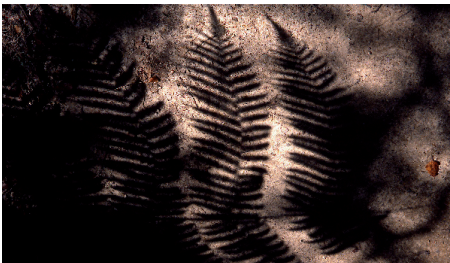


Last corrected: September 2019



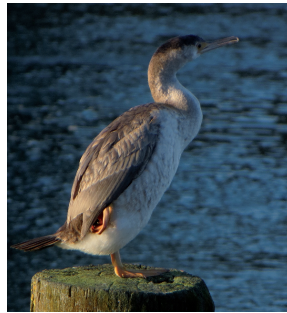
Flora Tableland
Mt Lodestone
Mt Arthur



The Grove
Pupu Springs
Whariwharangi Bay
Rawhiti Cave

NELSON & GOLDEN BAY

Centre of New Zealand
The Grampians
Dun Mountain



Riwaka Resurgence
Anchorage Bay
Harwoods Hole
Takaka Hill



Collingwood Coast
Farewell Spit
Wharariki Beach

Centre of New Zealand

Short sharp hill

Seats and lookout

Bush walk and kauri tree

Great for kids

1 hour return

Sealed paths

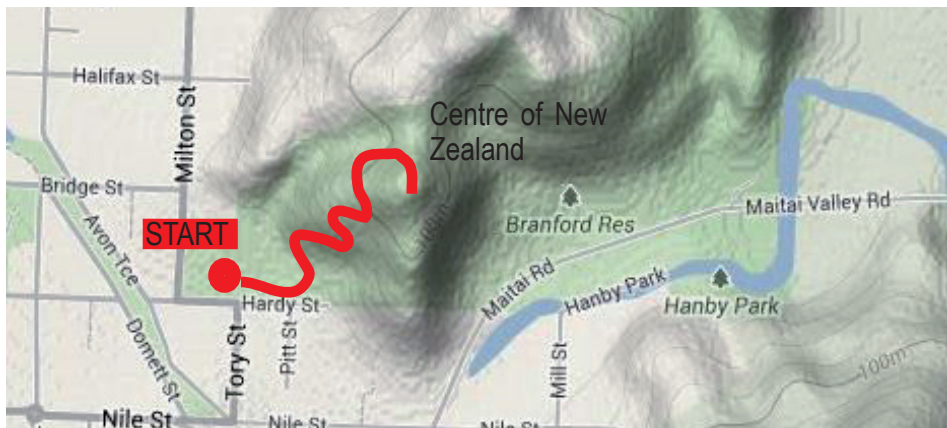
1 kilometre return

Drive or walk to Hardy Street East or Milton Street, to Botanics Sports Field. Toilets

There are people (picky people) who express doubts this really is the centre of New Zealand, but its a great wee hill climb, good views over Nelson, bush walking and a seat lookout. Very good for kids.

From the Botanic Reserve follow any of the signs that say 'Centre of New Zealand' and walk up the sealed path to the summit. Good views, and plenty of other track options for the downhill.





Cafe: Morrisons Street cafe, in Nelson, Hardy Street

The Grampians

Steep climb to viewpoint

Bush and seats

Handy to Nelson town

Fine old mansions

2 hour circuit

Gravel tracks and grass paths

3 kilometre circuit

Drive or walk to the end of Collingwood Street, and walk up the last steep section of road to the main track entrance. Don't attempt to park here, park lower down.

The Grampians are a great hill area close by Nelson city, with many track and walk options. Good views and bush walking. Tracks get a bit slidey after rain.

From the top of Collingwood Street take the signposted zig-zags as the track climbs up the spur of the hill to the grassy ridgeline. Good seat here. You go past the Ronaki Track junction and keep slogging up the hill to the transmitter tower on the summit at 350 metres. Just before the summit theres a side-track to a good lookout over the city.

Turn back down to the Ronaki Track. This zig-zags sharply, downhill and take the Tawa Track down to Tawa Road. There are quite a few confusing track options here, but if you head downhill you will escape somehow. At Tawa go around Trafalgar Square to Melrose Terrace and cruise through Melrose House and gardens to Brougham Street and Collingwood Street.





Cafe: Melrose House, in Nelson, Brougham Street

Dun Mountain Crossing

Big alpine crossing, climb 700 m

Historic railway line

Beech forest and open tops

Full daywalk and mt bike trail

7-8 hours one way

Well graded gravel track

15 kilometres one way

From Nelson follow the Maitai Valley Road 12 km to the Maitai Dam carpark. Nelson: drive up Brook Street to just before the motor camp where there is signpost for the Dun Mountain walkway.

This is tremendous daytramp, climbing from the pretty Maitai Dam, crossing the strange geological formations at Coppermine Saddle, and descending down the long railway line to Nelson. This is now a mt bike trail, but it's also very good for trampers. Still an alpine crossing, so take it seriously with good gear, and give yourself an early start.

From the Maitai Dam carpark, cross the footbridge and follow the signposts upvalley along a well-graded road and pack-track. As the forest closes in you reach a stream fork, and a crossing, which might get bridged at some stage.

At first the climbing is gentle, then it starts to zig-zag steeply up the scrubby hillside, with great views when you can get your breathe back. After almost a 300 metre climb from the stream, the track levels out and starts to sidle underneath Dun Mountain. It's much easier travel now, through a smidgin of beech forest, and the final zag up to the Coppermine Saddle. The rocks are weirdly coloured, and you can see why the miners were attracted to this area. Great spot for lunch.



Follow the graded track off Coppermine Saddle (past the original mine shaft) with fine views of the Richmond Range. You are now on the old railway, and it's a long perambulating lollop past several track junctions down to the old Third House shelter.



Grab some sun in the sunny clearing before plunging into the forest again, as the track winds endlessly around Cummins Spur and reaches a track junction. This offers a more direct route down to the Brook motor camp and Brook Street.



Flora Tableland

Historic pack track and huts

Rock bivvies and caves

Beech forest and tussock tableland

Predator free area

5-6 hours return (Salisbury Hut)

Well graded bush track

20 kms return (Salisbury Hut)

From Highway 61 between Motueka and Kohatu drive to Ngatimoti (19 km from Motueka) and follow signs to Graham Valley and Mount Arthur. Last section of road is very steep.

You wander along an old goldminers trail from Nelson to Takaka, over a bush plateau riven with deep streams and karst limestone fissures. Fascinating rock bivvies, and a gloriously easy track to follow. Now the Flora area is now being maintained as a predator free 'island' so you will see many bait stations for rats and stoats. This is alpine country and snow can occur throughout the year.

The carpark is at an altitude of 900 m, with info boards, intentions logbook and toilet, and superb views looking back to Nelson. Your car has done most of the hard work for you, so it's a gentle grade down to the historic Flora Hut with it's distinctive twin huts sharing a common porch.

The pack track now follows the soothing Flora Stream, across various footbridges, to the spectacular rock overhangs at Grid Iron Gulch. From here it's only another 15 minutes to a track junction and then the track turns up Balloon Creek, and passes the cute Growler Rock Shelter. Not much further another side-trail leads to an





excellent rock shelter on the edge of open tableland, with many old names carved on the rock walls.

It is about 30 minutes onto the 30 bunk Salisbury Hut, which sits on the open tussock tablelands, and has a superb view of the Arthur Range and the fierce looking Twins. The walk back isn't too strenuous. Time to appreciate the sinkholes, limestone outcrops, and that strange, rustling silence so characteristic of dry karst areas.



Mt Lodestone

Beaut circuit and great views

Alpine plants

Historic hut

2-3 hours circuit

Bush track

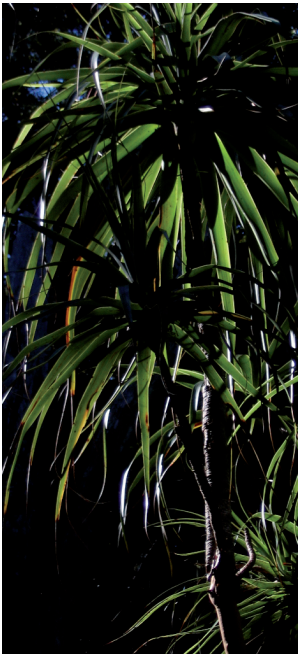
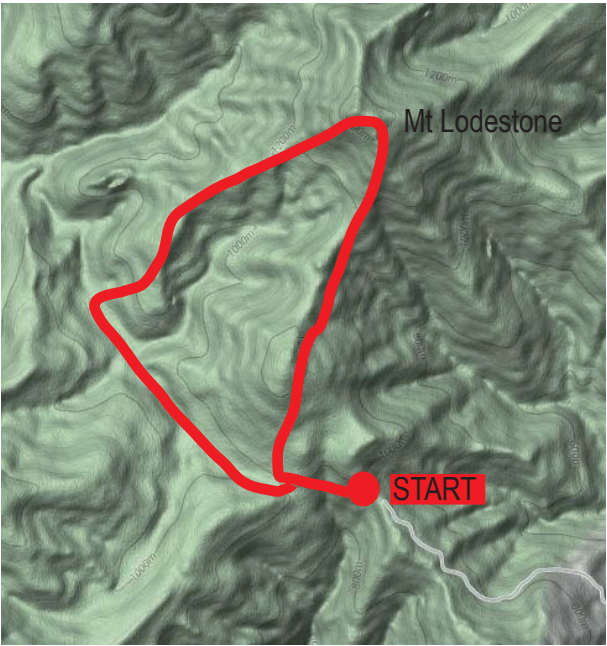
5 kms return

From Highway 61 between Motueka and Kohatu drive to Ngatimoti (19 km from Motueka) and follow signs to Graham Valley and Mount Arthur. Last section of road is very steep.

Lodestone is a small peak to the north of Flora Saddle with great views, and this short sharp circuit is a good work-out, plus the bonus of the idiosyncratic Flora Hut.

From the Flora carpark and saddle take the signposted Lodestone track. It's a sharp 200 m climb up the beech forest ridge, then it eases for a kilometre till the final 200 m to the 1462 m summit. Tremendous views of the Arthur Range and Kahurangi National Park. Take the alternative track down to Flora Hut, a quaint old relic, then back to the Flora carpark.





Mt Arthur

Alpine peak and views

Shelter hut on way

Well poled track on tussock ridge

Snow in winter

6-7 hours return

Bush track and tops track

10 kms return

From Highway 61 between Motueka and Kohatu drive to Ngatimoti (19 km from Motueka) and follow signs to Graham Valley and Mount Arthur. Last section of road is very steep.

Mt Arthur is an impressive peak, and at 1795 m it looms over the Tableland. On a fine day it is a straightforward daytramp from the Flora carpark on a well marked track. Arthur Hut serves as a good halfway rest stop before the tops. The weather can get pretty rough up here so choose your day.

From the carpark take the bush track 300 m to Arthur Hut, sitting like an eerie on the spur with views everywhere and pesky wekas at the hut door. Out of the bush the poled and well-worn track across the tussocks rollicks along the exposed open ridge, and climbs almost 400 m over the Winter Peak (1750m) and 10 minutes onto the high peak itself. Distracting views.





Riwaka Resurgence

Strange emergence of a river

Limestone rocks and deep pool

Lovely picnic area for families

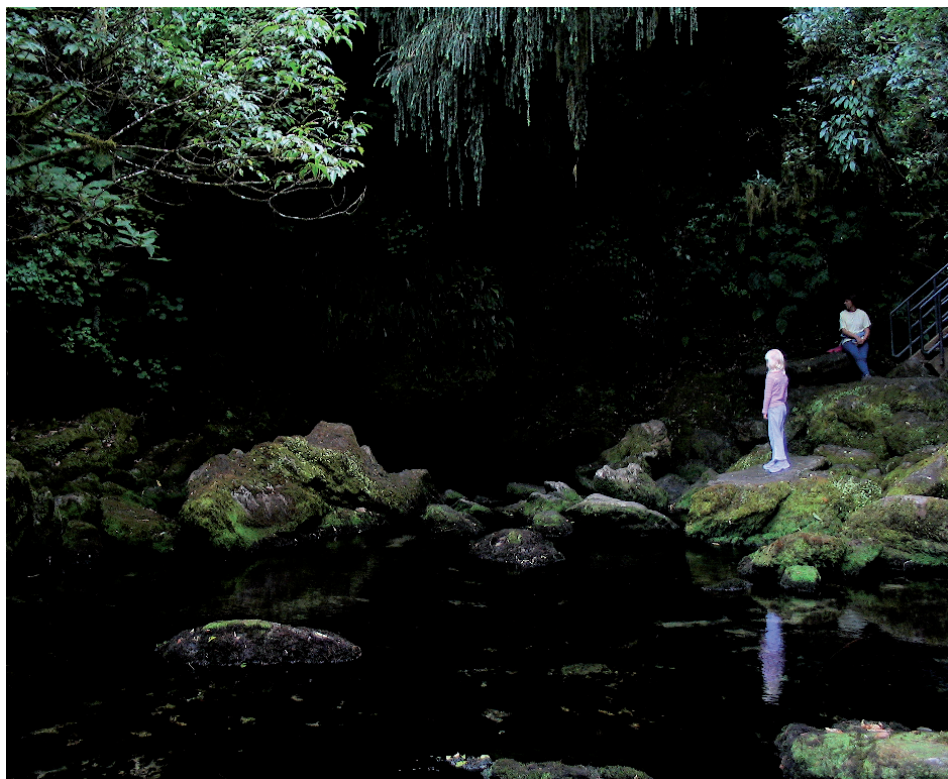
20 minutes return

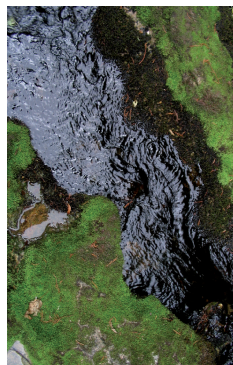
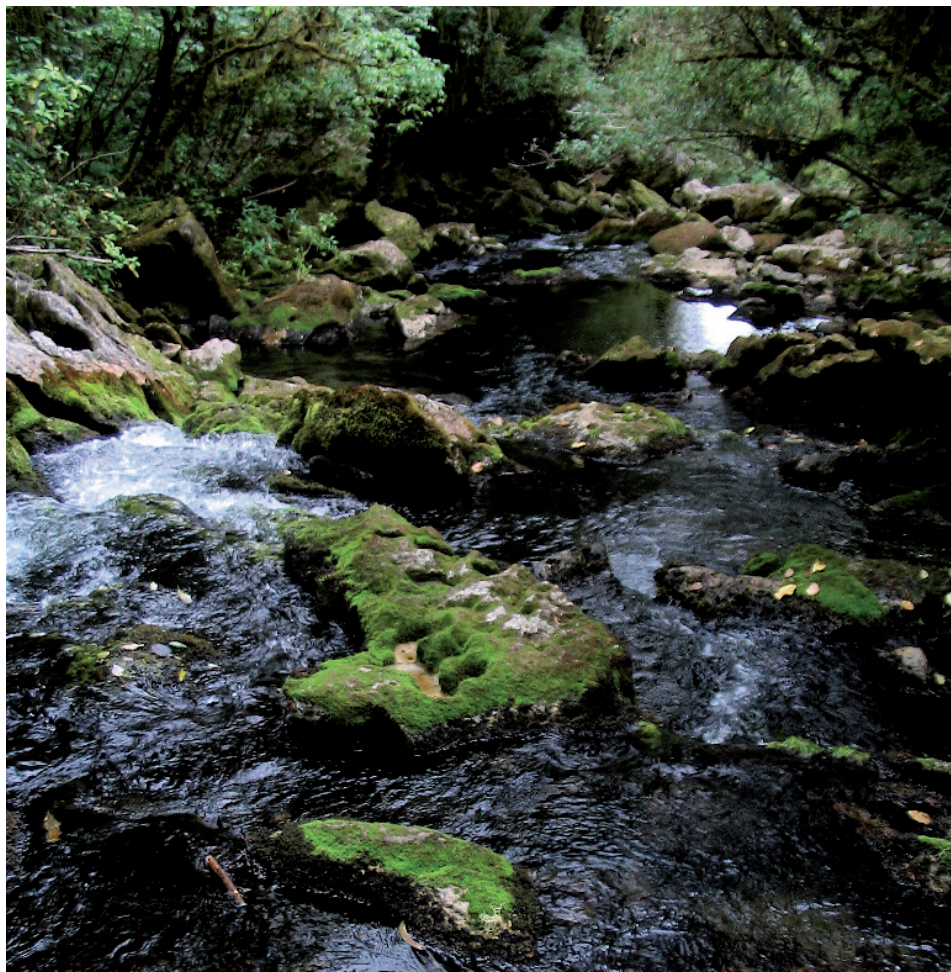
Gravel track

500 metres return

From Highway 80 (just before the Takaka Hill) take the Riwaka Valley Road 6 km to carpark and picnic area.

Very easy walk, 10 minutes, and a great spot on a hot summers day, as the ice-cold Riwaka River emerges from the Arthur Range in a tranquil and mysterious pool. Elegant shapes in the limestone rocks, luxuriant green moss, a Zen-like place, and good spot for chilling out. Lavish picnic area and toilets.





Anchorage Bay

A coastal ramble to a beautiful bay

Fine beaches and clear waters

Big hut, but popular

Ferry one way, walk back

3-4 hours one way

Graded easy paths

9 kilometres one way

From Motueka, drive north 5 km to the Kaiteriteri turn-off, then 8 km to Marahau carpark, toilets, information shelter and cafe.

Coastal walking does not get much better than this. A forested shore, a lapis lazuli sea, and tiny slivers of golden sand between. A dozen bays to explore, and many headlands to peer out from. If you do not mind sharing the track, and take plenty of suncream and water, you will have a memorable excursion.

Many people take the launch back from Anchorage Bay to Marahau, or vice versa, depending on tides and boat times. There are several boat operators that run daily (in summer) along the coast, and these water taxis add a unique dimension for walkers. If you don't take the boat, double the walking time.



Cross the Marahau board over the estuary, then follow the track as it hugs the coast for about 2 km to Tinline Bay, a sheltered area. The coastal track ambles along the sea edge 20–30 metres above the shore, past two pretty bays, Appletree and Stillwell. Side tracks lead down to each bay. It is not far from Stillwell Bay to Yellow Point and another tiny picnic area at Akersten Bay.

For the first and last time the track climbs quietly through the manuka forest up to a ridge saddle and a signposted junction. Follow along the ridge, passing a side track to Watering Cove, which was where Dumont D'Urville filled up his watering casks in 1827. Splendid views over The Anchorage as the track drops down to the brilliant sweep of sand and hut. Wait for the boat. Daydream.



Camping: beside Anchorage Hut, has to be pre-booked

Cafe: Park Cafe, in Marahau

Harwoods Hole

Huge sinkhole, weird limestone outcrops

Silent beech forest

Camping area and other walks

Good mt biking trails

1-2 hours return

Bush track

4 kilometres return

Off Highway 60 near the high saddle of the Takaka Hill, turn down the unsealed Canaan Road some 10 km to the sign-posted carpark.

This hole is 50 metres across, with encircling sheer walls of 80 metres, and a total vertical drop of 176 metres. Cavers abseil right down the throat of this gaping maw, and attempt to negotiate the complex cave system that leads out to the Starlight Cave and into Gorge Creek.

From the carpark it is easy walking through beech forest at first, then you have to clamber around large boulders where the valley gets confined. At a track junction, the right-hand branch goes around to a lookout over Gorge Creek.

For Harwoods Hole itself, take the other track choice and be careful near the lip. It's a feature that's difficult to see into and you shouldn't try! Perhaps the chill of the cold air, and the powerful sense of something pulling you down to nothingness, is enough of an experience.





Other walks and mt biking

This area has been developed with several good tracks. Wainui Saddle 2 hours return, Moa Park hut 4 hours return. A popular walk/mt bike trail circles around the plateau, plus there's the Ram-eka Track, a famous downhill run to Takaka.

Campsite: at Harwoods Hole carpark, toilets and information signs

Takaka Hill

Limestone outcrops and formations

High plateau at 1000 m

Interesting circuit

1-2 hours return

Bush track and stony trails

3 kilometres return

Off Highway 60 on the Takaka Hill road almost at the summit. The start is at a signposted carpark.

Between the flat plains of Nelson and Golden Bay is the high, eerie limestone plateau sometimes known as the 'Marble Mountain'. By Highway 60 the forest has been mostly cleared, exposing a geography of stumps of fluted grey rock, like molars from a giant's jaw. It is a strange place — dry, holey, silent — unlike any other in New Zealand. Well worth stopping and exploring.

At the carpark the track is marked with poles, and it passes the two junctions of the short Bush Walk as it wanders into the rocky land. Low, alpine, scrub-like kowhai and tree daisies grow in unlikely places and the track joins the transmission 4WD road and climbs to the top. There are great views of the Mount Arthur range and the upper Takaka valley.





The trail wanders about a shattered Armageddon-like landscape, with twisted dead trees and sharp rocks, then cuts through a forest grove to reach a junction with the Link Track. The main track continues on another long loop but the Link Track follows the transmission 4WD road through the heart of this open basin, with good views. The track takes no time at all to arrive back at the carpark beside the cooling bush stream.



The Grove

Strange limestone formations

Nikau palms and bush walk

Excellent for kids

Southern rata

30 minutes circuit

Gravel tracks

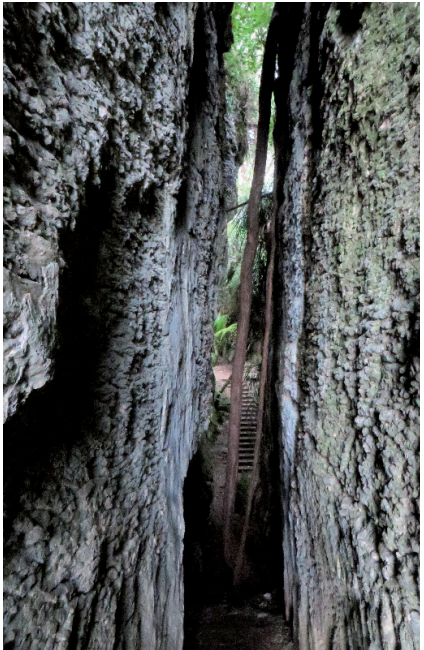
500 metres circuit

From Takaka follow the Motupipi and Pohara Road to Clifton, turn onto Clifton Road 1 km to car-park.

The Grove scenic reserve is a tiny but highly interesting area of complex limestone, with gullies, slabs, mini-canyons and a wonderful lookout. All covered with nikau palms and southern rata trees with their spectacular writhing root systems. There's a 30 minute circuit track. Take care with small kids.



Cafe: Wholemeal, in Takaka



Pupu Springs & Pupu Hydro

Crystal clear springs

Superb information shelter

Pupu hydro water race

Working power station and history

30 mins springs, 2-3 hours hydro

Bush tracks and boardwalks

7 kilometre return

From Takaka drive 2 km to the Pupu Springs turn-off, and follow the winding road 2 km to Pupu Springs, and 6 km to the carpark at the hydro walk.

These two walks can be easily combined in a half day. The first to huge natural springs, the second to the Pupu power house and an elegant investigation of a water race.

Pupu Springs

Waikoropupu Springs (but everyone calls them 'Pupu Springs'), are the largest freshwater natural springs in New Zealand, and have been dubbed 'a submerged Garden of Eden'. A well-made 30 minute track travels around the springs, which are regarded as some of the purest water in the world. Cup your hands and try some.



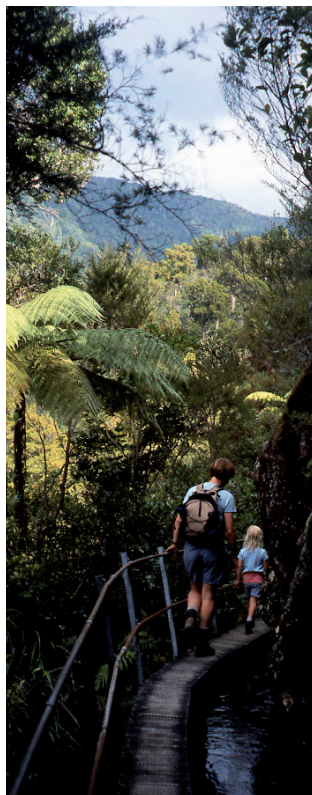
Pupu Hydro Walk

An uncluttered loop walk along an old gold-diggers' water race, originally constructed in 1901, then in 1929 adapted to supply power to New Zealand's smallest power station. The toy-like power system still works, and the water flows brightly along rock channels and around bluffs — a chiselled masterpiece of the goldminers' skills.

At the powerhouse there is a viewing window through which you can see the power turbines. From the carpark the track crosses a bridge and climbs up a steep zigzag trail to the end of the water race and penstocks.

The water race has boardwalks and handrails where the canal gets narrow. Occasionally fluming (a sort of aqueduct) carries the water over a gully, and the water race curves cunningly through bush and bluffs before reaching the intake weir at Campbell Creek.

A vehicle track climbs from here, and circles through the bush (with some views) and then descends back down to the carpark. Great circuit.



Cafe: Dangerous Kitchen, in Takaka

Whariwharangi Bay

Coastal track to remote bay

Historic hut

Bush landscape and views

Information shelter

3-4 hours return

Bush tracks

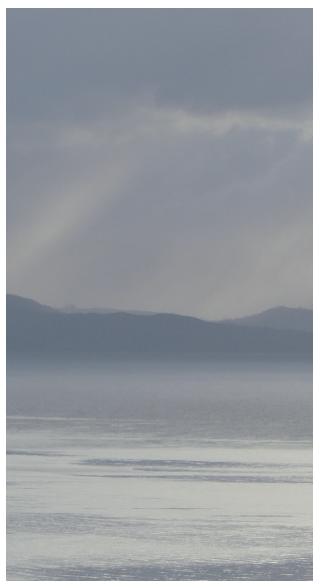
6 kilometre return

From takaka take the Pohara Road to Wainui Inlet and car-park at the end of McShane Road. Shelter and toilets.

Wharwharangi Bay is at the northern end of Abel Tasman National Park. The land was once farmed, and the original farmhouse is now a trampers hut. Beautiful beach and expansive estuary views over Wainui Inlet. A timeless land.

A good track wanders along the coast to a junction, where the side trail goes down to the beach. The main trail is an old vehicle road and climbs up lazy zig-zags to a bush saddle. Another side track goes uphill to Gibbs Hill, but the main track wanders down through the bush to the historic hut.

The beach is still five minutes or so away, a wide curving arc of glorious sand, backed by old macrocarpa trees.





Rawhiti Cave

Impressive cave entrance

Stalagmites and stalactites

Podocarp bush

Awkward scrambly track

2 hours return

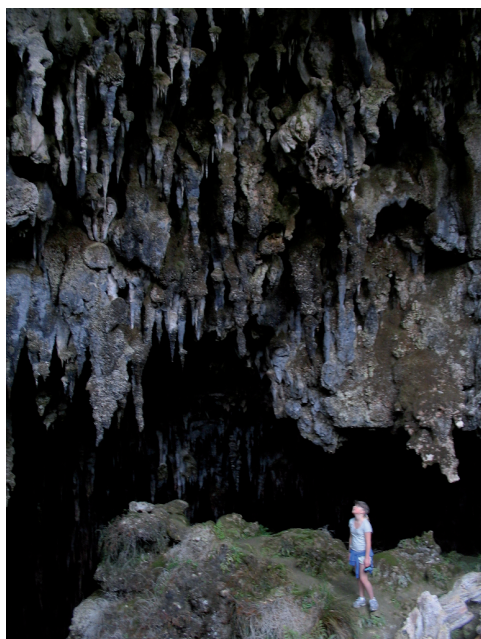
Bush tracks and rock scrambling

2 kilometres return

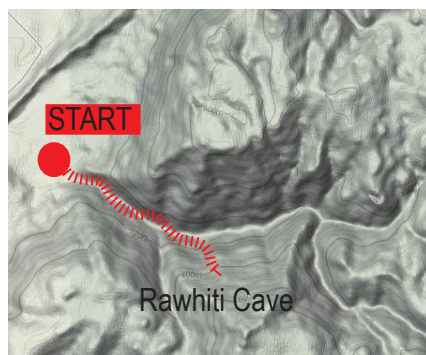
From Takaka drive to Motupipi, then right onto Glenview Road and left onto Packard road and follow signs to the carpark.

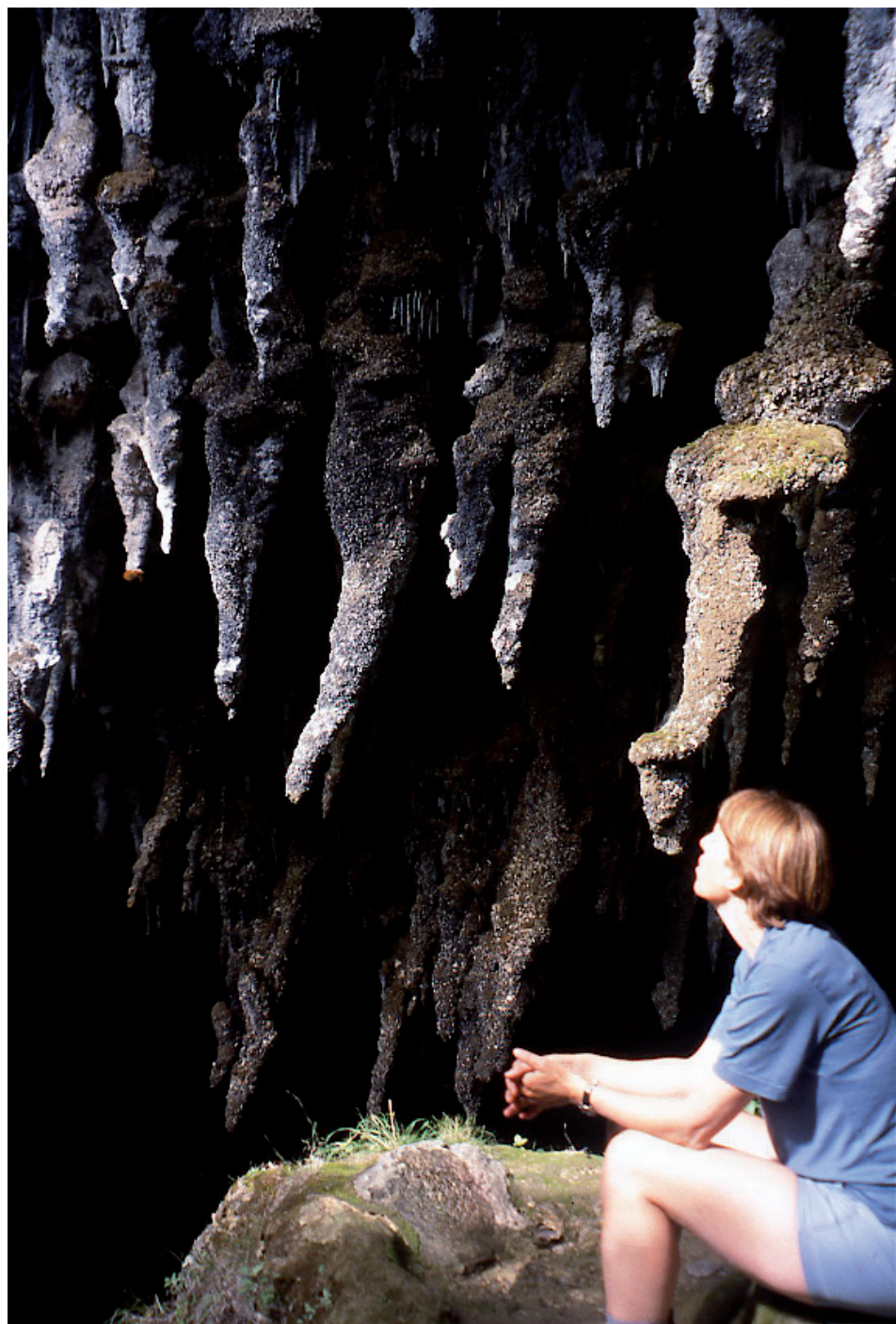
Rawhiti Cave (used to be known as Manson Cave) is a surprising gem in Golden Bay, and even people who don't like caves enjoy it. It's a large cavernous entrance with stalactites dangling down and twilight-zone flora. Steep tracks up and into it, and it gets greasy at the entrance. Viewing platform.

From the carpark the track crosses and heads up the massive Dry River gorge through totara forest, until a steep bush track crawls up to the cave entrance some 100 m above the valley floor. You descend down to the cave mouth, and go in as far as you dare, which isn't very far. Cold, drippy but awesome.



Cafe: Dangerous Kitchen, in Takaka





Collingwood Coast

Golden beach sands

Milnthorpe coastal park

Easy, flat walking at low tide

High country landscape

3 hours return

Beach and sands

8 kilometre return

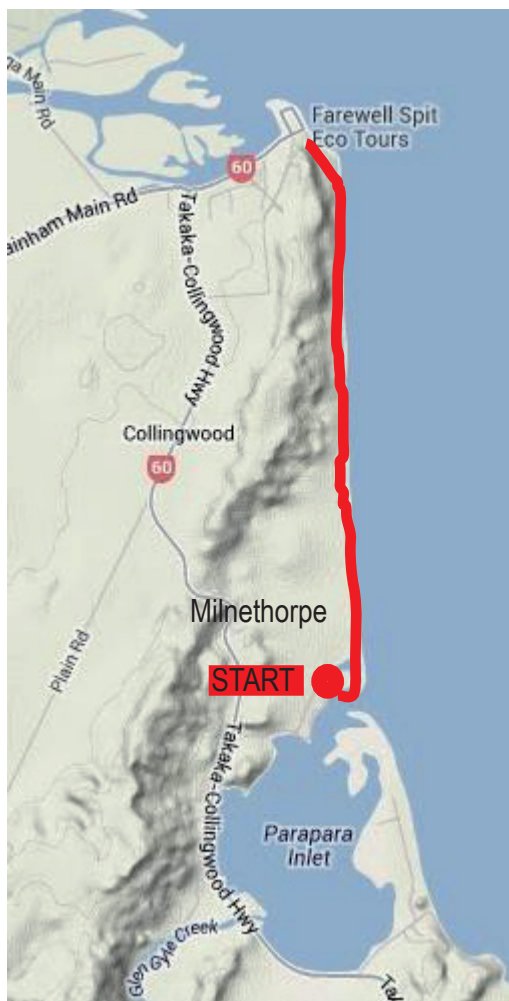
From Highway 60 turn down Milnthorpe Quay Road to Nelson Street then Kendall Street to the carpark beside the old stone causeway.

Golden Bay — the name sounds good, and real estate agents are grateful it did not remain Murderers Bay, which is what Abel Tasman called it. But it does not take much to sell this place, famous for its benign climate, sweeping sands, and as a last refuge for hippies. This walk is an easy and graceful stroll along a small part of this golden bay.

The stone causeway provides an elegant high-tide footway to Milnthorpe Beach, and kids can spend hours playing in the little estuary and soft sands here. Follow the sand shore around to the main beach, which at low tide retreats far out into Golden Bay.

It is easy, flat walking along to Collingwood, an old goldmining town that in 1857 was touted as a future capital of New Zealand. The gold has gone but the cappuccinos remain; after a recharge, head back along the beach to Milnthorpe.





Milnethorp Coastal Park

For an interesting variation on the beach way back, take the Redwood Trail into Milnethorp Park, which plunges you into a rustling dry manuka forest.

Tracks and junctions come thick and fast, but one very pleasant route is Redwood Trail, Rimu Flats, Ian's Incline, Elise's Way (nice by the stream here), then Blackwood Trail to Jimmy's Jungle, and Baas Deviation to Nelson Street and Milnethorp wharf.



Farewell Spit

Space, sand, spit, squalls

Easy tracks to beach

Dunes and sand patterns

Other track options

2 hours return

Dune and farm trails

4 kilometre return

From Collingwood take the Puponga Road 20 km to Farewell Spit carpark and cafe.

Farewell Spit has a mythic status, deservedly, for it stretches like a long curved kiwi beak from the top of the South Island. It is well worth the tremendous effort needed to get there. There's a visitor centre, cafe, toilets, viewing telescope, information boards and carpark. The cafe is closed in winter. On the hilltop behind the visitor centre you can see Mount Egmont/ Taranaki, 144 km away.

The Farewell Spit and Fossil Point track is a good one. It begins at the carpark and crosses through farmland and dry manuka forest to the outer curve of the spit. There are wind-torn rocks and tidal platforms at Fossil Point, plenty to explore, as well as a good dose of wind.





Cafe: visitor centre at Farewell Spit (summer only)

Wharariki Beach

Unrivalled coastal scenery

Dunes and seals

Working farm and lakes

Good for families, low tide best

2 hours circuit

Beach and farm trails

4 kilometre circuit

From Collingwood take the Puponga Road 18 km to Port Puponga, then Wharariki Road 6 km to carpark and toilet.

Wharariki Beach is impressive, with its armada of offshore islands and magic interplay of rocks and dunes. Seal pups occasionally play in the rock pools. Remember this is a working farm park, and care should be taken not to disturb stock. Some walks will be closed for lambing during September–October.

Assuming a low tide, take the easy path from the carpark through the dunes to break out onto the main beach. Cliffs and rock stacks everywhere, and large gleaming expanses of wet sand that shimmer in the morning light.

Wander west along the beach and around more rock stacks and an archway to the well-signposted inland track. This climbs into the farmland, and then picks up the main vehicle track back to the carpark.





Hilltop Walk

This is an excellent one-way crossing, wandering up and down beside the big cliffs with a rare view of the whole extent of Farewell Spit. It is mostly open farmland with some coastal scrub.



Cafe: Archway, at Wharariki carpark (summer only)