

Riding Safety

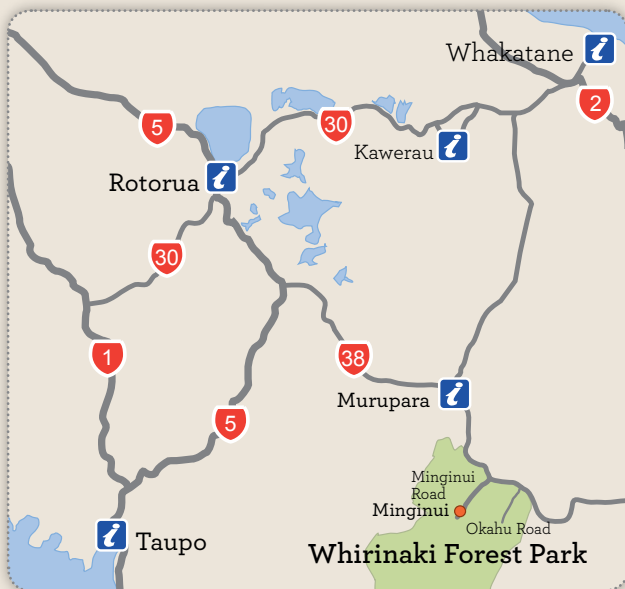
Whilst riding the backcountry ensure you are fully prepared for any eventuality. Check the weather forecast, take sufficient food, water, tools, spare parts, first aid and warm clothes. Always leave a copy of your intentions with someone responsible who can act should you not return within your timeframe.

An intentions form can be found at: www.adventuresmart.org.nz



How to get there

Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park is 90km south east of Rotorua. From Murupara travel south east along Te Whaiti road, once you reach Te Whaiti this road becomes Ruatahuna road, continue to travel along this road for a further 7.5km until you reach a right hand turn to Okahu Valley road. The car park is 9km south on Okahu Valley Road. Alternatively, from Te Whaiti turn left onto Minginui Road and follow the signs to River Road car park.



More information

For more information on Whirinaki Te Pua a Tane Conservation Park www.doc.govt.nz/whirinaki

DOC HOTline
0800 362 468
Report any safety hazards
or conservation emergencies
For Fire and Search and Rescue Call 111

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Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park

Whirinaki is the preserve of the mighty podocarp, ancient trees that once dominated the land and date back to the time of the dinosaurs. These magnificent trees combine with rushing rivers, fantastic ferns and bountiful bird life to create a fabulous forest capable of stimulating and satisfying every sense.

In the early 1980s Whirinaki became the focus of one of New Zealand's most famous conservation battlegrounds as activists fought to save and protect the remnants of this ancient forest from continued de-forestation. Supported by the famous botanist David Bellamy the activists won their battle and Whirinaki was declared a Forest Park in 1984.

Today Whirinaki is an outdoors playground with adventures to be had by all. New riders to the Whirinaki can easily enjoy the Whirinaki Forest Mountain Bike Track. For the passionate mountain biker the Moerangi Mountain Bike Track has earned itself a reputation as a "must do" track, with 35km of challenging single track and 1000m of climbing it is a ride which demands respect but offers rich rewards as what goes up inevitably comes down!



Tangata Whenua

Whirinaki is encompassed within the traditional rohe of Ngati Whare. The forest is considered to be a taonga or sacred treasure, as it has traditionally provided a wealth of benefits including food, shelter and medicine. Ngati Whare and the Department of Conservation work in partnership to ensure the unique nature of the park and its natural resources are preserved for future generations.



Moerangi Mountain Bike Track

Distance: 35 km

Grade: 3



INTERMEDIATE

Fitness: Med/High

The Moerangi Mountain Bike Track is a dual purpose track which attracts both mountain bikers and trampers. The track is an intermediate grade biking track (Grade 3) designed to attract people of all skill levels. The track does have sustained hill sections and therefore requires a medium/high level of fitness. Situated along the track are three huts, Skips, Rogers and Moerangi. All three spots are a great place to have a rest and let others catch up. They also pose the opportunity to turn this demanding ride into an overnight adventure.

Whirinaki Forest Mountain Bike Track

Distance: 16 km

Grade: 2



EASY

Fitness: Low/Med

The Whirinaki Forest Mountain Bike Track is purpose built and weaves through one of the most spectacular and interesting forests in the world, providing the quintessential Whirinaki riding experience. The track is designed for the recreational mountain biker and requires a low/medium fitness and skill level (grade 2). The track is 16 km and shorter sections of the track can also be ridden. It is the perfect introduction to biking in the Whirinaki.



Accommodation, shuttles, bike hire and guiding

Due to the location and nature of the mountain biking in the Whirinaki you may need some logistical support. There are a number of DOC approved operators that can help with accommodation, shuttle, bike hire and guiding services.

For a full list of operators go to: www.doc.govt.nz/whirinaki



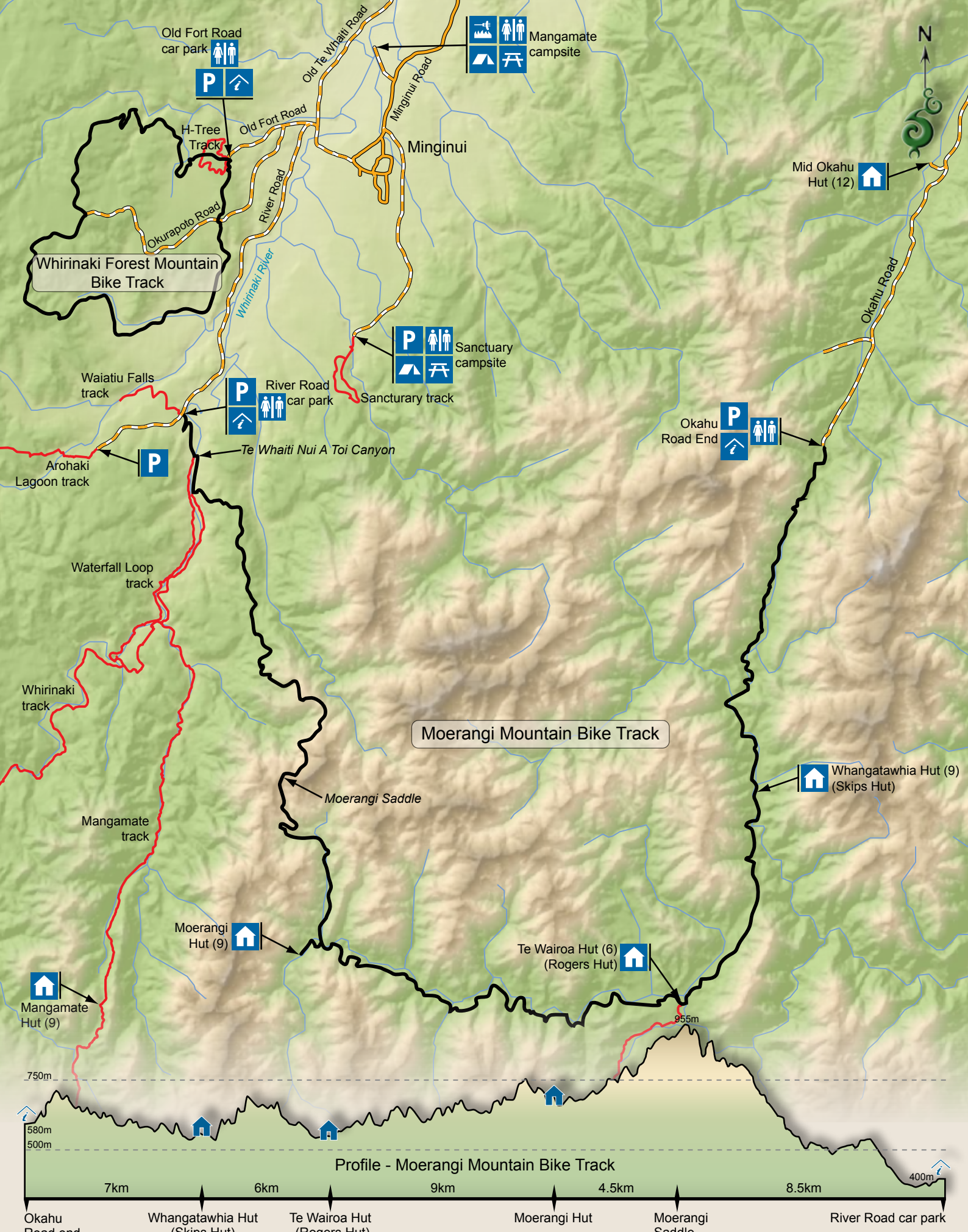
Whirinaki Mountain Bike Guide



Photo: Nick Lambert - ZeroSeven

newzealand.govt.nz

Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Legend

- Metalled Road / Sealed Road
- Mountain Bike / dual use track
- Other Walking/Tramping Tracks

0 5km
Map scale

Okahu Rd to Skips - 7km
 Leaving the car park the trail immediately climbs towards the first saddle gaining 100m in height in just 1km. The rewards are instant. The trail then has an undulating descent following the Whangatawhia Stream for a further 6km. There are numerous bridges to cross before reaching Skips Hut.



Skips to Rogers - 6km
 From Skips Hut the trail continues along the Whangatawhia Stream a short distance before beginning a sustained climb of 150m. Once the saddle is gained after 2km, a fast and flowing 2.5km descent follows. Rogers Hut is the perfect stopping point at the confluence of the Moerangi and Wairoa Streams.

Rogers to Moerangi - 9km
 Leaving Rogers Hut the track heads west (take a right at the junction) up the Moerangi Stream. This section is an undulating climb with some steeper pinches. The right hand side of the track has some exposed sections with large drop offs. Take care. Don't miss the short detour to Moerangi Hut if you are keen on a visit.



Moerangi to River Rd - 13km
 Immediately from the hut the real climbing begins. The trail continues to weave its way up the Moerangi Stream for a short period before departing to ascend to the saddle. The climb is steep and sustained gaining almost 300m to the saddle. Most will find it a challenge. A rest point is available at the saddle and some cell phone reception is possible. From the saddle what follows is a fast and long descent loosely following the ridge line before dropping down to the Whirinaki River. Take care as the sides of the track have large drop offs. This is a stunning section of downhill riding that is sure to please. From Te Whaiti Nui A Toi Canyon it is a short climb to the River Road car park.

Navigation tip
 Keep an eye on the green trails markers that line the side of the Moerangi Track to ensure you stay on track.

The trail has been described in the preferred riding direction from Okahu Road to River Road.