

Peddaller's Paradise



This region covers most of the eastern areas of the North Island between Napier and Rotorua and Tauranga.



The route goes along SH 2 from Napier to Tauranga and Rotorua, plus round the East Cape from Gisborne to Otago, and Rotorua and Wairoa. This brochure only covers Napier-Gisborne and Rotorua-Wairoa via Lake Waikaremoana.

The remote Te Urewera National Park is the largest and most easterly of the North Island National Parks. Its main features include Lake Waikaremoana, Panekiri Bluff,

backed by rugged mountains and dense virgin forest. The track round the lake is a DoC Great Walk. Supplementing Te Urewera are Raukumara, Waioeka, and Whirinaki Forest Parks, all comprising of similar steep mountains and native bush.



The entire region has long stretches of beautiful coastal scenery including bays, headlands and fine sandy beaches. East Cape has the added attraction of being historically important in regard to the arrival of Polynesians and Europeans. Gisborne is one of the principal towns, and is reliant on horticulture.



1. Napier-Wairoa-Gisborne

Distances:	SH2
1a) Napier-Wairoa	118km
1b) Wairoa-Gisborne	<u>99km*</u>
Total	217km
*Add 3km if going on SH 36, the inland route.	

Route: Napier –Gisborne on SH 2.

ALTERNATIVE 1b) WAIROA- GISBORNE.
The busier SH 2 or more challenging SH 36.

SIDE TRIP 1b) NUHAKA- MAHIA PENINSULA

LINK ROAD 1b) WAIROA-LAKE
WAIKAREMOANA- ROTORUA on SH 38 & 5

Services

Napier: Pop 55,000.

Napier i-SITE 100 Marine Parade 06
8341911.

Food: All types of outlets.

Accom: Motor camps, motel, hotels.

Transport: Bus & Shuttles to/from
Wellington. Gisborne & Taupo.

Bicycle Shops-

Marewa Cycles, 112 Kennedy Rd, Ph: 06 843
9423.

Pedal Power, 340 Gloucester St, Taradale
Ph: 06 844 9771

Gradients

SH 2 starts flat, running parallel to the coast for 19km then becomes hilly, sometimes steep and narrow, and twisting for much of the way to Lake Tutira.

The first 15km are uphill as the highway heads inland, passing Tangoio, and the White Pine Scenic Reserve, before levelling out at 340m.



Descends 200m in 3km, climbs for a short distance to go through the hairpin bends of Devils Elbow, then down again quite steeply for 1km. It becomes almost flat to Waikoau River, then heads skywards out of the gorge, 130m in 1½km before levelling out for a gentle ride down to Lake Tutira.



After Lake Tutira SH 2 rolls and undulates, except for three more gorges, Matahorua, Waikare and Mohaka. All have considerable elevation loss/gain in short distances. After Mohaka Gorge, SH 2 climbs to Raupunga, descends back to the river, then climbs in two leaps and a bound to the top of Taumatatua Hill (250m). A steep roll, which then descends 180m in 2km. Surprisingly after all the hills, gradients suddenly become quite tame for most of the last 25km to Wairoa.

Attractions

Tangoio and White Pine Scenic Reserves and aptly named Devils Elbow. Lake Tutira has a wildlife refuge and is one of the highlights of the journey to Wairoa. Pass under and marvel at the Mohaka Viaduct, a piece of modern engineering. At 100m above the river it is a highlight in New Zealand, it will make an excellent cycle trail when the railway line eventually closes.



Wairoa is the first sizeable town after Napier and the last until Gisborne. Wairoa sits astride of the Wairoa River. This is not to be confused with Wairoa River at Dargaville; Wairoa River at Clevedon, Wairoa River and Pa near Tauranga, Wairua River near Whangarei or Wairau River at Blenheim. Nor is it to be mistaken with Wairau Lagoon, Wairau Valley, Wairau Pa, Wairao Bar (& Grill), Wairau Arm (& Leg) or Wairau Incident!

1.b Wairoa – Morere – Gisborne

Services

Wairoa: Altitude 5m, pop 4800.

i-Site located at Cnr SH2 and Queen Street, phone no 06 838 7440.

Food: All types of outlets.

Accommodation: motorcamp, backpacker hostels, and motels.

Transport: Bus & shuttle to/from Lake Waikaremoana, Napier & Gisborne.

Nuhaka: Altitude 20m, store, takeaways.

Morere: Altitude 40m, population 100.

Store, tearooms, motor camp, backpacker hostel (seasonal).

Wharerata Hill: Altitude 483m, picnic area (table)

Manutuke: Store

Gisborne: Altitude 5m, population 30,000.
i-Site located at 209 Grey Street, phone no 06 868 6139.

Food: all types of outlets.

Accommodation: motorcamps, hostels, motels and hotels.

Transport: Bus & shuttle to/from Opotiki, Napier & Hicks Bay.

Bicycle shops:

Main Trax Cycles, Cnr Gladstone

Road/Roebuck Road, phone no 06 867 4571.

Gradients

A short hill soon after leaving Wairoa, then mostly flat to Nuhaka as SH2 runs parallel to the eastern end of Hawkes Bay. Heads inland from there with a gentle uphill for the 8km to Morere village, then immediately climbs quite steeply for 4km to Morere Hill (280m). A short descent is followed by a rolling stepped climb for 12 1/2 km to Wharerata Hill (468m).



After the summit go down variably steep terrain for 8km, followed by a moderate 3km climb over Kopua Hill (120m), before resuming a fairly steep descent for 4 1/2km. Mostly flat from the bottom for the rest of the journey to Gisborne.

Attractions

After Wairoa is Whakaki Lagoon, a notable feeding ground for migratory birds, on the way to Nuhaka, from where a side trip goes to Opoutama Beach and Mahia Peninsula. Morere has hot springs and is a pleasant break before the ascent of Morere and Wharerata look-out.



Gisborne is the biggest city in the Poverty Bay region. In recent years, a reputable wine and fruit growing industry has developed. It is here in October 1769 that Captain Cook made the first known landing in New Zealand of a European. The Cook Memorial on Kaiti Beach records the event. At nearby Matawhero in 1868 Te Kooti murdered many local Maori and European in what was called the Poverty Bay Massacre, the church being the only building he spared. Gisborne is the gateway to East Cape and claims to be the first city in the world to see the sun, if it isn't cloudy.



Options: Alternative Wairoa-Gisborne on SH 36. Distance: 102km.

This route is 3km longer than SH2, is much hillier but has little traffic. The highway alternates between flattish stretches and long steep ascents and descents. The route has some interesting sights, from and to, such places as Te Reinga Falls, Doneraille Park and Gentle Annie Hill.

Wairoa: See above.

Frasertown: Altitude 15m, population 500. Store, pub.

Marumaru: Pub.

Tiniroto: Altitude 260m, population 200, pub.

Doneraille Park: Altitude 240m, domain camping (toilet, water) down steep side road.

Waerenga-o-kuri: Store

Gentle Annie: Altitude 304m, picnic area.

2. Rotorua – Lake Waikaremoana – Wairoa

Route: Rotorua - Wairoa on SH38. Distance 211km.

Services

a. Kaingaroa Forest: Altitude 545m, picnic area.

Murupara: Altitude 185m, population 3000. Store, takeaways, motorcamp, motel, hotel.

b. Te Whaiti: Motel, picnic area

c. Mimiha Bridge: Altitude 350m, informal camping, adjacent to SH38.

Ruatahuna: Altitude 425m, store, pub.

Taupeupe Saddle: Altitude 919m, picnic area (shelter)

d. Hopuruahine Landing: DOC camping (toilets, water, table).

Aniwaniwa: Altitude 590m, i-site at DOC Visitor Centre. Tel 06 837 3803. DOC camping (toilets, water, table).

Waikaremoana: Altitude 590m. Store, motorcamp/motel/bunkhouse.

Rosie Bay: DOC camping (toilet, water, table)

e. Kokako: Altitude 300m.

f. Frasertown: Altitude 15m, population 500, store, pub.

Wairoa: See section 1.

Gradients

Rolls and undulates up out of Rotorua to SH 5/38 junction, then becomes gently rolling as the road passes through Kaingaroa Forest. A long gradual 20km descent begins gently but becoming steeper then levelling out shortly before Murupara. Cross the broad Whirinaki Valley before heading back into the hills, this time with a vengeance.



Apart from flattish sections around Te Whaiti and Ruatahuna, it is a narrow,

tortuous but scenic road for much of the way to Lake Waikaremoana. It is mostly gravel between Te Whati and Kokako apart from a section of tar-seal around Ruatahuna.

After Ruatahuna there is a 9km climb to Taupeupe Saddle (919m) then a descent for 12km to Hopuruahine Landing at Lake Waikaremoana. SH38 then rolls steeply at times alongside the lake to the spillway. A quite steep descent from there for 8 1/2 km to Piripaua Power Station (150m), before levelling out.



Alternating between rolls and undulations, 12km before Frasertown the hills gradually fall away for the last time and gradients ease. The last few km into Wairoa are almost flat.

Attractions:

After passing through the vast Kaingaroa Forest plantation, arrive at the small logging

settlement of Murupara, on the Rangitaiki River, after which things get scenic and rugged. 15km up a side road from Te Whaiti is the forestry settlement of Mingunui: (DOC camping) set deep in the Whirinaki Forest Park around which are a few mountain biking opportunities.



After passing through several tiny settlements arrive at the rugged Te Urewera National Park.

The jewel of the park is Lake Waikaremoana (Sea of Rippling Water). Being up to 250m deep it was formed about 2000 years ago when a giant slip blocked Taheke River. The distinctive Panekiri Bluff is a prominent landmark. There are numerous walks in and around the park with the popular lake circuit being a DOC Great Walk of several days. There are the usual water activities on the lake. This is the home of the Tuhoe Tribe or “children of the mist”, who for a long time lived completely cut off from the outside world.



After leaving the park pass through an impressive gorge and enter pastoral country for the last part to Wairoa.

Cycling Shops in Napier

Marewa Epic Cycles
Kennedy Road
Marewa
Napier

Tel: 06 843 9243
Professional workshop, parts, services and sales.

Cranked Cycles Ltd
4 Taradale Road
Napier
Tel: 06 835 5644
Sales and service

Cycle Kart Centre
1 Clive Square West
Napier
Tel: 06 835 9528
Sales and service

Pedal Power Avanti Plus
340 Gloucester Street
Taradale
Napier
Tel: 06 844 9771

Cycling Shops in Wairoa

Angus Gemmells
186-188 Marine Parade
Wairoa
Tel: 06 838 7577

Cycling Shops in Gisborne

Bikeys
293 Gladstone Road
Gisborne
Tel: 06 867 4444

Main Trax Cycles
Cnr Gladstone & Roebuck Roads
Gisborne
Tel: 06 867 4571

Cycling Shops in Rotorua

Avanti Plus Cyclezone
1059 Amohau Street
Opposite Pak n Save
Tel: 07 348 6610

Bike Culture Ltd
1133 Pukuatua Street
Tel: 07 343 9372

Bike Fix
1114 Eruera Street
Tel: 07 347 2232

Bike Vegas
1275 Fenton Street
Tel: 07 347 1151

Kiwibikes
1128 Hinemoa Street
Tel: 07 348 2929

Outdoorsman Headquarters
6 Tarawera Road
Tel: 07 345 9333

Rotorua Cycle Centre
1111 Hinemoa Street
Tel: 07 348 6588

Wide Open Distributers
PO Box 7258
Te Ngae
Tel: 07 345 3280