

Here's some ideas on where you might want to get off the Raglan bus and ways you might like to use it -



Town centre bus stops

Coming from Hamilton the main stop for the centre of Raglan is near the end of Wallis St. Many passengers don't recognize it as a place looking as they expect Raglan to look. But don't despair, the main shopping street and harbour front are just a minute's walk away, if you keep going forward.

Just don't expect to find your return bus here. Buses to Hamilton stop in the main street, outside the library and council office.

Backpackers

The stops for the main ones in Raglan are -

Raglan Farmhouse - just on the 100 side of the 50kph sign as the bus enters town. Get off at the first stop on Manukau Rd and walk back to cross over the main road, then it's just downhill on the right.

Raglan Backpackers - the main stop in town (see above) - walk forward to the main street, straight across into Wi Neera St, then RB is at the end of the street on the left.

Ocean View is at the end of Norrie Avenue, just before the bus turns right into Whitley St. There's no bus stop there, so check you've got a driver who knows the Raglan stops are only guides and buses can stop elsewhere. Otherwise, you've got a 10 minute walk from the only stop on Norrie Ave to near the end of the road.

The other backpackers are nearer the main beaches. The bus goes past the **Solscape** entrance at weekends and on public holidays from Labour Day (October) to Easter and also from mid December to the end of January for the rest of the week.

At other times it's a walk of about 6km along the beach, or ring Solscape to arrange transport.

Sleeping Lady/Karioi Lodge/Raglan Surf School is a bit over a kilometre further. During summer, get off just before the bus leaves Wainui Rd to turn into Manu Bay. Continue walking along the road to the roundabout, turn left and Karioi Lodge is the next turning on the left. Otherwise, ring to arrange transport.

Beaches

Most people come to Raglan for its beaches. The bus passes a **small beach on Wallis St** at Puriri St.

For a larger beach with children's playground nearby, get off at the main stop in town (see above). Turn right at the main street, cross over and follow the footpath down and to the left, by the harbour. Cross the **footbridge to the beach** and playground.

The other beaches can also be reached this way. Just keep walking right from the footbridge and follow the beach. It's about 5 km to the end of the beach and walkable at most states of the tide - check the tide tables to avoid high tide.



A slightly shorter route to the main **Wainamu Beach** is to take the bus to the corner of Marine Parade (check the driver will stop there). Follow the Parade over Aerodrome Bridge, then, where the road turns right, keep straight on across the airfield to the beach.

The bus only goes near the surf beach in summer. For Wainui Reserve get off at **Ngarunui Beach** Rd and follow it to the beach.

For **Manu Bay** go to the bus's summer destination, the most popular spot to experience the well-known left hand break. At low tide it's fairly easy to rock hop over the boulders and walk about 8km back to Raglan.

Whale Bay and Indicators are another kilometre and favoured by experienced surfers

Walks

Several walks are accessible from the Raglan bus. There are the beach walks (see above) and -

Te Araroa walkway parallels the bus route on its 16 kms from

Hamilton to Whatawhata, or less from Melva St.

Karamu Walkway starts at the summit of the road from Hamilton. In its 10½ km it has good views, limestone and bush.

Kaitoke Walkway - get off the bus at Manukau Rd and turn left off the Main Rd to start the 2½ km walk at the end of Robertson St. As shown on the map, it weaves along Raglan's southern edge, with good views of harbour and mountain.

There are 2 **Heritage Walk** brochures, covering the town centre and a circular walk to the wharf. They can be downloaded from the Raglan23 website.

The same website also has a **Wainui Reserve** page describing 5 walks. The reserve can be reached along the beach, or get off a Manu Bay bus at **Ngarunui Beach** Rd.

Bryant Reserve has walkways to the Wainui Stream and to the beach via a good lookout. Ask a driver on a Manu Bay bus if you can get off at the Bible Camp.

Bike Rides

Buses can carry a couple of bikes on their front racks for free.

There's a **BMX Pump track** just over the footbridge and **Te Ara Kākāriki Ocean Trails** in Wainui Reserve - take a Manu Bay bus to Riria Kereopa Memorial Dr and ride to the end of it.

If you prefer not to ride circular tracks there are these -

A 7km ride from Melva St via Till's Lookout, Wallace Rd, **Taitua Arboretum** and Bowman Rd follows quiet roads and cycleways. The Raglan bus goes past both ends of the route. Other Hamilton buses at the Melva end don't carry bikes.

A 16km ride, with a 218m summit starts at Ferguson Rd and follows Te Pahu and **Old Mountain** roads to rejoin the bus route where Waitetuna Valley Rd meets the main road. Much of this route is on gravel road, but it is quiet and attractive, with bush, views and a World War 2 tank trap to see.

Get off at Maungatawhiri Rd for a 13½ km ride each way to the 55m high **Waireinga/Bridal Veil Falls**, with good views on the way. Just beyond the falls is the 9 km **Pipiwharauoa Way** to the windfarm.

Each year a 43km race goes **round Mt. Karioi**. It's mostly on gravel roads via Wainui Rd, Whaanga Rd, Ruapuke Rd, Waimaunga Rd and Te Hutewai Rd (where the bus usually turns round). Taking the bus to Manu Bay will shorten the journey. On the way there is bush, coastal and mountain scenery, a deep gorge, views over Raglan and beaches. Worth not racing!

