

## OHAKUNE

### Walks (less than 3 hours)

See Ohakune map (page 18)

#### 12. Rimu Walk



15 minutes return. This walk begins opposite the Department of Conservation Visitor Centre at the bottom of Ohakune Mountain Road.

This track loops off the Mangawhero Forest Walk. It meanders gently through an understorey of ground ferns and kamahi and crisscrosses a quiet mountain stream. It is suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

#### 13. Mangawhero Forest Walk



1 hour, 3 km loop track. This track begins opposite the Department of Conservation Visitor Centre at the bottom of Ohakune Mountain Road.

After crossing the Mangawhero River the track leads into a forest of kamahi, broadleaf and five finger, with giant rimu, matai and kahikatea reaching 30 metres or more above the forest floor. Immediately after passing through a cut, fallen log the track crosses a large volcanic crater. At its highest point, the track crosses the Ohakune Mountain Road and returns to the Visitor Centre.

#### 14. Mangawhero Falls Walk



5 to 10 minutes return. Starts from a carpark on Ohakune Mountain Road, 13 km past the Department of Conservation Visitor Centre.

This short walk provides excellent views of a beautiful waterfall close to the road. Here, not far below bushline, the beech forest is stunted because of the harsh climate. Spectacular icicles form around the falls in winter.

#### 15. Waitonga Falls Walking Track



1 hour 20 minutes, 4 km return via same track.

The track begins on Ohakune Mountain Road, 11 km past the Department of Conservation Visitor Centre.

The park's highest waterfall, Waitonga Falls (39 m), is reached via a well-formed track through mountain beech and kaikawaka (mountain cedar) forest. On a calm day the southern face of Mt Ruapehu is reflected in Roto-kawa, the pools of an alpine bog which the track passes. On a clear day there are magnificent views of Ruapehu and out to the southwest. Past Waitonga Falls, the track continues as part of the Round the Mountain Track, a four to six day tramp around Mt Ruapehu (page 25).

#### 16. Lake Rotokura Walking Track



30 minutes return. Signposted from State Highway 49, 12 km from Ohakune en route to Waiouru. Drive one kilometre from the turnoff along Karioi Station Road, cross the railway line, continue to Rotokura carpark. See main map (page 20).

Lakes, beech forest and plentiful bird life feature on this short walk in Rotokura Ecological Area. The first lake passed on the track is Dry Lake. Flat, grassed areas above the lake are perfect for family picnics.

The track continues on past Dry Lake to Lake Rotokura. This lake is surrounded by ancient beech forest and on clear days Mount Ruapehu is reflected in the lake's calm waters. Native birds such as tui, kaka, bellbird, fantail and North Island robin are commonly seen or heard along the track to the lake. Rotokura is tapu (sacred healing waters) to Ngati Rangī, the local Maori people or tangata whenua. Please respect this by not eating at or near Rotokura. Fishing is also prohibited.

Lake Rotokura



## Day tramps (3 - 8 hours)

See Ohakune map (page 18)

### 17. Lake Surprise Tramping Track



5 hours, 9 km return. This track is part of the Round the Mountain Track and begins on the Ohakune Mountain Road, 15 km past the Department of Conservation Visitor Centre.

After sidling around open country from the Mountain Road, the track descends into Mangaturuturu Valley beside a beautiful cascade. This section can be very slippery. The creamy coating on the cascade is due to silica and mineral rich water from an alpine spring. Waterfalls and bluffs complement the backdrop of Mount Ruapehu. The Mangaturuturu River is forded shortly after passing Mangaturuturu Hut, (1 hour 30 minutes from the road). Evidence of the 1975 lahar (volcanic mudflow) can be seen here in the scoured treeless river banks. Lake Surprise, a broad, shallow lake set amongst beech forest and tussock, is reached after a steady climb from the river valley.

Return the same way or follow Horopito Track to Horopito (3 hours).

### 18. Old Blyth Tramping Track



4 to 5 hours, 11 km round trip. This track begins on the Ohakune Mountain Road, 7 km past the Department of Conservation Visitor Centre.

Following part of the historic route up Mount Ruapehu, the track climbs gradually through one of the few red beech stands in the park and then passes through kaikawaka and mountain beech until it meets the Waitonga Falls Track. When Blyth Track was constructed in the early 1900s, much of the route was through alpine bog. Logs placed horizontally across the track ('corduroy') helped improve the muddy surface. The remains of this type of track can still be seen. For the return it is necessary to retrace your steps or walk out to the Mountain Road, via the Waitonga Falls / Round the Mountain Tramping Track, and then down the road.

## Ohakune enlargement

