



Kaharoa Kokako Track



The best way to enjoy kokako is to take a quiet walk down the Kaharoa Kokako Track, listening all the way.

This moderate walking track passes through at least two known kokako territories before reaching the beautiful Onaia Stream.

You may be lucky enough to hear or even see kokako, particularly during the early morning and evening. If not, you will notice a wide range of other birds among the rich natural forest.

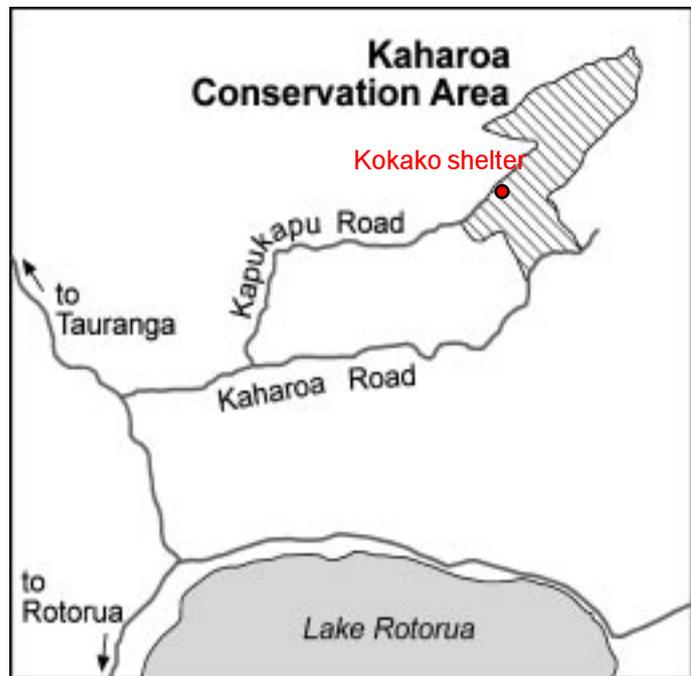
How to find the Kokako Track

The Kaharoa Conservation Area is situated approximately 36km north of Rotorua.

From Rotorua, access is via Hamurana Road, then the Tauranga Direct Road, turning right onto Kaharoa Road.

After you pass Kaharoa School and Hall, take the left fork, which is Kapukapu Road, and drive about 8km to the carpark at the end of the road. (Note: the last 2kms are unsealed).

On the edge of the carpark is the kokako shelter, which contains interpretive panels that tell you about the birds and the area.



The track begins about 15 minutes walk down the road from the carpark. (Note: there is limited parking available at the track entrance).

Track description

The track meanders its way 1.2km down through some beautiful forest to Onaia Stream. This is a tranquil and secluded spot, ideal for a picnic or breakfast stop after listening to the dawn chorus. You will return along the same track.

The walk down to the stream is reasonably steep in some places, but is not difficult. The track is rated as easy-moderate and takes about 45 minutes each way.

The walk along the Onaia Stream is scenic, but slippery!



About the forest

The Kaharoa Conservation Area is significant for its impressive diversity of plant and bird species, despite its past history of logging.

Tree species present in the forest include rimu, totara, kohekohe, tawa, pukatea, rewarewa, mahoe, kamahi, nikau and mamaku.

What is the best time to hear kokako?

The early morning or evening give you the best chance of hearing kokako at most times of the year. They tend to be quiet during the nesting season, which is October-December.

What should I look for?

Kokako can sometimes be seen running around in the branches like squirrels, or gliding around the canopy. They are secretive birds so not easy to spot.

What other birds could I see?

As well as kokako, the area supports good populations of tui, bellbirds (makomako), whiteheads (popokatea), robins (toutaouwai), pied tits (miromiro), fantails and kereru. Shining and long-tailed cuckoos can be spotted during the summer.



Information on this fact sheet is taken from "Walks in the Rotorua Lakes area", a booklet produced by the Department of Conservation.



Kaharoa contributes to the national recovery of kokako nationwide by providing birds for translocation to other protected areas. If you wish to help save kokako at Kaharoa and beyond, please make a donation or contact the Kaharoa Kokako Trust.