

Te Au and Parata tracks, Hemi Matenga Memorial Park Scenic Reserve, Wellington

The Te Au Track starts in the aptly named Tui Crescent, where tui can often be found swooping, diving and chortling.

The trip involves some road walking between track ends. The 20-minute walk along the roads has an extraordinary amount of bird life in the gardens that back the reserve.

From Huia Street, a narrow right-of-way leads between two private properties to the Te Au Track. Once in the reserve, orange triangles direct walkers to the beginning of the climb. The track climbs for about an hour, heading steeply up a rugged root staircases, the kind of terrain that those with dodgy knees find easier to climb up than down.

When the track levels off, it veers to the right. A left turn leads to trap lines, private property and, somewhere deeper in the reserve, the remains of a crashed plane, but stick to the clearly marked track.

Although no longer so steep, the trail continues to climb to Pt521, after which the terrain is more varied, with a few fallen trees to negotiate and some twists and turns on the track.

It can be boggy through this section.

After an hour or so from the top of the climb there is a lookout point, surrounded by a 'hedge' of shrubby trees. There's a wooden bench which provides a good lunch spot.

The track then heads back into the bush and along the ridge, on the edge of the reserve alongside a farm fence at the top of a steep paddock. The track passes two other lookouts, one offering views to the south and the other to Waikanae. At the second of these lookouts, the track joins the popular Parata Track. Walkers and runners have worn down the track in places to hard smooth furrows of clay.

Continue down through nikau and kohekohe until reaching a rushing stream, which signals the end of the track.

Wild File

Access From Tui Crescent or Huia Street, Waikanae, 60km north of Wellington. Tui Crescent is five minutes walk from Waikanae Railway Station

Grade Easy

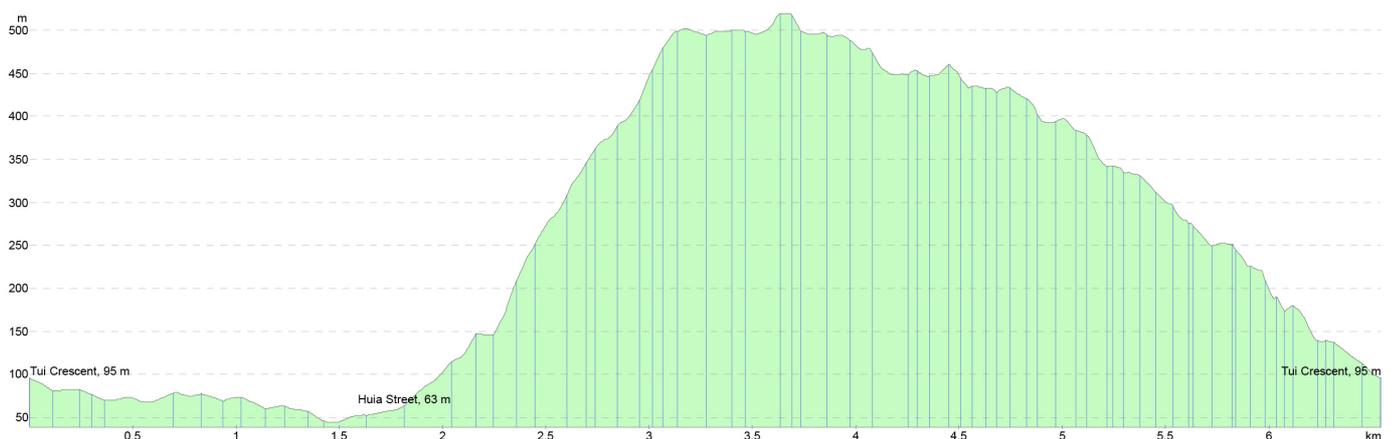
Time 3-3.5hr

Distance 6.54km

Total ascent 553m

Map B32

Elevation Profile



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