National Park to Whanganui River

(Map 052, 053, 054, 055, 056)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Northern Start</th>
<th>Railway Station, Station Rd, National Park</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southern End</td>
<td>Mangapura Landing, Whanganui River</td>
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<tr>
<td>Distance</td>
<td>89km</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>4 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tramping Standard</td>
<td>Mixed grade</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Route

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

**Fisher Track - 15km / 5-6hr**

Turn right onto Fisher Road. Walk about 30min down Fisher Road until passing the turnoff to the Tupapakurua Falls Track (left side of road and an optional, easy 20min diversion to the Taranaki Lookout).

Continue on Fisher Track westward and largely downhill dropping from 800 to 400 metres. It eventually joins Kurua Rd for 3½km (a metalled road in deer farming country) which runs alongside Tupapakurua Stream for a while until reaching Retaruke Rd.

**Note:** It is a mix of well-formed track, rough tramping track & metalled road

**Kurua Rd to Whakahoro - 37km / 8-9hr**

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

**Entering the Whanganui River at Whakahoro is an option - cheaper than having a kayak/canoe delivered to Mangapura Landing - discuss with canoe/kayak hire operators.**

**Mangapura-Kaiwhakauka Track (from Whakahoro to the Mangapura Landing) - 40km / 20hr**

(i.e. 8 hours from Whakahoro to the Mangapura Trig; 12 hours from the Trig to Mangapura Landing).

A combined walking/cycleway, this track follows former roadlines and makes for easy walking. It leads up the Kaiwhakauka Valley to the Mangapura Trig. There we join the Mangapura Track - which descends through the Mangapura Valley to meet the Whanganui River at the Mangapura 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. 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, Mangapura and Ruatiti/Ohura Roads, keep to the right to drop down into the Mangapura. A side track leads to the Mangapura Trig, 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.
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 roadline the track crosses numerous side streams and the valley progressively closes in (often the track is hewn into almost sheer papa bluffs which are slippery when wet. Care should be taken in negotiating these sections and beware of falling rocks).

**Warning re 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 DOC Whanganui Area Office with any inquiries: Phone: (06) 349 2100

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.

**Note:** Mangapurua Landing is a dead end for walkers.

*River transport is the only option for those travelling south from Mangapurua Landing. You must pre-book this so jetboats can deliver kayaks or canoes to Mangapurua Landing for you.*

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**Other Information**

**Transport to Trailheads**

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

**Access Points:**
- Whakahoro can be reached by road from SH4, turning off at either Owhango 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-Ohura Rd, off SH4, north of Raetihi.

**River Travel**

Should you wish to travel from Whakahoro to Mangapurua Landing by the river, you must pre-book so jetboats can pick you up or deliver kayaks to you. General information - For local information and a list of suppliers, contact - Whanganui i-Site, 31 Taupo Quay, Wanganui - P: +6 349-0508 - 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

**DOC Great Walk Facilities**

Tickets must be purchased before departure via [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz) or DOC offices.

**Accommodation en route**


**DOC's Mangapurua Landing campsite** - 10 tent sites - Great walk category, water, toilet, shelter for cooking & 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 DOC Visitor and Information centres nationwide. - [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz) - Tongariro Whanganui Conservancy Office - P: 07 384 7106

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

Kaitieke monument Accommodation - Options available are - Water, A place to erect a tent plus flushing toilet, shower & washing machine facility$15.00, 2nd Option, Water, Shower, Flushing toilet, washing machine, Hot meal & basic breakfast with option of a bed $30.00, Our phone is 07 8956094 , 42 Upper Retaruke Road, Kaitieke.

**Getting away**

Pre-booked rover 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

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Te Araroa - New Zealand’s Trail: Trail notes for National Park to Whanganui River. Last Updated: 04 January 2020
Accommodation

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

Requirements
- Keep to the track
- Respect private land
- No litter
- No dogs
- No firearms
- Wear hi-viz clothing/pack cover and don't use headphones

Amenities (Start)
- Car park
- Toilets
- Shop - cafe & pub
- Phone
- Accommodation - range of motel, lodge or backpackers.

Amenities (On Route)
- No amenities