

Dawson Falls Roadend

Walks in Egmont National Park



During winter and snow conditions on the upper routes you will need:

- an ice axe,
- crampons and know how to use them,
- snow gaiters,
- snow goggles.

You may also consider carrying an avalanche transceiver, probe and snow shovel.

Welcome

Located on the south eastern slopes of Mt Taranaki, Dawson Falls sits at the top end of Manaia Road, 14 km from Kaponga. The drive to the roadend is through scenic native forest. Kaponga is an easy drive west of Stratford and Eltham.

This is the starting point for many walks on this side of the mountain. You can also visit a rare working example of a simple hydro-electric power station.

Before you go tramping please tell someone responsible where you are going and your estimated time of arrival back..

Weather

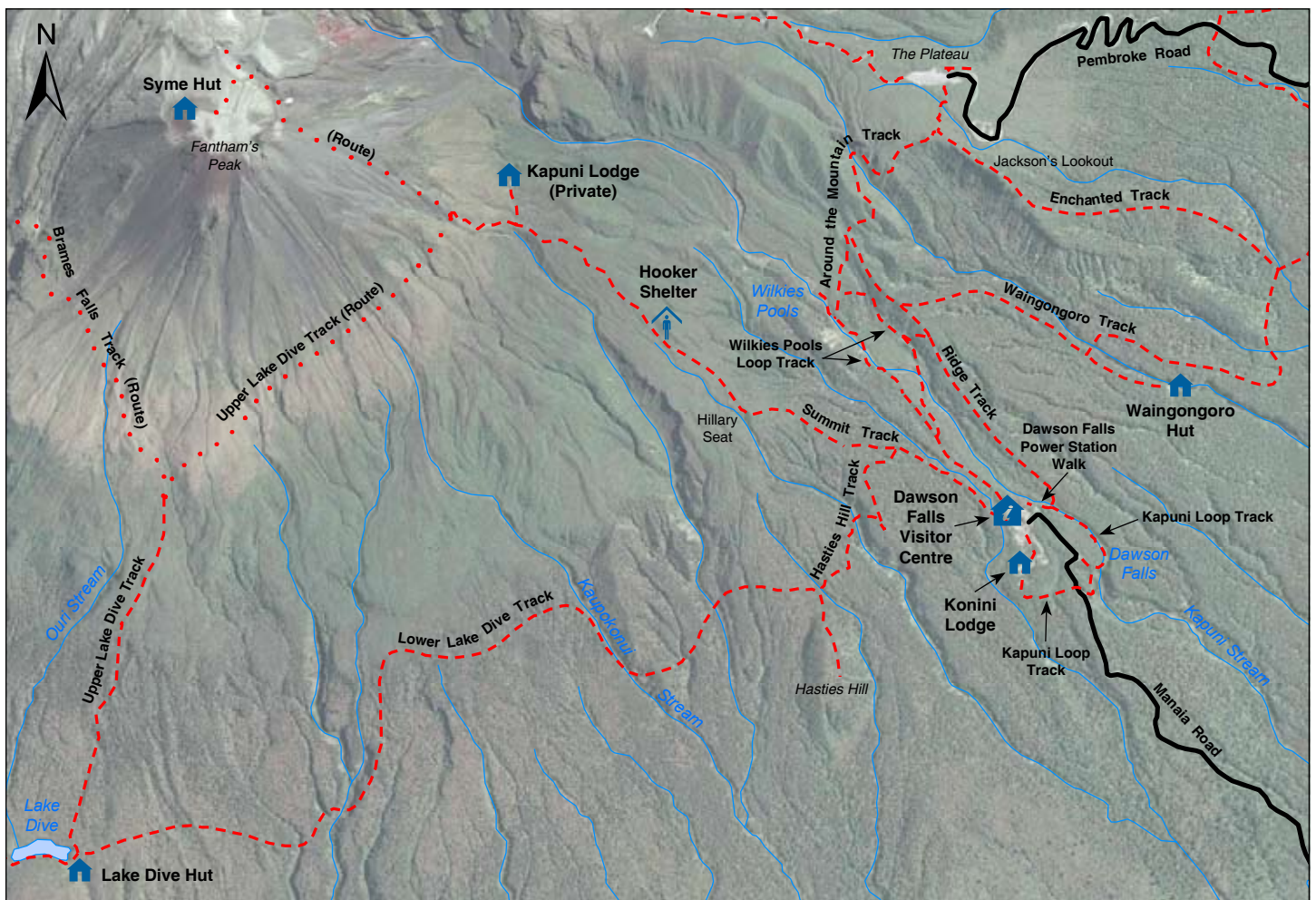
Mt Taranaki has changeable and unpredictable weather. Check the forecast and carry enough clothing and equipment to ensure you are able to cope with any type of weather. The rivers and tributaries are not always bridged and some of these can flood at any time of the year.

For more information contact the North Egmont Visitor Centre:

Phone: +64 6 756 0990

Address: Egmont Road, RD6, Inglewood 4386

Email: egmontvc@doc.govt.nz



Map not to scale **Warning.** This map is not suitable for navigation. For greater detail refer to Infomap 273-09 and the Topo50 map series.





Protect plants and animals

Remove rubbish

Bury toilet waste

Keep streams and lakes clean

Take care with fire

Camp carefully

Keep to the track

Consider others

Respect our cultural heritage

Enjoy your visit

*Toitu te whenua
(Leave the land undisturbed)*

Short walk

Dawson Falls Power Station Barrier Free (10 minutes)

Walk down Manaia Road from the Visitor Centre and turn left at the Power Station sign. Listen to the Kapuni stream which drives the generator that provides electricity for the Dawson Falls Tourist Lodge. This is one of the world's oldest continuously operating generators. Return along the same track.

Day walks

Kapuni Loop Track to Dawson Falls (1½ hours)

Walk down Manaia Road from the Visitor Centre. Kapuni Loop Track is the second on the left.

Walk along the southern banks of the Kapuni Stream, passing the millrace and the top of the falls. A sharp descent takes you down steps that lead to the foot of the falls.

Return back up to the railed lookout for the best view of the falls and follow the track as it winds up to the road. Walk up the road, the track enters the bush to your left and leads up to the parking area.

Wilkie's Pool Loop Track (1½ hours)

Warning: The rivers on this track have been severely eroded and care is needed when crossing.

The track begins near the picnic area above the Visitor Centre. Walk through the "goblin forest" and continue straight ahead past the seat, to the Kapuni Stream. Cross the stream and walk through the sub alpine scrub to Wilkie's Pools.

The eight pools are formed by the scouring action of water-borne sand and gravel on ancient lava. A small track to the right of the pools offers further views but it's slippery when wet or icy. Return to the base of the pools to continue the walk.

The rest of the loop leads past twin falls and bubbling springs. Walk past the power station intake weir, cross the Kapuni Stream and turn left at the seat to return to the Visitor Centre.

The Ridge Loop Track

Time: 1 - 1 hr 30 min return

Cross the Kapuni Stream and begin the uphill climb. Continue left past the Waingongoro track turn off and descend to the next track intersection. Here you can turn left to complete the loop to the Visitor Centre or join the Wilkie's Pools Loop track.

Hasties Hill Track

Time: 1 hr - 1 hr 30 min return

This very scenic uphill tramp enters the bush to the left just above the Visitor Centre.

The track enters the bush to the left just above the Visitor Centre. Turn left again at the first track junction. The track takes a sharp right turn and descends to cross a tributary of the Kaupokonui Stream before ascending steeply. Continue on to the top of Hasties Hill.

Return down the track to the visitor centre.

Be aware there are no safety barriers along the cliff tops on this track.

Tramping Tracks

Fanthams Peak Return Trip (5 hours)

Start on the Summit Track just above the Visitor Centre. The track gradually rises up past the Hillary Seat to the Hooker Shelter. Continue to the Kapuni Lodge junction and climb sharply up a staircase to meet the Upper Lake Dive Track.

The route to the top of Fanthams Peak and Syme Hut (10 persons, 1966m) is marked with snow poles that zig zag up steep scoria slopes. Return the same way.

The upper route is very exposed and not recommended for winter use unless parties are experienced climbers and equipped with ice axes and crampons.

Waingongoro Track Round Trip (4 - 5 hours)

This is an interesting day trip if combined with the Plateau, Enchanted Track, Waingongoro Hut and back to Dawson Falls.

Begin above Visitors Centre on the Wilkie's Pools Loop track. Follow the Around the Mountain Circuit (AMC) to the Plateau for great views of the eastern ring plain.

Return along the AMC to the Enchanted Track turnoff and descent via Jackson's Lookout to the Waingongoro Track junction. Turn right to the Waingongoro Hut crossing a number of streams and the highest swing bridge in Egmont National Park.

Turn left over the bridge for a short walk to the Waingongoro hut. (16 persons). To continue the loop return up the track and turn left down Ridge Track, then right down Wilkie's Pools Loop Track. Turn left and walk past the power station intake weir, cross the Kapuni Stream and turn left at the seat to return to the Visitor Centre.

Lake Dive Round Trip (6 - 8 hours)

An energetic full day trip that begins on the Summit Track above the Visitor Centre.

Turn left on the Hasties Hill Track and make your way to the foot of Hasties Hill before turning right onto the lower Lake Dive Track. This section of the track crosses country broken by gullies so you'll find ladders and staircases.

Lake Dive and Lake Dive Hut are around 3-4 hours tramp from Dawson Falls..

The round trip follows the Upper Lake Dive Track uphill from Lake Dive Hut. The Track rejoins the Summit Track near the top of the staircase. This upper route is very exposed and not recommended for winter unless parties are experienced climbers and equipped with crampons and ice axes.

An alternative is to return to Dawson Falls along the Lower lake Dive Track.

DOC HOTline
0800 362 468
Report any safety hazards or conservation emergencies
For fire and search and rescue call 111