



Wairere Falls

Canyon V4a2I ★★

Location

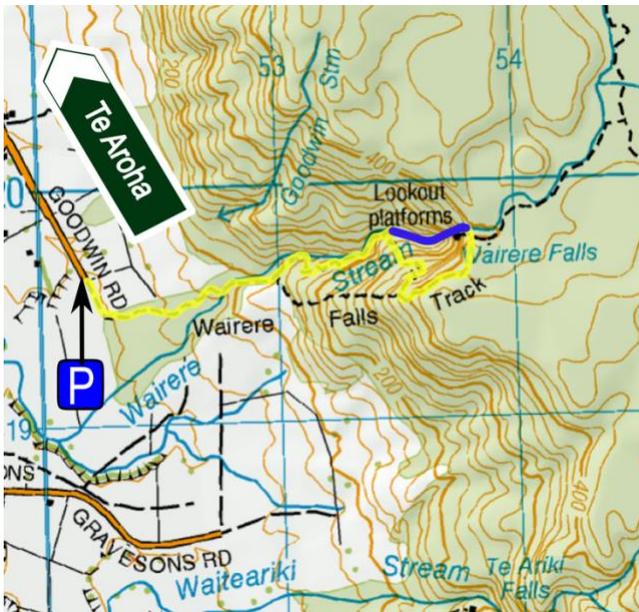
Kaimai Ranges, Waikato

Character

Wairere falls is the highest waterfall in the north island officially measuring in at 153m. The descent is spectacular and exposed with great views out over native bush and the nearby Waikato countryside. Due to the exposed nature of the falls, strong wind can make life difficult.

Map

Topo50 BD36 Lower Kaimai



Approach by Car

Wairere Falls can be approached from a number of ways depending on what direction you are coming from. From Te Aroha, Head SE on Te Aroha-Gordon Road for approx. 25km. Take the Goodwin Road turnoff on the left and drive approx. 800m until you reach the carpark.

Approach on Foot

Walk up the Wairere Falls track for 2.5km climbing steeply until you get to the top and the track meets Wairere Stream. Cross the stream to approach the first anchors on TR

Rock

Andesite.

Water

This is a moderate flow stream that can increase to a massive volume after heavy rain.

Catchment

7.3 km²

Anchors

Double Bolted anchors. The first set of bolts may be difficult to locate and require a belay to access.

Gear

Minimum 60m Rope + 60m Pullcord. Extra tape & maillons in case anchor slings need replacing. Gear to construct anchors if bolts are damaged or missing.

Route Description

The track follows an easy grade alongside the stream for crossing several bridges for approx. 1km before beginning to climb to meet a viewing platform that looks up to the falls. From here continue to climb steeply for another 800m before levelling off for the final approach to the top of the falls. A viewing platform on TL provides a spectacular overview of the upcoming descent. The main anchors are located on TR of the main flow and require a belay to access either from a large rock or using a meat anchor. Approach through the boulder pile on TR and staying right of the mound of vegetation in the center of the stream bed. The R2 anchor while not quite a hanging rebelay has limited space so plan accordingly.

Time

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Vehicle park to Top of Falls | 1hr 30mins |
| Canyon descent | 1 hrs |
| Return to Vehicle | 1hr |
| Total | 3hrs 30mins |

Flash flood danger

Moderate. This stream can flow at extremely high volume but escape should be possible for all but the middle pitch..

Escapes

The canyon is open and escape seems to be possible from almost all areas.

