

Around the Mountain Circuit

The Around the Mountain Circuit (AMC) is a 4–5 day backcountry track for experienced trampers through forest, rivers and spectacular alpine scenery. High and low level tracks exist for some sections although high level tracks may be impassable due to snow in winter conditions.

Caution: Most rivers and streams are unbridged and can be dangerous to cross after heavy rain.

Approximate times and distances

| Time/distance | From North Egmont (anticlockwise) |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3–4 hr / 8 km | North Egmont to Holly Hut |
| 8–9 hr / 13 km | Holly Hut to Waiaua Gorge Hut |
| 7–8 hr / 10 km | Waiaua Gorge Hut to Lake Dive Hut |
| 7–8 hr / 18 km | Lake Dive Hut to North Egmont |

| Time / distance | From Dawson Falls (clockwise) |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3–4 hr / 7 km | Dawson Falls to Lake Dive Hut |
| 7–8 hr / 10 km | Lake Dive Hut to Waiaua Gorge Hut |
| 8–9 hr / 13 km | Waiaua Gorge Hut to Holly Hut |
| 6–7 hr / 13 km | Holly Hut to Dawson Falls |

Alternative options can include overnight stays at Kahui and Waingongoro huts or a detour to stay at Syme Hut.

Track information

Tracks on the AMC are either Tramping Tracks or Routes.



Tramping Track: mostly unformed but have track directional markers, poles or cairns.



Route: unformed, suitable only for people with high level backcountry skills and experience.

Hut information

Hut tickets or a backcountry hut pass are required to stay overnight in all huts in Egmont National Park. Huts on the mountain are Backcountry Serviced huts with a woodburner, toilets, water, bunks and mattresses, except for the smaller Kahui and Syme huts which are Standard Backcountry huts and do not have woodburners.



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.

Plan and prepare

It is important to plan and prepare your trip and be well equipped.

Before you go, know the *Outdoor Safety Code* – 5 simple rules to help you stay safe:

1. **Plan your trip:** Take a map/track brochure and remember to buy hut tickets for overnight stays.
2. **Tell someone** responsible where you are going and your estimated return time. See www.adventuresmart.org.nz.
3. **Be aware of the weather:** Check weather forecasts before you go on 0900 999 24 or www.metservice.com.
4. **Know your limits**
5. **Take sufficient supplies** and consider taking a personal locator beacon – available for hire from Taranaki / Egmont National Park Visitor Centre (North Egmont).



Weather on the mountain changes rapidly. You must be well prepared with suitable clothing and equipment for all weather and conditions. Snow, high rainfall and storm damage can make tracks impassable – many rivers and streams are unbridged. Check with visitor centres for up-to-date track information.

Your safety is your responsibility

Further information

For park information, hut tickets and Konini Lodge bookings:

Taranaki / Egmont National Park Visitor Centre (North Egmont)

(Open daily)
Egmont Road
Inglewood
Phone: (06) 756 0990
E-mail: egmontvc@doc.govt.nz

Published by:
Department of Conservation
Ngāmotu / New Plymouth Office
PO Box 462
New Plymouth 4320
New Zealand
June 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

Dawson Falls Visitor Centre

(limited opening hours - check website)
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Kaponga
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Cover photo: Trampers heading to Lake Dive Hut. Photo: DOC

www.doc.govt.nz



Around the Mountain Circuit

Nga hīkoi o Mounga Taranaki
Egmont National Park



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Track Descriptions (anti clockwise from North Egmont)



North Egmont to Holly Hut (32 bunk)

Time: 3-4 hr / 8 km

From the Taranaki / Egmont National Park Visitor Centre (at North Egmont) the track climbs steeply before levelling out to pass beneath the Dieffenbach Cliffs and cross the Boomerang Slip. After passing the Kokowai Track junction descend to meet the Ahukawakawa Track and turn left for a 5 min walk to Holly Hut, crossing the unbridged Minirapa Stream.



Holly Hut to Waiaua Gorge Hut (16 bunk)

Time: 8-9 hr / 13 km

Descend to the Stony River, taking a 30 min detour to view Bells Falls (31 m) along the way. Take care down the Stony River which is severely eroded. Look carefully for marker poles. The Kapoaiaia Track sign is on the true left riverbank. Follow this

track across two badly eroded streambeds to reach Puniho Track. From here there are 2 options both of which take about 2 hr:

High Track: Turn left and follow Puniho Track uphill into subalpine forest and around to Kahui Hut (6 bunks). Continue down Kahui Track to turn left at the Oaonui Track junction.

Low Track: Continue along the Kapoaiaia Track through forest, crossing many streams to the junction with the Kahui and Oaonui Tracks.

Both options then follow the Oaonui Track for about 2 hr to meet Ihaia Track. Turn left and follow this track to Waiaua Gorge Hut (45 min) taking care to look for markers in the open river bed section.

Holly Hut to Kahui Hut: 5-6 hr

Kahui Hut to Waiaua Gorge Hut: 3-4 hr



Waiaua Gorge Hut to Lake Dive Hut (16 bunk)

Time: 7-8 hr / 10 km

Follow Brames Falls Track down into Waiaua Gorge, cross the river and climb to the Taungatara Track junction (approx 45 min). Here there are two options both of which take about 7 hr:

High Track: Continue up the Brames Falls Track, climbing steeply to the rock bluffs of Bobs Ridge. From here carefully follow the poled route through eroded rocky sections and across tussock slopes before descending to the Lake Dive Track junction. Take the right fork for a 45 min tramp down to Lake Dive Hut. The left fork leads directly to Dawson Falls (2 hr 30 min).

Low Track: Turn right and follow the Taungatara Track approx 6 km through forest, until reaching the Auroa Track junction. Turn left and ascend the Auroa Track to Lake Dive Hut.

Caution: This track can be muddy and has many stream crossings.



Lake Dive Hut to North Egmont

Time: 7-8 hr / 18 km

This section can be tramped in one day or include an overnight stay at either Konini Lodge at Dawson Falls (hut tickets not applicable) or Waingongoro Hut (16 bunk). A side trip to Syme Hut (10 bunk) is also possible.

Lake Dive Hut to Dawson Falls (3-4 hr / 7 km)

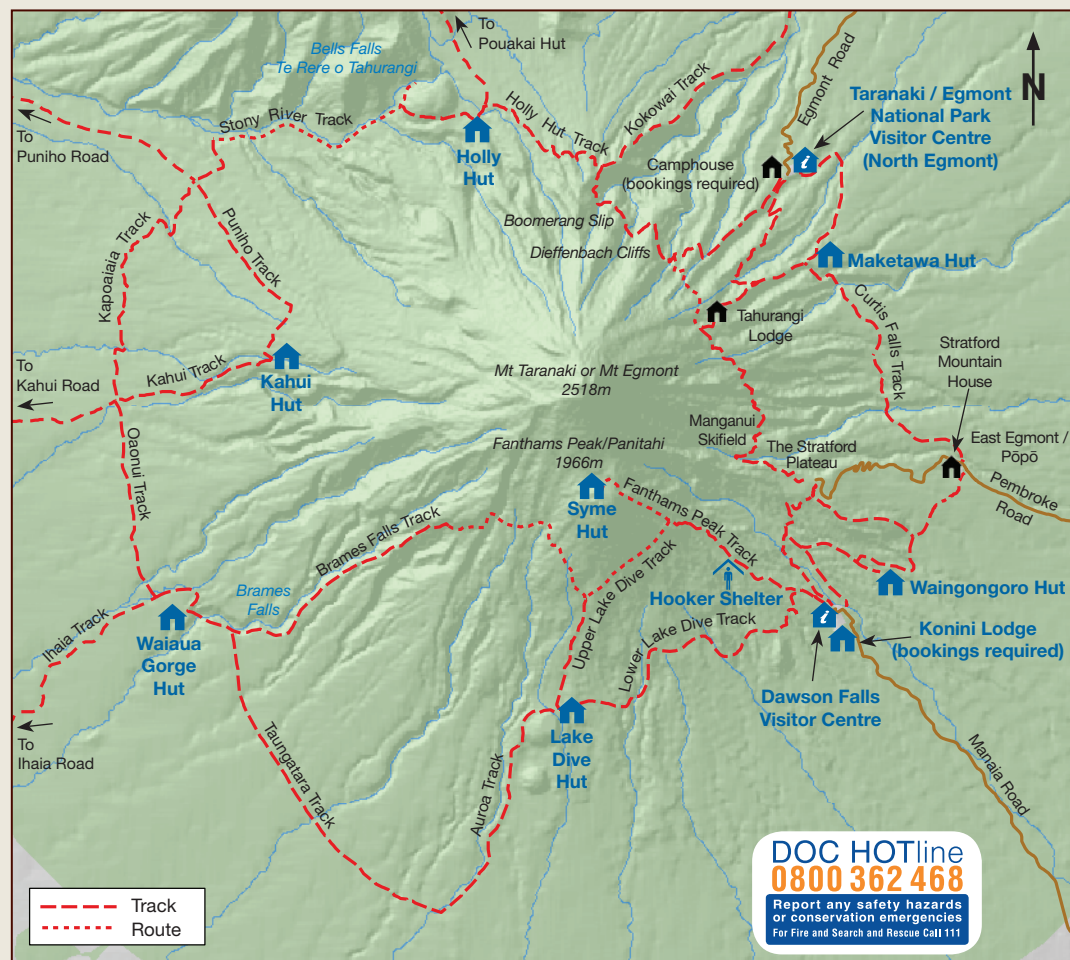
High Track: Climb to the Brames Falls Track junction and turn right to head across tussock slopes to the Fanthams Peak Track junction. Turn right and descend to Dawson Falls or turn left to detour up the steep poled route to Syme Hut and Fanthams Peak (1 hr 30 min one way). This exposed route requires mountaineering experience in winter conditions.

Low Track: The track undulates through forest, crossing many streams before reaching Dawson Falls. Streams may be impassable after heavy rain.

Dawson Falls to North Egmont

High Track (Direct option, 4-5 hr / 11 km): From Dawson Falls follow the track to Wilkies Pools and on to the Stratford Plateau. Walk via Manganui Skifield to Taurangi Lodge (private) before descending to the Visitor Centre at North Egmont.

Low Track (Longer option via Waingongoro Hut, 7-8 hr / 14.5 km): From Dawson Falls head to Waingongoro Hut (1 hr 30 min / 2.5 km). Cross the swingbridge 15 min from Waingongoro Hut and head via Stratford Mountain House, Curtis Falls and Maketawa Hut to North Egmont. This crosses many streams.



Trampers in the Stony River. Photo: DOC



Trampler on climbing ladder. Photo: DOC

Please note

Diagram only - map not to scale and not suitable for navigation.

It is recommended that park users refer to the Egmont National Parkmap 273-09 and the NZTopo50 map series.