

## Bell Rock Track, Boundary Stream Mainland Island Reserve

Pick a sunny day to walk the Bell Rock Track to be rewarded with spectacular views of the Hawke's Bay countryside.

The Boundary Stream Mainland Island is protected by a predator-proof fence, providing a safe haven for at least 24 species of reintroduced native birds.

From the roadside parking area, the track immediately enters beech and podocarp forest and leads gently upward for about 30-40 minutes. As elsewhere in the reserve, this area of bush has numerous traps for stoats and rats, and bait stations are laid out. It also has wooden weta houses attached to trees.

The path abruptly emerges into open grassland. There's a stile and DOC posts mark the route uphill. About 50m further on is a track junction marked by a sign showing Bell Rock Track to the left, a 30 minute uphill walk.

This section of the track crosses retired farmland, a marked contrast to the shady, green forest, but we were given wide views in all directions.

The track unexpectedly dips into a wide, grassy gully, but the marker poles can be seen going up the other side. A little further on, there is another stile and, finally, the most breathtaking views of the tramp. Ahead is a sheer drop into the valley, edged by weathered and sculptured limestone formations. Bell Rock is obviously named for its resemblance to a huge bell, the sort that hang in church belfries. You can also find the fossilised remains of shellfish embedded in the limestone.

On the ledge around Bell Rock the views extend from Mahia Peninsula to Cape Kidnappers in one direction and the inland ranges stretching towards the Central Plateau in the other.

A loop track continues back to Pohokura Road.

### Wild file

**Access** From Napier, drive 43km on SH2. Turn at Tutira onto Matahorua Road, then left on to Pohokura Road. The track begins 16km down this road

**Grade** Easy

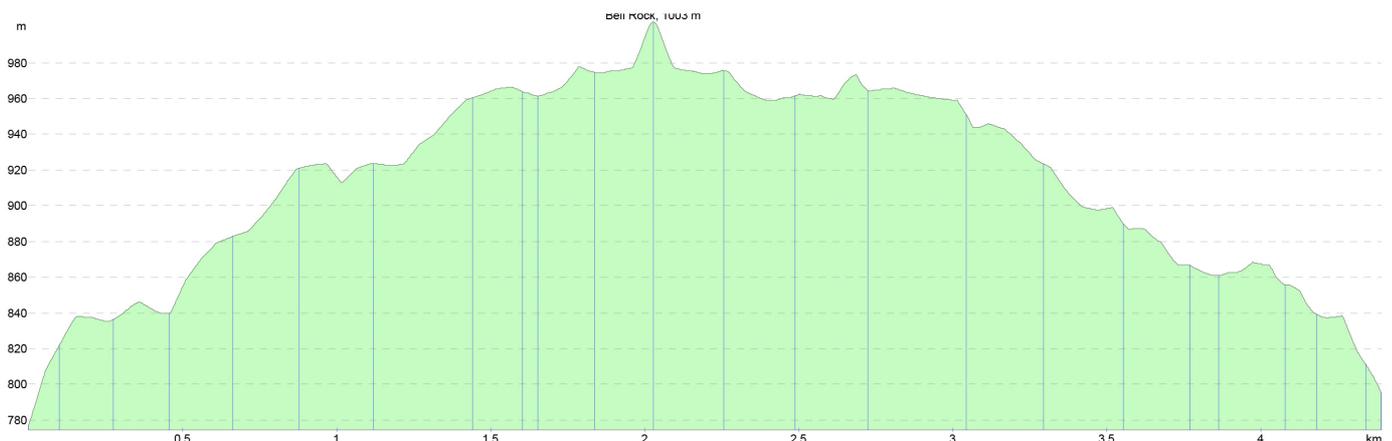
**Time** 3hr return

**Total ascent** 277m

**Distance** 4.4km

**Map** BH39

### Elevation Profile



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**Disclaimer:** While every effort has been made to map this route correctly, *Wilderness* does not accept responsibility for any errors. Users should plan their routes and gather as much information as possible before departing. The GPX file associated with this route has been drawn using Memory-Map software, version 6. Use discretion when following the route, especially when no track is marked on the map. **The GPX file in these cases are a 'best guess' of the route only. Users should use a combination of GPS, visual observations, maps and compass to find the best possible route.** Memory Map shows purple tracks and hut icons as verified routes and huts. Red or blue routes are those drawn by Wilderness.

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