

## Introduction

Pureora Forest Park (78,000 ha) straddles the Hauhungaroa and Rangitoto Ranges between Lake Taupo and Te Kuiti. It is a hidden wonderland of tall trees, clear rivers and rare wildlife; little known yet easily accessible if you are prepared to make a short diversion off State Highway 30 or 32.



The Park is administered by the Department of Conservation to safeguard its natural and historic features and to provide for the enjoyment of visitors.

Since 1995, intensive efforts at forest restoration, in locations such as the Waipapa Ecological Area, have ensured breeding success and protection of many native species.

## Places of interest

It is worth starting your visit at Pureora Field Centre. Although the office is not open at weekends, there are information panels to help you decide where to go and what to do.

Within 10 minutes drive of the Field Centre you'll find several sites of special scientific, historic and ecological interest.

### 1. The Buried Forest

1800 years ago a forest was knocked over, buried and preserved by a violent volcanic eruption, whose remains now form Lake Taupo. This remarkable buried forest was brought to light in 1983 when it was accidentally uncovered by a digger. Today the uncovered logs lie as they fell during the volcanic eruption.

### 2. Treetop Protest Site

One of New Zealand's most significant conservation battles took place at Pureora in 1978. Protesters occupied platforms built in the treetops and their actions led to a government-imposed logging moratorium and, eventually, the end of native forest logging in the Park. Access to the protest site is a 10-minute walk along a track starting at the Forest Tower (see 3). Further information on the protest can be found in the Field Centre.

## Mountain biking

There are three recognised mountain biking tracks within Pureora Forest suitable for a range of fitness and skills: Select Loop Road, Okahukura Loop and the Waione Tram Mountain Bike Track. Mountain bikers are one of many groups using Pureora Forest Park so please be aware that other groups, including trampers and hunters on quad bikes, may be using these tracks and roads at any time. More information can be found in DOC's *Mountain biking Pureora* brochure. Many metalled roads in the Park are suitable for cycling.

## Hunting

Recreational hunting is a popular pastime in Pureora Forest Park. If you wish to hunt on conservation land you must have a permit, available from the Pureora Field Centre and the Maniapoto Area Office. Deer and pigs are present, with goats in low numbers. The DOC-issued *Pesticide Summary* comes with your permit and details the use of pesticides on conservation land in the Maniapoto Area, including Pureora Forest Park and surrounding areas.

## Dogs

If you wish to take a dog into the Park a permit is required. Dogs must be kept under control at all times. Dogs are not permitted at Ngaherenga and Kakaho campgrounds.

## Plan and prepare

While water quality is generally good, all drinking water collected from streams or ponds should be boiled or treated to remove germs.

There is no retail shop or petrol outlet at Pureora; the nearest facilities are at Benneydale, 15 minutes west along SH30, or at Mangakino, 20 minutes east.

Because of the terrain and heavily forested nature of the park, trampers and hunters are advised to obtain the relevant topographical maps (NZMS 260 topo series S16, S17, S18, T16, T17, T18). These may be purchased from the Pureora Field Centre, the Maniapoto Area Office in Te Kuiti, and map and book shops.

### 3. Forest Tower

This 12-metre high tower is a 10-minute walk from Bismarck Rd carpark. It gives you an entirely different perspective of life up in the forest canopy. It is a good spot for observing native birds such as kuku (kereru/native pigeon), kakariki (parakeets), and kaka (forest parrot).

### 4. Pouakani Totara Tree

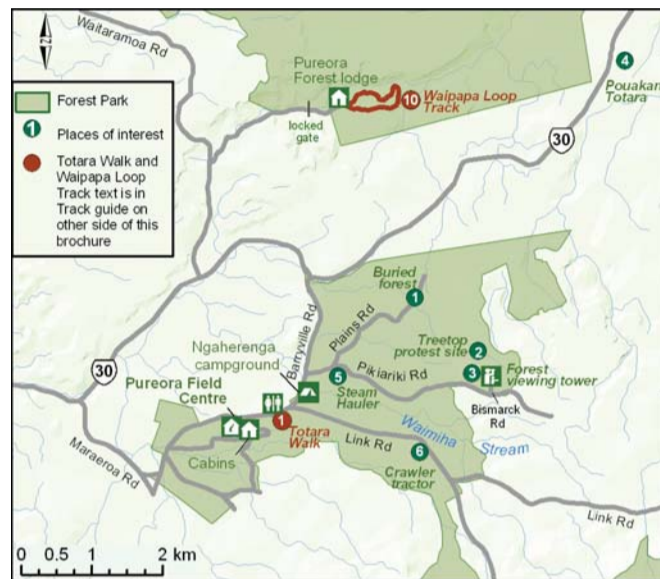
The largest recorded totara tree in New Zealand is located on private land near the Park (Wairarapa Moana Incorporation reserve) on SH30, approximately 10 minutes drive east of the Field Centre. It will take you 20 minutes to walk from the carpark to the tree.

### 5. Vintage Steam Hauler

This steam winch was used until the late 1940s to haul logs from the forest for milling.

### 6. Old Crawler Tractor

In the 1950s this two-tonne Caterpillar tractor was used to pull split totara posts and battens from the bush. When it broke down it was left where it stood for the forest to claim.



**DOC HOTline**  
**0800 362 468**  
Report any safety hazards or  
conservation emergencies  
For fire and search and rescue call 111

## Plants and animals

Pureora's forests grow on pumice and ash derived soils. These forests, the last remnants of extensive podocarp forests that once covered most of the central North Island, contrast sharply with adjacent farmlands and exotic forestry. Pureora also contains nationally-important wetlands and shrublands. The wetlands are some of the least-modified in the North Island and still host rare plants like the stout water milfoil and water brome. Many of the shrublands are known as frost flats, and are home to endangered plants like Turner's kohuhu and *Pimelea tomentosa*. The forest itself has parasitic species such as *Dactylanthus taylorii* (on tree roots) and endemic mistletoe in the canopy.

There is abundant birdlife in the Park. More commonly seen forest birds include kuku (kereru/native pigeon), piwakawaka (fantail), tui, popokatea (whitehead), tauhou (wax-eye), kaka and toutouwai (North Island robin). There are also populations of the rarer karearea (New Zealand falcon) and whio (blue duck). One of the largest remaining populations of the rare North Island kokako is also found in the park. Both species of native bats (long-tailed and short-tailed) and Hochstetter's frog are also present.



North Island robin. Photo: Ralph Powlesland.

## Accommodation

### Cabin accommodation

Seven fully self-contained cabins are available to rent at Pureora Village adjacent to the Field Centre. Address all enquiries and bookings to the Field Centre.

### Pureora Forest Park Lodge

Situated adjacent to the Waipapa Ecological Area, the lodge is fully self-contained, has 50 bunks, and is ideal for large groups. It is owned and managed by the Pureora Forest Lodge Trust and bookings can be made at the Pureora Field Centre.

### Camping

There are three main picnic and camping areas in the Park. Kakaho is in eastern Pureora on Kakaho Rd, and Ngaherenga comprises two sites on Barryville Rd near the Field Centre. These sites operate a camper self-registration payment system and cost \$8 per adult and \$2 per child per night. Basic facilities such as fireplaces (firewood is supplied), toilets and picnic tables are in place. There are excellent opportunities for bushwalking and swimming at Kakaho, and the Totara Walk and Forest Tower are near Ngaherenga. Four camping shelters are available for use at Piropiro Flats (no charge).

### Huts

Four huts are available for overnight use: the Bog Inn (4 bunks), Wildlife Hut (4 bunks), Waihaha (10 bunks) and Hauhungaroa (6 bunks). Facilities include mattresses, toilets and stoves (some with wood). We recommend you bring your own portable cooking stove. Hut tickets (per night: adult \$5, child \$2.50) are available from DOC Visitor Centres, most DOC offices and retailers displaying the 'Backcountry Huts' sign.

## Further information

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[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

\$1.00

# Pureora Forest Park



Cover: North Island kaka. Photo: Ross Henderson

## Track classification

**Short walk:** easy walking for up to an hour. Refer 1.

**Walking track:** gentle walking from a few minutes to a day. Refer 2-9.

**Tramping track:** backcountry skills and experience required. Refer 10-15.

## Track guide

Various tracks provide a range of walking opportunities for family groups, to experienced trampers and hunters. The Totara, Rimu and Waihora Lagoon walks are suitable for all ages and levels of fitness. Other tracks vary in difficulty and require experience. Some of the old logging tracks are suitable for offroad vehicles and mountain bikes, although access is restricted in some cases. Weather conditions can change quickly so always carry warm clothing and a raincoat. All timings are approximate.

### 1. Totara Walk - 30 min return

This easy loop walk winds its way among the awe-inspiring giant podocarps for which Pureora is famous.

### 2. Rimu Track - 30 min return

From the Kakaho camping area this loop walk follows the Kakaho Stream through dense rimu forest before climbing to a viewpoint. The walk emerges a short distance along Kakaho Rd.

### 3. Waihora Lagoon Track - 10 min one way

From SH32 turn onto Waihora Rd and travel approximately 3 km on a gravel road before turning left into the Waihora Lagoon carpark. The lagoon, 10 minutes walk from the carpark, is one of the most beautiful spots in the Park, surrounded by tall rimu and kahikatea.

### 4. Centre of the North Island Track - 10 min one way

A short, flat track off Waimonoa Rd leads to the geographical centre of the North Island (marked with a cairn and explanatory plaque). The track joins onto the Mt Titiraupenga Track.

### 5. Mt Pureora - 2 hours 30 min return

The summit provides the King Country's most spectacular panoramic views of Lake Taupo, Mt Ruapehu and the Kaimanawa Ranges. The track starts from the Link Rd carpark on the northeast side of Mt Pureora, with boardwalks and steps in place to make walking easier.

### 6. Waihaha Track - 3 hours to hut/campsite

The track follows the Waihaha River through shrubland before entering dense podocarp forest. The Waihaha Hut is in a clearing overlooking the river where the Waihaha Track meets the Hauhungaroa Track.

### 7. Toitoti Track - 1 hour 30 min to summit

This track provides alternative access to the summit of Mt Pureora. It leaves from the carpark on Toitoti Rd travelling up the northwest side of Mt Pureora.

### 8. Mt Titiraupenga Track - 8 hours return to Link Rd carpark

Leaving Link Rd carpark, this track crosses many small streams before climbing a southern ridge of Mt Titiraupenga and joins the Arataki Track just below the summit rock. The summit of Mt Titiraupenga is Maori land and a taonga (treasure) to local iwi. Please respect these values and the landowners' wishes by not climbing the summit rock.

### 9. Waihora Track - 1 hour 30 min to Waihora Junction

From SH32 turn onto the Waihora Rd and travel approximately 3 km before turning left into the Waihora Lagoon carpark. From here the track follows an old road for 30 minutes to Pikopiko Stream and then a steady 1 hour climb will bring you to the junction with the Hauhungaroa Track.

### 10. Waipapa Loop Track - 30 min return

Located behind Pureora Forest Park Lodge (see map overleaf). If the road gate is locked it takes an extra 10 minutes to walk from the gate to the start of the walk.

### 11. Arataki Track - 1 hour 30 min to junction with Mt Titiraupenga Track

This track to Mt Titiraupenga begins off Titiraupenga Rd and passes the YMCA camp. It climbs steadily to join the Mt Titiraupenga Track, 10 minutes below the summit rock. As explained above (see 8), you are asked not to climb the summit rock.

### 12. Bog Inn Track - 40 min to Bog Inn Hut

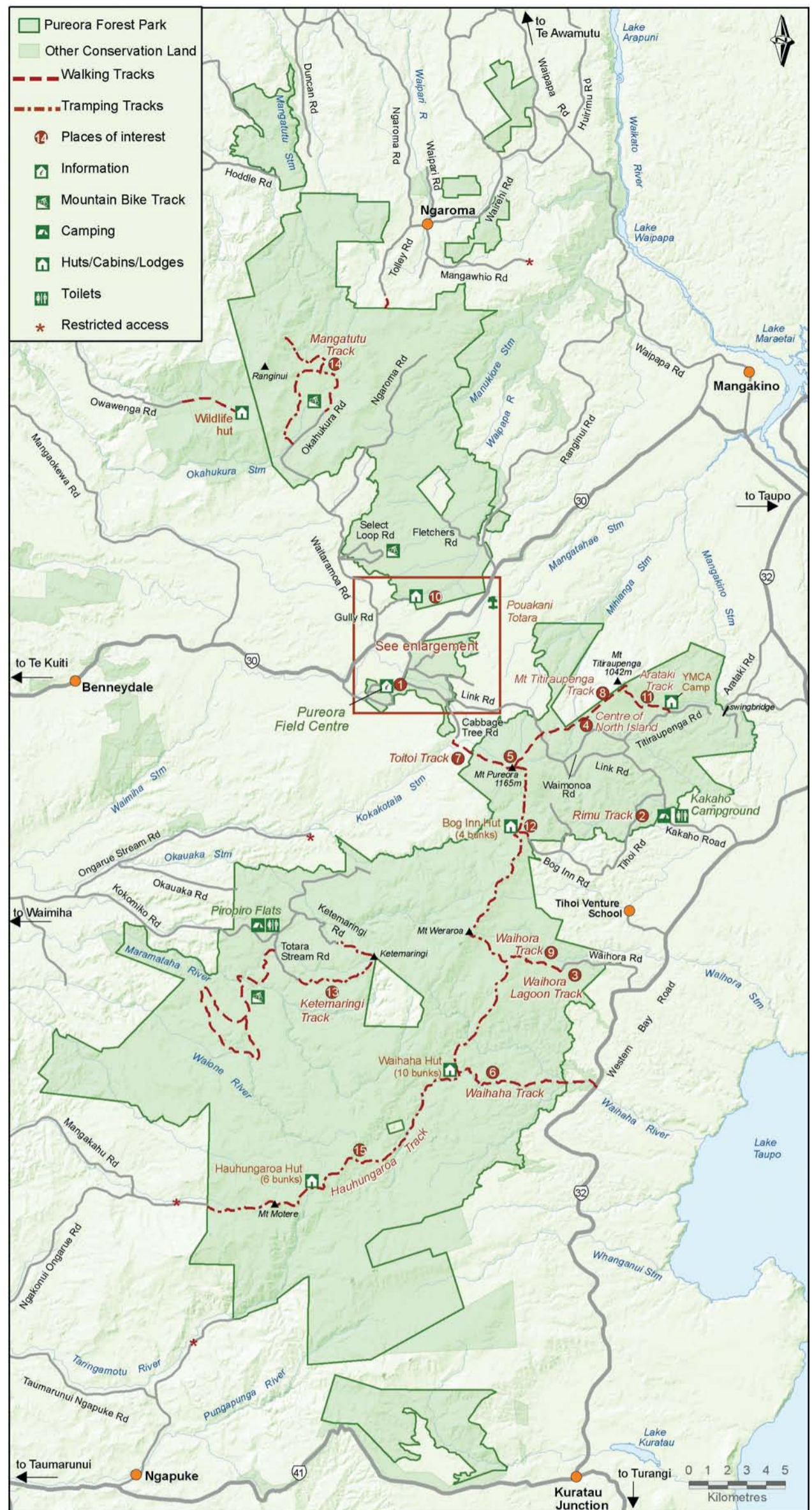
To reach the track, turn off Link Rd onto Tihoi Rd just north of the Kakaho campground, then further along Tihoi Rd take Bog Inn Rd to reach the carpark. An easy 10-minute climb from the carpark leads to the mountain mire known as The Bog. This is a fragile area; please keep to the track.

### 13. Ketemaringi Track - 4 hours one way

From the end of Ketemaringi Rd, climb steadily for 1 hour to Ketemaringi Trig. The track then turns south and descends easily down a ridge to emerge onto Totara Stream Rd. It is a further 1-hour walk to the carpark at the Totara Stream crossing.

### 14. Mangatutu Track - 2 hours to ridge

This track starts from the northern end of Okahukura Rd in the north block of the park. The track crosses two streams before climbing steeply onto the main ridge leading to Mt Ranginui. The track ends at the top of the ridge.



### 15. Hauhungaroa Track (Link Rd to Mangakahu Valley Rd)

- approximately 3 days

This 45 km track traverses the Hauhungaroa Range from Link Rd to Mangakahu Valley Rd. Initially you follow the Mt Pureora Track to Mt Pureora before dropping down a southern ridge of the mountain to Bog Inn Hut (3 hours 30 min). After skirting the Bog climb the ridge to Mt Weraroa (3 hours), turn east and drop steeply to the Waihora Track (1 hour 30 min). The track continues onto the Waihaha Hut (4 hours). Continue upstream from the Waihaha Hut on the true left of the Waihaha River. Just to the south of Te Awaiti Stream the track turns southwest and climbs the ridge onto the crest of the Hauhungaroa Range. Follow the crest south and the track continues to the Hauhungaroa Hut (S18 E28986 N69579; 7 hours from Waihaha Hut). From the Hauhungaroa Hut continue following the crest south past Mt Motere before dropping down to the head of the Mangakahu Valley and the roadend (2 hours 30 min).

NEW ZEALAND



ENVIRONMENTAL CARE CODE

Protect plants and animals  
Remove rubbish  
Bury toilet waste  
Keep streams and lakes clean  
Take care with fires  
Camp carefully  
Keep to the track  
Consider others  
Respect cultural heritage  
Enjoy your visit and *Toitu te whenua* (Leave the land undisturbed)