



Starting Point: Garden Place

Begin your walk in Garden Place, the green heart of the city in Victoria St. Get out a library book to take with you to read while you eat your lunch in one of the beautiful nearby destinations.



Route 1: BLUE

From: Garden Place
To: Steele Park
Time: 20 minutes one way, with a number of suitable stopping places as you go



First stop from Garden Place: visit one of Hamilton's famous exports – Riff Raff from the Rocky Horror Show lives in a beautiful spot right in Victoria St, about five minutes stroll from Garden Place heading south. The statue is at the top of a park made up of small seating bays under trees, which descends to a viewing platform from which you can look out onto the Waikato River and see the Waipa Delta paddleboat at its moorings. The path is pushchair and wheelchair accessible to the viewing platform but is fairly steep so help may be needed on the ascent. From the platform a set of steps leads down to the riverside walkway.



Next stop is the museum, and a short walk down Grantham St brings you to the old Band Rotunda, a shady spot for a summer lunch, less than ten minutes from Garden Place. If you wish you can take the steps at the far end of this park area that lead back up to Victoria Bridge to join the main blue route to Steele Park



The grounds of St Peter's Cathedral at the southern end of Victoria St, five minutes from Garden Place, and only a brief distance from the museum, are another quiet place within the main street of Hamilton



Steele Park is right next door to a variety of pleasant cafes. A great stroll across the historic Victoria Bridge and up Bridge St to Grey St.



Route 2: RED

From: Garden Place
To: Little London Street, Trust Waikato Garden
Time: 10 minutes



A ten-minute very leisurely stroll on flat, paved surfaces, totally wheelchair and pushchair friendly. The garden overlooks the river and is an ideal place for a relaxed lunch break in the centre of the city



Route 3: GREEN

From: Garden Place
To: Frankton, via Ward Park
Time: 30-45 minutes round trip



Railside Walk via Ward Park to Frankton. This does involve steps and is **not suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs**. You can make this a short walk of about fifteen minutes one-way by going only to the end of the railside walk on to Lake Rd and returning to the CBD.



You can extend the walk by continuing up Marama St and through the walkway into Fowlers Ave which gives a spectacular view of Lake Rotoroa. Returning along Ruakiwi Rd and down Tainui St to Ward St, then back to Garden Place, the longer route will give a round trip of about 45 minutes.



Route 4: ORANGE

From: Garden Place
To: Lake Reserve, Lake Rotoroa
Time: 30-45 minutes round trip



This is an extendable walk. If you want to get to the lake reserve and have a pleasant lunch on the hillside overlooking the lake, the walk is less than 15 minutes each way. It does involve a road crossing on Lake Rd. There is a pedestrian refuge in the centre of the road. You can extend the walk to a 45 minute round trip by continuing along Lake Rd to connect with route 3 (the Railside Walk). Following this back to Ward Park you can return via Ward St to Victoria St and Garden Place.



Route 5: PURPLE

Circuit: Claudelands Bridge, Victoria Bridge, via Jesmond park and Parana park
Time: 30-40 minutes round trip if done non-stop



For the more energetic lunchtime walker, this is a 30 to 40 minute circuit if done non-stop and takes in two very pleasant park areas: the small Jesmond Park immediately below Claudelands Bridge, and the much larger Memorial and Parana Park areas lying between Claudelands Bridge and Victoria Bridge on the eastern side of the river. There are many lovely spots to stop for a lunch break and admire the river and the gardens.

