

HAWKES BAY & WAIRAPA



Boundary Stream & Shine Falls

Mt Kaweka

Mohaka River & Hot Springs

Blowhard bush

Ahuriri Estuary

Otatara Pa

Te Mata Peak

Cape Kidnappers

Pekapeka Wetland



Sunrise Hut

Henley Lake Masterton

Castlepoint Coast

Putangirua Pinnacles



Atiwhakatu River

Mt Holdsworth

Totara Flats



Boundary Stream & Shine Falls

Abundant bush birds and bush walks

A truly shining waterfall

Interpretation shelter at boundary stream

Other track options

4-5 hours one way

Bush track

6 kilometres one way

From Napier drive 50 km to Lake Tutira and take the Matahorua Road some 5 km to the Pohokura Road junction, and then 8 km to Boundary Stream carpark.

It takes a while to get here but it's worth it. Boundary Stream has been turned into a predator controlled 'mainland island' (with no predator fences) and a haven for bush birds including North Island kiwi, kokako and saddleback.

If you can arrange transport, the best walk is right through the whole Boundary Stream reserve to Shine Falls. There is a large shelter and toilets at Boundary Stream, with excellent information signs. If want to reach Shine Falls, from the Pohokura and Matahorua Road junction, take the Matahorua Road 5 km to Heays Access Road another 5 km to the carpark and shelter by the sandstone bluffs.

Follow the left-hand track choice as the track edges along the escarpment, and reaches the cliff margins and the more open manuka. There are good views before you descend a narrow spur to meet the other loop of the Kamahi Track.

(The Kamahi Loop Track continues up beside a pretty sandstone stream, and picks up an old pack-track or dray road before it sidles back to the main trail).

The main track to Shine Falls becomes rougher, and descends a gully through sandstone bluffs to a pretty stream crossing. The track annoyingly climbs up 100 m from Boundary Stream itself, drops back to the stream, then climbs for a second time up to a terrace through tawa and rewarewa.

Finally it sidles down to Heays Bluff, with a sharp zig-zag descent to Boundary Stream, and a right-turn

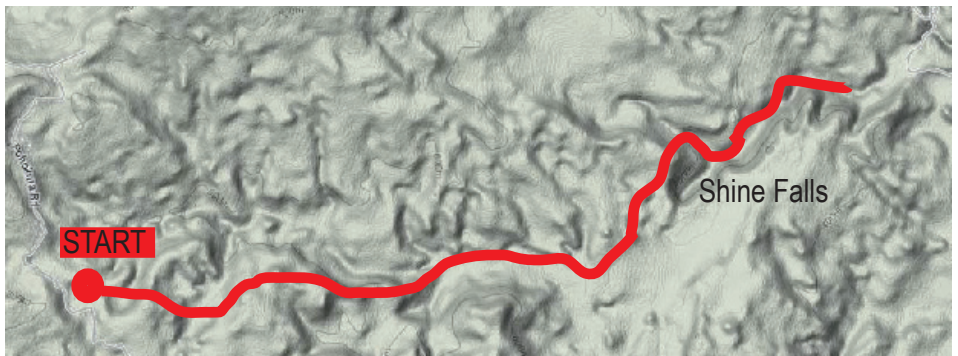




Other walks:
 Kamahi Loop track
 2-3 hours return;
 Bellbird Reserve
 nature walk 15
 minutes return;
 Spooners Hill 2
 hours return; Lake
 Opouahi 20 min-
 utes return (now a
 predator controlled
 kiwi 'creche').

at the junction leads you to the base of the 58 metre Shine Falls. This pretty waterfall was named after the Shine family, who donated some of their land to the scenic reserve.

A well-made track now wanders down valley across a footbridge, and the last part of the track crosses farmland underneath large sandstone cliffs, that turn gorgeous yellow in the evening light.



Mt Kaweka

Alpine climb and amazing views

Highest point of the Kaweka Range

Shelter biv on way up

700 m climb

4-5 hour circuit

Bush track, poled tussock track

5 kilometre return

It is 70 km from Napier to Makahu Saddle. Take the Rissington–Puketitiri Road, then Whittle Road and Kaweka Road to Makahu Saddle carpark.

Do not be put off by the ‘mountain’. The long, lonely gravel road climbs to over 1000 metres, but you are still in the beech forest at Makahu Saddle. And then there is a surprise, for this sheltered area has a good choice of long and short tracks, including this one to the summit and soaring views of the Kaweka Range.

A benched track travels quickly past scattered mountain beech and Makahu Saddle Hut (4 bunks), and climbs up through scrubland and pine trees onto Makahu Spur. The main track passes the Trials Spur Track (an alternative descent) then gets its teeth into the hill climb.

Shrublands give way to tussocks and steep shingle faces, and the poled track climbs steeply past the other end of the Trials Track to reach the battered Dominie bivouac. There are splendid views from here, and the track onward is not quite as steep. If the winds are picking up here (and Kaweka is famous for its winds) then the biv is a good turnaround point.

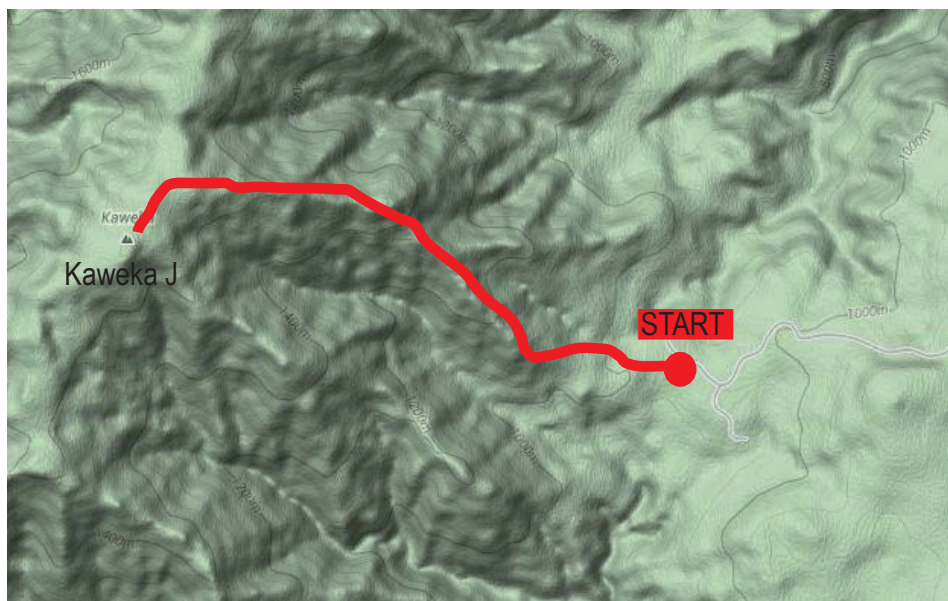
The main track is well cairned for another 400 metres of climbing upto the easy rolling tops of the Kaweka Range. Turn south



past the memorial cairn and onto the broad high point of Kaweka J and its storm-worn beacon. In spring there might be shy gentians and daisies in the foreground, and in the background, views as far as the three Tongariro giants.



Other walks: Littles
Clearing (20 minutes
return) and Trials
Spur (2 hours return).



Mohaka River & Hot Springs

Big River and views

Easy pack track

Two hot springs and camping

Large hut

4-6 hours return

Graded bush track

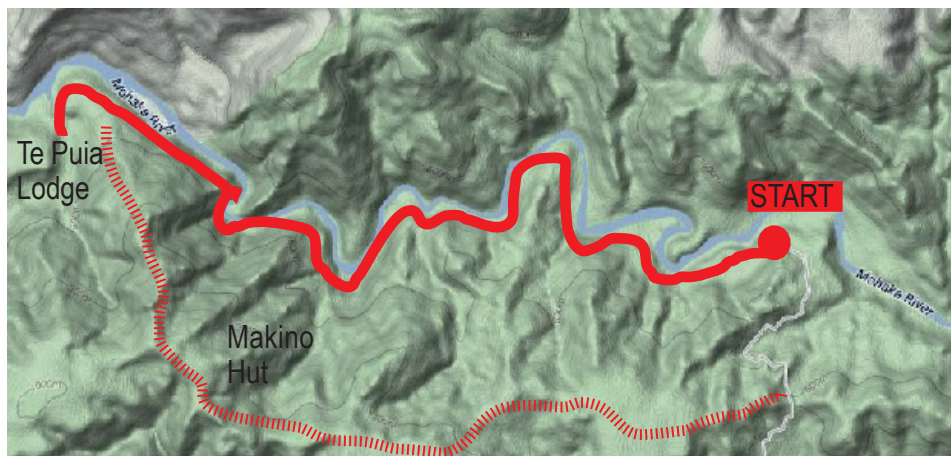
10 kilometres return

It is 80 km from Napier to the Mohaka road-end. . Take the Rissington–Puketitiri Road, then Pakaututu Road and Makahu Road to carpark. The last 10 km are very winding and narrow

The long dusty road to the Mohaka River is a challenge but it gives a great reward. Natural hot pools to soak, a pretty picnic area, campsites, and a fine graded pack-track up the Mohaka River to a large hut. Nice return option for the fitter is via Makino Hut. Good for a weekend away.

Many people dont go much beyond the Mangatutu hot springs, and explore the side-track down to the river and try a bit of fishing. The river track starts on a high

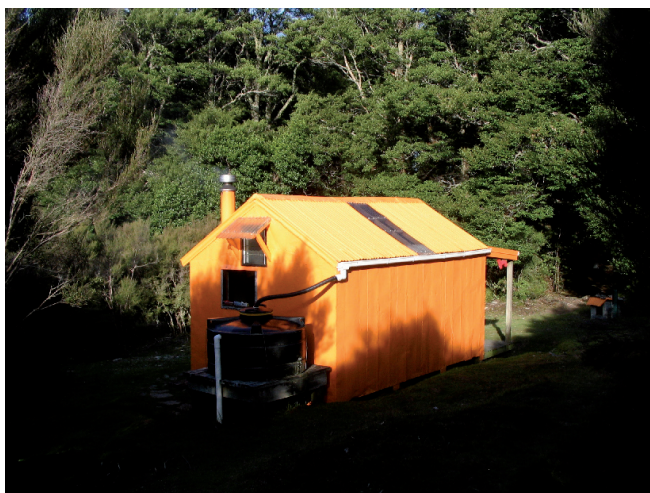




terrace well above the Mohaka, and gradually twists and turns along the high river banks in very stately and amiable progress.

Kanuka forest keeps the track shady and occasionally the track gets close to the river itself. After 5 km you reach Te Puia Lodge, which has 20 bunks and sits in a sunny spot just before the open confluence of the Makino River. The river track continues over a footbridge over the Makino and it's only another 30 minutes extra onto the Mangatainoka hot pools.

A good return is straight up the Makino Spur track, 500 metres of climbing, to the hut. Then the trail follows a gentle bush ridge back to the road and 1 km on the road to the carpark. Allow 4 hours for Te Puia-Makino section.



Campsite: DOC grass open area, above Mohaka River and close to hot springs. Toilets.

Blowhard Bush

Quirky limestone formations

Easy bush tracks and views

Good bird life

Two shelters

1-2 hours return full circuit

Bush track

3 kilometres return

It is 50 km from Hastings-Napier on the narrow Napier-Taihape Road which is now sealed. Turn-off at signpost down to small carpark and large shelter. Good info signs.

Blowhard Bush is a small remnant of native forest in a sea of pine trees maintained by the Forest and Bird Society and DOC. Good tracks loop through the reserve with many waterworn limestone features such as caves, scallops, overhangs, mini-gorges etc. Kids will enjoy this place as it is full of secrets and surprises. Good viewpoint halfway round the circuit as well.

The Tui Track circuit starts from beside the shelter (and toilets) and wander through lots of limestone features as it climbs slowly up to the ridgeline and Lowry Shelter. On the ridge there's a shortish side-track to a seat lookout over the Kaweka Range itself. Good morning tea or lunch spot.

Then continue down the Tui Track but take the Troglodyte Track for the last section as it explores small caves and rock overhangs back to the carpark. Because of predator trapping there is usually plentiful bird song and sightings at Blowhard Bush.



There are also two shorter tracks that provide links to the main Tui Track. **Rewi Track** with large trees and **Rakaunui Track** with karst formations.



Ahuriri Estuary

Irresistibly easy estuary stroll

Many species of birds

Wetland and saltmarsh

1 hour circuit

Gravel paths and boardwalks

4 kilometres circuit

From Napier city it is 1 km to either the Humber Street carpark or along-side Meeanee Quay.

A short and sweet estuary walk, watching the wading birds, and the tides sifting in and out. The estuary is visually best in the early morning and at sunset, when the light turns the waters gold.

Over 55 bird species have been recorded at Ahuriri, so take some binoculars if you are keen on this sort of thing. Otherwise enjoy the peacefulness and excellent interpretation signboards.

From the Humber Street carpark the track crosses a footbridge and skirts a line of factories past plantings of ngaio and eucalypts. After 15 minutes the track reaches the embankment bridge, which is closed to cars and forms a perfect viewing platform.

Just here there is an unmarked side trail that crosses a water control gate and follows a stopbank alongside the upper Ahuriri lagoon. This is a good place to look out for roosting spoonbills and the shy waders. Migrant birds from as far away as Siberia, Alaska and Australia stop over





at the Ahuriri estuary, including birds like godwits, turnstones and knots. The main track crosses the road bridge and winds over boardwalks through attractive salt-marsh ponds and glasswort back around to Meeanee Quay, and the busy Pandora bridge.



Otatara Pa

Authentic pa and palisades

Maori history

Good for families

1 hours return

Farm tracks and grass paths

3 kilometres return

From Napier and Taradale take Gloucester Street to the Springfield Road carpark. Toilets and information boards.

A splendid double pa site spread over 33 hectares, comprising both Otatara Pa and Hikurangi Pa. Defensive earthworks, site terracing and food pits are all evident, but what is particularly striking is the reconstruction of palisades and pou pou (memorial poles). These give a haunting authenticity to the site, and reveal the personality and power of this pa.

It is not difficult walking. From the carpark an old vehicle track leads up under and around the extensive palisades, and you get a sharp idea of how invading tribes would have encountered the defensive fortifications. It also makes you realise how necessary those defences were.





Higher up, the track weaves past kumara pits and terracing to the top of the reserve, where the outlook is marvellous. The pa were situated here for the good defensive boundaries and for access to the rich natural lagoons that surrounded Taradale 800 years ago. An easy grass spur leads back down into the valley and carpark.



Te Mata Peak

Limestone formations and views

Cruisey walk circuit

Redwood grove

Many track choices and options

Karaka Wander 1 hour return

Grass paths and forest trails

3 kilometres return

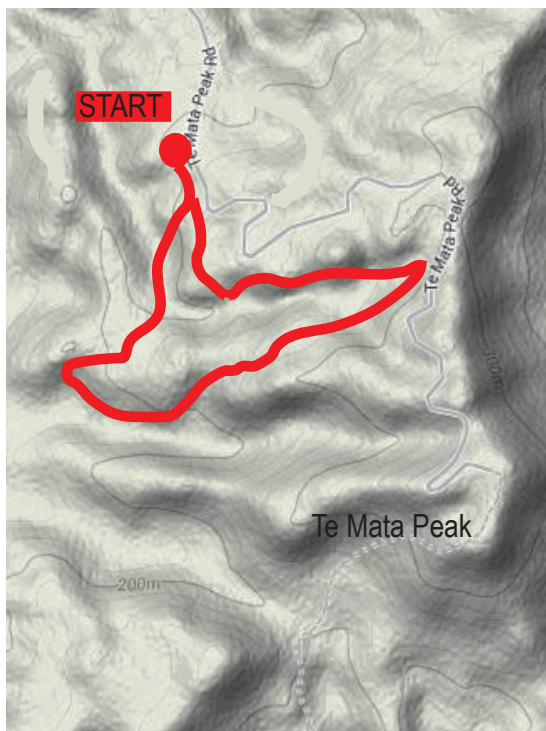
From Havelock North take Simla Avenue to Te Mata Peak Road and the Kiwani carpark (the lower carpark).

Te Mata o Rongokako is 'the sleeping giant' or the face of Rongokako, and Te Mata Peak and Trust Park are extremely popular. You can drive to the top lookout, paraglide off the escarpment, mountain bike through the pine forests and walk along the limestone valleys. This is also a working farm park with sheep so keep dogs on a lead or under control.

The track circuits all start from the main gate carpark (Kiwani's) and have been colour coded, and there are plans for a visitor centre. This description follows the 'Karaka Wander, 4 km, 1.15 minutes'. There are many track intersections, and unofficial trails which can get confusing, so study the map board carefully.

The Karaka Track is coloured yellow. It wanders at an easy level at first, then eases into a limestone valley where it rises to the road. Then it angles down the other side of the valley down to a redwood grove, climbs again, and turns back to the main gate carpark.





Other walks:

Piwakawaka Loop, 1.3 km,
40 minutes.

Big Redwoods Track, 2.7 km,
1 hour.

Rongokako Trail 5.5 km, 2.15
minutes.

Giant Circuit 5.4 km, 2.15
minutes.

Cape Kidnappers

Pointed peninsula

Cliffs, beaches, rock formations

Garrulous gannet colony

Option tractor transport

6-8 hours return

Beach walking

18 kilometre circuit

From Highway 2 at Clive, drive on to the carpark and public toilets just before the Clifton motorcamp.

Cape Kidnappers would be impressive even without the gannets. This is a fine beach walk under white sandstone cliffs that seem to undulate like the surf coming onto the shore. Two-thirds of the way along is the Black Reef gannet colony, which as interesting as the main colony. However, the climb up onto the final finger of the cape, and looking down on the plateaus of gannets, are sights to remember.

A low tide in the middle of the day is essential, and if you start 3 hours after high tide you will not feel any pressure. The distance along the shoreline can seem daunting, take food and drink. The colony is closed from July to October to allow early nesting. You do not have to walk to Cape Kidnappers. There is tractor transport along the beach, or you can hire quad motorcycles. To book transport see the Napier visitor centre.

From Scotsman Point at the Clifton motorcamp you are immediately on the beach, which is a mixture of sandy bays and pebbles, with tidal platforms in places. As the tide goes out more sand is exposed, making it easier and faster walking. The cliffs tower over you with remarkable striations, and streams break the white walls at



several points. Black Reef Point can be a long time coming. The gannets nest on small sea stacks, quite indifferent to humans staring a few metres away.

Around the point, the beach route does not take long to pass the wide rock platforms and sandy coves to reach the shelter and toilets at the start of the farm track. This well-marked trail climbs up onto Cape Kidnappers itself, passing the ranger's house and up the final grass slopes to the gannet colonies.

You are right beside the plateau colony and overlook the saddle colony, with a constant stream of gannets zipping overhead and making clumsy landings in an already crowded gannet city. Now it's time for lunch, and if you have started smartly enough, keen walkers will have a good hour before the tractor people arrive.



Pekapeka Wetland

Small, exquisite wetland

Circular path and boardwalks

Many rare wetland birds

Good for families

1 hour circuit

Gravel track and boardwalk

1 kilometre circuit

From Hastings drive south on Highway 2 about 12 km to the carpark and information boards. Easy to miss.

Easy to overlook this tiny gem, squeezed between Highway 2 and the railway line. A gorgeous series of ponds and waterways, bursting with birds.

Tranquil, placid, involving. There's not much to do but stroll around the walk circuit and absorb the subtle senses and sounds, watch the dabchicks ferry their young on their backs, and be amazed that this was once a rubbish dump!





Cafe: Paper Mulberry Cafe and Art Gallery, in Te Aute

Sunrise Hut

Graded garden path to the tops
Red beech forest to alpine buttercups
Spacious hut
Tremendous views over Hawkes Bay

4-5 hours return
Graded bush track
8 kilometres return

Turn off Highway 50 at Wakarara Road and travel 18 km to the junction with North Block Road, then 7 km to the Triplex carpark.

A highly accessible track to the tops, passing through a range of forest habitats. At the base there is kahikatea swamp forest, then red beech forest and mountain beech, finishing with alpine flora of daisies and buttercups. A sunny hut is sited beside a small tarn, with a panorama of Hawke's Bay and the Wairarapa.

From the carpark a vehicle track winds around the hillside past the Swamp Track junction to Triplex Hut in a pleasant grass clearing. The hut sleeps 16.

The main track now climbs slowly through red beech forest, with plenty of native birdsong. After passing the other end of Swamp Track the main trail climbs up to a small saddle (a track junction here to Waipawa Hut), and mountain beech gradually displacing the red beech as the track puffs up the zigzag.

There are great information signs on the way up and the track is so well graded that Sunrise Hut pops suddenly into sight quite unexpectedly. The hut has been enlarged and modernised and sleeps 24 in great comfort. It's enormously popular.





For even better views scramble up to the rock lookout, where you get a prospect of mountains from Waipawa Saddle and on over the tortured scree ridges of the Ruahine mountains.



Henley Lake Masterton

Urban walk to a wetland wilderness

Gardens and parkland

Ruamahanga River and ponds

Great space for families

1-2 hours return

Gravel and grass paths, stopbanks

4 kilometres return

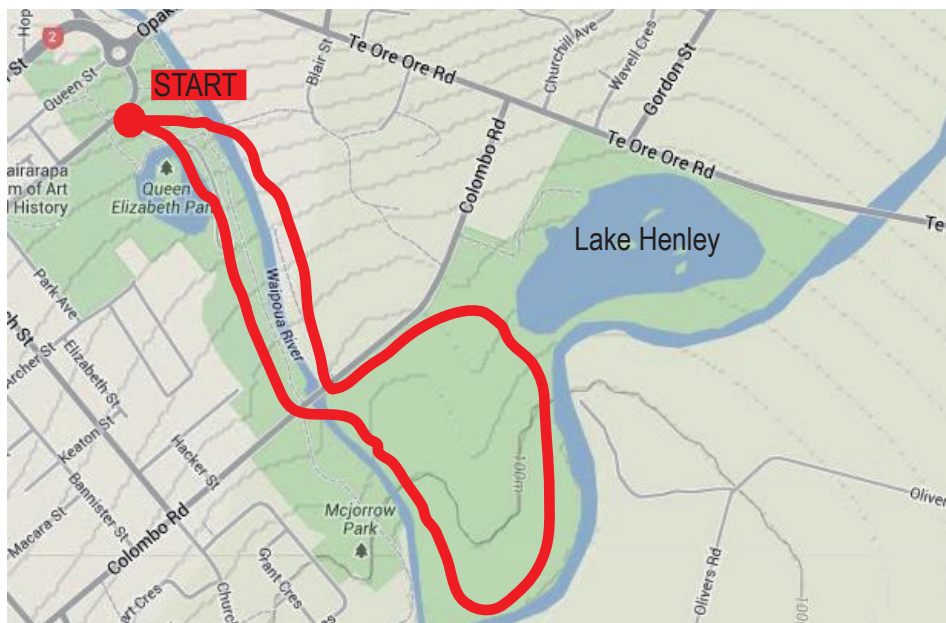
From Dixon Street in Masterton and the carpark at Queen Elizabeth II Park. There are toilets and a large children's play area.

A short, park-like walk alongside the Waipoua River to a series of wetland ponds beside the Ruamahanga River, linking to the Henley Lake Scenic Reserve. This is an unexpected wild area so close to town, with bird-hides and good scenery alongside the Ruamahanga.

From the carpark wander through the manicured gardens of Queen Elizabeth II Park and pick up the gravel path beside the west bank of the Waipoua River, which leads to Colombo Road. Turn left across the river and pick up the east bank track on the other side. This continues along the stopbanks and paths, reaching



Cafe: Entice, across the road from the front entrance of the Elizabeth gardens



the Ruamahanga River and circling several wetland ponds that are linked by small waterways. Different tracks meander through this pretty area, with occasional footbridges and a bird-hide overlooking one pond. There is no shortage of ducks.

If you stick to the Ruamahanga River you arrive at the large Henley Lake, where there is a walk around the lake. Then you can pick up tracks back to the Waipoua River on the northern side of the ponds, and retrace your steps to Colombo Road. This time stay on the east bank as far as the foot-bridge crossing back into QEII Park. A nice little urban trot.



Castlepoint Coast

Curious rock formations

Wide, expansive beach

Popular fishing

Good day out place for families

2 hours return

Beach walking and steep grass trails

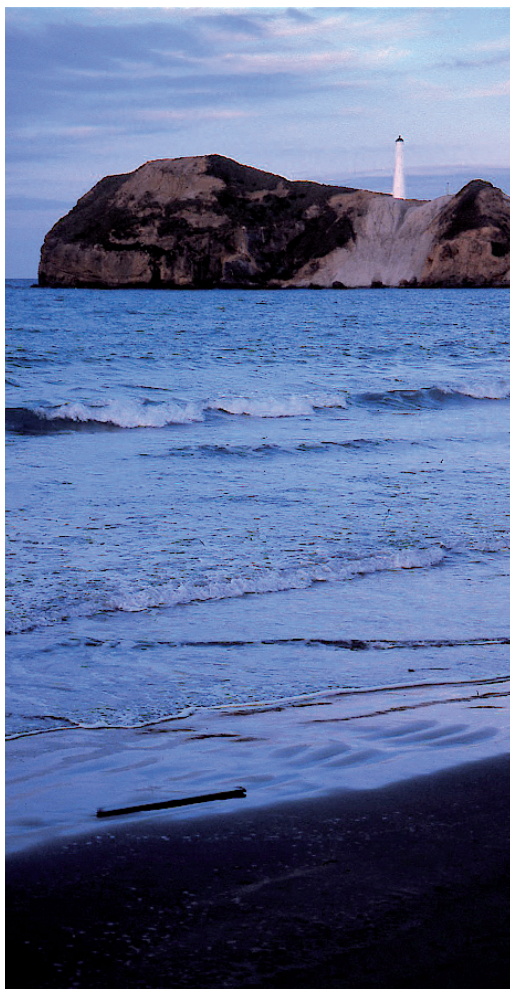
2 kilometres return

From Masterton take the sign-posted Castlepoint road about 50 km to the settlement, carpark and toilets.

You can see why Castlepoint is popular — it is an eye-catching rock island with a strange claw-like reef, shielding the soft sweep of Deliverance Cove and its immaculate sands. Fishing boats are parked colourfully on the foreshore, and seabirds flock about, taking an interest in the catches of the many anglers who cast off from the reef.

Once you have explored the rock island, lighthouse and reef, another good walk is to Castle Point hill (162 metres). Follow the beach sands across to the far end of Deliverance Cove and locate the well-worn trail up onto the saddle junction. People with vertigo might not want to carry on up to the high point.

The track sidles across the grassy face of the cliff and although the track is not steep the faces are. It can get wet and slippery after rain. When the track reaches the edge of the ridge it doubles back





and wanders up to the top where there are excellent views along the Wairarapa coast. Black-back gulls have a nesting colony on the sheer cliffs of Castle Point.

Back at the saddle, there is a worn side-trail that drops down to the delightful Christmas Cove, a popular sandy bay, and opens up the possibilities of exploring further along the lonely coastline.

However, from the saddle there is a high-level track back to Castlepoint settlement. It circles around the top of the cliff edge, following the fenced farmland before descending easily through pine trees back to the carpark, and the summertime parade of people.



Putangirua Pinnacles

Hoodoos and sweeping views

Great tramping circuit

Small camping area

3-4 hours circuit

Bush tracks and farm roads

5 kilometre circuit

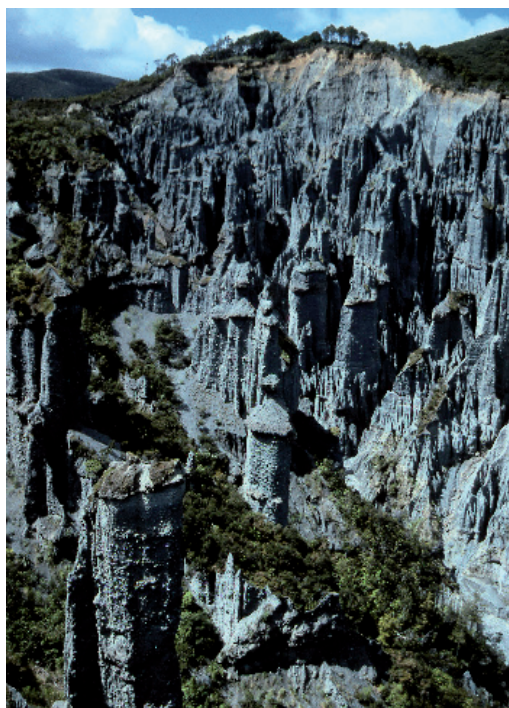
From Martinborough it is 35 km past Pirinoa to carpark, toilets and camping area at the Pinnacles.

The Putangirua Pinnacles are a striking example of erosion, and the crumbling stones echo eerily in the dry, silent gullies. The best walk is the full circuit, with views of the Pinnacles and Palliser Bay.

From the carpark and picnic area head up the stream, passing the Bush Walk junction, and crossing the gravels where necessary to the Loop Track junction.

Wander into the heart of the amphitheatre of pinnacles, largely made of greywacke gravels exposed by rain and floodwaters. Harder layers of rock became 'caps', creating 'hoodoo' pillars. Some of the pillars are estimated to be 1000 years old.





Back at the junction take the steep Loop Track up a spur where you get excellent views of the formations,.

Follow up the pleasant ridge trail until it meets an old vehicle track on the ridgeline. This road wends its way back through beech forest, then over open farmland down to Te Kopi, with superb views of Palliser Bay and the Kai-koura mountains.

Campsite: open area, by Putangirua Pinnacles carpark



Atiwhakatu River

Graceful river track

Gorge and many footbridges

Bush hut

Nice camping area

4-5 hours return

Bush tracks

10 kilometre return

From Highway 2, turn left 4 km before Masterton into Norfolk Road, then take Mount Holdsworth Road (well signposted), and travel 15 km to the road-end picnic area and carpark.

The Atiwhakatu is a gracious, gentle stream that runs through mature forest in the eastern part of the Tararua Forest Park. The benched track mirrors the easy swing of the stream, crossing 12 footbridges on it's way to the Atiwhakatu Hut. Dry feet there and back.

From the carpark the track crosses the long footbridge over the Atiwhakatu Stream, passes the turn-off to Holdsworth Lookout and Gentle Annie, then continues through to the wide grassy clearing of Donnelly Flat.

After another kilometre the well-graded track climbs easily above the short, crisp gorge, with some good river and forest views.





Holdsworth Creek is bridged and the East Holdsworth side-track is marked just on the other side. It is an easy 3 km up a veritable trampers' highway to the modern Atiwhakatu Hut.

A good lunch spot, and a delightful return beside the sweet-running river.

Campsite: tent sites by Holdsworth carpark, caretaker and 30 bunk Holdsworth lodge



Mt Holdsworth

Classic mountain walk

Big climb 1000 m but graded track

Shelter and hut on tops

Tremendous views

6-7 hours return

Bush tracks and tussock trails

12 kilometres return

From Highway 2, turn left 4 km before Masterton into Norfolk Road, then take Mount Holdsworth Road (well signposted), and travel 15 km to the road-end picnic area and car-park.

Mt Holdsworth at 1470 m has a commanding position on the east side of the Tararuas, and a well graded track goes all the way to the summit. With beautiful bush in the valley, a shelter, and a hut, great views and alpine flowers on the tops, this daytramp has everything.

From the lodge carpark cross the footbridge and take the broad easy track up the 'Gentle Annie', a hill climb of 400 m to Pig Flat and the junction with Totarra Flats. Past the mt house shelter (and a side-track back down to Holdsworth) the track steepens for a short sharp grunt of 400 m up to Powell Hut.





Amazing views over the Wairarapa, and after a refuel in the hut, there's a quick climb of 100 m onto the main rocky ridge then a more gentle plod onto Mt Holdsworth summit itself, and the battered beacon.



Totara Flats

Bush walk to huge clearing

Fine hut beside Waiohine River

Bush birds and sandflies

Long swingbridge

6-7 hours return

Bush tracks

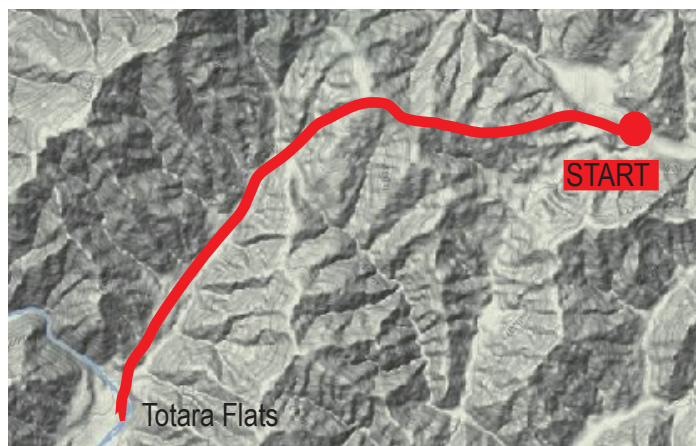
18 kilometres return

From Highway 2 just before Masterton turn onto Norfolk Road then Mount Holdsworth Road and travel 15 km to the carpark. Ranger station, toilets, picnic area and 30-person Holdsworth Lodge.

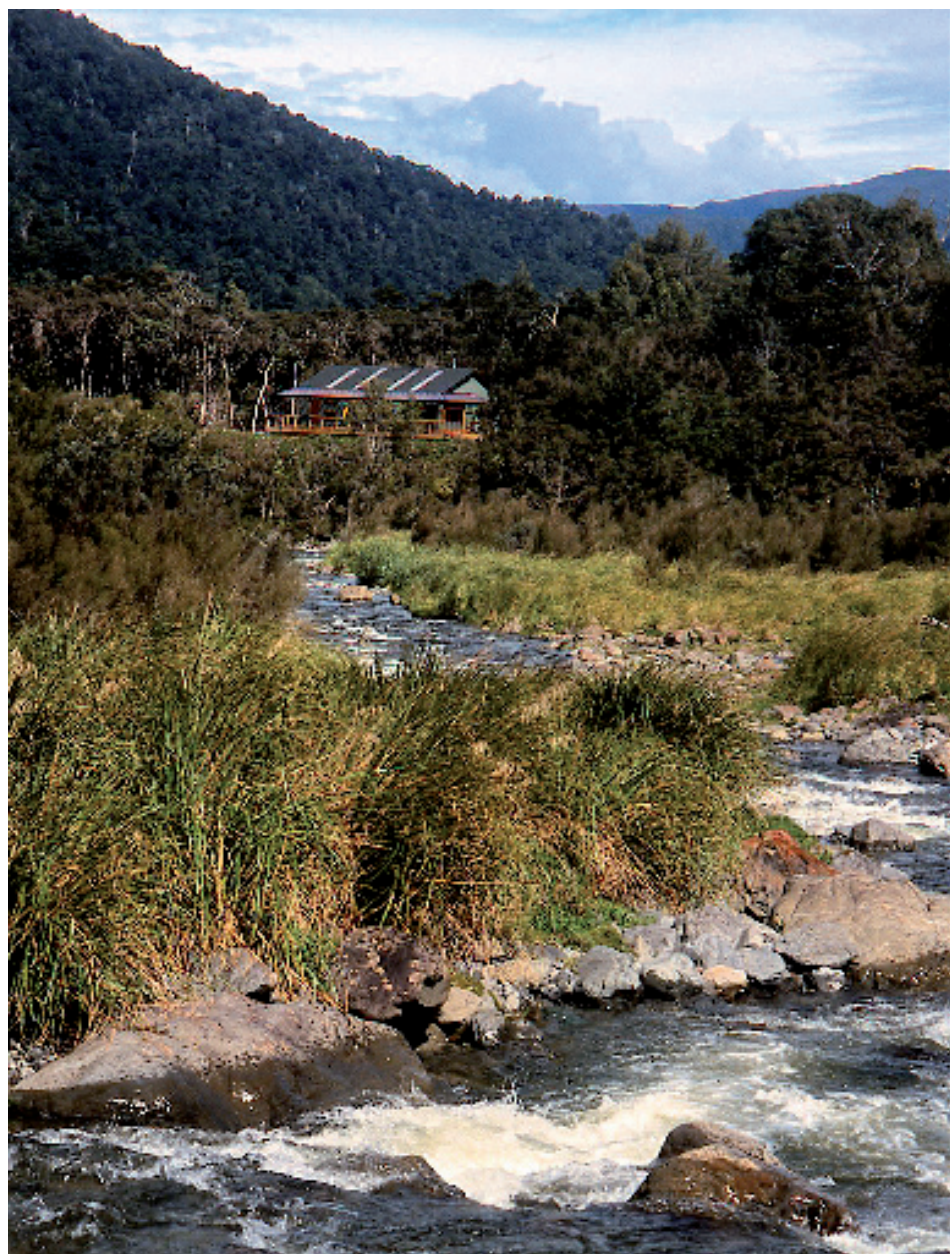
Totara Flats is one of few large open clearings in the Tararua Forest Park. This is a full-day tramp, and even though it is not difficult it suits the fit and well-prepared.

From the carpark cross the big footbridge, pass the two junctions to Donnelly Flat and start up the designer-trail of Gentle Annie. The well-graded track climbs 300 metres to Rocky Lookout, then a further 150 metres along the ridge to the track junction to Totara Flats on flat-topped Pig Flat.

A well-worn and muddy old cattle track drops 300 m to the pretty Totara Creek. This track crosses once and wanders down the easy-going west bank of the creek, some 3 km to the enormously long footbridge over the Waiohine River. Totara Flats hut. It sits on a sunny river terrace overlooking the confluence of Totara Creek and the Waiohine River.



Totara Flats itself is ten minutes further, a sunny, golden flat, 2 km long and gradually being hemmed in by manuka. A choice spot.



Campsite: tent sites by Holdsworth carpark, caretaker and 30 bunk Holdsworth lodge