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Tararua ranges. Photo: Joe Hansen

## Introduction

The Wairarapa area provides a diverse range of recreation opportunities and flora and fauna habitats to visit.

The area covers five ecological districts, ranging from the Tararua and Rimutaka ranges, to the Wairarapa plains and to the hill country in the east and north of the area. Features of the area include the Tararua, Rimutaka and Aorangi forest parks, which are popular with trampers and other forest park users. The Pukaha Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre supports the conservation of nationally endangered species through captive management.

The Wairarapa coastline extends for 220 kilometres, and is an area traditionally of high interest to iwi, and is also an important commercial fishery.

Wairarapa Moana contains wetlands that are regionally and nationally important for wader bird habitat, sport game shooting and are also traditional areas for food gathering by Maōri.

The eastern and northern area of the Wairarapa has few areas legally protected, and remaining forest and wetland habitats contain several endangered native plant species. The rare short-tailed bat is found in one location in the Tararua Forest Park.

## Track classifications



### Short walk

Easy walking up to one hour.

Track is well formed, with an even well-drained surface. There may be steps.

Suitable for people of most ages and fitness levels

Streams and rivers are bridged

Walking shoes required



### Walking track

Easy to moderate walking from a few minutes to a day.

Track is mostly well formed; some sections may be steep, rough or muddy.

Suitable for people with low to moderate fitness and abilities.

Clearly sign posted.

Stream and river crossings are bridged.

Walking shoes or light tramping/hiking boots required.



### Easy tramping track

Moderate day or multi-day tramping/hiking

Track is generally well formed, may be steep, rough or muddy.

Suitable for people with moderate fitness. Limited backcountry (remote areas) experience required.

Track has signs, poles or markers. Major streams and river crossings are bridged.

Light tramping/hiking boots required.



### Tramping track

Challenging day or multi-day tramping/hiking.

Track is mostly unformed with steep, rough or muddy sections.

Suitable for people with good fitness.

Moderate to high level backcountry skills and experience, including navigation and survival skills required.

Track has markers, poles or rock cairns.

Expect unbridged stream and river crossings.

Tramping/hiking boots required.



Waiohine Gorge. Photo: Mikis van Geffen

Tracks are measured in time and distance. Times given are a guide only and will vary depending on weather, track conditions and fitness level of the people participating.

## Abbreviations

S	South	SH	State Highway
N	North	VC	Visitor Centre
E	East	FP	Forest Park
W	West		

**Public transport:** There is no available public transport unless identified. Access into the Wairarapa by train from Wellington.

**Bird watching:** All DOC-managed areas are suitable for viewing birds.

**Botany:** All DOC land is suitable for viewing botany.

## Dog walking care code



When enjoying a day in the park with your dog, please follow these simple guidelines:

- Keep your dog under control at all times, a dog out of sight is a dog out of control.
- Carry a leash and use it where required.
- Ensure that your dog does not disrupt other people's enjoyment of the park.
- Clean up after your dog—take a plastic bag and always pick up your dog's waste.



For your own safety, never leave valuables on display in car.