100 m before the car park. A good benched track drops to cross a stream then crosses over a terrace of secondary vegetation growth to a stand of about 20 mature kauri. Kauri have shallow root systems that are very susceptible to damage by trampling, so keep to the track. Return along the same track.

17. **Wharawhara Tramway Track**

4 hours one way

This tracks leads up the Wharawhara Valley along the old tramway past the site of an historic kauri driving dam. Begin at the Wharawhara Road end and follow the track, crossing the river into the park for 10 minutes before arriving at a junction. Take the right-hand path, following the river upstream and ascending gradually for an hour before reaching a steeper section that leads up to the Wharawhara Saddle. Pass the turnoff to the Wairoa Track and descend into the upper Waitawheta Valley before reaching the turnoff to the old kauri driving dam. Rotting timbers in the bed of the creek are all that remains. It is 1 hour 30 minutes to Waitawheta Hut from this point.

**Alternative route via Wharawhara Link Track**

Take the turnoff to the Wharawhara Link Track (10 minutes from the road end) to join the Te Rereatukahia Loop Track (walk 21) and access to Te Rereatukahia Hut (2 hours total from Wharawhara Road end).
19. Tuahu Track

5 hours one way, 11.9 km

This is an east-west crossing of the Kaimai range that can be walked in either direction. A number of shorter walks and scenic loop tracks are accessible from the Tuahu Track. From the car park at the end of Hot Springs Road, a well-benched and graded track winds through attractive native forest featuring young kauri rickers and juvenile rimu trees. After the turnoff for the Tuahu Kauri Track, the path soon crosses Te Rereatukahia Stream and climbs on a moderate grade through a number of 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. Also visible are the Killarney Lakes below. The track descends gradually until it meets the Waihou Valley Pine Forest, leaving the Forest Park. The track follows access roads through the forest for 1 hour to Wairakau Road.

Alternative route to the Tuahu Kauri

Following the Tuahu Track for 20 minutes, this walk turns left off the main track and leads to a platform surrounding one of the largest kauri trees in the Bay of Plenty. Return by the same route. 50 minutes return trip for this walk.

20. Sentinel Rock Lookout

5 hours return, 5.4 km

This track branches off the Tuahu Track approximately 25 minutes from the car park (see walk 19). 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. The view of the surrounding valley is spectacular on a clear day. The old track to the top of the rock is considered dangerous and should not be used. Return the same way.

21. Te Rereatukahia Loop Track

7 hours return, 14 km

This walk links Hot Springs Road with Te Rereatukahia Hut and back again in a loop. It can be walked in either direction. The easiest route is to take the Tuahu Track to the Tuahu Saddle (see walk 19). From here take the North South Track until coming to Te Rereatukahia Hut. From the hut the Te Rereatukahia Track continues along a flat ridge top before descending steeply. About 1 hour after the hut is a junction with a track to Wharawhara Road end. The loop track continues straight on, passing through two groves of kauri before crossing the river and meeting up with Hot Springs Road again, 100 m from the car park.

22. Eliza Mine Track Loop

5 hour round trip, 7 km

From the car park at the end of Thompsons Track (see map page 33), this loop begins by descending along a bulldozed path until it meets the Eliza Mine Track just after a small stream. It then climbs to join an historic pack track built to convey supplies and equipment to the mine by pack horse. The track follows the gully above the stream for an hour before reaching the Mt 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 following 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 the 4WD vehicles and mountain bikes that also use this road.

Alternative route via Mt Eliza and the North South Track

From the Mt Eliza mine area the Mt Eliza Track continues upwards to a short prospecting drive before continuing on to the summit of Mt Eliza (40 minutes from the mine). The track then continues westward for 1 hour to join the North South Track. Motutapere Hut is a 20 minute walk northwards from the junction of the Mt Eliza Track and the North South Track.
Aongatete

Walks at Aongatete take you through pūriri and kohekohe forest and along the Aongatete Stream. Pest control is undertaken in this part of the park by the Aongatete Forest Restoration Trust. Tracks start at the Outdoor Education Lodge, 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 walk up the road to the lodge.

23. Aongatete Nature Trail

15 minute round trip, 640 m

This short loop takes you through a lowland forest area.

24. Aongatete Short Loop Track

1 hour round trip, 2.2 km

Take the well-marked Loop Track path until you reach a junction. The Long Loop continues straight ahead (see walk 25). Turn left for a gentler, well-graded walk through bush, emerging near the car park after about an hour. Cross the stile and walk down the paddock to the car park.

25. Aongatete Long Loop Track

3 hours 30 minute round trip, 6.4 km

This is a more difficult track including short, moderately steep sections and stream crossings. Follow the Loop Tracks path to the junction with the Short Loop and continue straight ahead. Follow the path through the bush, crossing a small stream and following beside another one, before the path 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, which emerges from the forest at the top of a paddock. Cross the stile and walk down to the car park.

26. Aongatete Link Track to swimming holes

30 minutes one way, 475 m

The Aongatete River may be accessed from this track, which starts on the western side of the lodge and might be slippery in damp conditions. A left branch off this track, about 15 minutes down, leads to some attractive swimming holes and is worth exploring.

Alternative route to the North South Track

The Aongatete Link Track reaches a junction with the North South Track about 1 hour from the lodge. From here, longer walks to Thompsons Track or Wairere Falls are possible.
Southern Kaimai and Mamaku tracks

The southern end of the North South Track begins at the Kaimai Summit on SH29. Other access to the area is via Whakamarama Road, Ngamuwahine Road, Old Kaimai Road and SH29 on the Bay of Plenty side, also Te Tuhi Road and Goodwin Road on the Waikato side. The Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park immediately north of SH29 features walks along historic tramways through bush, as well as the spectacular Wairere Falls and a couple of basic huts suitable for overnight tramps and hunting. The Mamaku plateau is more remote, and has fewer walks for recreational users.

27. Wairere Falls Track

3–4 hours return, 5 km

A spectacular view of the 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, a well-formed track leads through moss-covered rocks and tree roots. It meets up with the river and crosses a number of bridges. There is a steady climb up the steps to the base of the cliff, through a grove of nikau, pūriri and kohekohe, before leading to a lookout platform with a spectacular view of the falls (45 minutes from road end). The falls drop 153 m over the steep escarpment, which is part of the Okauia fault line. In spring, watch 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 minutes. Return the same way.

Alternative route

From the top of the falls take the Wairere Track east to the North South Track. This section is not as well maintained as the climb to Wairere Falls.

28. Ngamarama / Te Tuhi Track

6 hours one way, 11.7 km

This is an east-west crossing of the Kaimai range that can be walked in either direction. Overnight tramps are accessible from here via the North South Track. Starting at Whakamarama Road end, the track descends for 100 m to a junction. Take the Ngamarama Track on 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. The track descends into the Waiteariki Basin, becoming Te Tuhi Track. This track crosses two streams then meets the junction with the North South Track. It continues westward for an hour before dropping down the steep western escarpment of the Kaimai range to farmland below. The marked route passes through private land to Te Tuhi Road. Please keep to the track.

29. Leyland O’Brien Tramline Track

2 hours 30 minutes one way, 6.3 km

This track links Whakamarama Road with the North South Track, following the old Leyland O’Brien tramline. From Whakamarama Road end the track descends for 100 m to a junction. Take the left track, which runs beside the headwaters of the Ngamuwhahine River. The first section is flat. After about 1 hour 30 minutes, the river is crossed and the tramline climbs towards the junction with the Ngamuwhahine Track (walk 30). It is 1 hour 30 minutes to Ngamuwhahine Road end from this junction. The track continues southeast for a further 30 minutes to meet up with the North South Track. Return the same way.
30. Ngamuwahine Track

1 hour 30 minutes one way, 3.5 km

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 (walk 29). Return the same way.

Alternative route

From the end of the track take the Leyland O’Brien Tramline Track north towards Whakamarama Road (1 hour 30 minutes to road end). Or, take the Leyland O’Brien Tramline Track south to access the North South Track. Hurunui Hut is a 1 hour walk south from here.

31. Henderson Tramline Loop Track

3 hour 30 minutes round trip, 9 km

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

Starting from Old Kaimai Road car park at the Tuakopae Stream Bridge, the track crosses the stream before reaching a junction. A short side track leads down to the base of a waterfall and large swimming hole. The main track continues to join up with the western branch of the Henderson Tramline. When the tramline ends the track follows haul lines to the summit. Follow the North South Track north from the summit until reaching the junction with the northern branch of the Henderson Tramline. Follow this tramline east then join a track through the bush to the park boundary. Walk along the edge of cleared land beside a fence, then cross two large streams before reaching Old Kaimai Road. Follow the road west, back to the start.

32. Kaimai Summit Loop

20 minutes one way, 500 m

This walk has some beautiful large canopy trees, understorey, groundcover plants, lichens, ferns, orchids and epiphytes. The track starts at the northern end of the car

33. Rapurapu Kauri Track

2 hours 30 minutes return, 5 km

This track features mature tawa/podocarp forest with many fern species in the understorey, a stream with...
swimming holes and three impressive kauri trees that are growing near their southern limit. The track leaves from 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 pine forest before entering bush. The track continues on an easy grade for 20 minutes before descending to the Rapurapu Stream, which it crosses eight times before reaching the kauri grove. Stream crossings might become impassable after heavy rain. Return the same way.

34. Woods Mill Track

3 hours one way, 8.5 km

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 makes an easy descent towards an old mill site. The track then continues along the main tramway to a ridge above the Waiomou Stream. The track then descends the end of this ridge into the Waiomou Stream and finishes at a 3-m-high waterfall. Return the same way.

The North South Track

7 days, 82 km

The North South Track is marked on maps in this booklet using this symbol. This is a multi-day tramp using rugged, unmarked tracks in places. Route-finding skills and a Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park map are essential when following this track. The following itinerary is a guide only. Huts are available along most of the track (charges apply), but at least one night of tenting is required in the middle section. The walk can be broken up into longer/shorter days, or you can exit the Forest 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’s Clearing Hut

5 hours 30 minutes, 13.4 km

See map page 13. The route follows the Crown Track from Karangahake and features historic mining relics and scenic views of the gorge. Dickey Flat is reached in 2 hours. From here, follow the Dickey Flat Track east and south, passing through a kauri grove and some of the Waitawheta Valley’s best fishing spots. Caution must be taken with the river crossing 40 minutes from Dickey Flat. After a further 20 minutes, the route joins the Mangakino Pack Track south towards Daly’s Clearing Hut. This track crosses the Mangakino Stream and ascends steeply before the gradient eases. Daly’s Clearing Hut is reached by turning left at the junction with Daly’s Clearing Track. The hut is 15 minutes from this junction.

Daly’s Clearing Hut to Waitawheta Hut

4 hours 30 minutes, 7.5 km

See map page 13. Leaving the 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 mining industry in New Zealand. The track is relatively flat but does include several river crossings, which should not be attempted after heavy rain. The Waitawheta Hut is found at the old mill site, about a kilometre beyond the Waitawheta Campsite.
Waitawheta Hut to Te Rereatukahia Hut

7 hours, 13 km

See map page 25. From the hut follow the Waitawheta Valley Track south past the site of a kauri driving dam (rotting timbers in the bed of the creek are all that remain). The track ascends to the Wharawhara Saddle before descending quite steeply into the Wharawhara Valley and then joins the Wharawhara Tramway Track. The track from here descends gradually and includes a number of river crossings as it travels down the valley. After 1 hour the route joins the Wharawhara Link Track southwards. (Wharawhara road end is about 10 minutes walk from this junction.) To continue on the North South Track, take the Wharawhara Link Track, which climbs again steadily. After 1 hour, turn right at the junction with the Kauri Grove Track and continue for 2 hours 30 minutes, with some steep sections, before reaching Te Rereatukahia Hut.

Te Rereatukahia Hut to Thompsons Track

7 hours, 11 km approx

See maps pages 25 and 29. From here the North South Track joins the main ridge and a number of lookouts give wide views of the Waikato and Bay of Plenty. A junction with the Tuahu Track is reached after 1 hour 30 minutes. Continuing south, the track negotiates a number of rocky outcrops, including one section with a vertical steel ladder. Continuing south, the track passes Motutapere Hut, which makes for a short day option if you choose to stay here. The North South Track then goes through plantation forest and native bush before crossing Thompsons Track where pole markers show you 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 turn-off to Kauritatahi Hut. There are suitable locations for tenting between Thompsons Track and this junction, as well as further south from here. Alternatively it is another 1 hour 30 minutes to Kauritatahi Hut, although the track is technically a detour from the North South and is quite a climb. Kauritatahi Hut offers the best views from any hut in the Kaimai range. It has three bunks and there are also spaces for tents nearby.

Thompsons Track to Wairere Falls

9 hours, 18 km

See map page 29. This is a long day, walking through some rugged terrain. The North South Track travels eastward 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 meets a junction...
with the Upland Track (30 minutes to the Upland Road end from here), and continues south past a junction with the Aongatete Link Track before meeting the Aongatete Stream. Crossing the Aongatete Stream, the route then climbs for 1 hour 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 hours, 12.2 km

See maps pages 29 and 33. The North South Track continues eastward along the Wairere Track before branching southward after 15 minutes. The route climbs southward before descending into the Waiteariki basin and crossing a number of streams. Continuing southward from the junction with Te Tuhi Track, the path enters another river basin where the Ngamuwahine tent site and basic shelter may be found. The track passes through the clearing before joining the Maungaputa Stream. After the stream, the route ascends to the Leyland O’Brien Tramline Track, before branching southward towards Hurunui Hut. After crossing the Maungaputa Stream for the second time, and then the Hurunui Stream, the Hurunui Hut is finally reached. This is a basic hut with limited facilities.

**Hurunui Hut to Kaimai Summit (SH29)**

2 hours 30 minutes, 9.8 km

See map page 33. The North South Track leaves the Hurunui Hut and heads southwards towards the Kaimai Summit. The track passes through bush, joining the Henderson Tramline for 1 hour before branching off to the south. (Old Kaimai Road can be reached from this junction in 1 hour 30 minutes by following the Henderson Tramline North Branch to the east.) The route continues to the south along an easy grade track and passes the junction with the Henderson Tramline Western Branch (1 hour 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.

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**Orokawa Scenic Reserve**

Dog walking, camping and lighting fires are not allowed 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 through pōhutukawa forest with views of coastal cliffs and magnificent nikau palms. Orokawa Scenic Reserve is home to rare native plants that struggle to compete with introduced weeds and are easily trampled; please help us protect this habitat for future generations by staying on the track and leaving your dog at home.
35. Orokawa Bay Track

45 minutes one way, 3.3 km

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

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 back to Waihi Beach, or follow a polemarked route through adjacent farmland to Ngatitangata Road. It is a steep climb from here to the road end. Allow 2 hours to reach Homunga Bay.

37. Otanewainuku Summit Lookout Track

1 hour 30 minute round trip, 2.3 km

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.

38. Rimu Walk

45 minute round trip, 1.8 km

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 from the Rimu Walk and undulates through the forest to the Whataroa Falls, a good picnicking spot. This track is not as

Dogs are not allowed in Otanewainuku Forest and all other reserves.
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well maintained as the Rimu Walk. Allow 1 hour to reach the falls. Beyond the waterfall a track continues north to the main ridge track, which leads to Otawa Scenic Reserve. This track crosses private land and is not regularly maintained by DOC.

39. Otawa Trig Track

4 hours return

Access to the reserve is across private farmland via a formed farm vehicle track on the south of Te Puke Quarry Road. A small car park marks the entrance. Please leave gates as you find them as you cross the private land. Entering the forest, the track follows the gently undulating ridgeline for 2 hours to reach the Otawa Trig. Return the same way.

Alternative routes

Continue along the track past the trig, which then descends steeply to a junction. Head east from here for 2 hours to reach the end of Manoeka Road, passing the reservoir on the way (see walk 40).

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

40. Reservoir Track

15 minutes one way

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

Alternative route

Turn left off the Reservoir Track below the reservoir and walk uphill. Continue for a further 1 hour 45 minutes to meet the Otawa Trig Track (walk 39).

Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust

Otanewainuku Forest is home to many birds including kererū, pōpokotea/whiteheads, toutouwai/robins and North Island brown kiwi. Studies show that predators such as stoats, ferrets, dogs, rats, possums and feral cats are degrading the forest and decimating the bird population. The Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust was initiated by the local community and Te Puke Forest and Bird in 2002. In partnership with DOC, the Trust co-ordinates pest control, forest health monitoring, volunteer activities and public education at Otanewainuku Forest.

You can become a volunteer or join the Kiwi Trust itself. For more information, contact the DOC Office in Tauranga on 07 578 7677.

See also

www.kiwitrust.org
Huts and campsites

Huts

A number of backcountry huts are available in the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park. Hut tickets can be purchased from any DOC office or from local Visitor Information Centres in Rotorua, Waihi, Paeroa, Katikati and Te Aroha. Tickets are also available from the Hunting & Fishing NZ store at Chapel Street, Tauranga. Huts are free for those 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 have cooking facilities with fuel, and a warden may be present.

Waitawheta Hut

Soak up the historic atmosphere at Waitawheta and experience your introduction to backcountry living. This hut is both accessible and comfortable. Waitawheta Hut features a fireplace, toilet and running water. Explore the nearby forest and kauri mill remains. Bookings are essential: go to doc.govt.nz (hut passes and tickets are not redeemable).

Standard huts

Standard huts have mattresses, a water supply and toilets.

Daly's Clearing Hut

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

Te Rereatukahia Hut

12 bunks with mattresses. No fireplace. One hut ticket per person.

Basic huts

Basic huts provide basic shelter with limited facilities including a toilet. No charge.

Motutapere Hut

4 bunks

Kauritatahi Hut

4 bunks

Wetlands

Athenree Wetland

Athenree Wetland is located on Steele Road between Athenree and Waihi Beach, adjacent to the Waiau River. This restoration project boasts a short walking track around fresh and saltwater ponds through regenerating coastal scrub and wetland. Protected for its wildlife habitat, the land here was gifted to New Zealand by local farmer the late Maurice ‘Snow’ Browne. Threatened animals such as matuku/bittern, kataitai/banded rail and tūturiwhatu/dotterel are known to nest here.

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

Kaituna Wetland

The Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve is located northeast of Te Puke on Pah Road. Short walks are available and a viewing hide allows excellent bird watching. 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 and other recreational users are advised not to use the reserve at this time.
Mangamuka Hut
4 bunks, a meat safe for hunters, open fire.

Hurunui Hut
4 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 for each 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 features flat camping areas, toilets and readily accessible river water. Please note that no fires are allowed. Vehicle access, compost toilet, river water only. Fees apply.

Dickey Flat Campsite

Puawhananga
(Clematis paniculata)

Recreational activities
In addition to exploring the 360 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 need a hunting permit. Hunting permits are available free of charge and can be done by yourself online at www.doc.govt.nz/hunting.

Hunting permits are issued for 4 months and then 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 permitted on the Karangahake Gorge Historic Walkway, the Crown Track and at Dickey Flat Campsite only. Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times. Dogs are not allowed in all other reserves. Hunting dogs are not allowed without a permit, available from the Tauranga Office.

Mountain biking
Mountain biking is permitted on the Karangahake Gorge Historic Walkway only (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
A number of heritage locations exist within the park, particularly at Waiorongomai Valley, Waitawheta Valley, Karangahake Gorge and the Katikati area. More information can be found online at www.doc.govt.nz, or by contacting your local DOC office or i-SITE.

Free of charge
Aongatete Lodge: Toilet.
Waitengaue Campsite: River water only.
Waitawheta Campsite: Toilet, river water only.
Wairoa Shelter and tent sites: Toilet, river water only.
Mangakino Shelter and tent sites: Toilet, river water only.
Ngamuwhaine tent sites: River water only.

Fires are not allowed in these campsites, or anywhere in the park or scenic reserves.
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 are available for the walks in this booklet.

For more detailed and up-to-date information on tracks, please contact DOC in Tauranga (see below) or visit www.doc.govt.nz.

Useful contacts

Department of Conservation, Tauranga Office
Open Monday to Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm
Closed public holidays and between Christmas and New Year
253 Chadwick Road, PO Box 9003, Tauranga
Ph: 07 578 7677
taurangainfo@doc.govt.nz
www.doc.govt.nz

Tauranga iSITE Visitor Centre
Open seven days, 8.30 am to 5.00 pm
(open until 5.30 pm weekdays during summer)
95 Willow Street, Tauranga
Ph: 07 578 8103
bookings@bayofplentynz.com
www.bayofplentynz.com

Katikati Information Centre
Open Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm, Saturday 9 am to 2 pm,
Sunday 10 am to 2 pm
36 Main Road, Katikati
Ph: 07 549 1658
katikatinfo@westernbay.govt.nz
www.katikati.org.nz

Waihi Information Centre
Open Monday to Sunday 9 am to 5 pm during summer
(closing at 4:30 pm in winter)
126 Seddon Street, Waihi
Ph: 07 863 6715
waihi.info@gmail.com
www.waihi.org.nz

Paeroa Information Centre
Open Monday to Sunday
9 am to 4 pm
L&P Café, Cnr SH2 & Seymour Street, Paeroa
Ph: 07 862 8636
pae.info@xtra.co.nz
www.paeroa.org.nz

Te Aroha i-SITE
Open Monday to Friday
9:30 am to 5 pm; Saturday, Sunday and public holidays
9:30 am to 4 pm
Closed Christmas day
102 Whitaker St,
Te Aroha 3320
Ph: 07 884 8052
info@tearohanz.co.nz
www.tearohanz.co.nz

Other relevant DOC publications

• Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park map (2009 edition)
• ‘Karangahake Gorge – New Zealand’s Gorge of Gold’ brochure.
• Tracks through Time (moments in history of the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park; available from the DOC Office in Tauranga).
• ‘Kaituna Wetland – The biggest in the Bay’ DOC brochure

Other walks and guide publications

• Guide to the Waiorongomai Valley, and Walking and Mountain Biking Tracks in Matamata Piako (both published by Matamata-Piako District Council, available from the Te Aroha i-SITE)
• SpotX Hunting New Zealand (available from bookshops)

Leave no trace

Please help us protect mountains, lakes, rivers, wetlands, beaches and the ocean by following these guidelines on your visit.

• Plan ahead and prepare
• Be considerate of others
• Respect wildlife and farm animals
• Travel and camp on durable ground
• Leave what you find
• Dispose of waste properly
• Light no fires
Kaimai to coast

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

• Kaimai – Mamaku Forest Park
• Orokawa Bay Scenic Reserve
• Otanewainuku Scenic Reserve
• Otawa Scenic Reserve
• Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve

We hope you enjoy your time in these special places. Feedback is welcome.

Email taourangainfo@doc.govt.nz

Environmental care code

Please help us protect mountains, lakes, rivers, wetlands, beaches and the ocean by following these guidelines on your visit.

• Stay on established tracks & use existing facilities
• Remove rubbish
• Light no fires
• Dispose of toilet waste properly
• Respect our cultural heritage
• Consider plants and animals
• Respect other visitors