

Rimu & Mangawhero Forest Walks

Rimu Walk

WHERE: Bottom of the Ohakune Mountain Road, opposite the DOC Ranger station.

WALKING TIME: 15 Minutes

GRADE: Easy access footpath; Suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs

The Rimu walk starts by passing over a wooden foot bridge over the Mangawhero River. Shortly after the bridge is a junction in the track, continue left to stay on the Rimu walk (1) or go straight to start the Mangawhero forest walk. As you continue on the Rimu track you will pass through the ancient Rimu, Miro and Matai trees of the podocarp (native pine) forest of Ohakune. Sheltered by the huge mass of Mount Ruapehu, this forest survived the Taupo eruption of 186 AD and is therefore one of the few remnants of its type in the Tongariro National Park. Interpretation panels along the track explain various features of the forest ecosystem. The Rimu track loops back onto the Mangawhero forest walk, a few meters from the junction where it began, and you will return via the same foot-bridge.

Mangawhero Forest Walk

WHERE: Bottom of the Ohakune Mountain Road, opposite the DOC Ranger station

WALKING TIME: 1 Hour

GRADE: Walking track with some hills; Not suitable for wheelchairs

Starting along the same track as the Rimu walk, the Mangawhero forest walk begins by crossing the Mangawhero River from which it gains its name. Running over a bed of red tinged rocks, this river starts high up Mount Ruapehu and descends over two giant waterfalls, carving its way through the debris of previous eruptions. From the river the track leads into a forest of native trees reaching heights of over 30 meters high. Immediately after passing through a large cut fallen log the track crosses a large volcanic crater. The long process of infilling this volcanic vent has reached the stage where water, still lying close to the surface is able to support a swamp-type forest. The track climbs briefly for about 450m up over a small spur before descending back towards the river. At one point the track passes a huge chunk of limestone (2) which long ago tumbled from the top of Raetihi Hill and embedded itself as a permanent track side feature. Fossil seashells in this three million year old rock bear testimony to the fact that the limestone cap of Raetihi Hill was once part of the sea bed. After 1.5km the track emerges at a grassy picnic area and campground (3). Before becoming part of the National Park in the 1950's this area was cleared and run as a dairy farm. Regeneration is now well underway, while part of the remaining open area forms the Mangawhero campsite. The walk then continues across a road bridge over the Mangawhero River, then crosses the Ohakune Mountain Road and re-enters the forest (4) to return downhill to the Ohakune Ranger Station.



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