



## HIGHLIGHTS

Spectacular views of  
Mt Ruapehu

Guided stories of the  
ngāhere by Ngāti Rangi

Witness the regeneration  
of native bush and wildlife

Historical insight into the  
Bennett and Punch Bush  
Tramway

Discover the significance  
of the Dual World Heritage  
status of Tongariro  
National Park

## TRAIL ROUTE

Your journey begins at the base of Ohakune Mountain Road, where the remnants of an old village can be seen, including fragments of a pharmacy and cooking utensils. As you progress, keep an eye out for the iconic colonial buildings across the paddocks, once bustling around the train station at the start of the adjoining Ohakune Old Coach Road.

The trail gently ascends through the forest, crossing small bridges and weaving through the ngāhere. You'll briefly join the Mangawhero Forest Walk (share with care) before navigating across the road to rejoin a well-preserved section of the Bennett and Punch Tramway. This part of the trail travels through dense bush to a new bridge built upon the original piles of a historic multi-span bridge.

At a junction, turning right will lead you through wetlands and regenerating tussocks, a reminder of the forest once cleared for logging. Even today, you'll notice old stumps and remnants of iron pins from tramway sleepers scattered along the path.

The highest section takes you over a 19-metre bridge, offering views of both the mountain and the surrounding bush. Turn around there (we're still building the next stage). Turn here to return via the campground loop.

As you head downhill, you'll pass the Ohakune water intake, glide over bridges, and traverse regenerating bush, eventually reaching a DOC campsite and facilities. The loop reconnects with the original track, taking you back to the start.

**Ka whakarongo ki te tangi a  
te Kawekaweā**

**Kawea mai rā i te  
tōmatomatotanga o te  
tōmairangi**

**E rongo koe i te  
Pipīwharauora.**

**Kūi! Kūi! Whitiwhiti ora!**

**Kia whakapaenga ki te Manu  
Tāwhiorangi**

**Ka puta**

**Ka ora nā i!**

*Listening to the cry of the  
Kawekaweā. It brings an  
abundance of blessings.  
You hear the Pipīwharauora,  
New life! New life! It is  
sanctioned by Manu  
Tāwhiorangi.  
I live!*

Travel safe and enjoy the spirit  
of this remarkable trail.

**Kia kaha, kia maia,  
kai manawanui!**



Mountains  
to Sea  
Ngā Ara Tūhono

TE ARA  
MANGAWHERO  
**11KM**

# OUR STORY

**E oha, ka, oha, e ohakune ki te ao!**

*Welcome to the opening to a new world.*

**Ki kō, Ki kō, tirohia kei whea te taunga o te Titiwaitori**

**Parepare mai koe e te Tiwaiwaka**

**I te paepae o te tautara**

**He nono tītaka te tau te mauri**

*Over yonder after a long and arduous search is the  
Titiwaitori on its perch.*

*You are diverted by the Tiwaiwaka in the forest canopy.*

*Turning around the mouri finally rest.*

Ngāti Rangi, in collaboration with Mountains to Sea – Ngā Ara Tūhono – invites you on a journey through history, nature and culture. This 11.4km trail offers an unforgettable experience, combining rich heritage with stunning landscapes that tell the stories of the past, present, and future.

## Cultural Significance of Ngāti Rangi

We ask that your most sincere intentions and your utmost respect for the whenua (land), and taiao (environment) are upheld throughout your journey.

## Nau mai, rarau mai ra!

This land is the rohe of Ngāti Rangi, tāngata whenua and their stories and spirituality are woven into the journey. As tāngata tiaki o te taiao of this trail, visitors can experience the deep connection between people, and the whenua reflecting the kaitiakitanga that make this taiao unique.

## Discover a Historic Route

Te Ara Mangawhero follows parts of the old Bennett and Punch bush tramway, which was vital to establishing the logging industry in the region. Built in the early 1900s, the tramway ran on narrow-gauge rails and was used to transport vast quantities of timber from the dense forests surrounding Ohakune.

Logs were taken to local sawmills, powering the growing demand for timber in New Zealand in the 1900's. As you traverse this trail, you'll find remnants of the tramway,



offering glimpses into a bygone era when the sounds of saws and locomotives echoed through these once-bustling forests.

## Nurturing the Environment Back to Health

Today, Te Ara Mangawhero stands as a testament to the commitment of healing land and repairing the damage of the past. Once cleared for logging, these areas are being restored, with native flora and fauna reclaiming their place in the landscape. Conservation efforts, led by local iwi and environmental experts, focus on replanting native trees, controlling pests, and protecting waterways to create a thriving ecosystem.

Along the trail, you'll encounter native species such as towering rimu, kahikatea, and tawa trees, which form the backbone of the forest. Keep an eye out for the koru (fern fronds) of the silver fern, a symbol of New Zealand's natural heritage. The melodic tūi and darting tiwaiwaka (fantail) can often be heard or seen, while the endangered whio (blue duck) has also returned to the region's waterways.

**Kataina mai rā e te Kōkako, kōaka, kōaka,**

**Kia whakataukī te manu Tūi, tuia, tuia, i te pūaotanga**

**Kia whakapurua ki te remu o te Huia**

*However, the Kōkako will scoff and laugh at your deeds  
but listen to the Tūi encouraging you to unite at the  
dawning of the day and follow good strong leadership like  
the Huia.*

## The Mangawhero Stream: Lifeblood of the Land

As you journey through the trail, the soothing Mangawhero Stream flows beside you. The origin of this waterway are the slopes of Koro Ruapehu, with the upper reaches flowing through Tūroa ski field.

This is a significant awa for Ngāti Rangi, culturally and spiritually, due to its origin and the qualities it provides for people; wai ora, wai mouri, wai mana. It symbolises sustenance, purity, and the life force of the land.

## Breathtaking Views of Mt Ruapehu

Throughout the trail, you'll be treated to awe-inspiring views of Mt Ruapehu.

The mountain – Koro – is Ngāti Rangi ancestral mountain and is deemed sacred. Ngāti Rangi has a responsibility to protect the mana and tapu of the maunga, as a revered ancestor, a symbol of strength, life, and spiritual connection.

His presence reminds us of the deep cultural links between the whenua, people, and their whakapapa (ancestry).

• *Ko te Kāhui Maunga te mātāpuna o te ora*

## Part of Tongariro National Park – A Dual World Heritage Site

Te Ara Mangawhero is also part of Tongariro National Park, a Dual World Heritage Site recognised for both its cultural and natural significance. Gifted to the nation in 1887 by the Māori chief Te Heuheu Tūkino IV, the park protects the sacred peaks of Ruapehu, Tongariro, and Ngāuruhoe, blending natural beauty with deep cultural importance.

## Experience the Journey

Whether you're a seasoned rider or a casual walker, Te Ara Mangawhero offers a journey that intertwines an inspiring adventure.

This trail has been built as a partnership between Mountains to Sea – Ngā Ara Tūhono and Ngāti Rangi. Please head to [mountainstosea.nz/support](https://mountainstosea.nz/support) to make a difference.

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS & STORIES:  
HELP SPREAD THE WORD



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MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE TRAIL  
AND SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE VIA  
OUR SHORT SURVEY.



**RUAPEHU**  
OUR GREATER OUTDOORS

**NGĀTI RANGI**  
[ngatirangi.com](https://ngatirangi.com)





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