

Waitewaewae Hut, Tararua Forest Park

Wild file

Access: From SH1 north of Otaki turn into Otaki Gorge Rd. The track starts at the end of the road.

Distance: 9.7km

Time: 5hr

Grade: Moderate

Accommodation: Waitewaewae Hut (standard, 16 bunks)

Topo50 Map: BP33

Description

If you're enthralled by the history of the Tararua Ranges then you won't want to miss this track. The track winds its way along the river bank most of the way to the 16-bunk Waitewaewae Hut, passing an old log hauler along the way. The nearby Shoulder Knob makes for an interesting day trip from the hut.

The route is now part of the Te Araroa Trail. From the main Otaki Forks car park, cross the swing bridge and climb to the river terrace. After crossing the terrace the track drops to another swing bridge over the Otaki River. The track then climbs again, crossing the top of a large slip. From here the track levels following an old logging tramway until near Saddle Creek with a pleasant spot for a rest near the remains of the old log hauler.

From here the track follows Saddle Creek. After numerous stream crossings and a short climb at the end you reach the Plateau, on the far side of which the track drops down to Arapito Creek.

At the point where the track eventually crosses the creek is a junction marked with large orange triangles. The main track crosses here and sidles around a large bend in the Otaki River to the hut.

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.

