

Tararu Track to Crosbies Hut, Coromandel Forest Park

A short bush slog to one of the upper North Island's best huts, the Tararu Track provides an achievable weekender in Coromandel Forest Park.

The Tararu Track is the shortest of nine trails that lead to Crosbies Hut, which sits in a clearing 620m up the Coromandel Range. Starting at 240m, The track also cuts out a decent chunk of the climb, making it a good option for a weekend dash.

The track first goes through private farmland and manuka scrub. After about 15 minutes, it crosses Tararu Stream and heads into Coromandel Forest Park proper. The track follows the cascading stream, passing numerous fern-lined swimming holes

Soon the stream is left behind and it's a steady climb to reach a ridge at 600m where a viewpoint reveals the heart of Coromandel Forest. A large slip has gouged away the head of the valley and a dense mat of ponga show how rapidly the forest regenerates here.

The track follows the ridgeline for 10 minutes until reaching the junction with the Karaka Tramping Track, a popular day walk. The Karaka Tramping Track continues along an undulating ridgeline towards Crosbies, but it's mostly flat walking from here.

The wide track is a former access road to the historical Crosbies Settlement and can be extremely muddy, with some pools resembling quicksand. By tip-toeing along the verge of the track, we managed to avoid the worst of the mud.

After an hour, the track reaches the junction with the Wainora Tramping Track and climbs to Pt646 before descending to the turnoff to Crosbies Hut, where there's one last muddy scramble to reach the hut.

Crosbies Hut offers an incredible panorama that stretches from coast to coast. To the east is Table Mountain, north-east is Whitianga and Mercury Bay, north is the incredible volcanic spire of Papakai (759m) and to the west is the Firth of Thames.

A few well-placed picnic benches provide an excellent place to park up and take in the surrounds.

Built in 2010, the hut is modern and relatively luxurious, with a fire, wood-lined interior, large benches and a dining table, and two tiers of benched bunks. It also has a large deck and big windows to make the most of the view.

The hut also has a separate area with formed campsites on raised wood chip beds.

Wild file

Access Victoria Street road end, off SH25 north of Thames

Grade Moderate

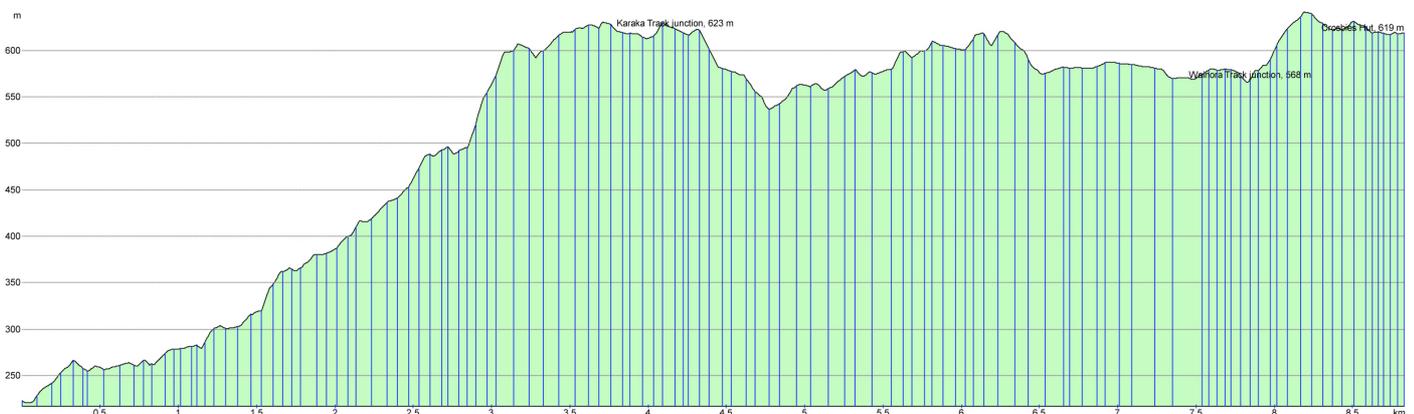
Time 3hr

Distance 8.83km

Total ascent 708m

Map BB35

Elevation Profile

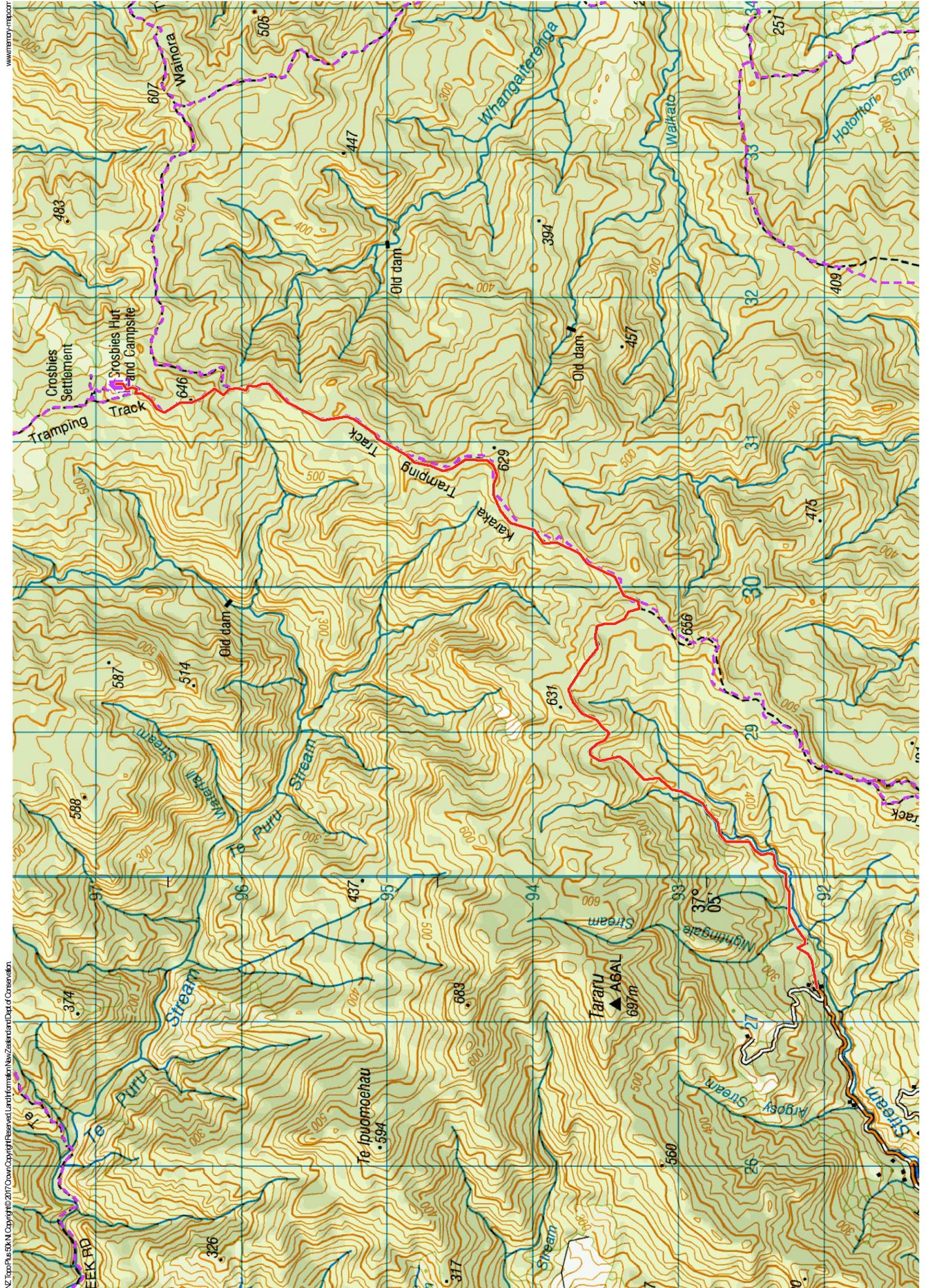


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Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to map this route correctly, *Wilderness* does not accept responsibility for any errors. Users should plan their routes and gather as much information as possible before departing. The GPX file associated 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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