

TE HANGĀRURU



HIGHLIGHTS

Cross stunning boardwalks and three suspension bridges

Marvel at magnificent views of Mt Ruapehu

Explore relics of Horopito's timber and railway history

Visit the iconic Last Spike monument

Ride through regenerating wetlands and native bush

Travel through lands cared for by Te Korowai o Wainuiārua iwi

TE HANGĀRURU TRAIL GUIDE

TE HANGĀRURU - A PLACE OF ABUNDANCE

Where the skies once darkened with native birds, today the spirit of abundance lives on.

Ride or walk through regenerating ngahere, alpine wetlands, railway heritage and the rohe of Te Korowai o Wainuiārua. Cross suspension bridges, boardwalks and streams, discover The Last Spike, and follow a trail shaped by connection — from maunga to awa, from rail to ride, from past to future.

Travel slowly. Listen closely. Reconnect to Te Hangāruru.

Ride Tip

Take your time — this flowing trail invites you to pause, look, and listen to the forest returning to life.

Corridor of Connection

From mountain streams to the mighty Whanganui River, Te Hangāruru follows ancient pathways linking people, places, and stories.

Respect the Rohe

Travel with respect across the ancestral lands of Te Korowai o Wainuiārua. Your journey follows in the footsteps of great chiefs and guardians of this land.

CONNECTING MAPS:

MARTON SASH AND DOOR

RUATITI CONNECTOR

OHAKUNE OLD COACH ROAD

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TE HANGĀRURU



TRAIL ROUTE

TE HANGĀRURU – A PLACE OF ABUNDANCE

Te Hangāruru is a journey through ancient forests, historic railway pathways, alpine wetlands and regenerating ngahere.

Gifted by Uenuku, the name Hangāruru speaks of a time when native birds filled the skies above the great Waimarino forests. This is the rohe of Te Korowai o Wainuiārua, the people of Uenuku, Tamahaki and Tamakana, and a place where mana whenua gathered, hunted and journeyed between Manganui o te Ao and Tokaanu — rich in life, movement and connection.

The trail crosses the Waimarino Block, once a vast, life-giving forest at the heart of iwi identity. Despite the impacts of land loss, logging and settlement, the mauri of this place endures.



The Manganui o te Ao once carried people and taonga between maunga and awa. Later, the North Island Main Trunk Railway connected north and south through Horopito, while State Highway 4 wove its way alongside the iron rails. Today, Te Hangāruru echoes these same connections — by wheel, foot and spirit.

Beyond the forest edges, the volcanic soils of Waimarino have long supported one of New Zealand's best-known vegetable-growing regions, with carrots, parsnips, potatoes and brussels sprouts grown here for generations — a tradition proudly celebrated in nearby Ohakune, the Carrot Capital of New Zealand.

Now, the trail celebrates this spirit of abundance, reconnecting riders and walkers with a landscape shaped by resilience, guardianship, industry, cultivation and renewal.

From iron rails to winding trails, travel gently, listen closely, and reconnect to Te Hangāruru.

TRAIL ROUTE

The Last Spike to Horopito

Begin at The Last Spike, the northern gateway to Te Hangāruru and one of Aotearoa New Zealand's great railway heritage places. Here, the North Island Main Trunk Line was joined in 1908, linking Auckland and Wellington by rail.

The Last Spike access is due to open in late 2026.

From here, the trail heads south through a landscape shaped by rail, forest, waterways, wetlands and mana whenua connections.

One of the signature moments is the 99m suspension bridge across the Manganui o te Ao. Positioned between the road and rail bridges, it offers views east to Mt Ruapehu and, on a clear day, west to Taranaki.

At Pōkākā Road, a permanent access point, the trail follows the stream corridor through a unique railway underpass beside the water before dipping beneath the North Island Main Trunk Line and continuing along the eastern side of the railway.

The trail then flows through regenerating ngahere, boardwalks and fragile alpine wetlands before crossing the 35m suspension bridge over the Mangaturuturu Stream. Nearby, listen for the small waterfall created when the stream was shifted during earlier railway and route works.

As you continue south, watch for old formations, route remnants and the wooden culvert — quiet reminders of the people who worked and travelled through this landscape before us.

The final stretch carries you through regenerating forest, boardwalks, small streams and quiet rural gravel road toward Horopito Hub — a place rich in timber, rail and settlement history, with shuttle services, nearby trails and accommodation.

Please stay on the trail and boardwalks, protect fragile wetlands and leave no trace.

Take your time. This is a trail that rewards curiosity.



TE HANGĀRURU



GRADE 2
Easy – flowing trail suitable for most riders and walkers.

Trail Surface:
Firm gravel, boardwalks, compacted trail.
More details:
mountainstosea.nz/trail-grades/

LENGTH
11.1km
(one way)

DURATION
1.5 hrs
(return)

START
Last Spike (or Pokaka Road)

Alternate ride south to north from Horopito

FACILITIES
Parking and shuttle services available (visit mountainstosea.nz/organise)

Plan extra time to enjoy photo stops, storytelling signs, and quiet moments with the ngahere.

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



SHARE YOUR PHOTOS & STORIES: HELP SPREAD THE WORD



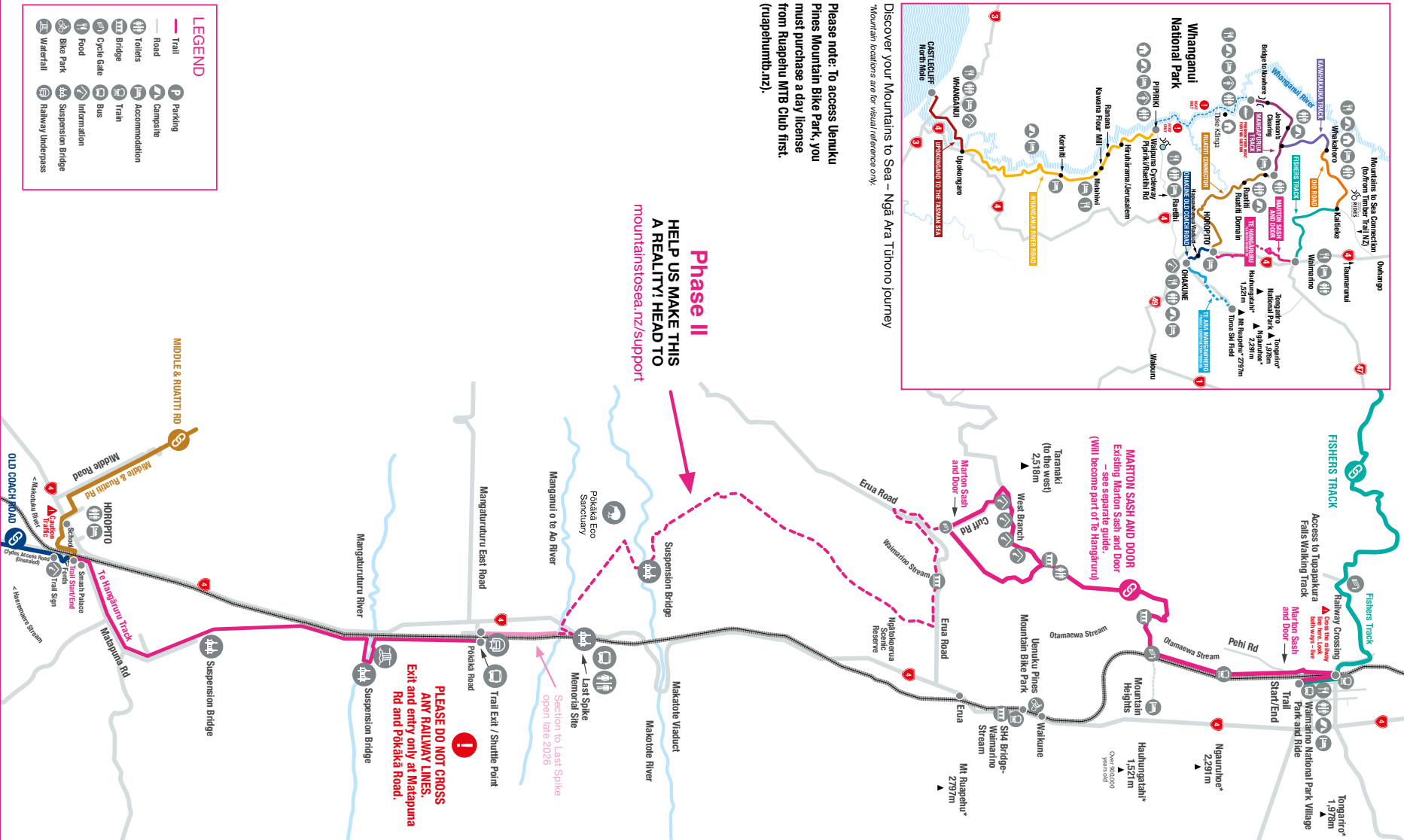
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Discover your Mountains to Sea – Ngā Ara Tūhono journey
Mountain locations are by visual reference only.

Please note: To access Uenuku Pines Mountain Bike Park, you must purchase a day license from Ruapehu MTB Club first. (ruapehumbt.nz).

Phase II
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LEGEND

	Trail		Parking
	Road		Campsite
	Toilets		Accommodation
	Bridge		Train
	Cycle gate		Bus
	Food		Information
	Bike Park		Suspension Bridge
	Waterfall		Railway Underpass