

KOPIKO AOTEAROA 2022 UPDATES

24 Dec 2021

There are a few significant, temporary changes to the Kopiko course. These are due to Covid-19 restriction in the east, and road works near Whangamomona. These changes are fluid, and you should check <http://www.touraotearoa.nz/p/kopiko.html> just before your ride.

East to West Changes (you can figure them out if riding in the reverse direction).

The following description is also shown on the Kopiko google map:

<http://www.kennett.co.nz/maps/kopiko-aotearoa/>

Gisborne to Opotiki

The 'Covid Start' begins on Wainui Beach at the end of Oneroa Road (there is a signposted walking track to the beach and public toilets).

After enjoying the sunrise, head up to Oneroa Road, past the café, and turn left onto the shared path beside SH35 (Wainui Road).

Follow this shared path into Gisborne.

Immediately after crossing the Turanganui River, turn left and drop down to a shared path beside the carpark, and along beside the river, and then along parallel to Centennial Marine Drive.

Follow a track inland beside the Waipaoa River and onto Riverpoint Road. There are a number of gates – PLEASE LEAVE GATES CLOSED.

Turn left at SH2 and cross the Waipaoa River. You are now on the official Rere Falls Trail.

At the end of the bridge, go through the roundabout to Tiniroto Road.

Ride west on Tiniroto Road for 3 km, then turn right onto Kaimoe Road and at the next intersection, left onto Wharekopae Road. This leads all the way to Eastwoodhill Arboretum, signposted on your right, about 40 km from Gisborne.

From Eastwoodhill, continue westwards along Wharekopae Road to Rere Falls, signposted on your left (52 km from Gisborne). You are now back on the normal Kopiko route – see the Kopiko guidebooks for a detailed description of the route to Opotiki.

Continue following the Rere Falls Trail signs to Matawai, and the Motu Trails signs to Opotiki. If you go all the way down Motu Road, make sure you turn left at the shelter a few hundred metres before the highway (ride between the two pou and over the bridge). The Motu Trail signs will lead you to the Dunes Trail, which ends at Opotiki.

Opotiki to Whakatane

After crossing the massive suspension bridge at the western end of the Dunes Trail, turn right and skirt around Opotiki on an obvious path. If coming from the Pakihi Track, just go past the big bridge on your right and stay on the riverside Otara trail.

After going round the sports field, you pass Opotiki Wharf, rise briefly up onto a stop bank then drop onto a concrete path, veer right at the path junctions to keep town on your left.

There is a short section roadside on Union St, then turn right onto Ford St, back up onto the stopbank and the SH2 Waioeka Bridge is in front of you.

Follow the bridge underpass to get over on the bridge path and use the underpass on the western end to get onto the trail heading north (if you need a supermarket, just carry on down Union St).

After the bridge, the trail extends north for 800 metres beside SH2. Then ride 2.5km on SH2. Just after the Opotiki Surf Club, at the pou whenua, leave the highway to the coastal side and ride on the stunning beach path. This extends 4 km to Te Ahiaua Road (aka The Pipi Beds).

From there, go back onto SH2 for 800 metres, then turn right just after the highway bridge.

Take the following roads to Whakatane: Ohiwa Beach Road – Ohiwi Harbour Road – Reeves Road – Ohiwa Loop Road – Ruatuna Road – back onto SH2 – right onto Wainui road – left onto Stanley – right onto McCoy – left back onto Wainui Road – left onto Burma Road.

Burma Road is gravel for about 1 km. At the end, turn right onto a well formed farm track, crossing a gate almost immediately. You climb, steeply in places, to a ridge, then drop down the other side. There are several gates. After dropping back down to the next valley, turn left at the junction. This is the western end of Burma Road and is well formed. It climbs steadily to a parking area, then drops back to the Ohope-Whakatane Road. Ride on the roadside path, then veer left down Hillcrest Road into Whakatane – along George Street into the centre of town, and Quay Street onto the shared path on the waterfront.

Be aware that the Pakihi Track is a great option for mountain bikers, but you are only allowed to ride it in a downhill direction (towards Opotiki). If heading West to East, you will need to go along the Dunes Trail and up Motu Road, which is also great.

Whakatane to Rainbow Mountain

Ride west along the Warren Cole Walkway, cross the highway bridge, ride the footpath for a hundred metres then turn right down Keepa Road.

Turn left onto Ferguson Road, then right onto Wano Road, and follow Golf Links Road – Pacific Coast Highway – Powdrell Road – McLean Road – East Bank Road – SH2 into Edgecumbe.

Leave Edgecumbe on Main Street which becomes Te Teko Road and then Tahuna Road. Follow Galatea Road – Ngamotu Road – Ash Pit Road (south not west) – Rerewhakaaitu Road – right at SH38, which is the standard Kopiko course, and down to Rainbow Mountain. Make sure you turn right onto the Te Ara Ahi trail just opposite Okaro Road.

Now just follow the standard course to Ohura.

Ohura to Lepperton

This section is optional. You can follow the standard course (see guidebooks) via Whangamomona if you want, but this summer (Feb 2022) you will probably encounter road works in Tangarakau Gorge that could stop you for up to an hour. And Whangamomona has a very low vaccination rate.

From Ohura, head west out of town on Hihi Street, which becomes Taranui Road and runs onto Waitaanga Road.

After many excellent kilometres, Waitaanga Road meets Okau Road – turn right. Eventually turn left off Okau Road onto Kiwi Road – the stuff that bikepacking legend is made of. When you reach Moki Road, turn right, and when you reach Uruti Road, turn left.

Turn right onto Kaka Road, then right when you reach Okoko Road. Follow Okoki Road out to SH3, and turn left down the highway.

Follow SH3 into Urenui Village, and then turn left down Ngakoti Street, which soon becomes Takiroa Street and then Mataro Road. Turn right down Onaero River Road, then left when you rejoin SH3.

Head left down Ohanga Road, and veer right on Inland North Road. Turn left when you reach Ngatimaru Road, then left at Bertrand Road, and you are back on the standard Kopiko route. Just follow Bertrand Road, down across the historic bridge, and up the other side.

Turn left at Waitara Road, right at Cross Road and right at Kelly Road. Then turn left at Manutahi Road to cruise into Lepperton, and head for the store/cafe.

Just follow the guidebooks or the gpx file from there.

Guide book updates and corrections.

These changes are for the Cape Egmont to East Cape guidebook (you can easily figure it out for the other direction).

Page 10, subtitle: there is 52 km of sealed road, and 0 km of gravel road.

Page 16, 5.5km: change Bertrand Rd East to Bertrand Rd West.

Page 16, 18.5km: change McKee Mangahewa to McKee Todd Energy

Page 18, 12km: The Purangi accommodation has been sold and is no longer open.

Page 21, Fiesta Fare: now has campsites as well.

Page 29, The Dam Café: has amazing chocolate fudge.

Page 42, Tuai to Tiniroto: Veer right at 0.8km

Page 48, Motu-vation Café: only open Sat and Sun. Just hanging in there.

Page 50 and 53: the Kawai Bay Campground is now closed.

Page 57, 3.5km: the cafe at Waihau Bay has closed.

Photo Control Point Changes on the reroutes

1. swap East Cape for Wainui Beach,

2. swap Bay of Plenty Coast for Turanganui-aKiwa/Poverty Bay Coast,
3. swap Lake Waikaremoana for Whakatane River,
4. swap Minginui Pou for Pine Plantation south of Te Teko, and finally
5. swap the Hobbit Hole (Moki Tunnel) for the Kiwi Road Tunnel (just as cool).

General Info

Kopiko Website: <http://www.touraotearoa.nz/p/kopiko.html>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/366075710744657>

This is a great source of information. If you have a question you can't find an answer for online, post it here and there's a good chance somebody will be able to help.