

WALKING
& CYCLING
GUIDE
- FLIP FOR -
OFFICIAL
VISITOR
GUIDE

Visit Waimakariri

www.visitwaimakariri.co.nz

WAIMAKARIRI RIVER REGIONAL PARK | TŪHAITARA COASTAL PARK | ASHLEY RAKAHURI REGIONAL PARK | DOC FOOTHILL FORESTS

2018/19 | WALKING & CYCLING GUIDE



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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Each track can be cycled/walked independently or they can be linked to create longer experiences. The information provided at the end of each section of trails will aid you to do this.

For up to date information about cycle and walkways visit www.visitwaimakariri.co.nz

ICON KEY

-  **Short Walk** - Easy access up to an hour.
Track is well formed with even surface. Few or no slopes.
-  **Walking Track** - Easy to moderate up to a day.
Track mostly well formed, some sections may be steep, rough or muddy. Low to moderate fitness required.
-  **Easy Tramping** - Moderate or multi day tramp.
Track mainly well formed, may be steep, rough or muddy. Suitable for moderate fitness and limited back country experience.
-  **Tramping Track** - Challenging one or multi day tramp.
Mostly unformed with steep, rough or muddy sections. Good fitness required. Moderate to high level backcountry skills and experience.
-  **Route** - Challenging overnight tramping.
Tracks unformed and natural, may be rough and very steep. High level of back country skills required.
-  **Mountain Biking | Beginner** - Grade One:
Off-road trail surface is either firm gravel or sealed (e.g. concrete or asphalt) and is wide enough for 2 people to cycle side by side for most of the way.
-  **Mountain Biking | Easy** - Grade 2:
Off road trail surface mostly flat with some gentle climbs on all surface tracks with easily avoidable obstacles such as rocks, tree roots and potholes.
-  **Mountain Biking | Intermediate** - Grade 3:
Steep slopes and /or avoidable obstacles possibly on narrow track and/or poor traction.
-  **Road Bike | Easy** - Flat hard sealed off road tracks.
Wide enough for two riders.
-  **Hut**
-  **Picnicking**
-  **Camping**
-  **Dogs on a lead**
-  **Dogs under control**
-  **No dogs allowed**
-  **Toilets**
-  **Wheelchair Access**
-  **Mobility Scooter**
-  **Wasps** – Be aware of wasps between January and March



Waimakariri River Regional Park

Kaiapoi Island is a section of the Waimakariri River Regional Park extending from the Kaiapoi River confluence upstream heading west and has 18km of tracks. These are two way shared tracks, great family rides and includes a forest trail with twists and turns and great views.

Gates open at 4.30am and are locked at 10pm, or 7pm April to September.

1 RAVEN QUAY LOOP, KAIAPOI ISLAND (INCLUDING WRIGHTS ROAD LOOP)



Time/Distance: 18.5km.

Access: By foot or cycle from the end Raven Quay.

Viewing: Braided River, birdlife, willow forest, ponds.

2 WRIGHTS ROAD LOOP, KAIAPOI ISLAND



Time/Distance: 8.5km.

Access: Wrights Road, off the old Main North Road Bridge.

Viewing: Braided River, willow forest.

ADJOINING TRACKS:

Raven Quay Loop links with the Pegasus Bay Walkway in Kaiapoi. Follow the stop bank to the town bridge, cross and proceed back down the other side.

Tūhaitara Coastal Park

Stretching from the Waimakariri River to the Ashley River the Tūhaitara Coastal Park covers an area of 700 ha along 10.5km of coastline that is under the management of the Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust.

This Park is a special environment that offers ecological, educational, cultural and recreational opportunities for all who visit.

3 PEGASUS BAY WALKWAY

The Pegasus Bay Walkway links Kaiapoi with Kairaki Beach, then proceeds to Woodend Beach and runs behind the sand dunes to Waikuku Beach through the Tūhaitara Coastal Park. It is well sign posted and you can start at either end or at intermediate points along the 15km route, as detailed below.

3a KAIAPOI – KAIRAKI (PEGASUS BAY WALKWAY)








Time/Distance: 5km.

Access: From Charles Street, Kaiapoi, follow the stop bank, crossing over stiles. Alternatively start at Pines/Kairaki Beach.




Viewing: Mountains, Waimakariri River, forest, wetland.









3b KAIRAKI – WOODEND (PEGASUS BAY WALKWAY)

     **Time/Distance:** 5.5km. **Access:** Pines/Kairaki Beach or Woodend Beach. **Viewing:** Forest, waterway.




3c WOODEND - WAIKUKU

   **Time/Distance:** 5km.
Access: From Woodend beach through the Woodend Beach Holiday Park, or from Waikuku, Bridge Street.
Viewing: Forest, beach settlement, beach.




4 TUTAEPATU TRAIL

     Woodend-Pegasus  Pegasus-Waikuku
Time/Distance: 5km. **Access:** Woodend Beach, Waikuku Beach from Kiwi Avenue, or from Pegasus Town, Tiritirimoana Drive (see sign for Northern Pegasus Bay). **Viewing:** Beach, pine forest, lagoon, mountains, beach settlements.

5 TE KŌHANGA WETLANDS, PEGASUS TOWN

   Te Kōhanga is the 97 hectare recreation and conservation area of Pegasus. Enjoy a range of natural habitats of native plants and animals. This is a two way shared track.
Time/Distance: 4km. **Access:** Pegasus Main Street, Te Kōhanga Drive, Tiritirimoana Drive. **Viewing:** Wetlands.

6 KAITIRITIRI RIDGE

   **Time/Distance:** 1.8 km one way.
Access: Pegasus Town, from corner of Pegasus Boulevard and Infinity Drive. **Viewing:** Mountains, golf course, information platforms about runanga, links to Kaiapoi Pa.

ADJOINING TRACKS:

The Pegasus Bay Walkway connects with the Raven Quay Loop at Kaiapoi and the Rakahuri Trail at Waikuku Beach. For an alternative to the walking only track on the Pegasus Bay Walkway between Woodend and Waikuku, follow the signs at Woodend to the Tutaepatu Trail to Waikuku.






Whilst on the Tutaepatu Trail you can turn off at Pegasus and travel 500m to the Te Kōhanga Wetlands, or go further into the town for coffee and lunch, and ride the Kaitiritiri Ridge for a better view.

The Tutaepatu Trail at Waikuku links with the Rakahuri Trail. Take a short bike/walk through the Waikuku Beach settlement to the Ashley Estuary and stop bank.




Ashley Rakahuri Regional Park

The Ashley Rakahuri Regional Park encompasses the Ashley/Rakahuri River and berm area from the Okuku River confluence downstream east to the Ashley Estuary. It is a two way shared track with areas of single track riding. Stop bank riding at the Waikuku end of the track.





7 RAKAHURI TRAIL

     **Time/Distance:** 13km.
Access: Park Terrace, Stop Bank at Waikuku Beach, East Belt, Rangiora, Rangiora/Ashley traffic bridge and State Highway 1 Bridge. **Viewing:** Pine forest blocks, mixed stands of exotic trees including willows and poplar, and pockets of native vegetation that are gradually being restored and enhanced.
Viewing: Ashley River and Ashley Estuary.



8 TARANAKI WALKWAY

   **Time/Distance:** One Hour Return.
Access: Take the stop bank at the end of Park Terrace at Waikuku Beach. Park in the beach estuary car park. Follow the stop bank around the lagoon. Signs for the walkway appear after the floodgate bridge on the right down the slope. Follow track until it crosses another at a small bridge. Keep on left track to get to stop bank. Turn left and take stop bank back to start or retrace the track back. **Viewing:** Ashley River and mouth, Ashley Estuary. This area is a significant breeding area of migratory birds and is the spawning ground of whitebait (inanga).

9 MIKE KEAN WALKWAY

    **Time/Distance:** 0.9km one way.
Access: Ashley Picnic Ground, east of the State Highway 1 road bridge. The car park at the rail bridge. **Viewing:** Ashley River

10 TARAPIROE TRAIL

  **Time/Distance:** 1.4km one way. Link up to the Ashley Village. **Access:** Cones Road, North Side of the Ashley Bridge.

ADJOINING TRACKS

The Rakahuri Trail links up with Pegasus Bay Walkway or Tutaepatu Trail at Waikuku Beach. From Rangiora, it links with either the Passchendaele Memorial Path to Kaiapoi or the Rangiora Woodend Path to Woodend (both require using on-road facilities to access them). Stop for refreshments and a look around Rangiora before you head off. You can also cycle or walk further up the Rakahuri Trail to cross the Ashley bridge for the Tarapiroe Trail linking to the Ashley Village for a meal at the pub. For walkers, you can detour to the Taranaki and Mike Kean Walkways along the Rakahuri Trail.

Urban Pathways and Connectors

These urban pathways are a great way to get from town to town, or for joining up cycling and walking trails.

11 PASSCHENDAELE MEMORIAL PATH (RANGIORA TO/FROM KAIAPOI)



Time/Distance: 8km.

Access: Bridge Street, south carpark accessible from Smith Street, Kaiapoi. If biking from Kaiapoi township, take the stop bank along Charles Street to the footbridge. From Rangiora, use the on road facilities at Lineside Road to join up with track.

12 RANGIORA WOODEND PATH



Time/Distance: 6.5km.

Access: From Rangiora, use on road facilities on Kippenberger Avenue to reach track. From Woodend, utilise on-road facilities at Rangiora Woodend Road.

13 JILL CREAMER TRAIL



Time/Distance: 3.8km.

Access: Woodend Beach Road off Main Road, Woodend. A two way trail connecting Woodend Township to beach settlement.

ADJOINING TRACKS

From both the Passchendaele Memorial Path and Rangiora Woodend Path you can access the Rakahuri Trail by using on-road facilities to the north end of East Belt, Rangiora. From Woodend, you can link up with Jill Creamer Trail to Woodend Beach and join with both Pegasus Bay Walkway and Tutaepatu Trail.

Parks and Reserves

NOT MARKED ON MAPS

KAIAPOI LAKES RESERVE



Kaipoi Lakes is known as Nga Tapuwae o Mua (footsteps of the past). It is a perfect place for bird watching, catch and release fishing and walking. **Time/Distance:** 30 minutes. **Access:** Travel from Kaiapoi up William Street heading north. **Viewing:** Birdlife, lakes, native trees.

MATAWAI NATURE PARK – RANGIORA



A native park of plant communities established from Canterbury wild plants. Explore the many tracks weaving through the trees. **Time/Distance:** 30 minutes return. **Access:** King Street, Rangiora. **Viewing:** Pond, native plants and trees.

NORTHBROOK WETLANDS – RANGIORA



What once was the site of early European industry is now a reserve for wildlife and recreation. **Time/Distance:** 30 minutes return. **Access:** Cotter Lane, off Northbrook Road. **Viewing:** Birdlife and wetlands.

MEARS TRACK – OXFORD



Time/Distance: 20 minutes return, or 2 hours return from Oxford Township.

Access: Main Street, turn right into Mill Road, left into Bush Road on bend and right into Crallans Drain Road (approx 3 kms). There is a sealed carpark 1 km from turnoff.

Viewing: Mountains, farmland and native bush.

This is one of the eight walks in Oxford.

For full information on these walks www.visitwaimakariri.co.nz to download 'Let's Walk Oxford'.



For information on other walks in and around the Waimakariri Council's larger parks and reserves visit www.waimakariri.govt.nz

Department of Conservation Foothill Forests

Located on the foothills of the Canterbury Plains, these beech and podocarp forests, alpine tussock and shrublands are just an hour's drive from Christchurch.

Note: The following information is intended only as a quick guide to help you choose a track or walk. For full track descriptions and the latest update on track conditions see the DOC website: www.doc.govt.nz

Visit the Kaiapoi i-SITE Visitor Information Centre or the DOC Rangiora Office for more information, hut tickets and local topo maps.

DOC: 32 River Road, Rangiora. Open 8.30am-4.30pm
Monday-Friday. 03 313 0820 | waimakariri@doc.govt.nz



Mount Thomas Forest Conservation Area



Getting There: Wooded Gully picnic area is about 65km north-west of Christchurch and is reached either from Oxford or Rangiora (a round trip stopping at Oxford for lunch is recommended).

From Oxford continue on the road past Ashley Gorge to Hayland Road. From Rangiora head to Loburn, take the signposted road to Oxford for about 16km to the Hayland Road turn-off.

Wooded Gully picnic and camping site is 4km at the end of Hayland Road.

Viewing: Native Beech, podocarp woodland forests, native birds, streams for swimming, views over the Canterbury Plains.

14 KERERU TRACK VIA WOODED GULLY/RED PINE TRACK

Time/Distance: 1 hour return, 2.2km.

Access: From the picnic area follow Wooded Gully Track for 20 minutes to the junction of Kereru Track. Turn left to follow this track until it links up with Red Pine Track. Turn left onto this track to return to car park.

15 FOREST TRACK VIA WOODED GULLY/SUMMIT TRACK

Time/Distance: 2 hours return, 2.8km.

Access: From Wooded Gully picnic area walk up the Wooded Gully Track for about 45 minutes until you reach the Forest Track turn off. Turn right onto Forest Track and follow this to join up with the Summit Track.



16 WOODED GULLY TRACK



Time/Distance: 3 hours one way, 5.3km.

Access: Wooded Gully picnic area. **Adjoining Tracks:** From the Saddle, climb to summit of Mt Thomas and return via Summit Track, or follow the Ridge Track back to Wooded Gully picnic area.

17 RED PINE TRACK VIA WOODED GULLY TRACK



Time/Distance: 3 hours return, 5km.

Access: At the western side of the Wooded Gully Stream. **Adjoining Tracks:** For a shorter walk, take the Kereru Track link to reach Wooded Gully, giving you an hour-long loop walk.

18 SUMMIT TRACK



Time/Distance: 3 hours one way to summit.

Viewing: Panoramic views of the Canterbury Plains, Banks Peninsula and the Southern Alps. **Adjoining Tracks:** Come back the same way or return via Wooded Gully or Ridge Tracks.

Note: This track is quite steep and slippery in places.

19 RIDGE TRACK



Time/Distance: 3 hours one way, 5km to the ridge, a further 2 hours following the ridge to the Mt Thomas Summit.

Access: West end of the camping area, follow markings on the forestry road uphill for 1.8km until you enter beech forest. Follow the ridge up to Bobs Camp Biv Track junction. This is the highest point of the ridge before it heads in an easterly direction to Mt Thomas Summit. **Adjoining Tracks:** Alternate routes back via Wooded Gully and Summit tracks.

20 PINCHGUT TRACK (NOT ON MAP)



Time/Distance: 3 ½ hours one way.

Access: From Loburn – Whiterock Road. Near Whiterock turn onto Taaffes Glen Road, follow until you reach Round Hill Stream and park your vehicle. Leave all gates as you find them. Walk 300 m along gravel road then take the track that drops into Okuku River. Cross and follow the marked track to Pinchgut Hut (standard 7-bunk hut, purchase hut tickets beforehand from the Kaiapoi i-SITE or any DOC office). **Note:** Weather dependant track as river crossing required (approx.600 mm deep).

OTHER MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDING OPPORTUNITIES AT MT THOMAS:

The North Canterbury Cycling Club is an active club that can get you exclusive access to the private forest lands of Ashley, Mt Thomas and Okuku. They cater for both mountain bikers and road cyclists. Visit: www.sporty.co.nz/nccc

Glentui (Mount Thomas Forest Conservation Area)



Getting There: From Oxford, turn onto Glentui Bush Road about 5km passed Ashley Gorge. From Rangiora head to Loburn and take the signposted road to Oxford for about 22km to Glentui Bush Road turn-off. Travel 4km to the Glentui picnic area.

21 GLENTUI WATERFALL TRACK



Time/Distance: 15 minutes one way, 350m.

Viewing: Waterfall on the Glentui River

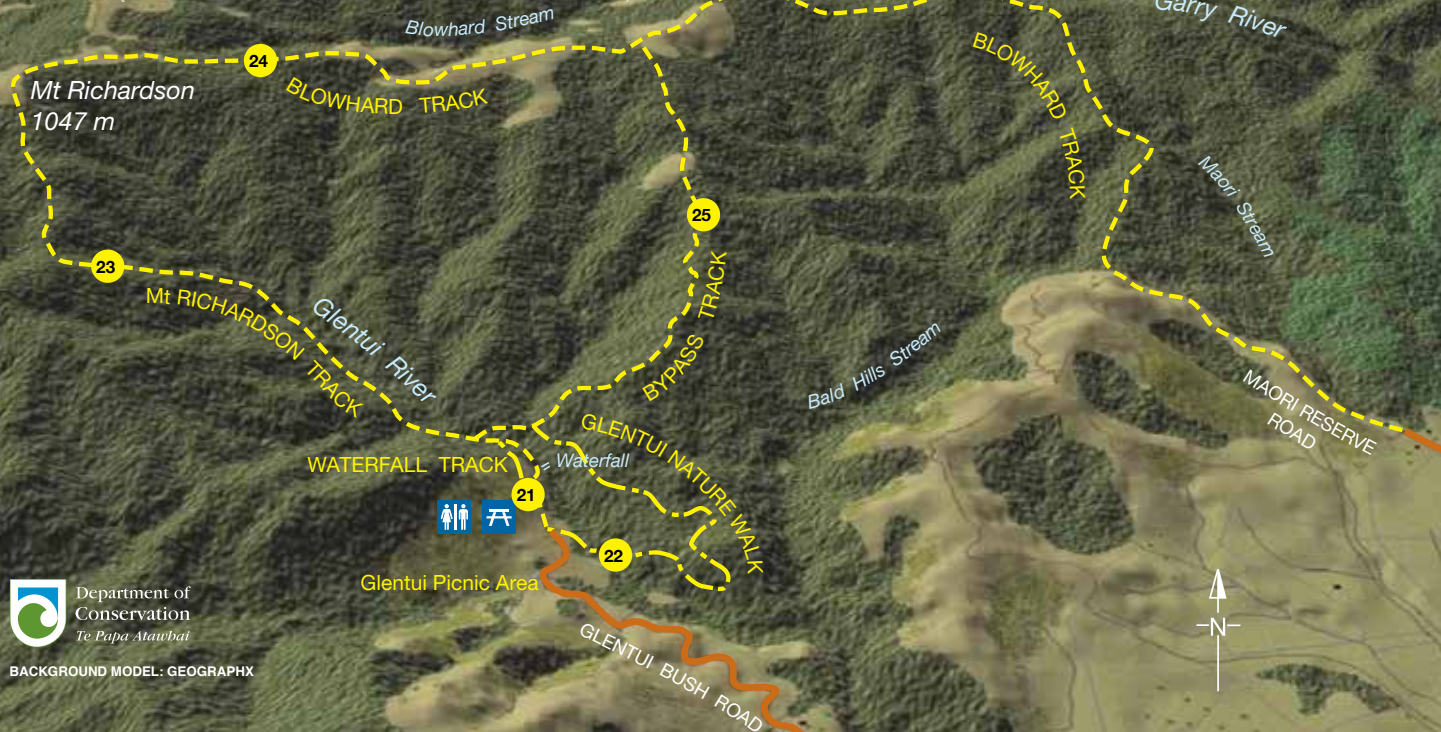
22 GLENTUI NATURE WALK (LOOP TRACK)



Time/Distance: 1 hour return, 2km.

Viewing: River, ridge, forest. **Note:** Recommend walking this in an anti-clockwise direction to avoid steepness.

GLENTUI (MOUNT THOMAS FOREST CONSERVATION AREA)



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

BACKGROUND MODEL: GEOGRAPHX

23 MT RICHARDSON TRACK



Time/Distance: 3 hours one way, 3.2km.

Viewing: Mountain beech/tawhai forest, tussock grassland, views of mountain ranges and Lees Valley. **Adjoining Tracks:** From the summit follow the ridge along Blowhard Track for 3km to Bypass Track and back down to Glentui picnic area, or continue further down Blowhard Track to Maori Reserve Road.

24 BLOWHARD TRACK



Time/Distance: Walking 4 hours one way, biking 3 hours (uphill), 10km. **Access:** Maori Reserve Road.

Viewing: Tall open forest, tussock, skeleton tree trunk remnants from lightning strike fire. **Adjoining Tracks:** Mount Richardson (3 hrs one way) and Bypass Track (1-2 hrs one way downhill).

Note: Mountain bikers must return on the Blowhard Track as cycling on the other tracks is not permitted. This is also a popular track for horse riding. Bikers give way to horses.

25 BYPASS TRACK



Time/Distance: 1-2 hours downhill, 2.8km. **Access points:** Links the Mt Richardson and Blowhard Tracks, starting mid-point of the Blowhard Track. Recommended to walk in clockwise direction due to steepness of track. **Note:** Mountain bikes and horses are not permitted on this track.

26 ASHLEY GORGE LOOP TRACK (SEE MAIN MAP) - MT THOMAS FOREST CONSERVATION AREA



Time/Distance: 45 min return loop, 1.5km.

Access: Park at the Ashley Gorge Recreation Reserve and walk across bridge to the start of the track. **Viewing:** View over Ashley River, interesting mix of established and regenerating podocarp/ beech forest, kānuka and tree fuchsia/kōtukutuku.

Note: This track was developed and is maintained by the local community and includes a comprehensive pest trapping programme.

Oxford Forest Conservation Area



SEE MAP NEXT PAGE

Getting There: Via the northern motorway (SH1) left on Tram Road and left onto State Highway 72 to Oxford. From Oxford you can access Mt Oxford Forest from Coopers Creek or View Hill.

27 RYDE FALLS TRACK FROM COOPERS CREEK



Time/Distance: 3 hours one way, 7km.

Access: Coopers Creek car park. Head west from Oxford and turn into Woodside Road. Travel 8km and then right into Mountain Road to the car park. **Viewing:** Canterbury Plains and hills, five-tier waterfall, beech forest.

28 MT OXFORD TRACK FROM COOPERS CREEK



Time/Distance: 4 hours one way, 5km.

Access: Coopers Creek car park to the summit of Mt Oxford. An alternative descent returns to Coopers Creek car park via Ryde Falls Track (7-8 hours round trip). **Viewing:** Beech forests, snow tussock and views of the Canterbury Plains into Lees Valley.

29 KORIMAKO TRACK (TO RYDE FALLS)



Time/Distance: 2 hours one way, 3km.

Access: View Hill car park. From Oxford, drive west on SH72 for about 2km, turn right into Woodstock Road. Travel 10km, turn right up Ingrams Road which turns into Perhams Road. Take the sign posted road to the Wharfedale Track at the View Hill car park. (Heavy rain may stop access on fords). Leave gates as you find them. From the car park, follow the Wharfedale Track to the Korimako Track turn-off to Ryde Falls. **Viewing:** Canterbury Plains and hills, waterfalls, beech forest.

30 VIEW HILL TO COOPERS CREEK



Time/Distance: 3 hours one way, 7km.

Access: View Hill car park as above. **Viewing:** Canterbury Plains and hills, beech forest. Take the Wharfedale Track about 10 minutes into the forest from the car park and join take the Link Track which connects further with Ryde Falls Track east to Coopers Creek car park.

31 MT OXFORD TRACK FROM VIEW HILL



Time/Distance: 4 hours one way, 6km.

Access: View Hill car park - refer to Korimako Track for details. Branch off Wharfedale Track about 20 minutes from View Hill car park. **Viewing:** Ridge line, forest, tussock grassland, Canterbury Plains.

32 WHARFEDALE TRACK



Time/Distance: Walk 5 hours, Mountain-biking 3 hours one way, 15km. **Access:** View Hill car park as above. **Viewing:** Beech Forest, Dobson Stream. **Accommodation:** Standard 8-bunk hut, purchase hut tickets from Kaiapoi i-SITE or any DOC office beforehand.

33 TOWNSHEND TRACK (FROM THE WHARFEDALE HUT TO LEES VALLEY)



Time/Distance: Walk 2 ½ hours one way, 8.5km.

Note: This is a 4WD track from the end of Wharfedale Track to Lees Valley across private farmland. Access may be restricted during lambing. Townshend River is crossed twice; this might not be possible if river levels are high.

34 BLACK HILL TRACK (FROM THE END OF TOWNSHEND TRACK TO BLACK HILL HUT)



Time/Distance: 3 hours one way, 5km.

Access: Begin confluence of Wharfedale and Townshend tracks and climb steadily to the hut. **Accommodation:** Standard 6-bunk hut, purchase hut tickets from Kaiapoi i-SITE or any DOC office beforehand.

35 FOSTERS RIDGE TRACK (FROM WHARFEDALE TRACK TO BLACK HILL HUT)



Time/Distance: 3 hours one way, 4.5km.

Access: Turn off Wharfedale Track approx 3-4 hours from View hill car park and climb steeply along the ridge to the hut. **Accommodation:** Standard 6-bunk hut, purchase hut tickets from the Kaiapoi i-SITE or DOC office beforehand.

36 MT OXFORD ROUTE (FROM WHARFEDALE HUT TO VIEW HILL TO MT OXFORD TRACK)



Time/Distance: 3 hours one way, 3.5km.

Access: From Wharfedale Hut. **Adjoining Tracks:** Descend either View Hill Car park or carry on to the summit and then descend to Coopers Creek car park. **Note:** This is a very steep rough track suitable only for experienced back country trampers with suitable equipment.



YOUR SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

– make sure you have the latest track details and information from the DOC website www.doc.govt.nz

This map is not intended for navigational purposes. If heading into the back country ensure you have the latest topographical map: **NZTopo50: BW22**



For your safety

- Your safety is your responsibility
- Plan and prepare, and have the latest information
- Choose a track in keeping with your experience, fitness and ability
- Allow enough time to walk at your own pace
- Keep young children in sight
- Wear comfortable footwear
- Dress for the weather (be prepared for the weather to change)
- Stay on the tracks
- On longer walks, carry warm clothing, adequate food and water
- Tell someone where you are going
- Take care in the foothill forests for wasps from January to March each year. It is recommended that forest users carry wasp kits as precaution. Generally available at chemists.
- Check latest information for the Conservation areas in the Foothills and take appropriate topographical maps for more challenging country.

 www.doc.govt.nz

 www.mountainsafety.org.nz

 www.ecan.govt.nz

- Protect plants and animals
- Remove rubbish
- Keep streams and lakes clean
- Keep to the track
- Consider others
- Respect our cultural heritage
- Toitu te whenua (leave the land undisturbed)
- Enjoy your visit



SUPPORTED BY:

