



New Zealand  
Walkways

**new zealand's**



**walkways**





# newzealand's walkways

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## CONTENTS

Introduction	4
New Zealand's Walkways System	5
Department of Conservation Offices	9
New Zealand Map	10
<i>Walkways of</i>	
Northland	11
Auckland	16
Waikato	21
Bay of Plenty	25
East Coast/Hawke's Bay	28
Tongariro/Taupo	32
Wanganui	34
Wellington	40
Nelson/Marlborough	43
West Coast Tai Poutini	46
Canterbury	50
Otago	59
Southland	68

## INTRODUCTION

It's cheap, it's fun and it's good for you. So put on your sneakers, tie up your boots and get walking.

And here to help is the New Zealand Conservation Authority's revision of the walkways booklet. Places to go, things to see. Long walks, short walks, hard ones and doddles, walks for the fit to the couch potatoes. Walks on your doorstep and further afield. Things to see and experience; forests and birds, historic sites and cultural icons.

This booklet gives you the choices and makes it easy to find a walk that suits you. Since our last booklet in 1984, heaps of new walks have been developed. This brings you up to date, but be sure to check with your Department of Conservation office or the local information centre that the walk you choose hasn't changed or been temporarily closed before you set off. They may also be able to give you more detailed information about a walk than we have been able to include in this booklet.

So give your heart and soul a boost, enjoy the real New Zealand and get out and walk a little! Happy trekking.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kerry Marshall', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Kerry Marshall  
Chairperson  
NZ Conservation Authority

## NEW ZEALAND'S WALKWAYS SYSTEM

The development of a network of walkways in New Zealand grew from an idea, promoted in the early 1970s by the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand Inc. to develop a walking track the length of the country. When legislation was passed in 1975 the intention was to create an arterial route from North Cape to the Bluff, with branches east and west throughout the country. It was quickly realised that developing sections, some of which could later form part of the main artery, was more practical than focussing on the mammoth task of creating a single 1770-kilometre walkway.

Now, over 25 years on, a walkways network has been established with over 125 walkways totalling about 1200 kilometres.

A major benefit has been that many of the walkways cross (partly or wholly) privately-owned land not normally accessible to the public. This has created new walking opportunities, many of them within easy reach of urban areas and therefore accessible to most of the population. These walkways complement the vast areas of public land (nearly one-third of New Zealand) available for walking and tramping.

The walkway idea has captured the imagination of various community groups and councils who, in addition to creating walkways under the New Zealand Walkways system, have developed numerous other walkways, often close to urban areas. Those walkways which are part of the national system are identified by stylised 'W' signs, often coloured orange and white.

Continued access to walkways over private land is dependent on the goodwill of landowners. It is vital that people using such walkways respect landowners' rights by following conditions displayed on signs and behaving reasonably.

### *The New Zealand Walkways Act 1990*

The current legislation, passed in 1990, consolidates and updates *The New Zealand Walkways Act 1975* in light of changing needs and experience gained over the previous fifteen years of walkways development. The basic intent remains the same – that is, to provide “walking tracks over public and private land so that the people of New Zealand shall have safe, unimpeded foot access to the countryside for the benefit of physical recreation as well as for the enjoyment of the outdoor environment and the natural and pastoral beauty and historical and cultural qualities of the area they pass through.”

*The New Zealand Walkways Act 1990* embodies a number of principles. The prime purpose of the walkways is for walking but other uses are not ruled out. Where conditions do not preclude it, activities such as horse riding, mountain biking and taking of dogs may be allowed.

There is no power to acquire land for a walkway, either through negotiation or compulsorily. Rights must be obtained by way of an easement or lease.

The rights of property owners must be fully protected and there are stiff penalties for transgressions. It is an offence to damage landowners' property or in any way disturb or endanger livestock. Compensation provisions exist. The owner may require special conditions for use of the land - for example, a walkway can be closed during the lambing season or periods of high fire risk.

### ***General Policy for New Zealand Walkways***

A statement of general policy for New Zealand Walkways was approved on 18 April 1995. This policy remains in force today and copies can be obtained from Department of Conservation offices.

The purpose of this policy is to provide for the administration of walkways in New Zealand. It specifically addresses, under *The New Zealand Walkways Act 1990*:

- co-ordination and encouragement of the development of a national system of walking
- tracks in conjunction with tangata whenua, private landowners, local and regional authorities and Government agencies;
- provision of legal access to and over tracks by written agreement with the landowner;
- gazettal of walkways where appropriate;
- protection of the rights of property owners and occupiers in the establishment and management of walkways;
- identification and promotion of public use of tracks for walking where legal rights of access exist; and
- provision of necessary facilities, including accommodation and amenities, where this will enhance public use of walkways.

## Administration

The Minister of Conservation has overall responsibility for the New Zealand Walkways Act 1990. Implementation is largely the responsibility of the Department of Conservation. The New Zealand Conservation Authority and its regional conservation boards have roles in the establishment of new walkways and monitoring the performance of the department. Local authorities and other organisations are involved with the establishment of some new walkways and their management.

## Safety Watch

To report damaged and/or unsafe visitor facilities telephone: 0800 999 005. For all Fire and Search and Rescue emergencies, call 111.

**SafetyWatch**  
**0800 999 005**  
Report any safety hazards

## Environmental Care 10 Point Checklist



Protect plants  
and animals

Remove rubbish

Bury toilet waste

Keep streams  
and lakes clean

Take care with  
fire

Camp carefully

Keep to the track

Consider others

Respect our  
cultural heritage

Enjoy your visit

*Toitu te whenua*  
*(Leave the land*  
*undisturbed)*

Protect the environment for your own sake, for the sake of those who come after you, and for the environment itself.

## *Types of Walkways*

Walkways vary enormously in nature, from short urban strolls, to moderate coastal locations, to challenging tramps in the high country. All walkways are graded according to degree of difficulty, standard of surface formation and gradient. The classification system used is the same as that used by DOC for all foot access. Classifications are:

**Short Walk** - Well-formed surface, usually up to a one-hour walk suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Some may cater for physically disabled people.

**Walking Track** - A well-defined track, suitable for relatively inexperienced people with little backcountry skill, up to a day's relatively easy walking.

**Tramping Track** - A track catering for backcountry trampers ranging from relatively inexperienced to experienced. Trips may vary from half-day to multi-day and can cross a wide range of terrain. All tracks are marked using one or more methods. Major watercourses are bridged.

**Route** - Generally an unformed surface, lightly cut or marked and intended for experienced backcountry users only. Routes are not common within the walkways system.

## *Before you leave home*

The climate in New Zealand can be very changeable and even in summer conditions can become unpleasant and potentially dangerous in a short time. It is important to be properly equipped for any trip (clothing, food/drink and route guide or map). The longer and more remote the trip, the greater the care needed. Leaving your intentions with someone reliable is strongly recommended for all but the short walks. For those unfamiliar with the backcountry and/or New Zealand conditions, information is readily available at DOC offices and the website ([www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)) and other information outlets.

## *More Information*

Using the walkways can be made more interesting by obtaining brochures that are available for many of them, which provide much more information than is contained in this booklet. The brochures provide outline maps of the routes and descriptions of the scenery, vegetation, wildlife and features of historic interest. They also provide greater detail of track conditions, facilities and walking times, as well as hazards and special local conditions.

There are many other walking opportunities in New Zealand in addition to the walkways in this booklet. Information on these can be obtained from DOC and other information outlets, especially visitor information centres/iSITES operating as part of the Visitor Information Network (VIN).

## Department of Conservation Offices

Each DOC conservancy (see map on page 10) has a main conservancy office as well as a number of local area offices and visitor centres which can provide information and advice. Conservancy office addresses and locations are -

### **NORTHLAND**

149 Bank St.,  
Whangarei.  
PO Box 842.  
ph 09 438 0299

### **EAST COAST/HAWKE'S BAY**

63 Carnarvon St.,  
Gisborne.  
PO Box 668.  
ph 06 867 8531

### **WEST COAST**

Sewell St.,  
Hokitika.  
Private Bag 701.  
ph 03 755 8301

### **AUCKLAND**

Karangahape Rd/Liverpool St.,  
Auckland.  
Private Bag 68908.  
ph 09 307 9279

### **WANGANUI**

74 Ingestre St.,  
Wanganui.  
Private Bag 3016.  
ph 06 345 2402

### **CANTERBURY**

133 Victoria St.,  
Christchurch.  
Private Bag 4715.  
ph 03 379 9758

### **WAIKATO**

18 London St.,  
Hamilton.  
Private Bag 3072.  
ph 07 838 3363

### **WELLINGTON**

Bowen State Building,  
Bowen St.,  
Wellington.  
PO Box 5086.  
ph 04 472 5821

### **OTAGO**

77 Lower Stuart St.,  
Dunedin.  
PO Box 5244.  
ph 03 477 0677

### **BAY OF PLENTY**

1144 Pukaki St.,  
Rotorua.  
PO Box 1146.  
ph 07 349 7400

### **NELSON/MARLBOROUGH**

186 Bridge St.,  
Nelson.  
Private Bag 5.  
ph 03 546 9335

### **SOUTHLAND**

State Insurance Building,  
Don St.,  
Invercargill.  
PO Box 743.  
ph 03 214 4589

### **TONGARIRO/TAUPO**

Turanga Place,  
Turangi.  
Private Bag.  
ph 07 386 8607

Readers are asked for their input on possible improvements or amendments to the contents of this booklet, so changes can be made in any future editions of this booklet. Please contact the editor at the address below:

The New Zealand Conservation Authority  
c/o Department of Conservation  
PO Box 10-420  
Wellington  
New Zealand

# Key

DOC CONSERVANCY BOUNDARY  
DOC CONSERVANCY OFFICES



# Northland

## 1. Cape Reinga

**Length:** Total 133 km  
Spirits Bay–Cape Reinga 28 km (10-11 hours)  
Cape Reinga–Te Paki Stream 22km (7 hours)  
Te Paki Stream–Ahipara 83 km (2-3 days)

**Location:** On the north-western tip of Northland, approximately 60 km north of Kaitaia

**Classification:** Walking Track/Tramping Track

Several tracks are available in this area, ranging from 30 minutes to several hours duration and traversing a variety of landforms including dunes, beaches, swamps, and pasture. The tracks provide many scenic views of the cape region and also give access to areas of historic and archaeological interest in the Te Paki Farm Park. Camping areas are available at Tapotupotu and Spirits Bay. There is a tar-sealed parking area at Cape Reinga. Adequate preparation and equipment are needed if tramping along stretches of beach.

## 2. Kaitaia

**Length:** 9 km (3.5 hours each way)

**Location:** Off Larmers Road, 3 km south along State Highway 1 from Kaitaia, to Diggers Valley Road

**Classification:** Tramping Track

A bush track providing views of the Northland Peninsula, the Okahu Falls and Diggers and Takahue Valleys. An additional side track to the Puketutu Trig (420 m) provides more extensive scenic views.

## 3. Mangamuka

**Length:** 19 km (5-6 hours round trip to summit at halfway point)

**Location:** Begins from Takahue Valley Road, 26 km south-east of Kaitaia, and terminates at Mangamuka Gorge summit on State Highway 1

**Classification:** Tramping Track

Except for the farmland at Takahue Valley, the route is through rich native bush of the Raetea State Forest and Mangamuka Gorge Scenic Reserve. Panoramic views at Raetea Summit, 751 m above sea level. Tramping gear recommended.

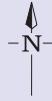
# Northland

☐ Three Kings Islands

Cape Reinga

North Cape

1



Kaitiaki

2

3

10

1

Kaikohe

5

6

Hokianga Harbour

4

7

Whangarei

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11

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14

Dargaville

13

0 50 km



Kaipara Harbour

Wellsford

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## 4. *Waoku Coach Road*

- Length:** North-south 20 km (full day each way). West-north 11 km (half day each way)
- Location:** Between Waoku Road Tutamoe and Waoku Road near Taheke, with side leg to Wekaweka Valley near Waimamaku
- Classification:** Tramping Track

Old coach road, easy grades through high rainfall Mataraua State Forest. Interesting hand-made culverts and stone flushings constructed around 1900. Tramping gear and food essential. High rainfall area.

## 5. *Ngaiotonga–Russell Forest*

- Length:** 21 km (8-9 hours)
- Location:** 20 km east of Russell on Russell-Whangaruru Road. Entry points also at Papakauri Road (halfway) and Punaruku Road.
- Classification:** Route

From the saddle on Russell Road, day walkers can reach the viewpoint at the Te Ranga Trig in about 1.5 hours. Trampers walking the length of the route through to Punaruku Road should allow 9 hours. Those exiting at the old Papakauri Road should allow 5 hours. For safety reasons, carry a topographical map of the area.

## 6. *Whananaki Coastal*

- Length:** 5 km (3 hours one way)
- Location:** On the east coast, north-east of Whangarei. Access is off State Highway 1 north of Whangarei via the Whananaki South Road. Matapouri Road branches off to provide access to the southern end of the walkway.
- Classification:** Walking Track

Most of this coastal walkway follows a well-graded farm track between Sandy Bay and Whananaki South. There are excellent views and access to the seashore at Sheltered Bay. In places the walkway passes close to private houses. Walkers are asked to respect residents' privacy.

## 7. *Pukenui*

- Length:** 10 km round trip (3-4 hours)
- Location:** Three Mile Bush Road, 4.5 km west of Kamo, Whangarei
- Classification:** Tramping Track

This track leads across attractive farmland with unique stone walls into 592 ha of native forest containing species including kauri, puriri, rimu, and taraire. Two large veteran kauri trees are a feature of the walk.

## 8. Otaika Valley

**Length:** 6 km (2 hours each way)

**Location:** South Whangarei between Raumunga Heights Road and Otaika Valley Road

**Classification:** Tramping Track

After leaving Whangarei suburb Raumunga, the walkway traverses open countryside with views of Whangarei Harbour and then enters the Otaika Valley Scenic Reserve, rich in native trees. There is a lookout point with views to Maungatapere and north-west Northland. This can be reached from Otaika Valley Road, just over 1 hour return.

## 9. Maunganui Bluff

**Length:** 10 km (3-4 hours each way, 2 hours Aranga Beach to summit round trip)

**Location:** North of Dargaville. Access points at Aranga Beach, Waitapu Road, and Waikara Beach.

**Classification:** Walking Track

A walk up onto the coastal cliffs of Manganui Bluff Scenic Reserve with outstanding views of Tasman surf extending south of Dargaville. Some native bush areas. Adjoins Kaiwi Lakes Walk at Aranga Beach.

## 10. Kaiwi Lakes

**Length:** 12 km (3 hours one way)

**Location:** 40 km north of Dargaville, from Sandy Bay, Lake Taharoa to Aranga Beach (foot of Manganui Bluff)

**Classification:** Walking Track

A walk between the recreational lakes of Taharoa and Waikere, across Kaiwi Lakes Road into farmland, and then along the beach to the foot of Maunganui Bluff.

## 11. Mount Tutamoe

**Length:** 5 km (3-3.5 hours round trip)

**Location:** North of Dargaville via Tangowahine State Highway 14

**Classification:** Tramping Track

A hilly walkway across farmland into Kaihu Forest and to the summit of Mt Tutamoe (770 m), one of Northland's highest peaks. Very steep near summit. Track closed for lambing 1 August to 30 September.

## 12. Waipu Caves

**Length:** 2 km (1 hour each way)

**Location:** West off State Highway 1 by three roads 10-30 km south of Whangarei

**Classification:** Walking Track

The walkway runs from the entrance to the Waipu Caves on Waipu Caves Road, through a scenic reserve to Ormiston Road. It can be walked in either direction. An interesting mix of farmland with native trees, excellent views and a limestone cave with impressive formations and glow-worms near the entrance. The inner area is suitable for experienced cavers only. A torch and suitable footwear are necessary.

## 13. Mangawhai Cliffs

**Length:** 5 km (2-3 hours round trip)

**Location:** Between Mangawhai Heads and Bream Tail, 98 km south of Whangarei via State Highway 1, Waipu Cove and Mangawhai Heads Road

**Classification:** Tramping Track

A coastal walkway through farmland and bush areas providing extensive views over the Hauraki Gulf and giving access to views of a shag colony. This track provides good coastal vistas. Track closed from 1 August to Labour Weekend for lambing.

## 14. Brynderwyn Hills

**Length:** 6 km (2 hours round trip)

**Location:** Waipu Cove Road near Mangawhai

**Classification:** Tramping Track

This eastern section is part of a walkway planned to extend for a total distance of approximately 18 km to State Highway 1 at the Brynderwyn Hill summit. The walk follows a graded farm track steadily rising to the high point. Excellent views of Hauraki Gulf along the way and 360° views of Northland from the summit. A few metres off the track is an unusual stunted kauri, its main branches extended from a few feet above the ground.

# Auckland

## 1. *SS Wairarapa Graves*

**Length:** 1.6 km in two sections (1 hour)

**Location:** Great Barrier Island. Ferry from Auckland City or by plane to Okiwi airport. Taxi or private transport from Port Fitzroy to Whangapoua Beach (Tapuwai) or Katherine Bay (Onepoto).

**Classification:** Walking Track

There are two grave sites for those who lost their lives when the SS Wairarapa ran aground on rocks north of Miners Head, October 24 1894. Whangapoua Beach, 0.5 hours. From the beach access road end follow the signposts to the beach. Turn left and wander along to Tapuwai Point and grave sites surrounded by a picket fence. Onepoto Site, Kawa Bay, 15 minutes. From the end of the Kawa Road, follow the signpost to the beach and wander/boulder hop along the beach to the graves.

## 2. *Harataonga Coastal*

**Length:** 12 km with a 900 m loop at the southern end (4-5 hours)

**Location:** Great Barrier Island. Ferry from Auckland City or by plane to Okiwi airport. Bus, taxi or private vehicle to Okiwi or Harataonga, Overton's Beach

**Classification:** Tramping Track

The trip can be started from either end. Gradients are gentle. The walkway follows the old bridle route about 100 metres above the coast. Views include Rakitu Arid Island, inlets and fishing gannets. The track passes through generating scrub where kaka may be seen.

## 3. *Goat Island Bay*

**Length:** 1.5 km (1.5 hours return)

**Location:** At the end of Goat Island Road, 3.5 km from Leigh township, 90 km north-east of Auckland

**Classification:** Walking Track

The walk begins at the Goat Island car park, climbs a farm hill and then follows the cliff-top, crossing patches of forest. There are views across the outer Hauraki Gulf, Goat Island and the Cape Rodney–Okakari Point Marine Reserve.

The walkway crosses private property. Children should be watched closely on the coastal cliff.

# Auckland



## 4. Dome Forest

- Length:** 2.9 km (3 hours return)  
**Location:** Off State Highway 1 opposite Kraacks Road, 7 km north of Warkworth and 12 km south of Wellsford  
**Classification:** Walking Track/Tramping Track

A walk along a native bush ridge leads to a viewing platform (1 km, 20 minutes) and then onto the Dome summit, a steep and rocky climb. From there the view is northward to the distant crags of Taranga Island of the Hen and Chickens group. The track descends gently for 800 metres to the Waiwhiu Kauri Grove which contains 20 mature trees. The walkway crosses land sacred to local iwi and walkers should keep to the track.

## 5. Moir Hill

- Length:** 6 km (3-4 hours return)  
**Location:** Starts from a point on Pohuehue Hill on State Highway 1, 6 km south of Warkworth  
**Classification:** Walking Track/Tramping Track

From the car park on State Highway 1, a short bushwalk to the waterfall takes 15 minutes. The remainder of the walk leads through native bush and exotic plantations. The track climbs through a scenic reserve and pine trees, providing views of the Hauraki Gulf, and then descends to a stream and waterfall before climbing again to Moir Hill trig and lookout. Views from here take in both coasts. Check with Carter Holt Harvey whether the track through the pine forest section is open.

## 6. Mount Auckland

- Length:** 6.7 km (3 hours return trip to the summit from either end, or one-way end to end)  
**Location:** 3 km along the Glorit–Kaipara Hills Road, from State Highway 16, 30 km north of Helensville. An alternative route leaves State Highway 16, 2 km north of the above turn-off.  
**Classification:** Tramping Track

The walkway passes through the Atuanui forest and climbs to the summit of Mount Auckland (Atuanui) from which views as far afield as the Hen and Chickens Islands and the Coromandel Peninsula can be obtained. The forest comprises podocarp, kauri and hardwoods of several species. Three side trips to large kauri trees are available from the main track. The walkway crosses land sacred to local iwi and walkers should keep to the track. The northern access is closed for lambing from 1 August to 30 September.

## 7. Okura Bush

**Length:** 9 km (3 hours one way)

**Location:** On the east coast 18 km north of Auckland. Southern access off State Highway 1 before Albany, left into East Coast Road and right 10 km north of Redvale and into Haighs Access Road. The northern end can be accessed via Stillwater, with a turn-off south of Silverdale.

**Classification:** Walking Track (southern half), Tramping Track (northern half)

From the southern entrance the walkway crosses a bridge over the Okura River, climbs steeply through maturing forest and descends to the estuary. Pohutukawa trees grow on a pa site at Dacre Point. A steep descent to Karepiro Beach follows, to the restored historic sea captain's cottage, Dacre Cottage. This marks the halfway point and is often the destination for those returning to the southern entrance. The walk through to Stillwater is at the northern end of the beach (a shoreline route is available near low tide), climbing steeply onto the coastal cliffs and crossing a bush-clad ridge before following the Weiti River estuary to Stillwater.

## 8. Te Henga

**Length:** In two sections: southern 9 km (3-4 hours), northern 5.7 km (2 hours direct or 3 hours via the Mokoroa Falls)

**Location:** Te Henga (Bethells Beach), 35 km west of central Auckland City

**Classification:** Walking Track/Tramping Track

The walkway (the 100th) is a series of superb coastal and bush tramping tracks on Auckland's wild west coast. It provides outstanding coastal views as well as tracks through original and regenerating kauri forest. Gannets diving off-shore for fish are a frequent sight from the coastal track section. Care needs to be taken with slips along this part. The coastal section crosses private land and is closed for lambing 1 August to 1 October.

## 9. Motutapu Farm

**Length:** 4.2 km (3 hours return)

**Location:** On Motutapu Island, adjacent to Rangitoto Island, in the Hauraki Gulf. Access to the Rangitoto wharf is by regular ferry from Auckland City Downtown Ferry Terminal.

**Classification:** Walking Track

The walkway starts/ends beside the road over the Rangitoto-Motutapu causeway. The route follows the rolling contours of the eastern side of the island. It climbs to the island's 120-metre trig, with panoramic views of the Hauraki Gulf, then descends to Home Bay where there is a campsite. The whole island is open to walkers.

## 10. *Stony Batter*

- Length:** 3.4 km (in two sections, total 3 hours return)  
**Location:** At the eastern end of Waiheke Island, Hauraki Gulf.  
35-minute ferry trip from downtown Auckland to the island.  
Commercial transport from the wharf is available.  
**Classification:** Walking Track

Stoney Batter is so-named for its strewn andesitic boulders. The walk commences at the end of the road, approximately 5 minutes from historic World War II gun sites. Take a torch and explore the tunnels. The walkway has sections running both north and south to the coasts from the gun emplacements. The track crosses private land and is closed for lambing 1 August to 1 October.

## 11. *Vining*

- Length:** 6 km (5 hours return)  
**Location:** 75 km south of Auckland on State Highway 1 and then onto State Highway 25. Turn left at Mangatangi hamlet and travel 7 km along Kaiaua Road, past the Fern Road junction.  
**Classification:** Tramping Track

The route crosses open paddocks with a stony stream (without a bridge) before entering the steep hills of Vining Scenic Reserve - 460 hectares of mainly virgin bush. The track follows a razorback ridge through open forest including kanuka, puriri, beech and kauri, before joining the Ring Track on the main ridge. This leads to the summit at Mangatangi trig, with panoramic views. This walkway may be traversed in the reverse direction. Park your car at the Mangatangi Dam end of Workman Road (off Kaiaua Road) and take the Auckland Regional Council track to Mangatangi trig. The track is closed for lambing 1 August to 1 October.

## 12. *Mount William*

- Length:** 6.7 km (3 hours each way or round trip to the summit from either end)  
**Location:** Between Puketutu Road, Bombay and McMillan Roads, Pokeno, 50 km south of Auckland City  
**Classification:** Walking Track (reserve section)/Tramping Track

This walk extends through pastoral land across the summit of Mount William (369 m) and the scenic reserve. Views from the top extend from the west coast to the Firth of Thames. The track north of Mount William is along a saddle of rolling farmland to Puketutu trig, at a similar height to Mount William. The northern section is closed each spring for lambing. As dates may vary annually, it pays to check with DOC in Auckland.

# Waikato

## 1. *Coromandel*

**Length:** 10.5 km (3 hours) one way

**Location:** Along the north-eastern coast of Coromandel Peninsula from Fletcher Bay to Stony Bay

**Classification:** Tramping Track

A coastal/pastoral track through the Cape Colville Farm Park. Adjacent to the track are two pa sites which provide historical and archaeological interest in addition to its scenic and pastoral qualities. This track can be walked from either end.

## 2. *Hapuakohe*

**Length:** 24 km (14 hours)

**Location:** The Hapuakohe Range lies approximately 50 km north-east of Hamilton and 65 km south-east of Auckland. Access to the northern end of the walkway is via State Highway 27 to Mangatarata and North Road. Access to the southern end is via Mangapiko Valley Road. Access to the central area is via Matahuru Gorge Road. The total length of the track is considered too long for a one-day tramp. A shorter alternative is North Road to Ohinewai Road.

**Classification:** Tramping Track

The track is demanding, with ample opportunity to view the landscape to east and west. Vegetation changes noticeably from north to south.

## 3. *Whangamarino*

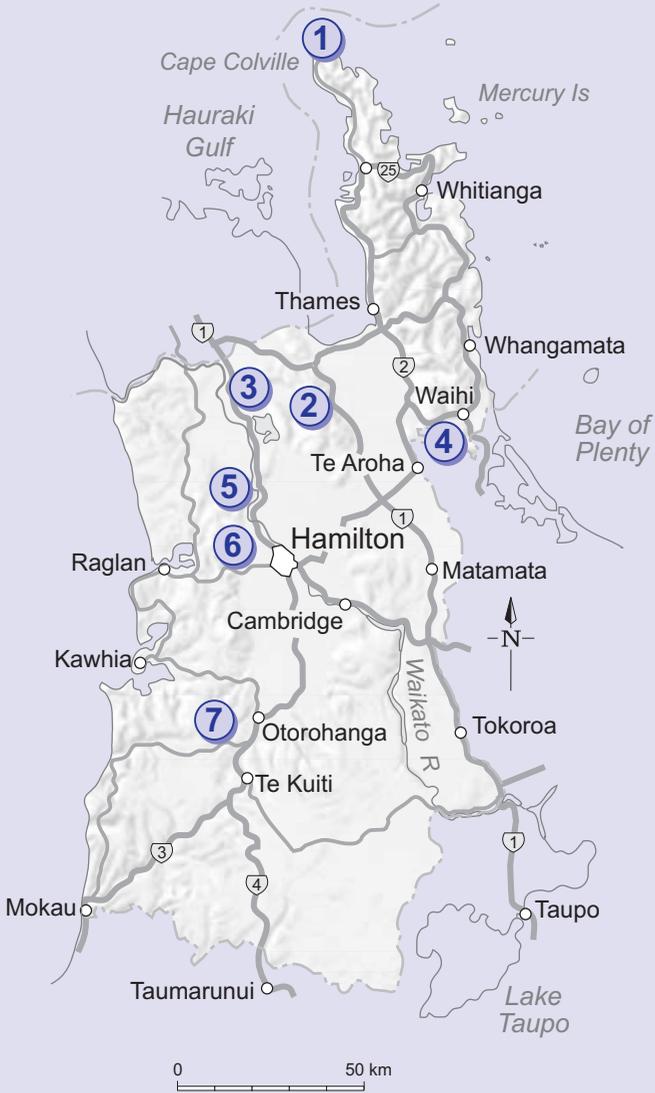
**Length:** 1 km (1 hour)

**Location:** At the confluence of the Waikato and Whangamarino rivers on State Highway 1, turn off at Oram Road. Starts next to the river control structure, just south of Mercer.

**Classification:** Walking Track

The track starts with a short climb through native forest to an excellent view point at an historic pa site. It then descends down an old road line back to the starting point.

# Waikato



## 4. Karangahake Gorge

**Length:** 4.5 km (2 hours)

**Location:** State Highway 2 between Paeroa and Waihi. Follows the Ohinemuri River through the Karangahake Gorge between Waikino and Karangahake.

**Classification:** Walking Track

This track links the Crown and Victoria batteries, which processed large amounts of gold extracted from the area at the turn of the twentieth century. As well as remnants of the mining days, the natural beauty of the river and the surrounding area can be enjoyed.

## 5. Hakarimata

**Length:** 8.8 km (7 hours)

**Location:** Access to the walkway can be gained from three places: the Ngaruawahia-Waingaro Road at a point 2.5 km south-west of Ngaruawahia; within Ngaruawahia off Brownlee Avenue (road to reservoir); Parker Road, off the Ngaruawahia-Hakarimata Road along the western bank of the Waikato River.

**Classification:** Tramping Track

This walkway lies predominantly within the Hakarimata Scenic Reserve which contains many species of native flora and fauna. From the three starting points several combinations can be walked, ranging from 3-7 hours duration. From the tracks, extensive views can be obtained over the Waikato River and surrounding countryside.

## 6. Karamu

**Length:** 10 km (3.5-4.5 hours)

**Location:** The northern end leaves Four Brothers Scenic Reserve on the Hamilton-Raglan Road. The southern end is on Limeworks Road, Karamu. A third access point is off Old Mountain Road between the other two roads. Approximately 30 minutes drive from Hamilton.

**Classification:** Walking Track

Leaving the reserve the walkway runs south over privately-owned pasture until it passes, on a steep grade, through an area of remnant bush near the southern end. Interesting limestone country is encountered with constant views over the Waikato and, in places, out towards the coast. The track is closed for lambing 1 August to 30 September.

## 7. Waitomo Caves

**Length:** 5 km (2 hours return)

**Location:** Starts across from the Museum of Caves at Waitomo and travels to the Ruakuri Scenic Reserve

**Classification:** Walking Track

The track passes through classic limestone landscape and through bush and farmland. It ends at the Ruakuri Scenic Reserve where there another track winds through more limestone formations.

# Bay of Plenty

## 1. Tuahu

**Length:** 9 km (5.5 hours)

**Location:** Kaimai Range between Waipupu Road, 7 km south of Te Aroha and Hot Springs Road, 28 km north of Tauranga

**Classification:** Walking Track (eastern side), Tramping Track (western side)

The walkway traverses the Kaimai Range. From either side there is a climb to the main ridge from which views are available in both directions. Features include mature kauri, with on-site interpretation. The track links with other tracks throughout the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park. Strong winds can cool the air at the top. Toilet available at Hot Springs Road end.

## 2. *Nga Tapuwae o Toi* (sections passing through Kapu te Rangi and Kohi Point Reserves are administered by Whakatane District Council)

**Length:** 15 km (7 hours round trip)

**Location:** On the eastern side of Whakatane town. The best starting point for the round trip is at the bottom of Mokorua Gorge.

**Classification:** Walking Track/Tramping Track

The walkway passes through four major reserves – Kapu te Rangi Historic Reserve and Kohi Point, Ohope and Mokorua scenic reserves. It captures the essence of the Whakatane district and includes a number of pa sites of major historic significance, superb native forest and coastal views as well as seabird colonies and abundant forest-dwelling birds. The walk can be undertaken in sections, varying in length and ease.

## 3. Latham's Hill

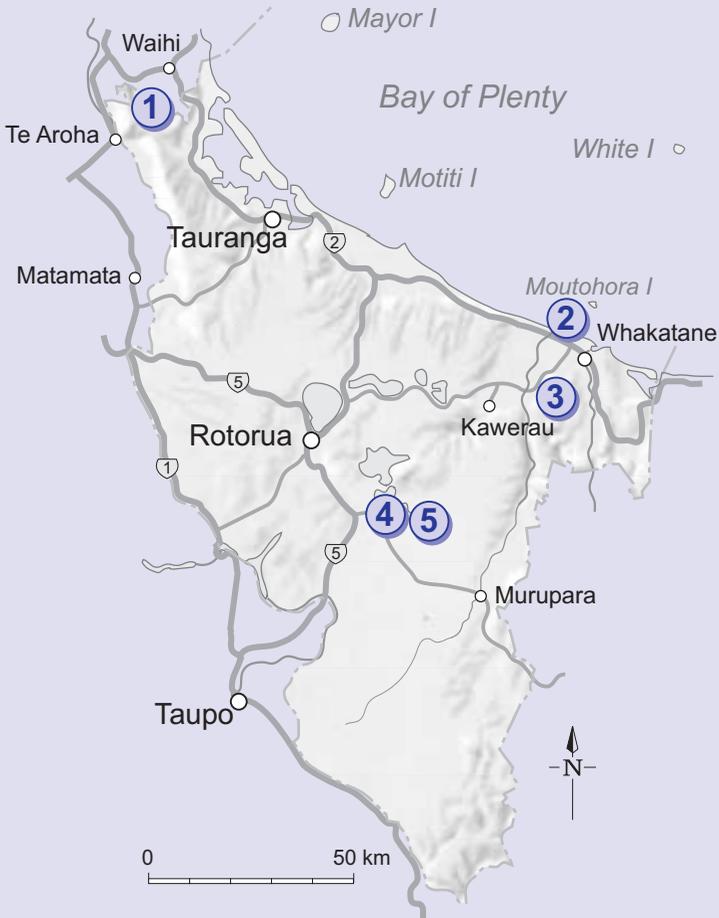
**Length:** 4.4 km (1.5-2 hours)

**Location:** 17 km south of Whakatane on the highway to Rotorua, near Awakeri Hot Springs

**Classification:** Tramping Track

Starting with a relatively easy climb over farmland, the track passes through regenerating native bush and up to a pa site at the top of the hill, one of a number in the area. The walkway then follows a ridge through lush native bush with many native birds to a trig station where panoramic views can be enjoyed.

# Bay of Plenty



## 4. *Western Okataina*

**Length:** 22.5 km (7 hours)

**Location:** From Ruato Bay, Lake Rotoiti, 22 km east of Rotorua, State Highway 30 or from the Okataina Education Centre off Okataina Road (which provides a reduced walk of 18 km) to Millar Road

**Classification:** Tramping Track

An adventurous trip over steep and rolling volcanic country, rising to the Whakapoungakau Trig (756 m). The track passes through the Lake Okataina Scenic Reserve and provides views of Mt Tarawera, the Bay of Plenty, Rotorua city and lakes.

## 5. *Eastern Okataina*

**Length:** 10.5 km (3 hours one way)

**Location:** From the end of Okataina Road along the eastern shoreline of Lake Okataina to Humphries Bay, Lake Tarawera

**Classification:** Walking Track (to Kaiwaka Bay)/Tramping Track

The track offers frequent access to and views of the lake. Soon after the start it reaches the “Soundshell”, a large natural amphitheatre formed by volcanic cliffs, and access to the pa site at Te Koutu Point. The walkway meanders through native bush and provides several side trips to the lake to enable a swim or picnic.

The track joins with the Northern Tarawera Track along the northern shore of Lake Tarawera to The Outlet (3 hours one way) and Tarawera Falls (3 hours one way). Toilets are provided at Okataina Road end and Humphries Bay. A small informal campsite is available at Humphries Bay (restricted to visitors arriving on foot or by kayak). There is a large campsite at The Outlet (\$5 adult/\$2 child per night).

# East Coast/Hawke's Bay

## 1. *Te Ara ki Hikurangi*

- Length:** 8 km (3-4 hours to the hut)  
**Location:** Tapuaeroa Valley Road, 30 minutes from Ruatoria  
**Classification:** Tramping Track

The walkway follows a farm track to within 500 m of Hikurangi Hut. Panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and landforms are spectacular. Hikurangi maunga is the first point in New Zealand to experience the light of the new day. Track conditions are suitable for average trampers with good physical fitness. The track crosses privately-owned Maori land and trampers are asked to use it with respect. This walkway can be closed for up to 50 days per year for lambing, cultural, spiritual, traditional or religious events. Users should check with the nearest DOC office or Te Runanga O Ngati Porou for further information.

## 2. *Anaura Bay*

- Length:** 3.5 km (2 hours)  
**Location:** Anaura Bay, 85 km north of Gisborne  
**Classification:** Walking Track

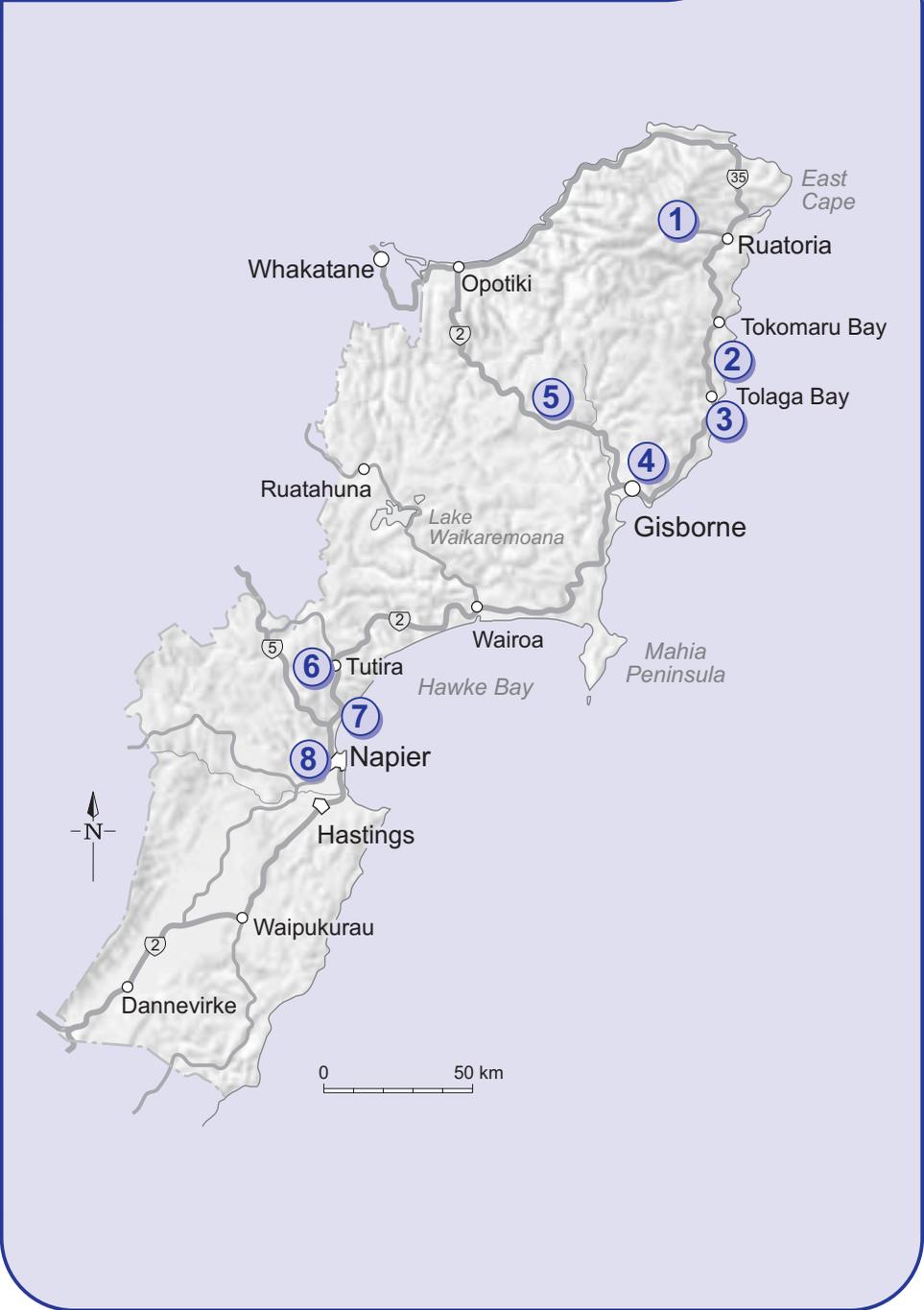
The walkway begins opposite the Anaura Bay Recreation Reserve, traversing open farmland, exotic forest and the coastal bush of Anaura Bay Scenic Reserve. The walk is suitable for all ages, and magnificent views of the coastline are obtained from various points along the way. The walkway is subject to temporary closure during periods of fire risk. The recreation reserve here is available for camping from Labour Weekend to Easter. There are no facilities other than a water supply and campers are required to bring their own chemical toilets.

## 3. *Cooks Cove*

- Length:** 2 km each way (2.5 hours return)  
**Location:** Tolaga Bay, 52 km north of Gisborne  
**Classification:** Walking Track

This is a good easy family walk over farmland to Cook's historic landing place. Several good lookout points provide panoramic views of Tolaga Bay township and the large sheltered bay. The walkway is closed for lambing late winter until the start of Labour Weekend and closed during periods of severe fire risk.

# East Coast/Hawke's Bay



## 4. Te Kuri Farm

- Length:** 5 km return (2-3 hours)  
**Location:** Shelley Road, off Balance Street, northern side of Gisborne City  
**Classification:** Walking Track

The special feature of this walk is the panoramic view which can be seen from various points along the route and from the lookout point in particular. The walkway passes through areas of flat farmland before climbing 230 m to the lookout point, Town Hill. On a clear day visitors can see as far south as Mahia Peninsula and as far west as Maungapohatu on the eastern fringes of Te Urewera National Park. This well-defined walk is suitable for people with average-good fitness. The walkway is closed for lambing from late winter until the start of Labour Weekend and it may be closed temporarily in periods of severe fire risk.

## 5. Otoko

- Length:** 5 km (2.5 hours)  
**Location:** At Otoko, 50 km north-west of Gisborne  
**Classification:** Walking Track

The walkway follows part of the Old Gisborne-Moutohora railway line, commencing at a roadside rest area adjacent to the Mahaki tunnel and finishing opposite the Otoko Hall. The old railway formation, with its hill cuttings, benching, sumps and culverts is well in evidence. The walkway is closed for lambing late winter until the start of Labour Weekend and during periods of severe fire risk.

## 6. Tutira

- Length:** 8.5 km (4-5 hours) round trip  
**Location:** 45 km north of Napier on State Highway 2  
**Classification:** Tramping Track

This long walkway through pastoral land can be commenced either from Ridgemount Road or Lake Tutira. It ascends to the Table Mountain Trig where good views exist eastward over Hawke's Bay from Napier to Mahia and Portland Island and westward over Tutira Valley to the Maungaharuru Range. Shelters, picnic and toilet facilities are available at the lake. The walkway is closed for lambing from 1 August until 30 September.

## 7. Tangoio

**Length:** 6 km (up to 3 hours one way). Various shorter tracks are available

**Location:** 25 km north of Napier on State Highway 2 in Tangoio Valley

**Classification:** Walking Track

Begin at the picnic/parking area either at the southern end of Tangoio Falls Scenic Reserve or at White Pine Bush Scenic Reserve. It is better to walk the track from north to south as the going is nearly all downhill in that direction. This is an interesting and pleasant trip for people of good-average fitness with areas where the less fit person could walk the easier sections of the track. White Pine Bush Scenic Reserve has its own loop track (not part of the walkway) which also begins and ends at the picnic/parking area. The walkway passes through native forest, open grassland, old and new pine plantations intermixed with redwoods and other species. The vegetation is of a coastal type forest and species include rimu, nikau, titoki, manuka and rewarewa. There are waterfalls in the Tangoio Falls Scenic Reserve. The track is steep in places. A stream crossing requires care after rain.

## 8. Whakamaharatanga

**Length:** 3.6 km (1.5 hours)

**Location:** Onehunga Road, Bay View, Napier

**Classification:** Walking Track

This walkway crosses farmland, most of which was underwater prior to the Napier earthquake in 1931. The area was important to Maori, both spiritually and for gathering food. There are two prominent old pa sites with identifiable terraces, pits and middens. The walkway is closed for lambing from 1 July to 30 September.

# Tongariro/Taupo

## 1. Huka-Aratiatia

**Length:** 5.2 km (4 hours return)

**Location:** From State Highway 1, 1.6 km north of Taupo, turn right into Huka Falls Road. The start is from the car park at the roadend.

**Classification:** Walking Track

The walkway begins behind the last viewing platform over the Huka Falls. It climbs up to the cliff tops from which there are magnificent views of the river. The track then gradually descends and continues alongside the river to the Aratiatia hydroelectric dam and rapids. Try and arrive when the control gates are open – a spectacular sight.

## 2. Spa-Huka

**Length:** 2.9 km (2 hours return)

**Location:** From Spa Thermal Park on the north side of Taupo, 5 minutes across the park to the Waikato River, along the riverbank to Huka Falls

**Classification:** Walking Track

A pleasant walk for the whole family along a well-defined track. Near the start a bridge crosses a natural hot stream and the track then winds along the riverbank, offering lovely views on the way. It finishes at the spectacular Huka Falls where the Waikato River is confined to a deep rock channel. The walkway connects with the Huka–Aratiatia Walkway

## 3. Tongariro River

**Length:** 5.7 km (3-4 hours return)

**Location:** Entry/exit points at footbridges across the Tongariro River at Turangi or 5 km south off State Highway 1

**Classification:** Walking Track

The walk follows the Tongariro River as it meanders its way towards Lake Taupo. There are good views of the river's calm pools and rippling rapids from the high banks above. The track passes through native bush on the river edge and along the boundary of private farmland. Watch for trout in the river pools.

# Tongariro/Taupo



# Wanganui

## 1. *Whitecliffs*

**Length:** 9.6 km (5 hours)

**Location:** North on State Highway 3, 36 km from central New Plymouth to Pukearuhe Road, a short distance beyond the Urenui township. The walkway commences near the Pukearuhe Historic Reserve and at the end of Pukearuhe Road.

**Classification:** Tramping Track

The track starts out from Pukearuhe over open farmland (privately owned) in a north-easterly direction rising by easy grades to Mt Davidson. At this point it enters Whitecliffs Conservation Area and follows a pipeline route along the ridge tops before descending to the Waipingau Stream, 3.2 km from the start (1.5 hours average walking time). Here, users may return to the starting point by following the stream about 1.2 km to the coast and walking along the beach, tide permitting.

From here there is a climb to the Parininihi ridge and then a gradual descent to the Waikorora Stream. Those not wishing to continue on to Tongaporutu may deviate to either the stream mouth or the Te Horo stock tunnel (2.4 km and 2 hours average walking time from the Waipingau Stream). The tunnel, built in the 1870s by the military based at Pukearuhe garrison, provides access to the beach.

**Warning:** The beach between the tunnel and Pukearuhe (4.5 km and 1.5 hours average walking time) is accessible only at low tide. If a walk along the beach is planned as part of your trip, please check tide times beforehand. For your own safety do not attempt to walk unless you can reach your destination comfortably no later than 2 hours after low water.

The remainder of the walkway follows the easy clay section of the Clifton Road through private farm land and then the sealed road to Tongaporutu. The walkway is closed from 1 July to 30 September for lambing and other essential farming operations on the private land.

## 2. *Waitara West* (New Plymouth District Council)

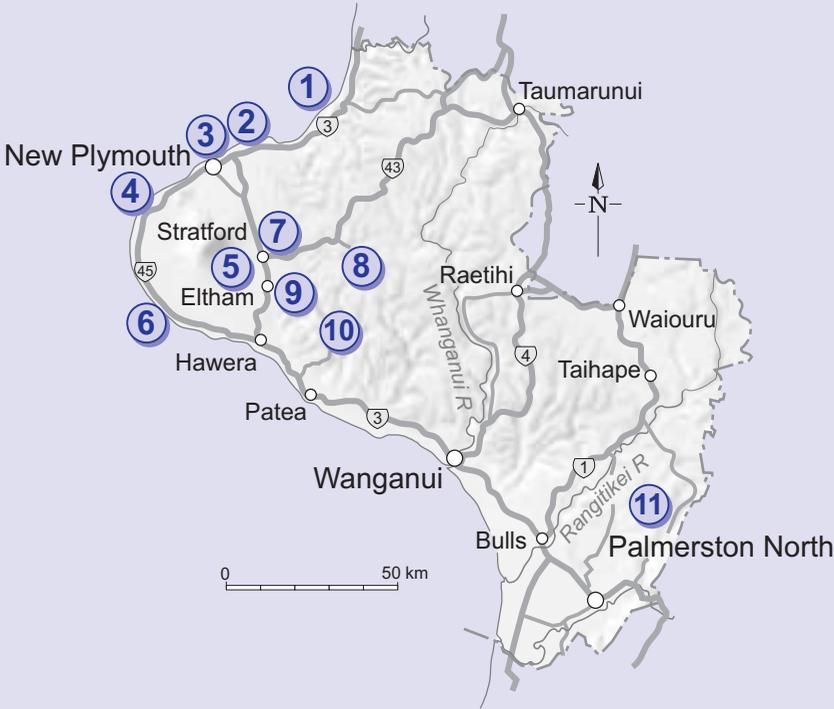
**Length:** 5.4 km (2 hours)

**Location:** Waitara, 16 km north-east of New Plymouth. Entry from Domett Street, Mayne Street or State Highway 3 river bridge.

**Classification:** Walking Track

The walk follows the perimeter of Waitara West, including the lower Waitara River stop-bank, sand dunes, and the western town boundary adjacent to rural landscape, with Mount Taranaki/Egmont in the background.

# Wanganui



### 3. *Te Henui* (New Plymouth District Council)

**Length:** East End Reserve to Cumberland Street - 3 km. Cumberland Street to Welbourne Terrace - 1.2 km. Oriental Street to East End Reserve - 3.1 km.

**Location:** Te Henui Stream, New Plymouth, about 1.7 km from city centre

**Classification:** Walking Track

The walkway starts at East End Reserve although entry or exit can be made at several points along the route. Vehicles can be driven close to the start point via either Nobs Line or Buller Street, Strandon. The walk follows the Te Henui Stream for much of its distance, passing through extensive ornamental plantings and native bush. The track ends at the intersection of Welbourne Terrace and Coronation Avenue. For those wishing to return to East End Reserve there is an alternative route through other New Plymouth District Council reserves.

### 4. *Stony River (Hangatahua)*

**Length:** 4.1 km (1.5 hours round trip)

**Location:** Okato, 25 km south-west of New Plymouth via State Highway 45. Points of entry at Old South Road (swing-bridge) or Okato Domain.

**Classification:** Walking Track

A circular route through scenic bush and farmland following the Kaihihi Stream and the Stony River (Hangatahua), with excellent views of Mt Taranaki/Egmont and the Pouakai Range.

### 5. *Cardiff Centennial* (Stratford District Council)

**Length:** 3 km (circuit return 1hour)

**Location:** Waingongoro River at Cardiff, 6 km from Stratford

**Classification:** Walking Track

The walkway has entrances/exits on each side of the riverbank on the north side of Opunake Road. The attractions are numerous and include a cliff-top lookout platform giving views of Mount Taranaki/Egmont and various mountain ranges. The walk combines the attractions of the clear river, native bush and private farmland.

## 6. Opunake *(South Taranaki District Council)*

- Length:** 7 km (up to 2.5 hours)  
**Location:** Opunake Township, 60 km south-west of New Plymouth  
**Classification:** Walking Track

Several off-street entries/exits provide for walks of varying length but the recommended start is at the boat ramp on Opunake Lake. The walkway offers a diverse range of scenery, from quiet lake and river views to the often wild and stormy coastline, the scene of many shipwrecks. Majestic Mount Taranaki/Egmont is a constant backdrop. The area has numerous interesting points of both Maori and European history and there are areas nearby to explore, such as the beach at low tide. Some sections of the walkway become waterlogged after rain.

## 7. Carrington

- Length:** 8 km (3.5 hours) circular walk  
**Location:** In Stratford town with entrances off Swansea Road and at various points in between  
**Classification:** Walking Track

The walkway follows the Patea River through native bush into which European and American species have been introduced. The mid section provides a choice of routes, which adds interest for those doing the round trip or subsequent walks. The route passes a number of interesting historic and planted attractions.

## 8. Matemateaonga

- Length:** 40 km (approximately) (4 days in either direction)  
**Location:** Eastern Taranaki between Kohi Saddle and the Whanganui River  
**Classification:** Tramping Track

On Mangaehu Road (unsealed) inland from Makahu approximately 48 km east of Stratford by road, or near the Bridge to Nowhere on the Whanganui River approximately 25 km upstream from Pipiriki. Off-road parking is provided at Kohi Saddle. Three huts provide sleeping accommodation for 10-12 people each, on a first-in first-served basis. All huts are equipped with wood burner stoves and rainwater tanks. Hut fee tickets or an annual pass must be obtained from DOC before the trip. Average walking times are:

Kohi Saddle to Omaru Hut	2 hours
Omaru Hut to Pouri Hut	5 hours
Pouri Hut to Puketotara Hut	7.5 hours
Puketotara Hut to Whanganui River	1.5 hours.

Times in the reverse direction are approximately the same. Carry a compass and map (NZMS 260 sheet R20), available from DOC, as well as a pamphlet on the walkway.

The Bridge to Nowhere is accessible only via the Whanganui River. Commercial operators provide jet-boat services from Pipiriki.

From Kohi Saddle the track climbs through secondary growth regenerating forest. Omaru Hut is situated at the head of the Omaru Stream at the base of the Matemateaonga Range. This first section of the track to Omaru Hut is well graded and easy to follow. The hut is a suitable place for a family group to stay overnight before retracing their steps the following day.

From Omaru Hut to Pouri Hut the track climbs, passing initially through tawa and mixed podocarp forest and, as altitude is gained, into what is predominantly a kamahi forest. Pockets of black beech also exist on the sandstone ridge caps. The old road from Aotuhia to Mount Humphries joins the track some two hours east of Omaru Hut and this 3 m-wide benched track is followed past Humphries Clearing to Pouri Hut. Between Omaru and Pouri Huts a side trip exists to Mt Humphries, with views of the Tongariro volcanoes and across the bush-covered ridges of Whanganui National Park.

Onward from Pouri Hut to Puketotara Hut, the track narrows as it passes Otarake Clearing and Ngapurua Shelter and descends towards the Whanganui River. The bush abounds with bird-life, including kereru (native pigeons), parakeet and long-tailed cuckoo.

## 9. *Rotokare* (South Taranaki District Council)

**Length:** 4.2 km (1.5-2 hours round trip)

**Location:** East from Eltham along Rawhitiroa Road and then along Sangster Road to Lake Rotokare

**Classification:** Walking Track

The walk starts at the Rotokare Scenic Reserve picnic area and then passes through native bush around Lake Rotokare, the "Rippling Lake", emerging on Sangster Road a few hundred metres from the starting point. Some sections can become waterlogged after rain.

## 10. *Rotorangi Hydro* (South Taranaki District Council)

**Length:** 1.5 km (1 hour)

**Location:** Adjacent to the Patea hydroelectric dam, 35 km from Patea

**Classification:** Walking Track

The walkway encircles a small promontory overlooking the Patea hydroelectric station (opened 1984) and Lake Rotorangi, formed as a result. Near the beginning the walkway crosses the dam before entering the forest, with many magnificent views across the dam and up the lake. The forest has an interesting mix of native species and this, combined with features related to the hydro works, makes for something different from almost any other walkway. Some steep sections.

## 11. *Beehive Creek*

**Length:** 3.5 km (1.5 hours)

**Location:** Pohangina Valley, about 32 km north-east of Palmerston North. The track starts at Beehive Creek bridge at the end of the tarseal on Pohangina Valley West Road with another entrance 3 km further on.

**Classification:** Tramping Track

The track follows Beehive Creek which flows down a bush-clad valley. It leaves the valley to climb through farmland and offers good views of the surrounding countryside, before returning to Pohangina Valley West Road. From here it is a 3 km walk back along the road to the start of the track. As the road is narrow and dusty, walkers are advised to either arrange to be picked up at this point or return via the track. Be prepared for wet feet as the track crosses the shallow creek numerous times. Flash flooding may occur in bad weather. If this happens, climb out of the valley on the eastern side which is closest to the road. The track is closed for lambing from 1 August to 31 October.

# Wellington

## 1. Mangaone

**Length:** 7.8 km (3 hours)

**Location:** Western foothills of the Tararua Ranges east of Waikanae/Te Horo. Access to the southern end is gained by leaving State Highway 1 at Waikanae by crossing the railway line. Follow the road for 3 km and turn left into Ngatiawa Road. Travel 1 km, turn into South Mangaone Road and continue 2 km to the car park at the beginning of the walkway. Access to the northern end is via the Te Horo Hautere Cross Road off State Highway 1 at Te Horo. Veer right at the junction with Mangaone North Road. Distance of entrance from State Highway 1 is approximately 6.5 km.

**Classification:** Walking Track/Tramping Track

This walkway traverses farmland and a stand of attractive bush including rewarewa, clematis, hinau, kahikatea, wheki, and putaputaweta. The walkway follows the Waikanae River and the Mangaone Stream.

## 2. Colonial Knob

**Length:** 9 km (3-4 hours round trip)

**Location:** Off Rahia Street, or Broken Hill Road, Porirua city

**Classification:** Walking Track

A walk through scenic reserve and pastoral land to the Colonial Knob Radio Station (468 m) from which panoramic views of Mt Taranaki/Egmont through to the Marlborough Sounds can be obtained. This walk can include a series of smaller loops.

## 3. Cannon Point *(Greater Wellington - The Regional Council)*

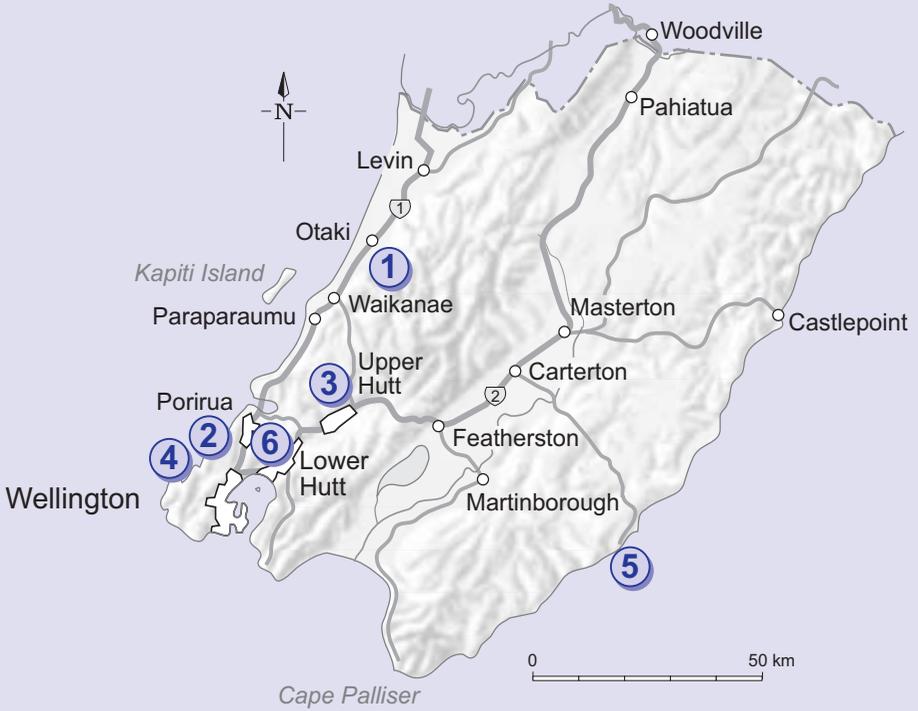
**Length:** 10 km (2-3 hours)

**Location:** Outskirts of Upper Hutt city behind Totara Park subdivision north of Hutt River

**Classification:** Walking Track

A very pleasant circular walk through areas of regenerating vegetation and native bush to the top of a prominent ridge overlooking the Hutt Valley. A shorter walk of 5 km (1.5-2 hours) can be followed directly to Cannon Point Trig.

# Wellington



## 4. Makara

- Length:** 5.4 km (3-4 hours)  
**Location:** Makara Beach in Ohariu Bay, 16 km west of Wellington  
**Classification:** Tramping Track

The walkway provides access to sheltered bays suitable for swimming and picnicking and offers the variety of coastal and farm environments. On the ridgeline above the coast, panoramic views are obtained of Cook Strait and the Marlborough Sounds. The walk passes near an old Maori pa site and remains of World War II gun emplacements.

## 5. Honeycomb Rock

- Length:** 9.1 km (5-6 hours return)  
**Location:** About 60 km east of Masterton on Glenburn Station. Follow the Gladstone Road to the Te Wharau Road junction about 1km north of Gladstone. The road is signposted to Glenburn from here and passes through Te Wharau Settlement.  
**Classification:** Walking Track

The track is entirely within the privately owned Glenburn Station. It is flat and easily negotiated, following the coastline across farmland. Honeycomb Rock is a spectacular outcrop on the Wairarapa coast, so named because of the remarkable cell-like weathering pattern which gives the rock a honeycomb appearance. Just south of the rock is the wreck of the Tuvalu, a Fijian trader which ran aground here on its maiden voyage in 1967. The track is closed for lambing from 1 August to 31 October.

## 6. Belmont *(Greater Wellington - The Regional Council)*

- Length:** Various up to 6km (total about 20 km)  
**Location:** Within Belmont Regional Park north of Wellington City. The main entrances are at Hill Road, Belmont; Takapu Road; Tawa; and Cannons Creek, Porirua  
**Classification:** Walking Track

A number of walkway sections have been created within the park over farmland between Porirua and Lower Hutt. Most cross farmland and open hill tops and are suitable for people of average fitness. Good views exist from many points. The Hill Road entrance has an information kiosk about all of the tracks. Walkways may be closed for spring lambing.

# Nelson/Marlborough

## 1. Pupu

**Length:** 2.3 km (2.5 hours return)

**Location:** 9 km from Takaka at the end of the Pupu Valley Road. Follow the road towards the Waikoropupu Springs, turning off just before the Waikoropupu River.

**Classification:** Walking Track

The walkway follows an old goldmining water-race which has been reused for power generation. Botanically the walkway is very interesting: the vegetation varies from young beech-rimu forest to mature beech-podocarp. There are also 'cold climate' plants: silver pine, mountain cedar and mountain toatoa, and a profusion of ferns.

## 2. Cable Bay

**Length:** 8 km approximately (2.5-3 hours one way)

**Location:** On the coastal hills between the Glen (Glenduan) and Cable Bay, which are 14 and 21 km respectively north-east of Nelson. Both access roads are signposted and run off SH6 in the direction of Blenheim.

**Classification:** Tramping Track

The whole of this walkway traverses private farmland and can be walked from either end. The bay was given its current name as the site of New Zealand's first telegraphic link, which came ashore on 5 February 1876. The track is mostly easy (but steep in places), has seascape views from various vantage points and passes through an attractive remnant of coastal forest.

## 3. Dun Mountain *(Nelson City Council)*

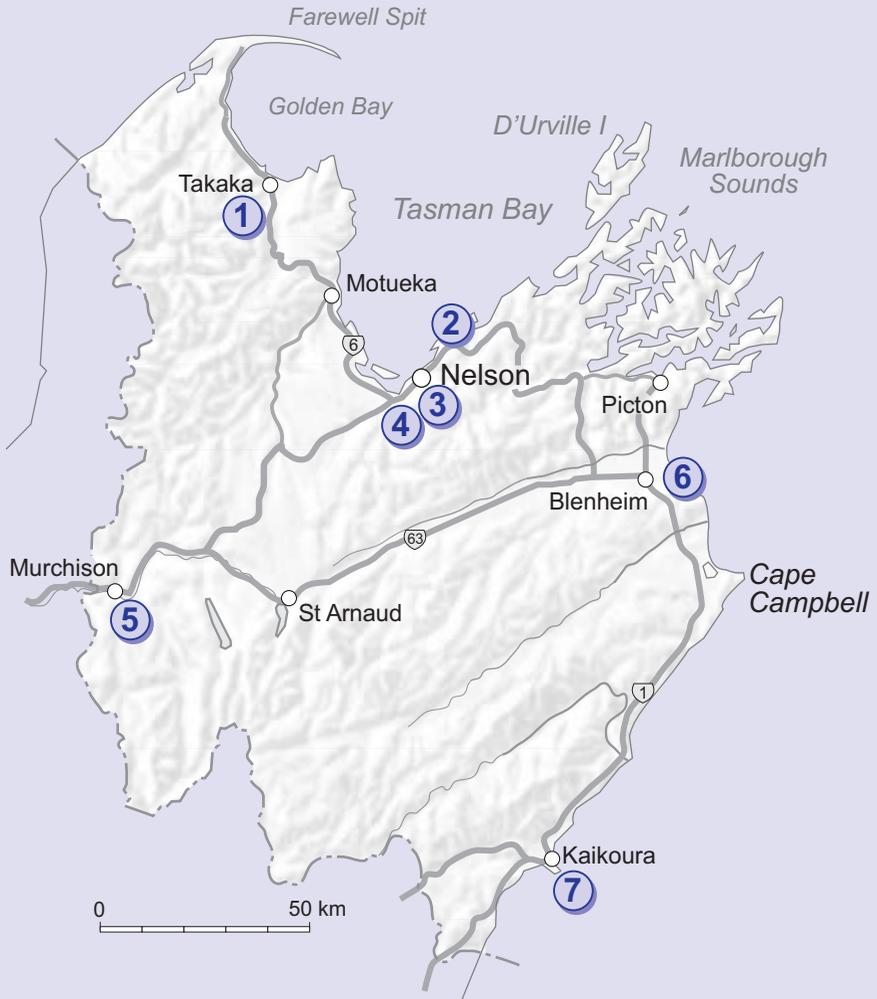
**Length:** 9.5 km (3 hours)

**Location:** In Brook Valley, 5 km south of Nelson Central Post Office

**Classification:** Walking Track

An historical walk along the route of New Zealand's first railway line. The walkway passes through native bush and open grassed areas along the Brook Valley and rises through a pine plantation to a point where views over Nelson City and its port can be obtained. A longer walk over council land takes walkers to the Dun Mountain summit. Permission should be sought from the Brook Street Camp manager before undertaking the longer walk.

# Nelson/Marlborough



## 4. *Barnicoat* (Nelson City Council)

- Length:** 6 km (3 hours)  
**Location:** In the Stoke area at a well signposted location in Marsden Valley  
**Classification:** Walking Track

The walk starts in the car park and leads off across a footbridge joining a four-wheel-drive track. After about 10 minutes the walkway diverts off to the left up a steep slope. Continue through the pine forest, which provides good views over the former Ngawhatu Hospital buildings, and on to Jenkins Hill, an area popular with paragliding enthusiasts. The effort is rewarded with great views of Mt Richmond Forest Park and Tasman Bay.

## 5. *Skyline*

- Length:** 3 km (1.5-2 hours return)  
**Location:** 1 km east of Murchison, at the junction of State Highway 6 and West Matakitaki Road  
**Classification:** Walking Track

The walk starts and finishes in the car park. It is reasonably easy if taken slowly, zigzagging up through native forest to the Skyline ridge above Murchison. Wander along the ridge for panoramic views of Murchison township and Four River Plain.

## 6. *Wairau Lagoons*

- Length:** 8 km (allow 3 hours)  
**Location:** 7 km east of Blenheim  
**Classification:** Walking Track

The circular walkway begins at the car park at the end of Harding's Road, close to an information shelter. This walk crosses a representative piece of the lagoons. It follows the Upper Lagoon, the main channel, passes the wreck of the 'Waverley' and comes to a point opposite moa-hunter sites on the Boulder Bank and the Wairau Bar. The track allows walkers to experience the diverse aspects of a wetland environment. During summer months the area becomes very warm and dry. Carry plenty of water.

## 7. *Kaikoura Peninsula*

- Length:** 3.9 km (1.5 hours)  
**Location:** South Bay and Peninsula car park (Kaimokehu), south-east of the Kaikoura township  
**Classification:** Walking Track

The Kaikoura Peninsula walkway crosses the peninsula linking South Bay and the Peninsula car park (Kaimokehu) and the township, following markers across farm-land and well-worn tracks. Information panels explain the views and tell the peninsula story. The track offers spectacular views of the coastline and Kaikoura Mountains, and the area is home to many sea birds.

# West Coast Tai Poutini

## 1. Chasm Creek

- Length:** 1 km (0.5 hour)  
**Location:** Seddonville  
**Classification:** Short Walk

This short, easy walk follows an old railway alignment, featuring a tunnel and excellent views of the Mokihinui River.

## 2. Charming Creek

- Length:** 5.5 km return (2-2 hours 45 mins one way)  
**Location:** Into the Ngakawau Gorge, 35 km north-east of Westport  
**Classification:** Walking Track

An historical walk along the route of the Charming Creek Coal Company's railway line. The walk passes through attractive native forest where the scenery is made more breathtaking by the sheer bluffs of the gorge and immense boulders in the riverbed.

## 3. Denniston

- Length:** 5 km (1-1.5 hours)  
**Location:** Extending between Waimangaroa and Denniston, 18 km north-east of Westport  
**Classification:** Walking Track

A bush walk on the original bridle track which, in early days, provided the only public access to and from Denniston. The area has a rich coal mining history and the walkway introduces the visitor to this and provides views of the Denniston Incline and the surrounding scenery.

## 4. Lyell

- Length:** 4 km (1-1.5 hours return)  
**Location:** On State Highway 7 between Nelson to Westport, 16 km north-east of Inangahua  
**Classification:** Walking Track

A bush walk of historical interest, starting at an historic reserve and taking in an old cemetery on its way to the Croesus Gold Battery.

# West Coast Tai Poutini



## 5. Cape Foulwind

<b>Length:</b>	4 km (1-1.5 hours)
<b>Location:</b>	On the coastline approximately 12 km south of Westport
<b>Classification:</b>	Walking Track (southern 400m, Short Walk standard)

A coastal walk from Cape Foulwind south to Tauranga Bay along the edge of an escarpment and over undulating grazing pasture, sandy beach and granite bluffs. Abel Tasman was the first European to sight the Cape on 14 December 1642, and to commemorate this a mounted astrolabe and interpretive display are situated on a spur overlooking Tauranga Bay. Further features include a lighthouse and a seal colony at Tauranga Bay. The seals are the northernmost breeding colony in New Zealand. Panoramic views of the Cape and sea coast are obtained from the track. On a clear day, Mount Cook may be seen.

## 6. Point Elizabeth

<b>Length:</b>	5 km (2 hours each way)
<b>Location:</b>	Approximately 7 km north of Greymouth
<b>Classification:</b>	Walking Track

This walk is located entirely within scenic reserve with views of the sea and coastline. A large section of the walkway follows an old water-race associated with a former goldmining era.

## 7a. Lake Kaniere

<b>Length:</b>	13 km (4 hours, one way)
<b>Location:</b>	Lake Kaniere, 16 km east of Hokitika
<b>Classification:</b>	Tramping Track

The Lake Kaniere walkway follows the western shores of Lake Kaniere, the central feature of a large scenic reserve. The entire walk is beneath a canopy of native forest which is broken only at the pebbly beaches of the lake. The track is suitable for people of average fitness; strong walking shoes are required. Return transport is necessary because the start and finish of the walkway are 10 km apart by road.

## 7b. Kaniere Water-race

<b>Length:</b>	10 km (3.5-4 hours, one way)
<b>Location:</b>	Lake Kaniere, east of Hokitika
<b>Classification:</b>	Walking Track

This walkway follows a working water-race through native bush from Lake Kaniere to a small hydroelectric power station at Kaniere Forks. The race has a long history associated with goldmining and supplying water for power.

## 8. Mahinapua

**Length:** 7 km (2 hours) one way

**Location:** Off the Old State Highway 6, 14 km south of Hokitika, or State Highway 6, 9km south of Hokitika at Mananui

**Classification:** Walking Track

The walkway passes through areas of native bush and managed Mahinapua forest. It follows a former sawmill tramline and passes the runs of two abandoned mills. Those wishing for a shorter walk can take a side track which leads to Picnic Point on the shores of Lake Mahinapua, from the Old State Highway 6 end of the track.

## 9. Ross

**Length:** 1.2 km (1 hour)

**Location:** Ross, 34 km south of Hokitika

**Classification:** Walking Track

A visitor centre at the start of the walkway, in the township, provides some interesting background information on the history of the Ross goldfields. The walk ends at the Mount Greenland Road which can be used for the return trip to Ross if desired. The track follows the remains of a network of water-races which supplied water to the sluicing operations of the goldfields. It passes a number of interesting relics of the gold rush of 1865, and features panoramic views and regenerating bush. Care should be taken not to deviate from the track as hidden mine shafts are a danger.

## 10. St James

See Canterbury section

# Canterbury

## 1. *St James*

**Length:** 65 km (4 to 5 days)

**Location:** Off the Lewis Pass Road (State Highway 7), either at the top of the Lewis Pass near the car park and picnic area or near the Boyle Settlement, about 15km on the Canterbury side of the pass

**Classification:** Tramping Track

The St James was the first walkway to be established in a subalpine area. It is situated mostly within Lewis Pass National Reserve and St James Station and meanders through pastoral and forested country, featuring diverse scenery and vegetation. The walkway passes through four valleys, connected by passes. Five huts are strategically located to provide overnight accommodation. Although the track can be walked from either end, it is better to start at the Lewis Pass because of topography and weather. The walkway is suitable for both beginner and experienced trampers but a reasonable standard of fitness and appropriate equipment are required. The track should not generally be attempted during the winter, when it can be closed by snow and avalanches. It is strongly recommended that a brochure and map of the walkway be obtained. Contact the Hurunui Visitor Centre (Hanmer Springs) or the Reefton Visitor Centre or DOC, Christchurch. Details of the daily bus services to the area are also available.

## 2. *Port Robinson*

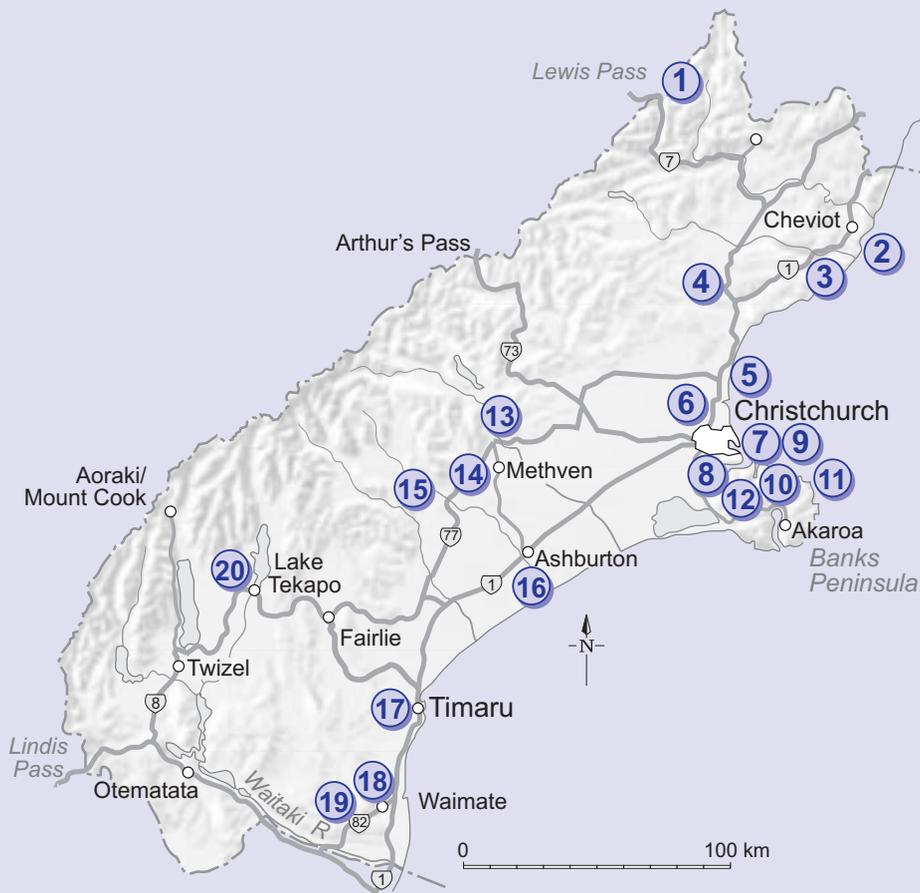
**Length:** 3 km (1.75 hours)

**Location:** On the coast between Manuka Bay, approximately 12 km south-east of Cheviot and the Hurunui Rivermouth, 8 km south-east of Domett on State Highway 1, 80 km north of Christchurch

**Classification:** Walking Track

The walkway runs along a coastal strip, passing through spectacular scenery and forested scenic reserves which are close to the eastern and southern limits of a number of plant species and have strong populations of native birds. The headland, about mid-point, provides views both north and south. Near the southern end good views are gained of the river mouth and lagoon, a haven for fishing. The track can be walked from either end. Until recently the track stretched a further 1.5 hours north past Gibson Point to Gore Bay. Safety and maintenance problems mean that this section is no longer maintained as part of the walkway.

# Canterbury



Please note that part of the Port   
Robinson Walkway is closed - any   
inquiries should be directed to the   
Department of Conservation's North   
Canterbury Area Office (03) 371 3706.

### 3. *Greta Valley* (Local Community)

- Length:** 1.8 km (approx 2 hours)  
**Location:** From State Highway 1 at Greta Valley Village, approximately 100 km north of Christchurch and 25 km south of Cheviot  
**Classification:** Walking Track

A loop track leads to a panoramic viewpoint about 500 metres above sea level, via a four-wheel-drive track for much of the way and benched on steeper terrain. The land is farmed (privately owned) and supports tussock and some native shrubs. The commanding vistas are of the surrounding countryside and an extensive deer farming complex.

### 4. *Weka Pass* (DOC/Local Community)

- Length:** 2.3 km (1.5 hours return)  
**Location:** Waikari township (Princess Street) just off State Highway 7, approximately 55 km north of Christchurch  
**Classification:** Walking Track

The walkway follows a disused railway line for about 800 metres and then leads up a hillside through farmed paddocks to an historic reserve which contains a series of Maori rock drawings. The route offers panoramic views over the limestone countryside and beyond.

### 5. *Pegasus Bay* (Waimakiriri District Council/ Local Community)

- Length:** 3.0 km (45 minutes)  
**Location:** Between Kaiapoi, 15 km north of Christchurch, and Pines Beach  
**Classification:** Walking Track

The walkway follows the top of the floodbank on the north side of the Kaiapoi River. The track from Kaiapoi passes through gardens and the urban area and then achieves views of the river and farmland. Between Saltwater Creek and Pines Beach, river and sea views dominate, often with boating activity. Until recently the walkway included much longer beach sections from Pines Beach to Woodend and on to Waikuku. These sections are still available for public access (with some deviations) but are no longer maintained as part of the walkway.

## 6. *Waimairi* (Christchurch City Council)

**Length:** Approximately 5 km return (1.5 hours)

**Location:** The Groynes recreation area and adjacent farmland, near Belfast, approximately 7 km from central Christchurch

**Classification:** Short Walk/Walking Track

The walkway follows the south branch of the Waimakariri River, following an irrigation channel part of the way before veering across paddocks. The track passes down an avenue of poplars and continues across the farmland until it reaches Darroch Street, which provides alternative access between the Main North Road and the walkway. A return route exists from the eastern end of Darroch Street.

## 7. *Barnett Park* (Christchurch City Council)

**Length:** 4 km (1.2 hours)

**Location:** Off the Main Road at Redcliffs, 9 km from central Christchurch

**Classification:** Walking Track

The walkway is a loop formation around the valley. Near the head an impressive three-tier staircase provides access to a large rock shelter. Several such shelters and caves are found in the park. At the head of the valley is a small area of native bush. The valley has interesting volcanic cliffs and outcrops and offers views of the coast.

## 8. *Crater Rim* (Christchurch City Council)

**Length:** 17 km in three sections (7 hours total)

**Location:** On the Port Hills above Christchurch City

**Classification:** Walking Track

One section runs up a side spur to the Summit Road from the Sign of the Takahe, a distance of 3.2 km (1 hour). The walkway runs both north and south from here along the summit ridge. The northern section is nearly 7 km (3 hours) and ends at the Bridle Path, an historic route between the port town of Lyttelton and Christchurch. The southern section is of similar length and time and ends at Coopers Knob Scenic Reserve. The walkway passes through a mixture of modified tussock grassland and short sections of native forest, interspersed with volcanic rock outcrops. Extensive and spectacular views over the city, the Canterbury Plains to the Southern Alps and also over Lyttelton Harbour make for a very popular walkway. Several entry/exit points allow for walks of varying length.

## 9a. Mount Herbert

**Length:** 14 km (6-8 hours)

**Location:** Access from either Diamond Harbour or Charteris Bay, on the south side of Lyttleton Harbour 30 km from Christchurch. A ferry service operates between Lyttleton and Diamond Harbour

**Classification:** Walking Track/Tramping Track

Both legs of this semi-circular walkway climb to Mount Herbert (920 metres) and a public shelter. The track can be walked from either end and as a complete trip or to the summit and return by the same route. The Charteris Bay leg is largely through Orton Bradley Park, a mixture of vegetation and built facilities. The other leg is open tussock grassland farms. The walkway offers spectacular views of the harbour and, from the summit, beyond to the Alps and the coast. The volcanic geology and native plant remnants, especially the nearby Mount Herbert Scenic Reserve, add to the interest.

## 9b. Mount Herbert (Port Levy Saddle Section)

**Length:** 7.4 km (2 hours)

**Location:** From the summit of Mount Herbert to a saddle on the Little River/Port Levy Road, approximately 45 km south-east of Christchurch

**Classification:** Tramping Track

Although this section can be walked from either of the other sections of the Mount Herbert Walkway (Diamond Harbour or Orton Bradley Park), distances and transport logistics means that it is commonly walked as a return trip from the Port Levy Saddle. Most of the route follows the unformed Summit Road and offers excellent views of Kaituna Valley, Lake Ellesmere (Te Waihora) and Kaitorete Spit. Near the summit of Mount Herbert the track offers spectacular views of the harbour and at the summit, beyond to the Alps and the coast.

## 10. Summit (Port Levy Saddle to Hilltop)

**Length:** 15 km (5 hours)

**Location:** Between the Port Levy/Little River Road (at the end of walkway 9b) and the Hilltop near State Highway 75 (Christchurch-Akaroa)

**Classification:** Tramping Track

This walkway is an extension of the Mount Herbert Walkway, along the main ridge linking the Lyttleton and Akaroa craters. It can be walked from either end and passes through a mixture of open tussock grassland with evidence of the earlier forest cover and through or near four forested scenic reserves. Extensive and impressive views exist, particularly to the south towards Little River and Lake Forsyth (Wairewa).

## 11. Pigeon Bay

**Length:** 8 km (5 hours return)

**Location:** At the roadend, Pigeon Bay, on the north side of Banks Peninsula, about 90 km from Christchurch and 18 km from Akaroa

**Classification:** Tramping Track

The walkway crosses private farmland, above and following the coast on the eastern side of Pigeon Bay to Wakaroa Point. Much of the walkway is on a four-wheel-drive track of easy grade. Impressive views across the bay and sea cliffs are the main features. There are some interesting remnant native plants near the track. The walkway is normally closed during the spring lambing period.

## 12. Kaituna-Packhorse

**Length:** 4 km (2 hours)

**Location:** Kaituna Valley, Banks Peninsula, approximately 35 km east of Christchurch. Access is from State Highway 75 (Christchurch-Akaroa) or from the Mount Herbert Walkway.

**Classification:** Walking Track/Tramping Track

The walkway climbs through private farmland and native forest remnants from the valley floor to near the historic Packhorse Hut (DOC-managed). During the climb there are good views of Kaituna Valley and Lake Ellesmere (Te Waihora) and excellent views of Mounts Bradley and Herbert. At the top, views of Lyttleton Harbour, the crater rim and Quail Island and beyond are spectacular. The walkway is normally closed during spring lambing.

## 13. Rakaia Gorge

**Length:** 5km (3-4 hours return)

**Location:** Upstream of the Rakaia Gorge bridge on State Highway 72, some 75 km from Christchurch and 11 km from Methven

**Classification:** Walking Track

This walkway offers several unique features of geological and historic interest. The route passes through forest and shrub communities to an historic ferryman's cottage site, home guard fortification site and old coal mines with visible shafts. There are fine views of the gorge. A jet boat landing point is used by boat transport which operates on the river.

## 14. Methven

- Length:** 9 km (3 hours)  
**Location:** On the outskirts of Methven township, 84 km west of Christchurch  
**Classification:** Walking Track

The walkway commences near the Methven racecourse and then follows a water protection reserve, through a plantation to developed farmland and along the Rangitata Diversion Canal to the Ashburton River. There are great views of the Southern Alps. Some sections may be closed periodically for farming operations.

## 15. Mount Somers

- Length:** 14.5 km (approximately 10 hours)  
**Location:** The northern end (Sharplin Falls Scenic Reserve) is 110 km south-west of Christchurch, 19 km from Methven and 3km from Staveley on State Highway 72. The southern (Woolshed Creek) entrance is through Mount Somers Township on State Highway 72 and 10.5 km up the Ashburton Gorge Road to the 3.5 km access road.  
**Classification:** Tramping Track/Route

This is the second of the two subalpine walkways in Canterbury (the other being the St James). Mount Somers comprises extensive volcanic formations and contains major fault lines. The minerals of the area are very interesting and remnants of exploration can be seen. The walkway passes through a variety of plant communities, including beech forest and alpine vegetation which provides habitat for the New Zealand falcon. Two huts are available for walkers. Safety is an important factor on this walkway and streams can be impassable at times due to high rainfall.

## 16. Ashburton

- Length:** Approximately 5.5 km in two sections  
**Location:** On the north bank of the Ashburton River. One section (approximately 5 km) runs downstream from near the State Highway 1 bridge in Ashburton town. The other is about 500 metres long, upstream of the Hakatere settlement near the river mouth and about 20 km from Ashburton.  
**Classification:** Walking Track

The upper section, on the edge of the town, passes a metal quarry, sports fields and a scout camp. The track leads through willows with occasional glimpses of the river. It ends at Cochranes Road, which can be used with Beach Road to complete a circuit and return to the start point. The Hakatere section follows a terrace top from a fishing settlement and affords good views of the river, lagoon and sea.

## 17. Timaru City *(Timaru District Council)*

- Length:** In three sections - Centennial Park, 3.5 km (1.25 hours); Dashing Rocks, 3 km (1 hour); Redruth-Caledonian, 2.5 km (45 minutes)
- Location:** All close to Timaru
- Classification:** Walking Track

Centennial Park - This walk starts at the old Gleniti School, descends a bank to the North Otupua Stream and passes through willows to join with an old railway line. It follows this railway line round a steep bluff through a paddock and some trees, following along the stream and then emerging into open pasture. The track then winds up to the Bowker gates at the park entrance.

Dashing Rocks - This section starts at the northern car park on Caroline Bay, proceeds over Benvenue Cliffs and the rocky Waimataitai Beach to Dashing Rocks, and is a 30-minute round trip. Features coastal views and an interesting history.

Redruth-Caledonian - From State Highway 1 the walk follows the stopbank on the northern side of Saltwater Creek, past an area of extensive low-lying flats. The walkway then crosses the creek and a pedestrian crossing on the Main South Railway Line and follows the top of the beach to the Caledonian grounds.

## 18. Waimate *(Waimate District Council)*

- Length:** 2.3 km (2.5 hours return)
- Location:** 2 km west of Waimate
- Classification:** Walking Track

The walkway commences near the Te Kiteroa Rest Home on Point Bush Road. The route climbs through farmland to meet an old logging track and then follows gradually round a steep hillside, passing through an area of bush and emerging into a small gully on the main ridge. From this point the track follows a grassed ridge and leads through a pine plantation to the "White Horse", a stone art piece which can be seen from a long distance. From here there is a panoramic view of Waimate and surrounding countryside.

## 19. Waihao *(Waimate District Council)*

- Length:** 3.6 km return (1.5 hours)
- Location:** Off State Highway 82 near Waihao Forks in the Waimate Gorge, 13 km south-west of Waimate
- Classification:** Tramping Track

The route follows the south bank of the Waihao River with striking limestone outcrops characterising much of the pastoral scenery. The area also has interesting natural and human history. There is car parking at either end of the walkway. A nearby camping area, a popular swimming hole and fishing opportunities are features.

## 20. Tekapo

**Length:** In five distinct sections - Mount John direct route 2.5 km (1.5 hours return); Mount John via Lakeshore 5.5 km (3.0 hours one way); Domain Walk 2.5 km (45 minutes); Cowans Hill 2.6 km (1.5 hours); Pines Beach 2.8 km (1 hour); Lake George Scott 4.5 km (1.5–2 hours return).

**Location:** All sections commence from or near Lake Tekapo township on State Highway 8, 104 km north-west of Timaru

**Classification:** Walking Track

*Mount John routes* - Both connect to a circular track below the summit and can be walked separately or together. The direct route commences near the skating rink on the south-west shore of Lake Tekapo and climbs through a larch forest to open tussock grasslands. The lake shore route initially follows a four-wheel-drive track from the skating rink and then runs about 50 metres above the lake for about 2 km before climbing steeply onto the north shoulder of Mount John and swinging southwards towards the summit. Magnificent views of the lake and expansive countryside are gained from the 1000-metre summit area.

*Domain Walk* - A pleasant lakeside walk which links the Main Road bridge with the Mount John tracks at the skating rink.

*Cowans Hill* - The track can be walked either from the Main Road bridge or from the car park on the state highway about 3 km east of the township. The walk passes through the plantation at the back of the village and out onto open tussockland and a scientific reserve. Expansive views exist.

*Pines Beach* - Can be accessed from the Cowans Hill car park or from near the church on the lakeshore. This is an easy walk through a mixture of forested conifers and along the lakeshore where water birds are often seen.

*The Lake George Scott loop* - Begins and ends at the Main Road bridge. This is a walk along the top of a river terrace, through a mixture of larch forest and open grassland to the lake. The return route provides views over the hydroelectric canal.

# Otago

## 1. Leith Saddle

**Length:** 3 km (3.5 hours return)

**Location:** Waitati Valley Road near the junction with the Dunedin Northern Motorway and Leith Valley Road

**Classification:** Tramping Track

The track rises steeply at first as it passes through cedar forest and emerges into the tussock and peat country of Swampy Summit. From here there are panoramic views and access to other nearby tracks. Good boots and storm clothing are strongly recommended.

## 2. Silverpeaks

**Length:** 12 km round trip (5 hours); 16 km through trip (8 hours)

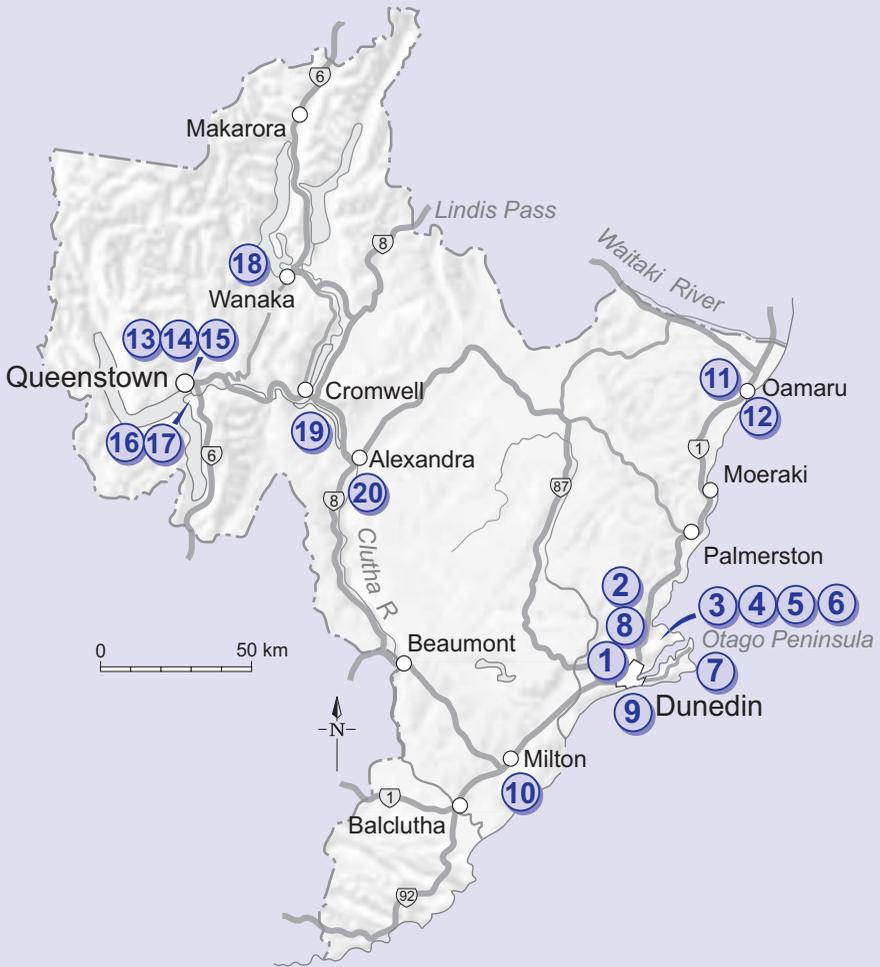
**Location:** West of Waitati, 25 km north of Dunedin. Start and finish from State Highway 1 near Waitati, via Double Hill Road and Semple Road.

**Classification:** Route

The Silverpeaks Route is a tramp over rough hillcountry, through forest and tussockland. The route is rugged and trampers should leave notice of their intentions. The route through Silverpeaks follows the main backbone ridge between the catchments of the Taieri and Waikouaiti rivers. There are numerous coves in this area, and one of these, in the late 1950s, was home to a hermit, an experienced trumper who felt the need to escape city life. The Silverpeaks were well known to the Maori who used the ridges to travel between Waitati and the interior. From as early as the 1850s, the ridge system provided access to Dunedin from the north. The 50-km Snow Mountain horse track connected Waikouaiti and Dunedin.

Take strong boots, woollen clothes, waterproof outer clothing, woollen hat, and mittens. Take some food and carry water: on the open ridge tops, water supplies are sometimes kilometres apart. Be aware that mist can gather suddenly.

# Otago



### 3. Pineapple-Flagstaff

**Length:** 5 km (2 hours)

**Location:** Dunedin, from car park off the Flagstaff-Whare Flat Road to Booth Road or vice versa. Dunedin City Transport "Glenleith Extension" bus to Booth Road.

**Classification:** Walking Track

A walk along part of the Dunedin's skyline with views of the city and Taieri Plains. The name, Pineapple Track, was adopted by parties of trampers on this route who rested at the top of a steep section to refresh themselves with tins of pineapple, often leaving the tins hanging in trees or on a fence. In places the walkway deviates from the original track to provide more scenic variation.

### 4. Swampy Ridge

**Length:** 3 km (1.5 hours)

**Location:** Dunedin, via Pineapple-Flagstaff Walk, Flagstaff, or from Semple Road via Double Hill Road, Waitati. Dunedin City Transport "Glenleith Extension" bus to Booth Road (to Pineapple-Flagstaff Walk).

**Classification:** Tramping Track

This walkway serves as a link between the Flagstaff-Pineapple Walk and the Silverpeaks Route. It crosses the 739 m-high Swampy Summit. By the four-wheel-drive track a vivid red soil can be seen: this is a baked volcanic ash, found near Dunedin and used as a pigment by the Maori. Takou is the Maori name for red ochre. Hence the name Otakou (the place of the red ochre) from which Otago derives its name. The road passes peat swamps that once trapped man and moas alike. Moa gizzard stones can be found here but other animal remains seem to disappear in the acidic soil and water. The track cuttings expose logs and stumps, evidence of the forest once covering these hills. Strong boots, woollen clothes, and waterproof gear are necessary.

### 5. Mount Cargill

**Length:** 4 km (2 hours up, 1.5 hours down)

**Location:** Dunedin, from car park in Bethunes Gully off Norwood Street to Mount Cargill summit or vice versa. Dunedin City Transport "Normanby" bus to start off Norwood Street, North East Valley.

**Classification:** Walking Track

A walk from the Bethunes Gully picnic area or vice versa, traversing native bush and plantations with views of the city and surrounding countryside. In Maori legend the three peaks of Mount Cargill represent the petrified head, body, and feet of a princess of an early Otakou tribe. The mount was known to the Maori community as Kopuka-tau-mohoka. Following European settlement it took the name of the lay leader of the Otago colonials – Captain William Cargill. A succession of owners held

the gully until 1878 when David Bethune purchased the 18 hectares and began a dramatic transformation. He established a sawmill and built a brick kiln just outside the gully gate. In 1884, Bethune went bankrupt. In 1930 the property was sold to Dunedin city and within 3 years it became part of a major tree planting scheme. Take warm clothing to counter prevailing high winds on the summit.

## 6. Organ Pipes

**Length:** 3 km (return) (1 hour return trip from old Mount Cargill Road car park); (1.5 hours return trip from Mount Cargill summit car park)

**Location:** Dunedin, from car parks near Mount Zion Quarry, Old Main Road to Waitati or Mount Cargill Summit or via Mount Cargill Walk (from Bethunes Gully)

**Classification:** Walking Track

The Organ Pipes, the main feature of the walk, are about 10 million years old. They are an example of columnar jointing in volcanic rock. The joins or cracks were formed during cooling of lava that flowed across Mount Cargill in the latest period of volcanic activity in the Dunedin area. A laval crust cooled quickly and solidified over the molten rock. As rock is a very poor conductor of heat, the liquid within then cooled very slowly. As the rock cooled, solidified and contracted it was subjected to tension in horizontal and vertical directions. This could only be relieved by cracking and this led to the formation of the columns. The size and shape of the columns was controlled by a number of factors: lava temperature and uniformity, and the rate and regularity of cooling. The slower the cooling, the shorter and thicker the columns and the more they approached a perfect hexagonal shape.

## 7. Aramoana

**Length:** 2.5 km (45 minutes)

**Location:** From the Dunedin-Aramoana Road on the edge of Aramoana settlement

**Classification:** Walking Track

The walkway initially climbs steeply and sidles across farmland, presenting sweeping views over Taiaoroa Head, Otago Peninsula and the harbour entrance. The route follows the coast to Heyward Point Scenic Reserve, a significant remnant coastal forest, from which vast views to the north can be appreciated.

## 8. *Grahams Bush*

- Length:** 3 km (1.5 hours one way)  
**Location:** About 10 km north-east of Dunedin; access from Mount Cargill Road, and from Hall Road in Sawyers Bay  
**Classification:** Walking Track

The walkway passes through native kamahi and podocarp-broadleaved forest. This pretty walk gives access to Grahams Bush Scenic Reserve via private land.

## 9. *Tunnel Beach*

- Length:** 1.5 km (1 hour return trip)  
**Location:** Dunedin, from the car park at the seaward end of Green Island Bush Road, off Blackhead Road. Public transport is available.  
**Classification:** Walking Track

This is the shortest and least strenuous of the Dunedin walkways but undoubtedly possesses the most breathtakingly spectacular scenery. It is a coastal walk, descending a line of sea cliffs south of St Clair where the wild Pacific breakers have carved sheer headlands, sea stacks and arches, and the wind has sculptured shapes. At Tunnel Beach, the rock is seen in detail. Careful examination will reveal shell fragments and possibly a fossil such as a brachiopod shell or echinoderm (sea urchin) or even bones of an extinct whale. At the top of the tunnel and on the promontories, the rock supports a community of soil-resistant species including Austral spleenwort. The tunnel was created in the 1870s by workmen employed by John Cargill, a son of Captain William Cargill. The Cargill families found seclusion and shelter on the beach at the foot of the tunnel steps. Children must be closely supervised on the unfenced coastal cliffs. The walkway is closed for lambing from 20 August to 20 October.

## 10. *McNally*

- Length:** 7 km return (2.25 hours return)  
**Location:** End of Cemetery Road, 2 km from the centre of Milton  
**Classification:** Tramping Track

The McNally walkway provides an open country hike, particularly beautiful from spring through to late summer when the many flowering plants and shrubs make a colourful display. The walkway begins just beyond the outskirts of Milton and climbs to a hilltop 317 metres above sea level, along a route walked many times by Tom McNally, the long serving and popular Milton policeman after whom the walkway was named. A plane table on the crest of the hill identifies many of the surrounding visible features. Much of the track crosses rolling pasture. The land is privately owned.

## 11. Skyline

**Length:** 4 km (1.5 hours)

**Location:** Oamaru, beginning opposite Fenwick Park (Chelmer St) or, at the other end, Orana Park (Thames St)

**Classification:** Walking Track

From the Fenwick Park end the walkway climbs to a ridge on Hospital Hill Reserve overlooking a large historic waterwheel. The track passes close to the astronomical observatory. Further on, a side track leads to a rich and interesting fossil site. Another site is passed further along the main walkway, which later leads through native bush reserves and open land with panoramic views.

## 12. South Hill

**Length:** Eastern section (Cape Wanbrow Lighthouse) 2 km (30 minutes return); western section (town centre and gardens and southern return route) 6.5km (2 hours return)

**Location:** Oamaru, from King George Park

**Classification:** Short Walk/Walking Track

Both sections officially start and finish at King George Park, but the western section in particular can be commenced and finished at any number of points. The Lookout Point (eastern) section gives great views north over Oamaru, the harbour and Waitaki plains. The track leads to a lighthouse, World War 2 gun emplacement and cannon dating back to the Russian scare of the 1880s. The western section passes through the historic precinct of the town and through the gardens and several parks. An alternative return route to the south provides further variation.

## 13. Ben Lomond

**Length:** 10 km return (5-6 hours return)

**Location:** Queenstown, from Lomond Terrace, via Skyline access road

**Classification:** Tramping Track

Initially the track passes through a mixed forest of mountain beech with several extensive intrusions of Douglas fir. This fir is of European origin and was first planted in the Wakatipu district to enhance an otherwise treeless landscape. On leaving the forest the track continues on the western side of the ridge leading to the saddle. A short distance above the bushline is an alkathene pipe. A tap in the pipeline provides water – the last source before the summit. Snow tussock grassland predominates until the Lomond Saddle is reached. Here the remains of an old Government hut lie strewn over the ground near the track. Wear strong walking shoes. Take warm clothing and wet weather gear as sudden changes in conditions are common near the summit.

## 14. One Mile Creek

- Length:** 2.5 km return (50 minutes return)  
**Location:** Queenstown, from Thompson Street or One Mile Creek outlet on the lake front  
**Classification:** Walking Track

A well-graded walk leads up this narrow gully to the old dam, once a part of Queenstown's first hydroelectric supply – the focus of the walk. For most of its length the walkway follows the line of the old water pipeline, first through heavily modified bush consisting of wineberry and fuchsia, complete with dripping ferns – an unexpected sight in Central Otago. It continues through a Douglas fir plantation before passing into silver beech forest in the gorge. The dam and pipeline were constructed in 1924 as part of an electricity generating scheme. The dam, 150 m above Lake Wakatipu, is a radius dam constructed of 250 tonnes of concrete reinforced with steel.

## 15. Queenstown Hill

- Length:** 4 km return (3 hours return)  
**Location:** Queenstown, from Kent Street, 500 metres from the town centre  
**Classification:** Walking Track

The exotic trees lining much of this walkway make it quite different from the more typical walks in New Zealand. Higher up, in an area of burnt manuka, a plaque has been laid bearing the Maori name for the hill, Te Topu-nui. The summit offers delightful views towards Coronet Peak, Lake Hayes and the Crown Range. Evidence of glacial action can be seen on Cecil Peak in the form of deep “scratches” (striations) along the mountain slopes. Wear strong walking shoes because much of the track is on rock. Take warm clothing as protection from possible wind at the summit.

## 16. Frankton Arm

- Length:** 5 km each way (1.5 hours each way)  
**Location:** Queenstown, north side of Frankton Arm. At Queenstown – end of Peninsula Street; at Frankton – north end of Frankton Recreation Reserve on lake front. An H&H Motors bus runs three times a day between Queenstown and Frankton.  
**Classification:** Walking Track

The walk along the shore of Lake Wakatipu provides a pleasant alternative to driving from Queenstown to Frankton or vice versa. The return trip could be combined with a visit to the Kawarau Falls Dam and bridge, and a swim in the lake at the Frankton end, or with a few hours spent wandering through the Queenstown Gardens. Frankton Arm and the Remarkables provide an impressive backdrop for the entire length of the walk. The Kawarau Falls Dam was a gold mining venture

that proved to be a failure. It now provides access to Kelvin Heights and carries the main highway to Kingston and Lumsden.

## 17. Kelvin Peninsula

- Length:** 6 km (1 to 1.5 hours one way)  
**Location:** Queenstown, Kelvin Peninsula  
**Classification:** Walking Track

The walkway can be commenced from either end - Willow Place at the eastern end or the golf course at the western end. The track provides a leisurely walk along the lakeside with pleasant views across the water to Queenstown and the hills behind.

## 18. Waterfall Creek

- Length:** 5.3 km (1.5 hours)  
**Location:** Wanaka, start/end on the left-hand side of Roy's Bay  
**Classification:** Walking Track/Tramping Track

The track follows the shoreline around Lake Wanaka to Waterfall Creek and beyond via terraces and several small bays to a high point near Damper Bay, giving good views of Wanaka township and the lake.

## 19. Long Gully

- Length:** 6 km (4 hours return) (allow extra time to explore conservation area)  
**Location:** From the Bannockburn Sluicing Historic Reserve, either off Felton Road or Hall Road, south-west of Cromwell  
**Classification:** Tramping Track

The track heads uphill behind the Stewart Town buildings to a yellow marked stile and follows yellow markers to a farm access track in the gully, then leads up a steep spur and eventually to the conservation area boundary. Some dramatic rock bluff landscapes and views of the Clutha Valley, Lake Dunstan and Pisa Range exist. There is a rich variety of native shrubland, tussockland, ferns and herbs. The New Zealand falcon may be seen. The walkway passes over Kawerau and Mt Difficulty stations. The walkway is closed for lambing from 1 October to 30 November.

## 20. Lake Roxburgh

**Length:** 10 km (8 hours return)

**Location:** Begins and finishes at the end of Graveyard Gully Road, 2.25km south of Alexandra

**Classification:** Walking Track/Tramping Track

The walkway is entirely within the Lake Roxburgh Gorge. It begins at the Graveyard Gully monument and follows an old bridle track. The track is quite rough, having been inundated with rockfalls over the years. The area contains a fascinating landscape of relics from the gold mining days of the 1880s, with shelters, huts, water-races and various workings. The gorge contains the largest number and the best preserved examples of Chinese rock shelters in Otago. In summer, conditions can be very hot and water must be carried.

# Southland

## 1. *Mavora-Greenstone* (DOC/Passing through Elfin Bay Station)

**Length:** 51 km (3-4 days)

**Location:** Northern entrance at the Greenstone River, 81 km from Queenstown via Glenorchy. Southern entrances - (1) at the north Mavora Lake, 148 km from Invercargill via Mossburn and Centre Hill; (2) 75 km from Te Anau via Haycocks.

**Classification:** Tramping Track

A backcountry route following the Mararoa River Valley from the North Mavora Lake to the Greenstone River mouth at Lake Wakatipu via the Pass Burn Saddle. The route offers variety in landform and scenery, from the expanse of tussock country topped by shale and rock in the Mararoa Valley to the heavily bush-clad confines of the Greenstone. It is an easy tramp but should be treated with caution because of unpredictable weather conditions and wide fluctuations in temperature which can occur with little warning. Huts and bridges are strategically located to provide overnight accommodation and access. The walkway is closed from June to October because of weather conditions. Four-wheel-drive vehicles, horse riders and mountain bikers may be encountered on this track.

## 2. *Croydon Bush* (DOC/Gore District Council)

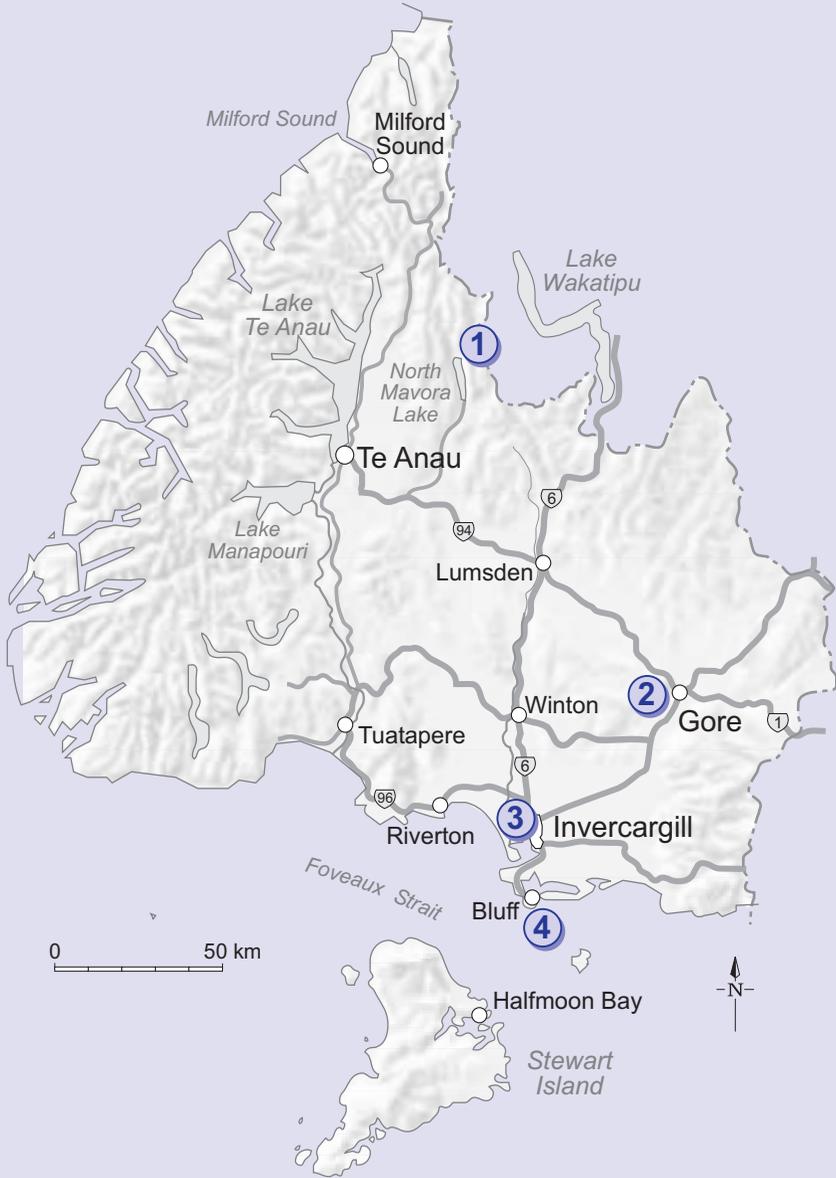
**Length:** 5.7 km total

**Location:** 8 km north-west of Gore at Dolamore Park

**Classification:** Walking Track

The walkway is entirely within Croydon Bush Scenic Reserve which contains important remnants of the “original” vegetation of the district. Its largely unspoiled podocarp forest is the best in this section of the Hokonui Hills. Three separate walks highlight the bush, a water fall, and panoramic views of the Gore, Mataura, and Edendale areas. There are picnic facilities at the park.

# Southland



### 3. *Waihopai Embankment* (Invercargill City Council)

**Length:** 2.8 km (1 hour one way)

**Location:** Within Invercargill city limits, 2.7 km from the city centre. Starts and finishes at the northern end of Racecourse Road alongside the Waihopai River or at the Waihopai River bridge on the Main North Road (Dee Street). The walkway can also be joined where it crosses Queens Drive, at the midpoint of the walk.

**Classification:** Walking Track

The walkway follows both banks of the Waihopai River from its intersection with Dee Street. The walk can be one-way, along either bank of the river, or a round trip. The walkway links to tracks within Thompson's Bush (Waihopai Scenic Reserve). The route provides an easy and pleasant stroll, initially along the old watercourse on the edge of the developed area and later through open farmland and past derelict sheds which were twine spinning mills of the late 1800s.

### 4. *Foveaux* (DOC/Invercargill City Council)

**Length:** 6.6 km (2.5 hours) plus Glory Track, 1.5 km (30 minutes)

**Location:** 1 km south of Bluff Postal Centre and 30 km from Invercargill. Entrances from Stirling Point at the end of State Highway 1 or Ocean Beach. Glory Track entrance at the end of Gunpit Road.

**Classification:** Walking Track

The walkway consists of two separate but connected trails on Bluff Hill Peninsula. Both traverse a wide variety of vegetation, including native bush (with a variety of native birds), coastal scrub and privately-owned farmland. There are views of Foveaux Strait and Stewart Island, as well as wave-beaten rocks and beaches. After the walk, which almost circumnavigates the peninsula, a visit to the top of Bluff Hill is worthwhile for an extensive panoramic view.

# Notes

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