

Kaitake Range

Egmont National Park



Welcome

Nei rā te mihi atu ki ā koutou i raro i te korowai o tō tātou nei tauheke a Taranaki.

Greetings to everyone who sits under the cloak of our ancestor Mounga Taranaki.

The Kaitake Range is the backdrop to the township of Oakura. Take the South Road (SH45) from New Plymouth to access the ranges in two ways.

1. From SH45 turn left at Wairau Road just past Oakura. Turn left again into Surrey Hill Road to get to the start of the Davies Track. It's about a 20 minute drive from New Plymouth.
2. Pass through Oakura and from SH45 turn left at Ahuahu Road to get to Lucy's Gully and the Waimoku Track.
3. Drive through Oakura on SH45 and turn left onto Weld Road to get to Boars Head Mine Track. Allow 45 minutes walk to the mine.

Lucy's Gully is the most convenient access. The others are across private land with public right of access.

Allow 2 to 3 hours to Patuha Trig. This is the highest point for each track. Add about 30 minutes if you take the Davies Track from Surrey Hill Road.



! Be prepared

Take the right gear

- Waterproof raincoat and leggings
- Sturdy tramping/hiking boots
- Warm clothing, gloves and hat
- Sunhat, sunglasses, sunscreen
- First aid kit
- Food and 2-3 litres of water (there is no water available on the track)
- Cellphone/mountain radio/personal locator beacon (available for hire from North Egmont Visitor Centre)
- Walking poles (optional)
- Putties/gaiters (optional)

Before you go

- Check weather forecasts before you go via **METPHONE** 0900 999 24 or www.metservice.com.
- Take a map and compass.
- Check with DOC visitor centre staff for updated track conditions.
- Tell someone responsible where you are going and your estimated time of arrival back. Use the online intention system: www.adventuresmart.org.nz/outdoors-intentions.

Your safety is your responsibility

Warning: This map is not to scale and is not suitable for navigation. It is recommended that park users refer to Egmont National Park Parkmap 273-09 and NZTopo50 map BH28 and BH29.



Looking south toward Mt Taranaki. Photo: Tim Weston.

Weather

Mt Taranaki has changeable and unpredictable weather. Check the forecast and carry enough clothing and equipment to ensure you are able to cope with any type of weather. The rivers and tributaries are not always bridged and some of these can flood at any time of the year.

The Kaitake Range - A lowland forest

The lowland coastal forest of the Kaitake Range is a very different forest than that found in the rest of the Egmont National Park. The trees here are not found in the higher areas.

There are nikau, titoke, kohekohe, and puriri trees. You'll find pukeatea and karaka trees and see silver fern and a range of smaller plants.

A stand of Californian redwood trees, planted in the 1930s are protected by a special dispensation in the Egmont National Park Management Plan. Other exotic trees planted at the same time are slowly being removed to allow regeneration of native species.



Lucy's Gully. Photo: Tim Weston.

Mounga Taranaki

The majestic andesitic volcano Mt Taranaki or Egmont (2518 m) is the central point of the 34,170 ha Egmont National Park. Approximately 125,000 years old, it is the park's most recent volcanic peak. Last erupting around 1755 AD the mountain is now considered dormant.

Local Māori believe Mounga (Mt) Taranaki once stood with the mountains of the central North Island. After a dispute over the maiden Pihanga, Taranaki fled his ancestral home, carving out the bed of the Whanganui River on his journey to the coast.

Egmont National Park became New Zealand's second national park (after Tongariro) in 1900. Named Mt Egmont by Captain Cook, the traditional Māori name of Mt Taranaki is now more widely used.

Sacred to Māori, visitors are asked to respect the mounga by not standing directly on the summit peak, not camping or cooking on or around the summit area, and removing all rubbish.

Further information

For park information, hut tickets, and Konini Lodge bookings:

North Egmont Visitor Centre (Open daily)

Egmont Road RD6

Inglewood

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