



WALK CLOSE BY Te Ara Wairere o Waihirere Awa Waihirere Waterfall



Grade
Easy



Distance
3km
(return)



Walking
1 hour
(return)



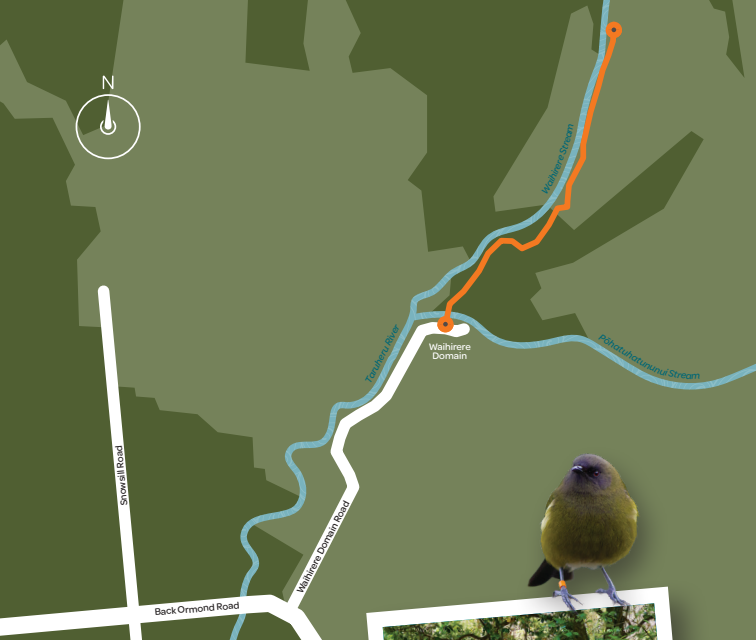
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Waihirere Domain, 14km from town, is a favourite picnic and play area for the Gisborne community. A short, attractive, “there and back” walk, which can be enjoyed by families with young children, leads from the open grassy picnic area with play equipment through to the Waihirere waterfall. A wide variety of native trees and plants including tawa and karaka make this bush remnant one of the region’s most diverse. Pest trapping has enabled bush birds to flourish. From the picnic area, there are views of the kānuka-covered hill slopes and prominent bluffs in the upper, bush-covered Waihirere Stream catchment. The stream has good water quality and healthy native fauna.

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The land was originally owned by the people of Waihirere who belong to various hapu of Te Aitanga a Māhaki iwi. The name Waihirere comes from the fact that a waterfall is a feature of the Waihirere Stream. It was said Ahitītī was the hill where the

ancestors of Waihirere trapped muttonbird.

They would light fires at night which would attract the birds and they would be snared in nets.

The whakataukī, E kō e te kōmako raro i a Ahitītī (Below Ahitītī, the bellbird sings its song), refers to the birdsong once abundant at Waihirere Domain, and reflects the community's aspiration to restore the domain's ecosystems to their once abundant biodiversity. Ahitītī is the ancestral mountain of the hapu of Waihirere.



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