

WAINUI FALLS

Driving Distance from Ratanui: 15 min.

Estimated Walk Time: 1 hr.

Difficulty: Easy/**Moderate**/Challenging

Highlights: Beautiful stroll through native bush and along the Wainui River to a plunging waterfall. Swingbridge across the river.

Cautions: Recent flood slips have made parts of the track a little bit of a scramble. Slippery around falls. Swingbridge.

Bring: Sensible shoes. Water.

Directions: Turn R out of Ratanui on Abel Tasman Dr.
Follow for 8 kms.
Turn R at sign for Wainui Falls carpark.



Route description: The walk begins on a 4-wheel drive track bordering a paddock and shortly turns to the R into the bush, following the Wainui River. Gentle rises provide views over the river. Look for native Nikau palms, pongas, and in early summer, bright red flowering rata. Use caution as the track climbs and narrows alongside cliffs above the river. Follow signed instructions for crossing the swingbridge (usually one person at a time). Continue to climb gradually until you can hear the roar of the falls. A few minutes more and a quick descent drops down to the big pools at the base of the falls and glorious views of Wainui Falls.

