

Water,



walks,



and wildlife.



Experience them all!

Take care visiting natural areas

When in mountainous areas, please be prepared for sudden weather changes, cloud whiteouts and high winds on the ranges and rapidly rising water levels in rivers and streams.

Extreme fire conditions can exist during summer. Permits to light fires are required all year round.



No pet dogs,
allowed on DOC-
managed land in
Hawke's Bay.

DOC HOTline
0800 362 468

Report any safety hazards or
conservation emergencies
For fire and search and rescue call 111



Check, Clean, Dry

Stop the spread of didymo and other freshwater pests. Remember to Check, Clean, Dry all items before entering, and when moving between, waterways.



Protect plants and
animals

Remove rubbish
Bury toilet waste

Keep streams and
lakes clean

Take care with fires

Camp carefully

Keep to the track

Respect our cultural
heritage

Toitu te whenua
(Leave the land
undisturbed)

Further information

For further information please contact or visit:

Department of Conservation
Hawke's Bay Visitor Centre
Conservation House
59 Marine Parade
Napier 4110

Phone: 06 834 3111 Fax: 06 834 4869
E-mail: hawkesbayvc@doc.govt.nz

For further information about recreation activities and
conservation visit: www.doc.govt.nz

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Explore Hawke's Bay

NEW ZEALAND



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Introduction

Welcome to Hawke's Bay's great outdoors where recreation opportunities abound for all ages and abilities. Much of Hawke's Bay is protected by forest, wildlife, marine and historic parks and reserves. The landscapes, vegetation and activities you can participate in are diverse. This brochure highlights some of the region's must see places, plants and animals you might see along the way. Places listed in the brochure are numbered and marked on the map overleaf.

Enjoy!

Places to stay

Please note that fees are payable for overnight use of standard and serviced huts and campsites. Backcountry hut tickets or hut passes are available at any DOC office. Camping opportunities are available at Ruahine Forest Park, Kaweka Forest Park, Lake Tutira, Anzac Park Reserve, Glenfalls Recreation Reserve, and Everetts campsite in the Mohaka Conservation Area. For full information on camping opportunities, check out the North Island Conservation Campsites brochure or visit our website www.doc.govt.nz.

Robson's Lodge

This lodge at Kuripapango is available for public use. Booking essential. Contact the DOC Hawke's Bay Visitor Centre or visit our website at www.doc.govt.nz.

William Hartree Memorial Lodge (Forest and Bird)

This private lodge in the William Hartree Scenic Reserve near Puketitiri is available for public use. It has a fully equipped kitchen, tile fire and hot showers. Bookings essential. For more information go to www.forestandbird.org.nz.

Kaweka Forest Park

The park provides serviced, standard and basic huts. There are also standard and basic campsites. Informal camping is permitted throughout the park.

Eastern Ruahine Forest Park

The eastern Ruahine Forest Park has serviced, standard and basic huts. There is also a basic campsite. Informal camping is permitted throughout the park.

Tracks

Hawke's Bay's 620 kilometres of track have been formed to suit a range of walking abilities. Choose a track that suits your skills, fitness and the experience you prefer.

Choose the type of track that most suits the skills and abilities of your party. You must be well prepared with suitable clothing and equipment for all weather and conditions. Safety is your responsibility.



Easy access short walk

Suitable for people of all abilities, (assisted) wheelchairs and children's buggies



Short walk

Well formed, easy walking for up to an hour



Walking track

Well formed easy walks from a few minutes to a day



Easy tramping track

Generally well formed track for comfortable overnight tramping/ hiking trips



Tramping track

Mostly unformed but have track directional markers, poles or cairns

Guide to symbols



Barbecue



Bird watching



Camping



Dogs permitted on a leash



Fishing



Geothermal pools



Hunting



Hut



Kayaking



Mountain biking



Mountain buggy



Picnicking



Picnic shelter



SCUBA diving



Snorkeling



Swimming



Tap water



Toilets



Visitor shelter



No motor boats



Brochure available

Meet some of the locals



Kōkako

The kōkako is one of the world's rarest birds. It is renowned for the clarity and volume of its song which carries far across the forest.

Kahikatea

Kahikatea or white pine grows to heights of over 60m and is the tallest of New Zealand's forest trees. Kererū love their red fruit.



Long-tailed bat



This bat weighs only 10 grams, but can fly at 60km per hour. It is an aerial insectivore, feeding on moths and beetles.

Nikau palm

The nikau is New Zealand's only native palm species and is the world's southern-most palm species. Its nectar is a favourite of bees, tūi and bellbirds.



Weta

Weta have been around long enough to see dinosaurs come and go. There are more than 70 species, all found only in NZ.

Totara

The mighty totara is the king of the forest, protecting other trees from storm damage. It reaches up to 30 metres, taking over 100 years to do so.



Kererū

The New Zealand pigeon is a very beautiful bird with iridescent green and bronze feathers. The noisy beat of its wings is a distinctive sound in our forests.

Ongaonga (giant nettle)

The giant nettle can cause a severe allergic reaction. It is a food source for red admiral caterpillars which roll themselves in the leaves where the plant's stinging hairs protect them from predators.



1. Boundary Stream Mainland Island



Mainland Islands are living laboratories where we learn better techniques for restoring forest habitats. A part of this is keeping pests and predators at low levels, allowing native flora and fauna to thrive. Come visit Boundary Stream to see the results for yourself, its like taking a walk in the past.

Tumanako Loop Track:
1.4 km / 1 hr



The gentle land contours on this track make it an ideal walk for a wide range of visitors. Excellent interpretation panels help visitors to spot endangered species, like mistletoe, while children love to look in the weta hotels.

Kamahi Loop Track: 2 hr / 4.4 km



Highlights of this easy walking track include an ancient 800+ year old matai and the possibility of seeing kōkako. These birds were reintroduced in 2001, watch as they run squirrel-like along branches and up tree trunks.

Heay's Access Road to Shine Falls:
2.2 km / 1.5 hr return



Visit the 58m Shine Falls to see the highest falls in Hawke's Bay's, experiencing towering sandstone cliffs and beautiful native bush on the way. This is a popular place to visit, with a picnic table provided at the base of the falls. Eat lunch surrounded by trees and birds or if its a warm day, enjoy a swim.



Bell Rock Loop Track: 5.3 km / 3 hr



This track is named for an unusual shaped rock sculptured over the years by the wind to resemble a large bell. Enjoy extensive views along the coast and as far as Mt Ruapehu on a fine day. Try the walk in summer when a dense stand of mountain holly provides a spectacular display.

2. Bellbird Bush Scenic Reserve



Bellbird Bush Scenic Reserve is aptly named for the number of bellbirds in the area.

Loop Track: 800m / 15 min



Spooners Hill Loop Track: 3.6 km / 2 hr



The track starts at the Pohokura Road entrance under red beech trees, before climbing up the northern slope of Spooners Hill. Enjoy extensive views of Hawke's Bay, before following the track downhill as it passes a number of karst (rock) formations and tomo (deep holes), both features of the limestone landscape.

3. Lake Opouahi



Opouahi Scenic Reserve, established in 1965, is named after the deep spring-fed lake and surrounding district. Enjoy a stroll through the reserve, picnic under the shelter or spend some time kayaking on Lake Opouahi.

The reserve is very special in that it's the site of the Pan Pac kiwi crèche. The reserve is partly surrounded by a 3.3km predator-proof fence that provides a safe environment for young kiwi to grow in until they can protect themselves against predators in the wild.

Lake Loop: 1.4 km / 30 min



The walkway circles the lake shore, passing through regenerating native bush. Enjoy the abundant bird life and the picturesque views of Lake Opouahi.

Thomas's Bush Track: 5.4 km / 4 hr



A longer walk leaves the lake loop, crosses over farmland and leads into Thomas's Bush, an area added to the reserve in 1984. Enjoy the sweeping views from Mahia to Napier once you reach the ridge tops.

4. Lake Tutira



Lake Tutira was made a bird sanctuary in 1929 and today is protected as a wildlife refuge. A campsite is available at the southern end of the lake, with toilets and picnic facilities. Great trout fishing is available, particularly in the lake's northern reaches, with restocking taking place each year.

There are two main walks at Lake Tutira. **Both are closed from August to the end of September during lambing.**

Non-motorised boats only are permitted on the lake.

Tutira Walkway



Short loop – 5 km / 2 hr

Long loop – 7.1 km / 5 hr via Gailbraith's Track, 4.5 hr via Kahikanui Track

Named after the lake and district it overlooks, the Tutira Walkway passes through Tutira Station and the adjoining Lake Tutira Recreation Reserve. Table Mountain Trig affords magnificent views of the inland Kaweka and Maungaharuru Ranges and coastal Hawke's Bay from Mahia Peninsula to Cape Kidnappers.

Waikopiro Circular Track (loop): 1.1 km / 20 min



The Waikopiro Track follows the shoreline of Lake Waikopiro, passing both native and introduced plants.



5. White Pine Bush Scenic Reserve



White Pine Bush is a great place for people of all ages and abilities to visit and experience a piece of New Zealand native forest. Kahikatea (white pine) is the dominant feature in these 19ha of bush, while an impressive stand of nikau palms provide their own unique natural beauty. A picturesque stream and small waterfall are both visible from the track—sometimes small fish, eels and koura (freshwater crayfish) can be seen.

The car park is also a good place to start the Tangoio Walkway which leads south from here.



Please do not touch the giant stinging nettle (ongaonga), especially in summer, when its full of new growth. Despite their fierce reputation, nettles are the exclusive food of the red admiral butterfly.



Short loop track: 800 m / 30 min



The short loop track has a grade and surface suitable for people using wheelchairs. This 650m path, which takes in much that the reserve has to offer, should be completed in an anticlockwise direction. About halfway along the track, there are table and chairs, a perfect spot to sit and listen to the songs of native birds while enjoying a picnic lunch.

Longer loop track: 1.6m / 40 min



Follow the longer loop track to see some large kahikatea and a great view over parts of the reserve. **This section of track is not suitable for wheelchairs.**

6. Tangoio Falls Scenic Reserve



Tangoio Walkway is named after the forest and scenic reserve through which it passes. In pre-European times there were several Maori pā in the valley, including one near Tangoio Falls, although no evidence of it remains.

Te Ana Falls: 2km / 30 min return

Tangoio Falls: 4 km / 60 min return



The track follows Kareara Stream from Tangoio Falls parking area to Te Ana Falls. Enjoy the native bush and watch for koura (freshwater crayfish) in the streams. Continue walking uphill for an additional 15 minutes to reach Tangoio Falls.



Tangoio Walkway: 4.4 km / 2 hr



Tangoio Walkway can be accessed from the picnic/ parking areas at either the southern end of Tangoio Falls Scenic Reserve or opposite White Pine Bush Scenic Reserve. Starting at White Pine is recommended because the going is all down hill. However, care needs to be taken when crossing SH2 from the White Pine car park to the start of the Tangoio Walkway. The walkway passes through native forest, open grassland and old and new pine plantations intermixed with redwoods and other species—look out for native orchid flowers in early summer. Walking the track from north to south is recommended as the going is nearly all downhill. Please note that the track is steep in places and a stream crossing requires care after rain.

7. Puketitiri Reserves



Puketitiri's reserves exist largely through the efforts of some local dedicated conservationists. Of particular note, is Ball's Clearing, a stand of magnificent forest named after Jack Ball, the man who reputedly pulled his own plough.

Ball's Clearing Scenic Reserve:

2.5 km / 10–40 min



There is no better place in Hawke's Bay to experience a lowland podocarp forest than Ball's Clearing. This outstanding example of dense virgin forest is best seen from its network of walking tracks. The reserve is also home to a significant colony of native nocturnal long-tailed bats—why not enjoy a twilight picnic and watch for them at dusk? Part of this walk is suitable for people in wheelchairs with assistance.



Little Bush: 1 km / 45 min



This is a Forest and Bird reserve, open to the public at all times. Take a walk on the circular track and enjoy the regenerating forest of abundant ferns, climbers and native orchids.

William Hartree Memorial Scenic Reserve:

1.2 km / 20 min – 1 hr



Mrs Audrey Hartree donated this area in 1962 in memory of her late husband, William. Walk through the vigorous regenerating forest and look out for the rare mistletoe, with its small yellow-green, strongly scented flowers.

8. Kaweka Forest Park



Alpine herbfields, shrublands, tussock valleys and beech forests with pockets of podocarp are the predominant features of this 60,000ha conservation park. The park offers a variety of recreational opportunities including rafting, canoeing, hunting and fishing, hot springs and tramping for both experienced trampers and day walkers. Numerous picnic and camping spots are located at roadends. Highlights include the Mangatutu Hot Springs at the Gums campsite, the Mohaka River (watch for whio/blue duck) and the climb to the tussock tops of Kaweka J (1724m).

Te Puia Track: 7.4 km / 3 hr each way



A popular weekend walk and a chance to enjoy a soak in the Mangatainoka hot pools.

9. Whakamaharatanga Walkway

This walkway crosses farmland, most of which was under water prior to the Napier earthquake in 1931. There are two prominent old pā sites with identifiable terraces, pits and middens (shell dumps). **The walkway is closed for lambing from 1 July to 30 September and may be closed at other times for farm management.**

Rorookuri Loop Track: 3.5 km / 1 hr



Rorookuri was an island in the original Te Whanganui a Orotu lagoon and its archaeological features are of much interest. One of these, Otiere Pā, was defended by two transverse ditches and a bank across the narrow headland, both of which can still be seen today.

The Rorookuri Loop Track follows the base of Rookuri Hill, past Otiere Pā and back to the carpark.

Rorookuri Summit Track: 2.5 km / 40 min



The other option is to walk over the top of Rorookuri Hill and back around either side. The summit offers magnificent views of Hawke's Bay.

10. Ahuriri Estuary



Ahuriri Estuary was once part of a 3,800ha lagoon, called Te Whanganui a Orotu. In 1931, a massive 7.8 earthquake rocked Hawke's Bay, raising the land over 3 metres in places. The lagoon was dramatically altered and is today about 12% of its original size. The estuary is one of the most significant in the North Island. It supports a large community of birds, fish, invertebrates and aquatic plant life.

Ahuriri Estuary Loop Track: 2.7 km / 1 hr



This track is an easy walk, suitable for all fitness levels, with seating provided at different viewing points. Watch small crabs as they move cautiously from their holes in the exposed mud banks, trying to avoid feeding birds. Interpretation signs are also provided, telling the area's history, its flora, fauna and the dynamics of tidal flows.

The track starts at the Humber Street carpark, and follows the southern side of the estuary, past plantings done by volunteers. About 15 minutes walk from the start, the track leads onto the Embankment Bridge across the main channel of the estuary. The track continues around the northern side of the estuary and crosses Pandora Bridge back to Humber Street.



11. Otatara Pā Historic Reserve



Otatara Pā is one of the largest and most ancient Maori pā sites in Hawke's Bay. It is significant for its immense size and for the large number of terraced dwelling sites and food pits.

Sites where there have been fighting, deaths or burials are considered sacred by the Māori people. Feel free to wander and look, but know that the pā contains wahi tapu (sacred places), so please respect the area.

Loop Track: 2.6 km / 1 hr



A loop track over the reserve starts at the carpark. It passes many archaeological features, including house sites and metre deep food pits, and leads to commanding views of the coastline and Heretaunga Plains. Look out for the narrow ridge where a 40m ditch was dug with handcrafted tools overnight for self-preservation.



12. Cape Kidnappers



Cape Kidnappers is the largest and most accessible mainland gannet colony in the world, with around 6,500 pairs nesting at any one time. The best time to see the birds is between early November and late February.

The Plateau colony, the main place for viewing the gannets, is located on private land—please keep to the walking track and avoiding disturbing stock. **Access to the colonies is closed from July to October to prevent disturbance during the birds' early nesting phase.**

Clifton Domain to the Gannet Reserve: 18 km / 5 hr return



This walk along the beach can only be done at low tide, with the best time of departure being no sooner than 3 hours after high tide, and departing from the Cape no later than 1.5 hours after low tide. Commercial operators also provide vehicle access to the reserve.



13. Mohi Bush Scenic Reserve



Mohi Bush is considered the best reserve on the Maraetotara Plateau for people to explore. The tracks are reasonably flat and the walking easy. Keep watch for the tiny rifleman, New Zealand's smallest bird. This is one of the few places the bird is found outside of the forest parks in Hawke's Bay.

Mohi Bush Loop Tracks: 30 min / 1 hr



The short loop cuts through the middle of the reserve, while the long loop leads to the far end of the reserve. Both tracks pass a wealth of seedlings and ferns growing underneath podocarps such as miro and matai. This reserve was one of the first in New Zealand to be treated with bait stations for possum control, and it shows—take your time and enjoy the results.

14. Elsthorpe Scenic Reserve

This reserve is made up of two blocks of mature lowland podocarp forest with excellent examples of kahikatea, matai, miro and totara. Native birds are plentiful including kererū, tūi and fantails.

Kairakau Loop Track: 600 m / 20 min



The loop track at Kairakau Road provides visitors with a close view of this attractive stand of native forest. Please note that the Elsthorpe Road part of the reserve has no walking tracks through it.

15. Ruahine Forest Park



Ruahine Forest Park offers a wide array of recreation opportunities including hunting, mountain biking and tramping. The ranges rise abruptly and are relatively narrow, providing high rainfall. In the south the conditions favour the growth of leatherwood (tupare), forming the largest unbroken expanse in the country.

Swamp Track 2.2 km / 1 hr



A low level loop track through beech, rimu and kahikatea forest. It is accessible from the Triplex carpark and from Sunrise Track.

Sunrise Track: 6 km / 3 hr each way



A steady climb brings you to Sunrise Hut with spectacular views of Hawke's Bay.

Coppermine Creek Track: 2 km / 1 hr each way



A pleasant popular walk through lowland forest to an area where copper was mined.

Coppermine Loop Track: 3.3 km / 2 hr return



A more strenuous option for returning to the carpark. Enjoy views of southern Hawke's Bay from the top part of the track.

Yeomans Track:

4.8 km track and 3.2 km road / 4.5 hr each way



A gentle low-level forest walking and mountain biking track along an old log hauling route to Yeomans Mill. A round trip can be made along Ellis Rd and Wakarara Rd.



16. A'Deanes Bush Scenic Reserve



A'Deanes Bush is the best remaining example of the original forest of the Ruataniwha Plains. The 38.5 ha reserve, dominated by matai and kahikatea, is situated on a flat river terrace.

A'Deanes Bush Walk: 460 m / 20 min



A large totara tree, about 34m high, is the focal point of a 500m track that begins at the reserve entrance. It takes at least 7 people to encircle its trunk with their arms. The track passes through the forest to the Tukipo River. If you're visiting on dusk, watch out for long-tailed bats as they emerge to feed.



17. Monckton Scenic Reserve



This 16.5 ha reserve is a mixed podocarp and beech remnant, rich in kahikatea, totara, beech, matai, tawa and kowhai. Native birds are plentiful, with spring being a good time to visit as tūi and bellbirds are attracted to the many flowering kowhai trees.

Monckton Walkway: 1.6 km / 30 min



The track is good quality and easily walked as it climbs and descends to the picturesque Tangarewai Stream. Use the facilities provided for picnicking and barbecuing after you've enjoyed a walk or swim in the reserve.

18. Te Angiangi Marine Reserve



Te Angiangi Marine Reserve was established in August 1997 and covers an area of about 446 hectares, extending one nautical mile offshore between Blackhead and Aramoana beaches. Learn to snorkel in Stingray Bay, look for young paua in the rock pools or dive with large schools of butterfly perch and tarakihi found on the Boulder Bank offshore.



19. Anzac Park Reserve (Taranua DC)



This sheltered pocket of native forest, located close to Norsewood, is a pleasant place for travellers to have a short or overnight stopover. Matai and totara are prominent and there is a wealth of smaller broadleaved trees. A large grassed area adjacent to the forest is set aside for picnicking and camping with a picnic shelter, toilets, water supply and barbecue facilities provided. Overnights are expected to pay a small charge towards facility maintenance.

20. Ngapaeruru Scenic Reserve



This reserve, 15km south-east of Dannevirke on the Tuturewa Road, is one of the best and more accessible areas of lowland mixed podocarp forest in southern Hawke's Bay. A giant tōtara, said to be one of the largest in New Zealand, is a highlight. The diverse vegetation also supports many bird species—their calls resonate within this basin-shaped reserve.

In 1937, Ngapaeruru was a watering place for the children's horses as they travelled to and from school. Now its a popular venue for environmental education.

Ngapaeruru Loop Track: 20 min



This easy walking track passes through a variety of plant species, including a tall dense stand of kahikatea trees which tower above the damp river flats. Look out for the unusual native passionfruit. Their orange-red fruit is a favourite of native birds, particularly kererū.

21. Waihi Falls Scenic Reserve



(Taranua DC)

This rare bush remnant at Waihi Falls, 40km south-east of Dannevirke, was Hawke's Bay's first reserve. Created in 1899, the 21 ha reserve encompasses a remnant podocarp forest including totara, matai, kahikatea and rimu. Waihi Falls is a lovely place for a picnic, with water, toilets and a picnic shelter provided for visitors.

Waihi Falls: 300 m / 10 min



Waihi Falls is the focal point of this short track to the base of the falls. Several vantage points along the track provide spectacular views of the falls spilling 25m over hard argillite rock. Arrive early with your camera as the falls photograph particularly well in the morning when the sun is shining on them.



