

No.8

Waihao River Walkway

Area: Off State Highway 82 near Waihao Forks through the Waimate Gorge, 13km south-west of Waimate. The 1.8 km relatively flat track runs along the southern river bank between the Black Hole and McCullochs Bridge. Walking can be done from either direction. 3.6 km return.

Time: 1.5 hours return

Level of Fitness: Low-Moderate

Start: The track starts at either McCullochs Bridge or the Black Hole. Carparking is available at both ends. Follow the route along the south bank of the Waihao River. This section of river forms part of the south branch of the Waihao river that begins its life in the Hunters Hills, meanders over the Waihao river plain, eventually emptying into the Pacific Ocean several kilometres away at the Waihao Box.

The Black Hole is a popular swimming hole and camping area



and there are opportunities for fishing.

Features:

- Landscape:** The track offers great views of limestone cliffs and unique limestone outcrops. The river is never far away. The area has an interesting natural and human history. The nearby Arno basin was once a swamp from which significant quantities of Moa bones were removed.
- Vegetation:** The track meanders through willow trees, grasslands, and riverbed vegetation. The limestone cliffs are known to be a habitat for rare species of plants.
- Wildlife:** A variety of birds are present in good numbers. Brown trout and eels can be found in the river.
- Please SHUT GATES and don't disturb stock.**

