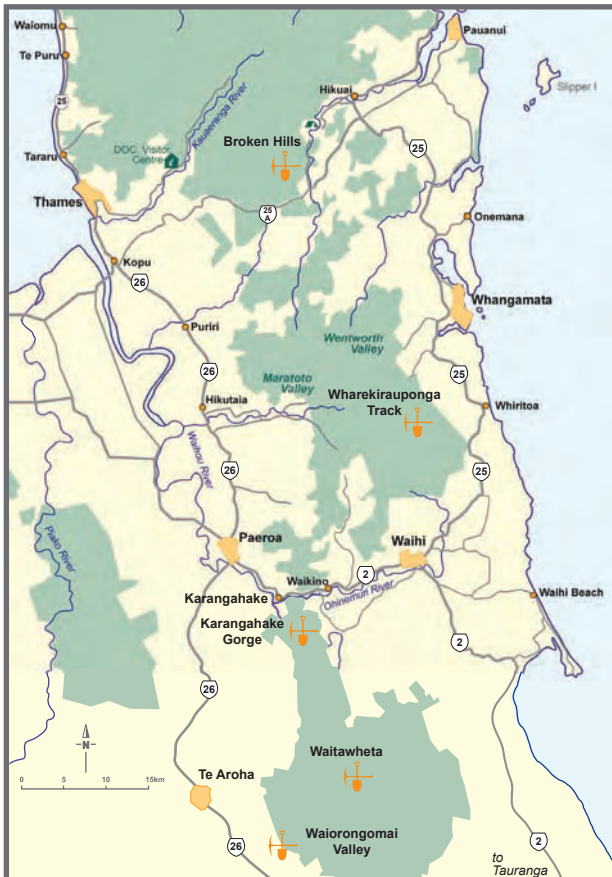


Explore our history

Man's insatiable appetite for gold over one hundred years ago led to the creation of a unique opportunity - the Valleys of Gold walks. Share in the gold rush - take a walk, explore old mining camps and batteries, see and hear New Zealand's unique plant and animal life. You'll be amazed and enriched!

Although you might get wet feet, all of these walks are suitable for families and first timers. The well marked tracks are a maximum of three hours and offer an insight into our industrial past. These walks can be explored by you at a time you choose!

Heritage on your doorstep



Detailed brochures for each of these sites are available from DOC Visitor Centres and online at www.doc.govt.nz

Keeping safe in the outdoors

A little bit of planning and preparation will ensure you keep yourself safe and enjoy your trip into the outdoors.

- Check the weather forecast and postpone your trip if you need to.
- Wear sturdy walking shoes or boots.
- Bring clothing for all seasons including a rain jacket.
- Stay on marked tracks, use a map and let someone know where you are going.
- Take plenty of food and water with you.



Further information

For more information on these walks visit the Department of Conservation website www.doc.govt.nz for detailed track updates, track descriptions and downloadable brochures or contact:

Department of Conservation
Kauaeranga Visitor Centre
Kauaeranga Valley, Thames
Ph: +64 7 8679080
Email: kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz

DOC HOTline
0800 362 468
Report any safety hazards or
conservation emergencies
For fire and search and rescue call 111

Published by
Department of Conservation
Tauranga Area Office
PO Box 9003, Tauranga
July 2008
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Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa



Valleys of Gold

Heritage walks in the
Coromandel and Kaimai ranges



WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Track Categories



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



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

Coromandel gold walks

Broken Hills

Around the turn of the 19th century a bustling gold mining settlement of 300 people had become established at Puketui in Broken Hills. By 1914, the boom had turned to bust as production from the mines tailed off, and the town downsized accordingly.



Collins Drive East end

Golden Hills Battery Walk, Broken Hills



(3km, allow 1 ½ hours to explore).

Large scale production started here in 1908 and by 1910 a large scale stamper battery had been built across the river from the mine. The battery used an expensive, unreliable, coke-powered suction gas engine that was too large for the size of the reef being worked, and production only lasted three years. On the way, look for two mine tunnels on your left. At the battery site, look for the original concrete foundations and arches that once supported large cyanide vats.

Collins Drive Walk, Broken Hills



(4 km, 2-3 hours return)

The 500 metre long Collins Drive lets walkers experience a real underground mine system. The tunnel was driven through the hill in a fruitless attempt to find a quartz reef with payable ore. You will need a torch!

Wharekirauponga Track, Parakiwai Valley, Whangamata



(14km 4-5 hours)

A track along an old horse-drawn tram track that passes unusual andesitic rock formations. There are river crossings, waterfalls and swimming holes. Old mine workings and camps remain.

Kaimai Heritage Trail



The Kaimai Heritage Trail features four significant industrial heritage sites including the Waiorongomai Valley, the Karangahake Gorge, the Waitawheta Valley and the Katikati Kauri Dams.

Low Level Loop Track, Waiorongomai Valley



(5.5km, 2 hours to complete loop)

One of New Zealand's biggest gold failures the Waiorongomai gold mines now provide a great network of walking tracks. The Lower Level Loop follows part of the Piako County Tramway, built in 1882-83 and is New Zealand's oldest known railway with the original rail still in place. See the restored Butlers Incline which lowered ore trucks down the 25 degree slope. As an optional extra, climb the 400m slope to appreciate the view and the cunning of the 19th century gold miners and their 21st century DOC counterparts who restored the incline.

Waitawheta Valley Track



(5km, 3 hours return to the logging bogie)

Follow the historic Waitawheta tramway to learn about how our giant Kauri trees supported the early gold mining industry. Beyond the rolling farmland, follow the Waitawheta River through regenerating native bush to find recreated log bogies from New Zealand's pioneering past (pictured above). The flat wide track, filled with historic signage is suitable for the whole family.



Reconstructed logging bogie on the Waitawheta Track

Woodstock Underground Pumphouse (Windows Walk), Karangahake Gorge



(3km approx, 1 hour to complete loop)

Tunnels, massive caverns, glow worms and dizzying heights will amaze you on this spectacular loop walk. Explore the feats of engineering of one of New Zealand's busiest goldmines, set alongside the Ohinemuri River. Bring a torch to enjoy the Woodstock Underground Pumphouse - a massive man made cavern blasted 100 years ago by gold miners. A great short walk to break up any long car trip.

Treasures for the future

Public conservation land offers golden opportunities to enjoy and learn about our natural and historical heritage. We can all play our part in protecting these special places for the future.

- Save petrol, and have more fun by car pooling.
- Carry your rubbish home with you.
- Reuse this brochure - share it with a friend.