Welcome to Hawke’s Bay – an ideal place to walk, tramp and explore. Forest, wildlife, marine reserves, and historic parks and reserves can all be found from the coastal areas in the east, to the mountain ranges in the west. Enjoy a picnic with friends or a more challenging outdoor adventure – there is something for everyone. This brochure highlights some of the region’s iconic sites and the flora and fauna you might see along the way. Places in the brochure are numbered and marked on the map overleaf.

Places to stay
Please note that fees are payable for overnight use of standard and serviced huts and campsites. Backcountry hut tickets and passes are available at DOC offices and some i-SITES and selected retailers throughout New Zealand/Aotearoa. There are camping opportunities at Kaweka Forest Park, Ruahine Forest Park, Lake Tūtira, Anzac Park, Waitara/Glenfalls Recreation Reserve, Everetts Campsite in the Mohaka Conservation Area and the Waikare River Mouth Campsite. For full information on backcountry huts and conservation campsites in the region, visit www.doc.govt.nz.

Robson’s Lodge
This historic homestead in the southern Kaweka Forest Park, built in 1908, is superbly sited on a small hill with views over Kuripapango. It is available for hire by schools, clubs, family groups or individuals; book by visiting www.booking.doc.govt.nz.

Kaweka Forest Park
The forest park provides serviced, standard and basic huts and bivvies. There are designated campsites at Kuripapango and the Mangatutu Hot Springs, but camping is permitted throughout the park.

Eastern Ruahine Forest Park
The eastern Ruahine Forest Park has serviced, standard and basic huts and bivvies. Some huts require booking over the summer season. There are also basic campsites and camping is permitted throughout the park.

For more information visit www.doc.govt.nz or contact

Department of Conservation
Ahuriri/Napier Office
59 Marine Parade, Napier 4110
PO Box 644, Napier 4140
Phone: 06 834 3111
Email: napier@doc.govt.nz

Napier i-SITE Visitor Information Centre
100 Marine Parade, Napier 4110
Phone: 06 834 1911
Email: info@napiernz.com
Website: www.napiernz.com

This publication is produced using paper sourced from well-managed, renewable and legally logged forests.
Meet the locals

The kōkako is one of the world’s rarest birds. It is renowned for the clarity and volume of its song, which carries far across the forest.

The rare whio/blue duck lives in clear, fast-flowing rivers. It is named after the male bird’s shrill ‘whio’ whistle.

The nikāu is the world’s southernmost palm and New Zealand’s only native palm. Its nectar is a favourite of bees, tūī and korimako/bellbirds.

Kahikatea/white pine, the tallest of New Zealand’s forest trees, grows to over 60 m. Kererū love its red fruit.

Wētā have been around long enough to see dinosaurs come and go. There are more than 70 species, all found only in New Zealand.

The ongaonga/giant nettle can cause a severe allergic reaction. It is a food for the larvae of the karukura/red admiral butterfly, which roll themselves in the plant’s leaves where its stinging hairs protect them from predators.

The kererū/New Zealand wood pigeon wears iridescent green and bronze feathers on its head, and a smart white vest. The noisy beat of the male bird’s shrill ‘whio’ whistle.

The mighty tōtara is the king of the forest. It reaches up to 30 m, taking over 100 years to do so.

The pekapeka/long-tailed bat lives in caves and hollow trees. It is an aerial insectivore, flying at 60 km/h and using echolocation calls to find its prey.

The tūī and korimako/bellbirds. New Zealand’s forest trees, grows to over 60 m. Kererū love its red fruit.
Tracks and track grades
Hawke’s Bay’s 820 km of tracks suit all abilities. Choose a track that suits your skills, fitness and the experience. Remember, safety is your responsibility – be prepared for all weather conditions with suitable clothing and equipment. All times and distances in this brochure are one way unless otherwise stated.

- Easy access short walk: Suitable for people of all abilities, (assisted) wheelchairs and children’s buggies
- Short walk: Well formed, easy walking for up to an hour
- Walking track: Well formed, easy walks from a few minutes to a day
- Easy tramping track: Generally well formed track for comfortable overnight tramping/hiking trips
- Tramping track: Mostly unformed but has track directional markers, poles or cairns

Boundary Stream Mainland Island
Visit www.doc.govt.nz for more information on these tracks. The Maungaharuru-Tangitū Trust gifted four reserves to the people of New Zealand. To find out more about the significance of the reserves to local hapū, visit www.tangoio.maori.nz/gifted-lands.

‘Mainland Islands’ are living laboratories where we learn better ways to restore forest habitats. Boundary Stream Mainland Island is part of the Poutiri Ao ō Tāne project that allows native flora and fauna to thrive in the wider landscape. Come and see the results for yourself – it is like taking a walk in the past. Visit www.poutiri.co.nz for further information.

1. Ťūmanako Loop Track (1 hr, 1.4 km)
This track’s gentle contours make it ideal for all visitors. Interpretation panels help visitors spot endangered plants, like yellow-flowered mistletoe, while children love looking into the wētā hotels.

2. Kamahi Loop Track (2 hr, 4.5 km)
This easy walking track includes an ancient (more than 800 years old!) matai – and you might see kōkako, reintroduced in 2001. Watch as they scamper along branches and up tree trunks.

3. Kamahi Loop Track to Shine Falls and Heays Access Road (5 hr, 8.3 km one way)
From the Pohokura Road car park, the track takes in part of the Ťūmanako and Kamahi loops, showcasing some of the reserve’s features, such as the rich mixture of tawa, hināu, matai and rewarewa – including an ancient matai about 800 years old. The section of track between the midpoint of Kamahi Loop and Shine Falls (known as Middle Track) may be rough and steep in places. From above Shine Falls the track descends steeply through stands of rewarewa, crossing Boundary Stream to reach the bottom of the spectacular Shine Falls before continuing to Heays Access Road.

4. Bell Rock Loop Track (3 hr, 5.3 km)
This track is named for an unusually shaped rock sculptured by years of wind to resemble a large bell. Enjoy extensive views along the coast and as far as Mount Ruapehu on a fine day. In summer a dense stand of mountain holly provides a spectacular display.

2. Bellbird Bush Scenic Reserve
Bellbird Bush Scenic Reserve is aptly named for its numerous korimako/bellbirds. Tūi, riroriro/warbler, tiwaiwaka/fantails, miromiro/tomtits and titīpounamu/riflemen can also be heard here.

- Loop Track (15 min, 800 m)
Access to this short loop track is from Pohokura Road. Experience the song of the korimako as you walk through the bush.

- Bellbird Bush Track (1 hr, 1.9 km)
This one-way track from the corner of Pohokura and Toi Flat Roads is through forest dominated by red and black beech, with occasional podocarps and black maire. The southern slopes are mainly mānuka scrub. Take a short detour halfway along the track for extensive views of the Maungaharuru. Return on the same track or exit further up onto Pohokura Road and walk back along the road.

3. Lake Opouahi
Opouahi Scenic Reserve is named after the deep, spring-fed lake and surrounding district. Enjoy a stroll through the reserve, picnic under the shelter or kayak on the lake. This special reserve includes the Pan Pac Kiwi Crèche; it is partly surrounded by a predator-proof fence to protect young kiwi until they can defend themselves in the wild.
**Lake Tūtira**

Tūtira is a renowned taonga of the Maungaharuru-Tangitū hapū. This area contains several historic pā and kāinga sites. Lake Tūtira became a bird sanctuary in 1929, and is today a wildlife refuge. There are several walks in this area: take a short stroll along the lake edge or enjoy the magnificent views from Table Mountain. A second lake – Lake Waikōpiro – is separated from Lake Tūtira by a narrow causeway. The campsite is at the south-eastern end of Lake Tūtira. For information on recreational water quality visit www.hbrc.govt.nz.

**Lake Waikōpiro Loop Track** *(20 min, 1.1 km)*

This short loop track follows the shoreline of Lake Waikōpiro. A picturesque walk passing through both native and introduced plantings.

**Peras Track** *(2 hr, 4.5 km)*

The steady climb up this loop track is rewarded with views over the lake and surrounding farmland. Continue along the track before dropping down near the campsite and lake edge.

**Galbraith Loop Track** *(2 hr, 4 km)*

This loop track includes the Oporae Pā site, the only pā site on the edge of Lake Tūtira with earthworks still visible.

**Table Mountain Loop Track** *(5 hr, 7.1 km)*

This uphill climb through Tūtira Station and the adjoining reserve to Table Mountain trig has magnificent views of the inland Kaweka and Maungaharuru ranges, and coastal Hawke’s Bay from Mahia Peninsula to Cape Kidnappers/Te Kauwae-a-Māui. The track then drops down to the lake through a pine plantation.

---

**Waipātiki Scenic Reserve Track**

**Aropoaanui Road Loop** *(1 hr 30 min, 3.5 km)*

Waipātiki is one of Hawke’s Bay’s few remaining native coastal forests with a wide range of vegetation. Mixed broadleaf and nikau forest dominate the lower parts of the reserve; tall kānuka, with an understorey of hangehange, prevail on the upper slopes. You can hear kererū and tūī throughout the reserve. You can reach the reserve from either the lower entrance off Aropoaanui Road or the higher entrance off Aropoaanui Road. The track’s middle section is a loop – return to the same entry point or exit via the other road.

**White Pine Bush Scenic Reserve**

White Pine Bush is a great place to visit and experience a native New Zealand forest. Kahikatea/white pine is the dominant feature here, although an impressive stand of nikau palms also provides its own unique beauty. A picturesque stream and small waterfall are both visible from the track – you may see small fish, tuna/eels and kōura/freshwater crayfish. Continue walking uphill for another 15 min to reach Tangoio Falls.

**Puketitiri and other reserves**

Visit www.doc.govt.nz for more information on these tracks. Puketitiri’s reserves exist largely thanks to dedicated local conservationists. Don’t miss Balls Clearing, a stand of magnificent forest named after Jack Ball, the man who reputedly pulled his own plough.

**Balls Clearing Scenic Reserve** *(10–40 min, 2.5 km)*

This outstanding example of dense virgin lowland podocarp forest is best seen from its many walking tracks. The reserve is also home to a significant colony of native nocturnal pekapeka/long-tailed bats – enjoy a twilight picnic and watch for them at dusk. Part of this walk is suitable for people in assisted wheelchairs.
Little Bush – Forest & Bird (45 min, 1 km)
This Forest & Bird reserve is notable for the constant birdsong, particularly korimako/bellbird and tūī. The reserve contains a mix of native plants, including kahikatea, matai, rimu, hinua, tarata/lemonwood and pōkākā, with several trees estimated to be 500 years old.

William Hartree Memorial Scenic Reserve (20 min – 1 hr, 1.2 km)
Mrs Audrey Hartree donated this area in 1962 in memory of her husband. Walk through the vigorous regenerating forest, looking for the rare yellow-flowered mistletoe with its strongly scented flowers.

Blowhard Bush Reserve – Forest & Bird
Experience beautiful forest, sculptural limestone formations and windy ridges in this reserve owned by the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society. Home to many native bird species, the reserve has four walking tracks that take you through kānuka and beech forest. Visit www.forestandbird.org.nz.

Tui Track (2 hr – 2 hr 30 min)
Troglydyte Track (30 – 45 min)
Rakanui Track (30 min)
Rewi Loop Track (30 min)

Kaweka Forest Park
Visit www.doc.govt.nz for more information on these tracks.

Dogs must have a permit. Other restrictions apply to taking dogs into this area. Contact the DOC Ahuriri/Napier office for details.

Alpine herbfields, shrublands, tussock valleys and beech forests with pockets of podocarp are all features of the Kaweka Forest Park. It offers walking and tramping for everyone from day walkers to experienced trampers, and recreational opportunities including rafting, kayaking, hunting and fishing, and hot springs. Highlights include the Mangatutu and Mangatainoka Hot Springs, and the climb up to Kaweka Trig (J) – the highest point in the park at 1,724 m. There are many picnic and camping spots in the park.

Makahu Road end to Mangatutu Hot Springs (15 min, 300 m)
A short steep track descends from the car park to the Mangatutu Hot Springs. The water trickles down a riverside bluff, where it is channelled into two tubs. An ideal place for a hot soak.

Makahu Road end to Te Puia Hut (Lodge) and Mangatainoka Hot Springs (3 hr, 7.4 km)
This is a popular weekend walk and offers a chance to enjoy a soak in the Mangatainoka Hot Springs. Te Puia Hut (Lodge) lies on the banks of the scenic Mohaka River – swim, fish for trout, or look out for the whio/blue duck. From the hut, it is a further 45 min to the Mangatainoka Hot Springs.

Kaweka Road end to Kaweka Trig (J) (3 hr each way, 3.2 km)
The most spectacular walk in the park. From the car park, a benched track leads through scattered mountain beech to a steep shingle face. A short climb leads to Makahu Spur; from here a well-defined track climbs the shingle-covered spur past Dominie Bivvy and on to the main Kaweka Range.

Lakes Road end to lakes Rototuna and Rotoroa (30 min, 1.2 km)
This short walk, passing through kānuka and mixed forest, descends to Rototuna, the western lake. Follow the lake edge for an easy walk around the lake. Although small, these lakes are of considerable ecological and botanical significance.

Whakamaharatanga

This walkway crosses farmland, most of which was under water prior to the Napier earthquake in 1931. There are two prominent old pā sites with identifiable tūāpapa/terraces, pits and middens/shell dumps. Whakamaharatanga is closed for lambing from 1 July to 30 September, and may be closed at other times for farm management.

Whakamaharatanga Walkway (1 hr, 3.5 km)
Rorookuri was an island in the original Te Whanganui-ā-Orotu lagoon with significant archaeological features. One of these, Otiere Pā, was defended by two ditches and a bank across the narrow headland, all of which can still be seen. The track follows the base of Rorookuri Hill, past Otiere Pā and back to the car park.

Rorookuri Summit Track (40 min, 2.5 km)
The Summit Track climbs to the top of Rorookuri Hill, offering magnificent views of Hawke’s Bay, before descending to join the Whakamaharatanga Walkway.

Ahuriri Estuary

Visit www.doc.govt.nz for more information on these tracks.

The estuary was once part of a 3,800 ha lagoon called Te Whanganui-ā-Orotu. But in 1931, a massive earthquake rocked Hawke’s Bay, raising the land over 3 m in places. The lagoon was dramatically altered and today only 470 ha remain. The estuary is one of the most significant on the east coast of the North Island; it supports a large community of birds, fish, invertebrates and aquatic plant life.

Ahuriri Estuary Loop Track (1 hr, 2.7 km)
This easy walking track is suitable for all fitness levels, with seating provided at different viewing points. Watch small crabs as they move cautiously from their holes in the exposed mud banks, trying to avoid feeding birds. Interpretation signs tell the area's history, its flora, fauna and the dynamics of tidal flows.

The track starts at the Humber Street car park, and follows the Whakamaharatanga Walkway. About 15 min walk from the start, the track crosses the Embankment Bridge across the main channel of the estuary, continuing around the southern side of the estuary and crossing Pandora Bridge back to Humber Street.
**Otātara Pā Historic Reserve**

Visit www.doc.govt.nz for more information on the tracks below.

This is one of the largest and most ancient Māori pā sites in Hawke’s Bay. It incorporates two pā sites: Otātara Pā and Hikurangi Pā. It is important for its size, and for the many tūpāpā/terraces still evident today. Some tūpāpā housed large pit complexes and māra/gardens, while others had living areas. Sites of fighting, death or burial are considered wāhi tapu/sacred places by Māori. Feel free to wander and look, but please respect the area.

**Te Ara ā Makere – Maggie’s Way**

The walking track over the reserve starts at the Springfield Road entrance where visitors pass under the carved waharoa/gateway to enter Otātara Pā. The track passes whare/house sites and rua kūmara/kumara pits, and leads to commanding views of the coastline and Heretaunga plains. Return on the same track or exit via the Churchill Drive access.

**Cape Kidnappers/Te Kauwae-a-Māui Gannet Reserve and walking track**

The largest and most accessible mainland tūkapū/Australasian gannet colony in the world, there is an estimated breeding population of 5,000 pairs nesting at any one time. The best time to see them is between November and February. After breeding, the fledglings’ first flight is to Australia, returning after three years to live around New Zealand waters. Each year the adults disperse around New Zealand before returning to the Cape to breed.

**Mohi Bush Scenic Reserve**

Mohi Bush is perhaps the best reserve to explore on the Maraetotara plateau. The tracks are reasonably flat and the walking easy. Look for the tiny tītīpounamu/rifleman, New Zealand’s smallest bird, which is rarely seen outside the forest parks in Hawke’s Bay.

**Ruahine Forest Park**

Dogs must have a permit.

Ruahine Forest Park offers an array of recreation opportunities, including hunting, fishing, mountain biking and tramping. These ruggedly beautiful ranges, made up of the main Ruahine Range and four subsidiary ranges, rise abruptly and are relatively narrow. Vegetation in the park varies as the altitude changes. In the south the conditions favour tūpare/leatherwood, forming the largest unbroken expanse in the country.

**Yeomans Track**

4 hr 30 min each way (9 hr return), 4.8 km track and 3.2 km road

2–3 hr (loop return)

A gentle low-level forest walking and mountain biking track along the old Yeomans Mill log-hauling route to Ellis Hut. You need to cross the Makaroro River to access the start of the track – refer to the DOC website (www.doc.govt.nz) for current information about reaching the start of the track. You can also take a 17 km mountain bike trip by returning along Ellis and Wakarara roads (private forestry roads).
Sunrise Track (3 hr, 6 km each way, 12 km total)
One of the most popular walks in the park, a steady climb through changing vegetation brings you to Sunrise Hut on the tops of the Ruahine Range. The hut is sited in a tussock clearing beside the bush edge, with spectacular views of Hawke’s Bay.

Swamp Track (1 hr, 2.2 km)
A low-level loop track that meanders through beech, rimu and kahikatea forest. It is accessible from the base of the Sunrise track off North Block Road car park.

Coppermine Track (1 hr, 2 km each way)
A pleasant popular walk through lowland forest to a historic copper-mining area. The copper deposits in the upper Coppermine Creek are a special feature of this area.

A’Deanes Bush Scenic Reserve
A’Deanes Bush is the best remaining example of the original forest of the Ruataniwha plains. The 38.5 ha reserve sits on a flat river terrace and is dominated by mataī and kahikatea. The Friends of A’Deane’s Bush work with DOC to control pests, plant native trees and monitor plants and animals in the reserve.

Monckton Scenic Reserve
This 16.5 ha reserve is a mixture of podocarp and beech forest, rich in kahikatea, tōtara, beech, mataī, tawa and kōwhai. Native birds are plentiful too. Spring is a good time to visit, as tūī and korimako/bellbirds are attracted to the many flowering kōwhai trees.

Monckton Walkway (30 min, 1.6 km)
This track starts with a ‘rock hop’ through the Tangarewai Stream before gently climbing and descending the alluvial terraces cut by the stream. Have a break in the picnic area after you’ve enjoyed a walk in the reserve.

ANZAC Park (Tararua DC)
This sheltered pocket of native forest, close to Norsewood, is a pleasant spot for a short or overnight stop. Mataī and tōtara are prominent and there is a wealth of smaller broadleaf trees. A large area by the forest is set aside for picnicking and camping.

Te Angiangi Marine Reserve
Visit www.doc.govt.nz for more information.
This reserve was established in 1997 and covers about 446 ha. It extends 1 nm offshore between Blackhead and Aramoana beaches. Learn to snorkel in Stingray Bay, look for young pāua in the rock pools, or dive with large schools of oia/butterfly perch and tarakihi found on the boulder bank offshore.

Mangatoro Scenic Reserve (Tararua DC)
This basin-shaped reserve near Dannevirke is one of the best remaining areas of lowland mixed podocarp forest in southern Hawke’s Bay. A highlight is the giant tōtara – said to be one of the largest in New Zealand – and the calls of the native birds that resonate throughout the reserve.

Mangatoro Loop Track (20 min, 1 km)
This easy walking track passes through a variety of plant species, including a tall dense stand of kahikatea trees towering above the damp river flats. Look out for the unusual native passionfruit: their orange-red fruit is a favourite of the kererū and other native birds.

Waihi Falls Scenic Reserve (Tararua DC)
This 21 ha pocket of rare bush, 40 km south-east of Dannevirke, became Hawke’s Bay’s first reserve in 1899. It’s podocarp forest includes tōtara, mataī, kahikatea and rimu. Waihi Falls is a lovely place for a picnic.

Waihi Falls Track (10 min, 300 m)
This short track leads to the base of Waihi Falls. Vantage points along the track provide spectacular views of the falls spilling 25 m over hard rock, especially after rain. Arrive early with your camera as the falls photograph well in the morning sun.