

Plan and prepare

There is limited cell phone reception along the track meaning there may be a delay in contacting the emergency services should the need arise. Walkers are advised to carry a first aid kit.

Please note that dogs, horses, fires, removal of plants or animals, and hunting are not permitted on the trail or at Hot Water Beach. Vehicles (including bicycles and motorbikes) are not permitted on the trail.

Hunting on DOC land requires a permit. Hunting is prohibited within 100 m of the Tarawera Trail or Hot Water Beach.

Lake Tarawera water transport

It is highly recommended that you pre book transportation to and from Hot Water Beach.

Lake Tarawera Water Taxi

07 362 8080 www.ecotoursrotorua.co.nz
info@ecotoursrotorua.co.nz

Clearwater Cruises

07 345 6688 www.clearwater.co.nz
cruise@clearwater.co.nz



Check, Clean, Dry

Stop the spread of didymo and other freshwater pests.

Remember to Check, Clean, Dry all items before entering, and when moving between, waterways. 'Just one drop' is all it takes.



leave no trace NEW ZEALAND

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable ground
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimise the effects of fire
- Respect wildlife and farm animals
- Be considerate of others



Further information

For further information about recreational activities and conservation around the Rotorua lakes visit:

DOC Information Counter
Rotorua i-Site and Visitor Centre
1167 Fenton Street, Rotorua
Ph: +64 7 348 5179

DOC website: www.doc.govt.nz

Cover and photo above: Lake Tarawera

Published by:
Department of Conservation
Rotorua Office
PO Box 1146, Rotorua 3040
New Zealand
November 2014

Editing and design:
Publishing Team, DOC National Office

This publication is produced using paper sourced from well-managed, renewable and legally logged forests.

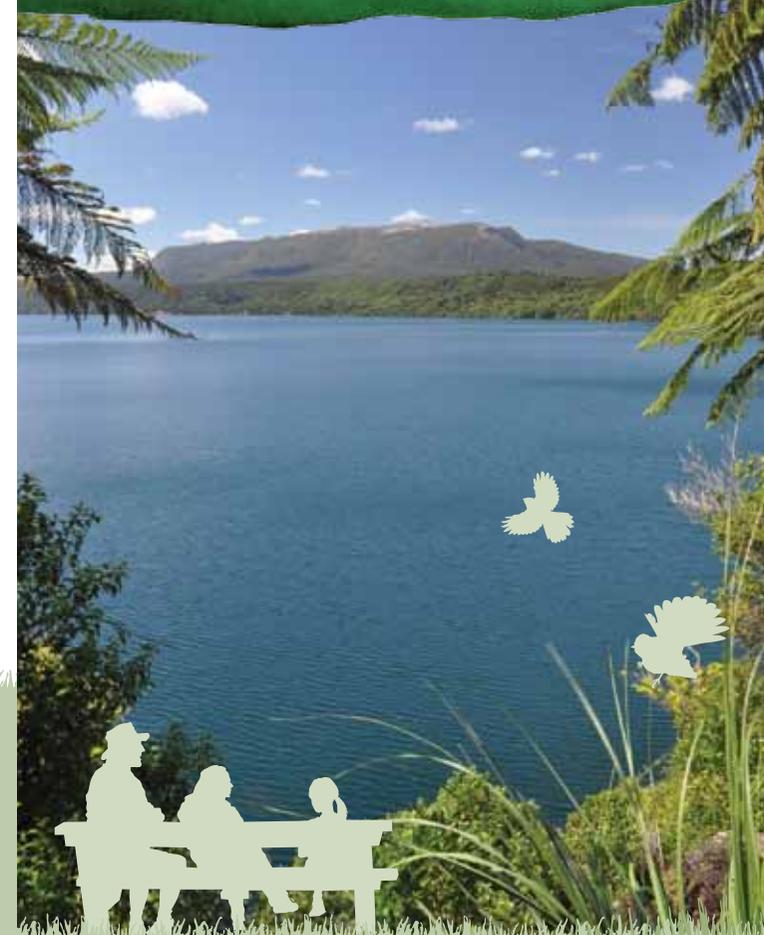
New Zealand Government

DOC HOTline
0800 362 468
Report any safety hazards
or conservation emergencies
For Fire and Search and Rescue Call 111

All photos, unless
otherwise credited,
are copyright DOC.

Tarawera Trail

Walking track at Lake
Tarawera Bay of Plenty



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

The Tarawera Trail

Once devastated by the 1886 Tarawera eruption, the Tarawera Trail represents a return of the people to their land and the birthplace of tourism in New Zealand.

The land and waters around Lake Tarawera are of special importance to Tuhourangi, Ngāti Rangitihī and Ngāti Hinemihi, who have lived in the area for many generations. The trail provides breathtaking views of Lake Tarawera Scenic Reserve and surrounding lakes and forests, quiet picnic spots on bays around the lake, and gentle streams and springs.

The walking trail from Te Wairoa to Hot Water Beach has been developed in partnership between DOC and the Tarawera Trail Trust representing Māori landowners.

Track information

Te Wairoa car park to Hot Water Beach: 5–6 hours one way, 15 km

Track classification



Tramping track – marked track that is mostly unformed, for fit, experienced and adequately equipped people.

Getting there

The Trail starts at Te Wairoa car park on Tarawera Road, an easy and scenic 15 min drive from Rotorua past Tikitapu/Blue Lake. Gates to the car park are locked overnight for security.

A 2 km walk along the road connects the Te Wairoa car park to Tarawera Landing.

Water taxis are available to ferry passengers to and from Tarawera Landing to Hot Water Beach and must be pre-booked.



Hot Water Beach

Hot Water Beach is a natural geothermal area at Te Rātā Bay on the southern shores of Lake Tarawera, popular with visitors and locals. Natural hot springs under the sand provide a relaxing, warm swim.

 **Caution: localised areas of sand and water are very hot!**

Access to Hot Water Beach is either via the Tarawera Trail or by boat across Lake Tarawera. The beach is extremely popular during the summer months and has limited lakeshore mooring posts.

Camping at Hot Water Beach



Campsite grade: Standard

Tent sites: 30

Camp in scenic surroundings and relax in the natural hot springs in Te Rātā Bay. Enjoy water sports or explore the tracks in other areas of the lake. Facilities include formed tent sites, toilets and a cooking shelter. Water can be taken from the lake for drinking but must be boiled first.

Track description

Set off from Te Wairoa car park and enjoy opening views of beautiful Lake Tarawera. Follow the lakeside trail through Kōtukutuku Bay. After 5 km, stop at Hawaiki Bay to enjoy the lake access and a picnic area with toilet facilities.

The trail continues, with intermittent climbs, through lakeside forest to Te Hīnau Bay, passing the cold springs at Twin Streams.

After an uphill climb to reach the Rotomahana lookout point, descend into Te Rātā Bay to enjoy a soak at Hot Water Beach.



Visitors must book a campsite and pay the total fee prior to arrival.

Bookings need to be made through the manager of the campsite, Whakarewarewa Village Charitable Trust:

Ph: +64 7 349 3463, ext. 101

www.whakarewarewa.com

17 Tryon Street, Whakarewarewa Village, Rotorua

A number of concessionaires run boat or helicopter transport around Rotorua Lakes, creating a variety of options for connecting trails or getting to and from campsites. Go to Lake Tarawera Scenic Reserve/Guides and commercial tourism providers at www.doc.govt.nz for more information.

