

## Ohakune

### Walks (less than 3 hours)

See Ohakune map (page 18)

#### 12. Rimu Walk



15 minutes return. This walk begins opposite the Department of Conservation Field Centre at the bottom of Ohakune Mountain Road.

This track loops off the Mangawhero Forest Walk. It meanders gently through an understorey of ground ferns and kāmahi and crisscrosses a quiet mountain stream. It is suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

#### 13. Mangawhero Forest Walk



1 hour, 3 kilometre loop track. This track begins opposite the Department of Conservation Field Centre at the bottom of Ohakune Mountain Road.

After crossing the Mangawhero River the track leads into a forest of kāmahi, broadleaf and five finger, with giant rimu, mataī and kahikatea reaching 30 metres or more above the forest floor. Immediately after passing through a cut log the track crosses a large volcanic crater. At its highest point, the track crosses Ohakune Mountain Road and returns to the Field Centre.

#### 14. Mangawhero Falls Walk



5 to 10 minutes return. Starts from a carpark on Ohakune Mountain Road, 13 kilometres past the Department of Conservation Field Centre.

This short walk provides excellent views of a beautiful waterfall close to the road. Here, not far below bushline, the beech forest is stunted because of the harsh climate. Spectacular icicles form around the falls in winter.

#### 15. Waitonga Falls Walking Track



1 hour 20 minutes, 4 kilometres return via same track. The track begins on Ohakune Mountain Road, 11 kilometres past the Department of Conservation Field Centre.

The park's highest waterfall, Waitonga Falls (39 metres), is reached via a well-formed track through mountain beech and kaikawaka (mountain cedar) forest. The track passes Rotokawa, an alpine bog where on a calm day the reflection of Mt Ruapehu's southern face can be seen in the pools. Past the falls, the track continues as part of the Round the Mountain Track, a four to six day tramp around Mt Ruapehu (see page 25).



Lake Rotokura

#### 16. Lake Rotokura Walking Track



30 minutes return. Signposted off SH 49, 12 kilometres from Ohakune enroute to Waiouru. Drive one kilometre from the turnoff along Karioi Station Road, cross the railway line, continue to Rotokura carpark. See main map (page 20).

Lakes, beech forest and plentiful bird life feature on this short walk in Rotokura Ecological Area. The first lake passed on the track is Dry Lake. Flat, grassed areas above the lake are perfect for family picnics. The track continues past Dry Lake to Lake Rotokura. This lake is surrounded by ancient beech forest and on clear days Mount Ruapehu is reflected in the lake's calm waters. Native birds such as tūī, kākā, bellbird, fantail and North Island robin are commonly seen or heard along the track to the lake. Rotokura is tapu (sacred healing waters) to Ngāti Rangī, the local Māori people or tangata whenua. Please respect this by not eating at or near Rotokura. Fishing is also prohibited.

### National Cycle Trail: Ruapehu-Whanganui Trails Ngā ara Tūhono *From the mountains to the sea*

#### 17. Ohakune Old Coach Road and Historic Viaducts Walk and Cycle Track:



##### Ohakune to Horopito (or reverse)

15 kilometres: Ohakune Railway Station to Horopito  
2 hours 20 min cycle      4 hours 30 min walk

##### Ohakune Railway Station to Marshalls Road carpark

From the station follow the footpath to the Mangawhero River Bridge and cross over onto Old Station Road. Continue about 1.5 kilometres and turn right onto Marshalls Road. Rongokaupo Wetland and picnic area, a community project under development, is situated about 350 metres before Marshalls Road carpark. Total distance, 3 kilometres. The track continues from the car park.

##### Marshalls Road carpark to Hapuawhenua Viaduct

From the car park the track follows the Ohakune Old Coach Road, weaving its way through rolling farmland with views over the spectacular Ohakune Basin. It then heads into native bush toward the Hapuawhenua Viaducts. Cobblestones (setts) are still evident along the track. Explore the Hapuawhenua Tunnel and marvel at the workmanship of yesteryear. The track climbs up to a ridge before dropping into the Hapuawhenua Valley. There are good stands of kahikatea, rimu, mataī and ponga along the way. From this point the two viaducts come into view. Walk the historic Hapuawhenua Viaduct (cyclists dismount on the viaduct) and enjoy both old and new viaducts and native forest surrounds. The limestone cliff that is visible high up on top of Raetihi Hill is a reminder that this area was once under the sea. From here you can return to Ohakune or carry on to Horopito.

##### Hapuawhenua Viaduct to Horopito

From the western end of Hapuawhenua Viaduct access the cycle trail to Horopito. The trail passes through a beautiful section of native bush before coming out on the original Old Coach Road again. This is known as the Skyline section; some kilometres of it can be very muddy and difficult for less experienced riders. On the way to the highest point the trail passes the old quarry which supplied much of the rock for the cobbles as the old dray road was upgraded to a coaching road in 1905.

At the top of the ridge you again pass by some magnificent rimu and rātā trees and there are beautiful views over farmland and hills. Throughout this part of the trail there are old campsites established when the dray road was upgraded. While not much can be seen of them, they are a reminder of the hardships the road workers and their families faced while living in canvas-covered houses in the midst of a cold, wet rainforest.



Cyclists on the historic Hapuawhenua Viaduct

## Ruapehu - Whanaganui Trails

Shortly after crossing the bridge over a beautiful spring-fed stream, there is a grassed picnic area surrounded by rimu and tawa trees. This is an ideal place to stop for a rest before continuing through the forest, down the hill to Taonui Stream and under the new Taonui Rail Bridge. The trail follows the stream down to the historic Taonui Viaduct. From the top of the viaduct you follow part of the old railway alignment through to the present day railway line. The railway line must be crossed at the designated crossing point. Use caution when looking for trains which regularly use the line.

From the railway line the next points of interest are the old viaduct abutments across Haeremaere Stream. From here the trail crosses the stream and follows the Old Coach Road through to Horopito.

Signs at each end of the trail give distances and time estimates for riding and walking. There are also directional signs enroute.

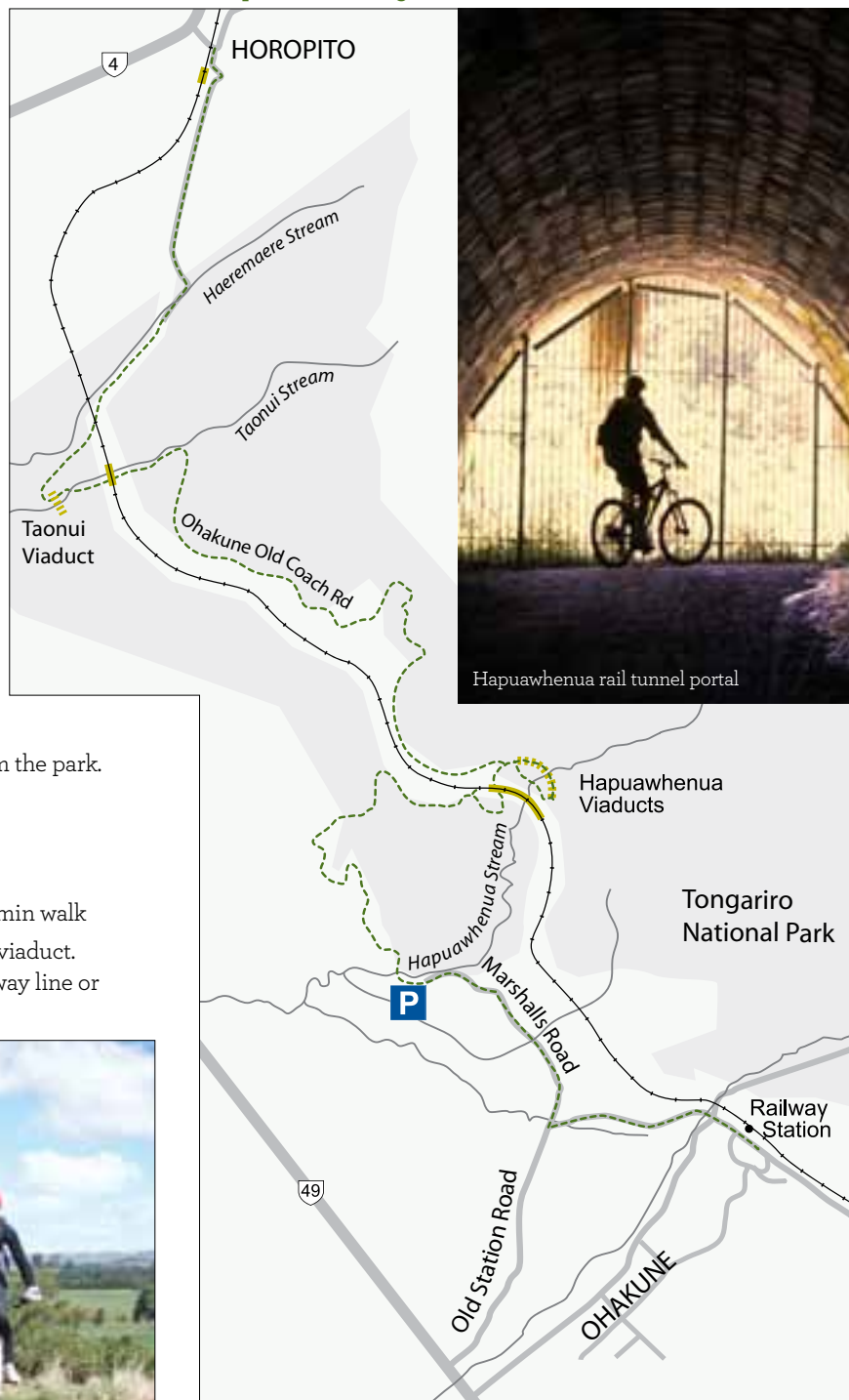
Please respect the environment and ensure all rubbish and human waste is removed from the park.

### **Marshalls Road, Ohakune to Hapuawhenua Viaduct return**

6.8 kilometres return

1 hour 30 min cycle 2 hours 30 min walk

See description on page 15 (top right) to the viaduct. Return via same route. Access along the railway line or rail access road is not permitted.




Hapuawhenua rail tunnel portal

## Day tramps (3-8 hours)

See Ohakune map (page 18)


### 18. **Lake Surprise Tramping Track**

 5 hours, 9 kilometres return. This track is part of the Round the Mountain Track and begins on the Ohakune Mountain Road, 15 kilometres past the Department of Conservation Field Centre.

After sidling around open country from Mountain Road, the track descends into Mangaturuturu Valley beside a beautiful cascade. This section can be very slippery. The creamy coating on the cascade is due to silica and mineral rich water from an alpine spring. Waterfalls and bluffs complement the backdrop of Mount Ruapehu. The Mangaturuturu River is forded shortly after passing Mangaturuturu Hut, (1 hour 30 minutes from the road). Evidence of the 1975 lahar (volcanic mudflow) can be seen here in the scoured treeless river banks. Lake Surprise, a broad, shallow lake set amongst beech forest and tussock, is reached after a steady climb from the river valley.

Return the same way or follow Horopito Track to Horopito (3 hours).

### 19. **Old Blyth Tramping Track**

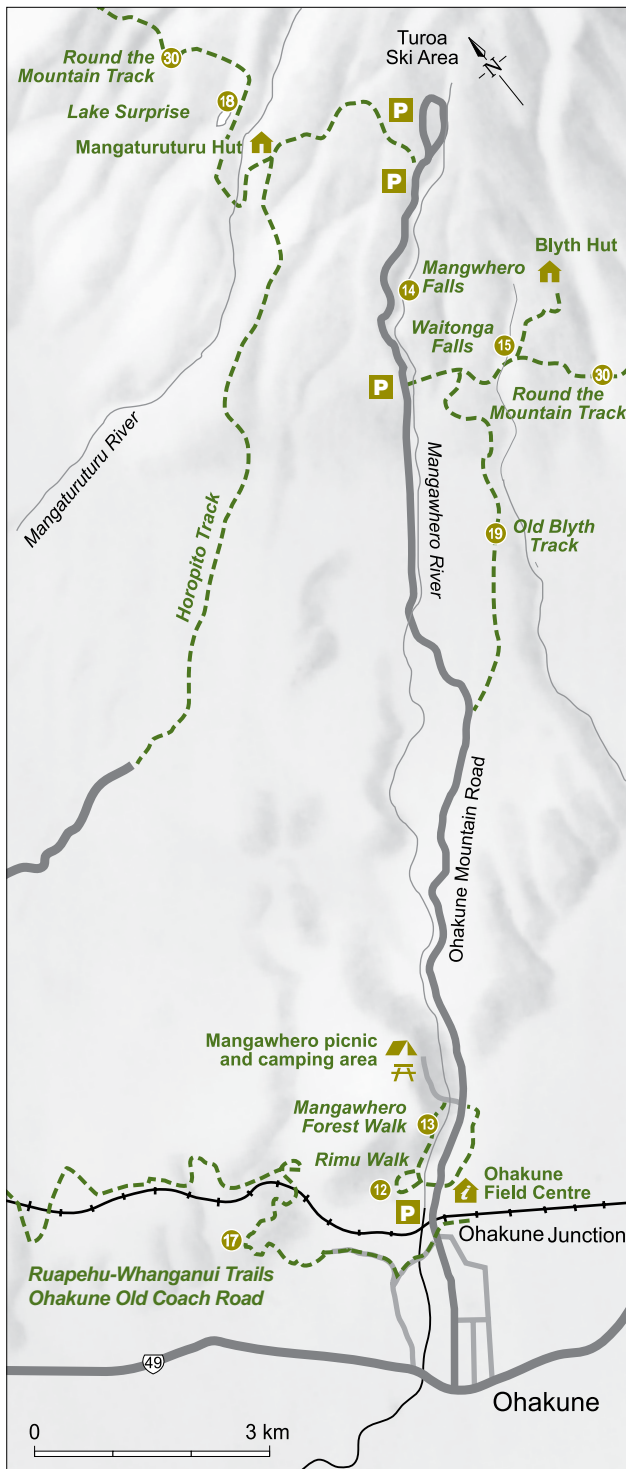
 4 to 5 hours, 11 kilometre round trip. This track begins on the Ohakune Mountain Road, 7 kilometres past the Department of Conservation Field Centre.

Following part of the historic route up Mount Ruapehu, the track climbs gradually through one of the few red beech stands in the park and then passes through kaikawaka and mountain beech until it meets the Waitonga Falls Track. When Blyth Track was constructed in the early 1900s, much of the route was through alpine bog. Logs placed horizontally across the track ('corduroy') helped improve the muddy surface. The remains of this type of track can still be seen. For the return it is necessary to retrace your steps or walk out to the Mountain Road via the Waitonga Falls / Round the Mountain Tramping Track, and then down the road.



Lake Surprise





## On and near Mt Tongariro

### Walks (less than 3 hours)

See map (pages 20-21)

#### 20. Soda Springs Walking Track



2 hours, 6 kilometres return via same track. Begins at the Mangatepopo roadend 13.4 kilometres from Whakapapa Village, 7 kilometres up Mangatepopo Road, off SH 47.

The track to Soda Springs is part of the Tongariro Alpine Crossing Track and follows Mangatepopo Stream. Ngauruhoe's most recent lava flows appear dark in contrast to the older flows which are slowly revegetating. Under the headwall of the Mangatepopo Valley these cold water springs create a small oasis of lush yellow mountain buttercups and white foxgloves in summer.

### Day tramps (3 - 8 hours)

#### 21. Historic Waihohonu Hut



3 hours, 6.3 kilometres return from the Desert Road. 35 kilometres south of Turangi. Part of the Round the Mountain and Tongariro Northern Circuit Tracks.

Built in 1903/04 by the government, this hut used to be a stop-over for stage coaches. The walls are constructed of a double layer of corrugated iron with a layer of pumice sandwiched between for insulation. No longer used for accommodation, the hut is preserved as an historical building and is classified by the Historic Places Trust.

The track meanders through beech forest and open tussock land, crossing the Ohinepango Stream. At the junction where the track branches right to the new Waihohonu and Oturere Huts or left to Rangipo Hut, continue straight ahead towards Whakapapa for about five minutes to the next junction. Turn left to reach the historic Waihohonu Hut. Return the same way.

#### 22. Ketetahi Hut



4-5 hours, 13.4 kilometres return via same track. Signposted off SH 46, 25 minutes drive from Whakapapa Village or Turangi.

High on the slopes of Mt Tongariro, Ketetahi Hut commands a magnificent view of Lake Rotoaira, Mt Pihanga and distant Lake Taupo. The track to the hut is part of the popular Tongariro Alpine Crossing.

From the carpark, the track climbs through podocarp forest. For part of the way it follows a stream naturally polluted by thermal activity and unfit for drinking. The track opens out onto a broad tussock-covered ridge and heads up the slopes past Ketetahi Springs to the hut.

#### Ketetahi Springs

Ketetahi Springs are on private land, please respect this and keep to the track. Walking the Tongariro Alpine Crossing Track does not convey any right of access to the springs.

#### 23. Tongariro Alpine Crossing



6-8 hours, 19.4 kilometres one way. Recommended direction is from Mangatepopo to Ketetahi. This track is part of the Tongariro Northern Circuit and begins at the Mangatepopo roadend, 13.4 kilometres from Whakapapa.

The track winds up the Mangatepopo Valley to the saddle between Tongariro and Ngauruhoe. It climbs to Red Crater (1886 metres), then drops down to the vivid Emerald Lakes. After passing Blue Lake the track sidles around the northern slope of Tongariro, then descends in a zigzag past Ketetahi Hut and down to the roadend.

This is a one-way track, so return transport is required. This is easy to arrange with your accommodation provider, and several local operators provide transport services. Details are available from the Whakapapa Visitor Centre. Check weather and avalanche conditions before you begin the hike. Mountaineering experience and equipment is essential in winter conditions. More detailed information and maps are available at Whakapapa Visitor Centre:

- Tongariro National Park 273/04 map
- NZTopo50 series: BJ34 Raurimu and BH35 Turangi
- Tongariro Alpine Crossing brochure (available online)

[www.tongariro.org.nz/pocketranger](http://www.tongariro.org.nz/pocketranger)

Download the free Pocket Ranger App to have everything you need to know about the Tongariro Alpine Crossing 'at your fingertips'.

