



## Tongariro Alpine Crossing

(Map 050)

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Northern Start</b>    | End of Ketetahi Road, Tongariro National Park      |
| <b>Southern End</b>      | Mangatepopo Track Turnoff, Tongariro National Park |
| <b>Distance</b>          | 17.5km   |
| <b>Time</b>              | 6-8hr  |
| <b>Tramping Standard</b> | Tramping track                                     |

### Route

**Potential hazards:** *This is an alpine crossing and weather conditions can turn dangerous very quickly. Always check the weather forecast and take local advice. Always carry extra warm, wind-proof clothing, safety & 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.*

**NO dogs, horses, guns or bikes.**

*The Tongariro Alpine Crossing track passes over varied and spectacular volcanic terrain. A cold mountain spring, lava flows, an active crater, steam vents, emerald-coloured lakes and magnificent views combine to make this challenging, enjoyable and memorable hike.*

*Note: Te Araroa track descriptions work from North to South whereas DOC 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 following these instructions, you will be going against the tide.*

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 Ketetahi Shelter. 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 Ketetahi Shelter.

**Note:** *The Ketetahi Springs are on private land. The Ketetahi Trust, representing the landowners, has given permission for 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 Ketetahi Shelter, 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 (1886 metres), the highest point on the Tongariro Alpine Crossing. From there, you can get views of Mt Tongariro and a side trip can be taken along a poled route leading to its summit (2hr return). You can also smell the sulphur, evidence that Red Crater is still active.

The Tongariro Alpine Crossing track then continues along a poled route down the ridge leading to South Crater. For the fit and enthusiastic, Mt Ngauruhoe can be climbed as a three-hour return side trip from here. A poled route leads off the main track to the base of Ngauruhoe; from there the route follows a rock ridge directly uphill toward the summit. This route is not marked.

From Mangatepopo Saddle between Mount's Ngauruhoe and Tongariro, you can be rewarded, on a clear day, by views of Mt Taranaki to the west. Then it's a steep descent (down the Devil's Staircase) to the head of the Mangatepopo Valley where a short side track leads to Soda Springs. The track then makes its way down the Mangatepopo Valley, at a gentle gradient alongside a stream and around the edges of old lava flows.

For Te Araroa through walkers, the turnoff to the Mangatepopo Track is 200m further on from the Mangatepopo Hut side track.

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

### Other Information

[YHA Ohakune Station Lodge](#), 60 Thames St, Ohakune - P: 06 3858797 E: [ohakune@yha.co.nz](mailto:ohakune@yha.co.nz)

For those taking a modified route, [YHA Ohakune Station Lodge](#) is a 1906 historical villa located in the beautiful alpine town of Ohakune, 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.

### Getting to/from the start

The Whanganui regions 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](mailto:info@intercity.co.nz)

[Naked Bus](#) - P: 0900 62533 (calls cost)

[Magic Bus](#) - P: 09 358 5600 - Destinations include Taupo, Waitomo Caves, National Park, Wellington

[Daily Overlander Rail service](#) - between Auckland and Wellington - Departs Ruapehu St, National Park

### Local transport / Shuttle Services

There are several shuttle companies providing morning pick ups from nearby towns and delivery to the track start, i.e National Park, Ohakune, Turangi and Taupo. They include:

[Tongariro Expeditions](#) - Shuttle service to the Tongariro Crossing - P: 07 377 0435 - E: [info@tongariroexpeditions.com](mailto:info@tongariroexpeditions.com) (to/from Taupo, Turangi, Ketetahi, Whakapapa) - Multiple return times from the Northern end of the track (6 kms from the Holiday Park).

Tongariro Alpine Hot Bus - P: 0508 468 287 - E: [bookings@alpinehotbus.cop.nz](mailto:bookings@alpinehotbus.cop.nz) - W: [www.alpinehotbus.co.nz](http://www.alpinehotbus.co.nz)

[Mountain Shuttle](#) - (door to door shuttle from Turangi, Tokaanu, Whakapapa & Ketetahi) - P: 0800 11 76 86 freephone

[Matai Shuttles Transport](#) - 61 Clyde St, Ohakune - P: 06 385 8724 - E: [mataishuttles@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mataishuttles@xtra.co.nz)

[Mountain Shuttle](#) - (door to door shuttle from Turangi, Tokaanu, Whakapapa & Ketetahi) - P: 0800 11 76 86 freephone

It is recommended to use a shuttle rather than private vehicle as parking is very limited and there can be extensive delays on the road.

### Accommodation en route

**DOC Ketetahi Shelter** - *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.

[DOC Mangatepopo Hut](#) - needs to be booked online or by visiting/phoning any DOC Visitor Centre. 20 Bunks, heating and gas in peak season. Topo50 map sheet BH36, E1824389, N5663908

### Getting from the end

The Whanganui section of Te Araroa ends at the township of Bulls. It is on the main State Highway 1 so is well serviced by long haul buses, as above.

### 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 considered suitable)
- Food and drink
- First Aid Kit
- Suncream, sun hat and sunglasses

### 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.

#### **Winter Tramping:**

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

#### **Flora & Fauna**

*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 Ngauruhoe.*

#### Potential Hazards

- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Weather extremes This is an alpine crossing and weather conditions can turn dangerous very quickly. Always check the weather forecast and take local advice. Always carry warm and wind-proof clothing! Pole route markers may be difficult to see in foggy conditions.
- Stay alert for volcanic activity

#### Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Respect private land
- No dogs
- No horses
- No firearms
- No bikes
- No taking plants

#### Amenities (Start)

- Car park
- Toilets
- Information board

#### Amenities (On Route)

- Toilets Ketetahi Shelter, near Soda Springs and at Mangatepopo Hut.
- Accommodation at DOC's Mangatepopo Hut



## Mangatepopo to National Park

(Map 051, 052)

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Northern Start</b>    | Mangatepopo Track turnoff, Tongariro National Park |
| <b>Southern End</b>      | Railway Station, Station Rd, National Park         |
| <b>Distance</b>          | 30km   |
| <b>Time</b>              | 1-1.5 days   |
| <b>Tramping Standard</b> | Tramping track                                     |

### Route

#### **Mangatepopo Track - 9km / 3-4hr**

200m past the turnoff to the Mangatepopo Hut, turn SW onto the Mangatepopo Track. For the first hour, the track skirts around Pukekaikiore then continues SW across exposed tussock and shrubland. About 20 minutes before reaching the Whakapapa village, the Track joins the lower Taranaki Falls Track. Follow it in an easterly direction until it ends at Ngauruhoe Place (100m below the Whakapapa Visitor Centre), Whakapapa Village.

#### **Whakapapaiti Mangahuia Track - 13.5km / 5-6hr**

*Track traverses forest, wetlands and open tussock lands. Can be boggy in the wet. Track may be rutted.*

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

Initially, the track undulates for a number of easy climbs and descents through groves of kaikawaka and cabbage trees amongst the beech forest.

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

Turn right (NW) onto the Mangahuia Track and head to the Mangahuia campsite (2-3hr). There are a few stream crossings on this track, straight-forward in dry weather but tricky when the streams are up - take care and be prepared to wait for levels to drop.

*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 St. It flows into Station Rd. At the very end is National Park Railway Station.*

### Other Information

#### **General Information**

[DOC](#) - Book DOC huts or purchase camping tickets online - [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz) or at a DOC office

[DOC Whakapapa Visitor Centre](#) - State Highway 48, Whakapapa Village - P: 07 892 3729 - E: [tongarirovc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:tongarirovc@doc.govt.nz)

[Ohakune Visitor Centre Ruapehu i-Site](#) - 54 Clyde Street, Ohakune P: 06 385 8427 - P: [ohakunevc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:ohakunevc@doc.govt.nz) - W: [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

***For those walkers detouring to complete round the mountains or North bound walkers who are bussing and hiking from Whanganui, accommodation is available in Raetihi.***

### Getting there/away

[InterCity](#) - P: 09 583 5780

[Naked Bus](#) - P: 0900 62533 (calls cost)

[Magic Bus](#) - P: 09 358 5600 - destinations include Taupo, Waitomo Caves, National Park, Wellington

[Daily Overlander Rail Service](#) between Auckland and Wellington - Departs Ruapehu St, National Park

### Transport to trailheads

Daily to Tongariro Alpine Crossing & 42 Traverse Mountain

[Howards Lodge BBH](#) - 43 Carroll St - P: 07 892 2827 - E: [info@howardslodge.co.nz](mailto:info@howardslodge.co.nz)

[Plateau Shuttles](#) - 17 Carroll St - P: 0800 861 861 freephone - E: [shuttle@plateaulodge.co.nz](mailto:shuttle@plateaulodge.co.nz)

### Accommodation

[DOC's Mangahuia Campsite](#) - 500m off SH 47. Water, toilets and a shelter. Purchase campsite tickets at a Department of Conservation office prior to 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 8922870 E: [nationalpark@yha.co.nz](mailto:nationalpark@yha.co.nz)

[Howards Lodge BBH](#) - 43 Carroll St, National Park - P: 07 892 2827 - E: [info@howardslodge.co.nz](mailto:info@howardslodge.co.nz)

[Ski Haus](#) - Cnr of carroll and Mackenzie Sts, National Park - P: 07 892 2854 - E: [skihaus@xtra.co.nz](mailto:skihaus@xtra.co.nz)

Backpackers & Tent sites

[Plateau Lodge](#) - 17 Carroll St, National Park Village - P: 0800 861 861 freephone or 07 892 2993 - E: [info@plateaulodge.co.nz](mailto:info@plateaulodge.co.nz)

### Resupply

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

### Other

Accommodation suppliers can also help with Jet Boat bookings for the Wanganui River.

### 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.

### Requirements

- Keep to the track
- No litter
- No dogs
- No horses
- No firearms
- Camp with care
- No fires

### Amenities (Start)

- Car park
- Toilets
- DOC's Mangatepopo Hut is 30min or 1.5km from the Mangatepopo Road carpark, just off the Tongariro Alpine Crossing (Topo50 map sheet BH36, E1824389, N5663908).

### Amenities (On Route)

- Carpark
- Picnic area
- Toilets
- Shop
- Accommodation
- Whakapapa Village is en route



## National Park to Whanganui River

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

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Northern Start</b>    | Railway Station, Station Rd, National Park |
| <b>Southern End</b>      | Mangapurua Landing, Whanganui River        |
| <b>Distance</b>          | 89km                                       |
| <b>Time</b>              | 4 days                                     |
| <b>Tramping Standard</b> | Mixed grade                                |

### 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 Tupapakuraa 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 Tupapakuraa 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 Mangapurua Landing - discuss with canoe/kayak hire operators.**

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

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

A combined walking/cycleway, this track follows former roadlines and makes for easy walking. It leads up the Kaiwhakauka Valley to the Mangapurua Trig. There we join 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. 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/Ohura Roads, keep to the right to drop down into the Mangapurua. A side track leads to the Mangapurua 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.

Beyond the bridge, it's another 40mins 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. You must pre-book this so jetboats can deliver kayaks or canoes to Mangapurua Landing for you.**

### 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 Owango 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](mailto:info@whanganui.govt.nz), 31 Taupo Quay, Wanganui - P: +6 349-0508 - E: [info@whanganui.govt.nz](mailto: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 Mangawaiti campsite - 9.5 kilometres
- Mangawaiti 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 Whakahoro Bunkroom & campsite](#) - 10 bunks - Basic category, mattresses, lighting but no heating or gas. Water, toilet, shelter for cooking & picnic table. Grid reference: Topo50 map sheet BJ32, E1765226, N5655601.

[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

#### 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

[Wades Landing](#) - P: 07 895 4854 - E: [info@wadeslanding.co.nz](mailto:info@wadeslanding.co.nz)

[Taumaranui Canoe Hire and Jet Boat Tours](#) - P: 0800 226 6348 or 07 895 7483  
[Yeti Tours](#) - P: 06 385 8197 or 0800 322 388 - E: [yeti.tours@xtra.co.nz](mailto:yeti.tours@xtra.co.nz)

#### 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



## Whanganui River

(Map 056, 057, 058, 059, 060)

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Northern Start</b>    | Mangapurua Landing, Whanganui River                   |
| <b>Southern End</b>      | Wanganui Motor Boat Club ramp, Anzac Parade, Wanganui |
| <b>Distance</b>          | 119km   |
| <b>Time</b>              | 4-6 days  |
| <b>Tramping Standard</b> | Mixed grade   |

### Route

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

**Potential hazards: Don't canoe the river when water levels are rising or its in flood. If you capsize you may not be able to get back in or swim to the rivers edge; Vehicles on road, stick to the left and single file if biking on the road.**

**No dogs; fires only in designated fireplaces.**

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.

### From Pipiriki to Wanganui city, there are 3 options:

1. Walk the Whanganui River Rd (62 kms of tarsealed country road to SH4 then a further 16km to Wanganui; 3-4 days walking)
2. Bike the Whanganui River Rd (62 kms of tarsealed country road to SH4 then a further 16km to Wanganui; 1-2 days cycling)
3. Continue by 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).

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

- Mangapurua to Tieke Kainga - 10.5km, 2hrs
- Tieke Kainga to Ngaporo campsite - 12.5km, 2.5hrs
- Ngaporo to Pipiriki - 9km, 1.5hrs
- Pipiriki to Jerusalem - 10.5km, 2hrs
- Jerusalem to Matahiwi Landing - 11km, 2hrs
- Matahiwi Landing to Koriniti Pa - 7km, 1.5hrs
- Koriniti Pa to Pungarehu Marae - 26.5km, 5hrs
- Pungarehu Marae to Upokongaro - 24km, 5hrs
- Upokongaro to Wanganui Top 10 Holiday Park - 4.5km, 45min
- Wanganui Top 10 Holiday Park to Wanganui Motor Boat Club slipway (Anzac Parade) - 4km, 45min

*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.*

### Other Information

## General / visitor information

[i-Site Visitor Information Centre Wanganui](#), 101 Guyton St, Wanganui - P: 06 349 0508 - E: [wanganui@i-site.org](mailto:wanganui@i-site.org) - For local information and a list of suppliers

For background information on the Whanganui Journey and to use the facilities provided by DOC, contact [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

## Transport

Canoe and kayak hire:

[Adrift Outdoors](#) - P: 07 8922751 - E: [stewart@adriftnz.co.nz](mailto:stewart@adriftnz.co.nz)

[Blazing Paddles](#) - P: 0800 BLAZING (0800 252946), 021 996954 (Glenn) - E: [glenn@blazingpaddles.co.nz](mailto:glenn@blazingpaddles.co.nz)

[Canoe Safaris](#) - P: 06 3859237 - E: [info@canoesafaris.co.nz](mailto:info@canoesafaris.co.nz)

[Taumarunui Canoe Hire and Jet Boat Journeys](#) - P: 07 8957483 - E: [tmncanoehire@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tmncanoehire@xtra.co.nz)

[Whanganui River Canoes](#) - P: 0800 408888 - E: [info@whanganuirivercanoes.co.nz](mailto:info@whanganuirivercanoes.co.nz)

[Yeti Tours](#) - P: 0800 322388 - E: [yeti.tours@xtra.co.nz](mailto:yeti.tours@xtra.co.nz)

[Bridge to Nowhere](#) - P: 0800 480308 - E: [info@bridgetonowhere.co.nz](mailto:info@bridgetonowhere.co.nz) (Jetboat transfer also available)

[Owhango Adventures](#) - P: 0800 2 CANOE/07 8954854 - E: [info@owhangoadventures.co.nz](mailto:info@owhangoadventures.co.nz) - offers free accommodation (\*conditions apply, minimum of 4pax) on way through Owhango and ability to store gear and deliver to Whakahoro. Dry bags and barrels supplied for river journey.

For help with transfers, bikes & kayaks from Pipiriki to Wanganui and surrounds

[Whanganui Tours](#) - 78A Victoria Ave, Whanganui - P: 06 345 3475 or 027 201 247 - E: [alymuller@msn.com](mailto:alymuller@msn.com)

[Ruapehu Whanganui Trails](#)

[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 kms from Whanganui town.
- In Wanganui itself, there is a landing at the Wanganui Motor Boat Club ramp.

## Amenities Between Mangapurua & Pipiriki including accommodation:

[Bridge to Nowhere Lodge](#) (catered & self-catering accommodation) - opposite Tieke Kainga, on Whanganui River - P: 0800 480 308 - E: [info@bridgetonowhere.co.nz](mailto:info@bridgetonowhere.co.nz)

[DOC's Tieke Kainga Hut](#) - Whanganui River (Great Walk hut, needs to be booked through DOC) - 20 Bunks, Cooking, Heating, Mattresses. Grid reference: Topo50 map sheet BJ32, E1771782, N5643882.

[DOC's Ngaporo campsite](#) - Great walk category - 18 tent sites, water, toilet, shelter for cooking & picnic table.

[Puraroto Campsite](#) - 5km upstream from Pipiriki - P: 021 1448098 - E: [purarotocampsite@gmail.com](mailto:purarotocampsite@gmail.com) - campsites, meals (pre-ordered, see brochure), other activities.

[Whanganui River Adventures](#) (Pipiriki Camping ground & Cabins) & Jetboat/Canoe transfers - 2522 Pipiriki Village, Pipiriki - P: 0800 862743 freephone or 06 3853246

[Whanganui River Canoes](#) - P: 0800 40 88 88 or 06 385 4176 - [www.whanganuirivercanoes.co.nz](http://www.whanganuirivercanoes.co.nz)

[Pipiriki](#) - public shelter with cold water, picnic and camping areas, toilets & parking

## Amenities between Pipiriki & the southern end of Whanganui River Road including accommodation

[Whanganui River Adventures](#) - (Pipiriki Camping ground & Cabins) & Jetboat/Canoe transfers - 2522 Pipiriki Village, Pipiriki - P: 0800 862743 freephone or 06 3853246

[Jerusalem Convent / Backpackers](#) - Whanganui River Rd, Jerusalem - P: 06 342 8190

Ruth Baisley at Jerusalem welcomes campers - 5038 Whanganui River Rd - P: 06 342 8284. \$15pp/night with toilet and a small shop with hot food, drinks and icecream.

Kauika Campsite - Ranana, behind the marae - P: 06 342 8061 (Terry) - Warm showers, kitchen, lau

[Matahiwi Accommodation, Gallery and Cafe](#) - Whanganui River Rd - P: 06 342 8112 - Cabin Accommodation, Coffee, cold drinks and plenty of local knowledge and information. contact Darleen on [darz2me@gmail.com](mailto:darz2me@gmail.com) Facebook page -

[www.facebook.com/Matahiwigallery](http://www.facebook.com/Matahiwigallery) and the website is [matahiwigallery.com/home/](http://matahiwigallery.com/home/)

[The Flying Fox](#) - eco friendly cottages, glamping and camping - accessible by road or river. Secure bike storage available. Access from road is via aerial cableway. From river - look for signs/flags on right bank 500m downstream from Koriniti. Camping from \$10pn.

Bush setting. Hot showers, camp kitchen, shop, free Wi-Fi. Catering by pre-arrangement, booking advised for cottages in summer. 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](mailto:info@theflyingfox.co.nz)

[Te Punga Homestead](#) - 2929 Whanganui River Rd, Whanganui - P: 06 3428239 - E: [info@tepunga.co.nz](mailto:info@tepunga.co.nz) - Self-contained cottage or camping. Located 2km south of Koriniti - food parcels can be arranged in advance

[Rivertime Lodge](#) - self-contained cottage (sleeps 4), plus 3x two-bedroom cabins, fresh water, toilet and shower - 1569 Whanganui River Rd (the farm is marked "Omaka" on the gate) - P: 06 342 5595 - E: [info@rivertimelodge.co.nz](mailto:info@rivertimelodge.co.nz) - located just south of Atene, good river access just past the Tauterata Shingle Bank - food parcels can be arranged in advance and pre-booking is advised.

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

[DOC](#) can advise on the one public campsite.

## Wanganui

### **General Information**

All services are available in Whanganui. There's a full range of accommodation, including a Top 10 Campsite on the river about 3-4 kms from town.

[DOC Visitor Information Centre](#) - 31 Taupo Quay - P: 0800 926 426 or 06 349 0508 - E: [info@whanganui.govt.nz](mailto:info@whanganui.govt.nz) - DOC - P: 06 345 2402 or 06 349 2100

### **Getting there/away**

[InterCity](#) - P: 09 583 5780 - E: [info@intercity.co.nz](mailto:info@intercity.co.nz)

[Naked Bus](#) - P: 0900 62533 (calls cost)

[Wanganui Airport](#) - Airport Rd, Whanganui - P: 06 348 0536

### **Accommodation**

[YHA Whanganui](#) - 2 Plymouth Street, Whanganui P: 06 348 2301 E: [whanganui@yha.co.nz](mailto:whanganui@yha.co.nz)

[Riverwoods](#) - 234-237 Kaiwhaiki Rd, Whanganui - P: 06 342 5501 or 027 320 6966 - E: [info@riverwoods.co.nz](mailto: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, Wanganui - P: 06 3433333 or 027 4992729 - Dorm rooms and private rooms, adjacent to the river/Kowhai Park and can help collect/store canoes/kayaks for those coming all the way down the river.

[College House BBH](#) - 42b Campbell St, Wanganui - P: 021 852100 - E: [info@42b.co.nz](mailto: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.

[Tamara Riverside Lodge](#) - 24 Somme Parade, Wanganui - P: 06 3476300 - E: [info@tamaralodge.com](mailto: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...) contact Calvyn on [calvyn.jonkers@gmail.com](mailto:calvyn.jonkers@gmail.com) or by going to [www.braemarhouse.co.nz](http://www.braemarhouse.co.nz)

### **Local Transport**

[Wanganui River City Cabs](#) - 155 London St, Wanganui - 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](mailto:info@spiritoftheriver.co.nz)

[Tranzit Whanganui](#) - Main Terminal at Maria Place, Wanganui - P: 06 345 4433 or 0508 800 800 - W: [www.horizons.govt.nz](http://www.horizons.govt.nz)

[Wanganui Taxis](#) - Cnr Russell & London Sts, Wanganui - P: 06 343 5555 or 0800 343 5555

### **Poste Restante**

226 Victoria Ave, Whanganui - P: 06 345 0348

### **Resupply**

[New World](#) - 374 Victoria Ave, Whanganui - P: 06 349 0990

[Pak N Save Supermarket](#) - 167 Glasgow St - P: 06 349 1230

[Woolworths @ Gull](#) - 428 Victoria Ave - P: 06 348 7233

### **Potential Hazards**

- Vehicles on road or track - stick to the left & single file if biking on roads.
- Tides, waves & rivers - safer at low tide Be aware of tides if staying on the river all the way to Wanganui
- River crossings - Never cross flooded rivers & 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

### **Requirements**

- Respect private land
- No litter
- No dogs
- No firearms
- Camp with care
- Fires only in designated fireplaces

### **Amenities (Start)**

- Picnic area
- Toilets
- Basic camp site

### **Amenities (On Route)**

- No amenities No resupply
- Basic camp site
- Accommodation



## Wanganui to Bulls

(Map 060, 061, 062, 063, 064)

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Northern Start</b>    | Wanganui Motor Boat Club ramp, Anzac Parade, Wanganui |
| <b>Southern End</b>      | Junction of High St (SH1) and SH3, Bulls              |
| <b>Distance</b>          | 58.5km  |
| <b>Time</b>              | 2-3 days  |
| <b>Tramping Standard</b> | Mixed grade   |

### Route

*From the SH4/SH3 intersection, turn left/southeast and walk 19km along SH3 to the township of Turakina. SH3 is a very busy road so please take extreme care. 400m north of the village of Turakina on SH3, turn right/west into Turakina Beach Rd. Follow it for 8.5km to the small beach settlement of Koitiata.*

### Santoft Route - 18km / 7-8hr

At the playground, turn right/west and follow the track out to the beach, crossing the lagoon via the ford. Head south for 8km, crossing the Koitiata Stream at about the half way point. Just before the Fusilier wreck (marked on topo maps but buried and not visible), turn off the beach at the marker post (NZTM GPS coordinates, approximate only, are 1786000E, 5555000N). Continue through the cutting in the sand dunes and follow the blaze markings to the forest road. Follow the forest road which lead SE for 5km until reaching the junction with Santoft Rd (just south of the small settlement of Santoft).

*Head south on Santoft Rd for approx 4.5km, then turn left/E onto Raumai Rd and follow 8.75km to the end, then turn left/NE into Parewanui Rd and follow it for 5km into the centre of Bulls township (and the junction of SH1 & SH3).*

### Other Information

#### Turakina Village

#### Accommodation

[The Old Coach House](#) - Homestay - 52 SH 3, Turakina - P: 06 327 3972 or 021 780 855

Koitiata Camp Ground - End of Te One St, Koitiata - P: 06 327 3770 - Campsites and coin-operated hot showers

#### Bulls

#### Getting there/away

[InterCity](#) - P: 09 583 5780 - E: [info@intercity.co.nz](mailto:info@intercity.co.nz)

[Naked Bus](#) - P: 0900 62533 (call costs)

#### Local transport

[Fielding Taxis](#) - P: 06 324 0449

#### Accommodation

[Lancewood Lodge](#) - 170 High St, Bulls (on the Trail on outskirts of Bulls) - P: 0274 269994 (Jo) or 022 1996497 (Rhys) - E:

[info@lancewoodlodge.nz](mailto:info@lancewoodlodge.nz) - a number of accommodation options including tenting (\$10 - access only to outside toilet),

bunkroom (\$23pp incl shower/linen/towel/shared lounge) and [private rooms](#) (\$42pp incl shower/linen/towel/shared lounge).

Access to shower and shared lounge (incl tea/coffee/microwave) will cost an additional \$10 for tenters, included for bunk/private rooms. A BBQ is available for all guests to use. Bulls is a 5min walk away.

[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](mailto:paulsharland@xtra.co.nz)

Homestay accommodation, 48 Brandon Hall Rd - P: Jo Gallen 027 3221040 - E: [johancon@xtra.co.nz](mailto:johancon@xtra.co.nz) - \$50/night/couple - includes bed, dinner, shower and washing machine. Tent sites and self-catering also available - please enquire

[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](mailto:bullsmotel@infogen.net.nz)

### Resupply

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 Rangitikei Tavern.

[Four Square Supermarket](#) - 144 Bridge St - P: 06 322 1236

[The Dairy Bulls](#) - 113 High St, Bulls - P: 06 322 1218

### 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

### Requirements

- Respect private land
- Forestry operations - Track may be closed occasionally
- Leave gates as you find them
- No dogs
- No firearms
- No fires in forest
- Wear hi-viz clothing/pack cover and don't use headphones

### Amenities (Start)

- Full range of amenities in Wanganui
- Car park
- Picnic area
- Toilets
- Shop
- Phone
- Accommodation YHA Wanganui

### Amenities (On Route)

- No amenities No resupply en route
- Toilets at Koitiata
- Basic camp site at Koitiata (with coin-operated shower)