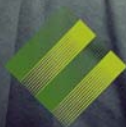




# walking tracks

of the western bay



**Western Bay of Plenty  
District Council**



## What a great place to enjoy walking!

THERE'S no easier or more pleasurable way to enjoy the great outdoors of the western Bay of Plenty than to step out for a leisurely walk.

Soothing for the soul, and good for your health, an outing on a walking track is an excellent opportunity to embrace and appreciate the beauty of the environment around you.

In this booklet we feature 21 popular tracks.

From short, easy coastal strolls to up-hill-and-down-dale tramps to testing bush trails, there's something for everyone.

All of the walks have been created for your pleasure.

Please enjoy and respect them.



Produced by Western Bay of Plenty District Council, March 2006.



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# Orokawa Scenic Reserve

**Where:** Start at the northern end of Waihi Beach.

## Walking times

### Waihi Beach to Orokawa Bay

*45 minutes one way.*

### Orokawa Bay to William Wright Falls

*1 hour return.*

### Orokawa Bay to Homunga Bay

*90 minutes one way.*

### Homunga Bay to Ngatitangata Road

*45-60 minutes one way.*

### Pohutukawa Park Track

*45 minutes return.*

THIS spectacular coastal reserve embraces panoramic ocean views, mature forest, pohutukawa-fringed bays, good rock fishing and picnic spots. There are several historic pa sites, as well as old gold-mine tunnels.

The walk begins at the northern end of Waihi Beach. (Occasionally you may have to delay your start due to high tides and a strong swell.)

A gently rising track skirts the headland before descending into stunning, pohutukawa-clad Orokawa Bay. The beach here gets deep very quickly and is not considered safe for swimming.

At the northern end of the beach, the track to William Wright Falls begins. On your way to these 30-metre-high falls you will have to make several stream crossings.

The track to Homunga Bay continues along the coastline, skirting headlands and cliffs.

Return to Waihi Beach via the same route. An option is to park your car at Ngatitangata Road and clamber across farm land down to the track. It's not difficult, but coming back up is a seriously steep climb.

The Pohutukawa Park Track is a short walk through mature native bush, giving you an opportunity to explore the old Waihi Beach water supply reservoir behind the town. Today the reservoir abounds in waterfowl. There are some lovely picnic spots here.

No dogs or fires are allowed within the reserve.





## 2

# Bowentown Domain

**Where:** Northern end of Tauranga Harbour.

### Walking times

#### **Anzac Bay to Shelly Bay**

*30 minutes one way.*

#### **Headland car park to Te Ho pa site**

*30 minutes one way.*

#### **Anzac Bay-headland loop via Shelly Bay**

*90 minutes return.*

LOCATED on a rocky headland at the northern entrance to Tauranga Harbour, this 128-hectare reserve contains a number of pa sites dating back several hundred years.

It separates the harbour from the sandy ocean foreshore which stretches 8 kilometres from Bowentown to Waihi Beach.

Anzac Bay offers safe swimming, picnic sites and toilets and there is camping at the Bowentown Holiday Park adjacent to the ocean beach.

A series of tracks through the Domain give you a variety of walking choices.

From the Te Ho pa site, which is easily reached, there are magnificent views of the harbour and the coast. To get here, follow the tracks from the motor camp or from the headland car park. From the car park you can drop steeply down to Cave Bay, a small beach at the harbour entrance, or you can walk to Te Kura a Maia pa site on the southern headland.

From Anzac Bay a wide grassy track leads westward up to an area where several tracks meet.

Straight ahead leads to Shelly Bay, a sheltered and safe swimming spot. Left takes you to a popular fishing area. Turning right leads to the summit. Another track drops down to the entrance of the Domain. The loop track continues on around the top of the headland and down to the northern end of Shelly Bay.

Stunning views of the upper harbour, Kaimai Ranges and the ocean coastline are your reward when you walk these tracks.





3

## Athenree Village

**Where:** Northern end of Tauranga Harbour.

### Walking time

30 minutes return.

THIS is an easy, pleasant stroll through Athenree Village on the shores of Tauranga Harbour.

The walkway starts from the children's playground on Waione Avenue. It wends its way along the grassy foreshore, passing beneath old pohutukawa trees, and offers views across the estuary to Bowentown.

Near the end of your walk you will need to skirt a small tidal inlet in the vicinity of Dr North Memorial Reserve.

Return the same way or come back via Pohutukawa Drive and Athenree Road.



4

## Tanners Point

**Where:** Off Tanners Point Road, 7 minutes drive north of Katikati.

### Walking time

30 minutes return.

A MOST enjoyable outing, this short walk leads you through a picturesque harbourside reserve.

The setting, plus picnic tables and toilets, makes it ideal for quiet family outings.

Start your walk near the jetty, continue along the pohutukawa-fringed track that follows the harbour's edge around to Moana Drive, then down to a sandy beach.

Return the same route or via Moana Drive.



5

## Tuapiro Point

**Where:** Off Tuapiro Point Road, 6 minutes drive north of Katikati.

### Walking time

*30 minutes return.*

TUAPIRO Point is a small sandspit across the channel from Tanners Point.

A track takes you onto the esplanade reserve and runs along the spit to a fence. When you get to the fence, step on to the beach and continue to the end of the sandspit for some great views of the inner harbour.

At certain times of the year, a lot of seabirds gather here. Please take care not to disturb them, or any other estuary wildlife.

Retrace your steps or take a short detour and explore the grove of landmark pine trees on your return journey.



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## Kauri Point Historic Reserve

**Where:** Off Kauri Point Road, 5 minutes drive north of Katikati.

### Walking time

*80 minutes return.*

THREE features in particular attract people to this reserve:

- The magnificent specimens of pohutukawa which line the shore;
- A long, wooden jetty that extends 200 metres out into the harbour (highly popular for fishing);
- Several pa fortification sites.

To get to this reserve go to the end of Kauri Point Road, turn right and drive down to the car park.

The walkway starts here. It takes you along the harbour's edge and around the point into paddocks where it is easy to see evidence of old pa fortifications and trenches. (Please treat this area with respect.)

From here, cross to Esplanade Road or follow the fenceline adjacent to the harbour, taking care to close gates and avoid electric fences.

At the northern end of the point drop down to Ongare Point (10 minutes walk) or continue back to the car park via Chelmsford Street.



# 7

## Uretara Stream Walkway & Katikati Town Centre

### Uretara Stream Walkway

#### Walking time

45 minutes one way.

THIS popular walk starts at Beach Road in Katikati and follows the Uretara Stream out to the edge of the harbour.

It begins at the site of the Uretara Landing which played a key role in the early settlement days. (A very realistic mural on the wall next to the BNZ in the main street shows what life was like around the Landing in its heyday, circa 1900.)

The walkway meanders along the esplanade reserve, downstream past farm land and private gardens, as well as estuary wetlands, before ending at Park Road Reserve.

Return the same way or via residential streets.

The walkway can also be accessed off Levley Lane.

### Katikati Town Centre

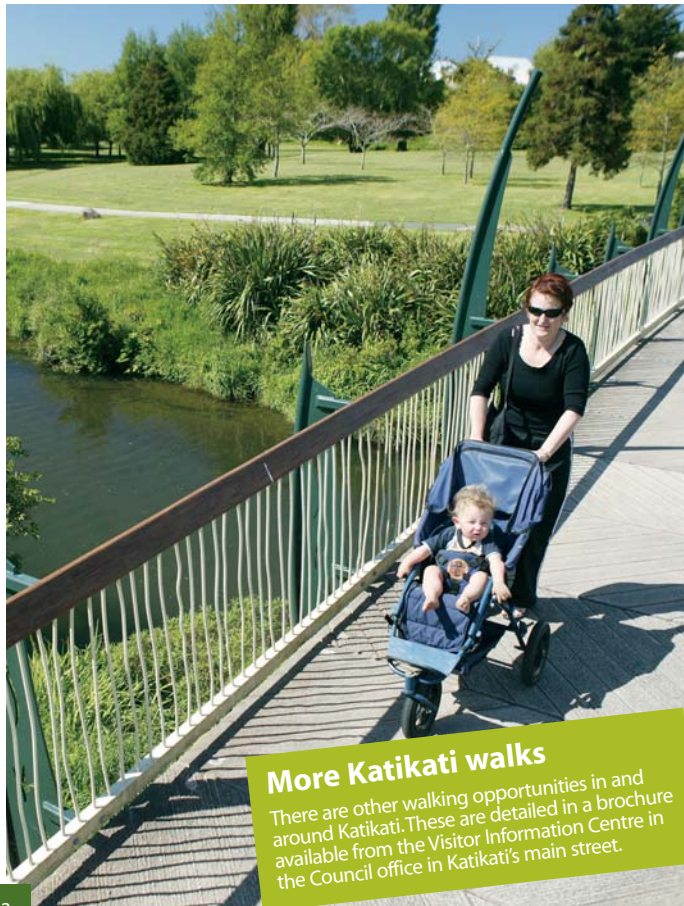
#### Walking time

40+ minutes return.

For those who appreciate art in the landscape this is more of an experience than a brisk walk. The journey starts at the car park in Haiku Park where there is ample scope to wander various pathways and appreciate the haiku verse carved into the boulders and pavement.

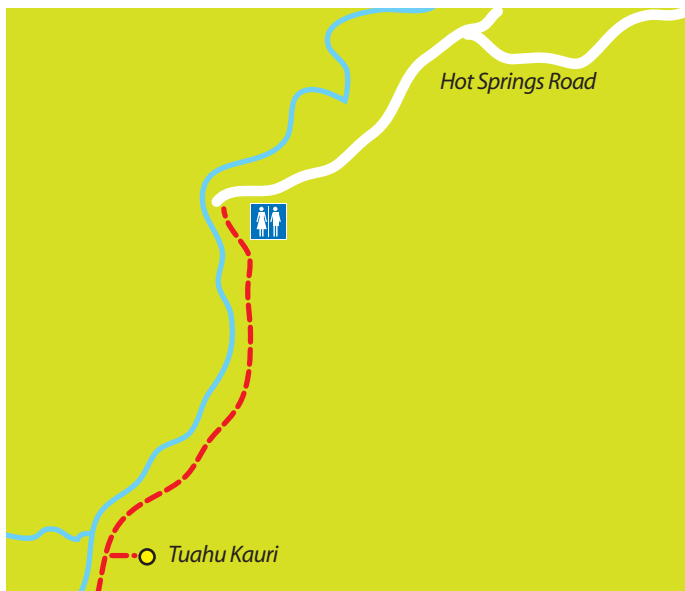
The Uretara Stream runs through the park. The main path leads over a footbridge, then downstream to the highway and the Uretara Landing.

From the Landing, stroll up the main street to appreciate the murals and other works of art throughout the town centre. Rest at a cafe, or at the replica kauri dam water feature in Diggelman Park, before crossing the road and returning to your car.



### More Katikati walks

There are other walking opportunities in and around Katikati. These are detailed in a brochure available from the Visitor Information Centre in the Council office in Katikati's main street.



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## Tuahu Kauri

**Where:** Off Hot Springs Road, south of Katikati.

### Walking time

*20 minutes one way.*

A **MAGNIFICENT** kauri tree - one of the largest in the Bay of Plenty - awaits you on this walk.

The kauri is known as Tuahu, named after its location on an old Maori route that was used as a bridle track in the 1890s.

Today's track starts at the end of Hot Springs Road.

It is well-benched and graded and takes you into the Kaimai Mamaku Forest Park, through regenerating native forest where young kauri and rimu are thriving.

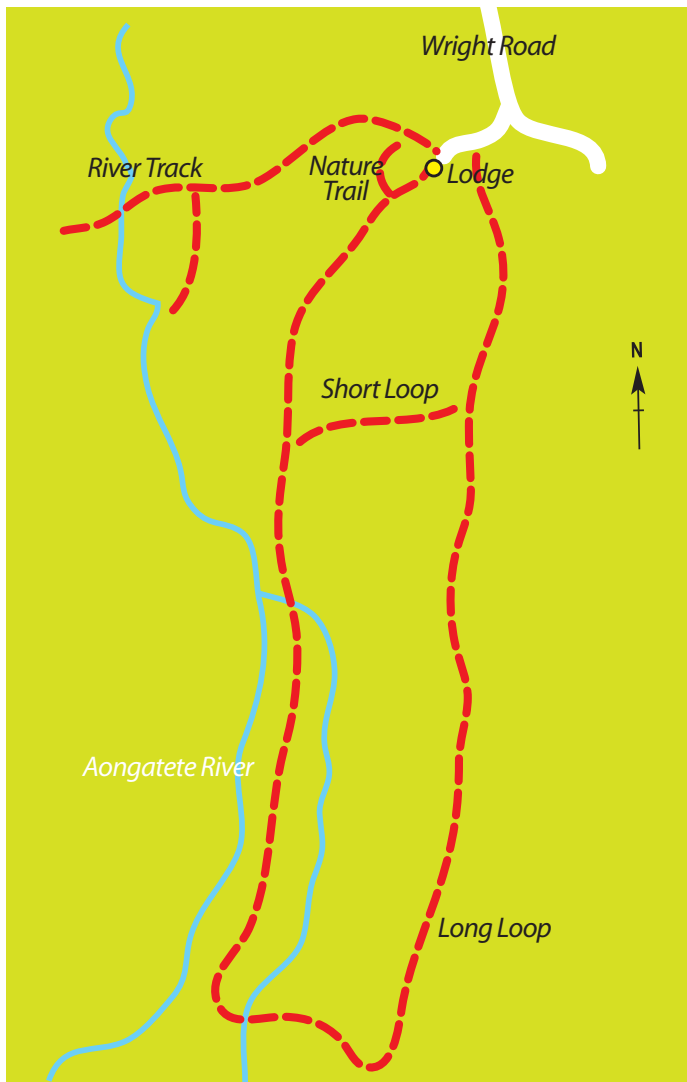
Most people turn back at Tuahu.

However, more hardy souls may choose to continue all the way to the top of the Kaimais - though the track quickly becomes narrower, steeper and much more difficult.



## Aongatete Lodge Tracks

**Where:** At the end of Wright Road, south of Katikati.



### Walking times

#### Nature Trail Loop

5 minutes return.

#### Short Loop

60 minutes return.

#### Long Loop

Approx 3½ hours.

#### Aongatete River

30 minutes one way.

SEVERAL outstanding walks start and end at the Aongatete Outdoor Education Lodge in the Kaimai Mamaku Forest Park.

This lodge is set in an attractive bush environment - mainly lowland podocarps and native trees.

To get here, drive to the end of Wright Road.

There is a car park area before the gate to the lodge and it is advisable to leave your vehicle here as the gate may be locked at any time.

The main walking track starts behind the lodge ablution block and takes you to a junction where the short Nature Trail Loop branches to the right.

Continuing along the main track you reach a left-hand branch. The Long Loop continues straight ahead. (This is a more difficult walk; there are stream crossings and boots are recommended.)

Turning left takes you around the easier Short Loop. At the next junction, turn left again and soon you'll reach the edge of the bush. A stile crosses the fence into a paddock, and you return to the car park.

The walk to the Aongatete River starts on the western side of the lodge. In damp conditions the track can be slippery, so please be careful. After about 15 minutes, it branches left and leads to some attractive swimming holes.

## Gerald Crapp Historic Reserve & Omokoroa Peninsula

### Walking times

**Domain to Bramley Drive via Historic Reserve**  
40 minutes one way.

**Omokoroa Peninsula**  
Up to 2½ hours.

ON the picturesque Omokoroa peninsula there are a number of easy, pleasant walks.

The most popular is a 40-minute walk that takes you round the tip of the peninsula and through the Gerald Crapp Historic Reserve.

From this reserve, which covers about 2 hectares, you get spectacular tree-framed views of the harbour and Matakana Island. The magnificent variety of mature trees - including a giant Moreton Bay fig - were mostly planted by the Crapp's, one of the first pioneering families in the area. The reserve is also the site of the Wai Huri pa.

The walk starts from Omokoroa Beach Domain, at the end of The Esplanade. Head along the beach and up into the reserve. Carry on around the point and along the clifftop esplanade reserve, in front of many attractively gardened homes, and take in the views up Tauranga Harbour as you make your way to Bramley Drive.

From here, return the same way or via residential streets.

Another very popular, but longer, walk takes in much more of the peninsula.

As well as from The Domain, there are accesses off Waterview Terrace and from the southern end of Hamurana Road. This walk takes you along the western foreshore past the golf course and on to Kayelene Place.

On the eastern side of the peninsula, Cooneys Reserve, on Margaret Place, leads down to the harbour. Follow the shoreline northwards and this will bring you to the southern end of The Esplanade.

Gerald Crapp Historic Reserve



# Te Puna Quarry Park

**Where:** 10 minutes north of Tauranga, at the end of Te Puna Quarry Park Road (off State Highway 2).

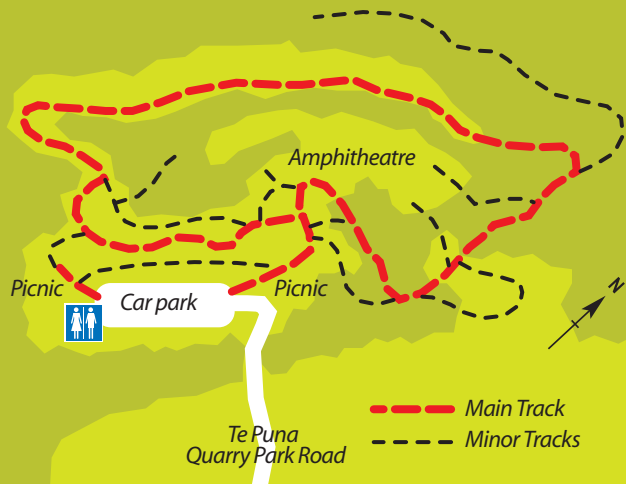
## Walking times

### Main track

45-60 minutes return.

### Secondary tracks

Various options.

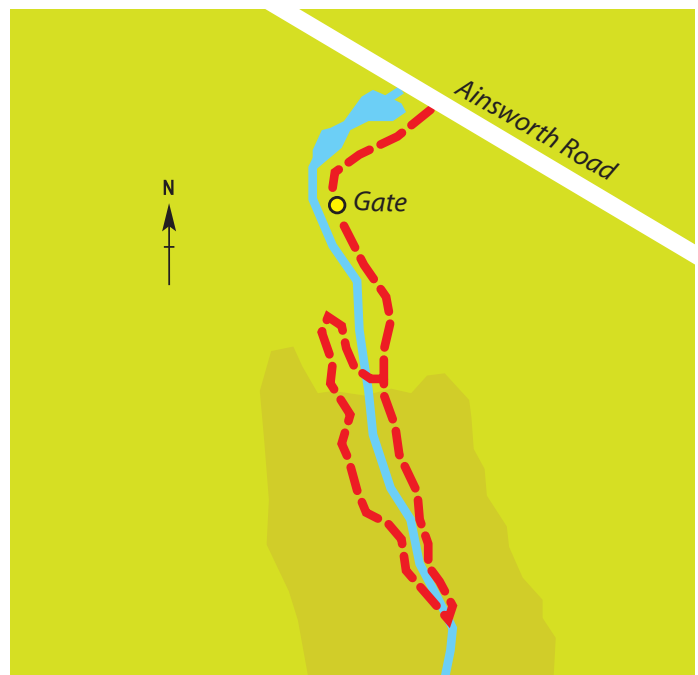
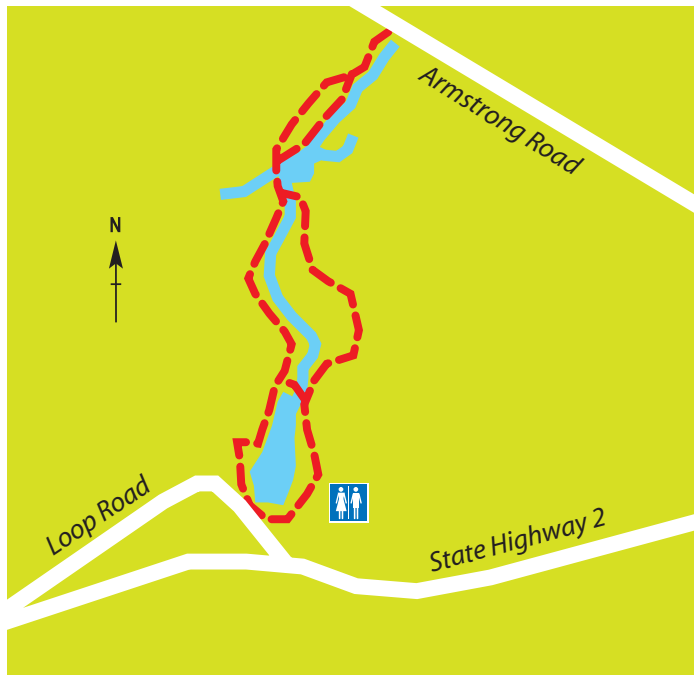


THIS park is one of the most popular walks in our District.

Covering about 32 hectares, it is a myriad of walking tracks, waterways, native and exotic gardens, garden art and restful picnic areas. From the higher points there are stunning coastal views, extending from the Coromandel ranges to the eastern Bay.

The park is a disused quarry, which produced rock from 1911 to 1970, mainly for building roads and reclamations throughout the Bay of Plenty. After it was closed it was neglected until 1993 when the Te Puna Quarry Park Society was formed by a group of local residents with a vision to turn it into a premier wilderness garden and artistic retreat.

Granted reserve status in 1996, every year it gets better and better.



## 12 I'Anson Bush Reserve

**Where:** Loop Road, off State Highway 2 just north of Te Puna.

### Walking time

*Up to 45 minutes return.*

THIS reserve is on land that was gifted to the QE II National Trust in 1987 by Keith and Takiko I'Anson.

Over the years it has been turned from pasture to native bush and a small lake - Lake Taki - has been formed by damming the Waikaraka Stream.

There are occasional clearings - ideal for a quiet picnic.

From the car park, tracks go around the lake and then you pass through groves of native trees. Continue downstream to Armstrong Road, then make your way back.

## 13 Minden Scenic Reserve

**Where:** Ainsworth Road, off State Highway 2 just north of Te Puna.

### Walking time

*15 minutes return.*

IF you like your walks short and sweet, you'll love this one!

Near the entrance to the reserve there are two picnic tables where you can sit and watch waterfowl at play in a nearby pond.

Beyond a gate, across a grassy field, the track leads you into the bush where you follow a small stream through regenerating forest dominated by rewarewa and mamaku tree ferns.

After crossing the stream, the track doubles back then climbs to a pleasant open area that returns you to where you started from.



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## Puketoki Scenic Reserve

**Where:** 20 minutes north of Tauranga, on Leyland Road (off Whakamarama Road).

### Walking times

#### Short Loop

*20 minutes return.*

#### Long Loop

*60 minutes return.*

THIS reserve - one of the oldest in our District - has been a popular bush walk and picnic spot for almost 80 years.

Native bush, including mature tawa and the occasional rimu, dominates the reserve and the Te Puna Stream wends its way quietly through it.

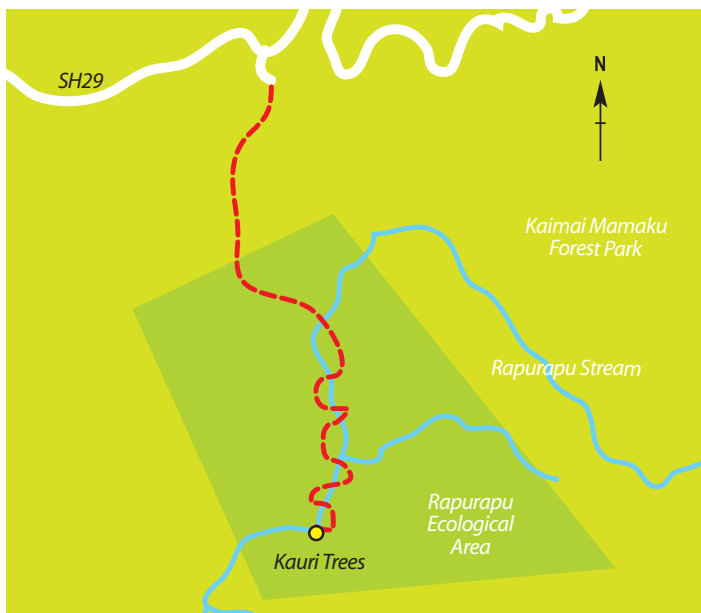
The land was donated in 1926 by H. H. Sharplin as general manager of the Whakamarama Land and Timber Company. An old tramline, which forms part of the track system, is evidence of the early activities of this enterprise.

Both tracks are well developed and there are bridges across the streams. A short side-track off the Long Loop leads to a very large rimu and is well worth the short detour.

Adjacent to the parking area is a pleasant picnic spot, bounded by a rocky stream.

Toilets are provided.





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## Rapurapu Track

**Where:** Off State Highway 29, on the left about 4 kilometres on the Waikato side of the Kaimai summit.

### Walking time

75 minutes one way.

THREE majestic kauri trees in a mature native forest setting, and a pristine stream with safe swimming holes, are the main drawcards for this walk which is particularly popular in summer.

The whole area is an ecological reserve within the Kaimai Mamaku Forest Park, and the walk starts from the gravel car park (not sign-posted) just off State Highway 29.

For the first 600 metres you go through a previously grazed area that is being re-vegetated with radiata pine and tree lucerne as nursery crops. The track then enters a terrace of tawa forest and drops down to the Rapurapu Stream. Follow the stream and soon you will come to a boardwalk at the base of the kauri trees.

The largest tree is 1.79 metres in diameter and 14 metres to the first branch. All three kauri can be seen at once, from the rocks in the middle of the stream, just before climbing the boardwalk steps.

**CAUTION:** There are numerous stream crossings, so we advise against walking this track after heavy rain. Sturdy footwear should be worn.

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## Omanawa Falls

**Where:** Off Omanawa Road (via State Highway 29).

### Walking time

30 minutes return.

THIS walk takes you to the edge of the spectacular Omanawa Falls.

Drive up Omanawa Road for 11 kilometres and you will see the start of the track sign-posted on the left.

It follows an old access route which was used in the construction of the Omanawa Falls hydro power station, commissioned in 1920.

The track leads down to the edge of the rugged Hidden Gorge Scenic Reserve, then sidles along a ledge carved into the rocky cliffs. There are hand-rails to assist you.

The scenery here is something special, with the falls cascading into a large pool in the Omanawa River far below.

The track ends abruptly at a locked steel door, to keep people out of the old underground power station which is no longer in use.

## Te Rerekawau (Kaiate Falls)

**Where:** Off Kaiate Falls Road

### Walking time

*Up to 60 minutes return.*

IN a pretty, bush-filled ravine where the Kaiate Stream drops over ignimbrite bluffs, a series of cascades and waterfalls combine to create the magic which is Te Rerekawau Falls.

They are sign-posted from Welcome Bay Road as "Kaiate Falls".

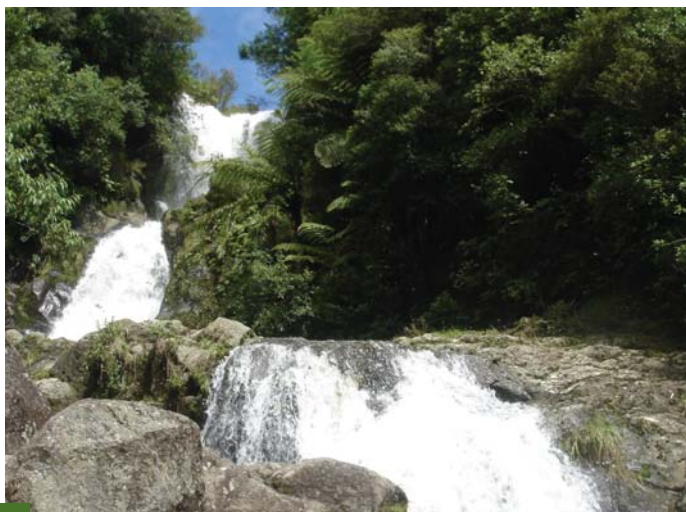
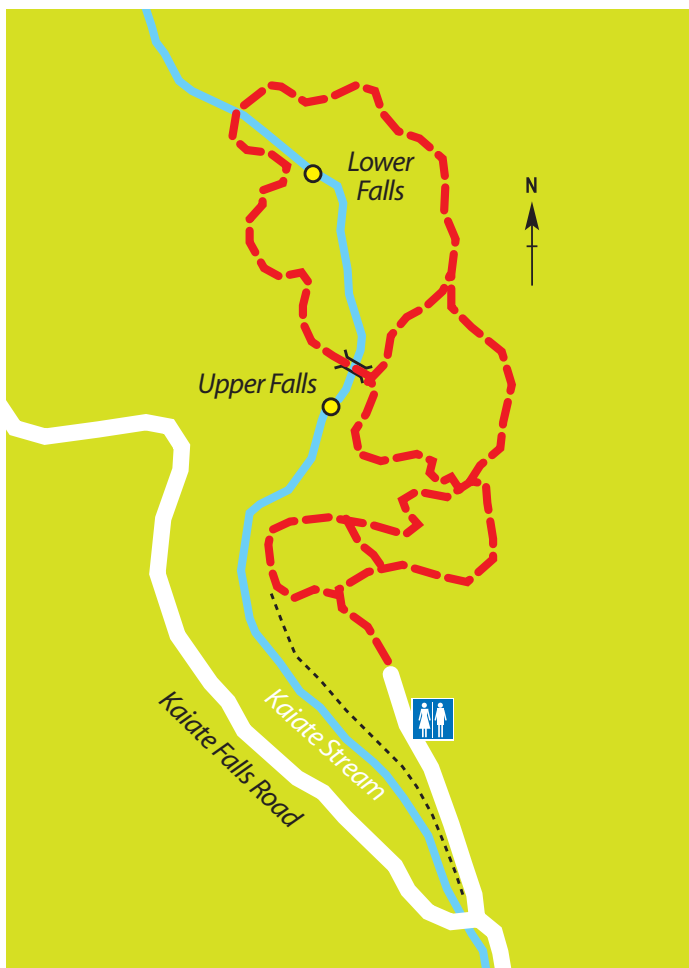
Drive up Waitao Road and after about 4.9 kilometres turn left at Kaiate Falls Road. The scenic reserve containing the falls is a further 1 kilometre and a vehicle track leads to the car park. The road beyond the reserve continues on to Te Puke.

Above the car park a picnic area, with tables and a toilet, offers good views towards Mount Maunganui and the Port of Tauranga.

The walking tracks are well formed, although quite steep with steps in some places. The main track leads to the top, and then to the base of the upper series of falls (pictured).

From there it crosses the stream and continues down to the base of the lower falls, where there is a popular swimming hole. Crossing the stream again the track loops back up past some lovely big puriri and kohekohe trees. A short side track leads back to the base of the upper falls, or you may continue on the uphill track back to the car park, with a great view of the falls on the way.

There is another track to the left, just below the car park, which follows the stream back to the road bridge.





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## Raparapahoe Stream

**Where:** 7 kilometres from Te Puke, off No 4 Road.

### Walking time

*60 minutes return.*

THIS trail takes you down to the picturesque Raparapahoe Stream, running through a narrow, densely-bushed gorge. The descent from the road and the climb back up are very steep in places, so only those who are fit and agile should attempt this walk.

To get to the starting point, drive up No. 3 Road and turn into No. 4 Road. Cross the bridge, turn immediately left and drive for 2.4 kilometres where there is a sign-posted roadside parking bay.

The track, which was developed in 1987 by the Te Puke Lions Club, drops steeply through mature tawa forest. When it reaches the bottom of the gorge it continues upstream to a large pool at the base of a 3-metre waterfall - perfect for a refreshing dip on a hot summer's day before tackling the climb back up to the road.



## Otawa Scenic Reserve

**Where:** In the Papamoa Hills.

### Walking times

#### Te Puke Quarry Road to Manoeka Road

*4 hours one way.*

#### Manoeka Road to reservoir

*15 minutes one way.*

THIS reserve, located in the Papamoa hills, is largely lowland forest dominated by tawa and rewarewa.

There are two walks - a short one which takes you to an old dam which was Te Puke's original water reservoir and a half-day one which takes you across more hilly terrain.

If you want to walk to the dam, drive to the end of Manoeka Road.

From the turn-off on State Highway 2, it is 5.5 kilometres to the reserve entrance, where there is a grassy parking and picnic area. The last 1.6 kilometres of road is gravel.

A well-defined track crosses the Kirikiri Stream into the reserve and takes you through a lovely puriri grove to a small clearing beside the reservoir. You can cross the stream several times to get there.

To do the longer walk, drive to the top of Te Puke Quarry Road. You will need to cross private farm land to enter the reserve, where the track takes you to the Wharetetarakeho trig. There are awesome coastal views from here.

Entering the forest, the track follows the gently undulating ridgeline to Ottawa trig (2 hours). From here, you can go back the way you came or continue along the track, which descends steeply to meet the reservoir track at the end of Manoeka Road (another 2 hours).

For the super-fit, 400 metres past the Ottawa trig, a branch to the right leads to Otanewainuku. If you want to walk there, it is about 16 kilometres (8 hours) to Mountain Road.

A detailed map of this track is available from the Department of Conservation in Tauranga, at 253 Chadwick Road, Greerton.





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## Otanewainuku

**Where:** 25 minutes drive from Tauranga, on Mountain Road (off Oropi Road).

### Walking times

#### Summit track

90 minutes return.

#### Rimu Loop Track

30 minutes return.

#### Mountain Road to Whataroa Waterfall

60 minutes one way.

At 640 metres above sea level, Mount Otanewainuku offers some spectacular views.

Much of the mountain is covered in virgin forest and bird life is prolific. Podocarps, especially rimu, are common and tawa, kamahi and rewarewa form the canopy.

Maori legend says Tutanekei, lover of Hinemoa, leapt from the summit to escape his Rotorua enemies.

The walks start at the small car park, where there is also a shelter, toilet and picnic area.

The loop track to the summit is reasonably steep in parts, but the breathtaking view from the top is worth the climb. A tower built by Army Territorials offers panoramic views from East Cape to Mount Tarawera and Rotorua, and across the Mamaku Plateau to Mount Ruapehu.

The Rimu Loop Track starts from the opposite side of the road near the car park. It is a gently graded walk, with some impressively large rimu and tawa.

If you'd like to turn this into a longer walk a well-marked route branches off the Rimu Loop Track after 15 minutes and undulates through the forest to the Whataroa Falls. Explore this pristine stream, with its cascades and pools, before returning the same way.

For the seriously-fit, beyond the waterfall a track continues north to the main ridge track which leads to Otawa Scenic Reserve. From here it is around 18.5 kilometres (9 hours) to Te Puke Quarry Road.

A detailed map of this track is available from the Department of Conservation in Tauranga, at 253 Chadwick Road, Greerton.



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## Papamoa Hills Cultural Heritage Regional Park

**Where:** 10 minutes west of Te Puke - start at the car park off Poplar Lane (off State Highway 2).

### Walking time

60 minutes return.

THERE are many cultural features in this park that date back to the earliest days of Maori settlement. It is one of the most historic landmarks in the Bay of Plenty and the views from the summit are absolutely breathtaking!

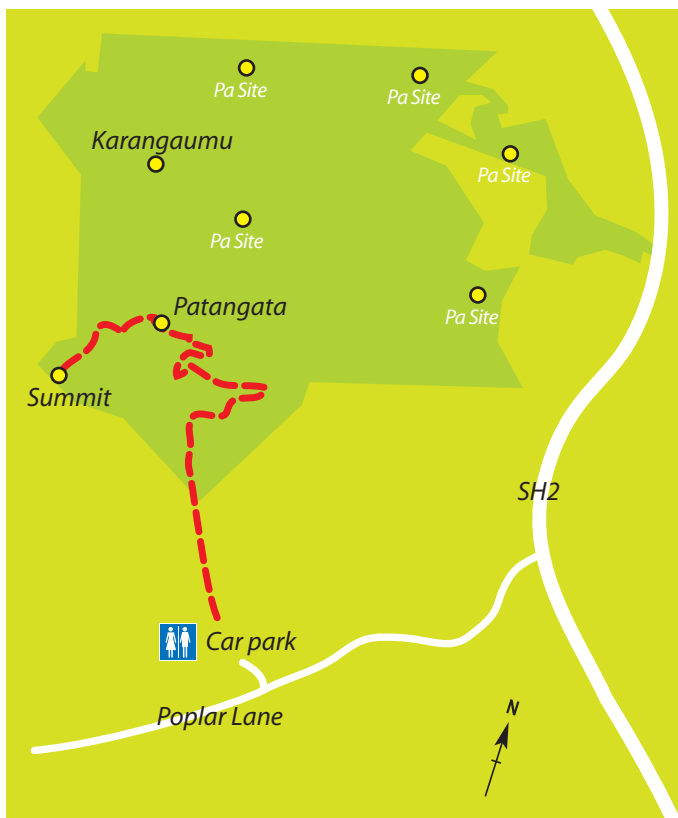
On a clear day you can see the Mount and Tauranga to the west, far beyond the Te Puke area to the south-east and Mount Ngongotaha to the south. Mayor, Motiti and White islands also come into the picture.

Opened in 2004, and now owned by the Regional Council, the park is a unique mix of ancient pa sites, pockets of native forest and farm land. In total it covers 108 hectares.

To appreciate it fully, you need to walk to the summit. There and back requires a reasonable level of fitness - some parts of the track are quite steep - and will take you about 60 minutes.

You can wander freely throughout the park, but please stay inside the boundaries which are identified by white fence posts. Please try not to disturb grazing sheep and cattle.

The park has a full-time ranger and there are public toilets at the car park.





***Western Bay of Plenty  
District Council***