

WALKING & CYCLING IN WHAINGAROA

This is a beautiful area with quiet winding roads and a few off-road tracks, best appreciated at the leisurely pace of walking or cycling. Here are some ideas for walking or cycling -

1. Except at spring high tides the Raglan footbridge leads to a 6km walk to the far end of Ngarunui Beach. Some sand is too soft for cycling. Near the end of the beach steps lead up through the Bryant Reserve to Wainui Rd and, beyond, the Upper Bryant bush reserve. The Wainui Reserve has many tracks. The Information Office has a leaflet about them.

2. Karioi summit 756m can be reached from Te Toto Gorge, or by a slightly easier route from Ruapuke Rd.

3. A popular bike ride is round the mountain via Te Hutewai Rd. Fast riders can do it in under 2 hours, but, with stops at Ruapuke beach, Papanui Point and Te Toto Gorge, it's a pleasant day's ride.

4. Okete Rd provides a quiet alternative to the main road to Te Uku, offers better views of the harbour and, a trip down to Haroto Bay, finds a tranquil picnic area.

At Te Uku a short walk through the school's 1970 Centennial park shows the growth of native trees since then.

5. Karamu (closed August & September for lambing) walkway's 10kms includes native bush, views across the Waikato basin and limestone rock outcrops. Much of this walkway can be cycled, though there are stiles to lift a bike over.

6. Bridal Veil has a wheelchair accessible track to the head of the falls and steps to the foot.

7. Waingaro Landing Rd is a very quiet road leading to a wooded harbour inlet. Further north are the hot springs.

8. Take a boat to Te Akau landing to walk or cycle on the very quiet road north passing 2 waterfalls.

