

RANGITIKEI CYCLEWAYS.



TRAIL 1: OMATANE.

This is a hilly ride but well worth the effort. Turn off SH1 at the Mokai Gravity Canyon sign onto Gorge Road. Immediately after the turn off, a small bridge crosses the Hautapu Stream. As with other bridges in the area it is well worth a look down. Head straight ahead up Gorge Road and then down to the bridge crossing the Rangitikei River. Here views of the Rangitikei canyons are at their best.

Turn right onto Omatane South Road where a short, sharp ascent will test even the fittest. Potaka Road is gravel and a steady climb, but this is compensated with an exhilarating downhill, still on gravel, into the picturesque Kawhatau River valley. Once the Kawhatau River is crossed there is a short climb and a right turn onto Kawhatau River Valley Road.

At the bottom of a downhill, before turning onto Ruahine Road, there is a five minute walkway (marked) to a dam that in times past provided power and water to Mangaweka. On the other side of the road are the remains of the old powerhouse and a view through to the train viaduct over the Rangitikei River. Soon after the right turn onto Ruahine Road, the Rangitikei River is crossed and immediately on your left is the Mangaweka Domain, an ideal spot for camping and swimming.

Distance: 32km
Total Ascent: 1432m
Total Decent: 1554m
Time: 2-4 hours

