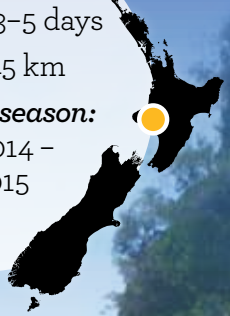


FREE



Whanganui JOURNEY

Duration: 3-5 days
Distance: 145 km
Great Walks season:
1 October 2014 -
30 April 2015



Get out
& WALK
0800 694 732
greatwalks.co.nz

Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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 Pīpīriki (145 km), or a shorter, 3-day journey starting at Whakahoro (87 km), featuring the most scenic stretches of the river.

- Paddle through deep gorges and past cascading waterfalls.
- Take a break from the water and walk to the iconic Bridge to Nowhere, abandoned by a failed settlement of returned World War I servicemen.
- Visit Tīeke Kāinga and learn about the intimate connection that Whanganui iwi have with the awa (river).

Cover image: Photo: Adrift Outdoors Ltd

This page: Paddlers in action.
Photo: DOC/90 Seconds

Quote: rankers.co.nz

“One of the best things I’ve done in New Zealand! Such an adventure.”

Loesje, Belgium



Track guide



There are a number of options for exploring the Whanganui River by canoe or kayak. This guide describes a 5-day trip from Taumarunui to Pīpīriki for independent, non-guided canoeists.

Days 1 and 2: Taumarunui to Whakahoro

57 km

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

Travelling the upper reaches of the Whanganui River, you'll pass through a mixture of farmland and patches of native bush. You'll be in for some excitement as you shoot down rapids on this section of the river. Camp beside the river at Ōhinepane, Poukaria or Maharanui campsites. From here, you get the feeling of venturing into the heart of a rich and rugged landscape.

Day 3: Whakahoro to John Coull Hut

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, 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). Ōtaihanga Reach leads you to your overnight stop at John Coull Hut and Campsite.

► You may see long-tailed bats fluttering overhead at dusk.

Day 4: John Coull Hut to Tīeke Kāinga

29 km

On this section, follow the river as it meanders through bush-covered hills, passing the mouths of the Tāngārākau and Whangamōmona rivers where they join the Whanganui. Perched high above the river, Manga-wai-iti is an attractive spot to camp or stop for lunch.

Continue your trip downstream to Tīeke Kāinga where you can examine the intricately carved pou whenua and learn about the history of Tīeke and the tikanga (protocol) of the marae.

Day 5: Tīeke Kāinga to Pīpīriki

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 Mount Ruapehu. Ngāporo and Autapu rapids can provide plenty of excitement and perhaps a cool dip on a hot day. More exotic trees and farmland indicate you are getting close to Pīpīriki. Pass an eel weir on your left, shoot the Paparoa rapid and you will see the boat ramp below Pīpīriki village up ahead.



Waterfall above Pururoto Caves.
Photo: Canoe Safaris

Side trips

Day 4: Bridge to Nowhere

► At Mangapurua Landing, where the old riverboats used to tie up, hop out of your canoe and take a 40-minute bush walk (one way) to this poignant reminder of the Mangapurua Valley farm settlement, carved out of the bush and then abandoned between the two World Wars. Look out for cyclists—the track is also part of the Mountains to Sea Cycle Trail.



Bridge to Nowhere. Photo: DOC/90 Seconds



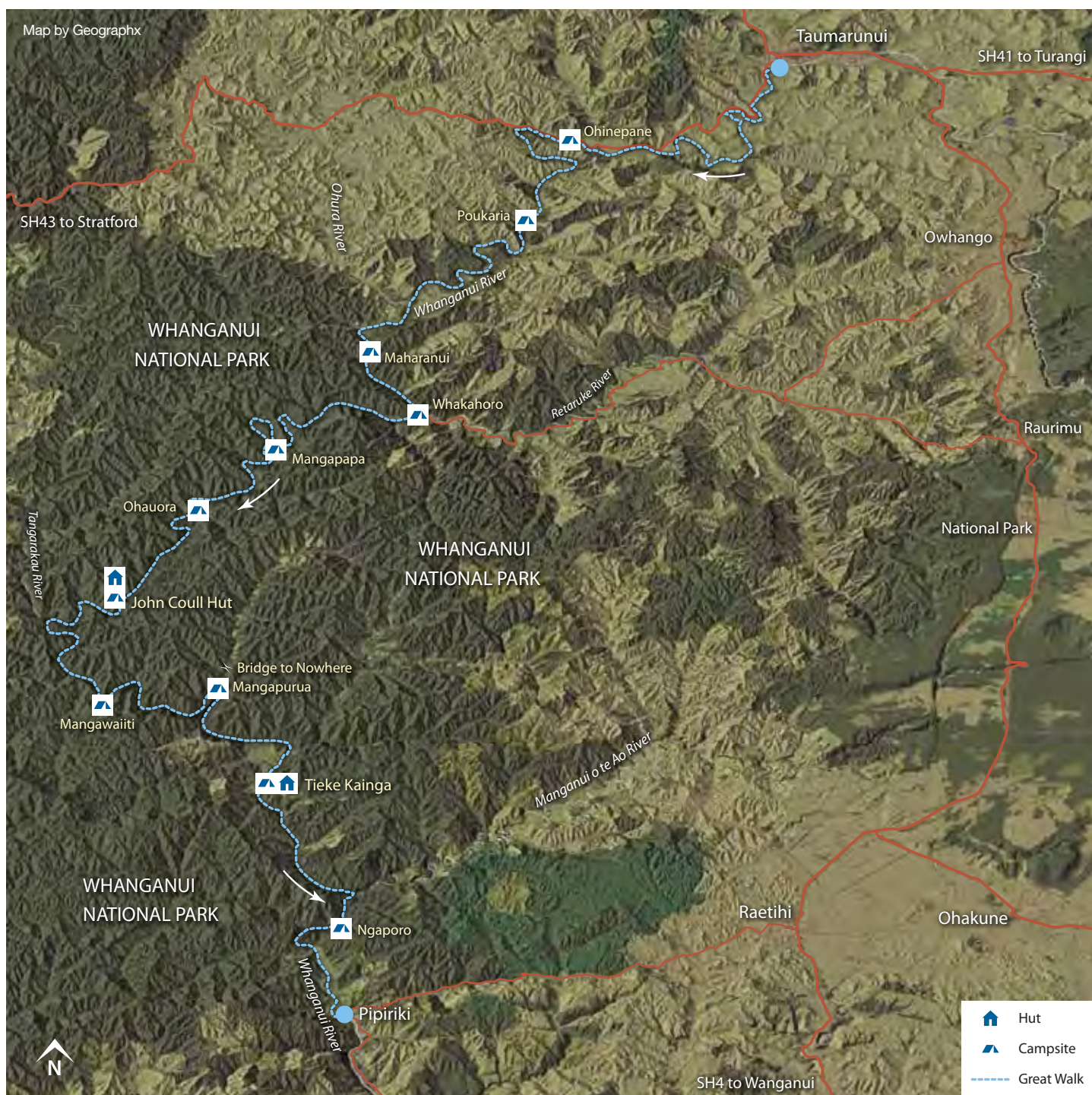
GETTING THERE

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

1. Taumarunui
2. Ōhinepane (access from Taumarunui)
3. Whakahoro (access from Raurimu or Ōwhango)
4. Pīpīriki (access from Raetihi or Whanganui)

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

Refer to the back of the brochure for transport options and services.



Plan and prepare

It is **important** to plan and prepare your trip and be well equipped on a Great Walk.

Before you go, know **The Outdoor Safety Code**—5 simple rules to help you stay safe:

1. Plan your trip
2. Tell someone
3. Be aware of the weather
4. Know your limits
5. Take sufficient supplies



- Book your trip well in advance including your accommodation, transport and transfers to the start/end of the journey.
- Safety is your responsibility—leave your trip details with a trusted contact. See adventuresmart.org.nz.
- Weather and river conditions are changeable, so be prepared and check the forecast before you go. See metservice.com.
- A good level of fitness and the right outdoor clothing, gear and equipment will greatly improve the enjoyment of your trip. Pack all necessary equipment, your own food and drinks (including an extra day's supply) and personal effects.
- Food and drinks are not available for purchase at Great Walks huts and campsites.

Whanganui Journey safety

- 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 it 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 can cause the river to rise several metres overnight.
- For a comprehensive gear list, see **Plan & Prepare** at greatwalks.co.nz or read New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association's 'Guide to the Whanganui River'.

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

AIR NEW ZEALAND 

PLACES TO STAY



The Whanganui Journey 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 DOC ranger may be present. **\$32 per adult per night; 17 years and under stay free.**



Great Walks campsites offer basic facilities including toilets, sinks and a water supply. Some also have picnic tables and cooking shelters. Great Walks campsites can only be accessed on foot and are not accessible by vehicle.

Bookings are **essential** during the Great Walks season (1 October to 30 April). Great Walks huts and campsites **must be booked in advance**. Please note: outside of the Great Walks season, huts on this track are classed as backcountry huts and don't need to be booked. Backcountry hut passes or serviced hut tickets must be used.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS

Visit the Great Walks website or contact your nearest DOC Visitor Centre for further information and bookings.

Phone: 0800 NZ GREATWALKS (0800 694 732)

Email: greatwalks@doc.govt.nz

Web: greatwalks.co.nz

 **Book online greatwalks.co.nz**

Kia Whārite—restoring the balance

A project to restore some of New Zealand's most iconic species in and around Whanganui National Park is the basis of a partnership between DOC, Horizons Regional Council, iwi and private landowners.

Kia Whārite, meaning 'to work in partnership', will target possums and goats, which destroy native bush, and rats and stoats, which prey on birds. An improvement in the health of the vegetation and an increase in the number of bird calls recorded are early signs of success.

The area has one of the most important remaining blue duck/whio populations in New Zealand, and the largest remaining brown kiwi population in the North Island.

www.kiawharite.govt.nz



Blue duck/whio.
Photo: Herb Christophers

Other Great Walks

Lake Waikaremoana

Duration:
3–4 days

Distance:
46 km

Trace the shoreline of beautiful Lake Waikaremoana ‘the sea of rippling waters’ for spiritual and cultural enlightenment. Walk through ancient rainforest, pass giant podocarp trees and admire stunning views from Panekire Bluff.



Huts:
\$32
adult/night

Location: Te Urewera National Park, east North Island
Nearest towns: Rotorua, Napier, Wairoa, Gisborne

Tongariro Northern Circuit

Duration:
3–4 days

Distance:
43 km

Winding its way past Mount Tongariro and Mount Ngauruhoe, this Great Walk lets you explore dramatic volcanic landscapes including craters, glacial valleys, native beech forest, alpine meadows and emerald-coloured lakes in this World Heritage area.



Huts:
\$32
adult/night

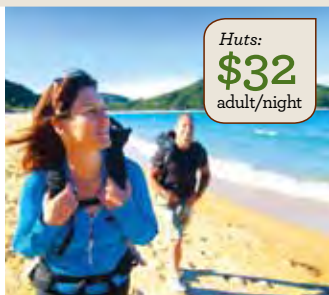
Location: Tongariro National Park, central North Island
Nearest towns: Taupo, Turangi, Ohakune, Waiouru

Abel Tasman Coast Track

Duration:
3–5 days

Distance:
60 km

Blessed with a mild climate, golden beaches and coastal forest, the Abel Tasman Coast Track has it all. Choose to walk the whole track or water taxi or kayak between different locations at any time of the year.



Huts:
\$32
adult/night

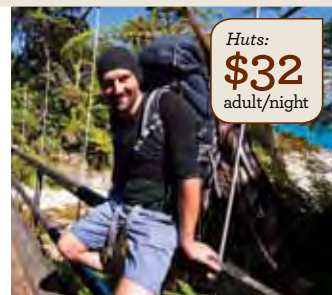
Location: Abel Tasman National Park, north-west South Island
Nearest towns: Nelson, Motueka, Takaka

Heaphy Track

Duration:
4–6 days

Distance:
78.4 km

From forest to coast, the Heaphy Track combines all of New Zealand’s scenic beauty into one Great Walk. Travel through expansive tussock downs, lush forests and nikau palms to the roaring seas of the wild West Coast.



Huts:
\$32
adult/night

Location: Kahurangi National Park, north-west South Island
Nearest towns: Nelson, Westport, Collingwood

Routeburn Track

Duration:
2–4 days

Distance:
32 km

The Routeburn Track traverses the Southern Alps of New Zealand and passes through ice-carved valleys and beech forest. Walk alongside pristine rivers and glistening alpine lakes offering breathtaking views and mountain scenery.



Huts:
\$54
adult/night

Location: Mount Aspiring & Fiordland Nat. Parks, South Island
Nearest towns: Queenstown, Glenorchy, Te Anau and Invercargill

Kepler Track

Duration:
3–4 days

Distance:
60 km

An adventure above the clouds! The Kepler Track takes you from the gentle, beech-forested shores of Lakes Te Anau and Manapouri to the exposed tussock lands and the summit of Mount Luxmore for spectacular alpine views.



Huts:
\$54
adult/night

Location: Fiordland National Park, south-west South Island
Nearest towns: Queenstown, Te Anau and Invercargill

Milford Track

Duration:
4 days

Distance:
53.5 km

Experience the stunning grandeur of the Milford Track including rugged mountain peaks, breathtaking sheer canyons and majestic waterfalls. Walk beside pristine rivers and amongst lush, green rainforest before crossing Mackinnon Pass and reaching spectacular Milford Sound.



Huts:
\$54
adult/night

Location: Fiordland National Park, south-west South Island
Nearest towns: Queenstown, Te Anau and Invercargill

Rakiura Track

Duration:
3 days

Distance:
32 km

Escape on an island adventure and exchange the hustle and bustle of mainland life for the tranquillity of the Rakiura Track. Revel in the peacefulness and idyllic surroundings, with the bush, birds and beach at your side.



Huts:
\$22
adult/night

Location: Stewart Island/Rakiura
Nearest towns: Invercargill (20 min flight) or Bluff (1 hr ferry)



WHANGANUI & TONGARIRO GUIDED ADVENTURES

- ▶ Whanganui River Canoe Tours
- ▶ Tongariro Alpine Crossing Summer & Winter
- ▶ Tongariro Northern Circuit
- ▶ Ruapehu Crater Lake
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www.adventuresmart.org.nz

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www.biosecurity.govt.nz/cleaning

DOC Visitor Centres

Helping you plan your Great Walks experience



Department of Conservation
 Te Papa Atawhai

Find one near you: doc.govt.nz



YETI TOURS




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 Whanganui River, being one of the first to offer clients guided & freedom hire trips on the this remarkable waterway.

Our attention to detail & success in achieving a professional client-focused adventure has resulted in Yeti Tours becoming a leading operator on the Whanganui River. You can be assured you are in safe hands, as we have achieved a 'Qualmark Certification' which requires certain safety standards and protocols to be in place, which is audited annually. We also have a Doc concession to operate guided trips on the Whanganui 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

YETI TOURS 2006 LTD.
 61 Clyde Street, Ohakune
 email: Yeti.tours@xtra.co.nz
 phone: 0800 322388

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GREAT WALKERS DESERVE GREAT HOSTELS

Ideally situated close to the start and finish of the Whanganui Journey these three hostels are ideal to base yourself for pre and post journey prep and relaxation.

YHA National Park - 30 mins from Taumarunui and 1 hr from Pipiriki in the south.

YHA Ohakune - Closer to the southern end of the journey, 45 mins from Pipiriki.

YHA Whanganui - Follow the river path to Whanganui. 1hr 40 mins from Pipiriki.



YHA.co.nz/great-walks or 0800 278 299





CANOE SAFARIS

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.

www.canoesafaris.co.nz

CANOE SAFARIS

6 Tay St, Ohakune

email: info@canoesafaris.co.nz

phone: 0800 272335



Whanganui River Canoes



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

0800 40 88 88

Contact Whanganui River Canoes for your next adventure in the Whanganui National Park.

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Always striving to have the best equipment on the Whanganui River, we regularly update and maintain all of our gear.

Our trips can be tailored to suit your needs, and we offer 1 to 6 day trips on the Whanganui River. Choose to explore at your own pace with our

freedom hire option – or enjoy a fully catered guided trip. Our local guides can tell you about their family history on the Whanganui River as well as show you some of the unique sights on the way.

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Upgraded in 2014

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www.bridgetonowhere.co.nz

BRIDGE TO NOWHERE

Whanganui River (opp Tieke kainga)

info@bridgetonowhere.co.nz

0800 480 308

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CANOE HIRE
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