

Hakarimata Walkway, Hakarimata Scenic Reserve

WILD FILE

Access Northern access is from Parker Road, north of Ngaruawahia, while the southern access is from Hakarimata Road, to the south

Grade Moderate

Time 5.5-7.5hr

Distance 13.7km

Total ascent 983m

Map BD33

Description

Since the once neglected Hakarimata Walkway joined the Te Araroa Trail, it's become a far cry from the rough reputation it once had, though the distance between track ends has not decreased, so a car parked either end is ideal.

Though the range has a high point of just 374m, the way to the range top is via lengthy stretches of steps, regardless of which end you start.

Starting from the northern end, follow the track for around 40 minutes, when you come to an area that provides views north to the giant chimney stacks of Huntly power station and the meandering Waikato River. This viewing area also marks the end of the steps. From here on, the walkway reverts to a tramping track. The brown, leaf-littered path cuts a thin line through the greenery, and tree roots make the perfect substitution for handmade steps.

There are occasional views through the bush, but you're mostly enveloped in its cool shade.

The range undulates between 300m and 374m for most of its length. At Hakarimata, the 374m highpoint, is a tall viewing platform which provides views in all directions, the best being back along the range, from whence you came, and to the east over Ngaruawahia and beyond.

From the viewing tower, the trail heads down, very steeply in places, before hitting the southern steps, speeding the descent to the base of the range.

Just before emerging near the road and the Hakarimata Rail Trail, which takes you back to your car, a short side track leads to a wonderful cascade where shaded pools invite swimmers and water tumbles through a gorge which can be easily climbed. It's a highlight of the walk and worth the very short diversion.

Elevation Profile



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Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to map this route correctly, Wilderness Magazine does not take responsibility for any errors in the route. Users should use discretion when planning their routes and gather as much information as possible before departing. The GPX file associated with this route has been drawn using Memory-Map software, version 6. Users should use discretion when following the route, as it is an approximation only. Memory Map shows purple tracks and hut icons as verified routes and huts – meaning they are where they say they are and should be passable. If a purple track is shown on the maps in this document, it is the route from the Memory-Map software. If a red or blue route is shown, it has been drawn by Wilderness.

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