



**5**

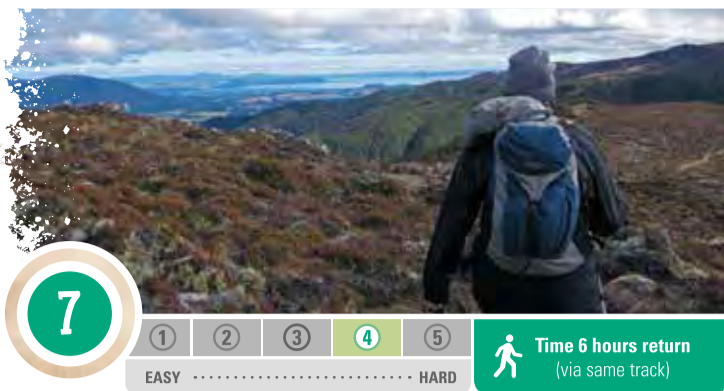
① ② ③ ④ ⑤

EASY ..... HARD

**Time 2 hours**  
(loop track)

### LAKE ROTOPOUNAMU

Nestled on the side of Mt Pihanga, Lake Rotopounamu ('greenstone lake') is a special favourite of tree lovers and birdwatchers. The track begins with an uphill walk then flattens out to circle the lake. There are numerous picnic and rest spots, with toilet facilities available on the main beach area. The lake is suitable for swimming in. This beautiful lake and forest is part of the Tongariro National Park and World Heritage Area. Eradication programmes led by Project Tongariro are in place to reduce introduced pest numbers so that native birds and plants can flourish. For more information go to [www.tongariro.org.nz](http://www.tongariro.org.nz)



**7**

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EASY ..... HARD

**Time 6 hours return**  
(via same track)

### MT URCHIN

Situated off the Desert Road, Mount Urchin offers an easily accessible wilderness of beautiful beech forest, incredible views and a real alpine environment. This short but challenging walk starts at Kaimanawa Road and climbs steadily through the forest to the Urchin Trig (1392m), where there are magnificent views of Lake Taupō and the volcanoes of the Tongariro National Park. This track is part of the Kaimanawa Forest Park conservation area, where a number of short and longer recreation opportunities are available. The weather in the park is extremely changeable, so be prepared for any conditions, even in summer.



**9**

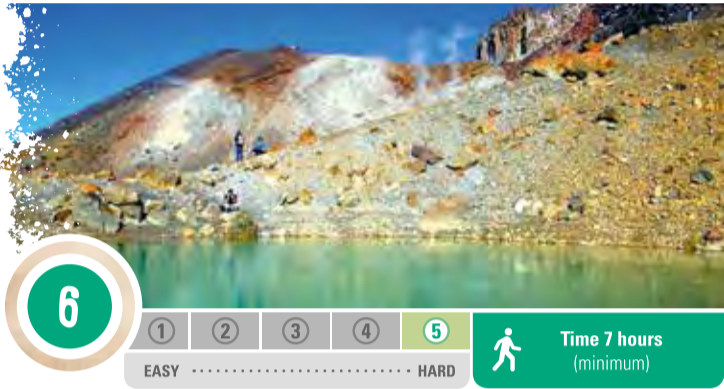
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EASY ..... HARD

**Time 30 minutes to 1.5 hours**  
(loop tracks)

### OPEPE HISTORIC BUSH WALK

There are two loop tracks, one on either side of SH5, with car park areas on both sides of the road. The northern loop passes through majestic native forest with giant rimu and matai trees, unique to the Taupō region as it is the only remaining virgin forest. There is also a side track which leads to a small historic cemetery from the time of the NZ Land Wars. The southern loop is made up of regenerating bush, taking in the relics of the Opepe township and sawmill, including the site of the old watering trough where you can read more about the history of the area. This track is dog friendly.



**6**

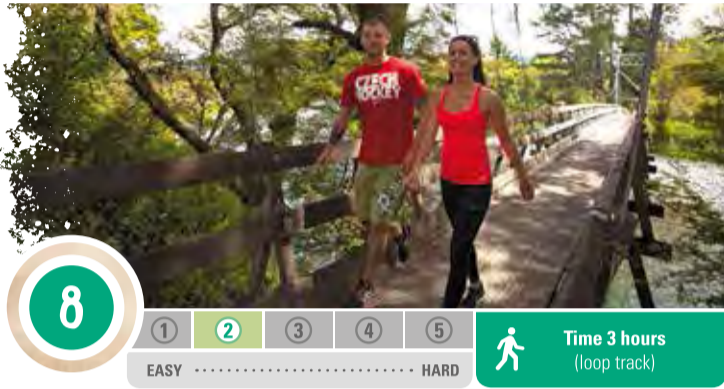
① ② ③ ④ ⑤

EASY ..... HARD

**Time 7 hours**  
(minimum)

### TONGARIRO ALPINE CROSSING

This world famous track is an awesome one day adventure. Trek 19.4km across active volcanoes featuring spectacular and unique terrain including old lava flows, active volcanic craters and thermal steam vents, brilliant emerald and blue lakes, and beautiful native forest. The Tongariro Alpine Crossing is an active alpine environment with very changeable weather conditions. Bring plenty of food and fluids, as there are no shops on the track. Wear sturdy boots and bring warm, waterproof clothing as the weather can change rapidly. For more information go to [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz) and check with your nearest i-SITE for up to date weather and track conditions.



**8**

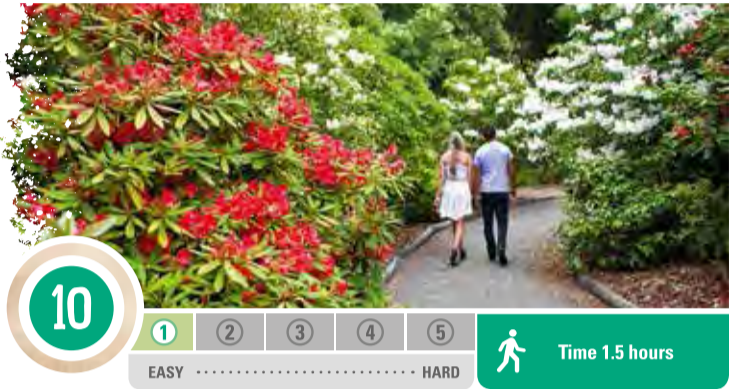
① ② ③ ④ ⑤

EASY ..... HARD

**Time 3 hours**  
(loop track)

### TONGARIRO RIVER TRAIL

With various access points, this undulating loop track can be walked in either direction. There are good views of the river's calm pools and rippling rapids as you walk along the high banks above the river. Keep an eye out for trout in the river pools. The walk passes along the edge of private farmland and homes. A deviation to the Tongariro National Trout Centre is recommended, where picnic and barbecue areas are available for use, and the museum, freshwater aquarium and blue duck enclosure are worth a visit. The use of mountain bikes is permitted on this track. Bikers should be considerate of walkers. This track is dog friendly.



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EASY ..... HARD

**Time 1.5 hours**

### WAIPAHIHI BOTANICAL RESERVE

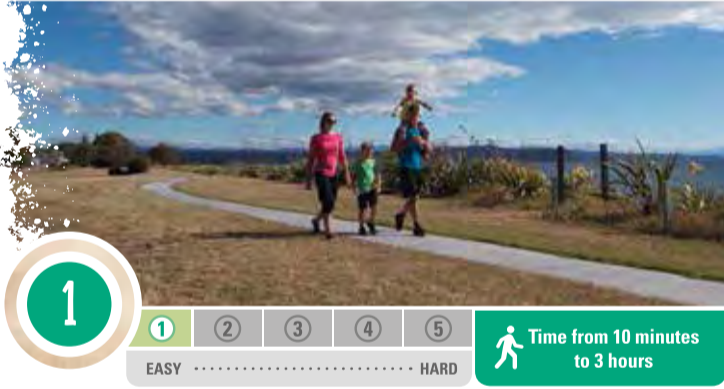
Situated in 35 hectares of mature plantings, this Reserve is a haven for birdlife. Of special interest are the alpine garden, lemonwood walk and the over 2000 rhododendrons, azaleas, and camellias. There are numerous walkways, beautiful lake and mountain views and attractive picnic areas. Open daily until dusk. The Botanical Reserve is dog friendly.

**10 Great Lake Walks**

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**1**

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EASY ..... HARD

**Time from 10 minutes to 3 hours**

### GREAT LAKE WALKWAY - THE LIONS WALK

This walkway begins at the Lake Taupō Yacht Club and follows the path beside Lake Terrace and along the lake edge all the way to 5 Mile Bay. The walkway is fully paved to Wharewaka Point, with a short section of unsealed track before returning to a sealed path. Ideal picnic and swimming spots can be found along the way. There are toilet facilities in all the bays and a children's playground and barbeque facility at Wharewaka Point. This track is suitable for pushchairs and bikes. It is also dog friendly.



**3**

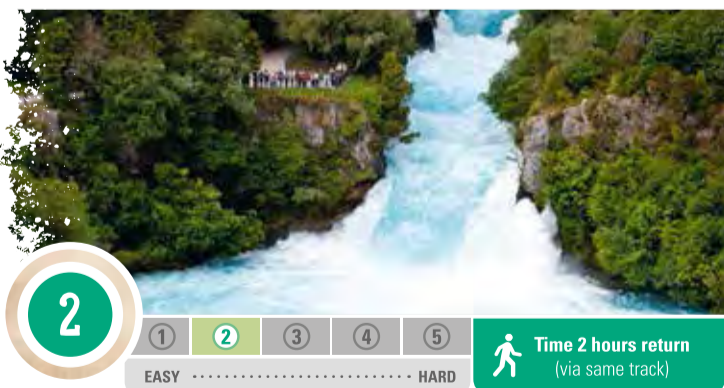
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EASY ..... HARD

**Time 4 hours return**  
(via the same track)

### KINLOCH TO KAWAKAWA BAY

The track to Kawakawa Bay begins at the western end of the main Kinloch beach, to the right of the parking area. The track entrance is signposted. Glorious views feature as the track climbs from Whangamata Bay and sidles along the top of a broad cliff. The bush is dominated by rewarewa but look out for the giant matai too. Once you reach the rocky lookout, the track drops down to Kawakawa Bay. The track is part of the Great Lake Trail and is used by mountain bikers. Dogs are also allowed on this track.



**2**

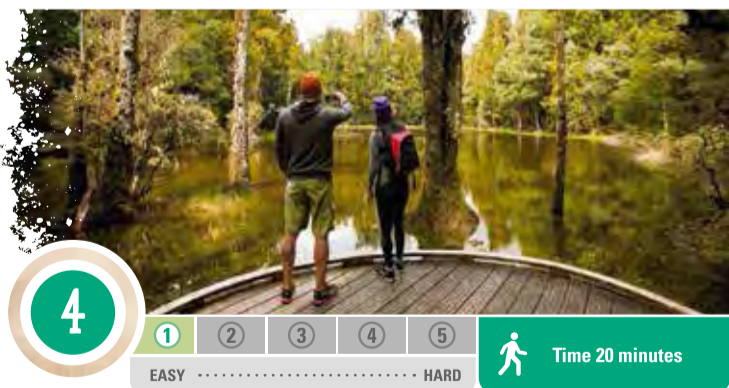
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EASY ..... HARD

**Time 2 hours return**  
(via same track)

### SPA THERMAL PARK TO HUKA FALLS

From the car park, follow the signs towards the Waikato River. Near the start of the track a bridge crosses a natural hot stream. From here the well-defined track winds along the riverbank, offering lovely views along the way. The walk finishes at the spectacular Huka Falls. A pleasant walk for the whole family; this walk can be linked with the Aratiatia Rapids Walk, which continues along the river to the Aratiatia Hydro Dam and Rapids. This is an additional 4 hour return walk. There are car park areas at Spa Thermal Park, Huka Falls and the Aratiatia Dam. This track is dog friendly.



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EASY ..... HARD

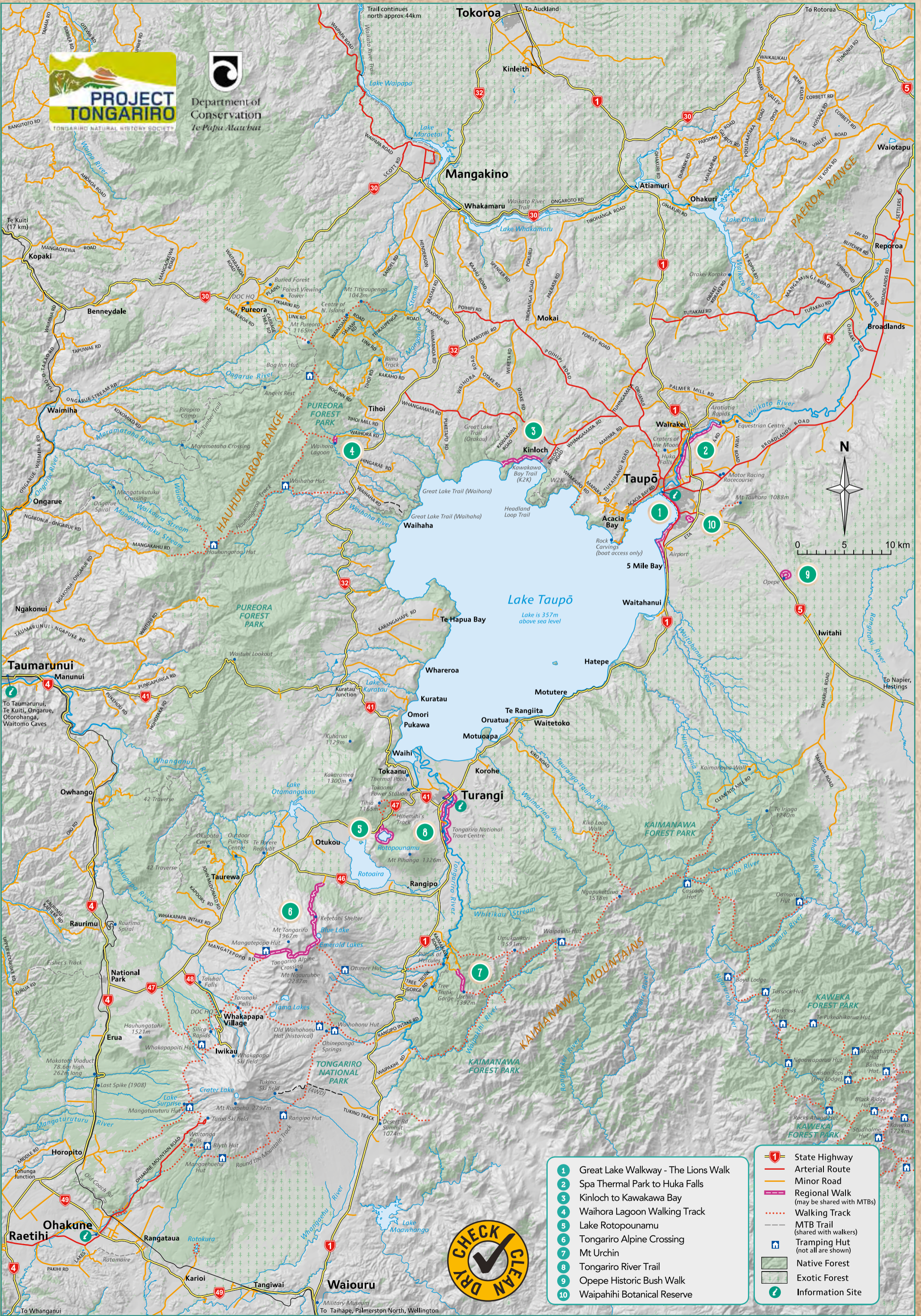
**Time 20 minutes**

### WAIHORA LAGOON WALKING TRACK (Pureora Forest)

This is an easy, flat walk into a small rain-fed lake surrounded by tall kahikatea and rimu trees. The boardwalk snakes through the bush to the viewing platform, which provides a tranquil spot to enjoy beautiful reflections and a variety of birdlife. This track is best enjoyed after rainfall to appreciate the mirror effect of the lagoon; however keep in mind that heavy rain may bring the lagoon level up over the boardwalk. Access is a gravel road signposted off SH 32, on the western side of Lake Taupō. Combine this short walk with the nearby Great Lake Trail or with the variety of outdoor experiences on offer in the Pureora Forest Park.



Department of Conservation  
Te Papa Ataturu



- 1 Great Lake Walkway - The Lions Walk
  - 2 Spa Thermal Park to Huka Falls
  - 3 Kinloch to Kawakawa Bay
  - 4 Waihora Lagoon Walking Track
  - 5 Lake Rotopounamu
  - 6 Tongariro Alpine Crossing
  - 7 Mt Urchin
  - 8 Tongariro River Trail
  - 9 Opepe Historic Bush Walk
  - 10 Waipahihi Botanical Reserve
- State Highway
  - Arterial Route
  - Minor Road
  - Regional Walk (may be shared with MTBs)
  - Walking Track
  - MTB Trail (shared with walkers)
  - Tramping Hut (not all are shown)
  - Native Forest
  - Exotic Forest
  - Information Site



Map not suitable for navigation