

# Trains Track

| Waitōtara Conservation Area



## Know before you go



**Hunting** – is permitted in most places throughout the year. Check the DOC website for exclusion dates and zones and special conditions required for hunting dogs. A hunting permit can be obtained at [doc.govt.nz](http://doc.govt.nz), and you must carry a printed or electronic copy of your permit with you at all times.



**Fires** – fires are not permitted.



**Weather conditions** – observe the weather conditions and seek advice as conditions may be wet and slippery, particularly during winter and early spring. Dress to the conditions.



**Communications** – this area is remote with no mobile phone coverage. You should carry an emergency alert device (eg PLB/Spot tracker).



**Drop-offs** – there are multiple drop-offs on this track. Take care passing these.



**Windfalls** – there may be windfalls on the track after weather events. Take care going around the fallen trees.



**Water** – during dry periods, carry extra water as the shelter water may be dry or stagnant. Treat or boil all water before drinking.



**Wasps** – wasps are a known hazard and are particularly common from January until May. Carry antihistamine if you are allergic to their stings.

### Share your plans and take ways to get help

Share your plans with someone you trust. Tell them where you are going and when you will be back. You can also use the outdoor intentions form at [www.adventuresmart.org.nz](http://www.adventuresmart.org.nz). If they don't hear from you by an agreed time, they should call 111 and ask for the police.



Trains Hut

### Further information

#### Whanganui Office

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[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

## Care for Aotearoa



#### Protect nature

Keep your distance and don't feed wildlife. Follow any rules restricting dogs, fires, drones or vehicles.



#### Keep NZ clean

Take all rubbish with you and use toilets where provided.



#### Show respect

Respect others, respect culture.



#### Be prepared

Stay safe in the outdoors by following the Land Safety Code.

- ▶ Choose the right trip for you.
- ▶ Understand the weather.
- ▶ Pack warm clothes and extra food.
- ▶ Share your plans and take ways to get help.
- ▶ Take care of yourself and each other.



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**DOC HOTline**  
**0800 362 468**

Report any safety hazards  
or conservation emergencies  
For Fire and Search and Rescue Call 111

F219850



# Nau mai, haere mai Welcome

Nau mai e piki too pikitanga kei te Huinga-o-Maru kia rongo atu ai koe ki te wai hiirere o Te Rere-o-Haupa. Koiane te rangatiratanga o Waitootara, o Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi.

Come and ascend the pathway until you reach Te Huinga-o-Maru, where you will hear the cascading waters of Te Rere-o-Haupa. Welcome to the area of Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi and the majesty of the Waitootara estate.

Tall and majestic rimu, Hall's tōtara, and northern rātā reach above a canopy dominated by tawa and kāmahi, while black beech forest clings to the sharp, infertile ridge tops. While this area is mainly mature contiguous forest, some large areas of scrub and regenerating forest provide reminders of futile attempts by settlers to establish farms. This area is also home to the North Island brown kiwi and whio/blue duck.

Close up of kāmahi flowers.



North Island brown kiwi. Photo: Otorohanga Kiwi House and Native Bird Park



## Getting there

From Whanganui, drive west on State Highway 3 for 29 km towards the township of Waitōtara. Just before the road bridge over the Waitōtara River, turn left onto Waitōtara Valley Road. Continue along this road for 43 km until it becomes Taumatatahi Road. Carry on this road for another 10 km to the road end. The car park is on the right just before the cattlestop.

## Trains Track 5 hr, 15.2 km

This is a 5 hr walk up the Waitōtara River to Trains Hut. The first 1 hr 30 min is on a bulldozed track to Kapara homestead/farm which is private land. For the next 1 hr 30 min the track follows the packhorse road that separates the scrub-covered Kapara farm and the Waitōtara River. There are three swing bridges on this section. Beyond the tunnel culvert, the track moves into heavier bush. Some of the track in this area is on high ledges above the river and side gorges. The track breaks into open river bank as you approach the fork with the Omaru Stream. Soon after is Terereohaupa Falls. Access to view them is just a little way downstream. Trains Hut is about 10 min away. The section of the river between the falls and the hut is very picturesque.

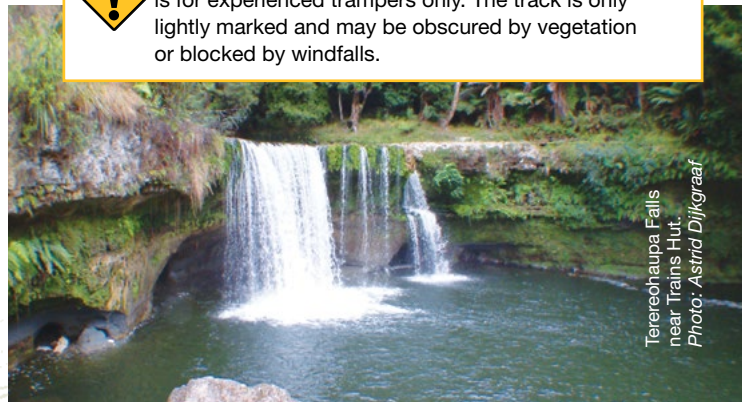
## Trains Hut to Tahupo and Puteore huts Trains Hut to Tahupo Hut 4 hr, 8 km; Tahupo Hut to Puteore Hut 5 hr, 9 km

From Trains Hut you can head north into Whanganui National Park and link up with the Matemateāonga Track or come out at Puniwhakaū Road end. This will take an additional 12-14 hours.

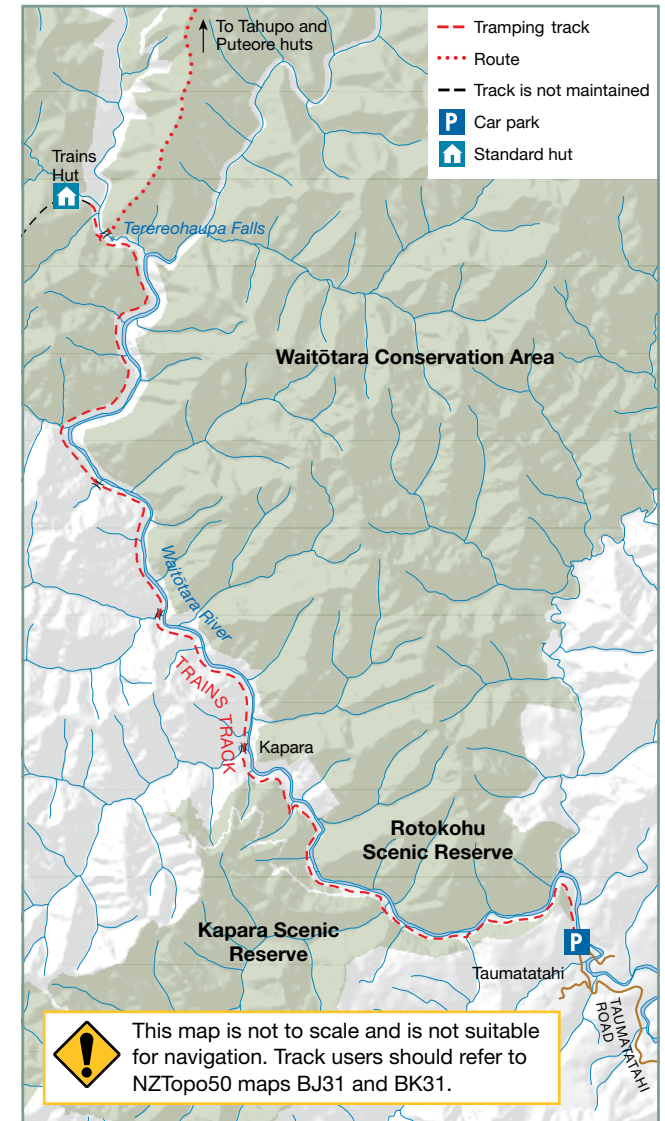
Cross the swing bridge just before Trains Hut and follow the track that climbs out of the Waitōtara River valley. Continue along the ridgeline to Tahupo Hut, (approx 4 hr) then into Whanganui National Park for about a 5-hr walk to Puteore Hut. The track from Puteore will take you to Puniwhakaū Road end via 'The Letter Boxes' or you can continue north onto the Matemateāonga Track. Allow 6-8 hr for this section.



The route leading north to Tahupo and Puteore huts is for experienced trampers only. The track is only lightly marked and may be obscured by vegetation or blocked by windfalls.



Terereohaupa Falls near Trains Hut. Photo: Astrid Dijkgraaf



## Track grades



**Tramping track** – mostly unformed surface but has directional markers, poles or cairns. Suitable for backcountry visitors with moderate to high-level backcountry skills and experience.



**Route** – unformed, suitable only for people with high-level backcountry navigation and river-crossing skills and experience.