

# Deep Stream / South Frederick Route Description



Deep Stream is an impressive gorge that cuts through a largely unmodified sandstone plateau. It's one of the last remaining areas on the Stockton Plateau that hasn't been opencast mined. It contains rich, complex biodiversity and is home to a number of threatened species including roroa/great spotted kiwi. The area is public land – some is managed by LINZ and the remainder by DOC. The area is threatened by a proposed mine expansion by Bathurst Resources which would remove much of the sandstone plateau and result in the loss of public access.

There is a good track to the area and it takes about three hours to reach Deep Stream. If you don't have a 4WD, park at the Burnetts Face carpark. Walk along the Cedar Creek Road for about 2 km and look for an obvious flat 4x4 carpark on the left. There's a rough vehicle track that takes you over to the impressive upper Waimangaroa River Gorge. Look for a track heading down between the cliff bands. It's not well marked but you should spot a couple of cairns. Descend down an old rope at the bottom and cross the river next to an old iron bridge. This was used to bring coal out from the Taipo Mine. The river crossing may be difficult or impassable after heavy rain.

On the true right, look for track markers and a well-cut track heading up the hill. After a short, steep climb and open section, you drop down onto a old tramway. This comes to the bottom end of an unstable tunnel. The track goes around the tunnel to the top. Keep going uphill on the old tram till you come out to a clear area with some foundations of an old building, etc. There's a beautiful sandstone creek here (on your right) with a small cave and golden pool. It's well worth a look or a swim if you're brave enough. Beyond here you can either cut across the sandstone pavement to Deep Stream or you can keep following the tramway up the hill. Most of the country is open and easy to navigate. There's some excellent campsites on the edge of Deep Stream. A good loop is to follow the telegraph poles up through the old mine workings and then cut across to Deep Stream. Go back down along the edge and cut back across to the beautiful pool. All and all, it's a fascinating area and a chance to see what so much of the Stockton Plateau once looked like. The trip takes six to eight hours return.



Approximate  
Proposed Mine  
Boundary

Track/Route







