

Holdsworth–Kaitoke tramping trip



Tararua Forest Park

JULY 2008



The Holdsworth-Kaitoke tramp follows the Waiohine and Tauherenikau Rivers for 36km between Holdsworth and Kaitoke.

The maximum altitude is 740m on the Gentle Annie Track. Huts and shelter *en route* allow either a two- or three-day journey. Tracks are marked and turnoffs are signposted. Underfoot conditions vary from dry well-formed track to mud and river boulders. Moderate experience and fitness is necessary.

Distance: 36km approximately
Tramping time: 13–14 hours

How to get there

Start/Finish: Holdsworth

Turn off SH 2 onto Norfolk Rd, 2km south of Masterton. This is signposted and there is a timber processing plant on the corner. Follow Norfolk Road 15km to Holdsworth. Daily rail and regular bus services operate between Wellington and Masterton. Taxis, or for large parties prebooked buses, can be hired for travel between Masterton and Holdsworth.

Start/Finish: Kaitoke

Turn off SH 2 at Marchant Rd (signposted at the western side of the Rimutaka Hill). Travel 2km to a cattle stop at the park entrance. A short distance further on is a large car park. Overnight parking is subject to vandalism. Alternative parking, for a fee, is available at YMCA Camp Kaitoke.

The only public transport is by taxi from Upper Hutt.

Huts

Back country huts cannot be booked and are occupied on a first in first served basis. Hut tickets are required for overnight stays. They can be purchased from sports shops, service stations, information centres, and DOC. Children under the age of 11 can stay free of charge.

Totara Flats:	(Serviced: 3 tickets/night)	24 bunks
Cone:	(Basic: free)	6 bunks
Tutuwai:	(Serviced: 3 tickets/night)	20 bunks

Please carry out all your rubbish

Safety

Equipment

Tararua Forest Park has severe weather conditions at times. Always carry enough clothing and rainwear for cold conditions. Check weather forecasts before departing and allow ample food for your journey.

Maps

Use a map for this tramping trip. Maps are available from Department of Conservation offices, sports shops and book shops.

Tararua Forest Park

Info Map Series NZMS 274-02

Scale 1:100,000

1:50,000 series NZMS 260

Sheet S26

River

Whilst the major rivers on this route are bridged, most side streams are not. These can rise very rapidly in heavy rain. Do not attempt to cross flooded streams. Be prepared to wait if conditions become dangerous.

Party Size

Do not travel alone—always travel with one or more companions. Stay together. In big groups travelling at different paces, form two groups, and nominate a leader and tailender for each party.

Intentions

Advise someone reliable of your intended route, party size and time of return. Always contact this person on your return, so that unnecessary searches are not mounted.

Experience

Do not attempt a trip that is too long or difficult. Try something easier, or join an outdoor club such as a tramping club.




**ENVIRONMENTAL
CARE CODE**

Protect plants and animals

Remove rubbish

Bury toilet waste

Keep streams and lakes clean

Take care with fires

Camp carefully

Keep to the track

Consider others

Respect our cultural heritage

*Toitu te whenua
(Leave the land
undisturbed)*

If you think there is a safety hazard in a conservation area, call DOC HOTline or the nearest Department of Conservation office.

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

Tramping guide

Day One: Holdsworth – Totara Flats Hut 4 hr

From Holdsworth Lodge, cross the bridge and continue up the track toward Donnelly Flat. Turn left at the signpost and climb the "Gentle Annie" track towards Mountain House shelter. 10 min

This well-graded track follows the ridge to the Totara Creek turnoff. 2 hr

Follow the track down the ridge – at times a steep gradient – into Totara Creek. 30 min

Cross here (unbridged) and continue down stream on the true right. The track crosses several creeks and grassy flats. 1 hr

At the Waiohine River, cross the bridge and follow the signs to Totara Flats Hut which has gas cookers, mattresses, wardens' quarters and toilets. It requires three tickets/person/night. 5 min

Totara Flats has numerous camping sites. Campers who use hut facilities must pay one hut ticket.

Day Two: Totara Flats Hut – Tutuwai Hut 5 hr

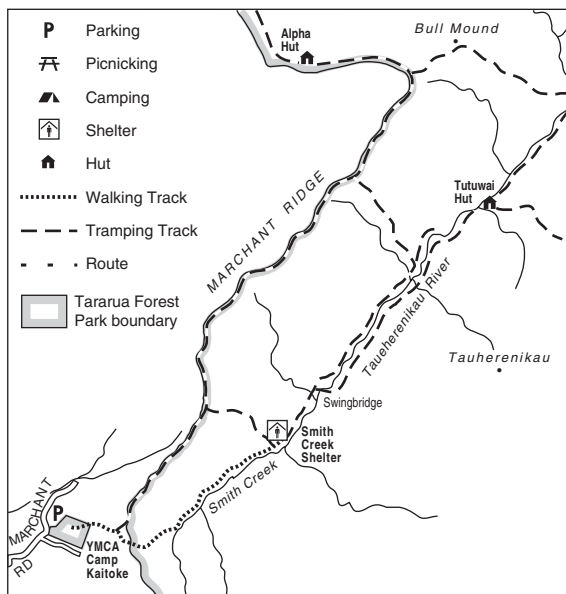
From the hut continue down river across the flats. Before reaching a high bluff, swing away from the river, following the track up a steep short climb onto a high river terrace and continue to the river. 50 min

A large slip will be encountered shortly. Either follow the all-weather sidle track over the slip (20 min), or travel downstream on the river edge to Makaka Creek. Makaka Creek is unbridged and can be dangerous in rain. Cross it and climb up the bank to the marked junction. 30 min

Turn right onto the Cone Saddle track and climb steadily up a spur to the ridge top. 1 hr 30 min

From here the track sidles into Clem Creek and climbs to Cone Saddle. 1 hr 10 min

Descend to Cone Hut in the Tauherenikau Valley. There is no charge to stay at Cone Hut. 20 min



This map is for illustrative purposes only.
DO NOT attempt to navigate using this map.

From Cone Hut go down river, crossing muddy terraces and grassy flats, to Tutuwai Hut, which has mattresses and gas cookers. It requires three tickets/person/night. 40 min

Day Three: 4 hr 30 min

Tutuwai Hut – Marchant Road

From Tutuwai Hut continue down the true left, crossing grass flats and bush terraces past low wide slips. Climb onto the river terraces, where the track continues downstream to a swingbridge. 1 hr

Cross the bridge and follow the track. Some side streams must be treated with care in wet weather. After crossing grassy river flats, Smith Creek shelter is reached. The shelter is not suitable for overnight stays. 1 hr 30 min

The track from here follows Smith Creek upstream to the base of the Puffer Track. 1 hr

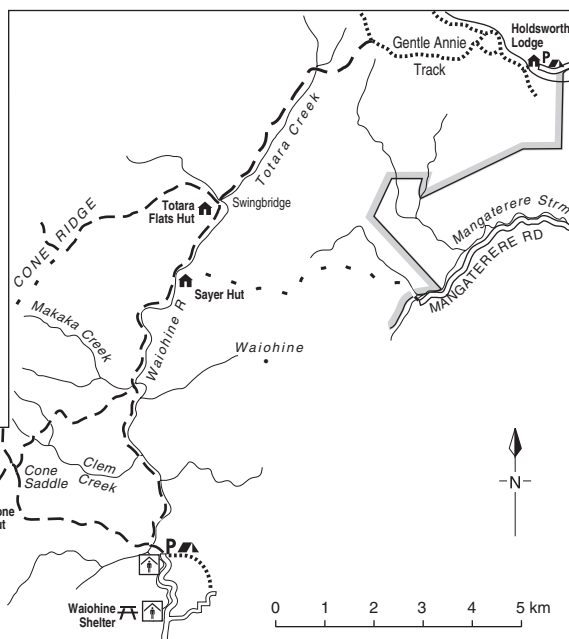
Climb the Puffer Track to a saddle and down to the Marchant Road carpark. 1 hr

Total Time

Holdsworth Lodge – Totara Flats Hut 4 hr

Totara Flats Hut – Tutuwai Hut 5 hr

Tutuwai Hut – Marchant Road 4½ hr



More Information

Department of Conservation

Wairarapa Area Office
South Rd, PO Box 191, Masterton 5840
Ph: 06-377 0700; Fax: 06-6 377 2976

Wellington Visitor Centre
Conservation House,
18 Manners St, Wellington.
Ph: 04-384 7770; Fax: 04-384 7773
E-mail: wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz

Web: www.doc.govt.nz