# Whanganui Regional Trail Notes

## Tongariro Alpine Crossing

Last Edited: August 28, 2026 11:41:45 NZST

**INTRO**

The Tongariro Alpine Crossing track passes over varied and spectacular volcanic terrain. Trek across a volcanic alpine landscape of dramatic contrasts – steaming vents, glacial valleys, ancient lava flows, alpine vegetation and vivid crater lakes, all with stunning views. Be prepared for a long and challenging day out.

Tongariro Crossing is now open SOBO as far as Mangatepopo Hut.  The Mangatepopo Track from Mangatepopo Hut to Whakapapa Village is closed. Wakers are not permitted on Mangatepopo Road, but at certain times it may be possible to get a ride from the road end 1 km below Mangatepopo Hut to SH47 with a shuttle driver.

Fore 2026-27 there is a new route for Te Araroa walkers, using the northern part of the Tongariro Crossing as far as the Emerald Lakes, km 1,145, the eastern part of the Northern Circuit to Waihohonu Hut, and the Waihohonu and Tama Lakes tracks to Whakapapa Village. This route was previously described as the *Northern Circuit detour*

There is an optional longer mountain route for Te Araroa walkers after Waihohonu Hut, using the eastern and southern parts of the Round the Mountain Track to exit through the Mangahuia Track to SH47. This route is covered in more detail in the *Round the Mountain detour* Alert

**DESCRIPTION**

Tongariro National Park is a UNESCO dual World Heritage Area and was the first in the world to receive cultural World Heritage Status.


- Description
- Know before you go
- Winter tramping


All waterways including the lakes on Tongariro and his peaks Ngāuruhoe and Ruapehu are sacred to local iwi, Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro. Kaumātua Te Ngaehe Wanikau asks visitors to the area to respect the sanctity of the maunga tapu (sacred mountains) by not touching or entering any of the waterways including the alpine lakes. Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro places extreme importance on their guardian role in protecting Tongariro and his peaks.

**Essential gear list**

- Consider a compass and map (in poor visibility)
- Waterproof raincoat and over-trousers
- Warm woollen or polypropylene clothing
- Woollen hat and mittens
- Sturdy boots (sports trainers/running shoes and sandals are not suitable)
- Food and drink
- First aid kit
- Sunscreen, sunhat and sunglasses

Note: Te Araroa track descriptions work from North to South whereas the Department of Conservation encourages trampers to walk the Tongariro Alpine Crossing in the other direction – from South to North. So be aware, the crossing is a very popular tramp and in following these instructions, you will be going against the flow.

**Route from North to South - Te Araroa southbound - Ketetahi to Mangatepopo - 18km**

From the Ketetahi Road end, the track goes through a cool podocarp-hardwood forest which is a relaxed contrast to the coming long ascent to the old Ketetahi Shelter site. The track travels alongside a stream polluted with minerals from Ketetahi Springs and, at two points, passes over the tongue of a lava flow from Te Maari Crater.

From the forest bush line, the track winds its way up and up and up, through tussock slopes past the Ketetahi Springs to the old Ketetahi Shelter site.

- Note: The Ketetahi Springs are on private land. The Ketetahi Trust, representing the landowners, has permitted trekkers to cross part of their land but this does not include access to Ketetahi Springs. Please respect this restraint and follow the poled route.

From the old Ketetahi Shelter site, the track ascends further before sidling down around the flanks of North Crater to the Blue Lake and over the Mars-like Central Crater. Then it's past the three water-filled explosion craters called the Emerald Lakes; their brilliant greenish colour is caused by minerals which have leached from the adjoining thermal area. The Tongariro Northern Circuit track to Oturere Hut branches off to the left at the lowest lake.

Taking care on the loose stones and gravel on the track as you ascend steeply to the summit of Red Crater (1886m), the highest point on the Tongariro Alpine Crossing. You can also smell the sulphur, evidence that Red Crater is still active.

*The Mangatepopo Track from Mangatepopo Hut to Whakapapa Village is closed due to fire damage.*  See the *Mangatepopo to National Park* notes for a suggested alternative starting from the Emerald Lakes at km 1,151.8

The carpark at Mangatepopo Road is 1km (15 minutes) from the Mangatepopo Track turnoff.

Mangatepopo Hut is free from 1st May to 20th October. From 21st October it is classed as a Great Walk and requires booking. Backcountry Hut passes are not useable.

**Winter Conditions**

You need to be skilled and prepared to complete the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, especially during winter. An ice axe and crampons are essential, as is competency using them.

**What to bring**

- Ice axe and crampons (and know how to use them)
- Snow gaiters
- Avalanche probe/snow shovel in winter
- Avalanche transceiver

How to tramp the Tongariro Alpine Crossing in winter

**CONDITIONS**

You will need to be skilled and prepared to complete the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, Northern Circuit and Round the Mountain tracks in winter. An ice axe and crampons are essential, as is competency using them.

**Potential hazards**

- Always check the weather forecast and take local advice as weather can change quickly and drastically
- Always carry extra warm, wind-proof clothing, safety and navigational equipment
- Pole route markers may be difficult to see in foggy conditions.
- Water from the upper Mangatepopo stream, Emerald Lakes and Ketetahi Springs is not suitable for drinking due to the high mineral content. Treat ALL water in the park.
- Winter tramping: Be fully equipped with ice axe, crampons, avalanche probe/snow shovel/transceiver.
- From the beginning of 26 October (Labour Day weekend) to 30 April, parking restrictions (4 hour maximum) are in place at the road-ends - book a shuttle.
- Over winter, additional hazards are present:
    - Snow and ice
    - Avalanche risk
    - Sub-zero temperatures.

Tongariro Alpine Crossing (Red Crater) weather - NIWA

NIWA 3-day forecast

No dogs, horses, guns or bikes. No drones.

How to tramp in winter: Tongariro Alpine Crossing | Tongariro Northern Circuit | Round the Mountain Track

**ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

This is the perfect habitat for a variety of New Zealand's native birds. In forested areas, you may see bellbird/korimako, tūī, New Zealand robin/toutouwai, tomtit/miromiro, fantail/pīwakawaka, and maybe New Zealand's smallest bird the rifleman/titipounamu. For hikes wanting to experience the Tongariro Crossing as a day hike rather than a part of Te Araroa there are shuttle bus options from Turangi, Tokaanu, Whakapapa and Ohakune. Part of the shuttle fee of about $40 helps the Department of Conservation with conservation projects.

The Soda Springs are an oasis for the moisture-loving yellow buttercups and white foxgloves. The porous surface of new lava, its blacker colour absorbing much of the sun's heat, is a harsh environment for plants. Simple colonising mosses and lichens are the first to establish, followed years later by successively larger plants each taking advantage of the slow build-up of precious soil. This succession of plant communities is evident on the lava flows of varying ages that have flowed from the crater of Ngāuruhoe.

**TE AO MĀORI**

Ngātoroirangi, the founding ancestor of Ngāti Tūwharetoa, the local iwi (Māori tribe), ascended the great mountains of the Central Plateau 30 generations ago. It was then that he named Tongariro and the many features of the surrounding landscape, declaring this area as home for his descendants. It is from these beginnings that Ngāti Tūwharetoa maintains its intrinsic responsibility to protect the mountainous area to which they belong.

The generosity and foresight of Ngāti Tūwharetoa saw the heart of the mountainous area made sacrosanct in 1887, with the intent that the Crown would stand alongside Ngāti Tūwharetoa to ensure the continued protection of Tongariro. This led to the establishment of the Tongariro National Park in 1894, a first for New Zealand, and fourth in the world.

In 1993, Tongariro became the first property to be inscribed on the World Heritage List under the revised criteria describing cultural landscapes. The mountains at the heart of the park have cultural and spiritual significance to Ngāti Tūwharetoa and symbolise the spiritual links between this community and its environment. The park has active and extinct volcanoes, a diverse range of ecosystems and some remarkable landscapes.

The continued occupation by Ngāti Tūwharetoa in this environment ensures the cultural, spiritual and environmental values are protected and shared with all those who encounter this dynamic landscape.

**ACCESS**

**The nearest towns are:**

- Whakapapa (10.4 km)
- National Park (13.5 km)
- Turangi (36.7 km)
- Raetihi (47.6 km)
- Ohakune (48 km)
- Taumarunui (61.5 km)
- Taupō (86.5 km)

There is very limited parking near the access points to the track. From the beginning of 26 October (Labour Day weekend) to 30 April, parking restrictions (4 hour maximum) are in place at the road-ends.

Excellent shuttle services run from all local towns - arrange through the following i-SITEs:

- Whakapapa i-SITE 07 892 3075, State Highway 48, Whakapapa Village
- Turangi  i-SITE 0800 288 726, Ngawaka Place, Turangi
- Ohakune i-SITE 0800 647 483, 54 Clyde Street, Ohakune
- Taumarunui i-Site 07 895 7494, Railway Station, Taumarunui
- Taupo i-SITE 0800 525 382, 30 Tongariro Street, Taupo

**Getting to/from the start**

The Whanganui region starts at the carpark at the northern end of the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, 1km off SH 46, Tongariro National Park.

- InterCity - P: 09 583 5780 - E: info@intercity.co.nz
- Kiwi Experience - P: 09 336 4288 - Hop-on, Hop-off bus tours

**Getting back from the end**

Southern access road : Mangatepopo Track turnoff, SH47, Tongariro National Park.  Te Aroroa does not exit here, it continue on the track to Whakapapa

**TRANSPORT**

There are several shuttle companies providing morning pick-ups from nearby towns and delivery to the track start, such as National Park, Ōhakune, Tūrangi and Taupō. They include:

- Ruapehu Alpine Shuttles - Ōwhango - P: 020 4111 4648  - E: ruapehushuttle@gmail.com
- Tongariro Expeditions - Shuttle service to the Tongariro Crossing - P: 07 377 0435 - E: info@tongariroexpeditions.com (to/from Taupō, Tūrangi, Ketetahi, Whakapapa) - Multiple return times from the Northern end of the track (6 km from the Holiday Park).
- Dempsey Buses - 25 Seddon Street, Raetihi 4632 - P: 06 385 4022 - Info@dempseybuses.co.nz

We recommend booking a shuttle as there is a 4-hour parking restriction at both Mangatepopo and Ketetahi Road ends.

**ACCOMMODATION**

**Trail Pass**

Mangatepopo Hut - km 1,158.9 - 20% discount on hut stay with The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Mangatepopo Campsite - km 1,158.92 - Camping next to hut included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Waihohonu Hut - Northern Circuit - 20% discount on hut stay with The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Waihohonu Campsite - Northern Circuit - Camping next to hut included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

**Before starting the Tongariro Alpine Crossing**

- Tongariro Family Holiday Park - State Highway 47, Tongariro - P: 07 386 8062 - Camping, cabins and units.  Highly recommended spot to rest up and recoup between 42 Traverse and Tongariro Alpine Crossing.  Halfway point between Taumarunui and National Park
- Cross X Roads camping at  2010 Rotoaira Road, Tongariro Forest, on SH47 just north of the intersection at km 1,134.1 where Te Araroa turns right onto SH46 (Lake Rotoaira Road) towards the northern end of the Tongariro Crossing. TA hikers $10 per night. Campsite has a composting toilet, fresh water, amazing mountain views and very wide open space. If we are running transport for the Crossing on any given day that we may have TA hikers staying, we are happy to drop them at Ketetahi carpark entrance at no cost as we are going there to pick up customers anyway. Hosts Ma 021 0272 2828 and Shane 021 053 8882.  Walkers please phone, no need to book through the website

**Other Accommodation**

- Old Ketetahi Shelter site - due to extensive damage in the 2012 eruption this is no longer a hut. Toilets are available but there is no longer a water supply and no accommodation.
- Department of Conservation Mangatepopo Hut - needs to be booked online or by visiting/phoning any Department of Conservation Visitor Centre. 20 bunks, heating and gas in peak season. Topo50 map sheet BH36, E1824389, N5663908
- Ōhakune Station Lodge, 60 Thames St, Ōhakune - P: 06 385 8797 E: ohakune@yha.co.nz

For those taking a modified route, YHA Ōhakune Station Lodge is a 1906 historical villa located in the beautiful alpine town of Ōhakune, adjacent to the world-renowned Tongariro National Park. Guests enjoy the use of extensive facilities including shared and private rooms, full kitchen amenities and two lounges. During the brilliant Central Plateau summers, the outdoor woodfire pizza oven is fired up. Guests can enjoy friendly games of cricket or simply relax on the verandas overlooking the peaceful native gardens while taking in the views of Mt Ruapehu

Please note that freedom camping at Ketetahi Road and Mangatepopo Road ends is not allowed.

**FOOD AND SUPPLY**

**Before Tongariro Crossing**

Tongariro Holiday Park on SH 47 at km 1,114 does not stock groceries for hiker re-supply.  They will accept hiker supply boxes but it is essential to phone first and arrange as their mail is collected approximately weekly from Turangi.  P: 07 386 8062  E: info@thp.co.nz

**Water**

Water from the upper Mangatepopo stream, Emerald Lakes and Ketetahi Springs is not suitable for drinking due to high mineral content. There is no drinkable water available between the head of the Mangatepopo Valley and Mangatepopo Hut. Respect the water supply at Mangatepopo Hut, as this is limited and is the supply for those staying at the Hut. Treat all water in the park.

**EXTRA INFO**

Before starting Te Araroa either as a through-walker of the whole country or a section walker, please register on Te Araroa website. Please also visit the website or download the app for detailed maps, trail alerts and other relevant information.

This track is part of the Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa track database. Herenga ā Nuku has maps and advice about public access to the outdoors.

We encourage you to continue gaining the skills and knowledge required for a safe trip. The NZ Mountain Safety Council has lots of free resources and information you can use. These can be accessed via www.mountainsafety.org.nz.

We recommend trying these online learning tools:

- Trip Planning
- Tramping/field Skills
- Basic Navigation
- River Safety

Additionally, check out the range of helpful videos available from the NZ Mountain Safety Council YouTube channel.

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# Tongariro Crater to Waimarino / National Park

Last Edited: August 27, 2026 12:44:42 NZST

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## INTRO

Te Araroa section: Tramp through the tussocks and shrublands to National Park, gateway to active volcanic mountains that dominate the iconic and majestic landscape as you walk.

The notes for this section are frequently edited to adapt to track changes caused by the November and December Tongariro fires. Directions that are temporarily incomplete are marked with a ~~line-through.~~

## DESCRIPTION

### Mangatepopo Track — 9km / 3-4 hours - CLOSED

The Mangatepopo Track between Mangatepopo Hut (km 1,143.5) and Whakapapa Village (km 1,172.48) is closed.

DOC have advised that Mangatepopo Road is used mostly by shuttles and buses and is narrow, windy and dusty, making it unsafe for walkers. They would much prefer hikers take a shuttle or a different route.

*Round the Mountain detour*

Hikers can bypass Mangatepopo Hut and the closed track by following the new Te Araora route that uses rhe Northern Circuit route clockwise from the Emerald Lakes (km 1,144) past Oturere Campsite, Waihohohu Hut and the Tama Lakes to rejoin the Te Araroa route at Whakapapa Village. Continue from there on the Whakapapaiti Valley Track and Mangahuia Track to reach SH 47 at the Mangahuia Campsite and follow SH 47 for 6.4 km to National Park/Waimarino (km 1,172)

The distance from the Emerald Lakes junction to Whakapapa Village is approximately 28 km. Oturere Hut and Campsite are closed for renovation. Waihohonu Campsite is open. Waihohonu Hut is bookable with 20% discount for Te Araroa Trail Pass Holders.

Following the Tongariro Northern Circuit track from near the highpoint on the Tongariro Alpine Trail at Emerald Lakes (km 1,144) and past Waihohohu Hut there is an optional longer detour available, using the Round the Mountain Track.

The Round the Mountain starts from Waihohonu Hut heading south and traverses diverse volcanic, desert and forest landscapes, passing Rangipo Hut, Mangaehuehu Hut, Ohakune Mountain Road, Mangaturuturu Hut and Whakapapaiti Hut to rejoin Te Araroa Trail at km 1,178.4, the start of the Mangahuia Track out to SH 47. It crosses two dramatic swingbridges and takes 2 - 4 days

The distance form Waihohonu Hut to to rejoin Te Araroa at km 1,178.4 is approximately 48 km

### Whakapapaiti Mangahuia Track - 13.5km / 5-6 hours

The track traverses forest, wetlands and open tussock lands. It can be boggy in the wet. The track may be rutted.

Leave the Whakapapa Village on Whakapapaiti Track. It starts opposite the Fire Station, just above the Holiday Park and 250m from the Whakapapa Visitor Centre

Initially, the track flows easily and descends through groves of kaikawaka and cabbage trees amongst the beech forest.

The track then descends through an open area to a bridged river crossing over the Whakapapaiti Stream before coming across a track intersection.

The Whakapapiti Hut is approximately 3 km up the track to the left. It is not part of Te Araroa,but is included in the Trail Pass. Before reaching the hut the track crosses the Whakapapiti Stream. The crossing over boulders is normally easy but may be difficult after heavy rain

Turn right (northwest) onto the Mangahuia Track and head to the Mangahuia campsite (2-3 hours). There are a few stream crossings on this track, easy to cross in dry weather but can be difficult when the streams are high - take care and be prepared to wait for levels to drop.

### Mangahuia Campsite to National Park - 6.5km

From the Mangahuia campsite, walk 500m north on the vehicle track to join SH47. Turn left (west) and follow the road for 6km to the junction with SH4. Turn right (north) into the National Park Village, then turn left (west) onto Findlay Street. It flows into Station Road. At the very end is National Park Railway Station.

## CONDITIONS

### Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track
- Poisons & traps
- River crossings - Never cross flooded rivers
- Small stream crossings
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Weather extremes
- Few water sources - avoid drinking from streams with high mineral content.

Tongariro (Upper Tama Lake) weather - NIWA

Tongariro (Visitor Centre) weather - NIWA

Mt Ruapehu (Knoll Ridge Café) weather - NIWA

Mt Ruapehu (Turoa Giant Café) weather - NIWA

Mt Ruapehu (Turoa -Waitonga Falls) weather - NIWA

## ACCESS

Northern Start: Mangatepopo Track turnoff, Tongariro National Park

Southern End: Railway Station, Station Road, National Park

## TRANSPORT

### Getting there/away

- InterCity - P: 09 583 5780

### Transport to trailheads

- Daily to Tongariro Alpine Crossing and 42 Traverse Mountain
- Howards Lodge BBH - 43 Carroll St - P: 07 892 2827 - E: info@howardslodge.co.nz
- Plateau Lodge - 17 Carroll St - P: 0800 861 861 freephone - E: info@plateaulodge.co.nz
- Tongariro Crossing Shuttles - P: 07 892 2993 E: info@tongarirocrossingshuttles.co.nz

**ACCOMMODATION**

**Trail Pass**

Waihohonu Hut - Northern Circuit km 1,156.5
- 20% discount with The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Rangipo Hut - Round the Mountain Track km12.5
- 20% discount with The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Mangaehuehu Hut - Round the Mountain Track - Round the Mountain Track km 22.5
- 20% discount with The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Blyth Hut - Round the Mountain Track - Round the Mountain Track km 26.7
- 20% discount with The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Mangaturuturu Hut - Round the Mountain Track - Round the Mountain Track km 34.9
- 20% discount with The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Whakapapaiti Hut - Round the Mountain Track - Round the Mountain Track km 45.6
- 20% discount with The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Mangahuia Campsite - km 1,185.6 - Included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

**Backpackers and tent sites**

- Whakapapa Holiday Park — Fully serviced campground nestled in the heart of Tongariro National Park, surrounded by beautiful native trees and rivers. Plenty of bird life. For Te Araroa walkers, we have tent sites, backpacker rooms and a lodge that sleeps 32. Tent sites are $23, Lodge beds are $32.  This includes unlimited internet and full usage of all facilities in a safe and comfortable area.  Our onsite coffee and food cart are welcome when walking up Bruce Road, tired and hungry. Check out the Facebook page for all contact details.
- DOC's Mangahuia Campsite — 500m off SH 47. Water, toilets and a shelter. Purchase campsite tickets at a Department of Conservation office before your walk. Grid reference: NZTM2000, E1813334-N5660336
- Raetihi Holiday Park - 10 Parapara Road, Raetihi - P: 0800 40 88 88
- YHA National Park, 4 Findlay St, National Park — P: 07 892 2870 E: nationalpark@yha.co.nz
- Howards Lodge BBH — 43 Carroll St, National Park — P: 07 892 2827 — E: info@howardslodge.co.nz
- Manowhenua Lodge — Cnr of Carroll and Mackenzie Sts, National Park — P: 07 892 2854 — E: info@manowhenualodge.co.nz
- Plateau Lodge — 17 Carroll St, National Park Village — P: 0800 861 861 freephone or 07 892 2993 — E: info@plateaulodge.co.nz

Accommodation suppliers can also help with jet boat bookings for the Whanganui River.

For those walkers detouring to complete the Round the Mountain track or northbound walkers who are busing and hiking from Whanganui, accommodation is available in Raetihi.

**FOOD AND SUPPLY**

- National Park Service Centre - 1 Waimarino Tokaanu Rd, National Park - P: 07 892 2879 - E: nosedive@xtra.co.nz

**EXTRA INFO**

- NiwaWeather - Tongariro Visitor Centre
- DOC - Book Department of Conservation huts or purchase camping tickets online or at a Department of Conservation office
- DOC Whakapapa Visitor Centre - State Highway 48, Whakapapa Village - P: 07 892 3729 - E: tongarirovc@doc.govt.nz
- Ohakune Visitor Centre Ruapehu i-Site - 54 Clyde Street, Ōhakune P: 0800 647 483

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- Tramping/field Skills
- Basic Navigation
- River Safety

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# Waimarino / National Park to Whanganui River

Last Edited: October 04, 2026 09:41:21 NZST

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**INTRO**

Te Araroa trail section: On a fine day, there are sweeping views of Tongariro National Park to the east and Mt Taranaki to the west from Mangapurua Trig, the highest point in this area.

**DESCRIPTION**

From National Park Railway Station, head north up Ward Street for 430m, then west onto Carroll Street and over the railway tracks at the crossing.

**Fisher Track - 16.5km / 5-6 hours**

Turn right onto Fisher Road. Walk 30 minutes down Fisher Road until the turnoff for the Tupapakurua Falls Track (on the left side of the road). It's an optional, easy 20-minute diversion to the Taranaki Lookout.

Continue on Fisher Track westward and largely downhill, dropping from 800m to 400m. It eventually joins Kurua Road for 3.5km (a metalled road in deer-farming country), which runs alongside Tupapakurua Stream for a while until reaching Rētāruke Road. It is a mix of well-formed track, rough tramping track and gravel road.

**Kurua Rd to Whakahoro- 36km / 8-9 hours**

From the junction of Kurua and Rētāruke Roads, walk north on Upper Rētāruke Road for 12km. At the intersection with Oio Road (there is a toilet available here), turn left (west) onto Oio Road and follow it for the next 24.5km (mostly alongside the Rētāruke River) to Whakahoro, on the banks of the Whanganui River. This section can be hot and tiring in summer, with little or no water sources. Plan and carry plenty of water.

There is no walking track beyond Mangapurua. The options are to either canoe down the river from Whakahoro to Pipiriki or Whanganui, or walk from Whakahoro to Mangapurua to get picked up there by pre-arranged jet boat and taken to Pipiriki or Whanganui. Discuss with canoe/kayak hire operators. Contact suggestions at the end of this notes section, and in the Whanganui River - via Whanganui River section.

**Whakahoro to the Mangapurua Landing (Mangapurua-Kaiwhakauka Track) - 37km / 13 hours**

7 hours from Whakahoro to the Mangapurua Trig; 6 hours from the Trig to Mangapurua Landing.

A combined walking/cycleway, this track follows former road lines and makes for easy walking. It leads up the Kaiwhakauka Valley to the Mangapurua Trig. There it joins the Mangapurua Track, which descends through the Mangapurua Valley to meet the Whanganui River at the Mangapurua Landing.

From Whakahoro the track follows the disused road along the true left bank of the Whanganui River for 1km, before turning sharply into the Kaiwhakauka Valley. The track follows along and crosses the Kaiwhakauka Stream over an old wooden bridge. It continues along the true left bank of the stream up to the head of the Kaiwhakauka Valley. *Note*: Care should be taken not to disturb stock and gates should be left as found when crossing farmland.

On reaching the junction of the old Kaiwhakauka, Mangapurua and Ruatiti/Ōhura Roads, keep to the right to drop down into the Mangapurua. A side track leads to the Mangapurua Trig (near km 1,260.7), the highest point in the area. On a fine day, there are sweeping views of Tongariro National Park to the east and Mt Taranaki / Egmont to the west. Mangapurua Trig is your best opportunity to get a phone signal if you need to confirm a canoe pickup time at Mangapurua Landing.

From here the track winds steadily down into the valley where the track meets and stays on the true left bank of the Mangapurua Stream. Continuing along the old road line, the track crosses numerous side streams and the valley progressively closes in. Although the track is freshly maintained, the rocks can be slippery when wet – care should be taken in negotiating these sections and beware of falling rocks.

At the lower end of the valley, the track crosses to the true right bank of the stream over the historic Bridge to Nowhere. This is a large concrete bridge built in 1936, but is now standing abandoned in the bush in the middle of 'nowhere'.

This last section of the track is formed to walking track standard and is often used by river travellers to visit the Bridge to Nowhere.

Beyond the bridge, continue for another 40 minutes as the track follows the true right bank of the Mangapurua Stream and then leads along the true left bank of the Whanganui River to reach the Mangapurua Landing.

*Note:* Mangapurua Landing is a dead end for walkers. River transport is the only option for those travelling south from Mangapurua Landing. Hikers reaching Mangapurua on foot can take a pre-arranged jet boat ride to Pipiriki or Whanganui. Contact suggestions at the end of this notes section, and in the Whanganui River - via Whanganui River section.

**General information**

For local information and a list of suppliers, contact:

Whanganui i-SITE, 31 Taupō Quay, Whanganui - P: 06 349 0508 - E: info@whanganui.govt.nz

The distances and campsite options when travelling by river are:

- Whakahoro to Mangapapa campsite: 11 kilometres
- Mangapapa to Ohauora campsite: 16 kilometres
- Ohauora to John Coull Hut: 10.5 kilometres
- John Coull Hut to Mangawaiiti campsite: 9.5 kilometres
- Mangawaiiti to Mangapurua campsite: 9 kilometres

**CONDITIONS**

**Potential hazards**

- Vehicles on road or track – bikes in particular
- Poisons and traps
- Small stream crossings
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Few water sources between National Park and Whakahoro

- Mangapurua-Kaiwhakauka track condition:
  - During the winter this track can be subject to wet and muddy conditions.
  - Slips may be present in lower sections of the track.
  - Please contact the Department of Conservation Whanganui Area Office with any inquiries: Phone: 06 349 2100

Whanganui River (John Coull Hut) weather - NIWA

**ACCESS**

Northern Start: Railway Station, Station Rd, National Park

Southern End: Mangapurua Landing, Whanganui River

**TRANSPORT**

**To trailheads**

There are no facilities of any type at the Kurua-Rētāruke Road end of this track. Trampers need to be totally independent and make their own pre-arrangements for food, shelter or pickups.

**Access points**

- Whakahoro can be reached by road from SH4, turning off at either Ōwhango or Raurimu.

- Alternatively, access to the Mangapurua Trig may be gained by walking in from Ruatiti Road. Track start is on the western side (approximately 15km from the southern start of the road), off Raetihi-Ōhura Rd, off SH4, north of Raetihi.

Pre-booked river transport is the only option.

To kayak from Whakahoro to Mangapurua Landing (or beyond), pre-book so jetboats can pick you up or deliver kayaks to you.

- Whanganui River Canoes - P: 0800 40 88 88 or 06 385 4176
- Taumarunui Canoe Hire and Jet Boat Tours - P: 0800 226 6348 or 027 226 6348 or 07 895 7483 email: tmncanoehire@gmail.com
- Yeti Tours - P: 06 385 8197 or 0800 322 388 - E info@yetitours.co.nz 3 Burns Street Ohakune.

**ACCOMMODATION**

**Trail Pass**

Whakahoro Bunkroom and Campsite - km 1,245 - Great Walks - Not included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required).

Mangapapa Campsite - river 10.8 - Great Walks - Not included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Ohauora Campsite - river 25 - Great Walks - Not included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Mosleys Campsite - km 1,254.1 - Included in The Trail Pass

Mangapurua Trig Campsite - km 1,256.7 - Included in The Trail Pass

Johnsons Campsite - km 1,266.8 - Included in The Trail Pass

Bettjeman Campsite - km 1,270.1 - Included in The Trail Pass

Hellawell's Campsite - km 1,274.6 - Included in The Trail Pass (no water supply at Hellawell's)

John Coull Hut - river 34.8 - Great Walks - Not included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Mangawaiiti - river 47.1 - Great Walks - Not included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Mangapurua Campsite - km 1,281.7 - Great Walks - Not included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Tieke Mare - km 1,2928 - Great Walks - Not included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Ngaporo Campsite - km 1,304.6 - Great Walks - Not included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

**Accommodation before Whanganui River - Trail Hosts**

- *Kaitieke War Memori*al Accommodation. 1780 Oio Road, Kaitieke, km 1,220.2 House and big dark grey shed right behind the Monument. P: 027 895 6094 or 027 722 1377
    - Accommodation options available are:
      1, Water, a place to pitch a tent, toilet, shower, wifi, breakfast $25.00
      2. Water, Shower, Bed with sheet and pillowcase, wifi, laundry on request, breakfast $50.00
      We ask that you ring and book to secure your space so we know how many to cater for breakfast and ensure we have enough food.
      It is a 2 hour return trip to the nearest town and there are no shops close by.
    - There is a portaloo toilet adjacent to the monument but locals have asked walkers not to freedom camp

**Accommodation along Whanganui River**

**DOC Great Walk Facilities**

Tickets must be purchased before departure via the DOC website or Department of Conservation offices.

- DOC's Whakahoro Bunkroom and campsite km 1,244.8 - 10 bunks - Basic category, mattresses, lighting but no heating or gas. Water, toilet, a shelter for cooking and picnic table. Grid reference: Topo50 map sheet BJ32, E1765226, N5655601.
- DOC's Mangapurua Landing campsite km 1,281.7 - 10 tent sites - Great walk category, water, toilet, a shelter for cooking and picnic table. Topo50 Grid reference: NZTM2000, E1769629 - N5650103

Note: DOC's Whanganui journey, hut and camp passes can be ordered by phone, fax, email, post or in person from Department of Conservation Visitor and Information centres nationwide. Tongariro Whanganui Conservancy Office - P: 07 384 7106

- Basic campsites - open grassy flats ideal for camping - some pit toilets and stream water:
    - Mangapurua Trig Campsite
    - Johnsons Campsite
    - Bettjeman's Campsite
    - Hellawell's Campsite

**EXTRA INFO**

Before starting Te Araroa either as a through-walker of the whole country or a section walker, please register on Te Araroa website. Please also visit the website or download the app for detailed maps, trail alerts and other relevant information.

This track is part of the Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa track database. Herenga ā Nuku has maps and advice about public access to the outdoors.

We encourage you to continue gaining the skills and knowledge required for a safe trip. The NZ Mountain Safety Council has lots of free resources and information you can use. These can be accessed via www.mountainsafety.org.nz.

We recommend trying these online learning tools:

- Trip Planning
- Tramping/field Skills
- Basic Navigation

- River Safety

Additionally, check out the range of helpful videos available from the NZ Mountain Safety Council YouTube channel.

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# Whanganui River Whakahoro - Pipiriki Kayak Bypass

Last Edited: August 28, 2026 15:20:49 NZST

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**INTRO**

The Whanganui River winds its way from the mountains to the Tasman Sea through countless hills and valleys. Lowland forest surrounds the river in its middle and lower reaches, forming the heart of Whanganui National Park. Although a river journey, the Whanganui is part of New Zealand's "Great Walks" network.

River transport is the only way from Mangapurua Landing to Pipiriki.

The options are to either canoe down the river from Whakahoro to Pipiriki or Whanganui, or walk from Whakahoro to Mangapurua to get picked up there by pre-arranged jet boat and taken to Pipiriki or Whanganui. Discuss with canoe/kayak hire operators. Contact suggestions at the end of this notes section.

- Note: Do not canoe the river when water levels are rising or it's in flood. If you capsize you may not be able to get back in or swim to the river's edge; Vehicles on road, stick to the left and single file if biking on the road.

Recommended that you discuss the details of your journey - launch point, itinerary and exit point - with your chosen kayak/canoe hire operator. They will have valuable advice about where to stay and how far to attempt each day based on your own abilities.

Canoe hire companies are listed at the end of this section. For companies based in Taumarunui and Owhango it is possible to make arrangements for the Whanganui River while passing through these towns. ~~Some operators may allow you to leave a box of food with them to deliver to Mangapurua Landing along with your canoe~~.

Sections of the Whanganui River may be closed to river traffic on specific dates in January. Read the Alerts and Trail Status page on the Te Araroa website or in apps for details.

**DESCRIPTION**

**Whakahora to Mangapurua - 56km**

**Mangapurua to Pipiriki (canoe) - 32km**

**Pipiriki to Whanganui landing (canoe) - 82.5km**

Canoe trips finish near the Whanganui Top 10 Holiday Park at km 1,392.7. Whanganui City Bridge is a further 8 km

**Pipiriki to Whanganui landing bypass (walking) - 68km**

Whanganui City Bridge is a further 8 km

**From Pipiriki to Whanganui city, there are 3 options:**

1. Walk the Whanganui River Road (62 km of tar sealed country road to SH4 then a further 14km to Whanganui; 3-4 days walking *)

2. Bike the Whanganui River Road (62 km of tar sealed country road to SH4 then a further 14km to Whanganui; 1-2 days cycling *)

3. Continue by the river, however you will need to confirm an exit point with your kayak/canoe provider as there are fewer landings on this southern part of the river. (They can also advise you on accommodation options as these may need to be pre-booked).

* Those taking option 1 or 2. From the end of Whanganui River Road turn right to follow SH4 south and enter Upokongaro which is approximately 3 km from the turnoff. The Upokongaro Cycle and Walking Bridge is now open, and all walkers and cyclists should use this route instead of continuing along SH4. Follow the green cycle markings on the left hand side of the road, which will take you left, down and under the SH4 bridge across the Upokongaro Stream to the cycle bridge across the Whanganui river. Older maps may not show these bridges correctly

The route to Whanganui thereafter is off road along the western (true right) bank through Papaiti. It will follow its own trail under the trees and away from the road. There is a designated and marked crossing. Care should be taken crossing, as this is a road frequently used by logging trucks. Upon entering the city boundary, you will soon come across the Top 10 Holiday Park, which is approximately 8km from the city centre. This is the usual landing point for kayak and canoe paddlers

**Whanganui landing to Whanganui City Bridge - 8km**

From the Top 10 Holiday Park continue down the right bank of the river on Somme Parade. The older Te Araroa maps suggested crossing to the left bank on the Dublin Street Bridge, but this is no longer recommended. Continue on Somme Parade to pass the i-SITE, and along Taupo Quay to the intersection with Victoria Avenue and the City Bridge. From this point there is a Countdown supermarket 200m ahead or walk up Victoria Avenue for Pak'n Save and other supermarkets, cafés and fast food.

Te Araroa continues across the City Bridge and the Durie Hill Elevator

Distances between huts/campsites/exit points are as follows (with indicative times, though will vary person-to-person):

- Mangapurua to Tīeke Kāinga - 10.5km, 2 hours
- Tīeke Kāinga to Ngāporo campsite - 12.5km, 2.5 hours
- Ngāporo to Pipiriki - 9km, 1.5 hours
- Pipikiri to Jerusalem - 10.5km, 2 hours
- Jerusalem to Matahiwi Landing - 11km, 2 hours
- Matahiwi Landing to Koriniti Pā - 7km, 1.5 hours
- Koriniti Pā to Pungarehu Marae - 26.5km, 5 hours
- Pungarehu Marae to Upokongaro - 24km, 5 hours
- Upokongaro to Whanganui Top 10 Holiday Park - 3.5km, 45 minutes
- Whanganui Top 10 Holiday Park to City Bridge - 7km, 1.25 hours

**CONDITIONS**

**Potential hazard**

- Don't canoe the river when water levels are rising or it's in flood. If you capsize you may not be able to get back in or swim to the edge of the river; Vehicles on road, stick to the left and single file if biking on the road.
- Vehicles on road or track - stick to the left and single file if biking on roads.
- From Pipiriki it is a narrow winding road with poor visibility. Wear a bright or fluorescent top
- Use your pack cover if it's more visible than your pack
- Tides, waves and rivers - safer at low tide. Be aware of tides if staying on the river all the way to Whanganui
- River crossings - Never cross flooded rivers and don't canoe the river when water levels are rising or it's in flood. If you capsize you may not be able to get back in nor swim to the river's edge.
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Fires only in designated fireplaces.

No dogs allowed

Whanganui River (John Coull Hut) weather - NIWA

NIWA 3-day forecast

**TE AO MĀORI**

Haere mai to the Iwi region of Ātihau Nui Ā Pāpārāngi. The Kaitiaki (guardian) of the Whanganui River. Acknowledging 'Te Awa Tupua' is a legal person and has all the rights, powers, duties, and liabilities of a legal person.

**TRANSPORT**

**Canoe and kayak hire**

- Taumarunui Canoe Hire and Jet Boat Journeys - P: 0800 CANOE4U or P: 027 226 6348 - E: tmncanoehire@gmail.com Free camping on site in Taumarunui, free pickup in town with your groceries for the river. We will help you make all your bookings for the river all the way to Whanganui, and we will give you a thorough safety briefing before you leave Taumarunui with coffee and hot bread. Rest days here are very welcome, along with a walker container with bunks, a hot bush shower, BBQ area (Laundry coming soon). Fridge and food storage are available, and we will bring your food along with your canoes and more barrels to Whakahoro. Splash out, we can store your fridge food.
- Adrift Outdoors - P: 07 892 2751 - E: stewart@adriftnz.co.nz
- Blazing Paddles - P: 0800 BLAZING (0800 252 946), 021 996 954 (Glenn) - E: glenn@blazingpaddles.co.nz
- Canoe Safaris - P: 06 385 9237 - E: info@canoesafaris.co.nz
- Whanganui River Canoes - P: 0800 408 888 - E: info@whanganuirivercanoes.co.nz
- Yeti Tours - P: 0800 322 388 - E: yeti.tours@xtra.co.nz
- Bridge to Nowhere - P: 0800 480 308 - E: info@bridgetonowhere.co.nz (Jetboat transfer also available)
- Ōwhango Adventures - P: 0800 2 CANOE/027 678 6461 - E: info@owhangoadventures.co.nz - W: www.canoewhanganuiriver.com - Free night accommodation at Owhango Adventures Base included with canoe bookings. Canoe hire for Te Araroa Whanganui River Journey is $250 Per Person for bookings of 2 x - 4 x people. $210 Per Person for bookings of 5 x people or more. If you would like to buy extra groceries for your journey we can collect from Taumarunui and store in our industrial chiller and food storage until your arrival for free of charge. We can also store and transport Mountain bikes and Equipment and drop them off for you at the end of your Whanganui River journey free of charge with bookings. Thorough safety briefings included with all relevant equipment and safety gear required. We will meet you at Whakahoro on the morning of your journey departure with all your canoes/barrels and equipment, then meet you at Whanganui Top10 Holiday Park with all your gear and equipment at the end of your journey. Washing Machine available on site. BBQ and varied kitchen facilities available on site. Hot showers and toilets available on site. Free WIFI available on site. If you require assistance with planning your adventure on the Whanganui River please feel free to ask whether you are booked with us or not. Free camping available to all Te Araroa Trail walkers available at our Base in Ōwhango.

For help with transfers, bikes and kayaks from Pipiriki to Whanganui and surrounding areas:

- Whanganui Tours and Mail Run - 4/51 Abbot Street, Gonville, Whanganui 4501 - P: 06 344 4918 or 021 130 4617 - E: whanganui.tours@gmail.com
- Ruapehu Whanganui Trails - Mountains to Sea - P: Ohakune 0800 647 483
- Whanganui River Canoes - P: 0800 40 88 88 or 06 385 4176

Note: Should kayakers wish to continue beyond Pungarehu Marae and can make arrangements with their kayak suppliers, other landings might be:

- A jetty at Upokongaro (that the paddleboat Waimarie uses); it is a little high above the river at low tide though.
- A Top 10 Campsite on the river about 3-4 km from Whanganui town.

**Whanganui**

- InterCity - P: 09 583 5780 - E: info@intercity.co.nz
- Whanganui Airport - Airport Rd, Whanganui - P: 06 348 0536 - Main Airline servicing the city is Air Chathams (www.airchathams.co.nz) which flies to and from Auckland only. If you wish to travel to other NZ cities you will need to fly from Palmerston North
- Whanganui River City Cabs - 12 Hardy St, Whanganui - P: 06 345 3333 or 0800 345 3333
- Spirit of the River Jet - 1018 Para Para Rd, SH 4, RD 3, Upokongaro, Whanganui River - P: 06 342 5572 or 0800 538 8687 freephone or 027 538 8687 - E: info@spiritoftheriver.co.nz
- Tranzit Whanganui - 160 Ridgway Street, Whanganui 4500 - P: 06 345 4433 or 0508 800 800 or P: +64 6 345 7100 - W: www.horizons.govt.nz M: WAG@tranzit.co.nz
- Whanganui Taxis - Cnr Russell and London Sts, Whanganui - P: 06 343 5555 or 0800 343 5555

**ACCOMMODATION**

**Trail Pass**

Whakahoro Campsite - km 1,244.2 - Great Walks - Not included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Mangapapa Campsite - river 10.8 - Great Walks - Not included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Ohauora Campsite - river 25 - Great Walks - Not included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Mosleys Campsite - km 1,254.1 - Included in The Trail Pass

Mangapurua Trig Campsite - km 1,260.7 - Included in The Trail Pass

Johnsons Campsite - km 1,266.7 - Included in The Trail Pass

Bettjeman Campsite - km 1,269.9 - Included in The Trail Pass

Hellawell's Campsite - km 1,274.8 - Included in The Trail Pass (no water supply at Hellawell's)

John Coull Hut - river 34.8 - Great Walks - Not included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Mangawaiiti - river 47.1 - Great Walks - Not included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Mangapurua Campsite - km 1,281.7 - Great Walks - Not included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Tieke Mare - km 1,292 - Great Walks - Not included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

~~Ngaporo Campsite - km 1,304.6 - Great Walks - Not included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required)~~ Temporarily closed

Downes Hut - km 1,352.6 - 20% discount on hut stay with The Trail Pass (Bookings required) No camping.

Downes Hut is on the west (true right) bank of the river and is not accessible from the road walk.

**Amenities Between Mangapurua and Pipiriki including accommodation:**

- Bridge to Nowhere Lodge (catered and self-catering accommodation) - opposite Tieke Kāinga, on Whanganui River - P: 0800 480 308 - E: info@bridgetonowhere.co.nz
- DOC's Tieke Kāinga Hut - Whanganui River (Great Walk hut, needs to be booked through Department of Conservation) - 20 Bunks, Cooking, Heating, Mattresses. Grid reference: Topo50 map sheet BJ32, E1771782, N5643882.
- DOC's Ngāporo campsite - Great walk category - 18 tent sites, water, toilet, a shelter for cooking and picnic table.
- Puraroto Campsite - 5km upstream from Pipiriki - P: 021 144 8098 - E: purarotocampsite@gmail.com - campsites, meals (pre-ordered, see brochure), other activities.
- Whanganui River Adventures (Pipiriki Camping ground and Cabins) and Jetboat/Canoe transfers - 2522 Pipiriki Village, Pipiriki - P: 0800 862743 freephone or 06 385 3246
- Whanganui River Canoes - P: 0800 40 88 88 or 06 385 4176 - www.whanganuirivercanoes.co.nz
- Pipiriki - a public shelter with cold water, picnic and camping areas, toilets and parking
- Whanganui Top 10 Camping Ground - 460 Somme Parade

**Amenities between Pipiriki and the southern end of Whanganui River Road including accommodation**

- Whanganui River Adventures - (Pipiriki Camping ground and Cabins) and Jetboat/Canoe transfers - 2522 Pipiriki Village, Pipiriki - P: 0800 862 743 freephone or 06 3853246
- Jerusalem/Hiruharama Convent / Backpackers - Whanganui River Rd, Jerusalem - P: 06 342 8190 Old Convent, Jerusalem Please contact beforehand by phone, email or post to: Jerusalem R.D.6, Whanganui River Road, Whanganui 4576. Please note there is no camping available near the convent
- Matahiwi Gallery Cafe and Accommodation - Four cabins and designated tent sites. Cooking facility, shower, toilets. EFTPOS available. Seasonal hours – Open from beginning of October to end of April. Contact P: 06 342 8112 or P: 06 342 8116.
- The Flying Fox - eco-friendly cottages, glamping and camping - accessible by road or river. Secure bike storage available. Access from the road is via aerial cableway. From river - look for signs/flags on right bank 500m downstream from Koriniti. Camping $20pp or Cabin $75 for 2 people (double bed) including towels and sheets, plates etc . Bush setting. Hot showers, camp kitchen, shop, free Wi-Fi. Catering by pre-arrangement, booking advised for cottages in summer. We don't take advance bookings from TA walkers as plans can change so much but there is always room on the camp site. Ideal place for a rest day. N.B. camping often may be exchanged for work instead of cash. 3081 Whanganui River Rd, RD6 - P: 06 927 6809 - E: info@theflyingfox.co.nz

- i-SITE can advise on other private accommodation options (pre-booking is advised).

- DOC can advise on the one public campsite.

**Whanganui**

- All services are available in Whanganui. There's a full range of accommodation, including a Top 10 Campsite on the river about 7 km from the town.
- YHA Whanganui - 2 Plymouth Street, Whanganui P: 06 348 2301 E: whanganui@yha.co.nz
- Riverwoods - 234-237 Kaiwhāiki Rd, Whanganui - P; 06 342 5501 or 027 320 6966 - E: info@riverwoods.co.nz - Luxury 3 Bedroom, self-contained villa with breakfast.
- Whanganui River TOP 10 Holiday Park - 460 Somme Parade, Whanganui - P: 06 343 8402 or 0800 272 664 - Backpackers, motel and camping
- Hikurangi Stayplace - 1 Mount View Rd, Whanganui - P: 06 343 3333 or 027 499 2729 - Dorm rooms and private rooms, adjacent to the river/Kōwhai Park and can help collect/store canoes/kayaks for those coming all the way down the river.
- College House BBH - 42b Campbell St, Whanganui - P: 021 852 100 - E: info@42b.co.nz - Dorm rooms and private rooms, kitchen, laundry facilities, free wifi. Also, hire bikes for those who wish to cycle to Turakina.
- Tāmara Riverside Lodge - 24 Somme Parade, Whanganui - P: 06 347 6300 - E: info@tamaralodge.com
- Braemar House Backpackers - offer clean, budget accommodation or more luxury rooms in our B&B - (including a full-sized bath for those who need a muscle soak) Free, unlimited high-speed wi-fi. Contact Calvyn on calvyn.jonkers@gmail.com

**FOOD AND SUPPLY**

**Whanganui**

- New World - 374 Victoria Ave, Whanganui - P: 06 349 0990
- Pak N Save Supermarket - 167 Glasgow St - P: 06 349 1230
- Night and Day - 24 Hours - 446 Victoria Ave
- Countdown - 100 Taupō Quay and 433 Victoria Ave
- Binn In - Whole Sale Foods - 200 Victoria Ave
- Wilsons Hunting and Outdoors – Outdoor shop with food, gear, and repair options. We also accept bounce boxes at no charge and will forward gear on if arranged. Send packages to: 222 Victoria Ave, Whanganui 4500. Please have your name, TA Walker, phone and email, and estimated collection date visible on the box. Contact us at 06-348-7679

**EXTRA INFO**

- i-SITE Visitor Information Centre Whanganui, 31 Taupo Quay, Whanganui - P: 0800 92 64 26 - E: info@visitwhanganui.nz - For local information and a list of suppliers
- For background information on the Whanganui Journey and to use the facilities provided by the Department of Conservation, contact www.doc.govt.nz

Before starting Te Araroa either as a through-walker of the whole country or a section walker, please register on Te Araroa website. Please also visit the website or download the app for detailed maps, trail alerts and other relevant information.

This track is part of the Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa track database. Herenga ā Nuku has maps and advice about public access to the outdoors.

We encourage you to continue gaining the skills and knowledge required for a safe trip. The NZ Mountain Safety Council has lots of free resources and information you can use. These can be accessed via www.mountainsafety.org.nz.

We recommend trying these online learning tools:

- Trip Planning
- Tramping/field Skills
- Basic Navigation
- River Safety

Additionally, check out the range of helpful videos available from the NZ Mountain Safety Council YouTube channel.

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# Whanganui River - via Whanganui River

Last Edited: August 28, 2026 14:19:10 NZST

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**INTRO**

The Whanganui River winds its way from the mountains to the Tasman Sea through countless hills and valleys. Lowland forest surrounds the river in its middle and lower reaches, forming the heart of Whanganui National Park. Although a river journey, the Whanganui is part of New Zealand's "Great Walks" network.

River transport is the only way from Mangapurua Landing to Pipiriki.

The options are to either canoe down the river from Whakahoro to Pipiriki or Whanganui, or walk from Whakahoro to Mangapurua to get picked up there by pre-arranged jet boat and taken to Pipiriki or Whanganui. Discuss with canoe/kayak hire operators. Contact suggestions at the end of this notes section.

- Note: Do not canoe the river when water levels are rising or it's in flood. If you capsize you may not be able to get back in or swim to the river's edge; Vehicles on road, stick to the left and single file if biking on the road.

Recommended that you discuss the details of your journey - launch point, itinerary and exit point - with your chosen kayak/canoe hire operator. They will have valuable advice about where to stay and how far to attempt each day based on your own abilities.

Canoe hire companies are listed at the end of this section. For companies based in Taumarunui and Owhango it is possible to make arrangements for the Whanganui River while passing through these towns. ~~Some operators may allow you to leave a box of food with them to deliver to Mangapurua Landing along with your canoe~~.

Sections of the Whanganui River may be closed to river traffic on specific dates in January. Read the Alerts and Trail Status page on the Te Araroa website or in apps for details.

**DESCRIPTION**

**Mangapurua to Pipiriki (canoe) - 32km**

**Pipiriki to Whanganui landing (canoe) - 82.5km**

Canoe trips finish at the Whanganui Top 10 Holiday Park at km 1,396.7. Whanganui City Bridge is a further 8 km

**Pipiriki to Whanganui landing bypass (walking) - 68km**

Whanganui City Bridge is a further 8 km

**From Pipiriki to Whanganui city, there are 3 options:**

1. Walk the Whanganui River Road (62 km of tar sealed country road to SH4 then a further 14km to Whanganui; 3-4 days walking *)

2. Bike the Whanganui River Road (62 km of tar sealed country road to SH4 then a further 14km to Whanganui; 1-2 days cycling *)

3. Continue by the river, however you will need to confirm an exit point with your kayak/canoe provider as there are fewer landings on this southern part of the river. (They can also advise you on accommodation options as these may need to be pre-booked).

* Those taking option 1 or 2. From the end of Whanganui River Road turn right to follow SH4 south and enter Upokongaro which is approximately 3 km from the turnoff. The Upokongaro Cycle and Walking Bridge is now open, and all walkers and cyclists should use this route instead of continuing along SH4. Follow the green cycle markings on the left hand side of the road, which will take you left, down and under the SH4 bridge across the Upokongaro Stream to the cycle bridge across the Whanganui river. Older maps may not show these bridges correctly

The route to Whanganui thereafter is off road along the western (true right) bank through Papaiti. It will follow its own trail under the trees and away from the road. There is a designated and marked crossing. Care should be taken crossing, as this is a road frequently used by logging trucks. Upon entering the city boundary, you will soon come across the Top 10 Holiday Park, which is approximately 8km from the city centre. This is the usual landing point for kayak and canoe paddlers

**Whanganui landing to Cobham Bridge - 9km**

From the Top 10 Holiday Park continue down the true right bank of the river on Somme Parade. Continue on the shared-use pathway that follows the Whanganui River all the way to Cobham Bridge, where SH3 crosses the Whanganui. Along the way you'll pass the city centre of Whanganui where you'll find a variety of shops, supermarkets, cafés, and accommodation.

When you reach Cobham Bridge, pass underneath the vehicle bridge, and immediately turn right to take the path that leads up to the bridge, which has a pedestrian pathway to get you safely across the river and onto the next section.

Distances between huts/campsites/exit points are as follows (with indicative times, though will vary person-to-person):

- Mangapurua to Tieke Kāinga - 10.5km, 2 hours

- Tīeke Kāinga to Ngāporo campsite - 12.5km, 2.5 hours
- Ngāporo to Pipiriki - 9km, 1.5 hours
- Pipikiri to Jerusalem - 10.5km, 2 hours
- Jerusalem to Matahiwi Landing - 11km, 2 hours (no hut, camping or exit at Matahiwi Landing)
- Matahiwi Landing to Koriniti Pā - 7km, 1.5 hours (no hut, camping or exit at Koriniti Pā)
- Koriniti Pā to Pungarehu Marae - 26.5km, 5 hours (no hut, camping or exit at Pungarehu Marae)
- Pungarehu Marae to Upokongaro - 24km, 5 hours
- Upokongaro to Whanganui Top 10 Holiday Park - 3.5km, 45 minutes
- Whanganui Top 10 Holiday Park to Cobham Bridge (SH3) - 9km, 1.5 hours

## CONDITIONS

### Potential hazard

- Don't canoe the river when water levels are rising or it's in flood. If you capsize you may not be able to get back in or swim to the edge of the river; Vehicles on road, stick to the left and single file if biking on the road.
- Vehicles on road or track - stick to the left and single file if biking on roads.
- From Pipiriki it is a narrow winding road with poor visibility. Wear a bright or fluorescent top
- Use your pack cover if it's more visible than your pack
- Tides, waves and rivers - safer at low tide. Be aware of tides if staying on the river all the way to Whanganui
- River crossings - Never cross flooded rivers and don't canoe the river when water levels are rising or it's in flood. If you capsize you may not be able to get back in nor swim to the river's edge.
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Fires only in designated fireplaces.

No dogs allowed

Whanganui River (John Coull Hut) weather - NIWA

NIWA 3-day forecast

## TE AO MĀORI

Haere mai to the Iwi region of Ātihau Nui Ā Pāpārāngi. The Kaitiaki (guardian) of the Whanganui River. Acknowledging 'Te Awa Tupua' is a legal person and has all the rights, powers, duties, and liabilities of a legal person.

## ACCESS

Northern Start: Mangapurua Landing, Whanganui River
Southern End: City Bridge, Whanganui

## TRANSPORT

### Canoe and kayak hire

- Taumarunui Canoe Hire and Jet Boat Journeys - P: 0800 CANOE4U or P: 027 226 6348 - E: tmncanoehire@gmail.com Free camping on site in Taumarunui, free pickup in town with your groceries for the river. We will help you make all your bookings for the river all the way to Whanganui, and we will give you a thorough safety briefing before you leave Taumarunui with coffee and hot bread. Rest days here are very welcome, along with a walker container with bunks, a hot bush shower, BBQ area (Laundry coming soon). Fridge and food storage are available, and we will bring your food along with your canoes and more barrels to Whakahoro. Splash out, we can store your fridge food.
- Adrift Outdoors - P: 07 892 2751 - E: stewart@adriftnz.co.nz
- Blazing Paddles - P: 0800 BLAZING (0800 252 946), 021 996 954 (Glenn) - E: glenn@blazingpaddles.co.nz
- Canoe Safaris - P: 06 385 9237 - E: info@canoesafaris.co.nz
- Whanganui River Canoes - P: 0800 408 888 - E: info@whanganuirivercanoes.co.nz
- Yeti Tours - P: 0800 322 388 - E: yeti.tours@xtra.co.nz
- Bridge to Nowhere - P: 0800 480 308 - E: info@bridgetonowhere.co.nz (Jetboat transfer also available)
- Ōwhango Adventures - P: 0800 2 CANOE/027 678 6461 - E: info@owhangoadventures.co.nz - W: www.canoewhanganuiriver.com - Free night accommodation at Owhango Adventures Base included with canoe bookings. Canoe hire for Te Araroa Whanganui River Journey is $250 Per Person for bookings of 2 x - 4 x people. $210 Per Person for bookings of 5 x people or more. If you would like to buy extra groceries for your journey we can collect from Taumarunui and store in our industrial chiller and food storage until your arrival for free of charge. We can also store and transport Mountain bikes and Equipment and drop them off for you at the end of your Whanganui River journey free of charge with bookings. Thorough safety briefings included with all relevant equipment and safety gear required. We will meet you at Whakahoro on the morning of your journey departure with all your canoes/barrels and equipment, then meet you at Whanganui Top10 Holiday Park with all your gear and equipment at the end of your journey. Washing Machine available on site. BBQ and varied kitchen facilities available on site. Hot showers and toilets available on site. Free WIFI available on site. If you require assistance with planning your adventure on the Whanganui River please feel free to ask whether you are booked with us or not. Free camping available to all Te Araroa Trail walkers available at our Base in Ōwhango.

For help with transfers, bikes and kayaks from Pipiriki to Whanganui and surrounding areas:

- Whanganui Tours and Mail Run - 4/51 Abbot Street, Gonville, Whanganui 4501 - P: 06 344 4918 or 021 130 4617 - E: whanganui.tours@gmail.com
- Ruapehu Whanganui Trails - Mountains to Sea - P: Ohakune 0800 647 483
- Whanganui River Canoes - P: 0800 40 88 88 or 06 385 4176

Note: Should kayakers wish to continue beyond Pungarehu Marae and can make arrangements with their kayak suppliers, other landings might be:

- A jetty at Upokongaro (that the paddleboat Waimarie uses); it is a little high above the river at low tide though.
- A Top 10 Campsite on the river about 3-4 km from Whanganui town.

### Whanganui

- InterCity - P: 09 583 5780 - E: info@intercity.co.nz. 29 Taupo Quay - outside the Tram Shed and close to i-Site.
- Whanganui Airport - Airport Rd, Whanganui - P: 06 348 0536 - Main Airline servicing the city is Air Chathams (www.airchathams.co.nz) which flies to and from Auckland only. If you wish to travel to other NZ cities you will need to fly from Palmerston North
- Whanganui River City Cabs - 12 Hardy St, Whanganui - P: 06 345 3333 or 0800 345 3333
- Spirit of the River Jet - 1018 Para Para Rd, SH 4, RD 3, Upokongaro, Whanganui River - P: 06 342 5572 or 0800 538 8687 freephone or 027 538 8687 - E: info@spiritoftheriver.co.nz
- Tranzit Whanganui - 160 Ridgway Street, Whanganui 4500 - P: 06 345 4433 or 0508 800 800 or P: +64 6 345 7100 - W: www.horizons.govt.nz M: WAG@tranzit.co.nz
- Whanganui Taxis - Cnr Russell and London Sts, Whanganui - P: 06 343 5555 or 0800 343 5555

## ACCOMMODATION

**Trail Pass**

Whakahoro Campsite - km 1,244.2 - Great Walks - Not included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Mangapapa Campsite - river 10.8 - Great Walks - Not included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Ohauora Campsite - river 25 - Great Walks - Not included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Mosleys Campsite - km 1,254.1 - Included in The Trail Pass

Mangapurua Trig Campsite - km 1,260.7 - Included in The Trail Pass

Johnsons Campsite - km 1,266.7 - Included in The Trail Pass

Bettjeman Campsite - km 1,269.9 - Included in The Trail Pass

Hellawell's Campsite - km 1,274.8 - Included in The Trail Pass (no water supply at Hellawell's)

John Coull Hut - river 34.8 - Great Walks - Not included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Mangawaiiti - river 47.1 - Great Walks - Not included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Mangapurua Campsite - km 1,281.7 - Great Walks - Not included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

Tieke Mare - km 1,292 - Great Walks - Not included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required)

~~Ngaporo Campsite - km 1,304.6 - Great Walks - Not included in The Trail Pass (Bookings required)~~ Temporarily closed

Downes Hut - km 1,352.6 - 20% discount on hut stay with The Trail Pass (Bookings required) No camping.
Downes Hut is on the west (true right) bank of the river and is not accessible from the road walk.

**Amenities Between Mangapurua and Pipiriki including accommodation:**

- Bridge to Nowhere Lodge (catered and self-catering accommodation) - opposite Tīeke Kāinga, on Whanganui River - P: 0800 480 308 - E: info@bridgetonowhere.co.nz
- DOC's Tieke Kāinga Hut - Whanganui River (Great Walk hut, needs to be booked through Department of Conservation) - 20 Bunks, Cooking, Heating, Mattresses. Grid reference: Topo50 map sheet BJ32, E1771782, N5643882.
- DOC's Ngāporo campsite - Great walk category - 18 tent sites, water, toilet, a shelter for cooking and picnic table.
- Puraroto Campsite - 5km upstream from Pipiriki - P: 021 144 8098 - E: pararotocampsite@gmail.com - campsites, meals (pre-ordered, see brochure), other activities.
- Whanganui River Adventures (Pipiriki Camping ground and Cabins) and Jetboat/Canoe transfers - 2522 Pipiriki Village, Pipiriki - P: 0800 862743 freephone or 06 385 3246
- Whanganui River Canoes - P: 0800 40 88 88 or 06 385 4176 - www.whanganuirivercanoes.co.nz
- Pipiriki - a public shelter with cold water, picnic and camping areas, toilets and parking
- Whanganui Top 10 Camping Ground - 460 Somme Parade

**Amenities between Pipiriki and the southern end of Whanganui River Road including accommodation**

- Whanganui River Adventures - (Pipiriki Camping ground and Cabins) and Jetboat/Canoe transfers - 2522 Pipiriki Village, Pipiriki - P: 0800 862 743 freephone or 06 3853246
- Jerusalem/Hiruharama Convent / Backpackers - Whanganui River Rd, Jerusalem - P: 06 342 8190 Old Convent, Jerusalem Please contact beforehand by phone, email or post to: Jerusalem R.D.6, Whanganui River Road, Whanganui 4576. Please note there is no camping available near the convent
- Matahiwi Gallery Cafe and Accommodation - Four cabins and designated tent sites. Cooking facility, shower, toilets. Eftpos available. Seasonal hours – Open from beginning of October to end of April. Contact P: 06 342 8112 or P: 06 342 8116.

- The Flying Fox - Glamping and camping - accessible by road or river. Secure bike storage available. Access from the road is via aerial cableway. From river - look for sign on right bank 500m downstream from Koriniti. Camping $25pp or Cabin $70 for 2 people (double bed) including towels and sheets, plates etc . Bush setting. Hot showers, camp kitchen, shop, free Wi-Fi. Catering by pre-arrangement. All accommodation including campsites must be PRE-BOOKED. Ideal place for a rest day. 3081 Whanganui River Rd, RD6 - P: 06 927 6809 - E: info@theflyingfox.co.nz

- i-SITE can advise on other private accommodation options (pre-booking is advised).

- DOC can advise on the one public campsite.

**Whanganui**

- All services are available in Whanganui. There's a full range of accommodation, including a Top 10 Campsite on the river about 7 km from the town.
- YHA Whanganui - 2 Plymouth Street, Whanganui P: 06 348 2301 E: whanganui@yha.co.nz
- Riverwoods - 234-237 Kaiwhāiki Rd, Whanganui - P; 06 342 5501 or 027 320 6966 - E: info@riverwoods.co.nz - Luxury 3 Bedroom, self-contained villa with breakfast.
- Whanganui River TOP 10 Holiday Park - 460 Somme Parade, Whanganui - P: 06 343 8402 or 0800 272 664 - Backpackers, motel and camping
- Hikurangi Stayplace - 1 Mount View Rd, Whanganui - P: 06 343 3333 or 027 499 2729 - Dorm rooms and private rooms, adjacent to the river/Kōwhai Park and can help collect/store canoes/kayaks for those coming all the way down the river.
- College House BBH - 42b Campbell St, Whanganui - P: 021 852 100 - E: info@42b.co.nz - Dorm rooms and private rooms, kitchen, laundry facilities, free wifi. Also, hire bikes for those who wish to cycle to Turakina.
- Tāmara Riverside Lodge - 24 Somme Parade, Whanganui - P: 06 347 6300 - E: info@tamaralodge.com
- Braemar House Backpackers - offer clean, budget accommodation or more luxury rooms in our B&B - (including a full-sized bath for those who need a muscle soak) Free, unlimited high-speed wi-fi. Contact Calvyn on calvyn.jonkers@gmail.com

**FOOD AND SUPPLY**

**Whanganui**

- New World - 374 Victoria Ave, Whanganui - P: 06 349 0990
- Pak N Save Supermarket - 167 Glasgow St - P: 06 349 1230
- Night and Day - 24 Hours - 446 Victoria Ave
- Woolworths - 100 Taupō Quay, corner of Wilson St
- Woolworths - 433 Victoria Avenue - directly opposite Pak'nSave
- Wilsons Hunting and Outdoors – Outdoor shop with food, gear, and repair options. We also accept bounce boxes at no charge and will forward gear on if arranged. Send packages to: 222 Victoria Ave, Whanganui 4500. Please have your name, TA Walker, phone and email, and estimated collection date visible on the box. Contact us at 06 348 7679
- Whanganui Hunting & Fishing NZ - 64 Carlton Avenue, Whanganui - P: 06 348 0400

**EXTRA INFO**

- i-SITE Visitor Information Centre Whanganui, 31 Taupo Quay, Whanganui - P: 0800 92 64 26 - E: info@visitwhanganui.nz - For local information and a list of suppliers
- For background information on the Whanganui Journey and to use the facilities provided by the Department of Conservation, contact www.doc.govt.nz

Before starting Te Araroa either as a through-walker of the whole country or a section walker, please register on Te Araroa website. Please also visit the website or download the app for detailed maps, trail alerts and other relevant information.

This track is part of the Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa track database. Herenga ā Nuku has maps and advice about public access to the outdoors.

We encourage you to continue gaining the skills and knowledge required for a safe trip. The NZ Mountain Safety Council has lots of free resources and information you can use. You can access them at www.mountainsafety.org.nz.

We recommend trying these online learning tools:

- Trip Planning
- Tramping/field Skills
- Basic Navigation
- River Safety

Additionally, check out the range of helpful videos available from the NZ Mountain Safety Council YouTube channel.

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# Whanganui River Road Bypass

Last Edited: August 28, 2026 14:19:38 NZST

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**INTRO**

This is a walking road shoulder bypass of the Whananui River from Pipiriki to Whanganui City, for those that do not opt for the main route kayaking the Whanganui River.

**DESCRIPTION**

The Whanganui River winds its way from the mountains to the Tasman Sea through countless hills and valleys. Lowland forest surrounds the river in its middle and lower reaches, forming the heart of Whanganui National Park. Although a river journey, the Whanganui is part of New Zealand's "Great Walks" network.

*River transport is the only option from Mangapurua Landing to Pipiriki. You must pre-book this so jet boats can collect you at Mangapurua Landing. Alternatively hire a canoe to travel from Whakahoro to Pipiriki*

**From Pipiriki to Whanganui city - 76km**

- Walk the Whanganui River Road (62 kms of tarsealed country road to SH4 then a further 14km to Whanganui; 3-4 days walking)

Distances between huts/campsites/exit points are as follows (with indicative times, though will vary person-to-person):

- Mangapurua to Tīeke Kāinga - 10.5km, 2hrs
- Tīeke Kāinga to Ngāporo campsite - 12.5km, 2.5hrs
- Ngāporo to Pipiriki - 9km, 1.5hrs
- Pipikiri to Jerusalem - 10.5km, 2hrs
- Jerusalem to Matahiwi Landing - 11km, 2hrs
- Matahiwi Landing to Koriniti Pā - 7km, 1.5hrs
- Koriniti Pā to Pungarehu Marae - 26.5km, 5hrs
- Pungarehu Marae to Upokongaro - 24km, 5hrs
- Upokongaro to Wanganui Top 10 Holiday Park - 3.5km, 45min
- Whanganui Top 10 Holiday Park to City Bridge - 7km, 1.25 hours

**CONDITIONS**

- Vehicles on road, stick to the left and single file if biking on the road.
- Narrow winding road with poor visibility. Wear a bright or fluorescent top
- Use your pack cover if it's more visible than your pack
- Vehicles on road or track - stick to the left & single file if biking on roads.
- River crossings - Never cross flooded rivers.
- Tracks exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Fires only in designated fireplaces

**ACCOMMODATION**

**Trail Pass**

Downes Hut - km 1,352.6 on the river route Included in the Trail Pass (Bookings Required)

Camping not permitted

*The hut is on the west (true right) bank of the river and is not accessible from Whanganui River Road*

**FOOD AND SUPPLY**

- Wilsons Hunting and Outdoors – Outdoor shop with food, gear, and repair options. We also accept bounce boxes at no charge and will forward gear on if arranged. Send packages to: 222 Victoria Ave, Whanganui 4500. Please have your name, TA Walker, phone and email, and estimated collection date visible on the box. Contact us at 06 348 7679

**EXTRA INFO**

Before starting Te Araroa either as a through-walker of the whole country or a section walker, please register on Te Araroa website. Please also visit the website or download the app for detailed maps, trail alerts and other relevant information.

This track is part of the Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa track database. Herenga ā Nuku has maps and advice about public access to the outdoors.

We encourage you to continue gaining the skills and knowledge required for a safe trip. The NZ Mountain Safety Council has lots of free resources and information you can use. These can be accessed via www.mountainsafety.org.nz.

We recommend trying these online learning tools:

- Trip Planning
- Tramping/field Skills
- Basic Navigation
- River Safety

Additionally, check out the range of helpful videos available from the NZ Mountain Safety Council YouTube channel.

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# Whanganui to Bulls

Last Edited: August 25, 2026 15:19:32 NZST

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**INTRO**

This section includes a beach walk, the beautiful new 120m long suspension bridge across the Whangaehu River, and a low-tide crossing of Turakina River.

**DESCRIPTION**

**Whanganui City to Turakina River - 25km**

After crossing Cobham Bridge on SH3, take a right onto Wikitoria Rd at the first roundabout. Follow the footpath for about 1km to the intersection with Landguard Rd where you'll veer right. Landguard is a quiet gravel road with minimal traffic, but does currently have some large construction trucks using it, so stay aware.

Follow Landguard Road for 1.8km to an intersection just before you reach the Whanganui Airport, where you'll see signage for "South Beach" pointing right.

Follow this road for 1.6km to reach the beach. Keep an eye out for signs pointing you towards "South Beach." This area is the material loading and storage area for a large civil project and is changing on a regular basis, but there will always be a marked public access way to the beach.

Once you've made it to the coast, continue south on the beach for 11km to the mouth of the Whangaehu River. The beach is generally pretty easy to walk regardless of the tide, but you will have access to firmer sand with a lower tide. There is one minor stream crossing just after the airport. If you do find yourself in a situation with a unusually high tide, there are a variety of vehicle tracks through the dunes and above the cliffs that can be used. These are not marked, but they are on public conservation land and are visible on most maps.

When you reach the mouth of the Whangaehu River, turn inland to the dunes and look for a post with a large orange triangle to find the start of the track through the Whitiau Scientific Reserve. Follow orange pole markers, winding your way through the dunes and cabbage trees for 2.5km to reach the Whangaehu Bridge, a remarkable 120m suspension bridge built by Te Araroa Trust with donations and opened in September 2026.

Cross the bridge to reach the farm land on the south bank. Follow the markers along the edge of this working farm for 1.5km to reach Whangaehu Beach Rd, a sandy 4WD track that will lead you back to the beach. You'll find a toilet here, installed by Te Araroa Trust in collaboration with the Rakautaua No 9 Trust who owns this land. Please use it.

Continue South along the beach for another 4km to reach the Turakina River.

**Turakina River - Koitiata**

The Turakina River changes regularly, as does the best location for walkers to get across. Given these frequent changes, the crossing is not marked, as the markers can quickly become misleading and/or disappear into the sea. The instructions provided here are valid at the time of writing, but good judgement and careful analysis of the river will be of utmost importance. Take your time to identify a safe crossing. Check the tide and only cross at low tide.

Updated October 2025 -

- An alert has been created to accurately show a good crossing point on the map. Photos are included in the description of the Alert.
- At low tide, this crossing was below knee height with slow water.
- Even in cloudy water, this area was visibly shallower than other parts of the river.
- Crossing at the mouth of the river (where it hits the sea) is also doable as an alternative, but was about a meter deep.

**Santoft Route - 15.5km / 7-8 hours**

Head south along the beach. Look for two orange markers by a stream bed after approximately 13.5km, at km 1,444. There are other tracks entering the forest that do not fit the current Te Araroa route. You will see a fire lookout on top of the dunes in the near distance. If you get to the fire lookout you have gone too far by about 1km, go back, do not enter the bomb range.

Then turn left and follow the blaze markings to the forest road. Follow the forest road which leads southeast for approximately 2.5kms until you come across Raumai Road

**Raumai Road to Bulls - 15.5km**

Walk for approximately 11km on Ruamai Road and 4km on Parewanui Road to Bulls Township.

Fire is serious threat to these forests. For safety reasons camping and fires are not permitted on the beach and through the exotic forest.

**CONDITIONS**

**Potential hazards**

- Vehicles on road or track. Take extreme care on SH3, and heading into Bulls
- Farming operations
- Forestry operations

- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Few water sources
- Fire danger in forests

### TE AO MĀORI

As you leave Whanganui you are entering the Iwi region of Ngāti Apa, the Kaitiaki of this region through to the Rangitikei River.

### ACCESS

Northern Start: City Bridge, Whanganui

Southern End: Junction of High Street (SH1) and SH3, Bulls

### TRANSPORT

#### Bulls

- InterCity - P: 09 583 5780 - E: info@intercity.co.nz
- Fielding Taxis - P: 06 323 7117

### ACCOMMODATION

#### Fordell

- *Headlands*. 12 km from Whanganui just past Fordell. Approximately 18 kms from Whanganui Top 10 camping ground where the river journey ends. The track from Whanganui to the next camp is a long one, walking the road and with a river crossing to time with low tide. Headlands is a great place to catch your breath and break up the journey. We have tent sites and offer bed and breakfast with 3 rooms inside the house listed on booking.com or you can call direct. Annette and Steve Cox P: 027 251 9302  174 Kauangaroa Road, Fordell, Whanganui.

- *Cabin on the Lane*, 29a Harrison Road Fordell.  We offer a quaint cabin which is 500m from Kauangaroa Road and approximately 1km from Fordell village. It offers a comfortable queen bed, bathroom (shower and toilet) and kitchenette with tea, coffee, milk supplied. $100 a night if bookings are made through me. Air BnB link for photos is here
  Camping for larger groups in our paddock can be arranged. Please text me to enquire. Carol 027 656 2290

#### Koitiata Village

- *Koitiata Camp Ground* — End of Te One St, Koitiata — M: 027 662 9040, P: 06 327 3733 — Campsites (powered and unpowered) and coin-operated hot showers — your hosts are Maree and Chaddy.

#### Bulls

- Lancewood Lodge — accommodation available on the trail at 170 High Street, Bulls
- 3br self-contained cottage accommodation, 63 Johnson St (just off High St on the way into Bulls) — Mary and Paul Sharland — P: 06 3221789 — E: paulsharland@xtra.co.nz
- Bridge Motor Lodge and Caravan Park — Also has cabins and self-contained motel units — 2 Bridge St, Bulls — P: 06 322 0894 — E: bullsmotel@infogen.net.nz

#### Bulls Trail Hosts

- *Mayhem Roost* a safe and clean TA only campsite. Located 480m off trail at 48 Brandon Hall Road, Bulls.
  2 small huts, plenty of room for tents, a camp kitchen equipped with the basics, warm shower, swimming pool and power for charging devices.
  If possible knowledge of arrival would be good, but appreciate the limited service along the coast.
  - $20.00pp/night
  - Mike and Jo 027 322 1040

### FOOD AND SUPPLY

#### Bulls

- Rangitikei Junction has a foodcourt, toilets and Four Square minimarket.
- Platts Pharmacy is open 8.30-5.30 weekdays and 9-12 Saturday.
- Evening meals available at the Rangitīkei Tavern.
- Four Square Supermarket - 144 Bridge St - P: 06 322 1236
- The Dairy Bulls - 113 High St, Bulls - P: 06 322 1218

### EXTRA INFO

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