

Sandy Bay Hut, Te Urewera

Sitting on a beach on a lake dotted with forest covered islands, Sandy Bay Hut has an almost tropical setting – but at 900m in Te Urewera it can feel closer to the Arctic.

The overnigher is an excellent portal through the ancient Te Urewera forest to Waikareiti Lake.

The Lake Waikareiti Track climbs gradually through incredible forest – lush, ancient podocarp trees dwarf the trail. After an hour, the well-formed track reaches Lake Waikareiti, where there is a shelter. You can hire boats from the DOC visitor centre and row across the lake to Sandy Bay Hut. From the shelter, the walking track narrows to a tramping track but is clearly marked, continuing around the lake edges. After about two hours, the track leaves the lake and climbs and descends a number of small valleys, before finally descending to the hut. The serviced 18-bunk hut is right on the lake, which is covered in golden sand with crystal clear waves lapping the shore.

The hut is split into two rooms, with a living area/kitchen and a fireplace in the centre, making for a cosy feel and giving privacy for smaller groups.

The trip can be extended by returning via the Ruapani Track, which starts just before Waikareiti Shelter and takes an extra three hours, passing several wetlands. You can also continue north on the Kaipō Lagoon Track to Manuoha Hut and onto SH38.

WILD FILE

Access from the Aniwaniwa Falls car park

Grade Moderate

Time 4hr each way

Distance to come

Total ascent to come

Accommodation Sandy Bay Hut, \$15, bookings required

Map BG40

Elevation Profile



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