



HIGHLIGHTS

Epic views of the surrounding volcanoes to the east including Mount Hauhungatahi – Tongariro National Parks' fourth and oldest volcano and on a clear day Mt Taranaki in the west.

Home to conservational ecological reserve.

Find the historic horse trough on the Okaa saddle – a clue to its former use.

Entry-level backcountry ride.

Glimpse at the luxury Retaruke estate – famous for trophy hunting and chilling.

Thrilling downhill through farmland on an official public road with no cars to be seen (Drop 500m over the 17kms) – ride for the adrenaline or slow down and soak up the views.

Awesome horseshoe monument at Kaitieke.

ROUTE NOTES

- The trail is 37% gravel, 18% single track (grass) and 44% quiet sealed country lane.
- The start point in the Station Café corner by the National Park Village Park and Ride.
- Shuttles from the finish at Kaitieke may be pre-arranged for pick up. (Not recommended to ride the route back via Raurimu on SH4 – 50kms.)

HISTORY & BACKGROUND

Formed in 1896 to allow access to Retaruke and Kaitieke Valleys and later superseded as settlements developed to the North.

The trail was likely used by early European settlers for horse coach traffic coming up from the Whanganui River at Wades Landing. In the early days prior to the railways, meat and wool were brought up through the valleys, and produce was backloaded back down. Once the railways arrived the entire transport network was reversed, and its use as a main transport throughfare was superseded.

In 2002, the local community group from National Park Village worked to re-open sections of the road initially to the Tupapakurua falls and then onwards. Now it is a key link in the northern part of the Mountains to Sea – Ngā Ara Tūhono adventure trail.



Mountains
to Sea
Ngā Ara Tūhono

FISHERS
TRACK
27KM



TRAIL ROUTE

The Pou at the National Park Village Park and Ride indicates the start of your journey. Following the Fishers Track marked signs along Station Road towards the right and then left and over the railway line.

Follow the sign indicating a right turn up Fisher Rd (which becomes Kurua Road). It is straight up a short steady climb on the gravel road.

The first section of the trail takes you through Erua forest. Ecologically and geologically important, it is home to a significant fault line which contributes to the ranges and wetlands. The area is also home to unique and rare orchids, populations of Kiwi and regenerating bush.

At the 3 km point, there is an optional 20-minute walk to the Tupapakuraa falls lookout (or take on the full tramp to the falls allowing 4-5 hours return).

Take time at the top to enjoy the views before blasting 6 kms down the “Public Road” grass single track through the bush encompassing line and rural landscapes. On a clear day, view all the North Island mountains, from Taranaki in the west to Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and Tongariro to the east.

Look out for the old stream fed horse trough carved out of the natural stone along the side of the track. (Around 2km after you head past the “Public Road” sign).

Coming out onto Kaitieke Road right next to the luxury Retaruke Lodge. Take a right turn onto Kaitieke Road and follow the gently descending (but undulating) road until you arrive at the War Memorial and a Horse Sculpture.

(See inset).

- This is the pick-up point for day rider shuttles.
- Heading for Whakahoro you will turn left and head towards Oio Rd (following the orange markers) to Retaruke Domain and onwards to Blue Duck Station.



NOTE:

The western end of the trail can become slippery after heavy rainfall and this area is exposed to snowfall during winter so check the forecast before you depart.

The track passes through sections of farmland, please do not deviate from the designated track. Please do not disturb stock and leave any gates as you find them.



THE STORY OF THE HORSE SCULPTURE

Elaine Wheeler (local farm owner and former councillor), envisioned a unique sculpture to celebrate 100 Years of the Returned Services in 2015. Horses were a vital contribution to the war effort and a fitting tribute to their contribution to humankind in the Kaitieke rural area. Based on a thickset rural horse, the sculpture was crafted from horseshoes sourced from throughout the valley (count them if you can, we haven't got the count verified yet!) The sculpture was designed by a local artist in Ruatiti and arrived via a parade in Waiouru – so a true reflection of the community rural heart of Ruapehu district.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE TRAIL
AND SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE VIA
OUR SHORT SURVEY.



SHARE YOUR PHOTOS & STORIES:
HELP SPREAD THE WORD



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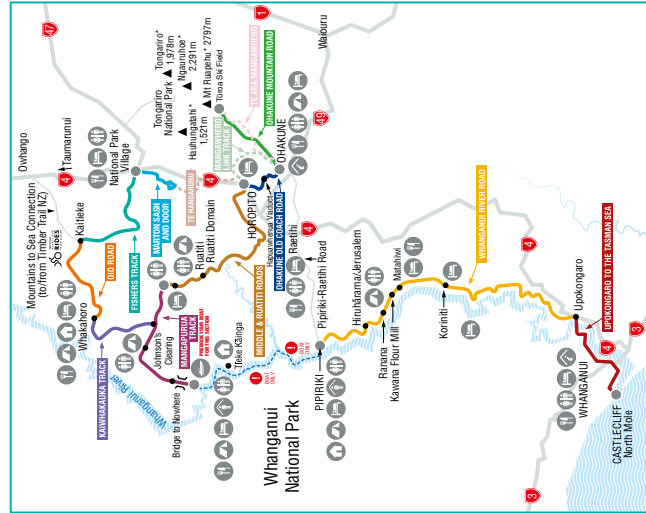
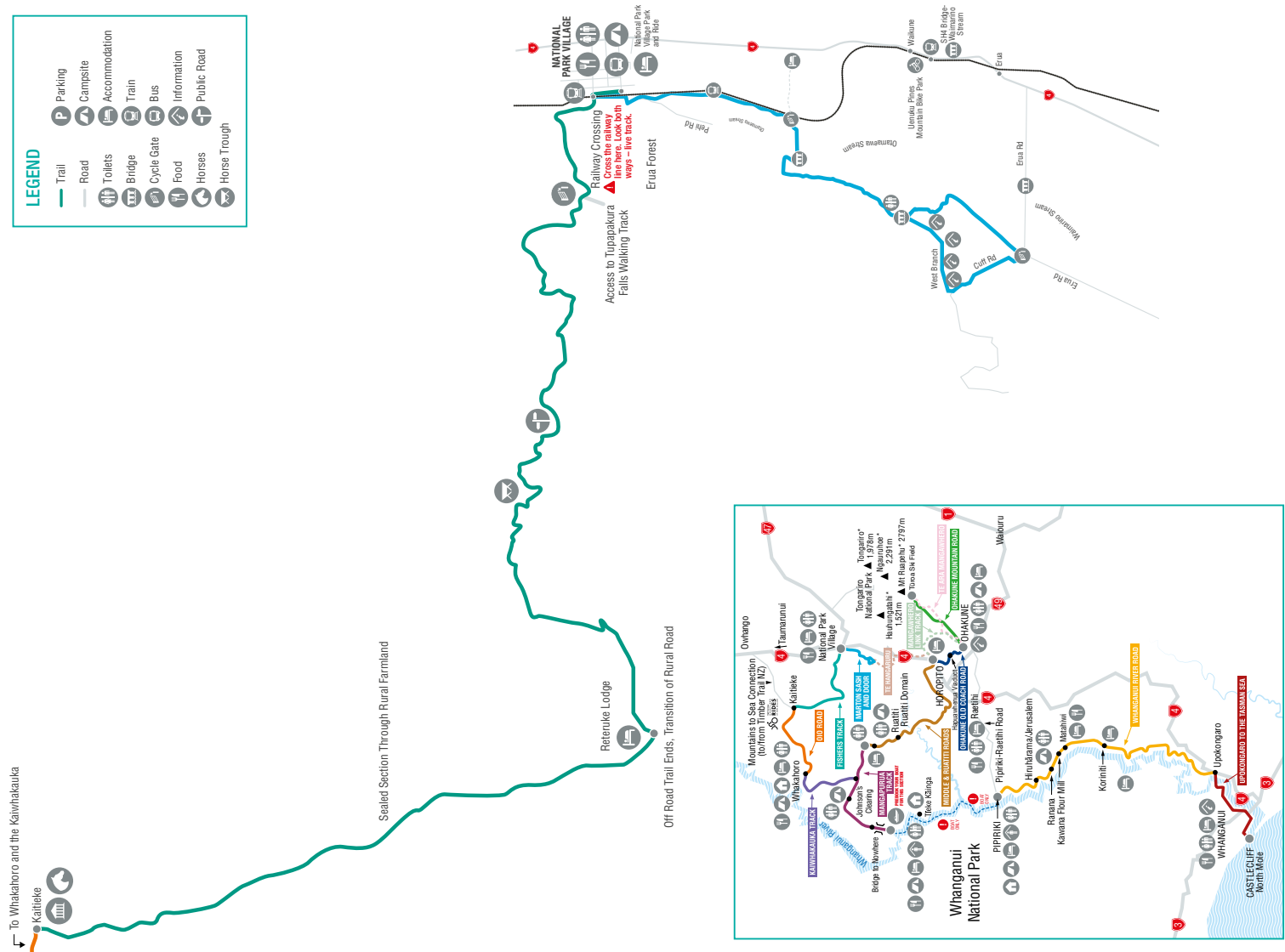
RUAPEHU
OUR GREATER OUTDOORS

FISHERS TRACK

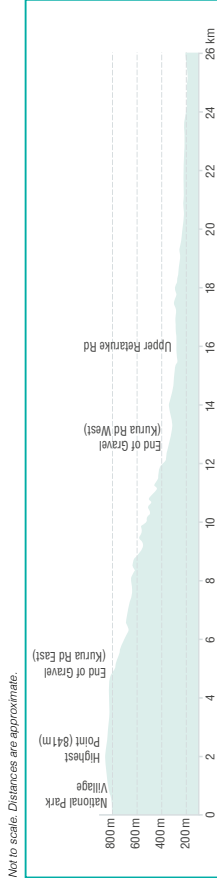


LEGEND

- Trail
- Road
- Public Road
- Parking
- Campsite
- Accommodation
- Toilets
- Bridge
- Cycle Gate
- Food
- Horses
- Horse Trough
- Train
- Bus
- Information



Discover your Mountains to Sea – Ngā Ara Tūhono journey
**Mountain locations are for visual reference only.*



Not to scale. Distances are approximate.

GRADE
2

LENGTH
27 km

TOTAL DESCENT
660m

DURATION
2-3 hrs
(depending on conditions)

LOCATION
National Park Village

RIDE
All year – be prepared for winter conditions.

DIRECTION
Generally ridden from National Park to Kaitieke. Pre-arrange a shuttle pick-up or head West up Oio Rd to Whakahoro, or the return loop (experienced riders via Raurimu).

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