



Tour Aotearoa Updates – Jan 2025

Important updates to the fifth (2023) paper edition of the Tour Aotearoa Official Guide.

- Pg 4 Free GPX files of the route are available to download at touraotearoa.nz/p/routegpx-downloads.html
- Pg 7 Transport contacts
There's a new transport provider from Kerikeri to Cape Reinga: Bay Cabs, Ph 021 283 8494, baycabs.co.nz

NORTH ISLAND

- Pg 10 Broadwood
Broadwood North Hokianga A & P Showgrounds has toilets, camping and a river for swimming. \$10 per night payable at the general store.
- Pg 14 Waimamaku (at 11.0 km)
The old Waimamaku café has closed but a new one has opened 1km past town (at the 12 km mark). Wisteria Way café is open 9am – 2pm. It also has accommodation, ph 021 407 475, www.booking.wisteriaway.co.nz.
- Pg 18 Pouto Point
Pouto Point Marine Hall accommodation can be booked by ph 028 8514 7108 or email poutocampground@outlook.com. See also www.poutocamping.co.nz
The Pouto Hideaway unit accommodation has closed.
- Pg 30 Hunua Traverse (after 47.5 km)
From Monday 6 Jan 2025 the Hūnua Traverse will be **strictly closed during weekdays**. This weekday closure will remain in place for five years while the Watercare Exotic Forestry Block is harvested and replanted with native trees (one of the largest regeneration projects in the country).
- Pg 33 Hauraki Rail Trail (from 19.9 km)
The Hauraki Rail Trail is now **fully reopened**, but some sections are quite rough. Just carefully follow the Trail signs. More info at haurakirailtrail.co.nz/choose-your-ride/kaiaua-to-thames. If you prefer, you can stick with the bypass option in the guidebook.
- Pg 34 Miranda (12.6 km)
The public hot springs are closed, but there are hot pools in the Holiday Park for customers.
- Pg 38 Arapuni services
Arapuni backpackers stock a small selection of food (eg canned food, crackers, drinks, and frozen meals) for purchase if cyclists are stuck.
- Pg 46 Bennett Rd Carpark
The snacks and food are no longer available. The toilets, shelter and free camping are still there.
- Pg 50 Kaiwhakauka Track (from 6.0 km)
The track has been **upgraded**. It is gravelled and has handrails. You should find it safe and easy.
- Pg 51 Whanganui River jet boats
Sections of the river are closed to commercial activity during the annual Tira Hoe Waka journey, so there will be no jet boats running from Mangapurua Landing between **10th – 12th January 2025**. During that period you'll need to take the winter **Alternate** route as described on page 51.

- Pg 52 Jerusalem / Hiruharama (11.9 km)
You can pre-book accommodation by ph 06 342 8190 or email oldconvent@compassion.org.nz.
- Pg 53 Parakino
Rivertime Lodge accommodation has closed.
- Pg 53 Upokongaro (65.5 km)
The café has fully reopened and Avoca hotel is open Thur–Sat.

SOUTH ISLAND

- Pg 4 Linkwater (20.7 km)
There are public toilets at the Memorial Hall, next to the fire station.
- Pg 5 Pelorus Bridge
There is now a caravan café at Pelorus Bridge called Rourou Tawara. Hours are flexible, but it generally opens around 9 am and closes mid-afternoon. Ph 03 571 6019.
- Pg 6 Maungatapu Track
We rode the Maungatapu Track in mid-Dec 2024 and it is in very good condition. 100% rideable for fit cyclists, with low gears, fat tyres, and not much gear. When going down the other side, there is a huge swimming hole in the Maitai River, just 30 metres from the first picnic table on your left (by three kahikatea at 27.9 km). There are eels but they didn't bite.
- Pg 23 Cowboy Paradise
The accommodation is now closed as the owner is indisposed at his majesty's pleasure (for growing drugs in a massive underground bunker).
- Pg 26 West Coast Wilderness Trail (at 17.8 km)
The old Totara River *Rail* Bridge is temporarily closed.
To avoid it you'll need to stay on Woodstock-Rimu Rd till you hit SH6 (18.0 km), then **turn left** (not right) and ride SH6 directly to Ross.
- Pg 46 Bluff
For cheap and cheerful (and quirky) backpacker accommodation, head to Bluff Lodge on the main road. Ph Kay on 027 294 5306.

New Zealand Cycle Trail Great Ride surveys

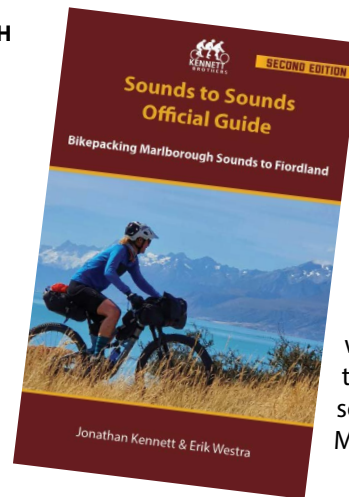
As you tick off the Great Rides during your journey, see if you can take the time to fill out the survey for each one. They need to get them filled out to receive government funding. You'll find a survey link for each trail at nzcycletrail.com

SOUTH ISLAND ALTERNATIVE

If you reach the South Island and discover the West Coast Highway is blocked (eg., if a storm washes out a major bridge) you might consider the **Sounds to Sounds** route:



The **Tour Aotearoa** and **Sounds to Sounds** routes intersect at Picton and Mossburn. So you can ride **Sounds to Sounds** to Mossburn then continue the **Tour Aotearoa** route to Bluff.



Sounds to Sounds is a 1,500 km journey stretching from the Marlborough Sounds to Milford Sound. Discover the stunning scenery of Te Waipounamu east of the main divide. Tried and tested, this guide will see you through every step of the adventure with its cue sheets, maps, elevation charts, and information on services and accommodation. More info: kennett.co.nz

If you notice anything has changed during your own Tour, please contact us at info@kennett.co.nz so that we can pass your advice on to future riders. Thanks and good luck!