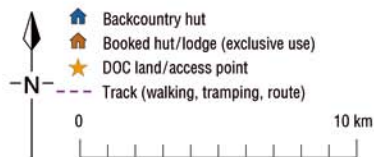


Aorangi Forest Park

This area located in south-eastern Wairarapa is popular with recreational hunters and trampers. It contains some of New Zealand's most striking landforms and has significant Māori history. The park is 19,374 ha from Martinborough to Palliser Bay coast.



Cape Palliser page 27



The Pinnacles. Photo: Amanda Cosgrove

Putangirua Scenic Reserve

GETTING THERE

Located 13km along Cape Palliser Road from the Lake Ferry turnoff, approximately 1hr drive from Martinborough. The turn-off and campsite are 500m past the Department of Conservation caretaker's residence.

VEHICLE ACCESS

Unsealed road for 500m. Suitable for various vehicles including buses.



Pinnacles Track

Walking track.

Length: 2-4hr depending on route/3.5km

When the Aorangi Range was an island, 7 to 9 million years ago, screes poured gravels onto the coast, much as they do today around Cape Palliser.

The Putangirua Stream has exposed this ancient layer of gravels to the erosive forces of rain and floods. Where cemented silts or rocks within the gravel beds prove more resistant than the underlying sediments, spectacular individual pinnacles or "hoodoos" are formed.



The Stonewall. Photo: Joe Hansen

Three routes lead to the Putangirua Pinnacles. Allow 2–3hr for the round trip.

- 1 Walk up the streambed to where the Pinnacles tower overhead (watch for falling rocks, especially after heavy rain and in strong winds).
- 2 Take the easily graded bush walk that starts approximately 10min along the streambed from the carpark.
- 3 Take the more direct loop track from near the stream junction up to the lookout.

For a longer walk, with excellent views of Palliser Bay and Lake Onoke, continue uphill from the lookout to a bulldozed track. It returns you to the coast 300m from the Pinnacles road entrance. Allow 3–4hr for the return trip.

Haurangi Road

GETTING THERE	VEHICLE ACCESS
Take White Rock Road, south of Martinborough, turn right onto the Ruakokoputuna Road about 10km from Martinborough and follow road to end.	Unsealed from White Rock Road and unsuitable for large vehicles.



Old Mill Track (to Sutherlands Hut)
Tramping track. Length: 3hr one way/8km

From cattle stop on saddle above Waikuku Lodge (see p62) go around the Old Mill track around the west branch to Sutherlands Hut.

Pig Ridge Track (to Sutherlands Hut)
Tramping track. Length: 1.5hr one way/4.5km

Follow Old Mill Track and turn left on alternative and shorter route to Sutherlands Hut.

Mt Ross Track
Tramping track. Length: 3.5hr return/9km

Highest peak in the forest park. Starts below locked gate and goes up past Averills Hut to the summit.

Alternative route back north off Mt Ross over cleared farm land and down to 4WD track below locked gate.

Mangatoetoe Stream

GETTING THERE	VEHICLE ACCESS
Drive to Ngawi on Cape Palliser Road and access is approximately 4km after. Legal walking access is up true left of the stream bed to the park boundary.	No vehicle access from Cape Palliser Road.



Mangatoetoe Hut from Coast Road
Tramping track. Length: 1hr one way/4km

Walk up the stream-bed to hut.

Follow this track to Kawakawa Hut, Pararaki Hut and Washpool Hut (approximately 4hr to each hut).

Cape Palliser



Cape Palliser Coastal Walk (unmarked 4WD track)

Walking track. Length: 1.5hr one way/estimated 9km

Walk around the coast past the Stonewall to Ngapotiki Lodge. There is no vehicle access unless organised with local hapu (Māori tribe).



Photo: Joe Hansen

Seal colony

New Zealand fur seals have clearly visible external ears, a pointed snout and long pale coloured whiskers. Adult males reach about 2m long (nose to tail length) and weigh up to 185 kg. Adult females reach 1.5m long and weigh up to 70 kg.

The coat of fur seals is dark grey-brown on the back, and lighter below. They have a thick underfur which is a rich chestnut. In some animals the outer guard hairs have white tips giving them a silvery appearance.

Fur seals are excellent swimmers and skilful divers.

Fur seal care code



- Fur seals are wild animals, so it pays to keep a safe distance from them. Where practicable stay at least 20m away.
- Avoid coming between seals and the sea.
- Keep dogs on a leash and well away.
- Where practicable, do not drive vehicles closer than 50m of a marine mammal
- Never attempt to touch seals—they can be aggressive and often carry diseases.
- Unless there is a good reason to think a seal needs assistance, it should be left alone. Seals can survive quite major injuries if they are in good condition.
- If you see a sick or injured seal, do not attempt to move or assist the animal yourself. Please contact your nearest DOC office. DOC has experienced staff who will respond to the animal if necessary.



They feed mainly offshore and at night on squid, lantern fish, barracouta and, in some places, hoki.

Habitat

Although seals are marine mammals they spend much of their time on land, either to rest at 'haul-out' areas; or to breed at 'rookeries'. Cape Palliser is a rookery with the breeding season running in early summer from November to January.

In rookeries, dominant males rule, defending their territories by posturing and fighting chest to chest until one male submits and leaves. Females give birth to a pup each year and mate again 8–10 days after birth. They will occupy the rookeries almost throughout the year, until they have weaned their pup. Outside of the breeding season, adult males and non-breeders tend to move around various non-breeding colonies. Haul-outs are occupied by immature and adult males in the winter and empty around October, just before the next breeding season starts.



Photo: Joe Hansen

Symbol key

	Camping		Lighthouse
	Camping not permitted		Historic site
	Lodge accommodation		Lookout
	Hut accommodation		Fur Seals
	Motorhome		Mountain biking
	Picnic shelter		Mountain biking not permitted
	Picnic table		Swimming
	Toilets		No swimming
	Water from stream		Hunting
	BBQ (wood or gas)		Hunting not permitted
	Cookers / Electric Stove		Fishing, surfcasting
	Dogs permitted on leash		Surfing
	Dogs not permitted		Diving
	No vehicles		Boating
	Fireplaces		Bird watching