



BUSH WALKS & NATURE TRAILS

Sapphire Springs has approximately 31 hectares of beautiful native forest for you to explore and several walking tracks for your enjoyment. Each trail is marked by coloured markers and walk routes are shown on the map.

Please supervise children at all times and keep to the tracks.

All Rubbish must be carried out by you.

TAKE ONLY MEMORIES, LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS.

Puriri Track – Blue Markers – 20 minutes

The Puriri track starts at the top of the motel hill and leads you down through the paddock towards the river. Head left at the bottom and a short way along the track you will find the great Puriri Tree, estimated to be 500 to 600 years old. This mammoth tree has started its own miniature Puriri forest, as over the centuries, many fallen branches have started new trees. Puriri wood is New Zealand's strongest timber and has been used for piles, fence posts, bridges and railway sleepers. It is so difficult to split, that timber workers often resorted to dynamite. Continue the walk by crossing a tiny stream and you will come to a large Kauri, approximately 400 to 500 years old. A short distance further on will bring you to the Te Rereatukahia Stream, which is the end of the walk. Return the same way as you came. Once back to the paddock another track heads off to the left, taking you to the River Crossing which will join up with the Nature Trail.

Kauri Loop Walk - Yellow Markers - 30 minutes

The track starts at the end of the driveway near the back of the Hall. After 75m you come to a T junction where you can carry on straight ahead or turn left. This is a loop track so you will return to this same T junction whatever your choice. This is a gentle walk through a wide variety of bush and trees (the track is wide enough for pushchairs). About halfway along you will come to a superb stand of about 30 young Kauri's on top of a very steep cliff. Take some time to enjoy the Kauri's and the excellent views, but PLEASE SUPERVISE YOUR CHILDREN CLOSELY and don't let them venture too close to the edge of the cliff. Keep going in the same direction and the yellow markers will take you to the exit.

Nature Trail – Pink Markers - 1 hour

The starting points are either at the end of the carpark in front of the pools, or at the end of the driveway near the back of the Hall. There are some steepish and slippery sections on this trail as well as a couple of unbridged stream crossings. We therefore recommend this walk only for those who have a reasonable level of fitness.

Central Ridge Track – Red Markers

This track connects the Nature Trail with the Kauri Loop Walk and combines the best features of both tracks into an easier 45 minute walk.



PURIRI TRACK



KAURI LOOP TRACK



NATURE TRAIL



CENTRAL RIDGE TRACK



SHORTCUT TRACKS



RIVER & STREAMS



DRIVEWAY