

Holdsworth – Kaitoke tramping trip

Tararua Forest Park
36 km, 13–14 hours



The Holdsworth – Kaitoke tramp follows the Waiohine and Tauherenikau Rivers for 36 km between Holdsworth and Kaitoke. The maximum altitude is 740 m on the Gentle Annie Track. Huts and shelter en route allow either a 2 or 3 day journey. Tracks are marked and turnoffs are signposted. Please note: times and distances are approximate.



Tramping track: Challenging day or multi-day hiking. Underfoot conditions on this track vary from dry well-formed track to mud and river boulders. Moderate experience and fitness are necessary.

Tramping boots required.

Getting there

Start/finish: Holdsworth

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

Start/finish: Kaitoke

Turn off State Highway 2 onto Marchant Road (signposted at the western side of the Rimutaka Hill), at the YMCA Camp Kaitoke turnoff. Near the end of Marchant Road, turn right into Kiwi Ranch Road. The carpark is located on the left, approximately 500m along Kiwi Ranch Road. This carpark has increased vehicle security and improves the visitor experience at this important access point.

The only public transport is by taxi from Upper Hutt.



Huts

A backcountry hut pass or hut tickets are required for overnight stays. These can be purchased from some sports shops, service stations, information centres, and DOC. Children under the age of 11 can stay free of charge.

Totara Flats Hut: Serviced, 26 bunks
3 standard or 1 serviced hut ticket*

Cone Hut: Basic, 6 bunks, no charge

Tutuwai Hut: Serviced, 20 bunks
3 standard or 1 serviced hut ticket*

*per person per night

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 DOC offices, some sports shops and book shops.

NZ Topo50 BP33 Featherston

NZ Topo50 BP34 Masterton

Scale: 1:50,000

Rivers

Whilst the major rivers on this route are bridged, some 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.

Tell someone before you go

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. Please write your intentions in the logbooks in the huts and lodge. See also the AdventureSmart website, visit www.adventuresmart.co.nz/outdoor-intentions/

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.

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. Overnight parties should always include experienced trampers.

Updates

Facilities and services can change – before you set out, check the weather at www.metservice.com and the latest track and hut information on the DOC website.

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

www.doc.govt.nz

newzealand.govt.nz

Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Track guide



Warning: this track has unbridged stream crossings that can become impassable after heavy rain. Please ensure you monitor weather conditions before leaving and do not attempt to cross flooded streams.

Day 1: 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 along the ridge to a high point, 575 m, and continue along the track, heading down towards Totara Creek. Follow the creek on the true left to the swing bridge crossing, then continue down the stream on the true right. 1 hr 30 min



At the Waiohine River, cross the bridge and follow the signs to Totara Flats Hut, which has mattresses, wardens' quarters and toilets. *It requires 3 standard or 1 serviced ticket per person per night.* 5 min



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

Day 2: 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 track over the slip (30 min) or travel downstream on the river terrace to Makaka Creek (only possible when river is low). Cross the Makaka Creek bridge 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



From Cone Hut go down river, crossing muddy terraces and grassy flats, to Tutuwai Hut, which has mattresses, wardens quarters and toilets. *It requires 3 standard or 1 serviced ticket per person per night.* 40 min

Day 3: Tutuwai Hut – Marchant Road 4 hr 30 min

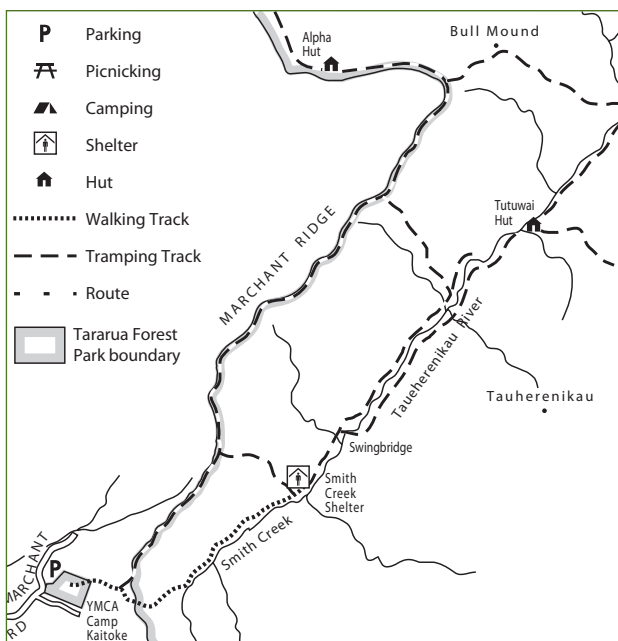
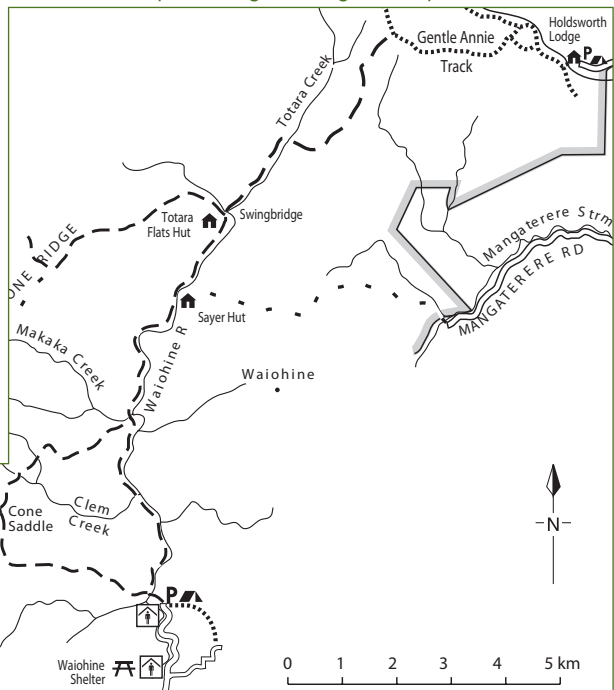
From Tutuwai Hut continue down the true left, crossing grass flats and bush terraces past low, wide slips. Climb onto the river terraces, where the track continues downstream to a swing bridge. 1 hr

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 Kiwi Ranch Road car park. 1 hr

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



Published by:
Department of Conservation
Manawatu Wairarapa
PO Box 5086 | Wellington | New Zealand | November 2014

1. Plan ahead and prepare
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces
3. Dispose of waste properly
4. Leave what you find
5. Minimise the effects of fire
6. Respect wildlife and farm animals
7. Be considerate of others



For more information

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