Mountain Biking the Mangapurua / Bridge to Nowhere Track

Location: Whanganui National Park

If you only have the chance to do one adventure ride this year, this is the North Island’s best. Quote by Jonathan Kennett

This trip has been developed and packaged by Bridge to Nowhere with track information provided by the Kennett brothers.

Starting Out
This is a really big day so best to start early around 6:00 am. From Raetihi Holiday Park cycle 40km down a back country road to the start of the track. The first half to the Ruatani Domain is mostly downhill fast fun on a sealed road. Then the road narrows and breaks into gruvt. Allow yourself 1.5 - 2 hours to reach the signpost start of “Mangapurua Road”. Alternatively for a shorter ride, Bridge to Nowhere Tours can drop you and your bike off at the start of the track.

Mangapurua Track:
All going well, and depending on your biking ability, it should take you about 4.6 hours to ride the next 35km along the Mangapurua Track to the Bridge to Nowhere. From the start of the track head left through a gate and cruise up a well graded 4km climb. Look over your shoulder at the second gate - the views are stunning on a clear day! This is the one big climb of the day but it’s a piece of cake really. After an hour you will reach a letterbox and see a “National Park” sign ahead. The track is a paper road so it’s OK to continue riding. About 2km from the letterbox, you will reach a Y-intersection and you must go left. Continue rolling along the ridge and you’ll soon reach a sign posted walking track on your left that goes up to the Mangapurua Trig.

Prepare for the technical downhill into the valley. Make sure you veer right at the “Stafford” sign. Half an hour later that sign you will reach a large clearing in the valley that is a good place for a rest and regroup. From this point on it’s all basically flat riding to the river. You will pass sites of abandoned farms that are signposted with the names of the original settlers. These names also serve as an indication of where you are on the track map that we supply you, and how much further you have to ride!

The Bridge itself quite aptly appears out of nowhere. There is a lookout track 100 metres on from the bridge and then takes a few hundred metres on past that. The ride down to the Mangapurua Landing and the Whanganui River takes about 15 minutes.

The Lodge and River
From the Mangapurua Landing catch the Bridge to Nowhere jet boat. You and your bikes will be transported down to the Bridge to Nowhere Lodge where you can take a well deserved hot shower, followed by a hearty meal. This is the only accommodation of its kind inside the Whanganui River National Park and is a licensed, privately owned operation.

The next morning you can choose to jet boat back to Pipiriki or paddle down the river in a canoe. The later takes about 3 - 4 hours from the Lodge depending on how you decide to pace your journey and is classed as easy. Which ever option you choose your bikes are jet boated out. You can then either ride or catch a shuttle bus back to your car at Raetihi Holiday Park.

If there is one trip you should do, then this is it! Bridge to Nowhere Lodge and Tours is a family run business offering you and your group a friendly relaxed trip. We’ve developed a two day package so that your transportation and accommodation needs are looked after. Alternatively we are able to offer you a transport only option for those wanting to complete the adventure as a day-trip.

For more information or to book a trip, contact us today:
Bridge to Nowhere Lodge and Tours
Phone: (06) 385 4622
Toll Free 0800 480 108
Email: info@bridgetonowhere.co.nz
Web: www.bridgetonowhere.co.nz

Popular Overnight Mountain Bike Packages at Bridge to Nowhere Lodge

Mangapurua Trail two-day package
Fully Catered
Prices start from $370.00 per person (twin share)
Includes:
• Car storage at Raetihi Holiday Park
• Map of Mangapurua Track
• Transport of overnight bag to BTN Lodge
• Jet boat from Mangapurua Landing to BTN Lodge
• Full dinner, bed breakfast at BTN Lodge
• Jet boat from BTN Lodge to Pipiriki
• Transport of bikes to Pipiriki
• Shuttle bus from Pipiriki to RHP

Mangapurua Trail two-day package
Self Catering
Prices start from $175.00 per person (twin share)
Includes:
• Car storage at Raetihi Holiday Park
• Map of Mangapurua Track
• Transport of overnight bag to BTN Lodge
• Jet boat from Mangapurua Landing to BTN Lodge
• Self catering accommodation at BTN Lodge
• Jet boat from BTN Lodge to Pipiriki
• Transport of bikes to Pipiriki
• Shuttle bus from Pipiriki to RHP

Optional Extras
• Accommodation at Raetihi Holiday Park
• Shuttle bus from RHP to start track
• Pick up from your accommodation in Raetihi, Ohakune or National Park
• Canoe hire from Mangapurua Landing to BTN Lodge
• Canoe hire from BTN Lodge to Pipiriki

Minimum numbers apply. Group discounts available.
### Distances and approximate biking times

**Grade 2 - 3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Distance (km)</th>
<th>Time (approx.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ruatiti Road end start of track to</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mangapurua / Kaiwhakauka Track Junction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mangapurua / Kaiwhakauka Junction to</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mangapurua Trig</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson’s</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bettjeman’s</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bettjeman’s to Hellawell’s</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hellawell’s to Bridge to Nowhere</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge to Nowhere to Mangapurua Landing,</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>20 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whanganui River</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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**Notes:**
- This is a mountain biking track with various sections named after landmarks.
- Distances are approximate and times can vary depending on the rider's ability and conditions.

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**Bridge to Nowhere Lodge**

- Located near the Mangapurua Landing.
- Provides accommodation and facilities for bikers.

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**Mangapurua / Raetihi**

- Accessible by road.
- Known for its scenic mountain biking trails.