

Hapuakohe Walkway (southern section), Hapuakohe Range, Waikato

Wild file

Access: Mangapiko Valley Rd or Ohinewai Rd

Distance: 8.92km

Time: 5-6hr

Grade: Easy

Topo50 Map: BC34

Description

Hapuakohe Range encompasses three blocks of public conservation land: Matahuru Scenic Reserve, Mangapiko Valley Scenic Reserve and the trackless Hapuakohe Ecological Area – a total area of 2627ha.

The 18km Hapuakohe Walkway runs on a north-south axis from North Rd near Mangatarata to Mangapiko Valley Rd near Waiterimu and is bisected by Ohinewai Rd. The northern end of the walkway is longer, taking about eight hours to complete while the southern end takes about five hours. This route describes the southern section.

Starting at Mangapiko, the track follows a farm track besides Mangapiko Valley Stream and crosses two small streams before entering Mangapiko Valley Scenic Reserve. The bush on this walk is a pleasure; a canopy of predominantly tawa, kohekohe, pigeon wood, pukatea, some puihi and rimu.

After about 20-minutes and 120m of ascent through mature forest the track emerges at a farm fenceline and offers broad views across the hills and Hauraki Plains to Mt Te Aroha and the Kaimai Range.

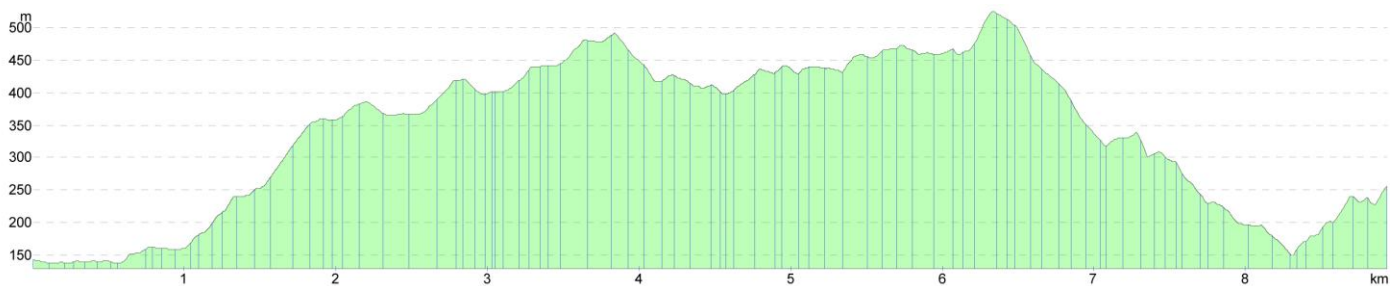
The track follows the fenceline for about 500m with continued views to the east and then ducks back into the bush for a short way before emerging again at the fenceline. From here it's a short but steep climb up private land to Pukeitonga Station (510m) which offers extensive views out west over the Waikato to Mt Pirongia and east to the Hauraki Plains.

The track then heads back into the bush and down a few steep and slippery slopes.

The track continues north until a steep ascent to a radio station at the summit of Maungakawa Peak (535m), the highest point of Hapuakohe Walkway which offers views north to the Firth of Thames.

The track then heads north to Ohinewai Rd where the northern section begins. If ending here you will need a car shuttle back to your start point.

Elevation Profile



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Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to map this route correctly, Wilderness Magazine does not take responsibility for any errors in the route. Users should use discretion when planning their routes and gather as much information as possible before departing.

