

## Suspension Bridge Track, Hunua Ranges Regional Park

A short road walk from the car park along Otau Road leads to the suspension bridge above the unnamed stream that drains the Hunua Range's Wairoa Reservoir.

The bridge is a highlight – one of two that bookend this easy tramp.

After crossing the slightly bouncy, creaking the trail climbs some steps to a kauri dieback cleaning station. The Hunua Ranges remains free of the disease, so please ensure you clean your footwear. The track, rooty in places, ascends to a broad ridge with open tree cover. After climbing some more, the ridge narrows to not much more than the width of the track with glimpses of the surrounding countryside.

There appears to be abundant birdlife, with birds chittering and chatting for the length of the track – a lookout with a bench seat offering views into the interior of the park is a good spot to soak in the view and birdsong. This lookout marks the beginning of a series of undulations in the ridge where a short, sharp descent is matched by an equally sharp ascent. In the depressions, sections of track are often muddy.

A flight of steps marks the last climb and a little further along is a viewing tower, reached by climbing a ladder. The view here is of densely forested hills and valleys on the eastern side and the Clevedon countryside on the western side.

Not long after, the Wairoa Cossey Track junction is reached. The Suspension Bridge Track drops to the right.

Compared to the bright and airy ridge, the descent is dark and gloomy as the forest cover becomes more dense.

Just before emerging at a viewpoint overlooking Wairoa Reservoir, another highlight of the walk is reached. Emerging from the dark of the forest, the track paces through a stand of young kauri. Ferns grow at the base of the trees with no other understorey to block the light.

From the reservoir, the track forms a loop by continuing down Otau Road, or return the way you came.

### Wild file

**Access** From a car park 100m along Otau Road

**Grade** Easy

**Time** 2hr return

**Distance** 4.3km return via track

**Total ascent** 168m

**Map** BB33

### Elevation Profile



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