



WHANGANUI RIVER CANOE 5 DAY

ITINERARY



Paddle through the heart of Whanganui National Park, a remote and impenetrable region rich in Māoritanga (Māori culture). Deep jungles and incised rivers extend for 700 square kilometres and there is almost no road access. Canadian canoes are a comfortable and classic choice for this journey. Explore and enjoy the mighty Whanganui River, the life force of the area, as it weaves its way from the mountains to the sea. The Whanganui has a special magic not present on most rivers. Besides its rich history, much of which is still apparent on the riverbanks, it is perhaps the last remaining river that was significant in early transport networks that remains truly wild and untouched. There's no need to be an seasoned canoeist, experienced guides teach the group tips and techniques to help navigate the river like a pro. At the end of each day, relax and enjoy gourmet three-course meals with a glass of New Zealand wine and camp on the river bank in spacious tents and comfortable sleeping mats.

LENGTH	5 days
GRADE	B ("Soft Adventure" with an element of challenge)
PRE-TRACK BRIEFING:	Please call by the base at 6 Tay Street, Ohakune, the day before to collect your dry bags for packing.
START	6:45am, 6 Tay St, Ohakune
FINISH	3:30pm, Ohakune
DEPARTURES	September 2026: 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30 October 2026: 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28 November 2026: 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30 December 2026: 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30 January 2027: 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27 February 2027: 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24 March 2027: 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31 April 2027: 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28 Additional dates may be available, if you have a particular date in mind that is not listed, please get in touch with us.
PRICE	1 Jul 2026 - 30 Jun 2027 Adult NZD \$1,645.00 Child NZD \$1,445.00 More dates available on request

"5 DAYS OF ADVENTURE & FUN OF RIVER"

My 18 yr old son and I had a fantastic time on our trip, 5 days canoeing the Whanganui River. We had a great guide, Canon, who cooked the most amazing meals and was very helpful and safety conscious as the river was running high. Very clear and direct instruction when facing tricky sections of the river. All of the gear provided was of great quality and did I mention the food, we ate like Kings!!!! Top Marks!!

~ Jerichofour - Tauranga, New Zealand, April, [Trip Advisor](#)

"WE COULDN'T HAVE WANTED FOR ANYONE BETTER"

A wonderful five day trip down the river in perfect weather. Beautiful scenery, peace and tranquility. It was efficiently organised and there was a variety of good tasty meals with ample good wine as well! Chloe was an excellent guide, always patient, friendly and enthusiastic. She expertly guided us through rapids and around eddies, explaining about the history of the river and points of interest.

~ Angelad - Riverside, February, [Trip Advisor](#)

ITINERARY

DAY 1 OHINEPANE TO MAHARANUI

31 kms paddling/5-7 hours

Depart Ohakune between 7.30 and 8.00am for the river. At Ohinepane the canoes and barrels are unloaded and the guides will show you how to pack your canoe. The first day includes lunch at Poukaria Campsite, we paddle past the old riverboat landing at Kirikau and take a short walk at Maraekowhai. View the Ohura falls, and the War and Peace Poles that were erected by the Hau Hau warriors. It's then a short paddle to the first night's camp at Maharanui.

DAY 2 MARARANUI TO OHAUORA

31 kms paddling/5-7 hours

The gorge starts to narrow and you leave the last road access point behind at Whakahoro, the second and final mooring point for the Houseboat. You pass Laceys and Wades landings and several old Maori Kaianga. Later in the morning you pass Mangapapa campsite, Man of War Bluff, Kirikiriroa where the river does a huge horseshoe turn, the Verandah, the Whirlpool and on down to Tamatea's Cave and a possible lunch stop at Ohauora campsite. There is plenty of time for stops and there are safe places to get out and swim. Camp at John Coull Hut and campsite.

DAY 3 OHAUORA TO MANGAPURUA

29kms paddling 5-7 hours

Breakfast and on the river at 9am. A morning paddle past the Tangarakau and Whangamomona rivers, Mangawaiiti campsite, and Otumangu landing, one of the post WW1 farming settlements. Shortly afterwards you see the first pine trees since Whakahoro (planted by the early settlers), and you stop at the Mangapurua for lunch and a walk to the Bridge to Nowhere (45 min each way). Dinner and hot showers at the lodge or cabins. Note: book early to ensure a bed at the lodge.

DAY 4 MANGAPURUA TO RAMANUI

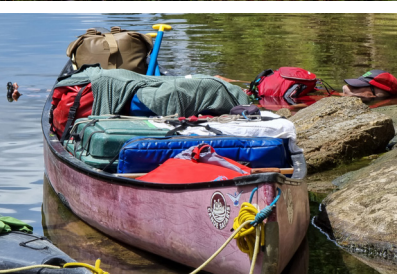
4-6 hours/11 kms paddling/5km hike

After a leisurely breakfast, take a brief paddle to Mangapurua stream entrance, where we stop and walk to the iconic Bridge to Nowhere. Learn about the interesting history of the former farming settlement, before setting off on a short paddle, stopping for lunch along the way. Once at camp, enjoy a hot shower, take a short walk to the Bridge To Nowhere Lodge and enjoy a cold drink on the deck, or simply relax at camp before our final group dinner. Shared cabins are available at this campsite - if you would like to secure a shared cabin at an extra cost then please enquire, subject to availability.

DAY 5 RAMANUI TO PIPIRIKI

4-6 hours/22 kms paddling

After breakfast, we begin our paddle through one of the most peaceful sections of the river. Admire the massive canyon walls, the sides dripping with moss and ferns. Pass by the filming locations used for the movies River Queen and Utu. Navigate the exciting Ngaporo rapid before stopping for a break. Next, paddle into the beautiful Mangaio stream, explore the Puraroto cave and navigate the legendary Autapu rapid. From Autapu, there are several more fun rapids, followed by our first signs of civilisation - telephone poles and farmland. After our last big rapid, land at Pipiriki, where we load the gear and embark on an hour's drive back to Ohakune.



LIFE ON THE TRAIL

GRADE B

- Up Average of 4-5 hrs physical activity per day.
- No hiking experience necessary.
- Reasonable standard of fitness required

The paddling is easy and the relaxed pace leaves you time to explore and enjoy the unique scenery of the Whanganui National Park - with the usual river and campsite fun!



GUIDES AND SAFETY

Some of the best river guides you will find anywhere in the world will guide the canoe safari. Canoe Safari guides are trained professionals and their experience and knowledge can make a huge difference to your enjoyment and safety on a trip. All guides are trained in First Aid/CPR, and most also have qualifications in Swiftwater Rescue, Risk Management, weather reading, and many are qualified Raft guides. They are also great cooks and entertainers.

FOOD

Gourmet style eating with fantastic menus of fresh vegetables, fruit, hearty steaks, chicken and bottled wine. Three course feasting at its best, all cooked to perfection by the guides, and eaten in good company on a grassy river terrace.

There is fantastic trout fishing on all the rivers. Bring your fishing pole and favourite tackle. You catch 'em and yours guides will cook 'em.

TRANSPORT

Transport to and from the river from Ohakune is in a mini-bus. Pick up from accommodation in Ohakune or the train station in Waiouru can be arranged. Please indicate at time of booking. NZ\$30 each way (approx).

ACCOMMODATION

4 nights camping (1 of these nights you camp near a lodge).

Motel type accommodation at Ohakune before and after the journey is available from \$140 for 2 people. Extra person is NZ\$20. Motel includes kitchen with electric hob & microwave, one room with queen, single, & double sofa bed. Ensuite, Sky satellite TV, electric blankets, etc. When booking, please let us know if you would like to book this.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

There are no additional costs. All meals are included in the price of the trip.

Price includes: Accommodation, all meals, transfers, canoes, life-jackets, waterproof storage barrels and camera case, camping equipment (excluding sleeping bag), guide.

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Payment

For bookings four or more months before the departure, a 25% deposit can be paid with the remainder due 95 days before your trip. For bookings within four months of the departure, full payment is required. Child rate applies to 14 years and under.

Cancellations

More than 60 days: \$85 per person cancellation fee
59 - 30 days: \$200 per person cancellation fee
29 - 10 days: 50% of full ticket price
9 days or less prior to departure: No Refund

Travel Insurance

It is suggested that clients take out comprehensive travel insurance.

Notes

This trip is run in conjunction with another operator.

PACKING LIST

ESSENTIAL ITEMS

Consider your clothing in two parts; what you will wear canoeing and what you will need in camp. Work on the assumption that your canoeing clothes will get wet so you must have a dry change for campwear. Polypropylene/thermal wear is good as it is warm when wet, fast drying and lightweight. Cotton is cold when wet - so if it is raining, wool or polypropylene is better. You can use the check lists below to help you when packing for your trip.

CANOE CLOTHES

- Swimwear
- Sandshoes, sandals or wetsuit booties
- Shorts
- Sunhat
- Woollen or polypropylene top
- Waterproof lightweight jacket or parka
- Windproof leggings (optional)
- Woollen socks
- Tracksuit or polypro pants (not jeans)
- Light gloves (for warmth or blisters)

CAMPING CLOTHES

- Comfortable shoes
- Complete change of warm clothes
- Spare lightweight top
- Waterproof rain jacket
- Warm socks
- Sleeping bag
- Towels (2 small)
- Warm hat (depending on time of year)
- Extra snacks
- Sunglasses (with strap)
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen
- Camera with spare memory
- Water bottle
- Torch/Flash light
- Book or other reading material
- First Aid kit
- Personal medication, if required
- Other personal items
- Plastic bags for extra water proofing

FOOTWEAR

It is advised everyone wears something on their feet at all times. There will be occasions when you will need to step out of your canoe into river shallows. In these slippery conditions sandshoes or sandals are better than jandals/flip flops.

WE SUPPLY

- Snug tents
- Great food and wine
- Thermarest airbeds
- Excellent guides
- Waterproof barrels are provided for your gear, with easy access for cameras, sunscreen, etc
- All river gear, paddles, life-jackets

SLEEPING BAGS ARE AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

If you would like to hire a sleeping bag, please request this at least five days before departure.

- 5 days NZ\$50

