Wairarapa

Family walks and day visits



Wellington region



Department of Conservation *Te Papa Atawhai*

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What to do in the Wairarapa

The Wairarapa area provides a wide range of recreation opportunities and plant and animal habitats to visit.

The area covers five ecological districts ranging from the Tararua and Rimutaka ranges to the Wairarapa plains, and to the hill country in the east and north of the area. Features of the area include the Tararua, Rimutaka and Aorangi forest parks, which are popular with trampers and other forest park users. The Pukaha Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre supports the conservation of nationally endangered species through captive management.

The Wairarapa coastline extends for 220 kilometres and is an area of high interest to iwi. It is also an important commercial fishery.

Wairarapa Moana contains wetlands that are regionally and nationally important as a wader bird habitat, for sport game shooting and are also traditional areas for food gathering by Māori.

The eastern and northern area of the Wairarapa has few legally protected areas, and remaining forest and wetland habitats contain several endangered native plant species. The rare short-tailed bat is found in one location in the Tararua Forest Park.



Track classifications

Short walk

- · Easy walking for up to an hour
- Track is well formed with an even, well drained surface. There may be steps
- · Suitable for people of most ages and fitness levels
- · Stream and river crossings are bridged
- · Walking shoes required

Walking track

- · Gentle walking from a few minutes to a day
- Track is mostly well formed, some sections may be steep, rough or muddy
- · Suitable for people with low to moderate fitness and abilities
- · Some tracks suitable for mountain biking
- · Clearly signposted. Stream and river crossings are bridged
- · Walking shoes or light tramping/hiking boots required

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Easier tramping track

- · Comfortable multi-day tramping/hiking
- Track is generally well formed, some sections may be rough, muddy or steep
- Suitable for people with limited backcountry (remote area) experience
- · Some tracks suitable for mountain biking
- Track has signs, poles or markers. Major stream and river crossings are bridged

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· Light tramping/hiking boots required

Tramping track

- · Challenging day or multi-day tramping/hiking
- · Track is mostly unformed, may be rough and steep
- Suitable for people with moderate to high level backcountry (remote areas) skills and experience, navigation and survival skills required
- · Some tracks suitable for mountain biking
- Track has markers, poles or rock cairns. Expect unbridged stream and river crossings
- · Tramping/hiking boots required



Tracks are measured in time and distance. Times given are a guide only and will vary depending on weather, track conditions and fitness levels of the people participating.

Abbreviations

SH State Highway

VC Visitor Centre

FP Forest Park

Public transport: The only public transport available is access into the Wairarapa by train or bus from Wellington.

Bird watching: All DOC-managed areas are suitable for viewing birds.

Botany: All public conservation land is suitable for viewing plants.

Plan and prepare

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

- 1. Plan your trip. Take a map/track brochure and remember to buy hut tickets for overnight stays.
- 2. Tell someone responsible where you are going and estimated return time
- 3. Be aware of the weather. Check weather forecasts before you go on 0900 999 24 or www.metservice.com
- 4. Know your limits.
- 5. Take sufficient supplies.

Leave your trip details with a trusted contact. For more information see www.adventuresmart.org.nz

Your safety is your responsibility



Alert!

Facilities and services can change. Before you set out, check the latest track and hut information on the DOC website: www.doc.govt.nz/recreation

For your own safety, never leave valuables on display in car.





Dog walking care code

When enjoying a day in the park with your dog, please follow these simple guidelines:

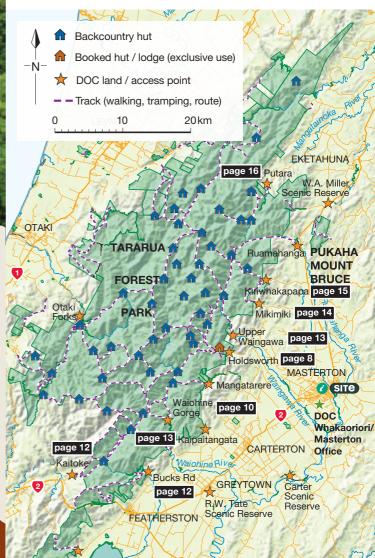


- Keep your dog under control at all times—a dog out of sight is a dog out of control
- · Carry a leash and use it where required
- Ensure your dog does not disrupt other people's enjoyment of the park
- Clean up after your dog—take a plastic bag and always pick up your dog's waste

Walking opportunities by area

Tararua Forest Park

Established in 1954, the forest park stretches from the Rimutaka Summit on SH2 to the Pahiatua Track in the north. At approximately 116,535 ha it is the largest conservation park in the North Island. It provides visitors with opportunities for tramping, hunting, walking and studying plants in a wild, natural landscape.



Holdsworth

Getting there

Turn off SH2 into Norfolk Road, 2 km south of Masterton. Follow signs to Tararua Forest Park, approximately 15 km from SH₂.

Vehicle access

Sealed road to Holdsworth suitable for all types of vehicles.



















Attractions: This is the main entrance to the eastern side of the Tararua Forest Park.

Caretaker on site.



Donnelly Flat Loop

Walking track. Length: 1 hour round trip, 2.5 km

Cross the Atiwhakatu footbridge and follow the relatively flat track to Donnelly Flat camping area. From here the track continues to the Atiwhakatu Track junction, and loops back to the Holdsworth car park via the foot of the Gentle Annie Track.









Rocky Lookout

Walking track. Length: 1 hr 30 min one way, 1.9 km

Follow the well-graded Gentle Annie track from the Loop Walk to a viewing platform with extensive views of Powell Hut, Mt Holdsworth, Jumbo Hut, Mitre Flat, Atiwhakatu valley and the plains out east.



Atiwhakatu Hut

Walking track. Length: 3 hr one way, 7.2 km

Follow the walk past Donnelly Flat. Well-developed track running through bush and alongside river.





Holdsworth Lookout

Holdsworth Lookou.

Tramping track. Length: 1 hr one way, 1 km

Cross the Atiwhakatu footbridge and continue up a steep forest-clad spur to a clearing with magnificent views.



Other tramping tracks to huts

Including Powell, Jumbo, Totara Flats and Mitre Flats huts

More details can be found at http://www.doc.govt.nz/Holdsworth

Waiohine Gorge

Getting there

Turn off SH2 just south of Carterton into Dalefield Road. Follow the signs indicating Tararua Forest Park, approximately 15 km from SH2.

Vehicle access

Unsealed road for final 9 km.













Attractions: Popular camping and recreation area, and entrance to south-eastern Tararua Forest Park.

Spectacular swingbridge, rafting, tubing and kayaking (grade II) and several swimming holes.



Totara Flats Hut

Easy tramping track. Length: 4 hr one way, 10 km



Cone Hut

Tramping track. Length: 3 hr one way, 4.6 km



♦ ♦ ♦ HISTORIC SITE ♦ ♦ ♦

Cone hut



ocated in the upper Tauherenikau valley, in the southeastern section of Tararua Forest Park. Cone is the second-oldest hut in the Tararuas and was constructed by New Zealand's first tramping club, the Tararua Tramping Club.

Cone Hut was built using local totara timbers, adzed into framing and split into slab walls. This was a very rare form of construction by the 1940s.

By the early 1980s the hut had fallen into a state of disrepair. After assessing the heritage importance of the site and developing a plan, it was decided to rebuild the hut using the same construction method and materials as in 1946. This work was undertaken by the Tararua Tramping Club with the assistance of the Department of Conservation.

The hut's restoration in the late 1980s is a credit to the Tararua Tramping Club volunteers and their predecessors who had the bush carpentry skills to fashion such a durable haven.

Situated in picturesque mature forest adjacent to the Tauherenikau River, this rustic hut continues to be used and enjoyed by trampers and hunters.



Kaitoke

Getting there

Turn off SH2 into Marchant Road at the YMCA Camp Kaitoke turnoff. Near the end of Marchant Road, turn right into Kiwi Ranch Road. The car park is located on the left, approximately 500 m along Kiwi Ranch Road.



Spider Orchid – Nematoceras trilobum. Photo Jeremy Rolfe

Vehicle access

Sealed to the car park.

Attractions: Southern entrance into Tararua Forest Park which contains rare orchids and plants. Hunting access to the lower Tauherenikau valley.



Smith Creek to Tauherenikau River

Walking track. Length: 4 hr return, 5.5 km

This track takes you over the Puffer Saddle and down Smith Creek with its fine stands of red beech/hard beech forest, to its confluence with the Tauherenikau River.



Dobson Loop Track

Tramping track to Smith Creek Shelter and return. Length: 5 hr round trip.

This day tramp leads from Kaitoke to Smith Creek Shelter, at the junction of the Tauherenikau River and Smith Creek. The shelter can be reached either from the Dobson Loop Track, or the Puffer Track over Puffer Saddle and down Smith Creek.

The track along Smith Creek crosses unbridged side streams which can become hazardous during heavy rain. Please follow track markers when crossing these streams, but do not attempt to cross if flooded.

Bucks Road/Underhill road

Getting there

At Featherston turn into Wakefield Street, opposite Western Lake Road. This becomes Underhill Road and then Bucks Road. Follow to the end.

Vehicle access

Unsealed road for 8 km. Parking for large vehicles.





Attractions: Track to the Tauherenikau River.

Kaipaitangata

Getting there

Southern end of Carterton, turn into Dalefield Road and follow for approximately 8 km.

Vehicle access

Unsealed road for 4.5 km.







Attractions: Drive towards Mt Dick lookout for great views of the Wairarapa valley and eastern hills on a fine day.

See the Mountain bike section p. 53 for more information.

Upper Waingawa Road

Getting there

From Masterton turn off SH2 into Upper Plain Road and then into Upper Waingawa Road to the Pines car park.

Vehicle access

Unsealed road towards end. No suitable car parking for large vehicles.









Mitre Flats Hut

Tramping track. Length: 4 hr one way, 8 km

This track follows a farm access road for the first 30 min then the track sidles up the true left of the Waingawa River, reaching Mitre Flats Hut.

Mikimiki

Getting there

Turn off SH2 10 km north of Masterton into Mikimiki Road. Follow signs to Tararua Forest Park.

Vehicle access

Unsealed road for last 7 km.









Tramline track (Mikimiki to Kiriwhakapapa) See the next page.

Waiohine bats



round 200 short-tailed bats were found in the Waiohine $m{ extstyle au}$ valley of the Tararua Forest Park in the late 1990s. It's the only known colony in the southern North Island.

These small, grey bats weigh between 12 and 15 grams, have large pointed ears, and a free tail. Their diet consists of insects, fruit, nectar and pollen and they hibernate over winter.

They forage on the ground and are one of the few bats in the world that spend time on the forest floor, using their folded wings as 'front limbs' for scrambling around. These bats are nocturnal and don't like to be disturbed.

Kiriwhakapapa

Getting there

About 15 km north of Masterton turn off SH2 into Kiriwhakapapa Road. Follow signs to Tararua Forest Park, approximately 7 km from SH2.

Vehicle access

Unsealed road for the last 4 km.















Attractions: Popular pretty camping area with lovely stream and entrance to north-eastern Tararua Forest Park.



Kiriwhakapapa Loop Track

Walking track. Length: 1 hr, 1 km

A gentle climb on a loop track through native bush. Not suitable for pushchairs or wheelchairs.



Tramline Track (Mikimiki to Kiriwhakapapa)

Walking track, Length: 2 hr one way, 7.5 km

This is a one-way track following an old timber mill tramway for 1.5 km over a low saddle through native bush. It then becomes walking track with a steeper gradient.

See Mountain bike section p. 53 for more information.



Blue Range Hut Track

Tramping track. Length: 2 hr one way, 3.6 km



Blue Range Hut. Photo: Mikis van Geffen

Putara

Getting there

Turn off SH2 north of Mt Bruce onto South Road No.2 for approximately 15 km and follow the signs for Tararua Forest Park.

Vehicle access

Unsealed road which narrows close to the forest park. Suitable for some campervan parking for access only.





Tramping track

Length: 1 hr 30 min return, 1.5 km

From the road end go up the true right for 10 min. Go over the swingbridge and walk up the Mangatainoka River on the true left towards a large swingbridge, and return. Can continue on steep uphill to Herepai Ridge and onto Herepai Hut or down to Roaring Stag Hut (a further 1 hr or 2 hr, respectively).



Kākā

Boisterous kākā are plentiful around northern Wairarapa since their reintroduction to Pukaha Mount Bruce, and can sometimes be seen in the Tararua Forest Park.



A parrot native to New Zealand, kākā compete with possums for food such as native mistletoe and rātā. They 'chatter' loudly in the early morning and late evening and are a beautiful bird.

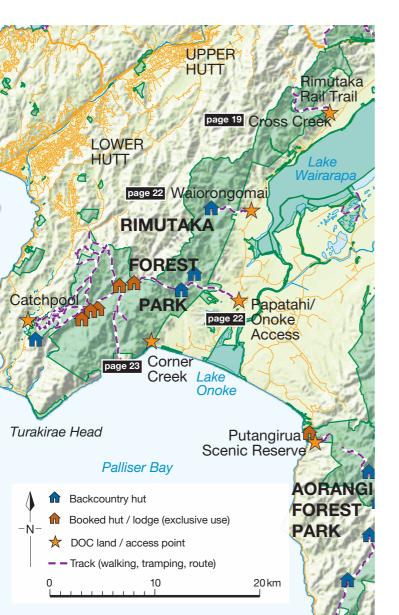
See kākā feed at Pukaha Mount Bruce at 3 pm daily. See page 36 for more information.



Rimutaka Forest Park

The 22,000 ha Rimutaka Forest Park encompasses much of the Rimutaka Range. The main entrance to the park is from the Catchpool Valley recreational area in the Wainuiomata Valley with smaller entrances from road ends in the Wairarapa.

It provides visitors with tramping, hunting and walking opportunities in a wild, natural landscape.



Cross Creek

Getting there

From Featherston turn into Moore St, continue into Western Lake Road, and turn right onto Cross Creek Road.

Vehicle access

Unsealed road from Western Lake Road. Good parking facilities.





Attractions: Historic rail site.







Rimutaka Rail Trail

Walking track. Length: 5 hr one way, 2 hr mountain bike ride, 18 km

This track follows the old Rimutaka Incline, a unique rail system built in 1878 and designed to traverse the steep eastern side of the Rimutaka Range.

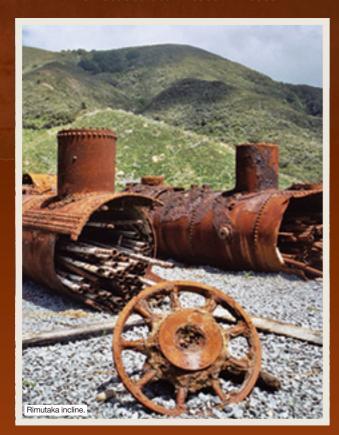
See the following pages for further historic information.

The rail trail is a gently graded 18 km walk or mountain bike ride. This makes it an ideal trip for families with children. The trail is also popular with dog walkers.

Education resources

For education resources on the rimutaka incline please visit: www.doc.govt.nz/fieldtrips

Rimutaka Rail Trail



A nambitious government project to construct a national railroad to attract immigrants began in 1871. When building a connection from the Wairarapa to Wellington the mountainous terrain posed a major challenge to the construction.

Using a system that English engineer John Fell had patented in 1863 that worked successfully on Mt Cenis in the European Alps, New Zealand decided to attempt the 4.8 km Rimutaka Incline. This was an innovative and bold engineering solution. It involved a centre rail—elevated above the running rail—gripped by a series of horizontal wheels fitted to the specially designed engines and brake vans which took trains up and down the incline.

The system was considered a temporary measure but the world wars and depression of the 1930s meant that the replacement was not ready until 1955, by which time the journey was slow and expensive.

Today, the incline is regarded as a special part of New Zealand's historic heritage and one of the 10 most significant railway heritage sites in the world. It has made its mark in the following ways:

- It is technically remarkable how maintenance staff kept the original 1877 equipment operating reliably at full power for 77 years.
- For the Wairarapa community, the aged equipment became a cultural legend, with many personal experiences of the journey recorded and published. A children's story was even written about it, Freddy the Fell Engine, by Peter Walsh.
- For railway staff and their families, Cross Creek became New Zealand's most legendary 'railway settlement'. The closure of the incline on 29 October 1955 attracted large crowds and national media coverage.



Waiorongomai

Getting there

From Featherston travel down Western Lake Road for approximately 18-20 km after leaving the lakeshore reserve. If you cross the Waiorongomai Stream you've gone too far. Walking access into the Rimutaka Forest Park, via Waiorongomai station, is by the goodwill of the Matthews family. Hunters and all others with dogs require permission from Mr C. G. Matthews, phone o6 307 7740.

Vehicle access

Unsealed short road with plenty of car parking (no camping).





Waiorongomai Hut walk

Tramping track. Length: 1 hr 30 min one-way, 4.8 km

Walk up the Waiorongomai Stream and Track to the hut.

Papatahi/Onoke Farm access

Getting there

From Featherston travel down Western Lake Road past the East/West access road and look for Onoke access signs. If you cross the first one-way bridge you've gone too far.

Vehicle access

Park in the car park on the side of Western Lake Road. Not suitable for large vehicles.





Wharepapa Hut Walk

Tramping track. Length: 2 hr 30 min one way, 6.5 km

This follows an easement through Onoke farm to Battery Stream and Wharepapa River and the hut.



Wharepapa Hut over Papatahi Crossing (to Catchpool Valley)

Length: 10 hr one way, approximately 20 km

Corner Creek/Ocean Beach

Getting there

From Featherston travel down Western Lake Road to the beach and follow round to Corner Creek.

Vehicle access

Unsealed road for at least 3 km with two stream fords. Suitable for large vehicles.



















Mukamuka Track to Mt Matthews (South Saddle)

Tramping track. Length: 4 hr one way, 6.2 km

Walk down the beach to the big Mukamuka Stream and follow the streambed to the track over south saddle.



Aorangi Forest Park

This area, located in south-eastern Wairarapa, is popular with recreational hunters and trampers. It contains some of New Zealand's most striking landforms and has significant Māori history. The park is 19,374 ha and stretches from Martinborough to the Palliser Bay coast.



Putangirua Scenic Reserve

Getting there

Located 13 km along Cape Palliser Road from the Lake Ferry turnoff, approximately a 1 hr drive from Martinborough. The turn-off and campsite are 500 m past the Department of Conservation's bookable Te Kopi Lodges.

Vehicle access

Unsealed road for 500 m. Suitable for various vehicles. including buses.













Pinnacles Track

Walking track. Length: 2-4 hr depending on the route, 3.5 km

When the Aorangi Range was an island, 7 to 9 million years ago, screes poured gravels onto the coast, much as they do today around Cape Palliser.

The Putangirua Stream has exposed this ancient layer of gravels to the erosive forces of rain and floods. Where cemented silts or rocks within the gravel beds prove more resistant than the underlying sediments, spectacular individual pinnacles or 'hoodoos' are formed.



Three routes lead to the Putangirua Pinnacles or the Pinnacles lookout:

- 1 Walk up the streambed to where the Pinnacles tower overhead (watch for falling rocks, especially after heavy rain and in strong winds).
- 2 Take the easily-graded bush walk that starts approximately 10 min along the streambed from the car park. This leads to the loop track junction and on to the lookout above the Pinnacles.
- 3 For a more direct route to the lookout, walk up the streambed to the base of the Pinnacles and turn left onto the loop track. This track climbs steeply to the lookout and meets up with the bush walk.

For a longer walk with excellent views of Palliser Bay and Lake Onoke, continue uphill from the lookout to a bulldozed track and turn left. It returns you to the coast 300 m from the Pinnacles Road entrance, behind the bookable Te Kopi Lodges. Allow 3-4 hr for the return trip.



Haurangi Road

Getting there

Take White Rock Road south of Martinborough, turn right into Ruakokoputuna Road about 10 km from Martinborough and follow the road to the end.

Vehicle access

Unsealed from White Rock Road and unsuitable for large vehicles.







Old Mill Track (to Sutherlands Hut)

Tramping track. Length: 3 hr one way, 8 km

From the car park at the saddle above Waikuku Lodge (see p 62), follow the Old Mill track around the west branch to Sutherlands Hut.



Pig Ridge Track (to Sutherlands Hut) Tramping track. Length: 1 hr 30 min one way, 4.5 km

Follow the Old Mill Track and turn left on this alternative and shorter route to Sutherlands Hut

Mangatoetoe Stream

Getting there

Drive to Ngawi on Cape Palliser Road and access is approximately 4 km beyond Ngawi. Legal walking access is up the true left of the streambed to the park boundary.

Vehicle access

Park in the car park just off Cape Palliser Road.







Mangatoetoe Hut from Coast Road

Tramping track. Length: 1 hr one way, 4 km

Walk up the streambed to the hut.

Follow this track to Kawakawa Hut, Pararaki Hut and Washpool Hut (approximately 4 hours between each hut).

Cape Palliser



Cape Palliser Coastal Walk (unmarked walk)

Walking track. Length: 3 hr one way, estimated 9 km

From the Cape Palliser lighthouse, walk around the coast past the Stonewall to Ngapotiki. There is no vehicle access unless organised with local hapū (Māori tribe).

Seal colony

New Zealand fur seals have clearly visible external ears, a pointed snout and long pale-coloured whiskers. Adult males reach about 2 m long (nose to tail length) and weigh up to 185 kg. Adult females reach 1.5 m long and weigh up to 70 kg.

The coat of fur seals is dark grey-brown on the back, and lighter below. They have a thick underfur which is a rich chestnut. In some animals the outer guard hairs have white tips giving them a silvery appearance.

Fur seals are excellent swimmers and skilful divers.

They feed mainly offshore and at night on squid, lantern fish, barracouta and, in some places, hoki.



Habitat

Although seals are marine mammals they spend much of their time on land, either to rest at 'haul-out' areas, or to breed at 'rookeries'. The breeding season at the Cape Palliser rookery runs from November to January.



In rookeries, dominant males rule, defending their territories by posturing and fighting chest-to-chest until one male submits and leaves. Females give birth to a pup each year and mate again 8–10 days after birth. They will occupy the rookeries almost throughout the year, until they have weaned their pup. Outside of the breeding season, adult males and non-breeders tend to move around various non-breeding colonies. Haul-outs are occupied by immature and adult males in the winter and empty around October, just before the next breeding season starts.

Fur seal care code



- Fur seals are wild animals, so it pays to keep a safe distance from them. Where practicable stay at least 20 m away.
- Avoid coming between seals and the sea.
- Keep dogs on a leash and well away.
- Where practicable, do not drive vehicles within 50 m of a marine mammal.
- Never attempt to touch seals—they can be aggressive and often carry diseases.
- Unless there is a good reason to think a seal needs assistance, it should be left alone. Seals can survive quite major injuries if they are in good condition.
- If you see a sick or injured seal, do not attempt to move or assist the animal yourself. Please contact your nearest DOC office. DOC has experienced staff who will respond to the animal if necessary.

Carter Scenic Reserve

The land was gazetted as scenic reserve in 1921. It contains swamp and semi-swamp forest on two old terraces of the Ruamahanga River, and is representative of the patchwork landscape that was once typical of the Wairarapa—grass, wetland, shrubland and forest.

Getting there

The reserve is 12 km south-east of Carterton, on Gladstone Road. From Carterton follow Park Road to the end, turn left into Carters Line and right into Gladstone Road. The reserve is signposted approximately 3 km along Gladstone Road. The carpark is about 500 m along the driveway.

Vehicle access

Unsealed road to the car park.









Kahikatea Walk

Short walk. Length: 30 min return, 1 km

Follow the boardwalk and return via the bush track.



R.W. Tate Scenic Reserve

Getting there

East of Greytown on Papawai Road is a small reserve with a short walking track.

Vehicle access

Tar-sealed to a small entrance. Park on the side of the road: not suitable for large vehicles.







W.A. Miller Scenic Reserve

Getting there

Turn left where signposted north of Pukaha Mount Bruce on SH2.

Vehicle access

Sealed car park. Suitable for 1-2 campervans or cars.







Loop track through tawa forest and over bridge.



Walk through to the historic ANZAC bridge.

Short walk. Length: 15 min return, 600 m

Carnival Park Scenic Reserve

Getting there

Adjacent to the Carnival Park Camping Ground south of Pahiatua.

Vehicle access

Sealed to the car park; suitable for large vehicles.





This park contains a loop track through mature tawa forest.

Easy tramping track. Length: 30 min return, 800 m



Castlepoint Scenic Reserve

With its fossil-rich limestone reef and magnificent 162 m high Matira/Castle Rock, Castlepoint is one of the most spectacular sites along the Wairarapa coastline. Long stretches of beach and a sheltered lagoon provide opportunities for a variety of water-based recreational pursuits, and the area has a rich natural history.



Vehicle access

Sealed road to the car park; suitable for large vehicles. Beach access.



























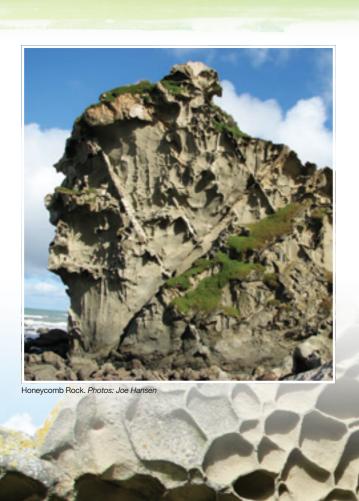
Caution: The area known as 'The Reef' is extremely dangerous and sea conditions are unpredictable.



Lighthouse Walk

Short walk. Length: 30 min return, 700 m

Walk across the beach and up the limestone reef towards the lighthouse. Please be careful in high winds.





Walking track. Length: 1 hr 30 min loop, 2.5 km

Walk through the pines above the lagoon and follow the reserve boundary path along the bottom of Matira/Castle Rock. Alternatively walk south along the lagoon edge and follow the track up through coastal grassland to meet the boundary track at the saddle.

Honevcomb Rock

Honeycomb Rock is a spectacular outcrop on the Wairarapa coast, named for the remarkable cell-like weathering pattern which gives the rock a honeycomb appearance.

Getting there

Glenburn Station is about 60 km east of Masterton, Follow Gladstone Road to the Te Wharau Road junction about 1 km north of Gladstone. The road is signposted to Glenburn from here and passes through Te Wharau Settlement.

Vehicle access

Unsealed for approximately 25 km (from Te Wharau). Small car park.













Honeycomb Rock Walking Track

Walking track. Length: 3 hr one way, 8.5 km

The gazetted walking track is entirely within the privately owned Glenburn Station. The track is flat and easily negotiated, following the coastline across farmland. It can be muddy in places so suitable footwear should be worn.

Please respect the property and do not interfere with or disturb stock. The walkway is closed for lambing during September and October.

Pukaha Mount Bruce







Tome to Manukura, the world's only white kiwi in Laptivity, Pukaha Mount Bruce Visitor Centre is set against a backdrop of 942 hectares of forest, into which native wildlife is being returned.

Pukaha Mount Bruce has six daily talks and feeds starting with takahē at 10.30 am, tuatara at 11.30 am, the kiwi chick or gecko talk at 12 noon, eel feeding at 1.30 pm, the kōkako talk at 2.15 pm and kākā feeding at 3 pm.

Visitors can see rare and endangered New Zealand birds in aviaries but also other native birds living wild in the forest such as tūī, fantail, kererū and rifleman.

There is a kiwi house with two resident kiwi, an egg and chick nursery, a theatre that plays three short films and an interactive gallery. There is a 2-hour loop walk through regenerated native bush and a shorter aviary walk.

Wild Cafe at Pukaha overlooks the takahē enclosure and serves freshly prepared food and coffee daily.

Opening hours

Open daily from 9 am to 4.30 pm. Closed Christmas Day.

Admission charges apply. Website: www.pukaha.org.nz

Ph: 06 375 8004 Email: info@pukaha.org.nz

Getting there

Pukaha Mount Bruce is located on SH2, 30 km north of Masterton and 10 km south of Eketahuna on SH2.

Vehicle access

Sealed road and car park. Space for campervans and buses to park.



















Wairarapa Moana

Located in South Wairarapa, Wairarapa Moana describes the catchment of Lake Wairarapa, Lake Onoke and their tributary rivers and associated wetland areas. One of the largest wetlands in New Zealand, Wairarapa Moana is considered the jewel in the crown of the lower North Island with many indigenous species (such as tuna, flounder and birds) calling it home.

This area is co-managed by a governance board with representatives from local iwi and hapū, Greater Wellington Regional Council, South Wairarapa District Council and the Department of Conservation.



Wairarapa Lakeshore Scenic Reserve

The only place on Lake Wairarapa where the native vegetation extends uninterrupted from the Rimutaka Range to the edge of the lake.

Getting there

Located on the western shore of Lake Wairarapa approximately 16 km southwest along Western Lake Road from Featherston.

Vehicle access

Park in camping or picnic areas at the reserve off Western Lake Road.











Pounui Wetland

Good views over a large natural wetland area. Follow walking tracks along the top of stopbanks.

Getting there

Travel southwest along Western Lake Road from Featherston for approximately 30 km.

Vehicle access

Park on the short section of gravel road between the boundary fence and Western Lake Road



Onoke Spit

A 3 km sandspit between Lake Onoke and the Pacific Ocean, good for beach walking. A habitat for rare native plants and bird species.

Getting there

Located approximately 34 km southwest of Featherston along the Western Lake Road. The road forks 1 km from the spit. Turn left onto the gravelled Beach Road and follow to the end.

Vehicle access

Sealed road to Beach Road then last 1 km to the car park is gravel. Park in the informal car park on the landward side of a small stream.





Lake Domain Reserve

Camp, picnic and walk beside Lake Wairarapa and adjoining wetlands.

Getting there

From SH2 just north of Featherston, turn south into Murphys Line and follow for 5 km. Turn right into Lake Domain Road then turn left 1.5 km along this road. The domain is 500 m south of the turn-off.

Vehicle access

Parking is available at the gate, at the campsite and near the footbridge to the east of the entrance.





Wairio Wetlands and Boggy Pond Reserve

Bird hides at Boggy Pond and on the Wairio lakeshore allow views of wading birds, waterfowl and migratory birds. There are walking tracks around Boggy Pond along a stopbank, as well as board walks to the lakeshore, and informal walks around Wairio wetlands. This habitat contains endangered native wetland plants.

Getting there

From SH53, just out of Featherston, turn right into Kahutara Road then right into Parera Road (unsealed). Boggy Pond is on the left about 5 km along Parera Road. Access to the Wairio lakeshore walk is via a stopbank across the road from the Boggy Pond car park.

Vehicle access

Unsealed parking area adjacent to the road at Boggy Pond.



Lake Ferry settlement/Lake Onoke

Picnicking, beach and lakeside walking, and bird watching.

Getting there

Take the Martinborough-Lake Ferry Road.

Vehicle access

Sealed road to Lake Ferry. Off-road parking and a picnic area are available at the end of the settlement on the lakeshore. There is an unsealed, narrow, shared pedestrian/vehicle track to the beach and lagoon.







Tuna (eel)

Mysterious freshwater fish once found in abundance around Wairarapa, tuna are now threatened and is an iconic species that should be admired and looked after.



Eels spawn in Tonga, a long way from Wairarapa. As

tiny elvers (about 50 mm) they follow the sea currents from Tonga to New Zealand, making their way to river mouths and then upstream to their new homes.

Shortfin eels can generally be found downstream in areas such as Wairarapa Moana, whereas more endangered longfin eels travel further inland to areas such as Pukaha Mount Bruce.

Shortfin eels have a lifespan of between 15 and 30 years, longfin eels anywhere between 25 and 80 years. Towards the end of their lives, they start their migration back to the waters of the Pacific Ocean where they breed once and die.

Fishing for eels used to be common around New Zealand but as numbers decrease there are fewer to be caught. Longfin eels are a threatened fish and the Department of Conservation is an advocate for their protection.

View eels feeding at Pukaha Mount Bruce daily at 1.30 pm. See page 36 for more information.

Wairarapa tangata whenua:

OUR HERITAGE STORIES AND SITES

The tangata whenua of the Wairarapa Region are the iwi of Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa. Through shared ancestry the people can celebrate a long and enduring relationship with the land and coastal areas. This section introduces visitors to the Māori heritage of this public conservation land.

Māui

Māui, the demigod of Polynesian mythology, hauled up the giant fish Te Ika-a-Māui out of the depths of the Pacific Ocean. Māui's fish has an unbelievable resemblance to a huge pātiki or flounder. The head of the fish, Te Upoko-ote-Ika, encompasses the modern Wairarapa and Wellington regions. Its saltwater eye is Wellington Harbour while the freshwater eye is Lake Wairarapa. The lower jaw is Turakirae Head and the upper jaw Cape Palliser, the western and eastern extremes of Palliser Bay. The fish's spine became the central mountain chain that starts with the Rimutaka mountains, carries on to the Tararua mountains, and then stretches right up the middle of the North Island.

Within this mythology we find the earliest connections to the Wairarapa region for both Māori and the Department of Conservation.

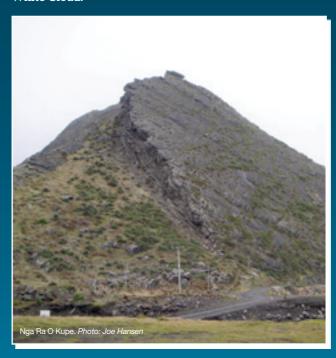
Early people

There was a real man called Māui who was a great explorer in the Pacific region. His contemporaries may have been the first people that made their homes on the Wairarapa coast after sailing from Polynesia in the 12th century. Some of the country's earliest inhabited sites are found along the Wairarapa coast, including historically interesting places on or near Department of Conservation land including the Washpool Valley on the

Cape Palliser Road and the pā of 19th century chief Wereta Kawekairangi at Glenburn (Wharaurangi) on the east coast. There are numerous other man-made features and plantings that are readily viewable in coastal areas. They are particularly prominent along the Palliser Bay Road and remain as monuments to our early ancestors.

Kupe

Approximately 28 generations ago (sometime in the 14th century) another explorer named Kupe sailed to New Zealand from his Pacific home of Hawaiki. Kupe's wife Hine-i-te-apa-rangi is credited with spotting a cloud on the horizon and exclaiming, 'He ao, he ao' or 'a cloud, a cloud' from which the commonly accepted Māori name for New Zealand is derived. Aotearoa – Land of the Long White Cloud.



The orthodox version of events sees Kupe chasing the pet octopus of his enemy Muturangi across the Pacific. After sailing down the east coast Kupe catches up with the octopus in a cave underneath what we now call Castlepoint. Although he does not slay the giant fish there he eventually catches up with and kills it at the top of the South Island. Throughout the Pacific, stories of Kupe and the octopus abound. Interestingly, wherever the octopus appears so does a water hazard. Beware of the octopus at Castlepoint because, as a Department of Conservation sign points out, it is in fact a dangerous reef with a strong undercurrent.

There are various versions of how long Kupe stayed in the Wairarapa yet his legacy remains through the continued use of names that he gave to many natural features and/or stories associated with him. The Māori name for Castlepoint is Rangiwhakaoma, which literally means 'where the sky runs' or alternatively, is the personal name of a man who came to New Zealand with Kupe. Or perhaps the reef structure represents the reclining body of Kupe himself, where the reef is his body and Matira (lookout) or Castle Rock is his head.

The personified form of a natural occurrence was used to represent Kupe's claim over ownership of the land. At Glenburn is Honeycomb Rock, where Kupe looked out to sea to await the arrival of family members.

The Māori know Palliser Bay as Kawakawa, in commemoration of Kupe's daughter making him a wreath of kawakawa leaves. Near Cape Palliser are the rock formations known as Nga Ra O Kupe or Kupe's sails, which were said to have been placed there by Kupe after a sail-making race with his friend Ngake.

The Kurahaupō Waka

Whatonga was the captain of the ancestral canoe called Kurahaupō. He came from Hawaiki in search of his grandfather Toi-te-huatahi. Whatonga and his family made their home at Heretaunga, today the province of Hawke's Bay. His sons Tara Ika and Tautoki and grandson Rangitāne remain important figures to this day.

During a journey of exploration Whatonga spent a long time away from home. In the early part of his long trip he established a pā called Matirie where the Castlepoint Lighthouse stands today. Sometime later while walking across a mountain range a long way to the west he came into a clearing. He missed his wives and when looking at 'twin peaks' in the distance thought of them. This is how the first name for the Tararua mountain range came about. At the same time he looked to the east and saw a forest so vast that he named it Te Tapere Nui o Whatonga or the great domain of Whatonga. This stretched from Opaki north of Masterton to the Takapau plains in central Hawke's Bay. It was called the Seventy Mile Bush by early European settlers but was virtually destroyed between 1872 and 1900. The only major remnant to remain was the 942 hectare Mount Bruce Reserve. The site of the National Wildlife Centre has had its original name Pukaha returned to it and has started to take on its earlier functions of mātauranga (knowledge), pātaka (pantry) and rongoā (medicine), but with a conservation focus.

Later Whatonga's son Tara Ika became the eponymous ancestor of an iwi called Ngāi Tara. His territories straddled the Tararua mountains which lead to a second meaning 'The span of Tara' in reference to his people having a foot on either side of the Tararuas.

Rangitāne, the son of Tautoki, is the person after whom the Rangitāne o Wairarapa iwi is named. The full name of Kapiti Island off the west coast is Te Waewae Kapiti o Rangitāne raua ko Tara or the boundary of Rangitāne and Tara. This meant that if a straight line was drawn from Kapiti Island to Castlepoint, land to the north was predominantly Rangitāne and that to the south Ngāi Tara.

Haunuiananaia was another passenger on the Kurahaupō. His story unfolds after his wife eloped with two slaves. Haunuiananaia pursued them across the centre of the North Island and down the West Coast before distributing some rough justice to the threesome. He then decided to return to his home on the east coast. While doing so he named a number of prominent landmarks. Even though the spelling of names may have changed somewhat, they are all still used today. All except one place (the ancestral mountain Rangitumau to the north of Masterton) are within the Department of Conservation-managed lands. Haunuiananaia named the Rimutaka mountains to the south-west of Featherston, Lake Wairarapa, the Tauherenikau River to the east of Featherston, the Waiohine River to the west of Grevtown, the Waingawa River to the south-west of Masterton, the Waipoua River to the north-west of Masterton and the Ruamahanga River from which the main Wairarapa valley was formed.

The Tākitimu Waka

Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa iwi are descendents of Tamatea Ariki Nui, captain of the Tākitimu ancestral canoe. The iwi name is taken from a politically astute and industrious man called Kahungunu. This famous ancestor is also remembered for his good looks and virility. After making landings along the eastern side of the North Island, the Tākitimu sailed past Castlepoint and further on to the South Island. Tūpai, a tohunga on the Tākitimu, established a whare wananga or higher school of learning in the Wairarapa.

During the 17th century a number of important migrations took place. The most significant of these was lead by Rangitawhanga, a Ngãi Tara/Ngãti Ira chief who negotiated the gift of land in the southern Wairarapa with his Rangitāne uncle, Te Rerewa. The momentous event lead to the establishment of Ngãti Kahungunu in the Wairarapa. The meeting happened near Onoke Moana (Lake Ferry).

The people of Ngāti Kahungunu eventually spread out through Wairarapa. By the 19th century Ngāti Kahungunu occupied both sides of the Rimutaka Ranges and had numerous pā tuna (seasonal eeling villages) around Lake Wairarapa. Hapū with strong Ngāti Kahungunu ancestry became guardians of the Aorangi Ranges, the southern east coast and Palliser Bay.

Te Heke Rangātira o Nukutaurua

A series of events that occurred before the first quarter of the 19th century led to tangata whenua living in exile for more than a decade. The displacement of a majority of Rangitāne and Ngāti Kahungunu became known as Te Heke Rangātira o Nukutaurua. Nukutaurua is a place on the Mahia peninsula north of the town of Wairoa in Hawke's Bay. Refugees from the Wairarapa lived at Nukutaurua or within the shelter of Te Tapere Nui o Whatonga while waiting to return home.

Iwi from Wellington had been coming over the Rimutaka mountains which eventually led to skirmishes with Wairarapa hapū. The problems escalated to the point that Wairarapa tangata decided to retreat to their old homelands.

One significant battle was at Wharepapa near the western shores of Lake Wairarapa. On this occasion Wairarapa won but it caused their foe to come back with greater reinforcements. A battle at Pehikatia pā near Greytown ended in what we might call a draw, but led to the decision to vacate the region until it was safe to return.

Representatives from three hapū stayed behind to keep the home fires burning and to wage a rear guard campaign against the occupiers. One of their temporary campsites was the pā punanga at Mount Holdsworth. A commemorative sign is found on the Holdsworth lookout track above Holdsworth Lodge. The sign describes how the renegades suddenly appeared from the bush, attacked their foe and then disappeared again.

By 1840 successful negotiations allowed tangata whenua to start coming home. The meeting place for those returning was Te Kopi o Uenuku or Te Kopi in Palliser Bay. The Putangirua Pinnacles reserve is at Te Kopi.

Te Hekenga a Tau

The term Te Hekenga a Tau refers to an annual migration. Over a period of 700 years, Māori developed an annual migratory cycle where they travelled familiar tracks and waterways to be present in an area at the optimum time for harvesting plants and animals.

The migratory cycle saw people harvesting food from the inner hills and valleys during what we describe as autumn, resting in sheltered inland areas during winter, preparing gardens and equipment during spring, and then fishing coastal areas during summer.

The coastline has for centuries been less heavily forested than the inland mountains, valleys and hills. People walked and, when the weather allowed, paddled up and down the coast. Therefore the low flat open land near the ocean became known as the coastal highway.

Coming in from the coast in a westerly direction there were 50 km of rolling hills through which people walked to access shelter and the resources of the inland valleys.

Te Tapere Nui o Whatonga, the Seventy Mile Bush, dominated all of the land north of Masterton between the Tararua mountains and eastern hills. Hapū continued to travel through the dense forest until it was destroyed after 1872. Today only a handful of DOC reserves and privately owned remnant stands of native forest remain.

To the west and south of Te Tapere Nui o Whatonga tracks were used to cross the Tararua mountain ranges, while the less densely forested and swampy land where the western foothills flatten out into the main valley were walked in a north to south direction.

Finally from its headwaters in the northern Tararua mountains the ancestral Ruamahanga River provided the main transportation route to Wairarapa Moana, including Lake Onoke at the southern end of the main valley. A variety of hapū had specific rights to fish in and around the lakes. Again these rights were exercised until the late 19th century.

Inland reserves and tracks such as Waewaepa at Mangatainoka, Millers at Kaiparoro, Pukaha Mount Bruce, Carter Scenic Reserve at Gladstone and Mikimiki north of Masterton provide the opportunity to see the flora and fauna of the inland valleys that were used by Māori. Likewise DOC coastal reserves and tracks highlight the centuries-long attraction of the ocean.

The future

With shared visions for the future of the Wairarapa region, Rangitāne o Wairarapa, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and The Department of Conservation are able to work together to protect and enhance both the public conservation lands and Māori traditions.



Activities

Hunting

Hunting is encouraged in the forest parks and larger reserves to help control deer, goats and pigs that harm native plants and wildlife.



Permitted hunters are required to carry legal firearms on DOC-managed lands and waters. Hunting permits can be obtained from: www.doc.govt.nz/hunting or the following DOC offices:

- DOC Wellington Visitor Centre
- · Whakaoriori/Masterton office
- · Palmerston North office.

A maximum of two dogs per person or three dogs per party is permitted. Lost dogs should be reported to the nearest Department of Conservation office. Permits are issued for the following areas:

- · Tararua Forest Park
- · Aorangi Forest Park
- · Rimutaka Forest Park
- · Waewaepa Scenic Reserve
- · Puketoi Conservation Area
- Rocky Hills Conservation Area *
- · Tora Bush**
- · Rewa Reserve**
- * Closed 1 August 30 November. No dogs allowed.
- ** Limited numbers—contact Whakaoriori/Masterton Office for reservations. No dogs allowed.

Hunters must follow the Firearms Code, which is available from the New Zealand Police.

Fishing



There are a number of suitable recreational fishing locations on public conservation lands and waters in Wairarapa.

The most popular sites are:

- · Lake Wairarapa
- · Waiohine River, Tararua Forest Park
- Waingawa River, Tararua Forest Park
- · Tauherenikau River, Tararua Forest Park
- Ruamahanga River, Tararua Forest Park
- Castlepoint

Fishing licences can be obtained from Fish & Game: www.fishandgame.org.nz/licences

Check, Clean, Dry

Stop the spread of didymo and other freshwater pests. Remember to Check, Clean, Dry all items before entering, and when moving between, waterways.







Mountain biking and cycling



Grade 1 Easiest: Fairly flat, wide, smooth track or gravel road.



Grade 2 Easy: Mostly flat with some gentle climbs on smooth track with easily avoidable obstacles such as rocks and potholes.



Grade 3 Intermediate: Steep slopes and/or avoidable obstacles possibly on narrow track and/or with poor traction. There may be exposure at the track's outside edge.



Grade 4 Advanced: A mixture of long, steep climbs, narrow track, poor traction and obstacles that are difficult to avoid or jump over. Generally exposed at the track's outside edge. Most riders will find some sections easier to walk.

Mountain bikers code

Respect others

- Stay in control.
- · Give way to walkers.
- Signal your approach and pass with care.
- Ride shared-use tracks in small groups.

Respect the rules

- Ride only where permitted.
- · Obtain permission from private landowners.
- · Leave gates as you find them.
- Be prepared take food, water, tools, first aid and warm clothes.

Respect the track

- Don't skid, cut corners or make new lines.
- · Avoid riding in the mud and rain.
- Take rubbish home.
- · Clean your bike to prevent spreading weeds.

Summary of code developed by New Zealand MTB Association in liaison with key stakeholders and DOC.



Incorporating the Wellington and Wairarapa districts, the Rimutaka Cycle Trail circumnavigates the Rimutaka Mountain Range, passing over an old rail trail, and skirting around the southern coast. Three of the four trail sections pass through the Wairarapa.





Maymorn to Cross Creek (Rimutaka Rail Trail)

Grade 2-3. Distance: 25 km. 3-4 hr.

The rail trail is a gently-graded ride, through Maymorn Tunnel and bush to Summit, descending on a 1 in 15 gradient through railway tunnels to Cross Creek, south of Featherston.



Cross Creek to Ocean Beach

Grade 3 (on road). Distance: 36 km, 2-3 hr

This section runs south-west along the shores of Lake Wairarapa. Towards the coast riders pass Lake Onoke and head on to Ocean Beach where a DOC campsite is situated at Corner Creek.





Ocean Beach to Orongorongo

Grade 3-4. Distance: 18 km, 3-5 hr

Opened in November 2014, this section travels along the rugged and exposed south coast, passing through Turakirae Head, Orongorongo Station and on to the Coast Road, Wainujomata.

For more information on the entire trail visit: www.nzcycletrail.com/rimutaka-cycle-trail





Aorangi Crossing, Aorangi Forest Park

Grade 4. Distance: 27 km, 1-2 days

4WD track from Te Kopi to Sutherlands Hut, 27 km.



Kiriwhakapapa to Mikimiki, Tararua Forest Park Tramline Track

Grade 4. Distance: 7.5 km, 1-2 hr

This is a one-way track following an old timber mill tramway over a low saddle through native bush.



Mt Dick lookout, Tararua Forest Park

Grade 3. Distance: 4 km, 1-2 hr

(Go to Kaipaitangata section of Tararua Forest Park). Steep hill.

Horse riding



Aorangi Crossing, Aorangi Forest Park

4WD track from Te Kopi to Sutherlands Hut, approximately 27 km.

Horse riding care code*



Horses can degrade natural environments so please take care when crossing conservation land.

- Always be observant in fragile natural areas.
- Avoid horses removing vegetation.
- You may be sharing tracks—take care when approaching corners.
- Please respect delicate creeks and river bed crossings (use bridges where possible).
- Feed your horse weed-free food at least 48 hours before entering conservation land.
- Remove horse manure on popular tracks.
- Always camp horses well clear of waterways (at least 50 m).
- Take your rubbish with you (don't bury it).
- * This is a summary—for the complete code please visit: www.doc.govt.nz

Four-wheel driving



Te Kopi to Sutherlands (27 km), Aorangi Forest Park

Akatarawa Recreation Access Committee (ARAC) manages this track and has the key for Te Kopi gate. Please contact the Whakaoriori/Masterton Office for more details, phone +64 6 377 0700.



Plan your trip and ask DOC if you're unsure. For more information about 4WD on DOC-managed land, please refer to the four-wheel driving pages on the website at www.doc.govt.nz or contact your nearest DOC visitor centre.

Four-wheel drive care code*



- Avoid sensitive areas that are easily damaged by vehicles.
- Abide by the laws and regulations covering all vehicles and drivers.
- Stay on roads and avoid widening them.
- Take your rubbish with you.
- Find out if a permit is required for access and ask permission if your trip crosses private land.
- · Leave gates as you find them.
- ALWAYS clean your vehicles to help prevent spreading weeds, plant and animal diseases.
- Protect plants, animals, historical and archaeological sites and geographic features.
- * This is a summary—for the complete code please visit: www.doc.govt.nz



Bird watching and other interesting fauna

Wairarapa has a wide variety of interesting flora and fauna to view for visitors of all ages and interests. Here are some highlights to consider when planning your trips around the area.



Bird-watching and dogs are not compatible so please leave your dog at home. Also take extreme care when watching birds, as small disturbances can have implications for the individual's survival. Always ensure you are well away from the birds.

Pukaha Mount Bruce

The National Wildlife Centre is an excellent place to see birds in captivity. Most of these populations are part of national recovery programmes and you can learn about these at the centre.

Outside the hub of the captive programme, restoration is also occurring within the forest. DOC is currently doing extensive pest control (e.g. rats, possums, stoats, goats) at Pukaha, the forest surrounding Mt Bruce National Wildlife Centre. In the forest, and with some patience and care, you can see kōkako, rifleman, tomtit, bellbird, tūī, kākā, and kererū, to name a few. If you're lucky you may see falcon flying around. In the wetlands at the wildlife centre there are often grey duck and scaup. Several other translocations may occur over the coming years so check with the visitor centre on what birds are in the forest.

Onoke Spit

Onoke Spit, South Wairarapa, is a rare coastal dune and beach system. Several open country bird species live and nest on the spit, including banded dotterels and Caspian terms. Take extreme care during the breeding season because these birds are very sensitive to disturbance and can abandon nests if you come too close. Please leave your dog at home! There are also a number of rare plants and invertebrates, look out for the rare sun-loving and colourfully orange Notoreas moth which lives on low mats of pinātoro (*Pimelea sp.*). Take care not to step on these vulnerable plants.

The well-known rare and poisonous katipō spider will inhabit the darker retreats at Onoke. Please don't go looking for them since it destroys their habitat—but be aware that piles of driftwood and debris will be harbouring the handsome red spider.

While you are moving around this important habitat keep an eye out for many of the quick skinks in the area. Two species are usually present: common skinks (Oligosoma nigriplantare polychroma) and the rarer spotted skink (O. lineoocellatum). Both are found in coastal areas around Wairarapa and love the driftwood and beach debris. They'll often be out basking in the warm sun but will quickly scurry away when they see you.

Wairarapa Moana

Lake Wairarapa is one of the best wetland systems in the lower North Island, and is internationally important. The diverse habitats





in the Lake Wairarapa wetlands attract a wide range of wetland birds. The lake's eastern shore is a habitat of national importance for water and wader birds. Almost 100 bird species have been recorded there over the past two decades, including some international migratory birds. Take extreme care not to disturb these birds. Most will be feeding but breeding can also occur around the lake edges.

Botany

The various habitats in the Wairarapa, which stretch from the high alpine tussock land of the Tararua ranges to the windswept southern and eastern coastline. are home to a wide range of native plants. The area contains enough interest to keep even the most ardent botanist occupied for years. The Wairarapa has a rain gradient from west to east which has a profound effect on the plant life. In the eastern country the plants have to be prepared for long periods without rain, even though the species, such as most of the forest trees, may be the same as those found in the wetter western region.

Varying geology and topography also have an effect. The Wairarapa is home to steep limestone, greywacke and sandstone bluffs, slippery mudstone riverbanks, wetlands, dunes and gentle hill slopes. Each of these has its own distinct plant species.

While there are only a few endemic species in the Wairarapa, the flora is surprisingly diverse and interesting for those who are prepared to explore beyond the vineyards.

Carter Scenic Reserve

Carter Scenic Reserve contains examples of the swampy lowland vegetation that was once a feature of the Wairarapa. Kahikatea and pukatea dominate, along with open swampland, with a boardwalk and track providing easy access.

The small shrub Coprosma propinqua is common by the boardwalk, and at the southern end of the loop track there are plantings of the Nationally Critical Olearia gardneri and the locally-rare Coprosma wallii. Another feature of the reserve is the dry forest on the terrace riser to the west, a distinct contrast to the swampy valley floor.

Castlepoint Scenic Reserve

The limestone cliffs of Castlepoint are the only home of the Castlepoint daisy, *Brachyglottis compacta*, easily identified by its grey foliage and yellow flowers. The nearby dunes grow the pīngao, spinifex, and the dune shrubs *Coprosma acerosa* and Sand daphne, both increasingly rare as dune systems become more modified.

Onoke Spit

On the coarse sands of Onoke Spit grow only a few plant species, but the ecosystem, wind-blasted from





both north and south, is one of the most precious in the region. A large population of the rare Sand tussock (Austrofestuca littoralis) grows on the broad crest of the beach and dotted through are mats of Raoulia aff. australis and pinâtoro, the latter home to an un-described species of day flying moth belonging to the genus Notoreas.

Cape Palliser

Cape Palliser may be better known for its seals and the iconic lighthouse, but lurking in the rocks right beside the stairs is the small tussock *Chionochloa beddiei*, along with the strangely photogenic herb *Plantago spathulata*, whose relatives are better known as lawn and garden weeds.

Tararua Forest Park

The Tararua Ranges provide the most diverse botanical opportunities in the Wairarapa. From the sheltered valleys and streams to the exposed alpine tops, barely any part of the Ranges is without an interesting plant association.

The beech forests are home to colourful parasitic mistletoes, greatly reduced by the attention of possums, and an array of ground orchids flourish in the generally well-lit environment.

On the high tops are the tussocklands, dominated by species of snowgrass (*Chionochloa spp.*) with mountain daisies (*Celmisia spp.*), speargrasses (*Aciphylla spp.*, closely related to

carrots) and other herbs. On the lower slopes occasional hardy shrubs manage to escape from the leatherwood scrub and assert themselves; but as a rule woody growth is not an asset in this place.

The flanks of the eastern Tararua Ranges have only a thin belt of leatherwood scrub between the open tops and the silver beech dominant forests below. Worth hunting here is the tree daisy Olearia lacunosa, which occurs in both the scrub and in gaps in the forest. In the understorey of silver beech forest in some areas grows a recently discovered, very rare shrub, Myrsine umbricola. The uncommon epiphytic fern Microsorum novae-zelandiae may also be found in the beech forest.





Accommodation

Lodges

For prices, availability and booking visit, www.doc.govt.nz/wairarapalodges.

Holdsworth Lodge, Tararua Forest Park

Holdsworth Lodge is found at Holdsworth Road end and is the main entrance to the eastern side of Tararua Forest Park. It sleeps 28 in bunk accommodation and has flush toilets, hot showers and a fully-equipped kitchen.



Waikuku Lodge, Aorangi Forest Park

Waikuku Lodge is a former farmhouse. It sleeps up to 28 people in platform-style bunks. It has stand-alone, off-grid electricity and hot showers.



Te Kopi Cottage, Aorangi Forest Park

Te Kopi Cottage is made up of a cottage and two small cabins on the Cape Palliser Road near Putangirua Scenic Reserve (the Pinnacles). It sleeps up to 10 people (6 in the cottage—1 double room and 1 room with 2 bunks—and 2 per cabin). It has electricity, a fully-equipped kitchen, hot shower/bath and a heatpump.



Te Kopi Homestead, Aorangi Forest Park

Te Kopi Homestead sleeps 10 in 4 bedrooms. It has electrical lighting, heatpump and open fire, a fully-equipped kitchen and hot shower.

For more details, please refer to www.doc.govt.nz/other-accommoodation or your nearest DOC visitor centre.



Camping

Campsite categories

Standard campsites (ST) have a limited range of facilities and services. They have toilets (usually composting or long drop variety), water supply (tap, stream, or lake) and vehicle access. Wood barbecues and fireplaces, picnic tables, cooking shelters and rubbish bins may be available.

Basic campsites (B) have very limited facilities, so you need to be fully self-sufficient. There are basic toilets, and water may be from a tank, stream or lake.

No booking system operates at the campsites, which run on a first-come first-served basis.





Conservation campsites in the Wairarapa

Name	Location	САТ		Toilets	Water from tap	Water from stream	Dogs	Picnic table	Shelter
Kiriwhakapapa	18 km north of Masterton	ST	30	>	>	>	On lead	>	>
Holdsworth	Mount Holdsworth Road, 15 km west of Masterton	ST	150	>	>	>	On lead	>	>
Waiohine Gorge (Walls Whare)	18 km north-west of Greytown	ST	50	>	>		On lead	>	>
Bucks Road (Tauherenikau Gorge)	Tauherenikau Gorge at end of Bucks Road, Featherston	В	25	>		>	On lead		
Putangirua Pinnacles	Cape Palliser Road	ST	50	>	>		On lead	>	
Corner Creek	Wharekauhau Road, off Western Lake Road	ST	25	>	>	>	On lead	,	>

Camping care code

Be a careful camper and practice 'no trace' camping.





- Choose your campsite carefully; set up your camp on firm, high or sandy ground. Only camp in designated areas.
- Be tidy and always leave campsites clean. Take your rubbish with you if bins are not provided. Food scraps attract vermin.
- Use a cooker, fireplace or BBQ. Light fires only where permitted, collect dead wood and keep the fire small.
 Soak the fire with water before you go.
- Detergents, soap and toothpaste can harm aquatic and marine life. Use biodegradable products, and wash in a container well away from the water.
- · Always use toilets provided.
- Campgrounds are social places but everyone needs some rest and relaxation. Please respect the rights of others for quiet enjoyment of the outdoors.
- Pay your fees to help keep campsites available in future.
- Always thoroughly clean your equipment before and after trips to minimise spreading weeds and diseases.
- Protect native plants and animals.

Toitu te whenua/leave the land undisturbed.

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Huts

Hut categories

Serviced huts (SV) 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.

Fees: Backcountry Hut Pass or \$15.00 per adult (1 x serviced or 3 x standard hut ticket), \$7.50 per youth (1 x serviced or 3 x standard hut ticket), free for children 0–10 years.

Standard huts (ST) have mattresses, a water supply and toilets. Wood heaters are provided at huts below the bushline.

Fees: Backcountry Hut Pass or \$5.00 per adult (1 x standard hut ticket), \$2.50 per youth (1 x standard hut ticket), free for children 0–10 years.

Basic huts (B) provide very basic shelter with limited facilities. **Fees:** No charge.

Backcountry hut user charges

To stay in a backcountry hut on conservation land you will need to purchase a backcountry hut pass or hut tickets. Both can be used at most Serviced and Standard huts.

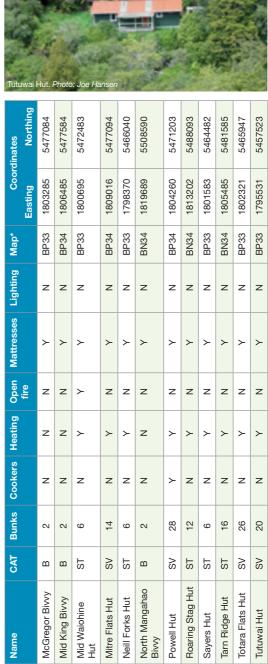
Note: Some huts on the Mt Holdsworth Jumbo Circuit are bookable during the peak season. To find out more visit www.doc.govt.nz/holdsworthjumbocircuit

	Backcountry hut pass	Hut tickets - Standard	Hut tickets - Serviced
Description	Valid for 6 or 12 months. Some recreational groups qualify for discount.	Purchase individually	Purchase individually
Adults (18 and over)	\$92 or \$122	\$5	\$15
Youth (11-17)	\$46 or \$61	\$2.50	\$7.50
Children (0-10)	Free	Free	Free

Backcountry hut passes are available at the DOC Wellington Visitor Centre and most DOC offices. Visit www.doc.govt.nz for more information.

Conservation Huts in the Wairarapa

Name	САТ	Bunks	Cookers	Heating	Open	Mattresses	Lighting	Map*	Coor	Coordinates
					fire				Easting	Northing
Tararua Forest Park	논									
Alpha Hut	ST	22	z	>	z	>	z	BP33	1791966	5460314
Arete Hut	В	2	z	z	z	>	z	BN34	18057	54863
Arete Forks Hut	ST	9	z	>	z	>	z	BN34	1807273	5484551
Atiwhakatu Hut	ST	26	z	>	z	>	z	BN34	1806817	5472972
Blue Range Hut	ST	4	z	>	z	>	z	BN34	1812491	5481135
Carkeek Hut	ST	9	z	>	z	>	z	BN33	1802188	5481767
Cattle Ridge Hut	ST	5	z	z	z	>	z	BN34	1811423	5488214
Cone Hut	В	5	z	>	>	>	z	BP33	1797282	5460082
Cow Creek Hut	ST	9	z	>	z	>	z	BN34	1810208	5483052
Dorset Ridge Hut	ST	9	z	>	z	>	z	BN34	1804334	5479786
Dundas Hut	ST	9	z	z	z	>	z	BN34	1808354	5489711
Herepai Hut	ST	10	z	>	z	>	z	BN34	1813195	5492359
Jumbo Hut	SV	20	>	>	z	>	z	BP34	1805685	5474583







Name	САТ	Bunks	Cookers Heating	Heating	Open fire	Mattresses	Lighting	Map*	Coord	Coordinates g Northing
Rimutaka Forest Park	Park									
Waiorongomai Hut	m	4	z	>	>	>-	z	BQ32	1776477	5430584
Wharepapa Hut	В	5	z	>	>	>	z	BQ32	1773676	5422985
Aorangi Forest Park	ark									
Kawakawa Hut	ST	9	z	>	z	>	z	BR33	1791338	5399778
Mangatoetoe Hut	ST	9	z	>	>	>	z	BR33	1789409	5395470
Pararaki Hut	ST	9	z	>	z	>	z	BR33	1792271	5402881
Sutherlands Hut	ST	7	z	>	z	>	z	BQ33	1794773	5410080
Tauanui Hut	ST	9	z	>	>	>	z	BQ33	1792727	5415632
Washpool Hut	ST	9	z	>	z	>	z	BR33	1791372	5405681

Shelters

There are two shelters in the Tararua Forest Park that can be used for shelter or as turn-around points on day walks. These

Mountain House Shelter

Located on the Gentle Annie track—accessed from the Holdsworth Road end, Tararua Forest Park.

Smith Creek Shelter

Located on the walk up Tauherenikau River Valley—accessed from the Kaitoke Road end, Tararua Forest Park.





* Grid coordinates apply to Map series TOPO50 NZTM

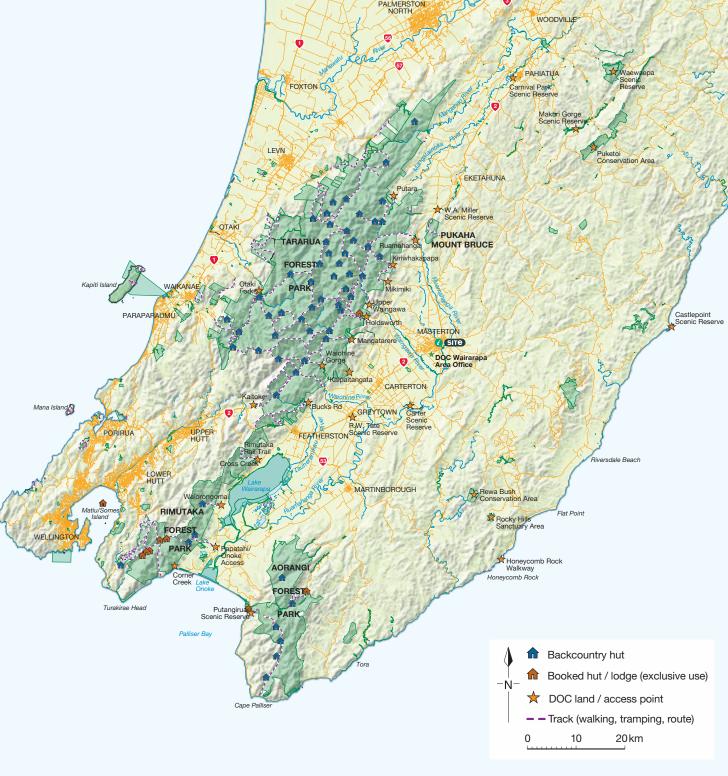
Leave no trace

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



Toitū te whenua / leave the land undisturbed





Symbol key



Camping



Lighthouse



Camping not permitted



Historic site



Lodge accommodation



Lookout



Hut accommodation



Fur seals



Motorhome



Mountain biking



Picnic shelter



Mountain biking not permitted



Picnic table



Swimming



Toilets



No swimming



Water from stream $\,$



Hunting



Water from tap $% \begin{center} \b$



Hunting not permitted



BBQ (wood or gas)



Fishing, surfcasting



Cookers/
electric stoves



Surfing



Dogs permitted on leash



Diving



Dogs not permitted



Boating



No vehicles



Bird watching

More information

For more information contact:

DOC Wellington Visitor Centre

Conservation House, 18-32 Manners St, Wellington 6011

Phone: +64 4 384 7770

Email: wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz

For non-DOC bookings, such as transport or accommodation contact:

Masterton i-Site Visitor Centre

Cnr Bruce & Dixon Streets, Masterton 5810

Phone: +64 6 370 0900

Email: info@wairarapanz.com

Martinborough i-SITE Visitor Centre:

18 Kitchener St, Martinborough 5810

Phone: +64 6 306 5010

Email: martinborough@wairarapanz.com

Wellington i-Site Visitor Centre

Civic Square, Cnr Victoria & Wakefield Streets, Wellington 6011

Phone: +64 4 802 4860

Email: bookings@WellingtonNZ.com

Safety

Make sure you check the latest information about weather, facilities and conditions at the nearest visitor centre or DOC website before you set out: www.doc.govt.nz

Find out about safety information and courses:

www.adventuresmart.org.nz

Feedback is welcome: recreation@doc.govt.nz

www.doc.govt.nz

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New Zealand Government

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