With 35 km of challenging single track and 1,000 m of elevation gain, Whirinaki was declared a Forest Park in 1984. The famous botanist David Bellamy, the activists won their battle and Whirinaki was declared a Forest Park in 1984.

The forest is the preserve of the mighty podocarp, a fabulous forest capable of stimulating and satisfying every sense. Tall trees, rushing rivers, fantastic ferns and bountiful birdlife create a fabulous forest capable of stimulating and satisfying every sense.

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.

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.

MOUNTAIN BIKE GRADES

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

Grade 2: Intermediate
Sweeping single and double probable obstacles possibly with root sections. There may be exposure at the track’s outside edge.

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.

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 73 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.
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 grade biking track (grade 3) into an overnight adventure.

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

The Moerangi Mountain Bike Track

Distance: 35 km  Grade: 3  Fitness: Medium/high

Getting there

Whirinaki Te Puia-o-Tāne 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 Ruatāhuna 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.

Dual use: shared use tracks for both walkers and mountain bikers. People heading uphill should give way to those heading down.

Moerangi Mountain Bike Track

Distance: 7 km  Grade: Medium/high  Fitness: Medium/high

The Moerangi Mountain Bike Track starts at the Okahu Valley Road car park. 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.

Leaving Skips Hut the trail continues along the Whangatawhia Stream a short distance before beginning a sustained climb of 150m. Once the saddle is gained a fast and flowing 2.5km descent follows. The historic Rogers Hut is the perfect stopping point at the confluence of the Moerangi and Wairoa Streams.

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 Road

Distance: 15 km  Grade: Medium/high  Fitness: Medium/high

Immediately from the hut the trail begins a sustained climb of 350m. Once the saddle is gained after 2km, a fast and flowing 2.5km descent follows. The track continues along the Whangatawhia Stream for a short period before departing to ascend again. The trail continues to weave its way 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 Road

Distance: 15 km  Grade: Medium/high  Fitness: Medium/high

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

Moerangi Mountain Bike Track

Distance: 6 km  Grade: Medium/high  Fitness: Medium/high

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. The historic Rogers Hut is the perfect stopping point at the confluence of the Moerangi and Wairoa Streams.