



All photos, unless otherwise credited, are thanks to Sven Martin.

**mountain Bikers code**

Respect others	Respect the rules	Respect the track
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stay in control.</li> <li>- Give way to walkers.</li> <li>- Signal your approach and pass with care.</li> <li>- Ride shared-use tracks in small groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ride only where permitted.</li> <li>- Obtain permission from private land owners.</li> <li>- Leave gates as you find them.</li> <li>- Be prepared - take food, water, tools, First Aid and warm clothes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Don't skid, cut corners or make new lines.</li> <li>- Avoid riding in the mud and rain.</li> <li>- Take rubbish home.</li> <li>- Clean your bike to prevent spreading weeds.</li> </ul>

# MOUNTAIN BIKING

## in Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park



### 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](http://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](http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz).

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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](http://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 de-forestation. 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 35 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.

### MOUNTAIN BIKE GRADES



#### Grade 2: Easy

Mostly flat with gentle climbs on smooth track with easily avoidable obstacles such as rocks and potholes.



#### Grade 3: Intermediate

Steep slopes and/or avoidable obstacles possibly on narrow track and/or with poor traction. There may be exposure at the track's outside edge.



### Whirinaki Forest Mountain Bike Track

**Distance:**  
16 km

**Grade:**  
2 & 3



**Fitness:**  
Low/  
medium

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.

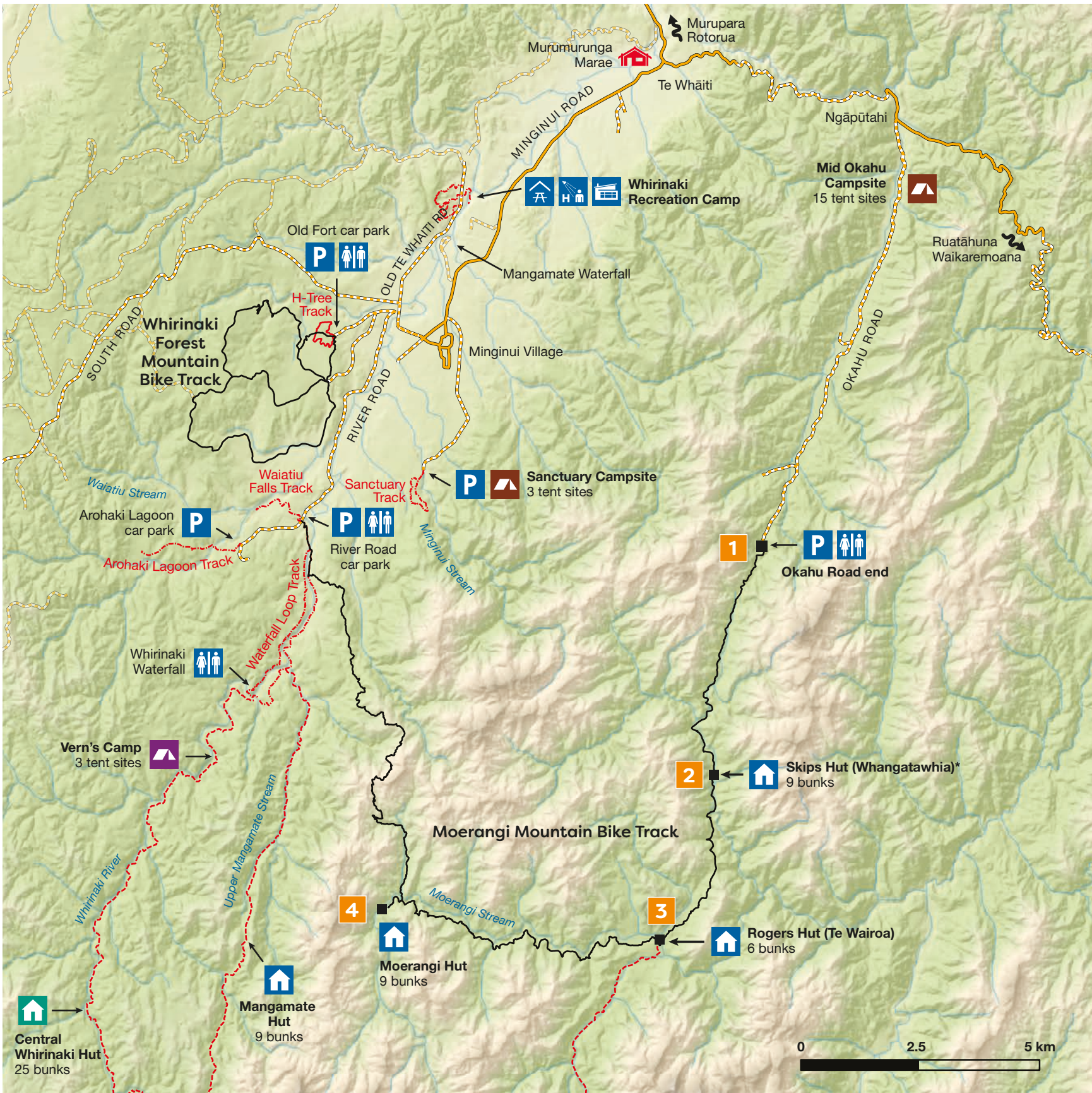
The track is designed for the recreational mountain biker and requires a low/medium fitness and skill level. The track is 16 km and shorter sections of the track can also be ridden. The inner loops (marked by yellow and red triangles) are grade 2 and the outside loop (blue triangle) is grade 3.

It is the perfect introduction to biking in the Whirinaki.



Photo: Neil Hutton





### Getting there

Whirinaki Te Pua-a-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 Ruatahuna 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.

- Mountain bike/dual use track
  - Short walk
  - Walking track
  - Tramping track
  - Sealed road
  - Gravel road
- 
- Car park
  - Hut
  - Campsite
  - Lodge/cabin/cottage
  - Toilet
  - Picnic shelter
  - Heated shower
- \* Managed by DOC and the NZ Deerstalkers' Association



## Moerangi Mountain Bike Track

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

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 ride into an overnight adventure.

### For your safety

This bike track starts at the Okahu Valley Road end. Do not start from River Road car park as there have been accidents with bikes coming from the other direction.

Mountain bikers: consider walking your bike across major bridge crossings to prevent accidents on the bridges.

### NAVIGATION TIP

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

### 1 Okahu Rd to Skips

**Distance:** 7 km  
Leaving the car park the trail immediately climbs towards the first saddle, gaining 100 m in height in just 1 km. The rewards are instant. The trail then has an undulating descent following the Whangatawhia Stream for a further 6 km. There are numerous bridges to cross before reaching Skips Hut.



### 2 Skips to Rogers

**Distance:** 6 km  
From Skips Hut the trail continues along the Whangatawhia Stream a short distance before beginning a sustained climb of 150 m. Once the saddle is gained after 2 km, a fast and flowing 2.5 km descent follows. The historic Rogers Hut is the perfect stopping point at the confluence of the Moerangi and Wairoa Streams.

### 3 Rogers to Moerangi

**Distance:** 9 km  
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.

### 4 Moerangi to River Road

**Distance:** 13 km  
Immediately from the hut the real climbing begins. The trail continues to weave its way up the Moerangi Stream for a short period before departing to ascend to the saddle. The climb is steep and sustained, gaining almost 300 m to the saddle. Most will find it a challenge. A rest point is available at the saddle and some cellphone reception is possible. From the saddle what follows is a fast and long descent loosely following the ridge line before dropping down to the Whirinaki River. Take care as the sides of the track have large drop offs. This is a stunning section of downhill riding that is sure to please. From Te Whāiti-Nui-a-Toi Canyon it is a short climb to the River Road car park.

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

