

## Field Hut and Table Top, Tararua Forest Park

Cross the Waiotauru footbridge at Ōtaki Forks and wind your way uphill on the well-formed Fields Track. After about 30 minutes, just before entering the bush, turn and admire the valley below for a few moments – it will be your last chance to catch your breath before the trail steepens.

Immediately on entering the shadowy forest, you enter a breathtaking stretch of kamahi and beech forest. Look up and take it all in. From here, the track is studded with rocks and tree roots, which makes it hard going in places.

Every now and then, through breaks in the forest, glimpses of the Tararua Range can be seen. The higher you climb, the quieter it becomes – tui, silvereye, pīwakawaka and kererū seeming to prefer the lower reaches of the forest.

Field Hut has 20 bunks, but is popular and can fill up quickly.

The hut is classified as a historic shelter by DOC as it was one of the first purpose-built tramping huts in the country and is the oldest surviving recreational hut in the Tararua Ranges.

From the hut, it's a 45 minute walk through leatherwood shrubland to reach Table Top (1047m), a great spot to watch the sunrise over the tussock and snow-capped mountains beyond. On a clear day, the view stretches north-west to Mt Taranaki in the distance, south-west to Kahurangi National Park and the Marlborough Sounds and south to the Seaward Kaikoura Range. Kapiti Island is sprawled out in the foreground.

### Wild File

**Access** Otaki Gorge Road end

**Grade** Easy

**Time** 1-3hr to hut

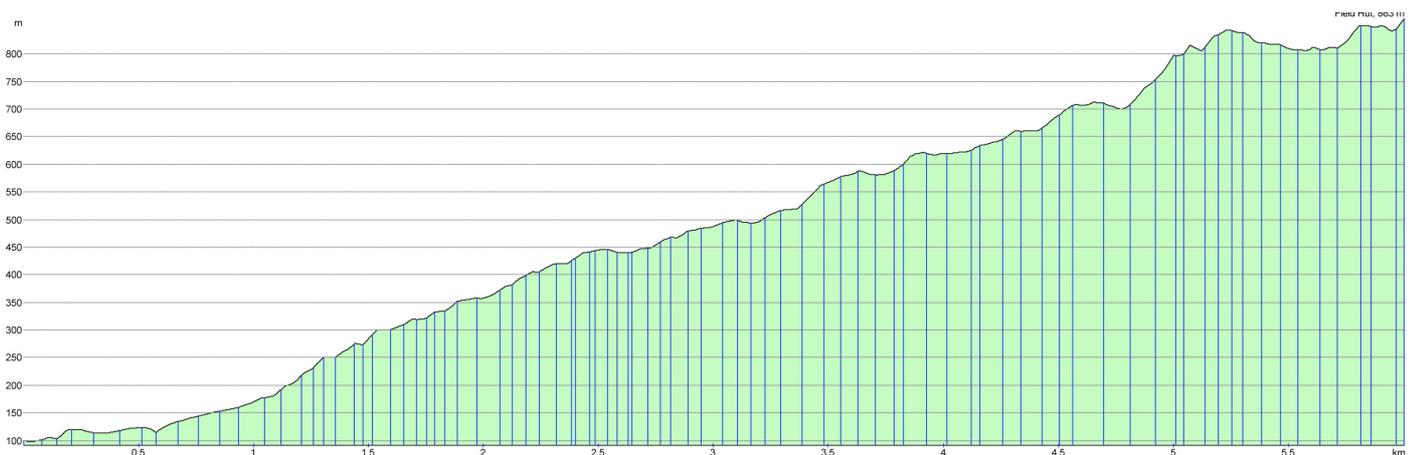
**Distance** 6.7km to Table Top one-way

**Total ascent** 1026m

**Accommodation** Field Hut (\$5, 20 bunks)

**Map** BP33

### 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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