WHANGANUI JOURNEY

Duration: 3 – 5 days
Distance: 145 km (one way)

Great Walks season:
1 October 2015 – 30 April 2016

greatwalks.co.nz
WHANGANUI JOURNEY

Paddle through a landscape of remote hills and valleys on the magical Whanganui Journey.

Experience the scenic beauty, history and cultural significance of the winding Whanganui River in the south-west of the North Island. Choose a 5-day journey from Taumarunui to Pipiriki (145 km), or a shorter, 3-day journey starting at Whakahoro (87 km), featuring the most scenic stretches of the river.

This guide describes a 5-day trip by canoe or kayak from Taumarunui to Pipiriki for independent, non-guided travellers.

Outside the Great Walks season (May to October) conditions are more hazardous – see the safety information.

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Days 1: Taumarunui to Ohinepane

Access points are at Ngahuinga (Cherry Grove) in Taumarunui or further downstream at Ohinepane (accessed from River Road SH43).

Travelling the upper reaches of the Whanganui River, you’ll pass through a mixture of farmland and native bush. You’ll be in for some excitement as you shoot down rapids on this section of the river.

Day 2: Ohinepane to Whakahoro

From here, you’ll feel as though you are venturing into the heart of a rich and rugged landscape. On the way you will pass Poukaria Campsite (a great spot to stop for lunch) and Maharunui Campsite. Take a short trip up the Ohura River to Ohura Falls.

3 – 5 hours, 22 km

6 – 8 hours, 35 km

Cover: Andrew Bain / Alamy Stock Photo  
Above left to right: Monster Valley; Monster Valley; Janette Asche, DOC/90 Seconds, Monster Valley  
Main photo: Whakahoro, Matti Vuorre
Many begin their river journey here – the scenic middle reaches of the river, featuring numerous waterfalls after heavy rain. Past Mangapapa Campsite, you’ll take a long loop around the Kirikiriroa peninsula, pass the Tarepokiore (whirlpool) rapid and then the large overhang known as Tamatea’s Cave. Please do not enter the cave as it is wāhi tapu (a sacred place). Otaihanga Reach leads you to your overnight stop at John Coull Hut and Campsite.

On this section, you’ll follow the river as it meanders through bush-covered hills, passing the mouths of the Tangarakau and Whangamomona rivers where they join the Whanganui. Perched high above the river, Mangawaiiti is an attractive spot to camp or stop for lunch. Continue your trip downstream past the Mangapurua Landing, gateway to the Bridge to Nowhere, on your way to Tīeke Kāinga. Here you can examine the intricately-carved pou whenua (carved timber pole) and learn about the history of Tīeke and the tikanga (protocol) of the marae.

You’ll pass through the scenic gorge of the Manganuioteao River where it enters the Whanganui after its journey from the slopes of Mt Ruapehu. The Ngaporo and Autapu rapids can provide plenty of excitement and perhaps a cool dip on a hot day. You’ll pass through more exotic trees and farmland before finally reaching the end of your journey at Pipiriki village.
Air New Zealand partners with the Department of Conservation to help bring native birds back to the beautiful Great Walks.

Take a break from the water at Mangapurua Landing and walk to the iconic Bridge to Nowhere. Lost deep in the forest, completely isolated from civilisation, this lonely concrete bridge was built for World War I servicemen to reach a now-abandoned settlement.

Look out for plump kererū/wood pigeon, as they plummet from the forest canopy before gaining enough speed to rise again, and noisily crash-land into the foliage in search of more berries.

Paddle through deep gorges and past cascading waterfalls.

Visit Tīeke Kāinga and learn about the intimate connection that Whanganui iwi have with the awa (river).

Watch for pekapeka/long-tailed bats fluttering overhead at dusk when you reach John Coull Hut on Day 3.

Watch and listen for the native birdlife of the Whanganui National Park, including kererū, whio/blue duck, tūī and brown kiwi. There has been a noticeable increase in birdsong since Kia Wharite, a partnership to protect some of our most precious taonga, began in the Whanganui National Park in 2008. www.kiawharite.govt.nz
GETTING THERE

Traditional entry or exit points for the Whanganui Journey are from SH4 at:
- Taumarunui
- Ohinepane (access from Taumarunui)
- Whakahoro (access from Raurimu or Owhango)
- Pipiriki (access from Raetihi or Whanganui)

Equipment hire, services, food and transport can be found in Taumarunui, Whanganui, Raetihi, Ohakune and National Park Village. Refer over page for transport options and services.

PLACES TO STAY

DOC operates 2 huts, 11 Great Walks campsites and 1 basic bunkroom along the Whanganui Journey, which must be booked in advance during the Great Walks season (1 October 2015 to 30 April 2016).

Outside the Great Walks season facilities are greatly reduced, and there are no volunteer hut rangers. Bookings are not required, huts and campsites are first come, first served and fees are reduced. See www.doc.govt.nz for details.

Great Walks huts
$32 per adult per night; 17 years and under free (bookings required).
During the Great Walks season the huts have bunks, mattresses, a water supply, toilets, hand-washing facilities and heating with fuel. They may also have a lighting source, basic cooking facilities with fuel, and a volunteer hut ranger may be present.

Great Walks campsites
$14 per adult per night; 17 years and under free.
The campsites offer basic facilities including toilets, sinks and a water supply. Some also have picnic tables and cooking shelters.
Join Whanganui River Canoes on your next adventure in the Whanganui National Park.

Yeti Tours 2006 Ltd.
61 Clyde Street, Ohakune
email: Yeti.tours@xtra.co.nz
phone: 0800 322388
www.yetitours.co.nz

Yeti tours will provide all you need for your unique historical & cultural journey on the Whanganui River.

Yeti Tours has a 35+ year history of canoe tours on the Whanganui River, being one of the first to offer clients guided & freedom hire trips on this remarkable waterway.

Our attention to detail & success in achieving a professional client-focused adventure has resulted in Yeti Tours becoming a leading operator on the Whanganui River. You can be assured you are in safe hands, as we have achieved a ‘Qualmark Certification’ which requires certain safety standards and protocols to be in place, which is audited annually. We also have a Doc concession to operate guided trips on the Whanganui River & can tailor guided or freedom Hire River trips to suit individual or school group’s timeframes, ranging from 1 to 10 days.

www.yetitours.co.nz
YETI TOURS 2006 LTD.
61 Clyde Street, Ohakune
email: Yeti.tours@xtra.co.nz
phone: 0800 322388

Blue Duck Station
4265 Oio Road, Whakahoro, RD 2
Owhango 3990
email: info@blueduckstation.co.nz
phone: 07 895 6276
www.blueduckstation.co.nz

Comfortable backpacker accommodation and exclusive private lodges situated on the Whanganui River Canoe Journey and Mountains to Sea Cycle Trail. Blue Duck Station is an outdoor enthusiast’s playground.

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Canoe Safaris is the most experienced operator on the Whanganui River - running Guided tours and Canoe Hire since 1987. The best food and guides on the river, and accommodation available at our Ohakune base.

www.canoesafaris.co.nz
CANOE SAFARIS
6 Tay St, Ohakune
email: info@canoesafaris.co.nz
phone: 0800 272335

GREAT WALKERS DESERVE GREAT HOSTELS

Ideally situated close to the start and finish of the Whanganui Journey these three hostels are ideal to base yourself for pre and post journey prep and relaxation.

YHA National Park - 30 mins from Taumarunui and 1 hr from Pipiriki in the south.

YHA Ohakune - Closer to the southern end of the journey, 45 mins from Pipiriki.

YHA Whanganui - Follow the river path to Whanganui. 1hr 40 mins from Pipiriki.

www.yha.co.nz/great-walks or 0800 278 299
YHA.co.nz
Heaphy Track
Huts: $32 adult/night
Duration: 4–6 days
Distance: 78.4 km

Rakiura Track
Duration: 3–5 days
Distance: 60 km
Huts: $32 adult/night

Abel Tasman Coast Track
Huts: $32 adult/night
Duration: 3–5 days
Distance: 60 km

Lake Waikaremoana
Duration: 3–4 days
Distance: 46 km
Huts: $32 adult/night

Whanganui Journey
Duration: 3–5 days
Distance: 145 km
Huts: $32 adult/night

Routeburn Track
Huts: $54 adult/night
Duration: 2–4 days
Distance: 32 km

Kepler Track
Duration: 3–4 days
Distance: 60 km
Huts: $54 adult/night

Tongariro Northern Circuit
Huts: $32 adult/night
Duration: 3–4 days
Distance: 43 km

Milford Track
Huts: $54 adult/night
Duration: 4 days
Distance: 53.5 km

Kepler Track
Duration: 3–4 days
Distance: 60 km
Huts: $54 adult/night

Lake Waikaremoana
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Experienced Team
Unforgettable Service
Top Quality Canoes
Vehicles Air-Conditioned
Muffins & Juice
Barista Coffee

On the Whanganui River:
Based near Supermarkets: Freedom Camping

www.CANOE4U.co.nz
292 Hikumutu Road
TAUMARUNUI

Published by: Department of Conservation, Marketing Team, PO Box 10420, Wellington 6143, New Zealand | October 2015

Free Phone 0800 CANOE 4 U

Experience the Thrill

Photo: Canoe Safaris
Know before you go

It is important to plan and prepare your trip and be well equipped on a Great Walk. Before you go, know The Outdoor Safety Code—5 simple rules to help you stay safe:

1. **Plan your trip.** Book your trip well in advance, including your accommodation, transport and transfers to the start/end of the track.

2. **Tell someone your plans.** Safety is your responsibility – leave your trip details with a trusted contact. Further research on safety outside of this brochure is essential. See [adventuresmart.org.nz](http://adventuresmart.org.nz).

3. **Be aware of the weather.** Weather on the track is changeable, so be prepared and check the forecast before you go. See [metservice.com](http://metservice.com).

4. **Know your limits.** A good level of fitness is required.

5. **Take sufficient supplies.** The right outdoor clothing and gear are essential for your trip. Pack all necessary equipment and your own food and drinks (including an extra day’s supply). Food and drinks are not available for purchase at Great Walks huts.

Whanganui Journey safety

The information in this brochure relates to the Whanganui Journey in the Great Walks season (1 October 2015 – 30 April 2016).

- **Heavy rain and flooding** can occur at any time of year on the Whanganui River and the weather can change quickly. You will need to be prepared for rain, cold and windy conditions.

- **Don’t canoe the river** when water levels are predicted to rise or the river is in flood. If you capsize you may not be able to get back in or swim to the river’s edge.

- **Always pull your canoe up** high on the bank and tie it to something secure. It may not be raining on the river, but rain elsewhere in the large catchment area can cause the river to rise several metres overnight.

- **Go to greatwalks.co.nz/whanganui** ‘Know before you go’ section for detailed safety information, and ‘What to take’ section for a comprehensive gear list.

Remember – your safety is your responsibility.

PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS

Freshwater pests, including didymo, can be spread by a single drop of water or plant fragment. Protect our waterways – always CHECK, CLEAN, DRY any equipment, including footwear, that comes into contact with the water before entering, and when moving between waterways.

For more information see [www.mpi.govt.nz](http://www.mpi.govt.nz) (then search on ‘Check Clean Dry’).