Welcome

Taranaki boasts magnificent gardens, the iconic Mount Taranaki, a spectacular national park, three marine reserves, iron sand beaches fringed with great surf, wonderful lakes, a vibrant arts and cultural scene, gourmet cafés and restaurants, fantastic museums and galleries and a range of activities for those with a sense of fun and adventure.

A network of walking tracks links these many attractions and offers a unique perspective of Taranaki’s legendary landscape. For more information about the region head to www.visit.taranaki.info

Cover image: Mount Taranaki at dusk reflected in the Pouakai Tarns, Jeremy Beckers. To capture this shot for yourself, see Pouakai Crossing /Circuit on page 6.
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Things to know before you go

Walking is a great way to explore Taranaki. You can safely walk many tracks without any specialist clothing, equipment or skills. However, if you want to attempt the moderate or challenging walks in this guide, good planning, preparation and in some cases mountaineering experience is essential. Follow these tips to help ensure you have a safe and enjoyable walk.

- Allow time – Plan your route and allow enough time to get around changing tides and daylight hours. Check DOC for current track conditions.

- Tell someone – Make sure someone knows your plans so they can raise an alarm if you haven’t returned or log your trip on www.adventuresmart.org.nz.

- Know your limits – Adventure within your physical limits and experience.

- Go prepared – Make sure you have enough food, equipment, clothing and emergency rations for the worst-case scenario and changing conditions in weather and temperature. Take appropriate means of communication.

- Look after the environment – Take only photographs and leave only footprints. Do not light fires. Respect plants, wildlife and other explorers. Stop the spread of freshwater pests by cleaning and drying all wet items before crossing waterways.

- Be sensible – Don’t walk alone, in an emergency call 111, avoid alpine, coastal or river walks when bad weather is forecast. Your safety is your responsibility.

- Be respectful – Mount Taranaki and the surrounding landscapes have great spiritual significance to local Māori. Please be respectful of our cultural heritage when out and about.

- Drone flying - All aircraft activities (including flying drones) on or over public conservation lands and waters must have a concession or authorisation from Department of Conservation: www.doc.govt.nz.

Please check if the walk is dog or cycle friendly, if you are planning to take your dog or use your bike for any of the routes.

Some routes have sections that aren’t suitable for cycling; take note of signage on each walkway.

WARNING: The maps in this booklet are a guide only and are not suitable for navigation. For greater detail refer to topographical maps available from the Department of Conservation – contact details on back cover.
Egmont National Park

According to Māori legend, Mount Taranaki once stood in the centre of the North Island alongside Ruapehu, Tongariro and Ngauruhoe. Taranaki fell in love with pretty Mount Pihanga and battled with Tongariro for her heart. After losing, Taranaki was banished to the west, carving the Whanganui River in his wake.

These days the 2518m volcanic peak, which last erupted in 1755, offers more than 200km of walking tracks for outdoor adventures through untouched bush, clear streams, mystical forests and breath-taking views.

Tracks range from 15 minute family-friendly walks to the three-to-five day around the mountain hike.

Caution: When exploring Mount Taranaki, be prepared for the rapidly changing weather conditions (see ‘Things to know before you go’ on page 4). Contact the Department of Conservation or your closest i-SITE for advice before you attempt the more challenging tracks.
**Pouakai Crossing/Circuit**

Length: 18.4km, 7-9 hour crossing or 23.4km, 2-3 day circuit

Difficulty: Moderate/Challenging

Location: Starts at the Egmont National Park Visitor Centre, 2879 Egmont Rd, Taranaki. (A)

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**Official Alert for Pouakai Crossing from June 2018.**

Alternate track access is required via the Kokowai Track, a detour of two hours. Please see the DOC website for details and updates.

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The Pouakai Crossing and Pouakai Circuit display centuries of volcanic activity from the towering Dieffenbach cliffs (B) to the boomerang slip (C) and the red water of the Kokowai Stream (D) caused by manganese oxide oozing from the earth.

The track takes you past Holly Hut (E) and through the fragile Ahukawakawa Wetlands (F), to Pouakai Hut (G) and the picture-perfect Pouakai Tarns (H).

After the Pouakai Hut, Pouakai Crossing walkers head down the stairs to Mangorei Rd. The Pouakai Circuit returns back to Egmont National Park Visitor Centre via Henry Peak, forests, wetlands and a large swing bridge over the Waiwhakaiho River.

For a third, shorter option, you can walk from the top of Mangorei Rd (I) to Pouakai Hut and the Pouakai Tarns and back (5 hours return).

For more information, contact DOC (see back cover).

**Warning** – if hiking the Pouakai Crossing, you will need to organise transfers. Unbridged streams may be impassable after heavy rain. There are other hikes in the vicinity that aren’t included in this map.
The York Loop track follows part of the old Egmont Branch Railway Line which was constructed in 1901 to provide metal for the roads and rocks for Port Taranaki.

The quarry stopped operating in the late 1920s and you will come across many of the tell-tale remains along the track, such as the site of old bunk houses and cottages (B) and an old crusher site (C) where a large retaining wall remains.

Continue over the footbridge and follow the old railway embankments and water pipeline to view a semi-operational sand trap (D). A little further on, there are two optional side tracks that lead to the remains of a river quarry and a middle quarry. The second middle quarry was closed after flooding and a large pile of spoiled rock can still be found there.

Following the main route, you will come across a footbridge and later a large clearing known as the Foot Station (E).

For more information, contact DOC (see back cover).
A wheelchair/pushchair-friendly track, Potaema is the most accessible of the lowland mires in Egmont National Park and is the perfect short walk for anyone wanting to encounter the beauty of Mount Taranaki without committing to a hike.

It has the greatest variety of vegetation, from flowering plants to hanging moss and ferns dwarfed by a towering forest (B). Native trees to look out for include rimu, rata, kamahi, kahikatea, mountain totara, pokaka and a few pahautea or mountain cedar. These trees thrive in the rich fertile conditions.

You’ll also come across the Potaema Wetlands (C) which are teeming with native birds and wildlife. On clear days, the viewing platform at the end of the track has magnificent views of the mountain over the wetlands. You will soon understand how the track got its name: Potae (hat) ma (top or white).

For more information, contact DOC (see back cover).
This summer-only climb is the most spectacular and adventurous in Taranaki and is not to be taken lightly. Be well prepared, check weather and track conditions and book a guide. The track features ever-changing views as you ascend through the vegetation zones from montane forest to scoria and rock in summer and snow and ice in winter.

After passing a historic camphouse (B), you’ll climb the tough Puffer track (C) to the TV translator and Tahurangi Lodge (D). From here you’ll witness spectacular views of Taranaki and the Tasman Sea. Head through Hongi’s Valley (E), up many steps onto loose scoria slopes, then up a rock lava flow called the Lizard (E). Climb the steep slope to reach the crater (G) and summit rocks.

Please respect the spiritual significance to Māori by not standing on the very highest point, or camping, eating or toileting in the summit area.

For more information, contact DOC (see back cover).

**Warning** - please read page 4 of this book and tick off all safety precautions before you go. Do not attempt this track if you aren’t properly prepared. Map not suitable for navigation.
Wilkies Pools are a series of remarkable plunge pools formed by the scouring action of water-borne sand and gravel on 20,000 year old lava.

The track to Wilkies Pools is accessible to wheelchairs with assistance (see on map), allow around 20 minutes to the Kapuni Stream where the pools are. Cross the bridge for another view of the pools, then return the same way. The longer loop track continues across the bridge and takes around 1 – 1.5 hours altogether.

The track explores the Goblin Forest (B) of twisted kamahi trees hanging with ferns and mosses, to arrive at Kapuni Stream (C) and the pools (D). Rock steps allow you to walk up beside the pools to the top but take care as they can be slippery.

The rest of the loop leads through sub-alpine scrub and montane forest past small Twin Falls (E) and Bubbling Springs (F) to rock-hop across Kapuni Stream again before returning to the car park. For more information, contact DOC (see back cover).

**Warning** - there is no bridge across the lower section of Kapuni Stream. If flooded do not cross - return the same way.
Kapuni Loop Track

Length: 2km, 1-1.5 hours

Difficulty: Moderate

Location: Starts at the Dawson Falls Visitor Centre, top of Manaia Rd, Kaponga (A)

The Kapuni Loop Track follows the Kapuni Stream where alpine plant species can be found out of their vegetation zone due to water and wind borne seed distribution.

Listen to the stream as it drives one of the world’s oldest continually operating generators at the
Dawson Falls Power Station (B).

Follow the southern bank of the stream through mountain rainforest to the top of picturesque Dawson Falls (C). A steep side track leads down to the base of the waterfall (D) but a railed viewing point (E) on the main track provides the best overall view, where you can see layers of lava, pumice, gravel and ash in the bluffs flanking the waterfall.

Follow the loop track to the road, cross it and then enter a forest of fuchsia, kotukutuku and fern. This track will lead you back to your starting point.

For more information, contact DOC (see back cover).

**Warning** – please exercise caution when walking in the vicinity of the road and near the waterway.
New Plymouth

New Plymouth offers many great walking tracks.

From coastal vistas to lakes, gardens and heritage trails, each walkway comes with its own story, coffee spot or sparkling surf beach.

In addition to the walks in this chapter, Pukekura Park with its main entrance on Liardet St and Tupare Garden on Mangorei Rd are also great spots for a short walk. You will find beautifully landscaped gardens with stunning views, exotic plant specimens, great family picnic spots and historic marvels. See our Parks and Gardens Guide or refer to www.visit.taranaki.info for more information.

This guide only gives a taste of the walks on offer. If you want to explore more of New Plymouth by foot, visit New Plymouth i-SITE (see back cover) or visit www.letsgo.org.nz
Whitecliffs Walkway
Wai Pingao Stream Loop

Length: 6.5km, 3-4 hours
(return along beach at low tide)
Difficulty: Moderate
Location: Starts at the boat ramp (A) at the end of Pukearuhe Rd (off SH3, 6.4km north of Urenui)

This walkway takes in the stunning views including the dramatic Whitecliffs (B) and the protected Parininihi Marine Reserve (C). It crosses private land and is closed for access from 1 July – 30 Sept.

From the carpark the walkway crosses farmland (please ensure you respect the land and close all gates that you open) to Mt Davidson (D) and down through Ngati Tama land to the Wai Pingao Stream (E). Follow the stream to the coast and walk south along the beach to return to Pukearuhe.

Warning – for your own safety. Check tide times and make sure you are back at Pukearuhe no later than two hours after low tide.

When returning along the beach, please keep a safe distance from the cliffs to avoid falling rocks.

For more information, contact DOC (see back cover).
Waitara has a rich history and many stories that are worth exploring. After Waitara experienced European settlement in 1841, conflict quickly escalated over land rights which lead to the first Taranaki War in 1860-61.

The Waitara Heritage Trail features 16 information boards about the following points of interest:

- Te Roimata O Te Atiawa (B)
- The Bridges of Waitara (C)
- carved panels (D)
- Ruamano (E)
- Waitara Pill Box (F)
- The Works Wharves (G)
- Railway Signal Box (H)
- River Fords (I)
- Hurirapa Pa (J)
- The Return Port (K)
- The Waitara Blockhouse (L)
- Pukekohe (M)
- Rose Garden (N)
- Waitara Railway (O)
- Memorial Cenotaph (P)
- Aorangi Pa (Q)

For more information about the points of interest, visit www.visit.taranaki.info or contact New Plymouth i-SITE (see back cover).
Mangati Walkway / Hickford Park Pathway

Length: 6km, 2-2.5 hours each

Difficulty: Moderate/ Challenging

Location: Starts at the corner of Mangati Rd and Wanaka Tce, Bell Block (A)

The Mangati Walkway and Hickford Park Pathway pass through farmland and coastal plantings, offering picturesque vantage points and intriguing historic sites.

Long ago, the Te Rewa Rewa land was strategically chosen by historic Māori warriors in the Ngati Tawhirikura hapu (community) due to well-placed lookout points, access to food resources and large flat areas for food cultivation. The Hickford Park land is also of historic and cultural significance to Puketapu hapu and is within the tribal rohe (boundary) of Te Atiawa iwi.

The coastal portion of the reserve is made up of expansive vegetative dunes which increase in size and height to the east. The undeveloped mown Hickford Park Pathway runs along the foreshore and provides access to the rocky beach.

You will come across the protected Waipu Lagoons (C), one of the last natural spring-fed wetlands in Taranaki before coming to Hickford Park (B), Taranaki Cycle Park (D) and a BMX Track (E).

For more information, contact New Plymouth i-SITE (see back cover).
New Plymouth Coastal Walkway

Length: 13km, 3-4 hours

Difficulty: Easy

Location: Ngamotu Beach, Bayly Road (A) to Wills Rd, Bell Block (U)

The award-winning Coastal Walkway is an expansive sea-edge promenade stretching the length of New Plymouth. Ideal for walking, running, cycling, skating or simply enjoying the view of the dramatic west coast, the walkway is great for all ages and abilities. There are many access points (see on map, left), toilets, and drinking fountains along the walkway, and dogs are allowed on the walkway if on a leash.

Points of interest that you’ll encounter along the walkway: Settlers Memorial (B), Dicky Barrett’s Grave (C), Beam Pump Memorial (D), Kawaroa Park (E), Todd Energy Aquatic Centre (F), Honeyfield drinking fountain (G), Len Lye’s Wind Wand Sculpture (H), Puke Ariki (I), Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre (J), Te Henui Bridge (K), Pop Up Summer Cafés (L), Fitzroy Beach (M), Fitzroy Golf Club (N), Te Rewa Rewa Bridge (O), New Plymouth Golf Club (P), The Links (Q), Waipu Lagoons (R), Hickford Park sportsfields (S), Taranaki Cycle Park (T).

For more information see www.visit.taranaki.info or contact New Plymouth i-SITE (see back cover).
Te Henui Walkway

Length: 5.9km, up to 2 hours

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Location: Starts at the Coastal Walkway by East End Reserve, Strandon, New Plymouth (A),

Winding up from the coast, the Te Henui walkway showcases a variety of native and exotic flora. There are several access points (see on map, left), picnic areas, swimming holes, a bowling club and many hungry ducks before you arrive at Te Henui Cemetery (B), an attractive area in spring with its many rhododendrons.

After the cemetery, the walkway will turn into a single lane track. If you wish to continue south to the end of the walkway, you will need to cross both Cumberland St and the bridge, carrying on over what eventually narrows to a track with a reassuring sign that you are going the right way.

Along the route, you will also pass the sites of Puketarata Pa (C), Pukewarangi Pa (D) and Parihamore Pa (F). Make sure you stop and read the signboards explaining the fascinating Māori history in these places and at many other points along the walkway. You may also wish to stop and visit Te Kainga Marire (E) on the way, one of only a handful of New Zealand’s 6-Star rated gardens.

For more information, contact New Plymouth i-SITE (see back cover).
The Huatoki Walkway follows the meandering Huatoki Stream from the Coastal Walkway to Tupari Reserve (H). The walkway darts between parks such as Sir Victor Davies Park (C) and the Huatoki Domain (G), native bush and roads.

Highlights along the way include several Māori signboards explaining places of cultural interest, Halamoana, a sculpture by Filipe Tohi (B), an old flour mill site (D) and the quarry below the former prison (E) where prisoners used to shovel gravel onto trucks. An optional side route takes you to the top of Marsland Hill (F), a historic site where you can visit war memorials and a carillon that plays its bells on the hour from 9am - 5pm.

Continue on the route and you will reach Mill Rd. Here you walk a short distance up the road before re-entering the walkway. When you get to Tupari Reserve, the Bendall Walk (I) is where you can find rare epiphytes or ‘air plants’ in the tree canopies.

For more information, contact New Plymouth i-SITE (see back cover).
Rātapihipihi Scenic Reserve
Nikau Loop Track

Length: 1.9km, up to 1 hour
Difficulty: Easy

Location: Starts at the end of Rātapihipihi Rd, off Cowling Rd, New Plymouth (A)

With dappled light shining through nikau palms, kohekohe trees and tawa this lush temperate rainforest walk is very photogenic. While well graded and easy to follow, the track can be steep in places, and has steps.

The track descends into the valley, crossing a stream (B) and passing a small scenic waterfall (C).

Timber was taken from this area a long time ago, first to build a schooner to take goods to Sydney, and later to build bridges. A sharp eye may spot some of the old sawpit holes on either side of the track.

Learn a little of the history of the area and some interesting facts about trees and plants along the track through a series of interpretation panels.

For more information, contact DOC (see back cover).
Meeting of the Waters / Araheke Bush Walk

Length: 3km, 1 hour return

Difficulty: Easy

Location: Starts at the Meeting of the Waters Carpark, Waiwhakaiho Rd, New Plymouth (A)

Enjoy a picnic, swim in the Waiwhakaiho River and take a short family friendly walk.

The Meeting of the Waters and Araheke Bush walkways combine into one loop track that explores a forest of native trees, ferns and mosses, crossing bridges over both the tailrace of the Mangorei Hydro Station (B) and the Waiwhakaiho River (D).

The track passes TOPEC (C) an outdoor pursuits centre that is used by schools of Taranaki.

For more information contact DOC or New Plymouth i-SITE (see back cover).
Lake Mangamahoe

Length: 6km, 1.5-2 hours
Difficulty: Moderate
Location: Starts at the end of Lake Access Rd, off Junction Rd, New Plymouth (A)

Lake Mangamahoe is set in a 262ha production forest, and offers a range of walks with spectacular views of Mount Taranaki.

You will see the dam (B) which turns the lake into a water catchment area for New Plymouth and a small collection of redwood trees (C) planted in 1931.

The track splits into two routes at the eastern side of the lake. The upper ridge takes you to some remarkable vantage points of Mount Taranaki and surrounding farmland. The lower route is close to the water’s edge where you will see many birds and regenerating pockets of native bush.

Adjacent to the lake are dedicated areas for horse riding (D) and mountain biking (E).

For more information, contact New Plymouth i-SITE (see back cover).

*For mountain bike trails, visit www.npmtb.co.nz
Stratford is a fascinating and picturesque district located in central Taranaki.

Originally named Stratford-Upon-Patea after William Shakespeare’s birthplace Stratford-Upon-Avon, many street names and parks are dedicated to the great bard’s plays and characters. The glockenspiel clock tower in the middle of the town performs excerpts of Romeo and Juliet at 10am, 1pm, 3pm and 7pm daily.

Stratford is a gateway to Mount Taranaki and the district also includes the Forgotten World Highway touring route and Whangamomona where you can easily spend a few days exploring the saddles, tracks and railway line.

Stratford is also home to award-winning Hollard Gardens which feature an easy walk through extensive gardens and native bush.

This guide only gives a taste of the walks on offer. To explore more in Stratford or central Taranaki, visit Stratford i-SITE (see back cover) or www.stratford.govt.nz
At 74m high Mt Damper Falls (F) is one of the highest waterfalls in the North Island and has become a ‘must see’ for travelers.

Nestled in the northern Taranaki forests just off the Forgotten World Highway, the track traverses open private farmland (B) before crossing a small bridge (C) and entering lowland forest. A stroller could be pushed but it may be a little bumpy.

The first viewing platform (D) showcases the falls and valley, steps lead on down to a second viewing platform (E) which gives a closer look at the falls and the plunge pool at the bottom.

Both water and cliff hazards are present, so do not deviate from the track.

For more information contact DOC or Stratford i-SITE (see back cover).
The Stratford Heritage Walkway consists of several memorials to the Boer War and the two world wars - the Bell Tower (A), Malone Memorial Gates (B) and the Hall of Remembrance (J).

You’ll come across a kauri tree (C) planted by Queen Elizabeth II and a swing bridge (D) commemorating the coronation of King Edward VII.

Look out for information plaques about other points of interest: Otago Chambers (E), the old Newton King stables (F), Victoria Bridge (G), Salvation Army Building (H), the Curtis Store Site (I) - site of the first shop in Stratford, and the original Stratford Post Office (K).

At the end of the walk, watch the glockenspiel clock tower (L) perform a sequence from Romeo and Juliet (at 10am, 1pm, 3pm and 7pm), check out the Kings Theatre (M) which showed the first talking pictures in the Southern Hemisphere in 1925 and enjoy a coffee in Prospero Place (N).

For more information, contact Stratford i-SITE (see back cover).
Carrington Walkway

Length: 3-9km, 1-4.5 hours
Difficulty: Easy/Moderate
Location: Starts at the western end of Regan St (A)

This urban and river bush walk starts at the western end of Regan St and follows the Patea River east.

Once you reach King Edward Park, you will come across a selection of alternate and additional side routes which are signposted: — Carrington Walk, — Three Bridges Trail, — Clemow Walk, — Western Loop. All of the tracks are similar but offer access to different vantage spots of the points of interest along the way.

The track leads past the McCullough Rhododendron Dell (B), which has contained hundreds of rhododendrons since the 1960s, across farmland and over a few small bridges where you may glimpse a brown trout. After crossing the highway, you’ll find more beautiful gardens at Windsor Park (C) and Thomson Arboretum (D).

Beyond the Arboretum the walkway follows the Patea River as far as Victoria Rd.

For more information, contact Stratford i-SITE (see back cover).
Cardiff Centennial Walkway

Length: 3km, 1.5 hours
Difficulty: Moderate

Location: Starts at the large carpark on Opunake Rd (Cardiff Rd end) (A)

The Cardiff Centennial Walkway follows the Waingongoro River and features steep slopes, river flats, natural bush, farmland and a swing-bridge (E) at the halfway point.

Look out for the two weirs (B) built to dam the river and supply water to the Cardiff Co-operative Dairy Factory that operated from 1891 to 1951.

After the swing-bridge, a short side track leads to a cliff-top lookout platform (C) with views of the mountain, the surrounding farmland and a 55m natural gas pipeline bridge (D). You can also enjoy beautiful views of the river and its stony banks from a picnic area which is located a short stroll from the carpark.

This walkway was developed by members of the Cardiff Branch of Federated Farmers to coincide with the centennial of the Cardiff School and District in May 1986.

For more information, contact Stratford i-SITE (see back cover).
East Taranaki’s Purangi Kiwi Project spans 13,000 hectares - a community project with a predator control programme that has helped a growing population of western brown kiwi.

There are two walking trails. The shorter, **Hidden Valley Walk**, passes through native bush and a natural canyon before climbing papa (clay) steps - take care as they can be slippery - and through redwoods rich in birdlife (B). Follow the signs and markers from the **Field Cabin (A)**, or join an organised night walk to discover the glow worms.

The longer **Otunahe Scenic Walk** offers great views as it passes through mature native forest rich in birdlife and biodiversity. Look out for an 800-1000 year old **Rimu Tree (C)**.

Both walks encounter varied terrain and changeable conditions. Bush walking footwear and suitable outdoor clothing are strongly advised.

Tracks are open late spring to autumn. Please enquire outside these times for track conditions.

Maintained by Purangi Kiwi Trust - donations of $10 per person (under 5s free) fund a predator-controlled environment. Please sign the visitors book in the **Field Cabin (A)**.
South Taranaki

South Taranaki occupies most of Taranaki’s dramatic and wild coastline. From Okato to Waverley and Eltham in the east, there are many walking, surfing, cycling and sightseeing adventures to be had.

South Taranaki’s main town Hawera is home to an iconic water tower which was built after the town (which means ‘the burnt place’) suffered extensive fires in 1884, 1888 and 1912. You can climb to the top of this tower and see views of Mount Taranaki and surrounding farmland - visit South Taranaki i-SITE for access.

This guide gives just a taste of the walks on offer. To explore more in South Taranaki, visit South Taranaki i-SITE (see back cover) or www.southtaranaki.com/visit

South Taranaki District Council is developing a number of new walkways throughout the district. Contact South Taranaki i-SITE for more information and updates on progress.
Opunake Walkway

Length: 7km, 3-4 hours
Difficulty: Easy/Moderate
Location: Starts at the boat ramp by Opunake Lake on Layard St (A)

Starting at Opunake Lake, which was once a vegetable garden that supplied early settlers, Opunake Walkway heads past the Orimupiko Cemetery (C) and the Armed Constabulary Cemetery (D).

The Waiaua River Mouth (E) offers extraordinary views of Taranaki's dynamic coastline, Opunake Beach (F) has great surf and you can view the Taranaki Bight from the Lion’s Lookout (G). Middleton Bay (H) is a picturesque beach too, but not safe for swimming.

History buffs will enjoy the Old Cottage Hospital (B) which was the birthplace of many famous New Zealanders including runner Peter Snell. A battle took place at Te Namu Pa (I) where Wiremu Kingi Matakatea repelled 800 Waikato Māori successfully for an entire month, armed only with a single rifle.

For more information, contact South Taranaki i-SITE (see back cover).

Please note – Te Namu Pa is on private property. The owners and the Historic Places Trust ask that the area be treated with care and respect. There are open food storage pits and tunnels on the site and these can be dangerous.
There are several points of interest on the dramatic South Taranaki coastline between Ohawe (A) and Waihi Beaches (G).

The Waingongoro River mouth (B) is where Taranaki’s first Māori settlers lived in small undefended settlements. A fortified pa was built where the carpark is now located, though later removed.

In the cliffs along the coastline (D), look out for 3 million year old soft papa rock and nearby rock pools (E) which contain a wide range of sea life.

Near Ohawe Beach you’ll also see the Rangatapu Marae (C) and remnants of a pioneer tram rail (F).

For more information, contact South Taranaki i-SITE (see back cover).

**Warning** – This walkway is along the foreshore and is tidal. It is only safe to walk up to 2.5 hours before or after low tide. Check the tide tables before you leave. The cliffs along the coast are unstable so beware of falling debris. Swimming is only safe at the end of the boat ramp at Ohawe Beach (toilets and changing rooms are available here). Remember to pre-organise transport as this is a one-way walk.
Starting at the end of Rifle Range Road, just south of Hawera, this short but pleasant walk through a gully (once a third lake) leads you through farmland that has been planted in native trees by local schools, to Nowell’s Lakes. The lake area consists of two freshwater lakes entrapped in the coastal sand dune belt. Both lakes are ground-fed and the water is pristine, providing a clean habitat for a variety of fish.

Thousands of swan plants have been planted throughout the walkway so between February and April, swarms of caterpillars and clouds of Monarch butterflies can be seen everywhere.

You can also explore a secondary walk which leads you towards the coast. The four walks are well signposted and have seats and picnic tables dotted along the way, while toilets are available by the lake.

The redevelopment of this area has attracted a high level of community support.

For more information, contact South Taranaki i-SITE (see back cover).
Lake Rotokare Walkway

Length: The Loop Track - 4.2km, 1.5-2 hours; The Ridge Walk - 6km, 3-5 hours
Difficulty: Easy/Moderate
Location: Starts at Lake Rotokare Information Hut at the end of Sangster Rd (A), (take Anderson Rd off SH3, 12km east of Elatham).

Lake Rotokare Scenic Reserve is a stunning 230 hectare predator-free environment where you will be surrounded by native and endangered flora and fauna that is quickly regenerating in a protected environment. Two tracks start from the carpark:

The Loop Track suits pushchairs and mobility scooters from point (A) to (B). It’s boardwalks extend through the swamp forest. Seats and a viewing platform are installed at the best spots for viewing fernbirds (B) and waterfowl (C).

The Ridge Walk follows the predator-proof fence for beautiful views of the lake before joining the Loop Track around the lake via an old bullock track. The Ridge Walk has 1220 steps and was built by more than 123 volunteers with over 10,000 nails used in its construction.

For more information, contact South Taranaki i-SITE (see back cover).

Please note – Lake Rotokare is a predator-free zone so check your vehicle and bags for stowaway rodents before entering. A double gate system allows entry to the reserve - simply push the entry button for the gates to open automatically. Sturdy walking shoes are recommended as there are muddy areas.
Lake Rotorangi Walkway

Length: 1.5km, 40 minutes

Difficulty: Easy

Location: Starts at the end of Rotorangi Rd, Patea (A), (take Ball Rd off SH3, 8km north of Patea).

Lake Rotorangi Walkway loops the southern end of the longest man-made lake in New Zealand. The walkway crosses the 82m high Patea dam (B) and then heads past three totara carvings (C) which were created by Patea carvers under the tutelage of Reverend Te Napi Waaka. They are Pou Tiaki, Rahui and a carved archway consisting of two amo (uprights) and two maihi (apex boards).

Travelling in an anti-clockwise direction, the track sits above the shoreline and leads around a peninsula.

Look out for parakeets in the mixed podocarp and manuka forest (D) and enjoy stunning views of the lake as you gradually climb to a high point (E), before descending back to the dam.

A feature of the walkway is a grove of black beech or tawhairauriki, which flowers in a burst of brilliant red in October and November.

For more information, contact South Taranaki i-SITE (see back cover).
Patea River
Historic Walkway

Length: 1.5km, 1-1.4 hours

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Location: Starts at the corner of York St and Bedford St, Patea (A)

Learn about Patea’s rich history and follow the lower end of the Patea River through pastures and pine forest to several points of interest dating back to the 1860s.

A series of signs containing historic photographs and illustrations from award-winning New Zealand botanical artist Audrey Eagle tell the stories of the wool store wharf (B), Patea Port (C), Wai o Turi Marae (D), Dawsons Redoubt (E), Haere Hau Pa (F) and more.

When you end your journey at Patea Beach (G), be sure to enjoy the free barbeques and other facilities in the picnic area.

For more information, contact South Taranaki i-SITE (see back cover).

Please note – Bring sturdy shoes as there is a steep climb along the walkway which can be muddy and slippery in wet weather.
About Venture Taranaki

*Taranaki A Walkers Guide* is part of a collection of visitor information tools available from Venture Taranaki, Taranaki’s Regional Development Agency, to showcase the region and its many stories and attractions.

Venture Taranaki works across tourism, conventions, regional marketing and major events plus business and economic development to grow the Taranaki region. The region’s official website - [www.taranaki.info](http://www.taranaki.info) – presents a wealth of information for anyone looking to visit, move or learn more about Taranaki, or grow a business within the region.

Venture Taranaki works one-on-one with individuals, businesses, small groups, clusters, media and industry to grow the economic wellbeing of Taranaki. Contact us to find out how we can work with you – [www.taranaki.info](http://www.taranaki.info)

Other Venture Taranaki Visitor Publications

These guides and more can be found at i-SITE Visitor Information Centres in New Plymouth, Stratford and Hawera or by contacting Venture Taranaki on 06 759 5150, emailing info@venture.org.nz or downloading from [www.visit.taranaki.info](http://www.visit.taranaki.info)
DOC Information Centres and Taranaki i-SITEs

Department of Conservation
Taranaki Area Office
55A Rimu St, New Plymouth
(06) 759 0350, www.doc.govt.nz

Egmont National Park Visitor Centre
2879 Egmont Rd (off SH3 at Egmont Village)
(06) 759 0350, egmontvc@doc.govt.nz

Dawson Falls Visitor Centre
Top of Manaia Rd, Kaponga
027 443 0248, egmontvc@doc.govt.nz

New Plymouth i-SITE Visitor Centre
Puke Ariki, 1 Ariki Street, New Plymouth
0800 639 759, info@newplymouth.govt.nz

Stratford i-SITE Visitor Centre
Prospero Pl and Miranda St, Stratford
0800 765 6708, info@stratford.govt.nz

South Taranaki i-SITE Visitor Centre
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Taranaki’s Regional Development Agency
Venture Taranaki is an initiative founded by New Plymouth District Council and supported by South Taranaki District Council, Stratford District Council and Taranaki Electricity Trust.

www.taranaki.info

This publication was produced by Venture Taranaki with support and assistance from Department of Conservation, New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council, South Taranaki District Council, Taranaki Regional Council.
All efforts have been made to ensure information provided in this publication is accurate, at the time of publishing.