

Your safety is your responsibility

You can complete the shorter walks with average fitness and suitable footwear. Carry warm, weather-proof clothing, a small first aid kit and something to eat and drink.

For longer walks and overnight tramps you should be reasonably fit and experienced. Wear tramping/hiking boots and carry suitable equipment and enough food.

Weather conditions can change rapidly, particularly on the tops. Rain can make even small streams treacherous. Check with the Reefton Visitor Centre for the latest weather and track information before you start.

Wasps are common from December to April. Carry antihistamine if you are allergic to their stings.

Leave details of routes and expected return time with a reliable contact. Carry a compass and map in the NZTopo50 1:50,000 series for longer walks and overnight tramps.



There are old mine shafts and tunnels, decaying structures and equipment, and industrial waste in these areas. Stay on roads and tracks, follow warning signs and do not enter tunnels.

Care for Aotearoa



Protect nature

Keep your distance and don't feed wildlife. Follow any rules restricting dogs, fires, drones or vehicles.



Keep NZ clean

Take all rubbish with you and use toilets where provided.



Show respect

Respect others, respect culture.



Be prepared

Stay safe in the outdoors by following the Land Safety Code.

- ▶ Choose the right trip for you.
- ▶ Understand the weather.
- ▶ Pack warm clothes and extra food.
- ▶ Share your plans and take ways to get help.
- ▶ Take care of yourself and each other.

Further information

Reefton Visitor Centre

67-69 Broadway, Reefton

PHONE: (03) 732 8391

EMAIL: rvcinfo@xtra.co.nz

Greymouth i-SITE

Greymouth Railway Station

Mackay Street, Greymouth

PHONE: (03) 768 7080

EMAIL: info@westcoasttravel.co.nz

Paparoa National Park Visitor Centre

Department of Conservation

4294 Coast Road, Punakaiki

PHONE: (03) 731 1895

EMAIL: paparoavc@doc.govt.nz

www.doc.govt.nz

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Photo: Jase Blair

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This publication is produced using paper sourced from well-managed, renewable and legally logged forests.



**Te Kāwanatanga
o Aotearoa**
New Zealand Government



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.

DOC HOTline
0800 362 468

Report any safety hazards or conservation emergencies
For Fire and Search and Rescue Call 111

WEST COAST

Reefton Walks

Walking and tramping in the Reefton area



Nau mai, haere mai Welcome

Victoria Forest Park is the largest forest park in New Zealand. Its 206,000 hectares incorporate the Victoria and Brunner ranges and the upper catchments of the Inangahua, Marua and Upper Grey rivers.

Many of the park's tracks date back to historic mining days with relics amid regenerating forest. Other tracks take you to untouched landscapes with pristine beech forest and stunning river, lake and mountain scenery. There are also several ecological areas and a wildlife corridor in the area.

The walks in this brochure take between a few minutes and a couple of days to complete. Times given are for walking only, so allow extra time to rest and enjoy the views. More information on these tracks and other recreational opportunities is available at the Reefton Visitor Centre.

Track grades



Easy access short walk - wheelchair accessible.



Short walk - easy walking for up to an hour.



Walking track - gentle walking from a few minutes to a day.



Tramping track - backcountry skills and experience needed.



Route - navigation and high-level backcountry skills and experience required.



Grade 3 (intermediate) - Track may be narrow with poor traction, steep slopes and obstacles. Possible exposure at track's outer edge.



Grade 4 (advanced) - Track may be narrow, have poor traction and have long, steep climbs and difficult obstacles. Generally exposed at track's outer edge. Some sections easier to walk.



Grade 5 (expert) - Technically challenging. Narrow with giant climbs and numerous hazards: dangerous drop-offs, corners and difficult obstacles. Expect walking and bike carrying.



Reefton

Alborns Walk

1 hr 30 min, 2.7 km (loop)



Start from the car park 9 km along Soldiers – Big River Road, which leaves the Reefton highway (SH7) just south of town. Scattered among old coal-mine workings, you will find remains of makeshift winch equipment, including an old Leyland lorry. You will also see distinctive coal-measure vegetation and views of the Victoria and Paparoa ranges.

Tawhai Walk

5 min, 250 m (loop)



Visit this picnic area just south of the Reefton Saddle on the Reefton highway (SH7) where a toilet is available. From here, walk the short track through lush beech forest. Track is suitable for wheelchairs (with assistance).

Slab Hut Creek

The access road is signposted 7 km south of Reefton on the Reefton highway (SH7). A popular recreational gold panning area, facilities include picnic tables, barbeque sites, toilets and water. Bookings are required to camp here.

Waiuta

Access: Visit one of the West Coast's best-known ghost towns, signposted from the Reefton highway (SH7), 21 km south of Reefton. Follow the sealed and shingle road a further 16 km to Waiuta. The road is suitable for most vehicles, but large campervans are not recommended.

Accommodation is available at Waiuta Lodge, bookable at the Paparoa National Park Visitor Centre in Punakaiki. All walks are signposted from the information shelter on Top Road.



Photo: Jase Blair

Waiuta Town Walk

1 hr 30 min, 2 km (return)



Circumnavigate the town, passing the Blackwater mine, the remains of shops, old house sites and recreation areas. Alongside the walk are historic photos depicting the town.

Swimming Pool Walk

15 min, 450 m (return)



This track leads to the town pool. You can visit mine buildings and foundations on the return leg.

Prohibition Mine and ball mill

5 min, 2.2 km (one way, driving)



Wind your way up 'Pro Road' to the top of the country's deepest mineshaft (879 m) where there are fine views from a 580 m altitude. Here you also see recently restored foundations of the ball mill where quartz was ground to extract gold.

Snowy Battery Track

1 hr, 1 km (return)



❖ Follow a well-formed track downhill to the remains of the Snowy River Stamper Battery, a massive gold-extraction plant, including cyanide tanks and machinery foundations. Return by the same track.

Big River

These tracks take you through one of Reefton's most intact mining areas where you will discover remarkable goldmining relics, including a poppet head and steam winder. There is also a 20-bunk serviced hut. Bookings are required for Big River Hut.

Access: On foot from Waiuta. By 4WD or mountain bike from Reefton via Soldiers–Big River Road.

Four-wheel drive track

4 hr (return)



A 4WD track starts 9 km along Soldiers–Big River Road, after the Alborns Walk car park. The Soldiers–Big River Road turn-off is signposted on SH7, just south of Reefton. The track twists through regenerating beech forest and passes many mining sites before opening out to the barren Big River settlement and Big River Hut. This track is only for experienced four-wheel drivers and mountain bikers.

Waiuta to Big River

3 hr 30 min – 5 hr, 10.7 km (one way)



This track is signposted from 'Pro Road', Waiuta. Follow a benched pack track past the St George Mine and stamper battery, Big River South Mine, and other old mining sites. The track ends at Big River Hut – bring the right gear and provisions if you plan to stay the night. Bookings are required for the hut.

Big River to Golden Lead Battery

3–4 hr, 7 km (one way)



Leave Big River Hut, head north and cross Big River at the battery site. Follow the old mine road for 1 km until you reach Big River Engine House. From there a low-gradient road takes you to a historic sawmill site where the track continues along an old coal tramway. At the end of the tramway the track turns into a backcountry trail and descends steeply until you reach Deep Creek and the Golden Lead Battery. Return via the same track back to Big River Hut.

This track is not suitable for mountain biking and is impassable during and after heavy rain.

Inangahua suspension bridge

Access: 11 km east of Reefton on the Lewis Pass highway (SH7).

Progress Water Race Track

2 hr, 5 km (return)



Cross the suspension bridge over the Inangahua River to reach a good track following the disused water race. The track ends at the Deep Creek – Inangahua River confluence where you can go back the way you came, or carefully cross the Inangahua River at the marked ford and walk back to the bridge along the highway.



Photo: Stephen Roberts

Murray Creek/Blacks Point

Access: An extensive track system starts at the Murray Creek car park at Blacks Point, 2 km east of Reefton on the Lewis Pass highway (SH7). You can also reach this from Lankey Creek and the Waitahu valley.

Golden Fleece Battery Walk



15 min, 550 m (return)

Begin on the Murray Creek Track, then drop through the bush to a bridge across the creek, where you pass through the former Morning Star stamping battery site and emerge near the Blacks Point Museum.

Murray Creek Track



5 hr, 9.7 km (round trip)

Walk or ride past the Inglewood and Ajax gold mines, Chandlers open-cast coal pit and the site of Cementown. Relics here include mine shafts, a steam winch, boilers and a stamping battery. The track starts and ends at the Murray Creek car park. The best access for bikers is up the historic Murray Creek Road. If you are biking the circuit, be aware the track between the Ajax Mine and Blacks Point is for advanced riders only.



Photo: Jase Blair

Lankey Creek Tram Track



2 hr, 4 km to join with Murray Creek Track

Start at the Lankey Creek car park on the Lewis Pass highway (SH7) about 3 km east of Blacks Point. Climb steeply to a Tram Track that overlooks the Inangahua River and Lankey Creek. Here are old coal and gold mines, with remains of winches and a battery. Turn left onto the bridge just past the Energetic Mine site to follow Murray Creek back to the main highway at Blacks Point (35 min from junction); or for a longer walk, continue on the full Murray Creek loop, which takes another 4 hr 30 min.

Waitahu Track



(links Murray Creek with Waitahu valley)

2 hr, 3 km

This historic pack track turns off the top of the Murray Creek circuit, then descends at an easy grade to connect with the Kirwans Track network via an impressive suspension bridge over the Waitahu River. A popular mountain biking circuit from Reefton starts on the Murray Creek Track at Blacks Point, continues along the Waitahu Track and exits at Gannons Road (approx. 5 hr round trip).

Kirwans

Access: From the end of Boatmans Road, which turns off the Reefton highway (SH69) 12 km north of Reefton.

Kirwans Track



2 or 3 days, 39.8 km (round trip)

Begin with a steady 6 hr climb up a well-formed pack track to the modern 12-bunk Kirwans Hut near the bushline. For views of this ruggedly beautiful part of the Victoria Range, take a 50 min side trip up Kirwans Hill. From the open-cast quartz mine workings near the hut, make a steep descent that partly follows the line of an old cableway to the Lord Brassey stamper battery. Follow the track down further to the 6-bunk Montgomerie Hut.



Photo: Jase Blair

From the hut, take a rough 4WD road down the Waitahu valley to Gannons bridge, where a short track returns you to Boatmans Road end. Mountain biking is generally only done on the pack track from Boatmans car park to Kirwans Hut.

You can take an alternative route on the return trip to Reefton by taking the Waitahu Track and connecting with the Murray Creek circuit, finishing at Blacks Point.

Larrys Creek Track



1 hr 30 min, 4.8 km (return)

Start at the end of a 6 km-long forestry road that turns off the Reefton highway (SH69) just over the Awarau or Larry River bridge, 16 km north of Reefton. Follow the true right bank of Awarau or Larry River to end at the historic Caledonian Mine. Take care crossing Awarau or Larry River en route to the historic stamping battery.

Rahu Saddle routes

Access: From the Reefton side of Rahu Saddle on the Lewis Pass highway (SH7), four routes lead to the Victoria Range tops.

Duffy Creek Route



3 hr, 4.4 km (return)

Take this route to a large ephemeral lake with fine views of granite cliffs at the head of the valley.

Lake Stream Route



3 hr 30 min, 7.2 km (one way to hut)

Follow this rough track to a clearing with two small tarns, where there is plenty of camping space and the 'basic' two-bunk Lake Stream Hut. An unmarked track from this point takes 45 min to the bushline and another 45 min to a saddle with views into Maruia valley.

Mount Haast Route



6 hours, 5 km (return)

Climb 2 hr to the bushline on a well-formed route, then tramp another hour along the right-hand ridge to the peak of 1,587 m Mount Haast, with spectacular views of nearby glacial valleys and the Main Divide.

Klondyke routes



Right route (valley): 2 hr, 4.5 km (one way)

Left route (spur): 2 hr 30 min, 2 km (one way)

The Klondyke valley route leads up the valley to a tussock basin enclosed by steep granite cliffs. The Klondyke spur route is a steeper climb leading above the bushline onto the ridge, with great views of the Victoria Range. Experienced trampers may continue along the spur and drop into the right branch of the Rahu River to join with the valley route as a round trip. Do not take a low sidle - this will lead you to dangerous bluffs.