



Tour Aotearoa Updates – Nov 2020

Important updates to the 2019 third edition of Tour Aotearoa Official Guide.

COVID-19 impacts: it's too soon to know how Covid will impact all the food and accommodation outlets on the route, especially in remote areas. Do not assume any business listed in the guidebook is still open. There is still a high degree of uncertainty about how this plays out.

NORTH ISLAND

Pg 8 Cape Reinga to Ahipara

The route down Te Pahi Stream to Ninety Mile Beach is currently closed to cars. Cyclists are still allowed. If you see a random road cone go wide to avoid quicksand holes.

Pg 8-9 Waipapakauri Holiday Park

The holiday park at Waipapakauri is currently closed for renovations. It's about 15 km north of Ahipara, just off Ninety Mile Beach.

Pg 19 Kaipara Harbour boat trip

There is only one boat you can legally take across the Kaipara Harbour – Kaipara Cruises. The other boat, AliCat has been sold and left the district. If you can't (or don't want to) take the boat, ride the alternative route around the harbour, as detailed in the TA guidebooks. But it is about 100 km longer.

Pg 21 Dargaville to Paparua

A new Highway 12 bypass after Matakohu changes the route a little bit.

55.0 km From the cafe, head back down to Matakohu East Rd and turn right (north east), then right onto a remnant of Highway 12. After crossing the river turn right onto a new pathway that follows the other banks of the river for 600 m to another remnant of HW12. Turn left then right onto the new Highway 12 (heading east).

Pg 25-26 North-western Cycle Route

The course now follows a new path that was opened in Dec 2019.

30.57 km (opposite Lubricants West Auckland) turn left off Triangle Road onto the new shared path. Then just follow it into Auckland, it will re-join with the TA course after 2km.

Pg 29 Auckland Airport to Manukau

There is a lot of development happening around the airport at the moment and the course may be altered somewhat between Nixon Road and Manukau. Keep your wits about you and you will be fine.

Pg 38 23.2km Karapiro Vista

Private rooms and backpacker accommodation, 66a Horahora Rd, Piarere, 640m after turning off HW1. Phone Bill on 027 226 1514.

Pg 38-39 Arataki Wire Swing Bridge

The bridge has been repaired by DOC.

Pg 40 Arapuni Dam to Waipapa Dam

The Waipapa Dam segment of the Waikato River Trail has been closed until further notice. There's a signposted on-road alternative from Arapuni Dam to Waipapa Dam that goes around the *western* side of Lake Arapuni. This on-road route is described on page 41 as the "Easier Alternative".

Pg 50-52 Whakahoro to Pipiriki

The Kaiwhakauka is tough going. It's condition is worst after rain, but even then it takes less than 2 hours to walk the whole 6 km single-track section. You are allowed to take a rest/recovery day before this.

The Maungapuru Track has been upgraded and is easier than ever.

Pg 67 Martinborough to Te Marua

There is now a bridge over Siberia Gully on the Remutaka Incline. Riders are loving it, but if there are gale force winds you're better off taking the old track down into the gully and back up the other side.

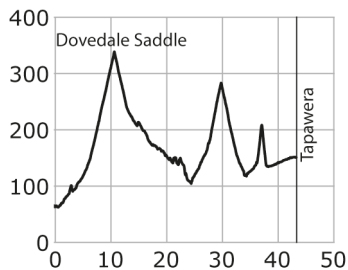
SOUTH ISLAND

Pg 11 Wakefield to Tapawera

If the Spooners Tunnel section is closed due to fire risk you'll have to use the old Pigeon Valley route.

WAKEFIELD TO TAPAWERA

22 km sealed road, 21 km gravel road.



0.0 km	Continue down Edward St to cross Highway 6 and ride up Pigeon Valley Rd.
2.9 km	Veer right on Pigeon Valley Rd. After 2 km, the road turns to gravel and climbs through pine forest.
10.8 km	At Dovedale Hill Summit (326 m), prepare for an awesome downhill straight ahead.
24.7 km	Turn left up Sunday Creek Rd, a quiet and scenic gravel road.
35.0 km	Stanley Brook Recreation Reserve, with shelter if needed. Turn left onto the Motueka Valley Highway.
43.3 km	Tapawera. The shops and hotel are 200 m ahead beside the main road.

Pg 15 Maruia Saddle

There's a great new cafe with accommodation in Maruia right on SH65 called Reids Roadhouse 65 at 1956 State Highway 65, ph 0274 750 780.

Pg 17 Reefton to Ikamatua

DOC has been upgrading the Waiuta Track. This should make a big improvement on the Waiuta Track.

Pg 19 Big River Hut gate

There is a kissing gate below Big River Hut that you have to lift your bike over. If you are knackered, then open the gate with the combination 1969 (the number of kilometres you have ridden from Cape Reinga!).

Pg 24-25 Cowboy Paradise to Hokitika

More sections of the West Coast Wilderness Trail are being taken off road. You should just follow the orange

trail signs to enjoy the best this awesome trail has to offer.

Ph 27 20.8 km Pukekura

Pukekura Lodge and The Bushmans Centre has closed.

Pg 46 Invercargill services

The recommended cafe Zookeepers has closed.

Pg 46 Bluff finishing medals

In Bluff there are medals available for \$10 each to anyone who has walked or cycled from Cape Reinga to Bluff. You can pick them up from the café at Sterling Point, overlooking the AA signs at the end of the tour.

Pg 11-46 South Island mega-bypass

If Highway 6 on the West Coast (between Greymouth and Haast) is closed by another extreme storm we'll need an extreme bypass.

The mega-bypass will have to go down the *east side* of the Main Divide.

The bypass route will branch off the existing TA route along the West Coast Wilderness Trail at Old Christchurch Rd. Ride over Arthur's Pass (instead of Haast Pass) and rejoin the standard TA route near Wanaka. It *adds* about 240 km to your ride.

A draft version of the GPS file is here:

<http://www.kennett.co.nz/maps/tour-aotearoa/files/parts/> (it's part 7).