

Pukeatua Track, Tararua Forest Park

WILD FILE

Access Fenceline car park at the end of Otaki Forks Road

Grade Moderate

Time 6-8hr return

Distance 6.54km one way

Total Ascent 798m

Map BP33, BP32

Description

A tramp to Pukeatua, 812m, on a clear day promises magnificent views. Starting at Otaki Forks, you quickly gained altitude for the first 30 minutes, climbing steeply among kamahi and tree ferns as the track winds in and out of small clearings. Then, the steepest part of the climb over, wander through larger grassy clearings, remnants of logging days. An hour into the walk you enter regenerating forest; fallen trees and upended root systems which sprout multiple trunks of kamahi and mahoe trees. The fact you're climbing is now barely noticeable except for the changing vegetation which becomes more ordered as you move deeper into the bush.

Near the top a few views appear, but still the track seems to wind on and on until finally you step out of the goblin forest onto Pukeatua, where it's a short tramp through scrubby landscape to the summit. There are expansive views of Tabletop, Mt Hector, parts of the Southern Crossing and Kapakapanui.

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.

Maps are created with Memory-Map software, version 6. This software 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, 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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