

FREE



GREAT
WALKS

WHANGANUI JOURNEY



Duration: **3 or 5 days**
Distance: **145 km (one way)**



Great Walks season:
1 October 2016 – 30 April 2017

greatwalks.co.nz

Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

WHANGANUI JOURNEY

PADDLE THROUGH a landscape of remote hills and valleys on the magical Whanganui Journey.

Experience the scenic beauty, history and cultural significance of the winding Whanganui River in the south-west of the North Island. Choose a 5-day journey from Taumarunui to Pipiriki (145 km), or a shorter, 3-day journey starting at Whakahoro (87 km), featuring the most scenic stretches of the river.

This guide describes a 5-day trip by canoe or kayak from Taumarunui to Pipiriki for independent, non-guided travellers.



Outside the Great Walks season (May to October) conditions are more hazardous – see the safety information.



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New Zealand Government

PADDLING GUIDE



3–5 hours, 22 km

Access points are at Ngahuinga (Cherry Grove) in Taumarunui or further downstream at Ohinepane (accessed from River Road SH43).

Travelling the upper reaches of the Whanganui River, you'll pass through a mixture of farmland and native bush. You'll be in for some excitement as you shoot down rapids on this section of the river.

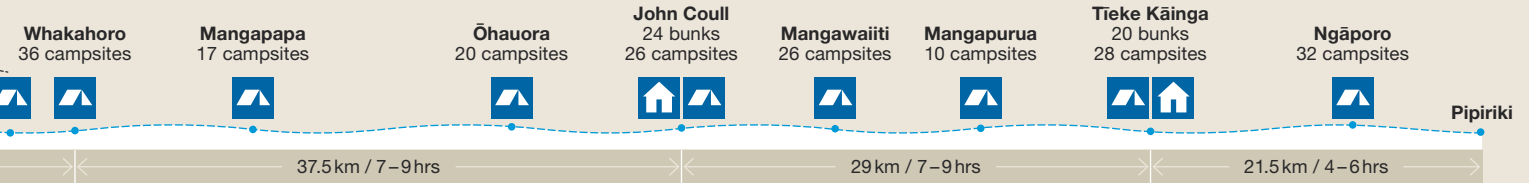
6–8 hours, 35 km

From here, you'll feel as though you are venturing into the heart of a rich and rugged landscape. On the way you will pass Poukaria Campsite (a great spot to stop for lunch) and Maharanui Campsite. Take a short trip up the Ohura River to Ohura Falls.

COVER: Andrew Bain / Alamy Stock Photo

ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT: © Monster Valley; © Monster Valley; Janette Asche; DOC/90 Seconds; © Monster Valley

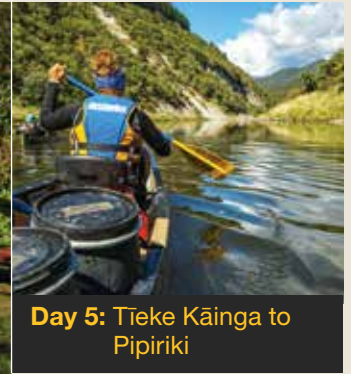
MAIN PHOTO: Whakahoro Campsite, Daniel Deans



Day 3: Whakahoro to John Coull Hut



Day 4: John Coull Hut to Tieke Kāinga



Day 5: Tieke Kāinga to Pipiriki

7–9 hours, 37.5 km

Many begin their river journey here – the scenic middle reaches of the river, featuring numerous waterfalls after heavy rain. Past Mangapapa Campsite, you'll take a long loop around the Kirikiriroa peninsula, pass the Tarepokiore (whirlpool) rapid and then the large overhang known as Tamatea's Cave. Please do not enter the cave as it is wāhi tapu (a sacred place). Otaihanga Reach leads you to your overnight stop at John Coull Hut and Campsite.

7–9 hours, 29 km

On this section, you'll follow the river as it meanders through bush-covered hills, passing the mouths of the Tangarakau and Whangamomona rivers where they join the Whanganui. Perched high above the river, Mangawaiiti is an attractive spot to camp or stop for lunch.

Continue your trip downstream past the Mangapurua Landing, gateway to the Bridge to Nowhere, on your way to Tieke Kāinga. Here you can examine the intricately-carved pou whenua (carved timber pole) and learn about the history of Tieke and the tikanga (protocol) of the marae.

4–6 hours, 21.5 km

You'll pass through the scenic gorge of the Manganui o te Ao River where it enters the Whanganui after its journey from the slopes of Mt Ruapehu. The Ngāporo and Autapu rapids can provide plenty of excitement and perhaps a cool dip on a hot day. You'll pass through more exotic trees and farmland before finally reaching the end of your journey at Pipiriki village.



HIGHLIGHTS

1

Photo: DOC/90 Seconds

Air New Zealand partners with the Department of Conservation to help bring native birds back to the beautiful Great Walks.

AIR NEW ZEALAND 

2



Photo: Shellie Evans (tikitouringnz.blogspot.co.nz)

3



Photo: Canoe Safaris

4



Photo: DOC/90 Seconds

6



Photo: Matt Binns (CC BY 2.0)

5



Photo: Sabine Bernert

- 1 Take a break from the water at Mangapurua Landing and walk to the iconic **Bridge to Nowhere**. Lost deep in the forest, completely isolated from civilisation, this lonely concrete bridge was built for World War I servicemen to reach a now-abandoned settlement.
- 2 Look out for plump **kererū/wood pigeon**, as they plummet from the forest canopy before gaining enough speed to rise again, and noisily crash-land into the foliage in search of more berries.
- 3 Experience the unique landscape of the Whanganui National Park as you **paddle through deep gorges** and past cascading waterfalls.
- 4 Visit **Tieke Kāinga** and learn about the intimate connection that Whanganui iwi have with the awa (river).
- 5 Watch for **pekapeka/long-tailed bats** fluttering overhead at dusk when you reach John Coull Hut on Day 3.

Conservation story

- 6 Watch and listen for the native birdlife of the Whanganui National Park, including kererū, whio/blue duck, tūi and brown kiwi. There has been a noticeable increase in birdsong since **Kia Wharite**, a partnership to protect some of our most precious taonga, began in the Whanganui National Park in 2008. www.kiawharite.govt.nz

GETTING THERE

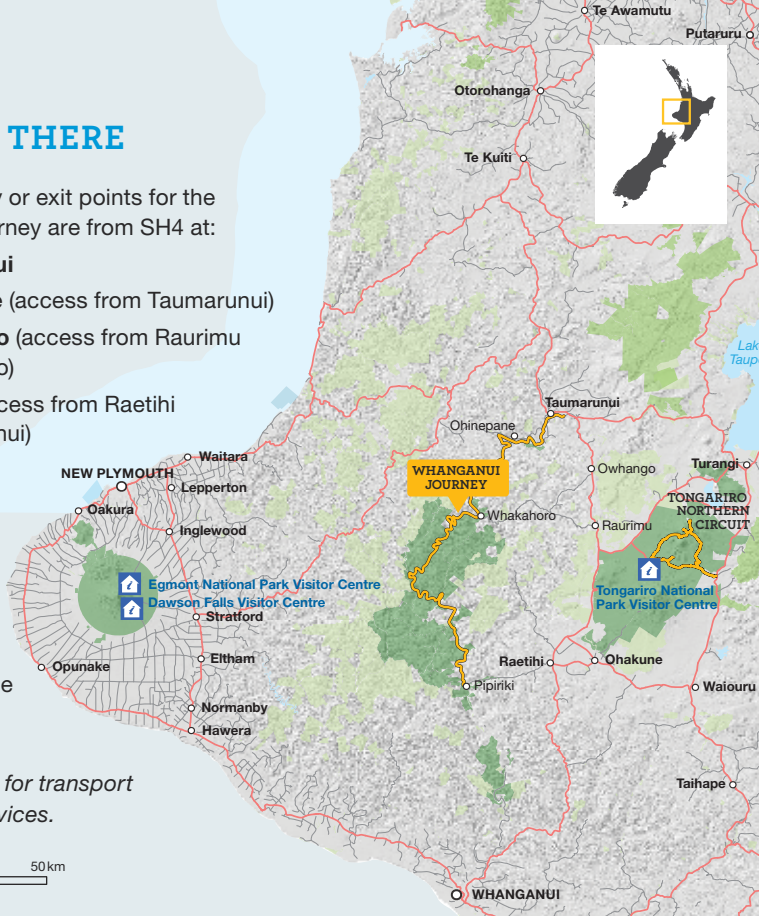
Traditional entry or exit points for the Whanganui Journey are from SH4 at:

- **Taumarunui**
- **Ohinepane** (access from Taumarunui)
- **Whakahoro** (access from Raurimu or Owahango)
- **Pipiriki** (access from Raetihi or Whanganui)

Equipment hire, services, food and transport can be found in Taumarunui, Whanganui, Raetihi, Ohakune and National Park Village.

Refer over page for transport options and services.

0 25 50 km



PLACES TO STAY



DOC operates 2 huts, 11 Great Walks campsites and 1 basic bunkroom along the Whanganui Journey, which **must be booked in advance during the Great Walks season** (1 October 2016 to 30 April 2017).

Outside the Great Walks season facilities are greatly reduced, and there are no volunteer hut rangers. Bookings are not required, huts and campsites are first come, first served and fees are reduced. See www.doc.govt.nz for details.



Great Walks huts

\$32 per adult per night; 17 years and under free (bookings required).

During the Great Walks season the huts have bunks, mattresses, a water supply, toilets, hand-washing facilities and heating with fuel. They may also have a lighting source, basic cooking facilities with fuel, and a volunteer hut ranger may be present.



Great Walks campsites

\$20 per adult per night; 17 years and under free.

The campsites offer basic facilities including toilets, sinks and a water supply. Some also have picnic tables and cooking shelters.

Sign me up! What do I do next?



- 1 Start off at greatwalks.co.nz/whanganui for more information.



- 2 Book your canoes, huts and campsites online or at a DOC Visitor Centre.



- 3 Book your transport to and from the track – operators are listed online and in this brochure.



- 4 Buy your food and **pack your bags** – download the Great Walks packing list and make sure you have everything you need for a 5-day independent unguided trip.



- 5 Read up on **safety** and make sure you're well prepared for your journey and changeable weather at greatwalks.co.nz/whanganui. Make sure you have left your intentions with a trusted contact at adventuresmart.org.nz.



- 6 Check the weather, and make sure you've downloaded and printed your **ticket and official track guide**. You also can get the latest weather updates and river conditions from the Taumarunui or Ohakune i-Sites.



- 7 **All set!** Jump in your vessel and get paddling! Don't forget to share your experience on facebook.com/GreatWalks.

Free Phone 0800 22 66 34

*Experience
the
Thrill*



**Taumarunui
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and Jet Boat Tours**



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The Whanganui River,
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Pre trip accommodation included



*Yeti tours will provide all you need for your
unique historical & cultural journey on the
Whanganui River.*

Yeti Tours has a 35+ year
history of canoe tours on the
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the first to offer clients guided
& freedom hire trips on the this
remarkable waterway.

Our attention to detail & success
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client-focused adventure
has resulted in Yeti Tours
becoming a leading operator
on the Whanganui River. You
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which requires certain safety

standards and protocols to
be in place, which is audited
annually. We also have a Doc
concession to operate guided
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River & can tailor guided
or freedom Hire River trips
to suit individual or school
group's timeframes, ranging
from 1 to 10 days.

www.yetitours.co.nz

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AND RUAPEHU CRATER CLIMB**

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YHA Ohakune and
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Affordable comfortable
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yha.co.nz



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Discover the real New Zealand canoeing the Whanganui River



Join Whanganui River Canoes on your next adventure in the Whanganui National Park.

We offer 1 - 6 day guided and unguided trips on the Whanganui River, tailored to suit your needs, with safety and instruction briefings available in Chinese, Hebrew and German.

Our experienced local guides can share secrets about the rich history of the river and show you some of the unique sights along the way.

Find us at the Raetihi Holiday Park, a fantastic place to stay before or after your trip. We offer comfortable, affordable accommodation, central to Whanganui National Park, Mount Ruapehu, and the Tongariro Crossing.

Ask us about our mountain biking and tramping packages, or let us create your unique adventure.

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Comfortable backpacker accommodation and exclusive private lodges situated on the Whanganui River Canoe Journey and Mountains to Sea Cycle Trail. Blue Duck Station is an outdoor enthusiast's playground.

www.blueduckstation.co.nz

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Canoe Safaris is the most experienced operator on the Whanganui River - running Guided tours and Canoe Hire since 1987. The best food and guides on the river, and accommodation available at our Ohakune base.

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LOTS TO DO... RUAPEHU



visitruapehu.com



"Bridge to Nowhere" Wilderness Lodge and Campground

Uniquely situated on the Whanganui River Canoe Journey & Mountains to Sea Cycle Trail

Bridge to Nowhere Lodge

Comfortable accommodation	Buffet meals	Bookings Essential
Backpacker and fully catered options	Licensed Bar	Free phone
	Hot Showers	0800 480 308
	Fully equipped kitchen	



Bridge to Nowhere Campground (Ramanui)

Upgraded in 2014/15	Cookhouse
New Cabins sleep 6-8	BBQs
Tent sites	Running water
	Hot showers



www.bridgetonowhere.co.nz

BRIDGE TO NOWHERE
 Whanganui River (opp Tieke kainga)



info@bridgetonowhere.co.nz
 0800 480 308

Know before you go

It is **important** to plan your trip thoroughly to ensure you stay safe, and have a great time. Before you go, know the **Outdoor Safety Code** – 5 Simple rules to help you #makeithome.

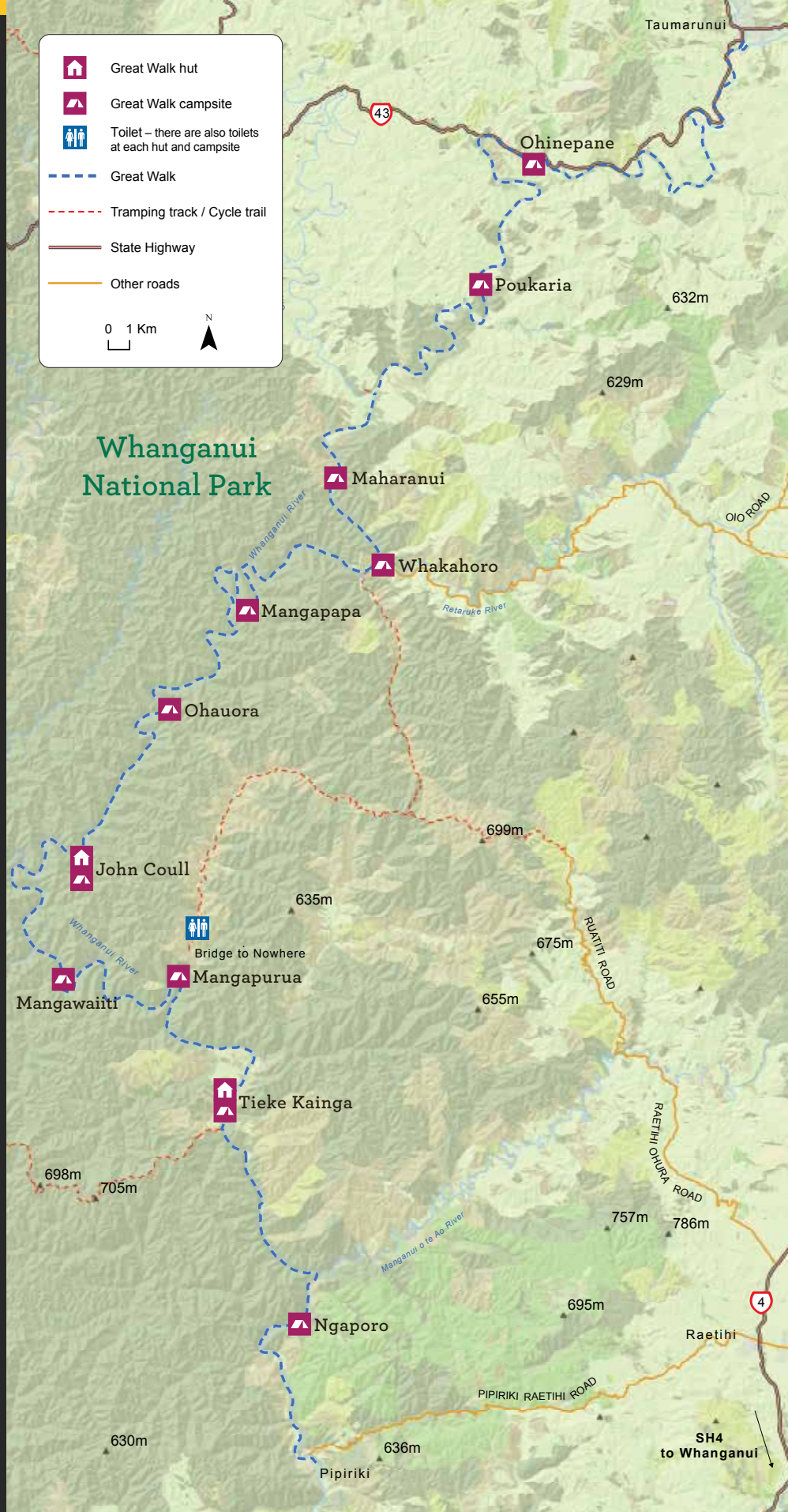
- 1. Plan your trip.** Travel times vary greatly in New Zealand, so carefully planning your route is essential. Seek local information about what to take, and allow enough time for the journey. Book accommodation, transport and transfers to the start/end of track early.
- 2. Tell someone your plans.** Safety is your responsibility. Leave your intentions – including your trip details and emergency contact information – with a trusted contact. It could save your life if things go wrong. Head to adventuresmart.org.nz for more information.
- 3. Be aware of the weather.** New Zealand weather is very changeable. Plan for the worst, expect the best. Check metservice.com for the most up to date info.
- 4. Know your limits.** Always follow the track markers and signposted tracks. Off-track navigation is not recommended for novice walkers in New Zealand. A good level of fitness is required to walk the track. If you get into trouble don't make a bad situation worse. Think **STAR** – Stop / Think / Assess / React.
- 5. Take sufficient supplies.** With NZ's changeable conditions many hikers are frequently caught out by isolated local conditions. Carry – and expect to use – rain jackets all year round. Take an extra day's supply of food and an emergency shelter. Don't rely on cellphone signal alone for communication. Food and drinks are not available to purchase at Great Walks huts or campsites. Plan to be self-sufficient.

Whanganui Journey safety

The information in this brochure relates to the Whanganui Journey in the Great Walks season (1 October 2016 – 30 April 2017).

- Heavy rain and flooding can occur at any time of year on the Whanganui River and the weather can change quickly. You will need to be prepared for rain, cold and windy conditions.
- Don't canoe the river when water levels are predicted to rise or the river is in flood. If you capsize you may not be able to get back in or swim to the river's edge.
- Always pull your canoe up high on the bank and tie it to something secure. It may not be raining on the river, but rain elsewhere in the large catchment area can cause the river to rise several metres overnight.
- Go to greatwalks.co.nz/whanganui 'Know before you go' section for detailed safety information, and 'What to take' section for a comprehensive gear list.

Remember – your safety is your responsibility



CHECK

CLEAN

DRY

PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS

Freshwater pests, including didymo, can be spread by a single drop of water or plant fragment. Protect our waterways – always **CHECK, CLEAN, DRY** any equipment, including footwear, that comes into contact with the water before entering, and when moving between, waterways.

For more information see www.mpi.govt.nz (then search on 'Check Clean Dry').