

Bring a torch to get the most from your trip. Photo: Destination Coromandel

To fully enjoy the Karangahake experience, bring a good torch and explore the tunnels. Photography is encouraged – the scenery is magnificent and there are opportunities to pose with impressive machinery and other mining remains. Further information is available online at [www.doc.govt.nz/karangahake](http://www.doc.govt.nz/karangahake).

Ph: (07) 578 7677  
E: [tauranga@doc.govt.nz](mailto:tauranga@doc.govt.nz)



Karangahake is easy to get to and enjoy.

Take advantage of stunning views and photo opportunities.



Touch the past on the Karangahake Windows Walk.



Located on State Highway 2 just south of Paeroa, between Auckland and Tauranga, Karangahake is easy to get to and is well signposted. It is about 2 hours drive from Auckland, or 1 hour from Hamilton or Tauranga.

Parking is available directly off the State Highway at Karangahake. Simply follow the signs for 'Karangahake Historic Walks', Toilets, rubbish bins and basic visitor information are available in the car park. Visitors can ask for further information at the café, directly opposite the car park on State Highway 2.

### Getting there



Visitors to Karangahake will enjoy a memorable experience exploring the atmosphere of a window on New Zealand's social and cultural identity, through the voices and stories of the people of Karangahake's past and present.

Take a look through the unique mining windows at Karangahake and establish a connection with the magnificent mountain above and the rippling waters of the Chinemuri and Waitawheta rivers below. Massive geological upheaval has resulted in the landscape you see today, which was altered by humans. This place has been transformed by the development of mining technology and the industrialisation of the country in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

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It's important that you keep to the tracks at all times, because there are hazards such as mine shafts and steep drop offs. Where these are close to the track, they have been secured and blocked off with gates and fences, but please don't go off track. Tracks will be closed for visitor safety purposes when heavy rain is forecast, due to the risk of sudden rockfall. Check with the Department of Conservation Tauranga Office for up-to-date risk of sudden rockfall. Check with the Department of Conservation Tauranga Office for up-to-date risk of sudden rockfall.



Dogs are allowed on the Historic Walkway and the Crown Track to Dickey Flat. Dogs must be kept on a leash to ensure a good experience for all visitors.



Cyclists can do the Hauraki Rail Trail from the car park, with connections to Waihi, Waikino, Paeroa and Te Aroha nearby. Please share with care. Cyclists are kindly asked to dismount in certain areas (check for signage).

### Visitor information

## A window on New Zealand



Imagine yourself in a working gold mine from 100 years ago. Photo: Destination Coromandel

The **historical and archaeological** significance of the Karangahake Mines makes the area nationally significant for the conservation of our mining heritage. The stories of iwi, hapū and whānau who live here provide a connection to the long ancestry of Māori occupation of Karangahake and their use of its natural resources. A more recent history includes the controversial acquisition of land by Pākehā settlers in the late 1800s, who established a town and lived here, working in the mines alongside Māori. The stories from this time paint a picture of the emerging egalitarianism, self-reliance and hard-work ethic that is often credited to New Zealanders.

**Wildlife** at Karangahake tells a story reflected across the whole of New Zealand. Gone is the plentiful food and habitat for animal life that native forests provide, destroyed by fire or through the logging of the huge native trees such as kauri, which would have dominated the area over 100 years ago. Pest animals such as rats, stoats and possums now roam the hills and make life extremely hard for the remaining native wildlife. Birds remaining in the area include the more common species such as the tūi, bellbird/korimako, grey warbler/riroriro and pīwakawaka/fantail. The kiwi, kōkako and kārearea populations have long since disappeared from Karangahake.



Bellbird/korimako.



Discover gold mining treasures. Photo: Destination Coromandel

Cover: Woodstock Battery. Cover inset: Get up close and personal with the river gorge from the safety of the Windows Walk.

Photos: Destination Coromandel

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New Zealand Government

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# Karangahake



NEW ZEALAND'S GORGE OF GOLD


Hauraki/Coromandel



THE COROMANDEL  
good for your soul  
[www.thecoromandel.com](http://www.thecoromandel.com)

Department of Conservation  
Te Papa Atawhai

## Track grades

 Walking track – well formed easy walks.

## Short walks

### Windows Walk 1 hr 30 min, 2.5 km (round trip)

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

A self-guide mobile app is also available, featuring historic images and stories from Karangahake's past. Download the free My Parx app using your mobile device (search the My Parx app for 'Karangahake').

### Rail Tunnel Loop 1 hr 30 min, 2.5 km (round trip)

A loop walk takes you through the kilometre-long rail tunnel (lighting is provided) along the river's edge and through the remains of 19th century mine buildings. Please note that sections of this track are shared with cyclists (see Hauraki Rail Trail information below).

## Longer walks

### Karangahake Mountain 4 hr, 4.3 km (return)

A network of tracks provides access to the summit and the forested flanks of Karangahake Mountain. It takes about 2 hrs 30 mins to reach the top, becoming steep and exposed towards the top. A circuit can also be done by taking the County Road Track around the mountain.

### Karangahake Historic Walkway

4 hr, 7 km (return)

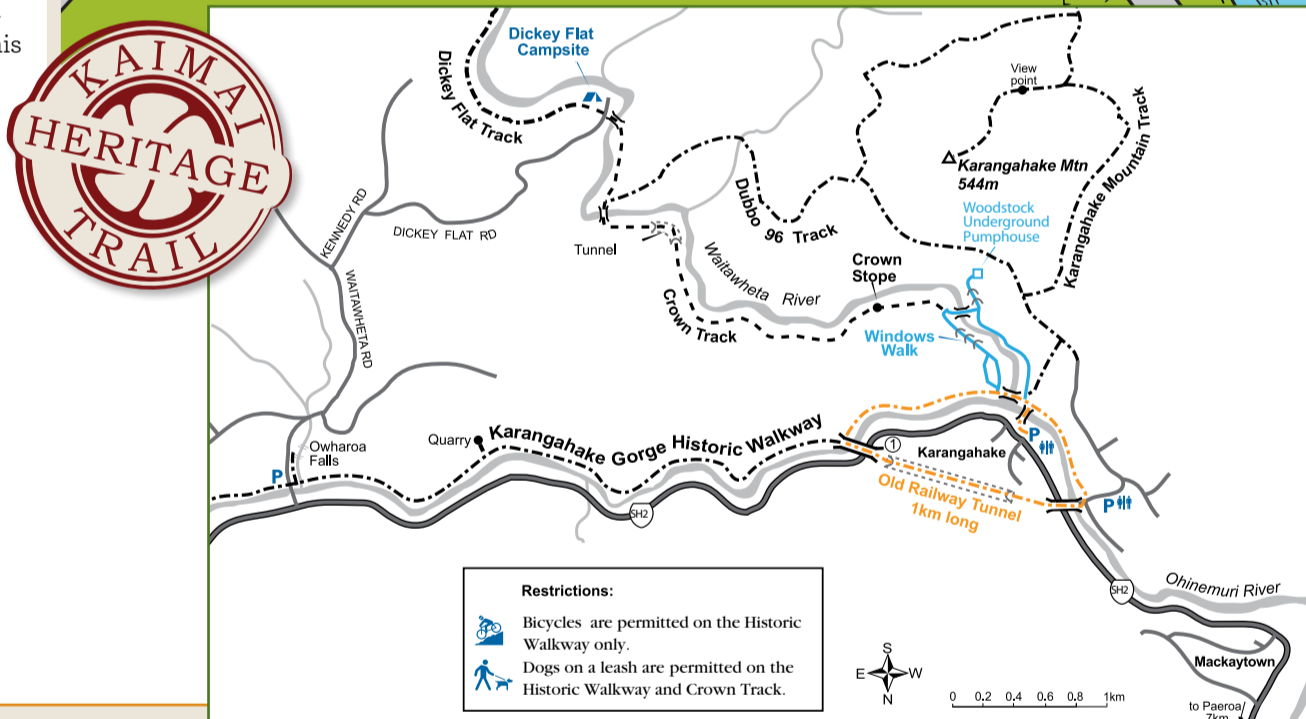
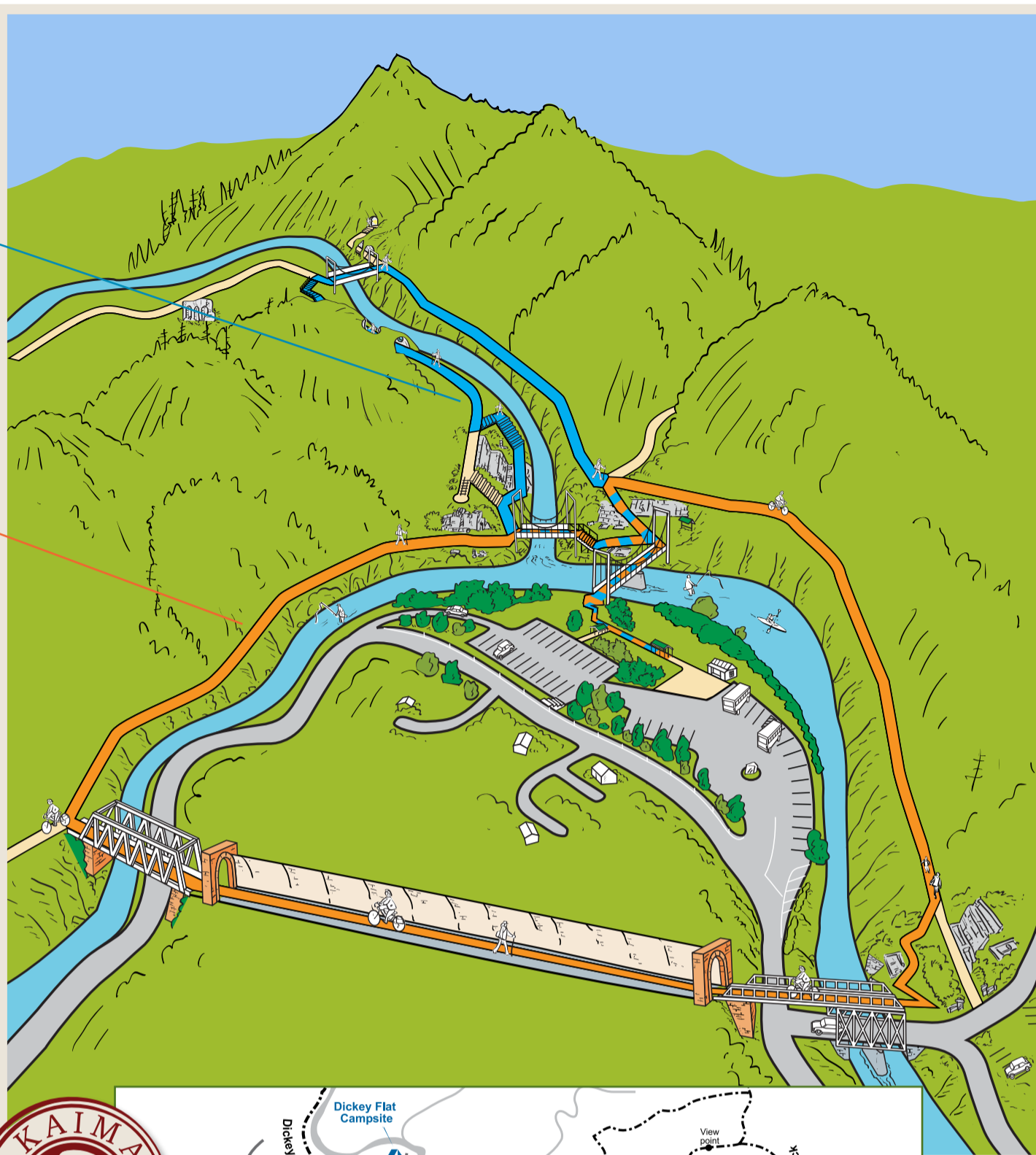
Offering a pleasant day trip walking alongside the Ohinemuri River, the Historic Walkway connects Karangahake with the impressive rusting and crumbling buildings and machines of the Victoria Battery gold refinery complex, plus the tumbling Owharoa waterfall in its scenic bush setting. There is a café and railway station at Waikino. Please note that this track is shared with cyclists (see below).

## Hauraki Rail Trail – Nga Haerenga/ National Cycleway



This 82 km cycle trail passes directly through Karangahake. Get on the rail trail at Karangahake and travel north to Paeroa, or follow the Historic Walkway to Victoria Battery and Waikino (a shared walking and cycling track), which now extends to Waihi.

For more information about the Rail Trail, visit [www.haurakirailtrail.co.nz](http://www.haurakirailtrail.co.nz)



## Other things to do in the area

Karangahake is a perfect short stop or overnight stay for travellers to the Coromandel, Waikato and Bay of Plenty. A range of accommodation and dining options are available in Karangahake. Camping is available at nearby Dickey Flat Campsite (DOC). Accommodation, cafes and restaurants can also be found in nearby Paeroa and Waihi.

You can continue the historic theme of your visit at Victoria Battery with a ride on a mining tramway and tour of the underground kiln tunnels, and travel on the vintage Goldfields Railway between Waikino and Waihi.

A variety of other (non-historical) attractions such as cycling, swimming, fishing and rock climbing in the vicinity of Karangahake make for an enjoyable extended stay for all visitors.

Within an hour's drive of Karangahake, you can visit the Kaimai Heritage destinations of Waiorongomai and Waitawheta. Alongside Karangahake, these places demonstrate the ingenuity and hard work of

recent ancestors, who cut timber and dug gold in pursuit of riches. Their work left us a changed landscape, and in many cases their buildings and machines are left behind for us to explore.

**Waiorongomai:** The historical spa town of Te Aroha and the Waiorongomai goldfields make a great day trip. Explore the amazing Piako County Tramway at Waiorongomai and be guided by stories and maps describing the relentless search for gold here.

**Waitawheta:** Enjoy a relaxed walk along a restored kauri logging tramline as far as the replica logging bogie (tram cart), and learn how kauri were logged and milled for timber 100 years ago.

For more information about these destinations, visit [www.doc.govt.nz/kaimaiheritage](http://www.doc.govt.nz/kaimaiheritage)

### Places to eat

**TALISMAN CAFÉ**  
(Gluten free available)  
Opposite Karangahake Reserve  
SH2, KARANGAHAKE  
Ph: 07 862 8306  
Open 7 days, 9am – 4pm

**WAIKINO STATION CAFÉ**  
SH2, WAIKINO  
Ph: 07 863 8640  
E: [waikinocafe@gmail.com](mailto:waikinocafe@gmail.com)  
Open 7 days, licensed, Bike hire

### Food and accommodation

**FALLS RETREAT**  
Bistro & accommodation  
Opposite Owharoa Falls,  
25 Waitawheta Road,  
WAIKINO  
Ph: 07 863 8770  
E: [info@fallsretreat.co.nz](mailto:info@fallsretreat.co.nz)  
[www.fallsretreat.co.nz](http://www.fallsretreat.co.nz)

### OHINEMURI ESTATE

Winery/restaurant & accommodation  
Moresby St, KARANGAHAKE  
Ph: 07 862 8874  
E: [ohinemuri.wines@paradise.net.nz](mailto:ohinemuri.wines@paradise.net.nz)  
[www.ohinemuri.co.nz](http://www.ohinemuri.co.nz)

### Accommodation

**KARANGAHAKE GOLD N' VIEWS COTTAGE**  
21 John Cotter Rd  
KARANGAHAKE  
Ph: 0800 023 259  
[www.goldnviewsbnb.co.nz](http://www.goldnviewsbnb.co.nz)



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- 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