



Tarawera Trail Information Sheet

Teen Expeditionette - 5-8 July 2026

Te Wairoa Carpark > Hot Water Beach

The Tarawera Trail is a scenic lakeside walk along the shores of Lake Tarawera, taking walkers through native bush, volcanic landscapes, and secluded bays before reaching the geothermal Hot Water Beach.

Trail Overview

- **Distance:** Approx. 15 km one way
- **Time:** 5-6 hours walking
- **Difficulty:** Moderate
- **Elevation Gain:** Approx. 400-500 m
- **Track Type:** Well-formed trail with some steep and uneven sections

What to Expect

The trail follows the edge of Lake Tarawera with a mix of forest tracks, lake views, and rolling terrain. Some sections include climbs, stairs, and uneven ground, so a moderate level of fitness is recommended.

Highlights include:

- Native New Zealand bush and birdlife
- Scenic lake and mountain views
- Volcanic landscapes shaped by the 1886 Mt Tarawera eruption
- Hot Water Beach, where natural geothermal water warms the shoreline

About the Area

The region has significant Māori and volcanic history. The 1886 eruption of Mt Tarawera dramatically reshaped the landscape and buried the nearby village of Te Wairoa, now known as "The Buried Village."

Fitness & Safety

Participants should be comfortable walking for several hours on uneven terrain. Track conditions may be slippery after rain, and weather can change quickly.



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