

Te Puia Lodge via Middle Hill Hut, Kaweka Forest Park

WILD FILE

Access Makahu Road is located 75km north-west of Napier. Park at the end of the road or the start of Middle Ridge Track

Grade Moderate-difficult

Time Makahu Road to Middle Hill Hut, 2.5hr; Middle Hill Hut to Makino Hut, 4.5hr; Makino Hut to Te Puia Lodge, 1.5hr; Te Puia Lodge to Makahu Road, 2.5hr

Distance 25.9km

Accommodation Middle Hill Hut, 6 bunks; Makino Hut, 6 bunks; Te Puia Lodge, 26 bunks

Map BJ37

Description

The walk up Middle Ridge Track to Middle Hill Hut is a bit of a grunt at times but there's enough flat sections to break up the climb.

From the hut climb up Camp Spur, a continuation of the ridge you hiked previously. Just before leaving the bush there are a couple of flat sites perfect for tenting.

Soon, you're out on the tops. Follow the poled route to the main Kaweka Range, where there's a view over Hawke's Bay, out to Cape Kidnappers and the curve of the bay.

A quick scramble along the range towards Makino Hut follows. Then, once down in the bush, it's about 90min of bush walking to Makino Hut.

Take the turn-off towards Te Puia Lodge, descending steeply to the Mohaka River where you can head up river for a soak in the Mangatainoka Hot Springs before walking to the lodge.

There are a few intermittent climbs on the walk down the Mohaka to the car park, but these are easily dealt with and provide great views of the river.

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.

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