

TARANAKI

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Taranaki,
New Zealand

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BEST IN TRAVEL
2017

A WALKER'S GUIDE



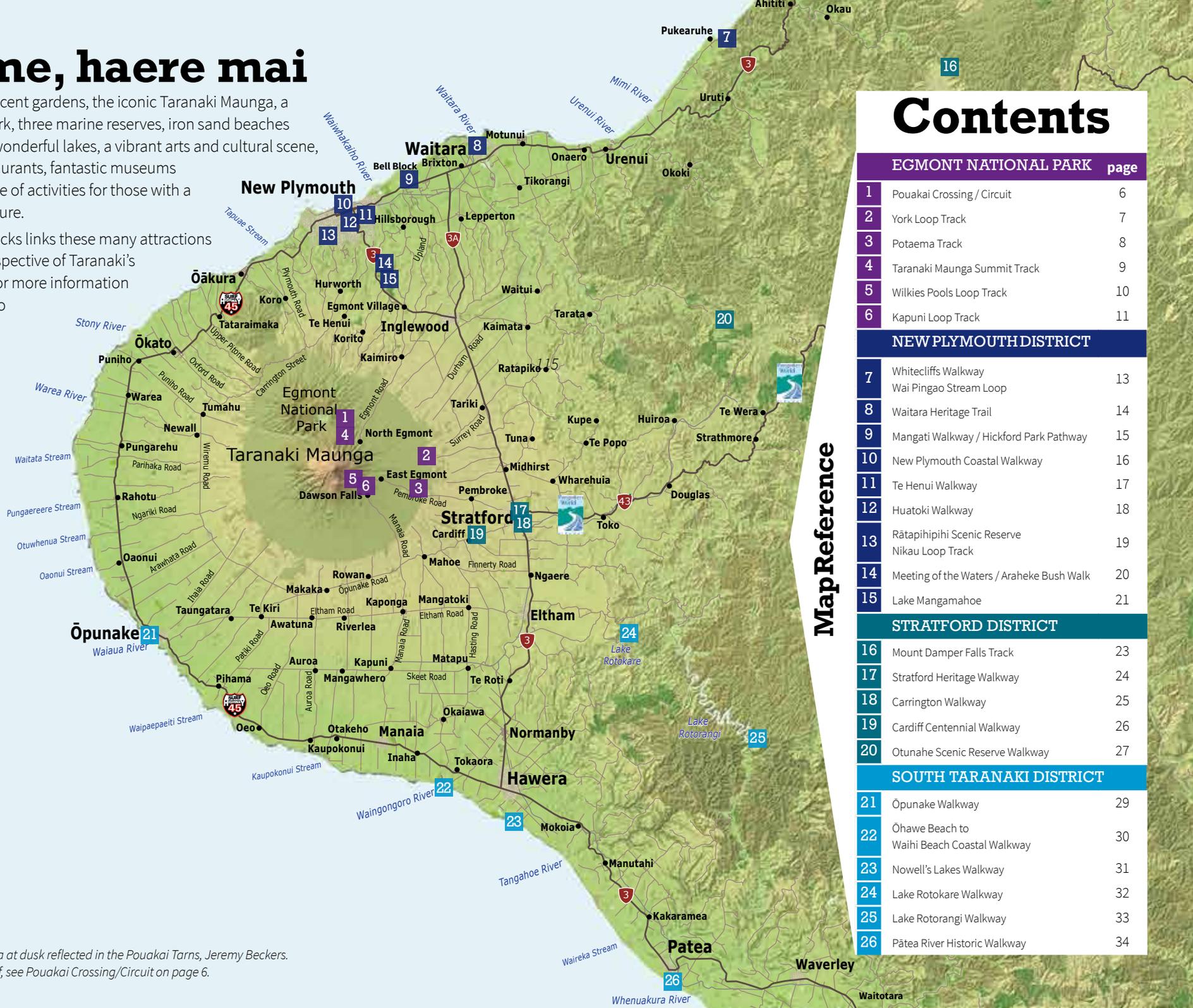
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9th Edition

venture
TARANAKI
Te Puna Umanga

Welcome, haere mai

Taranaki boasts magnificent gardens, the iconic Taranaki Maunga, a spectacular national park, three marine reserves, iron sand beaches fringed with great surf, wonderful lakes, a vibrant arts and cultural scene, gourmet cafés and restaurants, fantastic museums and galleries and a range of activities for those with a sense of fun and adventure.

A network of walking tracks links these many attractions and offers a unique perspective of Taranaki's legendary landscape. For more information about the region head to www.visit.taranaki.info.



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Map Reference

Cover image: Taranaki Maunga at dusk reflected in the Pouakai Tarns, Jeremy Beckers.
To capture this shot for yourself, see Pouakai Crossing/Circuit on page 6.

Things to know before you go

Walking is a great way to explore Taranaki. You can safely walk many tracks without any specialist clothing, equipment or skills. However, if you want to attempt the moderate or challenging walks in this guide, good planning, preparation and in some cases mountaineering experience is essential. Follow these tips to help ensure you have a safe and enjoyable walk.



Allow time – Plan your route and allow enough time to get around changing tides and daylight hours. Check with the Department of Conservation (DoC) for current track conditions.



Tell someone – Make sure someone knows your plans so they can raise an alarm if you haven't returned or log your trip on www.adventuresmart.nz



Know your limits – Adventure within your physical limits and experience.



Go prepared – Make sure you have enough food, equipment, clothing and emergency rations for the worst-case scenario and changing conditions in weather and temperature. Take appropriate means of communication.



Look after the environment – Take only photographs and leave only footprints. Do not light fires. Respect plants, wildlife and other explorers. Stop the spread of freshwater pests by cleaning and drying all wet items before crossing waterways.



Be sensible – Don't walk alone, in an emergency call 111, avoid alpine, coastal or river walks when bad weather is forecast. Your safety is your responsibility.



Be respectful – Taranaki Maunga and the surrounding landscapes have great spiritual significance to local Māori. Please be respectful of our cultural heritage when out and about.



Drone flying - All aircraft activities (including flying drones) on or over public conservation lands and waters must have a concession or authorisation from Department of Conservation: www.doc.govt.nz.



Please check if the walk is dog or cycle-friendly, if you are planning to take your dog or use your bike for any of the routes.



Some routes have sections that aren't suitable for cycling; take note of signage on each walkway.

WARNING: The maps in this booklet are a guide only and are not suitable for navigation. For greater detail refer to topographical maps available from the Department of Conservation – contact details on back cover.

Egmont National Park

According to Māori legend, Taranaki Maunga once stood in the centre of the North Island alongside Ruapehu, Tongariro and Ngauruhoe. Taranaki fell in love with pretty Mount Pihanga and battled with Tongariro for her heart. After losing, Taranaki was banished to the west, carving the Whanganui River in his wake.

These days the 2518m volcanic peak, which last erupted in 1755, offers more than 200km of walking tracks for outdoor adventures through untouched bush, clear streams, mystical ngāhere/forests and breath-taking views.

Tracks range from 15-minute family-friendly walks to the three-to-five day around the mountain hike.

Caution: When exploring Taranaki Maunga, be prepared for the rapidly changing weather conditions (see 'Things to know before you go' on page 4). Contact the Department of Conservation or your closest i-SITE for advice before you attempt the more challenging tracks.



Jeremy Beckers

1

Pouakai Crossing/Circuit

Length: 18.4km, 7–9 hour crossing or 23.4km, 2–3 day circuit

Difficulty: Moderate/Challenging

Location: Starts at the North Egmont Visitor Centre, 2679 Egmont Rd, Taranaki. (A)



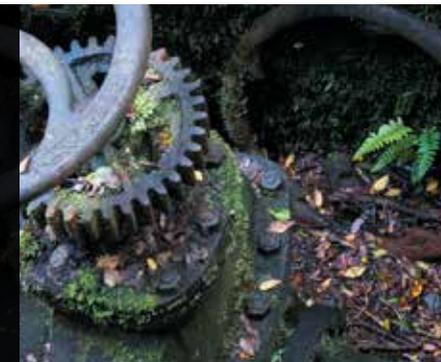
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York Loop Track

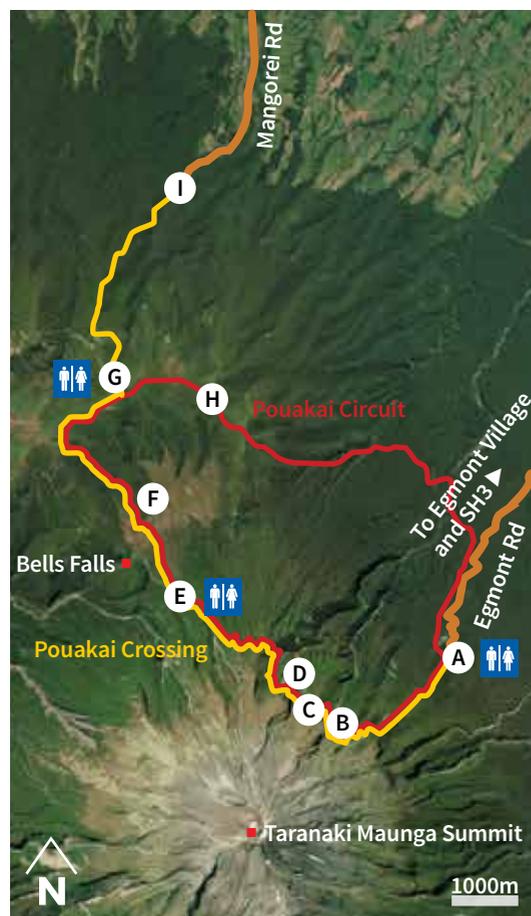
Length: 7km, 3 hours

Difficulty: Moderate

Location: Starts at the top of York Rd, Midhirst, Taranaki (A)



Pouakai Hut has moved to online booking only for overnight stays. To book a bunk, pre-register and book at www.doc.govt.nz. Hut tickets are no longer valid here but can be used at other huts in the park.



The Pouakai Crossing and Pouakai Circuit display centuries of volcanic activity from the towering **Dieffenbach cliffs (B)** to the **boomerang slip (C)** and the red water of the **Kokowai Stream (D)** caused by manganese oxide oozing from the earth.

The track takes you past **Holly Hut (E)** and through the fragile **Ahukawakawa Wetlands (F)**, to **Pouakai Hut (G)** and the picture-perfect **Pouakai Tarns (H)**.

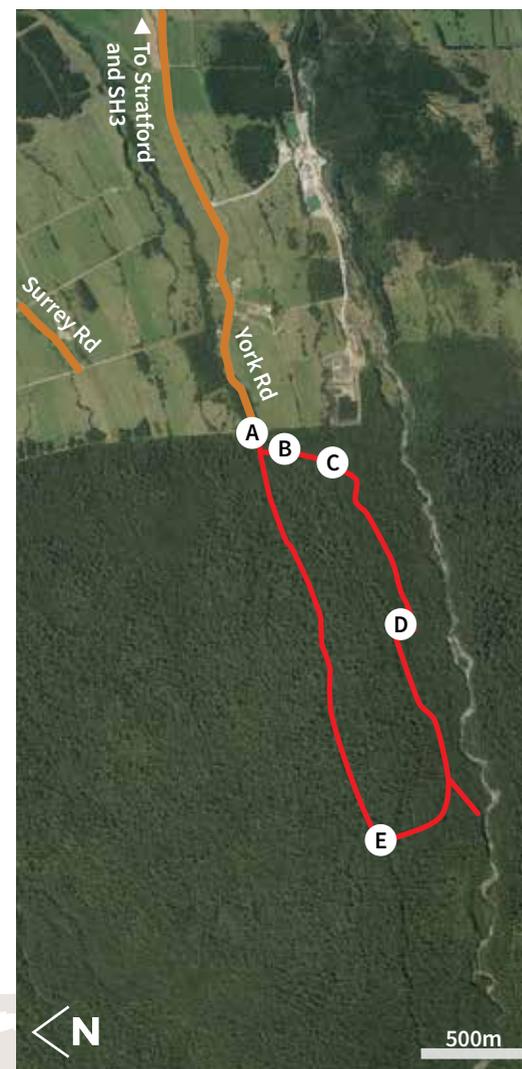
After the Pouakai Hut, Pouakai Crossing walkers head down the stairs to Mangorei Rd. The Pouakai Circuit returns back to North Egmont Visitor Centre via Henry Peak, ngāhere/forests, wetlands and a large swing-bridge over the Waiwhakaiho River.

For a third, shorter option, you can walk from the top of **Mangorei Rd (I)** to Pouakai Hut and the Pouakai Tarns and back (5 hours return).

For more information, contact DOC (see back cover).

Warning – if hiking the Pouakai Crossing, you will need to organise transfers. Unbridged streams may be impassable after heavy rain. There are other hikes in the vicinity that aren't included in this map.

DOC



The York Loop Track follows part of the old Egmont Branch Railway Line, which was constructed in 1901 to provide metal for the roads and rocks for Port Taranaki.

The quarry stopped operating in the late 1920s and you will come across many of the tell-tale remains along the track, such as the site of **old bunk houses and cottages (B)** and an **old crusher site (C)** where a large retaining wall remains.

Continue over the footbridge and follow the old railway embankments and water pipeline to view a semi-operational **sand trap (D)**. A little further on, there are two optional side tracks that lead to the remains of a river quarry and a middle quarry. The second middle quarry was closed after flooding and a large pile of spoiled rock can still be found there.

Following the main route, you will come across a footbridge and later a large clearing known as the **Foot Station (E)**.

For more information, contact DOC (see back cover).

3

Potaema Track

Length: 0.6km, 15–20 minutes

Difficulty: Easy

Location: Starts at Potaema picnic area, 3km from the Egmont National Park boundary on Pembroke Rd, Stratford (A)



4

Taranaki Maunga Summit Track

Length: 14km, 8–12 hours return

Difficulty: Challenging

Location: Starts at the North Egmont Visitor Centre, 2679 Egmont Rd, Taranaki. (A)



Katy Davies

Jeremy Beckers



A wheelchair/pushchair-friendly track, Potaema is the most accessible of the lowland mires in Egmont National Park and is the perfect short walk for anyone wanting to encounter the beauty of Taranaki Maunga without committing to a hike.

It has the greatest variety of vegetation, from flowering plants to hanging moss and ferns dwarfed by a towering **forest (B)**. Native trees to look out for include rimu, rātā, kāmahī, kahikatea, mountain tōtara, pokaka and a few pahautea or mountain cedar. These trees thrive in the rich fertile conditions.

You'll also come across the **Potaema Wetlands (C)**, which are teeming with native manu/birds and wildlife. On clear days, the viewing platform at the end of the track has magnificent views of the mountain over the wetlands. You will soon understand how the track got its name: Potae (hat) ma (top or white).

For more information, contact DOC (see back cover).

Parking at North Egmont Road end is limited during summer. DOC suggest you arrange a shuttle or start from the Stratford Plateau carpark and hike across the skifield to Tahurangi Lodge and join the Summit Track.



This summer-only climb is the most spectacular and adventurous in Taranaki and is not to be taken lightly. Be well prepared, check weather and track conditions and book a guide. The track features ever-changing views as you ascend through the vegetation zones from montane forest to scoria and rock in summer and snow and ice in winter.

After passing a historic **camphouse (B)**, you'll climb the tough **Puffer track (C)** to the TV translator and **Tahurangi Lodge (D)**. From here you'll witness spectacular views of Taranaki and the Tasman Sea. Head through **Hongi's Valley (E)**, up many steps onto loose scoria slopes, then up a rock lava flow called the **Lizard (F)**. Climb the steep slope to reach the **crater (G)** and summit rocks.

Please respect the spiritual significance to Māori by not standing on the very highest point, or camping, eating or toileting in the summit area.

For more information, contact DOC (see back cover).

Warning - please read page 4 of this book and tick off all safety precautions before you go. Do not attempt this track if you aren't properly prepared. Map not suitable for navigation.

5

Wilkie's Pools Loop Track

Length: 2.3km, 1–1.5 hours

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Location: Starts at carpark 100m above the Dawson Falls Visitor Centre, top of Manaia Rd, Kaponga (A)



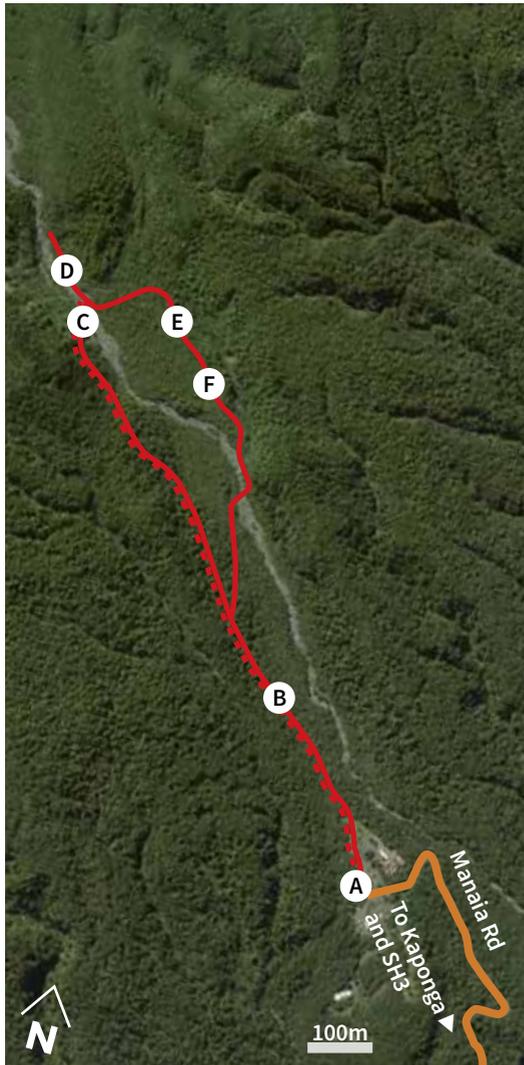
6

Kapuni Loop Track

Length: 2km, 1–1.5 hours

Difficulty: Moderate

Location: Starts at the Dawson Falls Visitor Centre, top of Manaia Rd, Kaponga (A)



Wilkie's Pools are a series of remarkable plunge pools formed by the scouring action of water-borne sand and gravel on 20,000-year-old lava.

The track to Wilkie's Pools is accessible to wheelchairs with assistance (see ---- on map), allow around 20 minutes to the Kapuni Stream where the pools are. Cross the bridge for another view of the pools, then return the same way. The longer loop track continues across the bridge and takes around 1–1.5 hours altogether.

The track explores the **Goblin Forest (B)** of twisted kāmahi trees hanging with ferns and mosses, to arrive at **Kapuni Stream (C)** and the **pools (D)**. Rock steps allow you to walk up beside the pools to the top but take care as they can be slippery.

The rest of the loop leads through sub-alpine scrub and montane forest past small **Twin Falls (E)** and **Bubbling Springs (F)** to rock-hop across Kapuni Stream again before returning to the car park. For more information, contact DOC (see back cover).

Warning – there is no bridge across the lower section of Kapuni Stream. If flooded do not cross – return the same way.



The Kapuni Loop Track follows the Kapuni Stream where alpine plant species can be found out of their vegetation zone due to water- and wind-borne seed distribution.

Listen to the stream as it drives one of the world's oldest continually operating generators at the **Dawson Falls Power Station (B)**.

Follow the southern bank of the stream through mountain rainforest to the top of picturesque **Dawson Falls/Te Rere o Noke (C)**. A steep side track leads down to the base of the **waterfall (D)** but a railed **viewing point (E)** on the main track provides the best overall view, where you can see layers of lava, pumice, gravel and ash in the bluffs flanking the waterfall.

Follow the loop track to the road, cross it and then enter a forest of fuchsia, kōtukutuku and fern. This track will lead you back to your starting point.

For more information, contact DOC (see back cover).

Warning – please exercise caution when walking in the vicinity of the road and near the waterway.

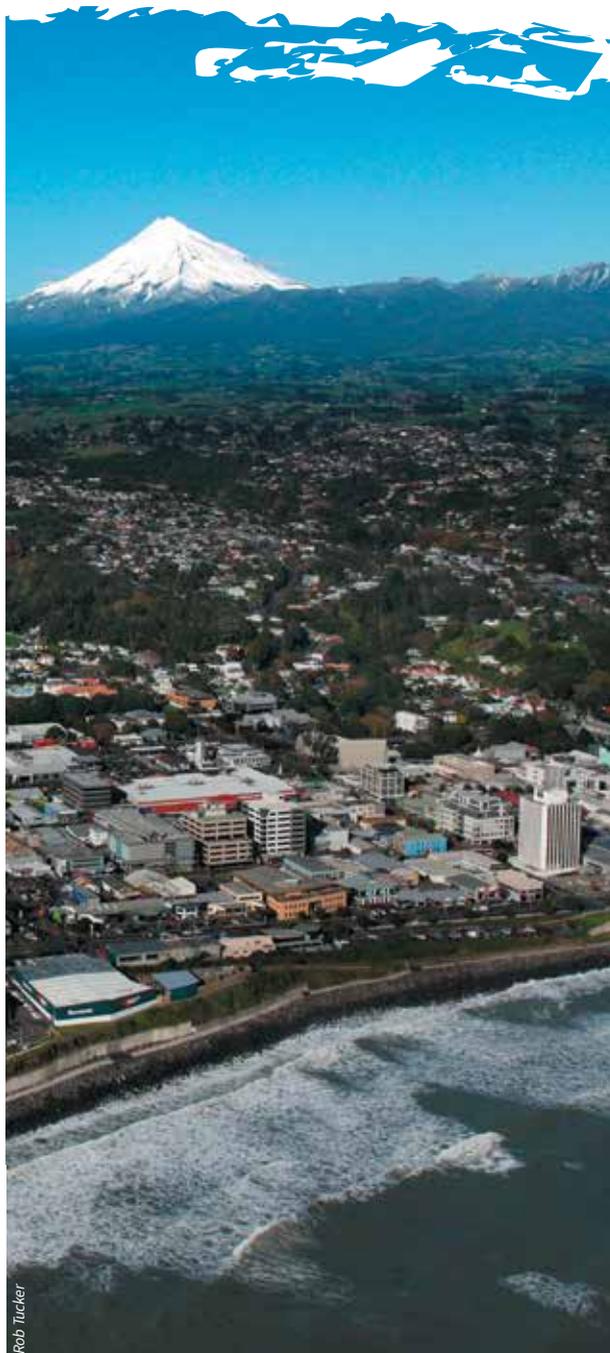
New Plymouth

New Plymouth offers many great walking tracks.

From coastal vistas to lakes, gardens and heritage trails, each walkway comes with its own story, coffee spot or sparkling surf beach.

In addition to the walks in this chapter, Pukekura Park, with its main entrance on Liardet St, and Tūpare Garden on Mangorei Rd are also great spots for a short walk. You will find beautifully landscaped gardens with stunning views, exotic plant specimens, great family picnic spots and historic marvels. See our Parks and Gardens Guide or refer to www.visit.taranaki.info for more information.

This guide only gives a taste of the walks on offer. If you want to explore more of New Plymouth by foot, visit New Plymouth i-SITE (see back cover) or visit www.letsgo.org.nz.



7

Whitecliffs Walkway Wai Pingao Stream Loop

Length: 6.5km, 3–4 hours
(return along beach at low tide)

Difficulty: Moderate

Location: Starts at the boat ramp (A)
at the end of Pukearuhe Rd
(off SH3, 6.4km north of Urenui)



This walkway takes in the stunning views including the dramatic **Whitecliffs (B)** and the protected **Parininihi Marine Reserve (C)**. It crosses private land and is closed for access from 1 July–30 Sept.

From the carpark the walkway crosses farmland (please ensure you respect the land and close all gates that you open) to **Mt Davidson (D)** and down through Ngāti Tama land to the **Wai Pingao Stream (E)**. Follow the stream to the coast and walk south along the beach to return to Pukearuhe.

Warning – for your own safety, check tide times and make sure you are back at Pukearuhe no later than two hours after low tide.

When returning along the beach, please keep a safe distance from the cliffs to avoid falling rocks.

For more information, contact DOC (see back cover).

8 Waitara Heritage Trail

Length: 6km, 1.5 hours

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Location: Starts at the corner of West Quay and McLean St, Waitara (A)




9 Mangati Walkway / Hickford Park Pathway

Length: 6km, 2–2.5 hours

Difficulty: Moderate/Challenging

Location: Starts at the corner of Mangati Rd and Wanaka Tce, Bell Block (A)

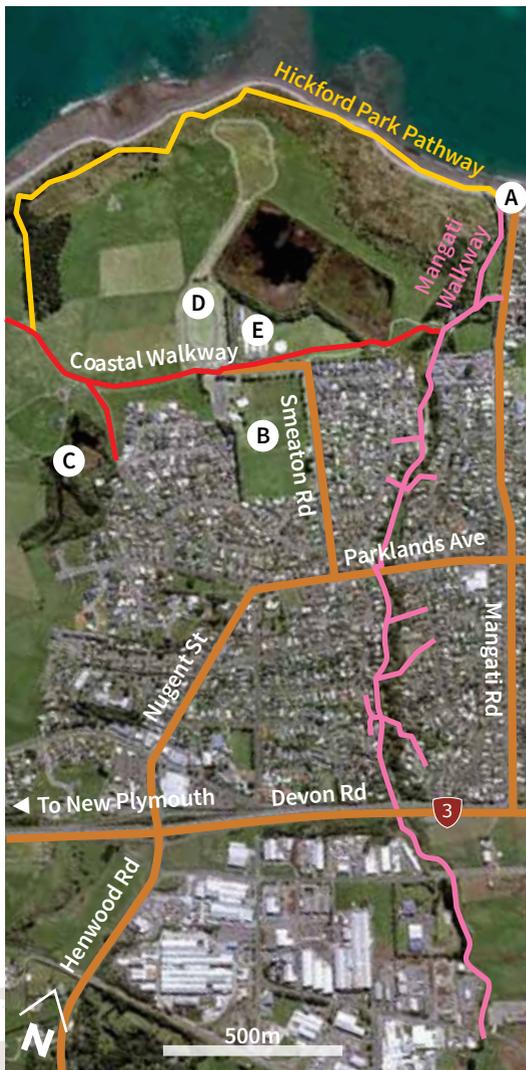



Waitara has a rich history and many stories that are worth exploring. After Waitara experienced European settlement in 1841, conflict quickly escalated over land rights, which lead to the first Taranaki War in 1860–61.

The Waitara Heritage Trail features 16 information boards about the following points of interest:

Te Roimata O Te Atiawa (B), The Bridges of Waitara (C), carved panels (D), Ruamano (E), Waitara Pill Box (F), The Works Wharves (G), Railway Signal Box (H), River Fords (I), Hurirapa Pā (J), The Return Port (K), The Waitara Blockhouse (L), Pukekohe (M), Rose Garden (N), Waitara Railway (O), Memorial Cenotaph (P) and Aorangi Pā (Q).

For more information about the points of interest, visit www.visit.taranaki.info or contact New Plymouth i-SITE (see back cover).



The Mangati Walkway and Hickford Park Pathway pass through farmland and coastal plantings, offering picturesque vantage points and intriguing historic sites.

Long ago, the Te Rewa Rewa land was strategically chosen by historic Māori warriors in the Ngāti Tawhirikura hapu (community) due to well-placed lookout points, access to food resources and large flat areas for food cultivation. The Hickford Park land is also of historic and cultural significance to Puketapu hapu and is within the tribal rohe (boundary) of Te Atiawa iwi.

The coastal portion of the reserve is made up of expansive vegetative dunes, which increase in size and height to the east. The undeveloped mown Hickford Park Pathway runs along the foreshore and provides access to the rocky beach.

You will come across the protected **Waipu Lagoons (C)**, one of the last natural spring-fed wetlands in Taranaki before coming to **Hickford Park (B)**, **Taranaki Cycle Park (D)** and a **BMX Track (E)**.

For more information, contact New Plymouth i-SITE (see back cover).

10

New Plymouth Coastal Walkway

Length: 13km, 3-4 hours

Difficulty: Easy

Location: Ngāmotu Beach, Bayly Road (A) to Wills Rd, Bell Block (U)



11

Te Henui Walkway

Length: 5.9km, up to 2 hours

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Location: Starts at the Coastal Walkway by East End Reserve, Strandon, New Plymouth (A)



The award-winning Coastal Walkway is an expansive sea-edge promenade stretching the length of New Plymouth. Ideal for walking, running, cycling, skating or simply enjoying the view of the dramatic west coast, the walkway is great for all ages and abilities. There are many access points (see ⚡ on map, left), toilets, and drinking fountains along the walkway, and dogs are allowed on the walkway if on a leash.

Points of interest that you'll encounter along the walkway: **Settlers Memorial (B)**, **Dicky Barrett's Grave (C)**, **Beam Pump Memorial (D)**, **Kawaroa Park (E)**, **Todd Energy Aquatic Centre (F)**, **Honeyfield drinking fountain (G)**, **Len Lye's Wind Wand Sculpture (H)**, **Puke Ariki (I)**, **Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre (J)**, **Te Henui Bridge (K)**, **Pop Up Summer Cafés (L)**, **Fitzroy Beach (M)**, **Fitzroy Golf Club (N)**, **Te Rewa Rewa Bridge (O)**, **New Plymouth Golf Club (P)**, **The Links (Q)**, **Waipu Lagoons (R)**, **Hickford Park sportsfields (S)**, **Taranaki Cycle Park (T)**.

For more information see www.visit.taranaki.info or contact New Plymouth i-SITE (see back cover).



Winding up from the coast, the Te Henui walkway showcases a variety of native and exotic flora. There are several access points (see ⚡ on map, left), picnic areas, swimming holes, a bowling club and many hungry ducks before you arrive at **Te Henui Cemetery (B)** - featured in the Taranaki Garden Festival, an attractive area all year round, heavily planted with trees and flowers.

After the cemetery, the walkway will turn into a single lane track. If you wish to continue south to the end of the walkway, you will need to cross both Cumberland St and the bridge, carrying on over what eventually narrows to a track with a reassuring sign that you are going the right way.

Along the route, you will also pass the sites of **Puketarata Pā (C)**, **Pukewarangi Pā (D)** and **Parihamore Pā (F)**. Make sure you stop and read the signboards explaining the fascinating Māori history in these places and at many other points along the walkway. You may also wish to stop and visit **Te Kainga Marire (E)** on the way, one of only a handful of New Zealand's 6-star rated gardens.

For more information, contact New Plymouth i-SITE (see back cover).

12

Huatoki Walkway

Length: 5km, 1.5 hours

Difficulty: Moderate

Location: Starts at the Coastal Walkway by the Wind Wand, New Plymouth Central (A)



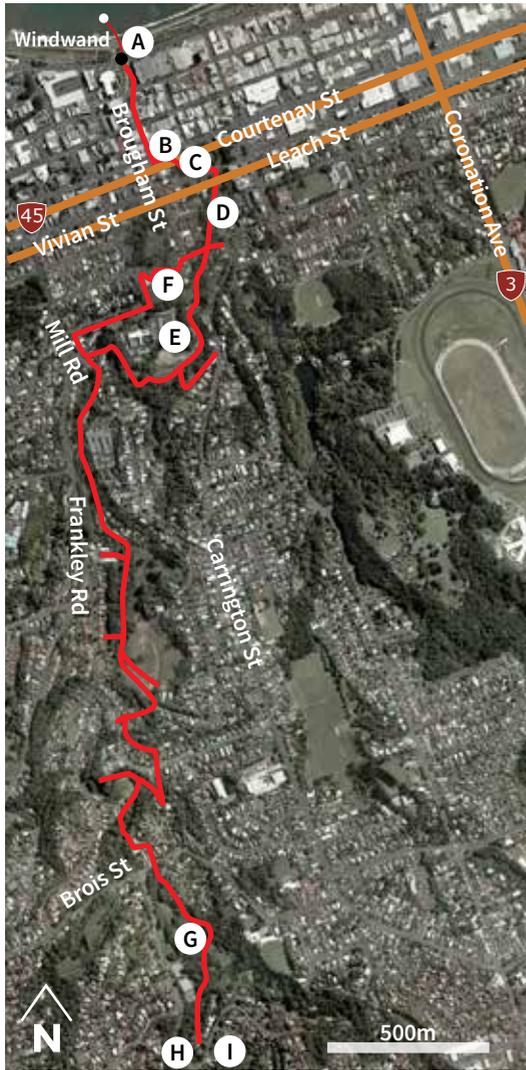
13

Rātapihipihi Scenic Reserve Nikau Loop Track

Length: 1.9km, up to 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy

Location: Starts at the end of Rātapihipihi Rd, off Cowling Rd, New Plymouth (A)



The Huatoki Walkway follows the meandering Huatoki Stream from the Coastal Walkway to **Tupari Reserve (H)**. The walkway darts between parks such as **Sir Victor Davies Park (C)** and the **Huatoki Domain (G)**, native bush and roads.

Highlights along the way include several Māori signboards explaining places of cultural interest, **Halamoana**, **a sculpture by Filipe Tohi (B)**, an **old flour mill site (D)** and the quarry below the **former prison (E)** where prisoners used to shovel gravel onto trucks. An optional side route takes you to the top of **Marsland Hill (F)**, a historic site where you can visit war memorials and a carillon that plays its bells on the hour from 9am–5pm.

Continue on the route and you will reach Mill Rd. Here you walk a short distance up the road before re-entering the walkway. When you get to Tupari Reserve, the **Bendall Walk (I)** is where you can find rare epiphytes or ‘air plants’ in the tree canopies

For more information, contact New Plymouth i-SITE (see back cover).



With dappled light shining through nikau palms, kohekohe trees and tawa, this lush temperate rainforest walk is very photogenic. While well graded and easy to follow, the track can be steep in places, and has steps.

The track descends into the valley, crossing a **stream (B)** and passing a small scenic **waterfall (C)**.

Timber was taken from this area a long time ago, first to build a schooner to take goods to Sydney, and later to build bridges. A sharp eye may spot some of the old sawpit holes on either side of the track.

Learn a little of the history of the area and some interesting facts about trees and plants along the track through a series of interpretation panels.

For more information, contact DOC (see back cover).

14

Meeting of the Waters / Araheke Bush Walk

Length: 3km, 1 hour return

Difficulty: Easy

Location: Starts at the Meeting of the Waters Carpark, Waiwhakaiho Rd, New Plymouth (A)



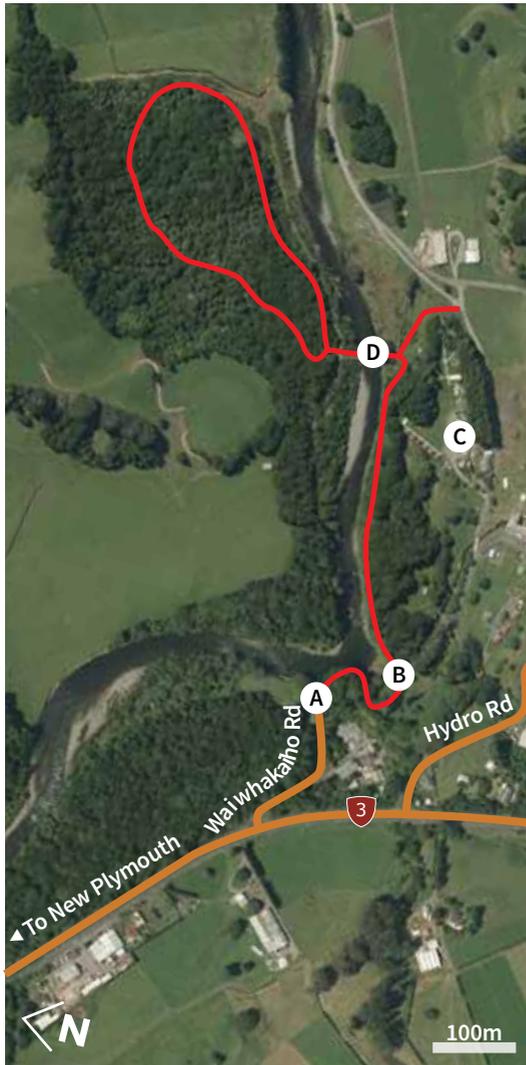
15

Lake Mangamahoe

Length: 6km, 1.5–2 hours

Difficulty: Moderate

Location: Starts at the end of Lake Access Rd, off Junction Rd, New Plymouth (A)



Enjoy a picnic, swim in the Waiwhakaiho River and take a short family-friendly walk.

The Meeting of the Waters and Araheke Bush walkways combine into one loop track that explores a forest of native trees, ferns and mosses, crossing bridges over both the tailrace of the **Mangorei Hydro Station (B)** and the **Waiwhakaiho River (D)**.

The track passes **TOPEC (C)** an outdoor pursuits centre that is used by schools and businesses of Taranaki.

For more information contact DOC or New Plymouth i-SITE (see back cover).



Lake Mangamahoe is set in a 262ha production forest, and offers a range of walks with spectacular views of Taranaki Maunga.

You will see the **dam (B)**, which turns the lake into a water catchment area for New Plymouth and a small collection of **redwood trees (C)** planted in 1931.

The track splits into two routes at the eastern side of the lake. The upper ridge takes you to some remarkable vantage points of Taranaki Maunga and surrounding farmland. The lower route is close to the water's edge where you will see many manu/birds and regenerating pockets of native bush.

Adjacent to the lake are dedicated areas for **horse riding (D)** and **mountain biking (E)**.

For more information, contact New Plymouth i-SITE (see back cover).

*For mountain bike trails, visit www.npmtb.co.nz

Stratford

Stratford is a fascinating and picturesque district located in central Taranaki.

Originally named Stratford-Upon-Pātea after William Shakespeare's birthplace Stratford-Upon-Avon, many street names and parks are dedicated to the Great Bard's plays and characters. The glockenspiel clock tower in the middle of the town performs excerpts of Romeo and Juliet at 10am, 1pm, 3pm and 7pm daily.

Stratford is a gateway to Taranaki Maunga and the district also includes the Forgotten World Highway touring route and Whangamomona, where you can easily spend a few days exploring the saddles, tracks and railway line.

Stratford is also home to award-winning Hollard Gardens, which feature an easy walk through extensive gardens and native bush.

This guide only gives a taste of the walks on offer. To explore more in Stratford or central Taranaki, visit Stratford i-SITE (see back cover) or www.stratford.govt.nz.



Rob Tucker

16

Mount Damper Falls Track

Length: 2km return, 40mins–1 hour

Difficulty: Easy

Location: Starts at the intersection of Okau Rd and Mangapapa Rd, Tahora, Forgotten World Highway (A)



At 74m high **Mt Damper Falls (F)** is one of the highest waterfalls in the North Island and has become a 'must see' for travelers.

Nestled in the northern Taranaki ngāhere/forests just off the Forgotten World Highway, the track traverses **open private farmland (B)** before crossing a **small bridge (C)** and entering lowland forest. A stroller could be pushed but it may be a little bumpy.

The **first viewing platform (D)** showcases the falls and valley, steps lead on down to a **second viewing platform (E)**, which gives a closer look at the falls and the plunge pool at the bottom.

Both water and cliff hazards are present, so do not deviate from the track.

For more information contact DOC or Stratford i-SITE (see back cover).

Please note – The Mt Damper Falls track is closed to hunters and dogs from August 1–October 31 each year due to lambing. Along the track you will see the junction for the Mt Damper Track, a challenging 8-hour tramp.

Stratford Heritage Walkway

Length: 1km, 30–40mins

Difficulty: Easy

Location: Starts at the Bell Tower on Miranda St, Stratford (A)



Carrington Walkway

Length: 3–9km, 1–4.5 hours

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Location: Starts at the western end of Regan St (A)



The Stratford Heritage Walkway consists of several memorials to the Boer War and the two world wars – the **Bell Tower (A)**, **Malone Memorial Gates (B)** and the **Hall of Remembrance (J)**.

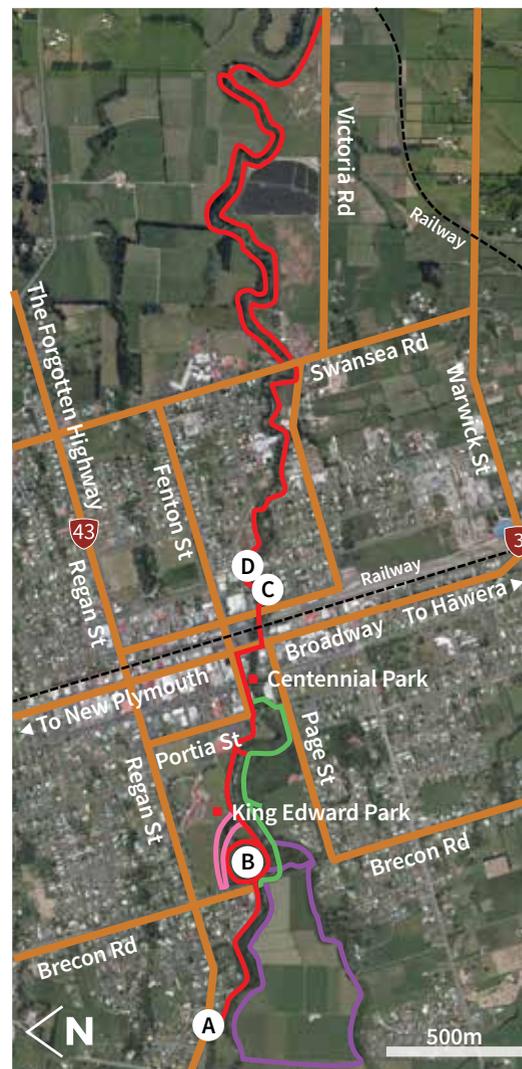
You'll come across a **kauri tree (C)** planted by Queen Elizabeth II and a **swing-bridge (D)** commemorating the coronation of King Edward VII.

Look out for information plaques about other points of interest:

Otago Chambers (E), the **old Newton King stables (F)**, **Victoria Bridge (G)**, **Salvation Army Building (H)**, the **Curtis Store Site (I)** – site of the first shop in Stratford, and the original **Stratford Post Office (K)**.

At the end of the walk, watch the **glockenspiel clock tower (L)** perform a sequence from Romeo and Juliet (at 10am, 1pm, 3pm and 7pm), check out the **Kings Theatre (M)**, which showed the first talking pictures in the Southern Hemisphere in 1925, and enjoy a coffee in **Prospero Place (N)**.

For more information, contact Stratford i-SITE (see back cover).



This urban and river bush walk starts at the western end of Regan St and follows the Pātea River east.

Once you reach King Edward Park, you will come across a selection of alternate and additional side routes, which are signposted: **red** Carrington Walk, **green** Three Bridges Trail, **pink** Clemow Walk, **purple** Western Loop. All of the tracks are similar but offer access to different vantage spots of the points of interest along the way.

The track leads past the **McCullough Rhododendron Dell (B)**, which has contained hundreds of rhododendrons since the 1960s, across farmland and over a few small bridges where you may glimpse a brown trout. After crossing the highway, you'll find more beautiful gardens at **Windsor Park (C)** and **Thomson Arboretum (D)**.

Beyond the arboretum the walkway follows the Pātea River as far as Victoria Rd.

For more information, contact Stratford i-SITE (see back cover).

19

Cardiff Centennial Walkway

Length: 3km, 1.5 hours

Difficulty: Moderate

Location: Starts at the large carpark on Ōpunake Rd (A)



20

Otunahe Scenic Reserve

Otunahe Walk length: 5.5km, 2.5–3 hours

Difficulty: Moderate

Hidden Valley Walk length: 1.5km, ½–1 hour

Difficulty: Easy

Location: Starts at Aukawa Road, Matau (A), (off Junction Road, Purangi, 38km from Inglewood)



The Cardiff Centennial Walkway follows the Waingongoro River and features steep slopes, river flats, natural bush, farmland and a **swing bridge (B)** at the halfway point.

Look out for the **two weirs (E)** built to dam the river and supply water to the Cardiff Co-operative Dairy Factory that operated from 1891 to 1951.

After the swing bridge, a short side track leads to a clifftop **lookout platform (C)** with views of the mountain, the surrounding farmland and a 55m **natural gas pipeline bridge (D)**. You can also enjoy beautiful views of the river and its stony banks from a picnic area, which is located a short stroll from the carpark.

This walkway was developed by members of the Cardiff Branch of Federated Farmers to coincide with the centennial of the Cardiff School and District in May 1986.

For more information, contact Stratford i-SITE (see back cover).

East Taranaki's Purangi Kiwi Project spans 13,000 hectares – a community project with a predator-control programme that has helped a growing population of western brown kiwi.



There are two walking trails. The 30-minute, **Hidden Valley Walk**, passes through native bush and a natural canyon before climbing papa (clay) steps – take care as they can be slippery – and through redwoods rich in birdlife **(B)**. Follow the signs and markers from the **Field Cabin (A)**, or join an organised night walk to discover the glow worms.

The 2.5-3 hour **Otunahe Scenic Walk** offers great views as it passes through mature native forest rich in birdlife and biodiversity. Look out for an 800–1000-year-old **Rimu Tree (C)**.

Both walks encounter varied terrain and changeable conditions. Bush walking footwear and suitable outdoor clothing are strongly advised.

Tracks are open late spring to autumn. Please enquire outside these times for track conditions.

Maintained by Experience Purangi – donations of \$10 per person (under 5s free) fund a predator-controlled environment. Please sign the visitors book in the **Field Cabin (A)**.

For further information on the project visit the Experience Purangi office, 53 Rata Street, Inglewood.

South Taranaki

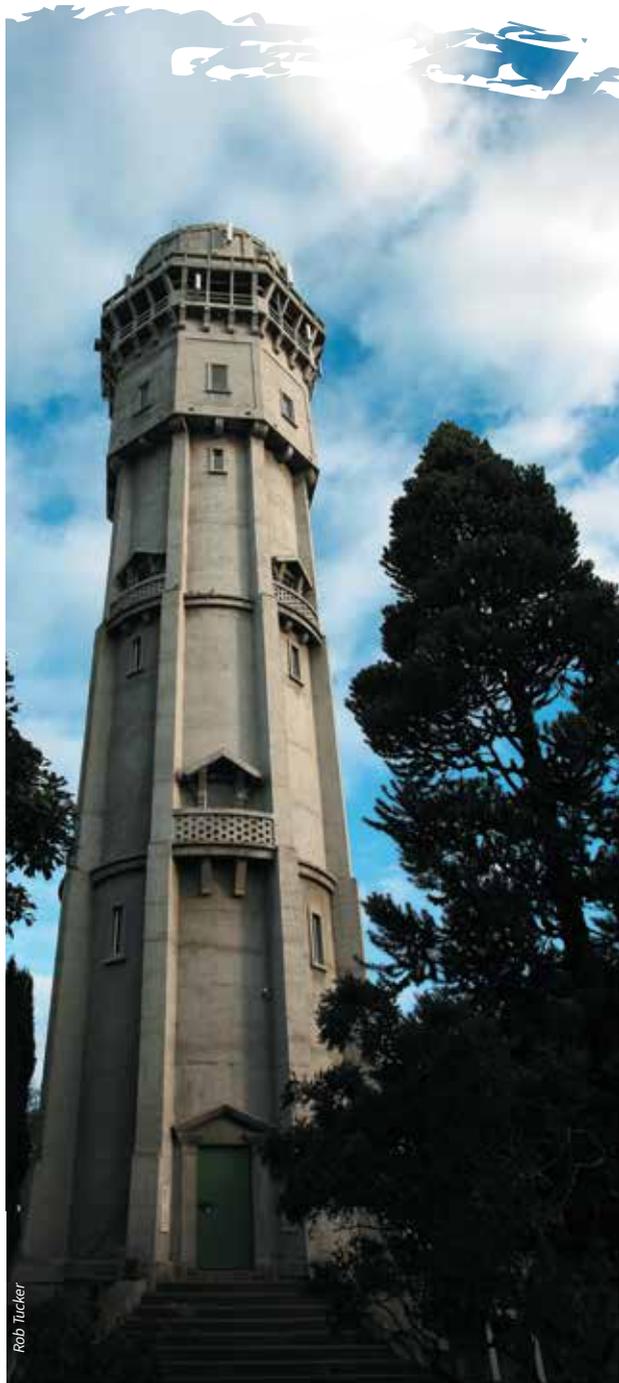
South Taranaki occupies most of Taranaki's dramatic and wild coastline. From Ōkato to Waverley and Eltham in the east, there are many walking, surfing, cycling and sight-seeing adventures to be had.

South Taranaki's main town Hāwera is home to an iconic water tower, which was built after the town suffered extensive fires in 1884, 1888 and 1912 (Hāwera means 'the burnt place'). You can climb to the top of this tower and see views of Taranaki Maunga and surrounding farmland – visit South Taranaki i-SITE for access.

This guide gives just a taste of the walks on offer. To explore more in South Taranaki, visit South Taranaki i-SITE (see back cover) or www.southtaranaki.com/visit.

South Taranaki District Council is developing a number of new walkways throughout the district.

Contact South Taranaki i-SITE for more information and updates on progress.



Rob Tucker

21

Ōpunake Walkway

Length: 7km, 3–4 hours

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Location: Can be accessed from multiple starting points, but best place to start is at the boat ramp by Ōpunake Lake on Layard St (A)



STDC



The Ōpunake Walkway is the longest of the formal South Taranaki walks. It travels around Ōpunake Lake (popular for boating, swimming and water skiing), and across Ōpunake Walkway heads past the **Orimupiko Cemetery (C)** and the **Armed Constabulary Cemetery (D)**, and along the cliffs, providing views of Taranaki Maunga and the coastline.

The **Waiaua River Mouth (E)** offers extraordinary views of Taranaki's dynamic coastline, **Ōpunake Beach (F)** has great surf and you can view the Taranaki Bight from the **Lion's Lookout (G)**. **Middleton Bay (H)** is a picturesque beach too, but not safe for swimming.

History buffs will enjoy the **Old Cottage Hospital (B)**, which was the birthplace of famous New Zealand runner Peter Snell. **Te Namu Pā (I)** is where Wiremu Kingi Matakatea repelled 800 Waikato Māori successfully for an entire month, armed only with a single rifle.

For up to date detail on the Ōpunake Loop Trail please visit www.opunakenz.co.nz/opunake-walkway.

Please note – Te Namu Pā is on private property. The owners and the Historic Places Trust ask that the area be treated with care and respect.

22

Ōhawe Beach to Waihi Beach Coastal Walkway

Length: 5km, 2.5–3 hours

Difficulty: Moderate

Location: Starts at Ōhawe Beach, at the end of Ōhawe Rd, Ōhawe (A)



23

Nowell's Lakes Walkway

Length: 3km, 0.75 hours

Difficulty: Moderate

Location: Rifle Range Rd, off Manawapou Rd, Hāwera



There are several points of interest on the dramatic South Taranaki coastline between **Ōhawe (A)** and **Waihi Beaches (G)**.

The **Waingongoro River mouth (B)** is where Taranaki's first Māori settlers lived in small undefended settlements. A fortified pā was built where the carpark is now located, though later removed.

In the **cliffs along the coastline (D)**, look out for 3-million-year-old soft papa rock and nearby **rock pools (E)**, which contain a wide range of sea life.

Near Ōhawe Beach you'll also see the **Rangatapu Marae (C)** and remnants of a **pioneer tram rail (F)**.

For more information, contact South Taranaki i-SITE (see back cover).

Warning – This walkway is along the foreshore and is tidal. It is only safe to walk up to 2.5 hours before or after low tide. Check the tide tables before you leave. The cliffs along the coast are unstable so beware of falling debris. Swimming is only safe at the end of the boat ramp at Ōhawe Beach (toilets and changing rooms are available here). Remember to pre-organise transport as this is a one-way walk.



Starting at the end of Rifle Range Road, just south of Hāwera, this short but pleasant walk through a gully (once a third lake) leads you through farmland that has been planted in native trees by local schools, to Nowell's Lakes. The lake area consists of two freshwater lakes entrapped in the coastal sand dune belt. Both lakes are ground-fed and the water is pristine, providing a clean habitat for a variety of fish.

Thousands of swan plants have been planted throughout the walkway so, between February and April, swarms of caterpillars and clouds of Monarch butterflies can be seen everywhere.

You can also explore a secondary walk that leads you towards the coast. The four walks are well signposted and have seats and picnic tables dotted along the way, while toilets are available by the lake.

The redevelopment of this area has attracted a high level of community support.

For more information, contact South Taranaki i-SITE (see back cover).

24

Lake Rotokare Walkway

Length: The Loop Track – 4.2km, 1.5–2 hours; The Ridge Walk – 6km, 3–5 hours

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Location: Starts at Lake Rotokare Information Hut at the end of Sangster Rd (A), (take Anderson Rd off SH3, 12km east of Eltham)



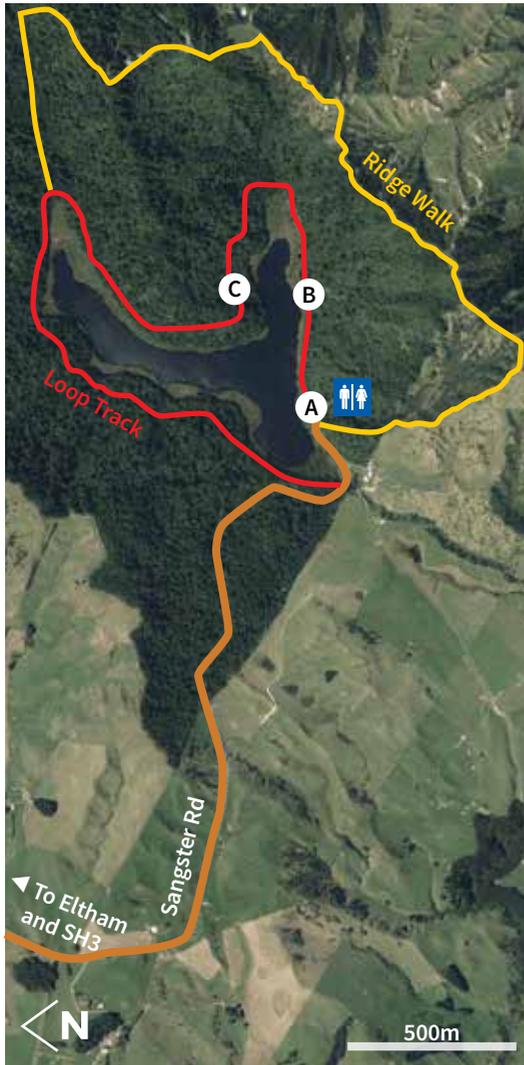
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Lake Rotorangi Walkway

Length: 1.5km, 40 minutes

Difficulty: Easy

Location: Starts at the end of Rotorangi Rd, Pātea (A), (take Ball Rd off SH3, 8km north of Pātea)



Lake Rotokare Scenic Reserve is a stunning 230 hectare predator-free environment where you will be surrounded by native and endangered flora and fauna that is quickly regenerating in a protected environment. Two tracks start from the carpark:

The Loop Track suits pushchairs and mobility scooters from point (A) to (B). Its boardwalks extend through the swamp forest. Seats and a viewing platform are installed at the best spots for viewing **fernbirds (B)** and **waterfowl (C)**.

The Ridge Walk follows the predator-proof fence for beautiful views of the lake before joining the Loop Track around the lake via an old bullock track. The Ridge Walk has 1220 steps and was built by more than 123 volunteers with over 10,000 nails used in its construction.

For more information, contact South Taranaki i-SITE (see back cover).

Please note – Lake Rotokare is a predator-free zone so check your vehicle and bags for stowaway rodents before entering. A double gate system allows entry to the reserve – simply push the entry button for the gates to open automatically. Sturdy walking shoes are recommended as there are muddy areas.



Lake Rotorangi Walkway loops the southern end of the longest man-made lake in New Zealand. The walkway crosses the 82m high **Pātea dam (B)** and then heads past three **totara carvings (C)**, which were created by Pātea carvers under the tutelage of Reverend Te Napi Waaka. They are Pou Tiaki, Rahui and a carved archway consisting of two amo (uprights) and two maihi (apex boards).

Travelling in an anti-clockwise direction, the track sits above the shoreline and leads around a peninsula.

Look out for parakeets in the mixed podocarp and mānuka **forest (D)** and enjoy stunning views of the lake as you gradually climb to a **high point (E)**, before descending back to the dam.

A feature of the walkway is a grove of black beech or tawhai rauriki, which flowers in a burst of brilliant red in October and November.

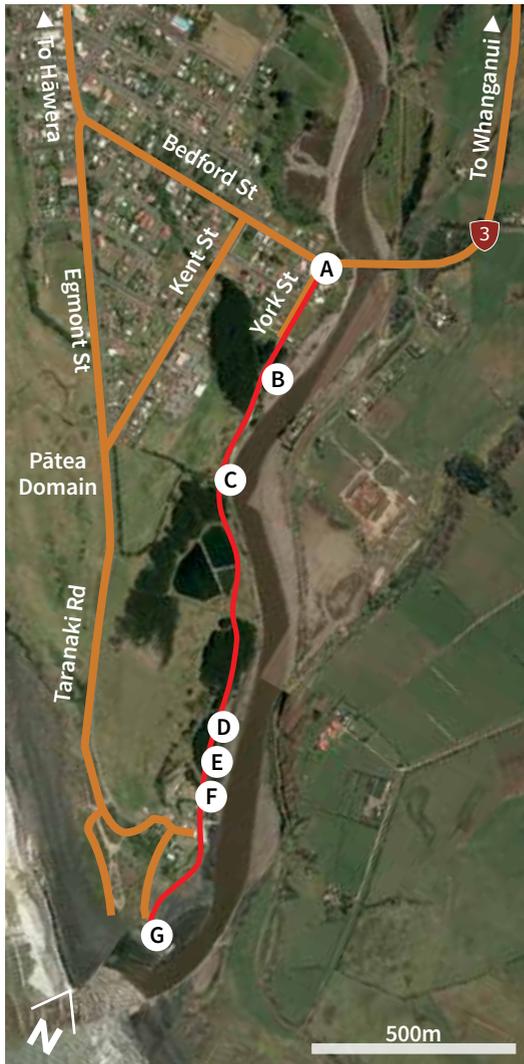
For more information, contact South Taranaki i-SITE (see back cover).

Pātea River Historic Walkway

Length: 1.5km, 1–1.4 hours

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Location: Starts at the corner of York St
and Bedford St, Pātea (A)



Learn about Pātea's rich history and follow the lower end of the Pātea River through pastures and pine forest to several points of interest dating back to the 1860s.

A series of signs containing historic photographs and illustrations from award-winning New Zealand botanical artist Audrey Eagle tell the stories of the **wool store wharf (B)**, **Pātea Port (C)**, **Wai o Turi Marae (D)**, **Dawsons Redoubt (E)**, **Haere Hau Pā (F)** and more.

When you end your journey at **Pātea Beach (G)**, be sure to enjoy the free barbeques and other facilities in the picnic area.

For more information, contact South Taranaki i-SITE (see back cover).

Please note – Bring sturdy shoes as there is a steep climb along the walkway that can be muddy and slippery in wet weather.

About Venture Taranaki

Taranaki A Walker's Guide is part of a collection of visitor information tools available from Venture Taranaki, Taranaki's Regional Development Agency, to showcase the region and its many stories and attractions.

Venture Taranaki works across tourism, conventions, regional marketing and major events plus business and economic development to grow the Taranaki region. The region's official website – www.taranaki.info – presents a wealth of information for anyone looking to visit, move or learn more about Taranaki, or grow a business within the region.

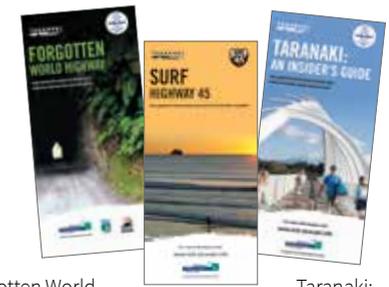
Venture Taranaki works one-on-one with individuals, businesses, small groups, clusters, media and industry to grow the economic wellbeing of Taranaki. Contact us to find out how we can work with you – www.taranaki.info.

Other Venture Taranaki Visitor Publications



Taranaki Parks
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Taranaki:
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These guides and more can be found at i-SITE Visitor Information Centres in New Plymouth, Stratford and Hawera or by contacting Venture Taranaki on **06 759 5150**, emailing info@venture.org.nz or downloading from www.visit.taranaki.info.

DOC Information Centres and Taranaki i-SITES



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Conservation
Te Papa Atāwhiri

Department of Conservation

Taranaki Area Office
55A Rimu St, New Plymouth
(06) 759 0350, www.doc.govt.nz



North Taranaki Visitor Centre

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Dawson Falls Visitor Centre

Top of Manaia Rd, Kaponga
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SITE



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Stratford i-SITE Visitor Centre

Prospero Pl and Miranda St, Stratford
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South Taranaki i-SITE Visitor Centre

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Te Puna Umanga

An initiative of:



NPDC

Taranaki's Regional Development Agency

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www.taranaki.info

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