



# Pirongia Traverse



Walking

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Difficulty

**Medium**

Length

**16.2 km**

Journey Time

**1-2 days**

Region

[Waikato](#)

Sub-Region

[Waipā](#)

Part of Collections

[Te Araroa - New Zealand's Trail](#) , [Te Araroa highlights](#) , [Te Araroa - North Island](#) , [Waipā](#)

Track maintained by

[Te Araroa Trail Trust](#)

Te Araroa trail section: Cross Pirongia Forst Park, through native bush and over the 959m summit of Pirongia.

This traverse of Pirongia Mountain starts with the [Department of Conservation's Nikau Walk](#) [📍](#) – an easy stroll south from the Kāniwhaniwha carpark, following the stream through a forest of plantings. Shortly after leaving the farmland and just before a circular walk through beautiful native forest, you take the [Tahuanui Track](#) [📍](#) leading towards the southeast. Here, you will find a picnic/campsite clearing with toilets and the last opportunity for swimming before starting the ascent to the summit.

The Tahuanui Track then climbs steadily up a ridge through stands of tawa to the summit ridge where several tracks converge on the 959m summit of Pirongia. So far, this should have taken roughly 4-5 hours. 30 minutes beyond the summit in a westerly direction is the Pahautea Hut. It is generally a good idea to stay overnight in this hut and continue south the following day.

Information from DOC regarding Pahautea Hut:

*For both the hut and campsite, you must book. Even though the campsites are free of charge, a booking is required to secure your place.*

*Backcountry Hut Passes can be used at this hut. To pay with your Backcountry Hut Pass, create/update your account on our booking system. Under 'Apply for a discount', select 'Backcountry Hut Pass Holder' and upload a scan of your pass. Once we've verified your pass, it will automatically be applied when you make a booking.*

From the hut, you continue westward on the new Noel Sandford boardwalk, following the [Hihikiwi Track](#) [📍](#) with good views to the south. 1km below Hihikiwi Peak and about 600m before Te Akeohikopiro Peak, you take a new spur track heading off in a southwestern direction. Follow this all the way down to Pirongia West Road.

What to expect on a tramping track:

- The track is mostly unformed with steep, rough or muddy sections
- Suitable for people with good fitness. Moderate to high-level backcountry skills and experience, including navigation and survival skills required
- The track has markers, poles or rock cairns. Expect unbridged stream and river crossings
- Tramping/hiking boots required.

## Conditions

### Potential hazards

- Poisons and traps
- Small stream crossings
- If weather is bad, it's advised to stay in the hut until it clears
- Few water sources
- Hut water may need to be treated

### Weather on Pirongia

Weather conditions can change rapidly, especially at higher altitudes. Always carry a change of clothing, wet weather gear and sufficient food to cater for any emergency.

[Pirongia weather forecast - NIWA](#) [↗](#)

No dogs allowed.

## How to get here

Northern Start: DOC picnic area, Limeworks Loop Road

Southern End: Junction of Pirongia West Road with Omanawa Stream

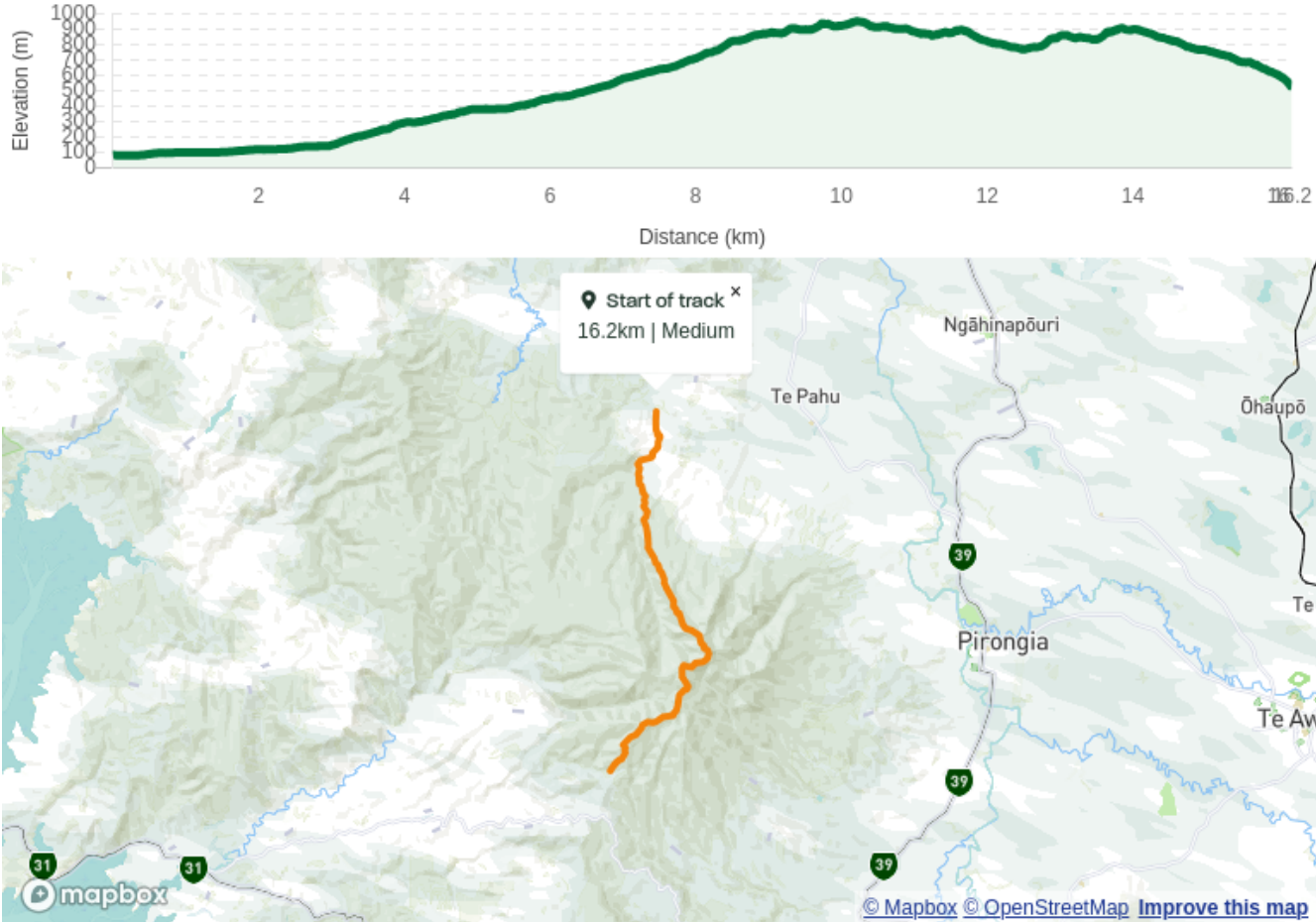
## Transport

## Accommodation

- Bartlam's Bush Homestay - four-berth caravan, tent sites, hot showers, homegrown organic meals, laundry, and shuttle options. Please enquire: P 0272943652 or E [lynnbartlam1@gmail.com](mailto:lynnbartlam1@gmail.com)
- [Pahautea Hut](#) [↗](#) is the only hut in the park. Sleeps 20 people on two platform bunks with mattresses.
- It has a water supply (recommend you treat the water) but no heating or cooking facilities, so you should take a portable cooker.
- There are also campsites and a camping shelter at the hut. Fires are not permitted.

# Food And Supply

## Track Elevation and Map



# More information

[Waikato trail notes, including information about accommodation, transport and resupplying](#) [↗](#)

- [Map 41](#) [↗](#)
- [Map 42](#) [↗](#)

Before starting Te Araroa either as a through-walker of the whole country or a section walker, [please register on Te Araroa website](#) [↗](#). Please also [visit the website](#) [↗](#) or [download the app](#) [↗](#) for detailed maps, trail alerts and other relevant information.

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We encourage you to continue gaining the skills and knowledge required for a safe trip. The NZ Mountain Safety Council has lots of free resources and information you can use. These can be accessed via [www.mountainsafety.org.nz](http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz) [↗](#).

We recommend trying these online learning tools:

- [Trip Planning](#) [↗](#)
- [Tramping/field Skills](#) [↗](#)
- [Basic Navigation](#) [↗](#)
- [River Safety](#) [↗](#)

Additionally, check out the range of helpful videos available from the NZ Mountain Safety Council [YouTube channel](#) [↗](#).

