

# Waiohine Gorge



## Facilities

 Parking	 Swimming	 Picnic table
 Toilets	 Fishing	 BBQ
 Pram accessible (In campground)	 Kayaking	 Camping
 Walking tracks	 Bird watching	 Hut accommodation (Totara Flats, Cone Hut)
 Dog walking (On leash)		



## Highlight

The Waiohine River carved out this spectacular gorge, bisecting the landscape and creating a stunning introduction to the Tararua Forest Park. The suspension bridge (the largest of its type in NZ) forms a spectacular gateway to the Tararua Forest Park.

## Description, values & significance

Waiohine Gorge is a popular camping, abseiling, rafting, swimming and angling spot and has important ecological, cultural and economic values as well as providing water for the towns of Greytown, Featherston and surrounding farms. The Waiohine catchment is predominantly covered in indigenous podocarp-broadleaf forest. Steep terrain and a large catchment mean the Waiohine (meaning girl of water) has many moods, quickly changing from gentle to an angry torrent.

## Accessibility/How to get there/particular time of year to visit

Turn off State Highway 2 just south of Carterton into Dalefield Road. Follow the road signs indicating Tararua Forest Park. The road-end car park is approximately 15 km from State Highway 2.

## Threatened species/species of interest

Rimu/ red beech with a kamahi sub-canopy occur on river terraces and lower valley slopes. In the steep mid to high altitudes a complex mixture of red beech, silver beech and kamahi grows in association with sub-canopy totara, toro and broadleaf. The Waiohine River supports a wide range of fish species, 11 species of native fish (five are threatened including longfin eel, lamprey, giant kokopu, dwarf galaxias and brown mudfish) as well as being a regionally significant trout habitat.

## Key threats

Māori placed special significance on this river particularly relating to its mauri (life force), waahi tapu (sacredness) and mahinga kai (food resource). The gorge faces invasion of pest plants and pest animals. The river itself is particularly susceptible to water volume and quality changes resulting from development, pollution and water take, particularly further downstream.

## Walks (length)

Several tramps begin at the suspension bridge, including the popular tracks to Totara Flats and Cone Hut. Tutuwai Hut 4 hours; Totara Flats 3.5 hours; Cone Hut 3 hours.

## Walks Igrade!

Totara Flats hut - Easy Tramping Track

Cone Hut - Challenging day or multi-day tramping

## Manager

Department of Conservation

## Protection status

Part of the Tararua Forest Conservation Park

## Community Involvement

The Rotary Club have been involved in building campground toilets at Waiohine.

## How to get there

