



Timber Trail

Pureora – Ongarue Trail guide



Length: 85 km
 Grade: 2–3
 Total climb: 420 m
 Fitness level: Good
 Skill level: Intermediate
 Grade 3
 Time: 1–2 days cycling
 or 4 days walking



- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable ground
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimise the effects of fire
- Respect wildlife and farm animals
- Be considerate of others



At forest edge shelter.
Photo: Nicky Palmer

Accommodation

Campsites

There are DOC campsites at Pureora and Piropiro. Camping is also permitted along the trail in designated areas. Visit www.doc.govt.nz/pureora.

Further information

Department of Conservation
Te Kuiti Office
Phone +64 7 878 1050. Email tekuiti@doc.govt.nz.
i-Sites/information centres located in Te Kuiti, Taumarunui, Taupo, Waitomo and Tokoroa

DOC HOTline
0800 362 468

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



Published by
Department of Conservation
Te Kuiti, New Zealand
September 2017

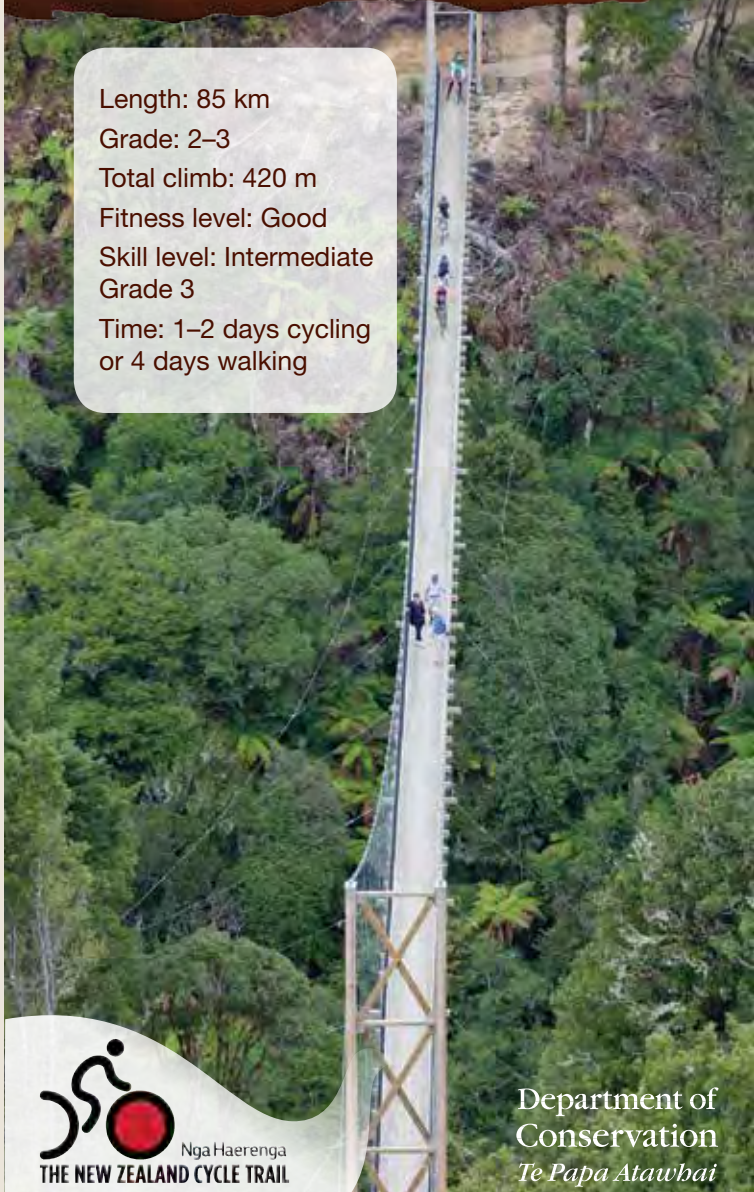
Editing and design
Publishing Team, DOC National Office

This publication is produced using paper sourced from well-managed, renewable and legally logged forests.

New Zealand Government



Cover: Crossing the Maramataha Bridge. Photo: Thrive Photography



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

A backcountry cycling adventure

Ancient forest, deep valleys, historic bush tramways and the magnificent Ongarue Spiral await cyclists on the Timber Trail journey.

The Timber Trail is one of 23 great rides developed as part of Nga Haerenga, The New Zealand Cycle Trail – www.nzcycletrail.com. Most of the trail is in Pureora Forest Park, managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC).

Getting there

The trail begins on Barryville Road, Pureora, off SH30 between Te Kuiti and Mangakino. The central section can be accessed from Piropiro at the end of Kokomiko Road, Waimiha, and the southern end from Ongarue via SH4. Follow the brown signs to the entrance points.

Parking is available at all entry/exit points. It is 56 km by sealed and gravel road from Pureora to Piropiro, 40 km by sealed and gravel road from Piropiro to Ongarue, and 53 km by sealed road from Pureora to Ongarue.



Walkers on the trail. Photo: DOC

Riding the trail

The Timber Trail is open all year around. Be prepared for adverse weather conditions at all times.

The first 4 km from Pureora is an easy flat gradient, but the trail then starts to climb. The trail is graded intermediate (Grade 3) the rest of the way to Piropiro. It is easy (Grade 2) either way between Piropiro and Ongarue. See the cycle trail website www.nzcycletrail.com for further descriptions of cycle trail grades.



There are a few steep ascents/descents and drop-offs in places where you may choose to get off your bike and push. Be aware of hidden rocks, sticks, fallen trees or slippery clay exposed by the weather. Dappled light, sun or mist can affect your vision, so ride with care.

Things to note

Signs: Green and yellow DOC signs indicate access points, distances between places and approximate walking times. Please read these signs.

Trail markers: The trail is marked with orange directional markers and blue-and-white distance markers, indicating distances from Pureora. When travelling north from Ongarue, they count down the kilometres left to travel to Pureora. ***If you do not see these markers, you are not on the trail.***

Cellphone coverage: There is limited cellphone coverage – do not rely on it as a means of emergency communication. Please carry a personal locator beacon (for hire outlets see www.beacons.org.nz).

Private land: Small sections of the trail cross private land. Please respect the landowners' rights.

Drinking water: Water can be taken from streams along the trail. You may wish to boil, filter or treat it before drinking.

Waste: There are no rubbish bins along the trail, and no rubbish collection at Piropiro Campsite. Please arrange to take your rubbish home with you.

Toilets: There are limited numbers of toilets along the track. Please take your own toilet paper and hand sanitiser.

Plan and prepare

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

1. Plan your trip

Before you go, check the status of the Timber Trail at www.doc.govt.nz/timber-trail. Thoroughly clean and prepare your bicycle and equipment, and take essential bicycle spares and tools.

2. Tell someone

Tell someone your plans and leave a date for when to raise the alarm if you haven't returned. See www.adventuresmart.org.nz for further information.

3. Be aware of the weather

Check the forecast at www.metservice.com.

4. Know your limits

The trail is in a remote environment and is subject to weather extremes. Have a 'trail-time' goal and turn around if necessary.

5. Take sufficient supplies

Pack enough warm clothing, extra food and a torch/head lamp in case you need to stay out overnight. Have insect repellent, sun screen and a first aid kit.

See www.doc.govt.nz/pureora for more safety information.

Your safety is your responsibility.



Cyclists on the trail. Photo: DOC

War on Weeds

Please don't bring invasive weeds to Pureora Forest Park. Thoroughly clean your bicycle and equipment before you arrive. Together we can make a difference for our native plants and wildlife.

Pureora to Piropiro (Map 1)

  40 km  13.5 hr walking

While the trail may be ridden in either direction, the topography will encourage most people to ride from north to south, ie from Pureora to Ongarue.

Close to the DOC Pureora Field Base on Barryville Road, the Timber Trail starts out at an easy gradient, before climbing through regenerating bush to the forest edge shelter – a welcome spot to rest and enjoy the view.



The forest edge shelter is a sensible place to turn back if you have doubts about your ability to safely complete the entire trail.

The trail climbs to its highest elevation of 980 m, and then it is predominantly downhill. The trail crosses two suspension bridges, each over 100 m long, and follows an old logging road for part of the way.

A signposted track just before the 40 km mark leads to the Piropiro Campsite, which has toilets, shelters and stream water.



SNAPSHOT
 Easy, single-file riding for the first 4 km
 Climb for 15 km
 Predominantly downhill for the following 18 km
 Easy, single-file riding for the final 3 km.

Map 1



Easier part-day options

For young families or riders with insufficient time or experience to ride the full trail, there are a number of options.

Map 1
Pureora to forest edge shelter and return (16 km). Beginning the cycle trail in Pureora, return at the exit points at Cabbage Tree Road or Tui Road.

Crawler tractor loop (5 km). The crawler tractor junction is marked on a sign 3 km past the cycle trail entrance at Pureora. Ride past the tractor and out to Perham's Avenue. Follow the road back to Pureora.

Piropiro Campsite to Okauaka Stream (4 km one way). You may be lucky and see blue duck/whio in the Okauaka Stream, or meet up with others completing the trail from Pureora.

Map 2
Piropiro Campsite to Maramataha Bridge and return (9 km). Join the trail at the campsite and cycle to the bridge for a great view of the stream. The view is worth the climb.

Bennett Road to Ongarue Spiral (15.5 km return) or to Mangatukutuku Bridge (25 km return). This is the most accessible way for day visitors to see the spiral. Follow the trail from the Ongarue entrance.



MAP 2

SNAPSHOT

Single-file riding for the first 2 km

Climb for 15 km, passing Maramataha bridge near marker 44

Predominantly downhill or flat for the remaining 27 km

Some side-by-side riding.

mountain Bikers code

Respect others

- Stay in control.
- Give way to walkers.
- Signal your approach and pass with care.
- Ride shared-use tracks in small groups.

Respect the rules

- Ride only where permitted.
- Obtain permission from private land owners.
- Leave gates as you find them.
- Be prepared - take food, water, tools, First Aid and warm clothes.

Respect the track

- Don't add, cut corners or make new lines.
- Avoid riding in the mud and rain.
- Take rubbish home.
- Clean your bikes to prevent spreading weeds.



At Ongarue Spiral.

Piropiro to Ongarue (Map 2)

45 km 15 hr walking

From the Piropiro Campsite, ride 2 km to the bollards at the end of the road and then climb steadily to the Maramataha Bridge, the longest and highest bridge on the trail at 141 m and 53 m respectively. The trail then climbs up to the 'Terminus' clearing. It is all downhill from here to Ongarue with another 18 bridges to cross!

Take care around the old Mystery Creek triangle, as quad bikers also use the trail.

Exit from Bennett Road, turn right and follow the sealed road to the finish of the trail at Ongarue.

The trail enters private land below the Ongarue Spiral. Signs mark the boundary point of the private land. Please respect the landowner's rights and follow the directional signage.

Walking the trail



Allow 4 days to walk the full trail. If you have only 2 days, the section from Piropiro to Ongarue offers the best scenery, historic features and easiest gradient.

Walkers please give way to cyclists.

For day walks try:

- Bennett Rd, Ongarue, to the spiral** (3 hr, 7.8 km)
 - Bennett Rd to Mangatukutuku Bridge** (5 hr, 13 km)
 - Piropiro to Maramataha Bridge** (2 hr, 4.5 km)
 - Pureora to forest edge shelter** (3 hr, 8 km)
 - Pureora to Cabbage Tree Rd** (2 hr 30 min, 6.9 km)
 - Cabbage Tree Rd (Tui Rd) car park to Mt Pureora** (2 hr 30 min, 5.7 km) part of Te Araroa walking trail
- Note: all distances are one way.

