



Tarawera Falls Track

Start: Waterfall Road carpark
Time: 20 minutes one way - 0.7 kms

This part of the track system is easy and well graded. From the car park, head upstream along the Tarawera River, cross the footbridge then continue along the river until you arrive at the Falls viewing area. It's a spectacular sight and there are signs to explain the cultural and natural significance of the area. Backtrack to the car park or continue along the walking track to Tarawera Outlet (see next section).



Tarawera Outlet To Falls Track

Start: Tarawera Outlet
Time: 1 1/2 hours one way - 5 kms

At the outlet, cross the bridge and turn right. The track meanders through the native bush, largely following the river. Caution is advised for those wishing to swim beside this track due to strong currents. However, there is a safe and popular swimming spot about 1 hour from the Outlet, at a wider and shallower stretch of the river where the water runs more gently. Shortly afterwards, the track divides for a brief distance before coming together again and zigzagging down a steep escarpment to the viewing area at the base of the Falls. The Waterfall Road carpark is approximately 20 minutes walk past the Falls.

If you have not arranged return transport you will have to go back along the same track to the outlet.



Tarawera Outlet To Humphries Bay

Start: Tarawera Outlet
Time: 3 hours one way - 7 kms

Cross the bridge at the outlet and take the left hand track. Once past the jetty, views of the lake become less frequent as the track climbs inland. The track descends into Humphries Bay – a pleasant picnic and overnight camping area. Trampers can then take the Eastern Okataina Walkway northwards to access Otangimoana Bay on Lake Okataina (approximately 20 minutes one way) or onwards to complete the Walkway at the Okataina car park (Tauranganui Bay – a further 2 hours and 40 minutes walk).

Tarawera Outlet Campsite

This large, popular campsite is accessible by car from Kawerau, on foot or by boat. Facilities include toilets, cooking shelter, and a boat ramp. The water supply is from the river and requires boiling before use. Fees apply and are payable to the on-site warden. There are signs about the tracks and an interesting panel on Mount Tarawera's vegetation succession. The fly fishing locally is excellent too!

Map Key

	Walking track
	Tramping track
	Tarawera Falls
	Swimming hole
	No Swimming
	Lookout



Tarawera Falls

These are the most spectacular falls in the Bay of Plenty. The Tarawera River plunges 65 metres down a sheer cliff face before tumbling down bush-lined rapids.

Te Tatau a Hape

'Te Tatau a Hape' or 'the Doorway of Hape' is the original name for the Tarawera Falls. The ancestor Hape (whose full name is Hape-ki-tumanui-o-te-rangi or Hape-ki-tumatangi-o-te-rangi) is said to have come from Hawaiki to Aotearoa/New Zealand in search of greenstone. He arrived here on the Te Rangi-matoru canoe which made landfall at Ohiwa Harbour.

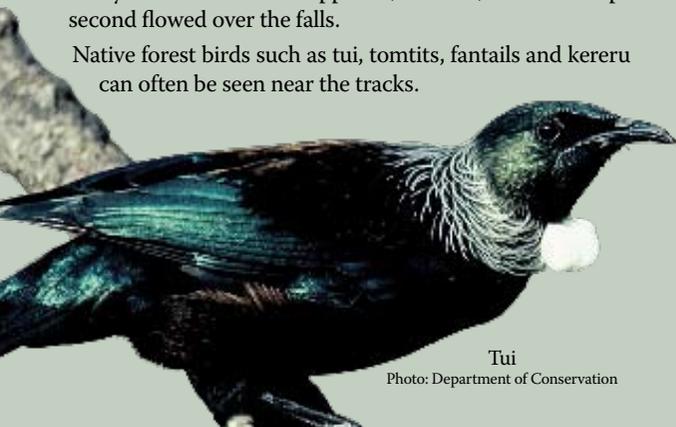
From Ohiwa, Hape made his way inland until he reached a spot above the Falls. He mistook the green aquatic plants in the clear waters of the river below for greenstone and so set about blocking up the course of the Tarawera River by placing a large boulder above the Falls where the waters enter an underground cleft. Dismayed at finding no greenstone, Hape continued his quest journeying southward, eventually reaching the West Coast of the South Island and the prized greenstone.

The land and its mantle

The Tarawera River bed around the falls is carved into ancient volcanic rocks and the high cliffs are thought to be the eroded end face of an ancient lava flow that poured from Mt Tarawera about 11,000 years ago.

The forest, dominated by pohutukawa and rata as well as hybrids of the two, is relatively young. The Mt Tarawera eruption of 1886 devastated forests in this area. Floods, caused by the sudden release of volcanic debris blocking the lake outlet, have also caused huge changes to the upper valley. The last time it happened, in 1904, 700 metres per second flowed over the falls.

Native forest birds such as tui, tomtits, fantails and kereru can often be seen near the tracks.



Tui

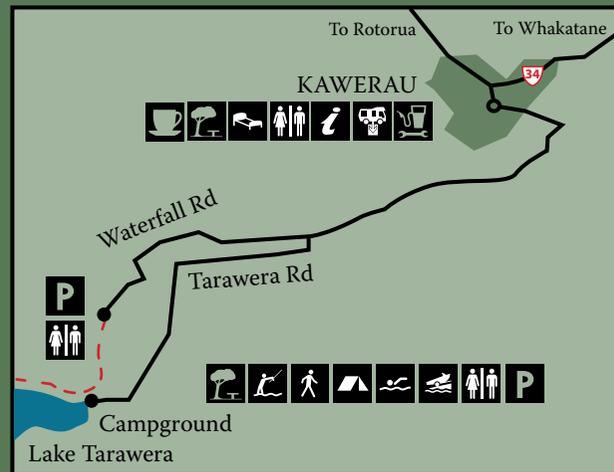
Photo: Department of Conservation

Kawerau - Spirit of the Forest

Kawerau is nestled at the foot of Putauaki (Mt Edgecumbe), a volcano which became dormant 1000 years ago, and with the crystal clear, trout filled Tarawera River, Kawerau is the outdoor adventure playground of the Eastern Bay. Home to the spectacular Tarawera Falls, tramping, fishing, golf, biking, water sports, horse riding,... Kawerau has it all to see and do.

Access - permit required

Tarawera Outlet is located on the eastern arm of Lake Tarawera 20 km from Kawerau. Vehicle access to Tarawera Falls and Outlet is along forest roads, which require an access permit. Directions and Permits are available from the Kawerau Information Centre on Plunket Street.



For more information

The reserves around Tarawera Falls and the walking and tramping tracks are managed by the Department of Conservation, Rotorua Lakes Area. For more information contact:

Kawerau Information Centre: Tel 07 323 7550

Email: kawerau.info@xtra.co.nz

Rotorua Lakes Area Office: Tel: 07 348 3610

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Photos: Margaret M..Brierley (unless otherwise stated)



Kawerau



Tarawera Falls