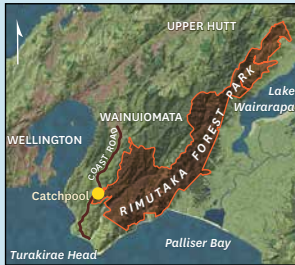


## How to get to Catchpool valley

Catchpool valley is a 45-min drive from Wellington. The entrance to the park is on Coast Road, 12 km south of Wainuiomata. The entrance gates are open from 6 am to 8 pm in summer (October–April)/6 am to 6 pm in winter (May–September).



## Please remember

- Dogs must be kept on a leash except in the Dog Exercise Area opposite the Catchpool Centre (see map) and in the Orongorongo river bed.
- Dogs are not permitted at all in the Turere catchment kiwi zone or the Landcare Research area (see map).
- Do not carry loaded firearms in Catchpool valley.
- Shooting is prohibited in Catchpool valley and the Orongorongo River bed.
- Fires are not permitted in Catchpool valley.
- You must have a permit from Wellington Rural Fire Authority to light a fire in Remutaka Forest Park – take extreme care. If the area's fire status is 'prohibited' then there is a fire ban and all permits are revoked.
- Mountain bikes are not permitted on walking tracks.
- Rubbish bins are not provided – take your rubbish home with you.

## Take care visiting natural areas



BETWEEN WATERWAYS

### Check, Clean, Dry

Stop the spread of didymo and other freshwater pests. Remember to Check, Clean, Dry all items before entering, and when moving between, waterways.

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable ground
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimise the effects of fire
- Respect wildlife and farm animals
- Be considerate of others



## For your safety

### Communication

There is no mobile phone or radio communication in the Catchpool and Orongorongo valleys. A public phone is situated at the Catchpool Centre.

### Be prepared

- Always take warm waterproof clothing, food and drink, even on short walks. Sturdy shoes or walking boots should be worn on tramping tracks.
- Groups on overnight trips should always include experienced trampers.
- Check the weather forecast – the weather in the forest park can change rapidly.
- Always tell someone where you are going.
- Maps are recommended for longer trips. Use NZTopo50, BQ32 Lower Hutt.
- If the ford across Catchpool Valley Road is flooded, do not attempt to drive through it.
- The Orongorongo River rises quickly. Do not attempt to cross swollen rivers or streams.

If you think there is a safety hazard in a conservation area, call DOC HOTline or the nearest DOC office.



## Further information

Please contact or visit:

Pōneke/Wellington Visitor Centre  
18 Manners Street, Wellington 6011  
Phone: 04 384 7770 Email: [wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz).

For further information about recreation activities and conservation visit: [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz).

Remutaka Forest Park is managed in partnership with Remutaka Conservation Trust. For information on conservation projects and volunteering, please visit [remutaka.nz](http://remutaka.nz).

Cover: Catchpool Stream.  
Photo: *Jeremy Rolfe*

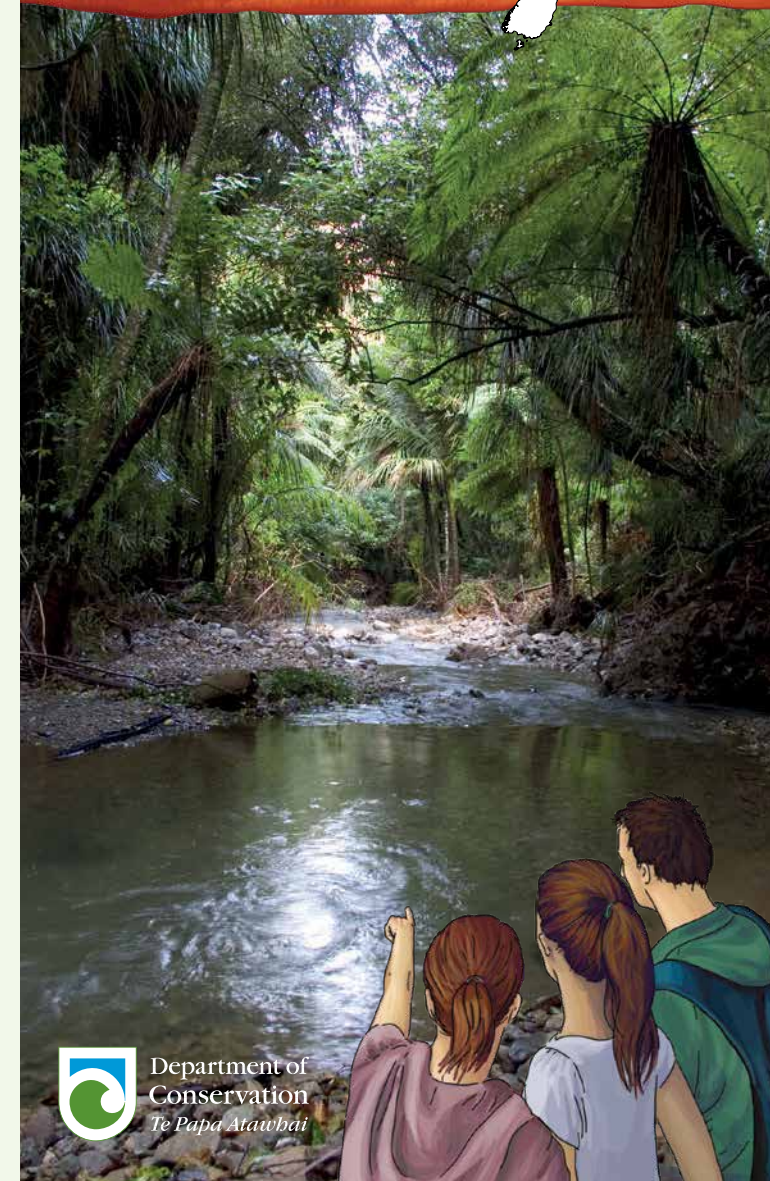
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New Zealand Government



# Remutaka Forest Park

Catchpool valley and Orongorongo valley



Department of Conservation  
Te Papa Atawhai

Catchpool Valley is the most popular entrance to Remutaka Forest Park. Within Catchpool Valley are short walks suitable for all ages and fitness levels. There's also access (through different bush types) to longer tramps via the Orongorongo Valley. Catchpool Valley has a well-maintained campground in close reach of tracks, picnic sites and swimming spots in Catchpool and Grace's streams. You can also hire your own DOC hut in the Orongorongo Valley.

Beech forest dominates much of the park, joined by podocarps at lower altitudes. These forests support hundreds of indigenous plant species and provide habitat for a range of invertebrates, freshwater fish, reptiles and birds including reintroduced brown kiwi.



Easter orchid



## Catchpool Centre

The Catchpool Centre is available to hire for groups of up to 50 people.

With two meeting rooms, wood burner, projector, broadband, BBQ, kitchen facilities, tables, chairs, whiteboards and a large lawn area, it is ideal for corporate and social functions, and education and community groups. Overnight accommodation is available at nearby Coast Road Cabin.

For more information and to book, contact the DOC Wellington Visitor Centre on 04 384 7770 or [wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz).

## Places to stay

### Camping

Catchpool Valley campsite (150 sites) is located alongside Catchpool Stream and has toilets, a water tap (boil before drinking), showers and free gas barbecues. Food must be cooked on the barbecues provided or with liquid or gas-operated stoves. Portable generators are not permitted.

Graces Stream Campsite (10 sites) is accessed off the Five Mile Track Loop. Allow for a 15 min walk from the top car park. There is a toilet, but no water tap (there is a nearby stream).

*Note: There is a year-round fire ban at both campsites.*

For information on camping fees, contact the Wellington Visitor Centre on 04 384 7770, [wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz) or visit [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz).

### Booked huts and cabins

There are six huts in Orongorongo Valley, and one fully equipped cabin at the road end, available for exclusive hire. They are all equipped with mattresses, water, heating, toilets, and (except for Boar Inn) gas cookers, crockery, cutlery and cookware.

All huts are locked and must be booked online, in advance.

*Walk times are from the Catchpool Valley car park:*

**Boar Inn** - serviced hut, 4 bunks, 2 hr 30 min walk

**Raukawa Hut** - serviced hut, 14 bunks, 2 hr 15 min walk

**Jans Hut** - serviced hut, 9 bunks, 2 hr 30 min walk

**Turere Lodge** - serviced hut, 32 bunks, 2 hr 30 min walk

**Haurangi Hut** - serviced hut, 10 bunks, 3 hr walk

**Papatahi Hut** - serviced hut, 10 bunks, 3 hr 30 min walk

**Coast Road Cabin** - fully equipped 3-bedroom house, 13 beds, at road end

For more information and to book, visit [booking.doc.govt.nz](http://booking.doc.govt.nz) or contact the Wellington Visitor Centre by phone: 04 384 7770 or email: [wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz).



Five Mile Loop Track.  
Photo: Lisa Paton



Barking Gecko.  
Photo: Matt Barnett

North Island Brown Kiwi.  
Photo: antrewwalmsleyphotography.com

### Mountain biking and horse riding

Mountain biking and horse riding are permitted in the logged areas in the south of Catchpool Valley (see map).

For information about access visit [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz).



### Hunting

DOC encourages recreational hunting in specified areas.

For information and hunting permits contact the Wellington Visitor Centre on 04 384 7770, [wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz) or visit [huntingpermits.doc.govt.nz](http://huntingpermits.doc.govt.nz).



Catchpool Campsite.  
Photo: DOC



Kiwi are gradually spreading beyond the dog exclusion zone. Please ensure all dogs are on leashes when near this area.

Dogs must be kept on a leash except in the Dog Exercise Area opposite the Catchpool Centre and in the Orongorongo River bed. Dogs are not permitted at all in the Turere catchment kiwi zone or the Landcare Research area.

LEGEND			
	Information		Booked Hut
	Toilets		Booked Cabin
	Dog Exercise Area		Camping Area
	Horse Riding Area		Telephone
	Mountain Bike Area		Lookout
	Kiwi		Barbeque
	Shower		NO HUNTING
	Picnic Table		NO DOGS
	Short walk		Tramping Track
	Walking Track		Route

NORTH

to Hine Road, Wainuiomata

to WAINUIOMATA 6km

To coast and Turakirae Head ↓

## Walking, Tramping and Cycling

Times are based on a walker of average fitness.

### **Nga Taonga Nature Walk** 45 min, 1.3 km (one way)

Information signs describe plant life of the forest. Begins in the clearing beside the Graces Stream footbridge. Ends at the road, 5 min from the Catchpool Centre.

### **Catchpool Loop Walk** 30 min, 1.6 km (round trip)

Begins just beyond the bridge across Catchpool Stream, and leads upstream through nikau groves and mature podocarp and broadleaf forest to another bridge and the Orongorongo Track. The round trip is completed by returning down the Orongorongo Track.

### **Five Mile Loop Walking Track** 1 hr 30 min, 3.8 km (round trip)

Passes through beech forest in the lower reaches of Graces Stream. The track climbs to Clay Forks at the junction with Clay Ridge Track, giving good views of the Remutaka Range and the forest canopy.

### Track categories

These categories help you choose the most appropriate track for your level of fitness, and the skills and abilities of your party. You must be prepared with clothing and equipment for all weather and conditions. Safety is your responsibility.



Short walk: well formed, easy walking for up to an hour



Walking track: well formed easy walks from a few minutes to a day



Easy tramping track: generally well formed for comfortable overnight tramping/hiking trips



Tramping track: mostly unformed but has track directional markers, poles or cairns



Route: unformed, suitable only for people with high-level navigation and backcountry skills and experience



Mountain bike - Easy, grade 2: Mostly flat with some gentle climbs on smooth track with easily avoidable obstacles such as rocks and potholes



### **Middle Ridge Track** 1 hr, 3.2 km (return)

Follows the ridge between Graces Stream and Catchpool Stream. Here, the vegetation consists of more drought-tolerant plants such as mānuka. The track gives good views of the Catchpool valley.



### **Clay Ridge Track** 2 hr 30 min, 6.3 km (one way to Mount McKerrow)

From Clay Forks, this track ascends Clay Ridge to the east of Graces Stream to the summit of Mount McKerrow (706 m). A round trip back to the Catchpool car park is possible by returning via the McKerrow and Orongorongo tracks.



### **Big Bend Track and Whakanui Track** 7 hr, 18 km (one way)

Big Bend Track begins at Turere bridge and follows the Orongorongo River to Whakanui Creek. The Whakanui Track begins on the true right (the right as you look downstream) of Whakanui Creek and climbs to the ridge between Whakanui Creek and Turere Stream before descending to Hine Road/Sunny Grove in Wainuiomata. There are good views of the main Remutaka Range from the higher parts of the track.



### **Orongorongo Walking Track** 2 hr, 5.2 km (one way)

One of New Zealand's most popular walks, leading to the Orongorongo River and Turere bridge through different forest types. There are swimming holes at Turere Stream at the end of the track.



### **Butcher Track and Cattle Ridge Track** 4 hr, 12 km (round trip)

Begins about 10 min along the Orongorongo Track. A stiff 2 hr climb through a range of forest types and shrubland brings magnificent views of Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson). From here, Cattle Ridge heads north to join the Orongorongo Track near Turere Stream.



### **McKerrow Track** 6 hr, 13.3 km (one way)

McKerrow Track begins 10 min from the end of the Orongorongo Track. It climbs through podocarp, broadleaf and beech forest to Mount McKerrow (706 m). It continues along McKerrow ridge, then joins the Whakanui Track and descends to Sunny Grove, Wainuiomata.



### **Mount Matthews Track** 10 hr, 9 km (return)

Begins near the mouth of Matthews Stream and climbs steeply to the summit of Mount Matthews (941 m). Enjoy outstanding views of Wellington Harbour, Wairarapa, the Tararua Range, and the Kaikoura ranges.



### **Mukamuka valley** 6 hr, 6 km (one way)



NZTopo50: **BQ32 Lower Hutt** map recommended

The Mukamuka valley is reached by following the Mt Matthews Track for approximately 1 hr 30 min to the South Saddle track. This rough route sidles south-west, dropping from the saddle into the shrubby headwaters of Mukamuka Stream which leads to Palliser Bay.



### **Papatahi Crossing** 12 hr, 10 km (one way)



NZTopo50: **BQ32 Lower Hutt** map recommended

A crossing of the Remutaka Range via Papatahi (902 m), from the mid-Orongorongo Valley at North Boulder Creek to the Wharepapa River and Battery Stream on the Wairarapa side of the park. It requires a very full day from the Catchpool car park for a fit party. Most parties should overnight at, or near, Papatahi Hut.



### **Remutaka Cycle Trail** 2–3 days, 115 km

Starting on Wellington's doorstep, this trail winds through the bush-clad Remutaka Range, passing through tunnels on an old rail trail, and pops out in the Wairarapa valley. It then skirts around the wild southern coast, past the mouth of the Orongorongo River and back to Wellington Harbour. There is the option to exit at Coast Road.

## Turakirae Head Scientific Reserve and Wild Coast Track

Turakirae Head is an area of international geological interest with its five earthquake-raised beaches. Wildlife includes rare and threatened bird and plant life and a colony of New Zealand fur seals. From the car park it takes about 45 min to walk to Turakirae Head. The Wild Coast Track can be followed along spectacular coastline and forms part of the 115 km Remutaka Cycle Trail.

**Vehicles, dogs and fires are not permitted in this area.**

