The small beachside town of Castlepoint boasts some of the most spectacular sights on the Wairarapa coastline and was once Wairarapa’s main port. Castlepoint’s name in Maori, Rangiwhakaoma, translates as ‘where the sky runs’.

**Facilities**
- Parking
- Toilets
- Pram accessible
- Walking tracks
- Dog walking (On leash)
- Horse riding (On beach)
- Swimming
- Surfing
- Fishing
- Boating
- Kayaking
- Bird watching
- Look out
- Picnic table

**Highlight**
The small beachside town of Castlepoint boasts some of the most spectacular sights on the Wairarapa coastline and was once Wairarapa's main port. Castlepoint's name in Maori, Rangiwhakaoma, translates as 'where the sky runs'.

**Description, values & significance**
Explore the fossil-rich limestone reef, magnificent Castle Rock (162 metres high), lighthouse (one of the last manned lighthouses in New Zealand), long stretches of beach, sand dunes, and a sheltered lagoon. Bird Island is located at the southern end of the reef and is home to a large population of seagulls. Castlepoint is a destination for anglers, swimmers, surfers, jet skiers, holiday makers and horse riders with an annual horse race on the beach. Castlepoint has a diverse range of habitats.

**Accessibility/How to get there/particular time of year to visit**
Castlepoint is located on Wairarapa’s east coast about 1 hour’s drive from Masterton. Turn right into Te Ore Ore Road on the northern outskirts of Masterton. This road becomes Masterton Castlepoint Road and leads directly to Castlepoint.

**Threatened species/species of interest**
The crumbling limestone at Castlepoint Reserve is the only place in the world that Castlepoint Daisy (*Brachyglottis compactus*) exists along with several other species of nationally or regionally threatened plants. Several species of dolphins, as well as fur seals, and occasionally small whale species that frequent the area can be seen from the beach. The reserve is also home to numerous sea birds like white-fronted terns, little blue penguin, red-billed gulls, black-backed gulls, black shags and reef herons.

**Key threats**
Vehicles on the beach threaten the sensitive coastal environment with bird nesting sites disturbed and vegetation uprooted. The area is also susceptible to rabbits, rodents and mustelids, and pollution caused from surrounding farmland discharges. This very low-lying area could be significantly impacted by sea level rises.
Walks (length)
Lighthouse walk - 30min return
Deliverance Cove track - 1.5hr loop

Walks (grade)
Lighthouse Walk - Easy walking
Deliverance Cove Track - Easy to moderate walking

Manager
Department of Conservation

Protection status
Scenic Reserve

Community Involvement
Castlepoint ratepayers and residents association are involved in local restoration

How to get there