MOUNTAIN BIKE TRACKS

Moerangi Mountain Bike Track
Distance: 35 km
The Moerangi Mountain Bike Track is a dual purpose track for most abilities and fitness levels. It is an intermediate grade biking track purpose-built and weaves through one of the most spectacular forests in the world, providing an easy introduction to biking in the Whirinaki. It is the perfect introduction to biking in the Whirinaki. Of the track can also be ridden. It is the low/medium level of fitness. Respective the rules:

- Respect others
- Stay in control.
- Give way to walkers.
- Signal your approach and pass wide, safe.
- Ride shared-use tracks in small groups.

Respect the track:

- Respect the rules
- Ride only where permitted.
- Obtain permission from private land owners.
- Leave gates as you find them.
- By prepared: take food, water, tools, first Aid and warm clothes.

MOUNTAIN BIKE GRADES

Grade 1: Family
Easy and suitable for all ages.
Grade 2: Beginner
Suitable for fit, experienced and adequately equipped people.
Grade 3: Intermediate
Steep slopes, obstacles and poor traction possible on narrow tracks.

Whirinaki Forest Mountain Bike Track

Lodges, cabins and cottages

ACCOMMODATION, SHUTTLES, BIKE HIRE, HELI-BIKING AND GUIDING

Due to the location and nature of mountain biking in the Whirinaki you may need some logistical support. There are a number of DOC-approved operators who can help – for a full list go to: www.doc.govt.nz/whirinaki.

RIDING SAFETY

While 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 time frame. An intentions form can be found at: www.mountainsafety.org.nz.

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Report any safety hazards or conservation emergencies. For fire and Search and Rescue Call 111.

For more information pick up a copy of the ‘Walks and tracks’ and ‘Huts and campsites’ brochures or go to www.doc.govt.nz/whirinaki

All photos, unless otherwise credited, are thanks to Sven Martin.

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Nau mai, haere mai and welcome to 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 birdlife 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 deforestation. 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 a reputation as a ‘must do’ track. With 35 km of challenging single track and 1,000 m of climbing, it is a ride that demands respect but offers rich rewards with a 7 km flowing downhill finish.

**Whirinaki Forest Mountain Bike Track**

**Distance:** 16 km

**Grade:** 2 & 3

**Fitness:** Low/medium

The Whirinaki Forest Mountain Bike Track is purpose-built and weaves through one of the most spectacular 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. The track is 16 km and shorter sections of the track can also be ridden. The inner loops (marked by yellow and red triangles) are grade 2 and the outside loop (blue triangle) is grade 3. It is the perfect introduction to biking in the Whirinaki.

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**Mountain Bike Grades**

- **Grade 2: Easy**
  - Mostly flat with gentle climbs on smooth track with easily avoidable obstacles such as rocks and potholes.

- **Grade 3: Intermediate**
  - Steep slopes, obstacles and poor traction possible on narrow tracks.

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**Whirlinaki Track Grades**

- **Easy**
  - Mostly flat with gentle climbs on smooth track with easily avoidable obstacles such as rocks and potholes.

- **Intermediate**
  - Steep slopes, obstacles and poor traction possible on narrow tracks.

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**Whirlinaki Track Grades**

- **Easy**
  - Mostly flat with gentle climbs on smooth track with easily avoidable obstacles such as rocks and potholes.

- **Intermediate**
  - Steep slopes, obstacles and poor traction possible on narrow tracks.
Getting there

Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tane Conservation Park is 90 km 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 7.5 km until you reach a right-hand turn to Okahu Valley Road. The car park is 9 km south on Okahu Valley Road. Alternatively, from Te Whaiti turn right onto Minginui Road and follow the signs to River Road car park.
Moerangi Mountain Bike Track

**Distance:** 35 km  
**Grade:** 3  
**Fitness:** Medium/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 provide an adventurous indigenous forest experience. The track does have sustained hill sections and therefore requires a medium/high level of fitness. The average rider can expect the track to take 5–6 hours to complete.

Situated along the track are three huts, Skips, Rogers and Moerangi. All three spots are great places to have a rest and let others catch up. They also pose the opportunity to turn this demanding ride into an overnight adventure.

**NAVIGATION TIP**
Keep an eye out for the green trail markers that line the side of the Moerangi Track.

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

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

3. **Rogers to Moerangi**
   - **Distance:** 9 km
   - 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.

4. **Moerangi to River Road**
   - **Distance:** 15 km
   - 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 300 m to the saddle. Most will find it a challenge. A rest point is available at the saddle and some cellphone 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.

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