Takitimu Mountains

Hut, Track and Hunting Access Information

The Takitimu Mountain Range is named after the ancient Maori migration waka (canoe) Takitimu. In Ngai Tahu mythology the captain of the waka, Tamatea, named the mountains to commemorate the wreck of his vessel in rough weather at the mouth of nearby Te Wae Wae Bay. In the traditional history of Ngai Tahu the waka was overtaken by three large waves; O-te-wao, O-roko and O-kaka followed by a cross wave which threw the vessel in land where the overturned hull became the mountain range. The Ngai Tahu Deed of Settlement places a topuni, a special recognition of Ngai Tahu cultural, spiritual, historic and traditional values over the Takitimu Mountain Range.

Access

Legal access is limited to the Aparima River Track which starts at Pleasant Creek on Dunrobin Valley Road and the Princhester Road. Adjoining landowners generally grant access across their properties if asked, but **permission must be obtained.** Pleasant Valley Station Ph. (03) 248 7252, Waterloo Station Ph. (03) 248 6145.

Huts and Hut Tickets

The Aparima, Cheviot Downs and Lower Princhester Huts are standard grade Huts, requiring one ticket per night or an Annual Back Country Hut Pass. Tickets should be purchased in advance from any DOC office or approved outlet.

Each standard grade hut is supplied with mattresses and has running water and toilet facilities. Users are expected to leave the huts clean and tidy.

All other huts are basic grade and free of charge.



Aparima Hut

Route Guide

Dunrobin Road to Aparima Hut via Aparima River Track, 2 hr

This moderate tramp commences at the bridge over Pleasant Creek on the Dunrobin Valley Road, just before the boundary of the farm owned by Pleasant Valley Partnership. The marked route generally follows the true right of the Aparima River, passing through red tussock, beech forest and past wire-rush peat wetlands. A swingbridge over the river is sited five minutes from the Aparima hut (12 bunks).

Aparima Hut to Spence Burn Junction, 1 hr

Follow the old bulldozed track through the forest onto the open terrace overlooking the Waterloo Valley. Along this terrace, about 30 minutes from the hut, there is a prominent bend in the Aparima River and a marked route enters the forest near the edge of the high bank. A large peat wetland is reached after about 20 minutes. Cross the toe of the wetland to the track junction on the opposite forest edge.

Spence Burn Junction to Aparima Forks Hut, 1 hr 15 min

From the track junction follow the forest edge to the head of the peat wetland. After approximately half an hour the track stops on the true left bank of the main stream, downstream of the forks. Cross the main stream to some small clearings. The Aparima Forks hut (2 bunks) is located on a terrace a short distance above, on the true right bank.

Spence Burn Junction to Spence Hut, 2 hr 30 min - 3 hr

Enter the forest at the track junction, drop down to the Aparima River below the forks and ford the river. The marked route climbs sharply and then generally traverses the true right side of the valley well above the river. It crosses to the other side after about $1^{1}/_{2}$ hours, then generally follows the true left bank until opposite the Spence hut (2 bunks), situated on an open site on the true right bank of the river.



Takitimu Mountains

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawbai

NEW ZEALAND ENVIRONMENTAL CARE CODE

Protect plants and animals

Remove rubbish

Bury toilet waste

Keep streams and lakes clean

Take care with fires

Camp carefully

Keep to the track

Consider others

Respect our cultural heritage

Enjoy your visit

Toitu te whenua
(Leave the land undisturbed)

Aparima Hut to Becketts Hut, 2 hr 15 min

Becketts hut (4 bunks) is sited just inside the forest edge at the top of a small tussock clearing on the true left of the Waterloo Burn. Note: the floor of the Waterloo Burn valley is part of Waterloo Station.

Lower Princhester Hut to Becketts Hut, 3 hr 30 min - 4 hr

Lower Princhester hut (6 bunks) is sited at the end of Princhester Road (gravel), which branches off State Highway 94 just over Princhester Creek. A marked route climbs gradually up the true right of the Bog Burn catchment to a saddle in the Waterloo Burn headwaters. From there it bears left and downhill, crossing the Waterloo Burn. The route then follows the true left bank before recrossing just before open flats are reached. Becketts hut (4 bunks) is on the true left about an hour down the valley.

Wairaki River Valley

The Lower Wairaki hut (4 bunks) is sited close to where the Wairaki River leaves the forest.

A track to the Upper Wairaki hut (2 bunks), in the headwaters of the catchment, starts at the hut. The track (not signposted) drops down from the hut to the river and is difficult to find. Cross the river and follow the true left of the valley for about three hours.

Access from Ohai to the Lower Wairaki hut is only possible through Beaumont Station and permission from the owners must be sought. Ph. (03) 225 4721.

Cheviot Downs Hut

Access to the Cheviot Downs hut (six bunks) is by four wheel drive track through Cheviot Downs Station and permission is required, ph (03) 249 8508. The hut provides good views over the Te Anau basin and Fiordland and gives access to climbs in the Excelsior Peak area.

Hunting and Fishing

Good trout fishing is to be had in both the Aparima and Wairaki Rivers. Anglers should hold a current fishing licence and adhere to its regulations.

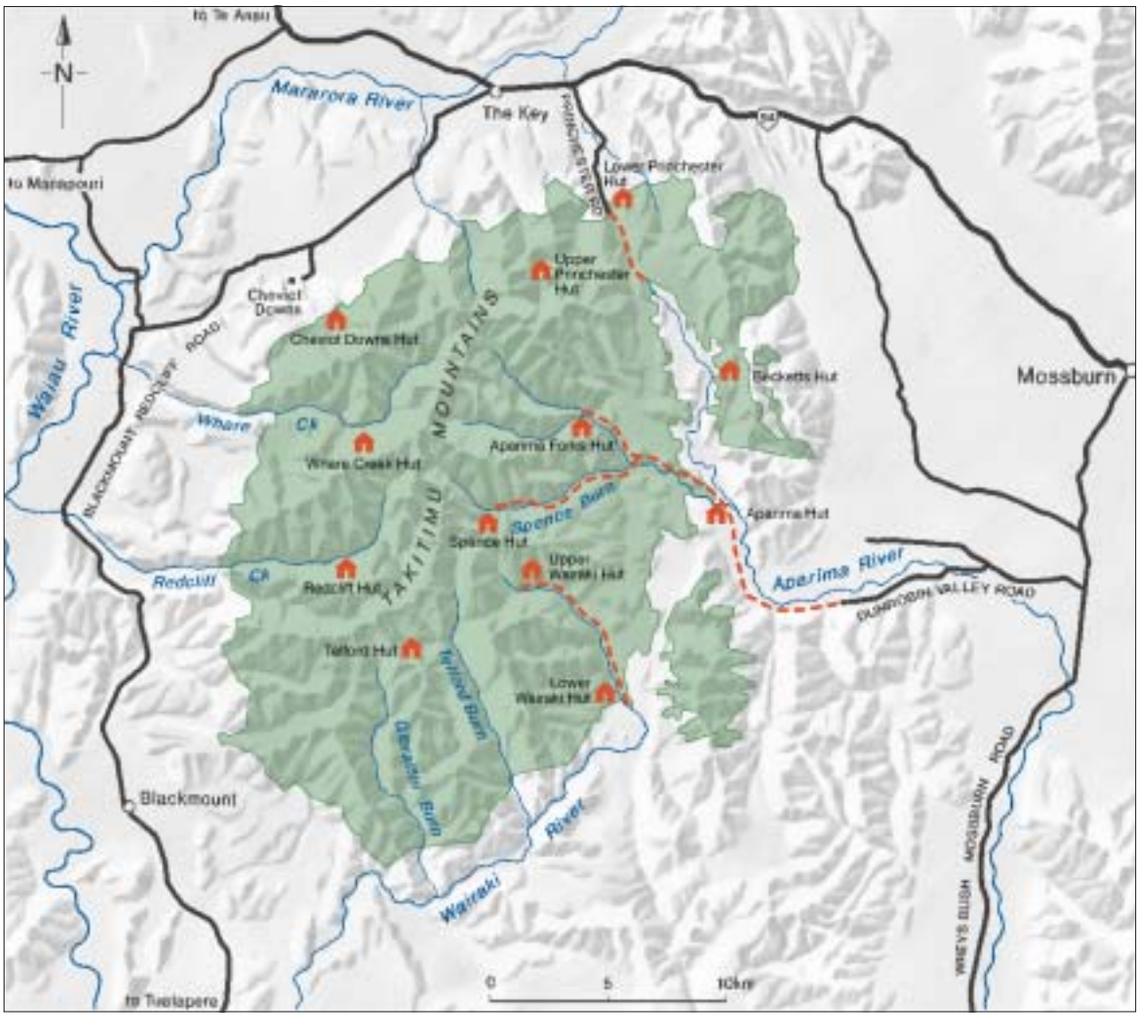
Deer, possums, pigs and goats are present in low numbers.

Permits for hunting are required and should be applied for in advance from Department of Conservation offices in Te Anau or Invercargill.

For further information contact the following Department of Conservation offices:

State Insurance Buliding
Don Street, Invercargill
Phone (03) 214-4589

Lake Front Drive, Te Anau
Phone (03) 249-7924
Email: fiordlandvc@doc.govt.nz



SafetyWatch
0800 999 005
Report any safety hazards

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