

Inland Track

Abel Tasman National Park



Introduction

The 41.1 km Inland Track links Marahau to Wainui Bay via Pigeon saddle on the Takaka-Totaranui road. The tramp takes three days and passes through a range of regenerating and undisturbed forest types between sea level and the roof of the park, Evans Ridge. Occasional granite outcrops offer good views while the Moa Park Moorlands provide an interesting interlude.

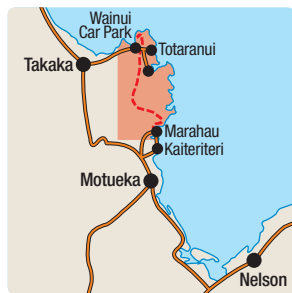
The track is classified as a tramping track. There are two huts and two shelters on the track. The track can be linked with the Abel Tasman Coast Track or water taxi to make a varied round trip. If you choose to stay at any of the huts or campsites on the Abel Tasman Coast Track you must make a hut or campsite booking. The contact details for the Nelson Marlborough Bookings Helpdesk are listed at the end of this publication.

How to get there

Private transport

The Inland Track has road access at several points:

- Marahau, the southern gateway, is 67 km from Nelson.
- Canaan, turn off State Highway 60 on the Takaka Hill onto Canaan Road and follow the unsealed road for 11 km to the car park.
- To reach the northern end or Pigeon Saddle (on the Totaranui Road), follow State Highway 60 over Takaka Hill to Takaka (107 km from Nelson). Turn right upon entering Takaka; from there it is 23 km to Wainui Car Park, 24 km to Pigeon Saddle and 32 km to Totaranui. The last 12 km to Totaranui is narrow, unsealed winding hill road—care is required.



Public transport

- Regular high season bus services provide access to Marahau, Totaranui, Pigeon Saddle and Wainui.

- On-demand transport services are available at Motueka and Takaka.
- Boat services from Kaiteriteri and Marahau provide access to Totaranui.

Accommodation

A Backcountry Hut Pass or Backcountry Hut Tickets are required to stay in the huts along or near the track. These must be purchased before you begin your trip.

Backcountry Hut Passes and Tickets are available from a DOC visitor centre or office; some i-SITEs and some sports shops throughout New Zealand sell Backcountry Hut Tickets. Heating is provided in the huts, but there are no cooking facilities. Please use only dead firewood and carry your own cooking equipment.

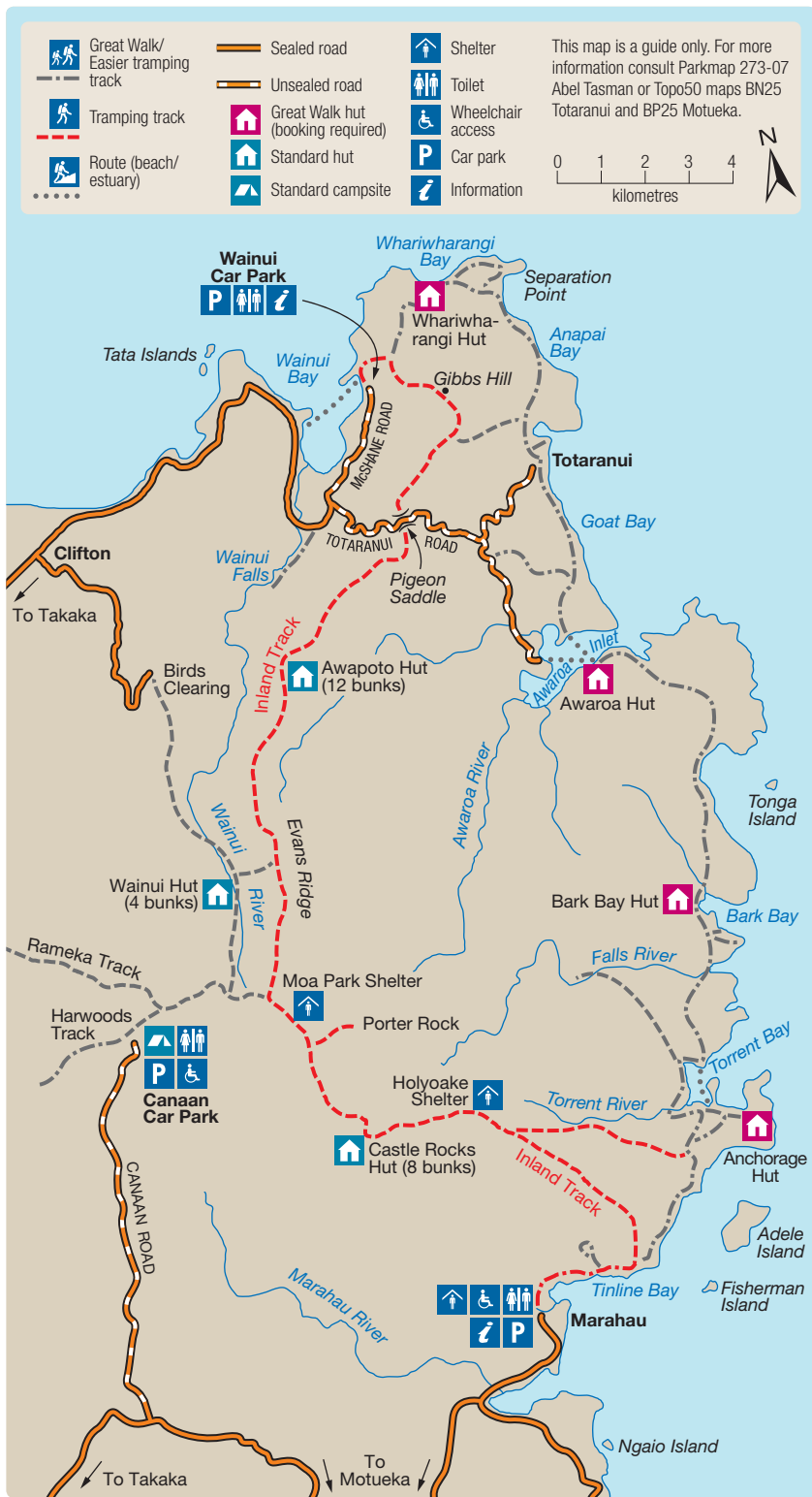
Walking the track

Marahau to Castle Rocks Hut, 5 h 30 min, 15.1 km

From Marahau follow the Abel Tasman Coast Track to Tinline Bay. Here the Inland Track begins, climbing steadily away from the coast and then steeply through regenerating forest. After 2 hours and 30 minutes Holyoake Clearing is reached, where there is a shelter. Above the clearing the track enters forest and continues climbing to Castle Rocks Hut (8 bunks), perched near rock outcrops with wide views of Marahau Valley and Tasman Bay.

Castle Rocks Hut to Awapoto Hut, 6 h, 13 km

The track heads northwards from Castle Rocks Hut then turns west and begins climbing. The gradient steepens and then levels again. The track then undulates for a while before descending to Moa Park Shelter (it's 2 hours, 3.5 km to this point), surrounded by the tussocks of Moa Park itself. There are two side tracks leading to lookouts; Porter Rock is a granite outcrop worth visiting for its excellent views. From Moa Park Shelter the track crosses a small stream

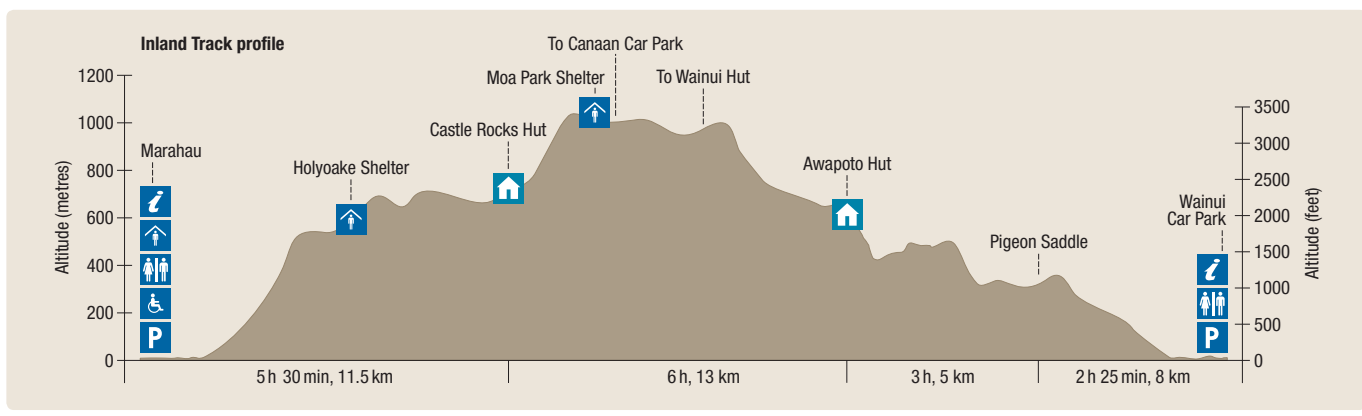


Track categories

- Great Walk/Easier 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 stream 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.

Hut categories

- Great Walk huts** are the most comfortable. They have mattresses, water supply, toilets, hand washing facilities and heating with fuel available. They may have solar lighting, cooking facilities with fuel and a hut warden. Bookings are required.
- Standard huts** have mattresses, water supply and toilet. Wood heaters are provided at huts below the bush line. The Backcountry Hut Pass or Backcountry Hut Tickets are required.



and quickly re-enters the stunted beech forest. Upon reaching Evans Ridge it turns north, beginning a gradual descent to Awapoto Hut (12 bunks).


Awapoto Hut to Pigeon Saddle, 3h, 5 km

Beyond Awapoto Hut the track steepens then eases again before finally descending steeply to the road at Pigeon Saddle.

Pigeon Saddle to Wainui Car Park, 2h 25 min, 8 km


The track climbs slightly, passing a turn-off to a good viewpoint (Lookout Rock). Travel is then fairly level to the short climb up Gibbs Hill. Beyond Gibbs Hill are the best views in the whole park as the track descends, steeply at first, to the saddle on the Wainui-Whariwharangi section of the Abel Tasman Coast Track. At this saddle, the track forks and an easy 45-minute descent begins to the Wainui Car Park.


Please remember

 **Safety:** Weather in Abel Tasman National Park is generally mild but you should be prepared for high winds and heavy rain and carry spare warm clothes all year. Snow falls occasionally around Moa Park and the upper section of Evans Ridge. Please use the visitor books in the huts.

DOC HOTline
0800 362 468
Report any safety hazards
or conservation emergencies
For Fire and Search and Rescue Call 111

Remember your safety is your responsibility. To report any safety hazards in the outdoors call **DOC HOTline 0800 362 468**.

 **Flooding:** In normal flows unbridged streams are easily crossed, however in flood they can become impassable and you will need to be prepared to wait until floodwaters recede.

 **Wasps** are a known hazard and are particularly common from December until April. Carry antihistamine if you are allergic to their stings.

 **Dogs** are not allowed in the national park.

 **Fires** are only allowed in fireplaces at huts. Use only dead wood.


 Carry your own portable cooker.




**NEW ZEALAND
environmental
CARE CODE**

- Protect plants and animals
- Remove rubbish
- Bury toilet waste
- Keep waterways clean
- Take care with fires
- Camp carefully
- Keep to the track
- Consider others
- Respect our cultural heritage
- Enjoy your visit
- *Toitū te whenua* (leave the land undisturbed)

 **Rubbish:** No rubbish facilities are provided; all rubbish must be carried out of the park.

 **Giardia** has been found in some park waters. It can be removed from drinking water by boiling, chemical treatment or filtering.

 **Water:** There are few reliable water sources along the Inland Track, particularly along Evans Ridge and between Tinline Bay and Holyoake Clearing. Carry your own water supply.

Further information

Enjoy your visit to the quiet interior of Abel Tasman National Park.

To find out more contact:

**Department of Conservation
Nelson Regional Visitor Centre**
Millers Acre Centre/Taha o te Awa
79 Trafalgar Street, Nelson 7010
PO Box 375, Nelson 7040
Ph: (03) 546 9339 International: +64 3 546 9339
Email: nelsonvc@doc.govt.nz

To make a booking for a hut or campsite on the Abel Tasman Coast Track, contact:

**Nelson Marlborough Bookings Helpdesk
Department of Conservation**
PO Box 375, Nelson 7040
Ph: (03) 546 8210 International: +64 3 546 8210
Fax: (03) 546 9612 International: +64 3 546 9612
Email: nmbookings@doc.govt.nz

or visit www.doc.govt.nz