



# AKATARAWA FOREST



## How to get there

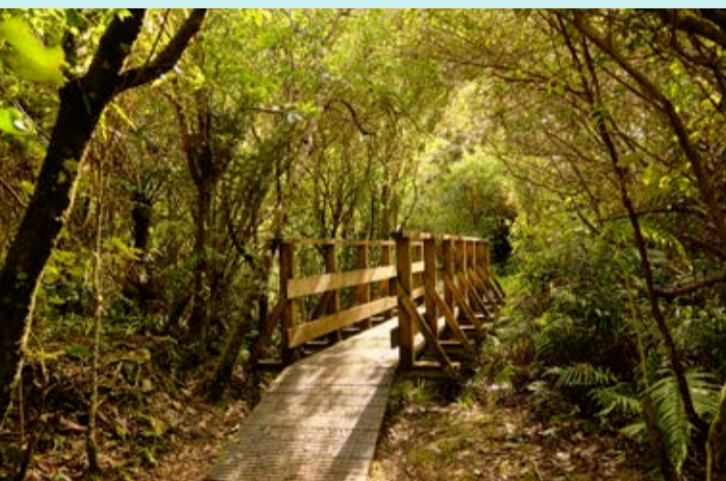
### ▲ Main entrances:

- Battle Hill Farm Forest Park:** Via Paekākāriki Hill Rd off SH58
- Bridge Rd:** Via Akatarawa Rd off SH2, Upper Hutt
- Bulls Run Rd:** Via Cooks Rd off Moonshine Rd from SH58
- Karapoti Rd:** Via Akatarawa Rd off SH2, Upper Hutt
- Maungakotukutuku Rd:** Via Waterfall Rd off SH1
- Totara Park:** Via Tulsa Park or Valley View Rd off Totara Park Rd, Upper Hutt

### Public transport:

Take the 111 bus from Upper Hutt Railway Station (Mon-Sat) to Totara Park Entrance.

For bus timetables, go to: [www.metlink.org.nz](http://www.metlink.org.nz)



## About the forest

Covering nearly 15,500 hectares between Upper Hutt and the Kāpiti Coast, the Akatarawa Forest is a mix of native and exotic forest broken by steep valleys and river gorges.

It's a popular area for 4WD clubs, trail biking, tramping, hunting and mountain biking. The forest is the venue for the internationally renowned Karapoti Classic mountain bike race.

For more information, contact the Greater Wellington Parks department: [parks@gw.govt.nz](mailto:parks@gw.govt.nz)










Greater Wellington contact centre: 0800 496 734

Metlink  
(for public transport timetables and fares)  
0800 801 700  
[www.metlink.org.nz](http://www.metlink.org.nz)

Walking or cycling to the park?  
Check out [www.gw.govt.nz/cycling/](http://www.gw.govt.nz/cycling/) for the most direct route.







## Tracks and trails









Track	Distance (km)	Time (walk)	Description	Grade (Easy, Intermediate, Moderate, Hard)
Cannon Point Walkway	8km return	3-4 hrs	From Bridge Rd, the track follows the pipeline to the historic Birchville Dam then up to Cannon Point, giving panoramic views of the Hutt Valley. Return via Tulsa Grove and along the banks of the Hutt River to Bridge Rd.	M   
Karapoti Challenge	20km return	return, 1.5-2 hrs biking	From Karapoti Gorge entrance car park, follow the gorge before turning hard left over McGhies Bridge. Climb up McGhies Rd, then head left up Valley View Rd. At the ridge crest, turn right and continue along Valley View Rd to Airstrip Rd for 2km, before turning right onto Woolshed Rd. Go back down to the junction and turn left to McGhies Rd. Turn right after crossing the bridge and head back through Karapoti Gorge to the carpark.	M  
Karapoti Classic	50km return	4-8 hrs biking	Ride up Karapoti Gorge to a clearing where the road forks. Veer right and head northeast up Hukinga Valley. Follow Hukinga Rd to Cederholm Creek. Traverse along the creek till you reach Deadwood Ridge Rd. Follow the road to the Rock Garden. Take the steep Rock Garden track down to the Akatarawa River West, cross and then follow the steep track back up Devils Staircase onto Titi Rd. Follow along Titi Rd, then turn left into Whakatiki Rd. Follow Whakatikei Rd to the Pram Track and head up and over to the ford at Akatarawa River West. Return to Akatarawa Rd via Karapoti Gorge.	H (advanced biking)  
Karapoti Gorge	11km return	3 hrs return	Starting from Karapoti Rd, the track narrows through a bush-clad gorge to McGhies Bridge and on to a clearing by Akatarawa River West. Enjoy a dip in one of several deep pools.	E  















## Key for map

### Natural features

-  Native forest
-  Pine plantation
-  Rivers and streams
-  High point (elevation in metres)

### Other features

-  Public entrance
-  Public road access
-  Public walking/cycling track
-  4x4 road in native forest
-  Difficult terrain
-  Road fords across river or stream
-  Walking track
-  Route

-  Orange Hut
-  Locked gate
-  Mapboard
-  Back country hut
-  Toilets
-  Parking
-  Walking
-  Tramping
-  Mountain biking
-  Trail biking
-  Horse riding
-  Hunting
-  Viewing point
-  Wilderness camping
-  No motorbikes or quads
-  No mountain bikes
-  No dogs

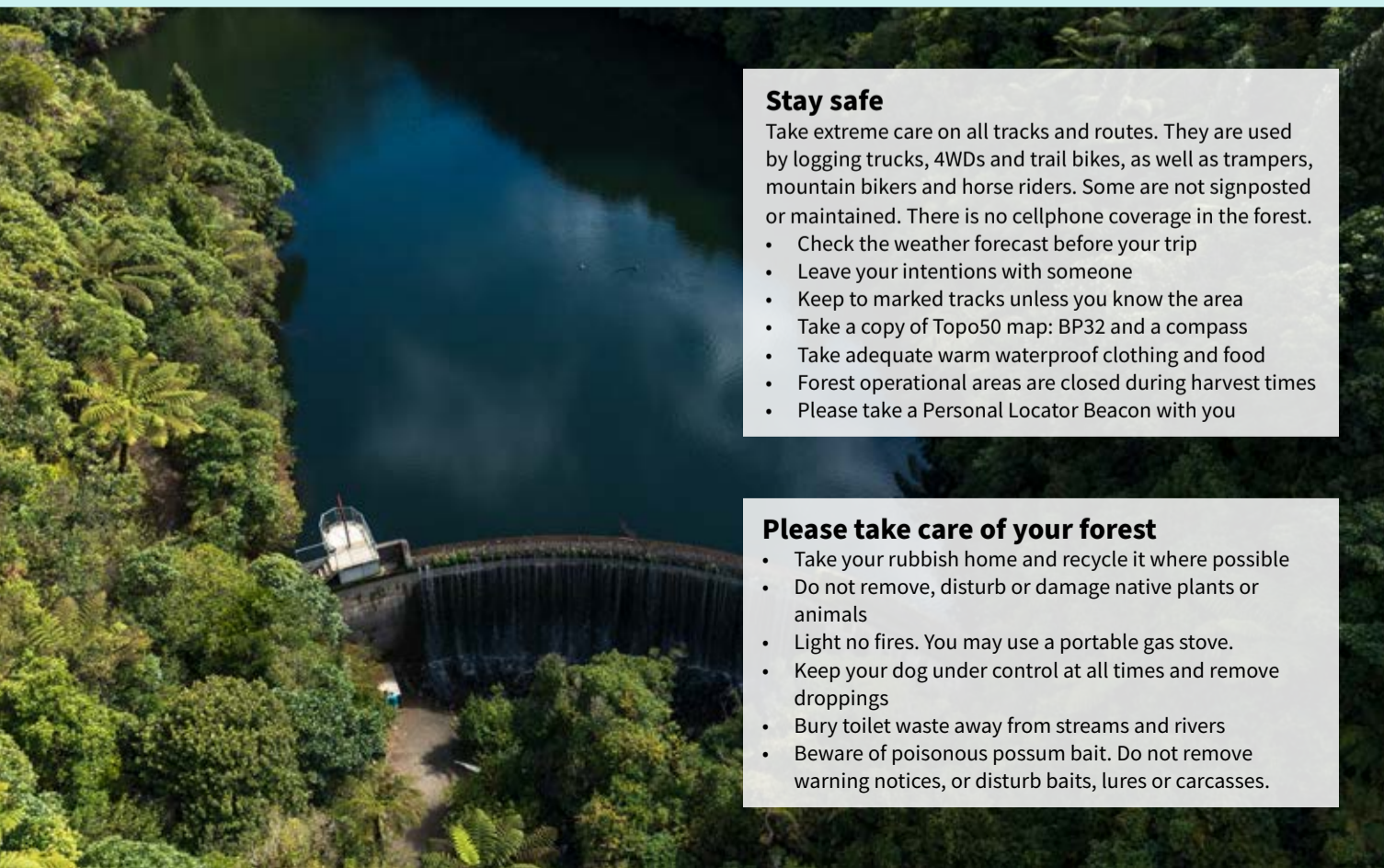
## Stay safe

Take extreme care on all tracks and routes. They are used by logging trucks, 4WDs and trail bikes, as well as trampers, mountain bikers and horse riders. Some are not signposted or maintained. There is no cellphone coverage in the forest.

- Check the weather forecast before your trip
- Leave your intentions with someone
- Keep to marked tracks unless you know the area
- Take a copy of Topo50 map: BP32 and a compass
- Take adequate warm waterproof clothing and food
- Forest operational areas are closed during harvest times
- Please take a Personal Locator Beacon with you

## Please take care of your forest

- Take your rubbish home and recycle it where possible
- Do not remove, disturb or damage native plants or animals
- Light no fires. You may use a portable gas stove.
- Keep your dog under control at all times and remove droppings
- Bury toilet waste away from streams and rivers
- Beware of poisonous possum bait. Do not remove warning notices, or disturb baits, lures or carcasses.



### Vehicles in the forest

Take extreme care on all roads, tracks and routes. You may encounter logging trucks, 4WDs, quad and trailbikes, as well as trampers, mountain bikers and horseriders.



4WDs only on the designated roads in Akatarawa Forest



Quad and trailbikes only on the designated roads, tracks and routes

(Refer to Motorised Recreation Map supplied to permit holders)

