

# TWIN COAST CYCLE TRAIL

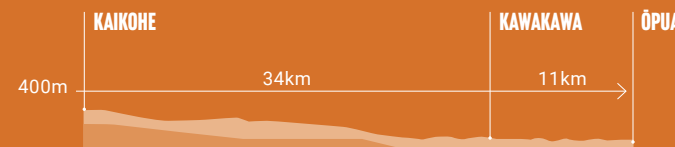
## POU HERENGA TAI

### TRAIL GUIDE

This is one of the most accessible cycle trails in New Zealand and can be ridden from east to west, or west to east. With a mostly easy gradient and plenty of places to join the trail, in this guide you'll find options to start the trail in middle, riding downhill towards each coast.

Enjoy incredible views, amazing history and even a train ride! Along the trail are dozens of amazing operators, ready to help you with bike hire, accommodation, food and drink and things to do - check out our [website](#) for a full list of operators.

# KAIKOHE → KAWAKAWA → ŌPUA



We recommend you check into your accommodation the day before you're planning to ride, in either Kaikohe or Ōkaihau. You can also base yourself in the Bay of Islands as this is just a 30 minute drive away. Check out Official Trail Partner accommodation options [here](#).

## Places you can park your car securely:

### Kaikohe

- Station Road (opposite Kaikohe Refuse Centre – small carpark)
- Taheke Road Reserve (adjacent to Taheke Rd, SH12, 600m past township heading towards Tahere – main carpark)

### Ōkaihau

- Two Ponga Park (next to public toilets),
- Ōkaihau Community Hall - Settlers Way
- Imms Road (off Lake Road - small carpark)

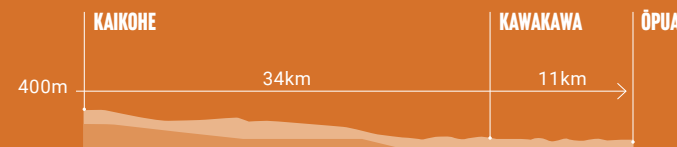
Then you're all set to pick up your bike from the bike rental and confirm your shuttle pick up in Ōpua! Begin your ride by cycling to the entrance of Pou Herenga Tai - Twin Coast Cycle Trail on Station Road, Kaikohe (signposted).

- 1 The first point of interest is the Kaikohe Aerodrome built in 1942 as a US Marines bomber base. It is the largest grass strip in the Southern Hemisphere, used now by general aviation.
- 2 The next 25km of the trail is a gradual decline to Kawakawa, passing the northernmost operational point of the railway at Otiria which only recently stopped running.
- 3 Enjoy cycling through rolling farmland and over the impressive Orauta Stream suspension bridges. These bridges have been built inside existing truss bridge structures... interesting!
- 4 The trail then takes you past the back of Moerewa township, passing the disused wood mill and other industrial areas, giving you an insight into a rural small town in New Zealand. You'll find a public toilet, bakery, small supermarket, butchery and a takeaway restaurant in town.
- 5 Arrive in Kawakawa! A bustling rural town with some big tourist attractions. The perfect toilet stop is the famous Hundertwasser toilets. You will find cafes, a small supermarket, museum, art gallery and plenty of craft and gift shops. This is a great place to take a break and grab a bite to eat.
- 6 You can choose to finish your day here and ride back or catch a shuttle to Kaikohe or catch the vintage railway to Whangae Tunnel Platform and cycle to Ōpua.



EAST COAST / GRADE 1 / 11KM

# KAIKOHE → KAWAKAWA → ŌPUA



All aboard! To keep things interesting, you get to trade your bike for a train for the next leg of the journey. You can catch the train from Kawakawa station or Taumarere Platform. Travel by train to Whangae Tunnel Platform, where you will continue on your ride to Ōpua. The only way to travel between Taumarere Platform to Whangae Tunnel Platform is via train - Bikes are not allowed on this section of the railway.

## Check Train Schedule

Keteriki - Bay of Islands Vintage Railway does not operate every day. Please check the Train Schedule prior to riding the trail to confirm the timetable and pricing.\*

7

Once on board the train, enjoy a scenic train ride across rural landscapes while hearing about the railway's history from knowledgeable train staff.

8

Depart the train at Whangae Tunnel Platform and cycle "2.5km to Ōpua. Cycling alongside the water, enjoy beautiful views as you ride alongside mangroves and estuaries and cross rivers leading out to the Bay of Islands.

9

Once you arrive in Ōpua, your shuttle will collect you from outside the Marina Cafe. If you arrive early, Ōpua is a beautiful spot for a stroll around the marina and purchase refreshments from the Marina Cafe or the Ōpua General Store.

You can then enjoy a relaxed shuttle ride while your driver transports you back to Kaikohe, and your vehicle.

*\*An alternative 17.7 km road route known as the Ōpua Whangae Road Trail for those who do not want to catch the train, this trail is for gravel experienced adult cyclists between Ōpua and Kawakawa. This route is NOT part of the great ride - and has no facilities. Grade 3-4.*





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### Kaikohe

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### Ōkaihou

- Two Ponga Park (next to public toilets),
- Ōkaihou Community Hall - Settlers Way
- Imms Road (off Lake Road - small carpark)

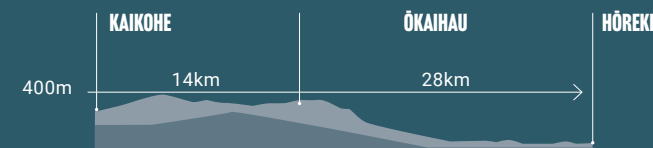
Then you're all set to pick up your bike from the bike rental and confirm your shuttle pick up in Hōreke! Begin your ride by cycling to the entrance of Pou Herenga Tai - Twin Coast Cycle Trail on Taheke Road, SH12, Kaikohe (signposted - entrance beside the wall of old bikes).

### Handy Tip

Riders can base themselves in Ōkaihou, stay in one of the lovely accommodation options available and start the trail there.

- 1 The trail between Kaikohe and Ōkaihou follows a disused railway corridor. Leaving east of town, the trail climbs gently to the highest point of the trail at 280 metres above the coast - check out those views!
- 2 For some rail history, you now get to pass through an 80m long curved rail tunnel that was built in 1915 - make sure to switch your bike light on!
- 3 Once through the tunnel, you will gradually descend to Northland's largest lake, Lake Ōmāpere. Enjoy stunning lakeside views as you ride alongside.
- 4 Your next stop will be the township of Ōkaihou. This is the perfect spot along the trail to take a break and enjoy some refreshments. Ōkaihou has fantastic eateries and boutique shops, and can also be an ideal place to stay.
- 5 Heading Southwest out of town for a few kilometres, the trail is beside the road. Be sure to stop at all the points of interest, churches and the war memorial gates with storyboards - they are well worth stopping to read.
- 6 Moving off the roadside, you will enter farmland and an amazing view down the Utakura Valley, heading down the trail via a series of switchbacks to a beautiful part of the trail cycling along beside the Utakura River surrounded by bush clad hills.



**Handy Tip**

There are no opportunities to buy food or water after you leave Ōkaihou - be sure to pack extra supplies for this leg of the trail, especially water!

- 7 Snow's Picnic Spot beside the Utaura River is a must-stop along the trail. A favourite amongst trail users because of the peaceful and restful setting, complete with picnic tables!
- 8 Coming out of the farmland, the trail follows the road, before you come to the 1km boardwalk through the Mangrove Estuary to Hokianga Harbour - spectacular!
- 9 Next stop is Hōreke! At the old Hōreke Fire Station, the trail shares the road for approx 3 km to the end terminus at Māngungu Mission House – a national heritage site.
- 10 Explore this important heritage site that overlooks the picturesque Hokianga Harbour while you wait for your shuttle. Māngungu Mission was the site of the third and largest signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. It was here, on 12 February 1840, where 64 signatures were added to The Waitangi Sheet of Te Tiriti. Several thousand Māori were in attendance represented many different hapū within Ngāpuhi.
- 11 You can then enjoy a relaxed shuttle ride while your driver transports you back to Kaikohe, and your vehicle.

