

REMUTAKA Cycle Trail

Two cyclists in tunnel © Remutaka Cycle Trail

PETONE to ORONGORONGO

2-3 days | 115km

Discover landscapes sculpted by visible seismic shifts, remnants of our stone and steel legacy, flourishing native bush and wild coastlines on this varied trail.

From the doorstep of our capital city, Wellington, the Remutaka Cycle Trail meanders along the Hutt River in family-friendly urban territory before winding through the bush-clad Remutaka Ranges on an old rail trail. It then descends into rural Wairarapa, with its quaint country roads and boutique

vineyards, before skirting around the wild southern coast where the Remutaka Range dives into the Pacific Ocean.

The first stage is an easy riverside cycle path – the Hutt River Trail. There are plenty of scenic picnic areas beside this large river and great swimming spots to cool off

look out for...

Over & under: the trail's bridges & tunnels

Take your torch – tunnels are a trail highlight: they include the Mangaroa Tunnel, a 253m tunnel that was part of the original Wellington to Wairarapa rail link; the 576m-long Summit Tunnel, which has a 1:15 gradient

starting halfway through; and the 98m Price's Tunnel, which has an 'S' curve. Bridges along the way include the 28m-long Pakuratahi Truss Bridge and the 70m-long Ladle Bend Bridge which features stone abutments and a central pier. These can all be found on the Maymorn to Cross Creek section.

Spot the seals

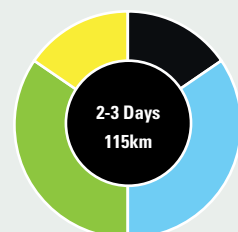
The southernmost point of the trail, Turakirae Head, is home to up to 500 fur seals each winter. See if you can spot them, but never approach too closely.

on a hot summer's day as the trail gradually climbs to the head of the Hutt Valley.

Beyond the valley, the trail enters Tunnel Gully in the Pakuratahi Forest on what was once the main railway line between Wellington and the Wairarapa. Riders will then cross the northern end of the Remutaka Range on the Remutaka Rail Trail, one of the most popular and historic trails in the region.

After emerging in the Wairarapa, home to gorgeous food, wine and boutique villages, the trail heads past Lake Wairarapa to Ocean Beach. The final section is the most adventurous. Aptly named The Wild Coast, it skirts around Turakirae Head to the mouth of the Orongorongo River, where the Wainuiomata Coast Rd provides a road link back to Wellington.

TRAIL INFO



TRAIL GRADES:

- PETONE FORESHORE TO MAYMORN GRADE 2 (EASY).** 35km trail with an easy grade.
- MAYMORN TO CROSS CREEK GRADE 2-3 (EASY TO INTERMEDIATE)** 25km into New Zealand's bush-clad past.
- CROSS CREEK TO OCEAN BEACH GRADE 3 (INTERMEDIATE)** 36km on-road ride alongside Lake Wairarapa and farmland.
- OCEAN BEACH TO ORONGORONGO RIVER MOUTH GRADE 3 (INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED)** An 18km adventurous ride along the remote and exposed south coast.

MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE: The areas between Tunnel Gully and Cross Creek and around the south coast are remote and have little or no cellphone coverage.

DRINKING WATER: Carry enough water and food for your trip, as after the first section there are no shops.

13 MORE REASONS TO RIDE THE REMUTAKA CYCLE TRAIL

01 Fuel up at one of 65 eateries along Jackson Street, a popular shopping strip in historic **Petone** and start the trail from the Petone Wharf.



02 Local creativity and warm ambiance of the seaside **Alfred Memelink Artspace Gallery** with diverse exhibitions and vistas from the trail.



03 Find superior elegance in a French inspired country cottage in the secluded **Silverstream Retreat**.



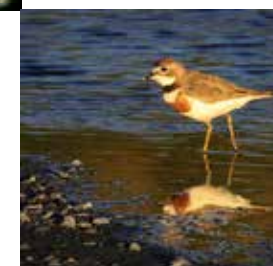
04 Let **Cycle Remutaka** take care of all your trail needs with bike hire, transfers and friendly advice.



05 Combine the trail with guided tours to Wairarapa's gorgeous towns, wineries and gardens with **Green Jersey Explorer Tours**.



06 Stay at the big red woolshed with all its 'working' days charm at **Western Lake Woolshed**.



07 Treat yourself at the luxurious **Wharekauhau Country Estate** and dine at the exquisite restaurant with spectacular views.

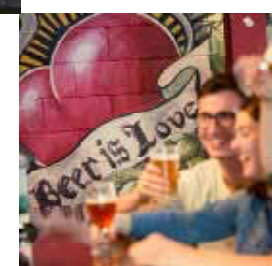
08 Pedal over to the vineyards of Martinborough - world famous for its Pinot Noir and fall in love with the **Martinborough Hotel**.



10 Enjoy the privacy of a farm cottage set in the historic **Waiorongomai Station** - the perfect halfway point along Western Lake Road.



11 Discover **Wellington's 350km of mountain biking trails** just minutes away from downtown in the culinary capital.



12 Rewind the years at the historical farm house at **Western Lake Bach** with space for up to ten riders.

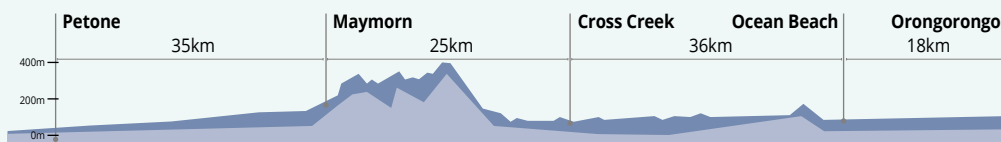


13 Take it easy with relaxed transfers on **Hutt Valley and Wairarapa trains** for you and your bike between trail sections.

Discover the character, culture and cuisine on the trail at remutakacycletrail.co.nz



riding the trail



▶ PETONE FORESHORE TO MAYMORN, 35KM

The first section of the trail runs mostly along the banks of the Hutt River, through parkland on the fairly easy-grade paths of the popular Hutt River Trail. Beginning at Petone Wharf, riders head along the foreshore to the mouth of the river, historic site of the Hikoikoi pa, one of the largest Maori settlements in pre-European New Zealand.

The trail then follows the river northeast through the park-like public corridor on both sealed and gravelled pathways. Eventually leaving the riverbank at Te Marua, riders follow a short road section to the entrance to Tunnel Gully to begin the second part of the trail.

▶ MAYMORN TO CROSS CREEK, 25KM

Beginning with Tunnel Gully, riders travel through the historic Maymorn Tunnel and lush green bush to Kaitoke.

After a short public road, it's back into the bush to follow the old railway route.

From Ladle Bend Bridge the trail travels through plantation forestry to Summit. From Summit, the trail descends along the path of the historic Fell Locomotive Incline. With three railway tunnels on the descent, including the 576m Summit Tunnel, some form of light is advisable. Riders emerge from the ranges at Cross Creek, into the expanse of the Wairarapa.

▶ CROSS CREEK TO OCEAN BEACH, 36KM

Some riders may opt to turn northeast on Western Lake Rd to the town of Featherston (12km) to finish their day's ride. The trail, however, turns southwest and runs alongside the shore of Lake Wairarapa.

This section is a gentle descent on a sealed public road, easily ridden, with some care required for occasional motor vehicles. Riders will travel through rich farmland, where sheep and cattle have grazed since Europeans first settled in the 19th century.

Towards the coast, riders pass Lake Onoke, part of the Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Park, before reaching the Cook Strait at Ocean Beach.

▶ OCEAN BEACH TO MOUTH OF ORONGORONGO RIVER, 18KM

The final section runs along the South Coast, with the Cook Strait on your left and hill country to your right. On a clear day, the snow-capped peaks of the South Island's Kaikoura Ranges are visible across the water.

Much of the land is part of the Orongorongo Sheep Station. The landscape is ruggedly beautiful, but keep an eye on the weather, as this section is exposed to strong winds.

After exploring Turakirae Head, the trail runs north to the mouth of the Orongorongo River where there is a road link back to the city of Wellington. This section provides the most challenging trail conditions with short rocky and sandy sections.



MOUNTAIN BIKING

The hub of Wellington's vast mountain biking network, Makara Peak's tracks range from flow to whoa! A massive hill around 15 minutes' drive from Wellington, the purpose-built Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park was established in 1998 and is now a first-rate attraction. With over 40km of tracks in 250ha of regenerating native bush, the park offers great variety for such an easily accessible location.

Cool Little Capital

The Remutaka Cycle Trail is right on Wellington's doorstep, our cosmopolitan capital city that embodies all the warmth and personality of a village with the energy and sophistication of the world's biggest cities. Famous for its vibrant art and cultural scene, legendary cuisine and charming boutiques, Wellington city's compact geography means you can easily walk from one side to the other. Take a parliament or

movie tour, then visit our national museum, Te Papa Tongarewa, and the Zealandia sanctuary, a world-class conservation project.

When you're ready to hit the trail head to Petone by either taking your bike on the East by West Ferry across Wellington Harbour to Days Bay and riding around the eastern beach suburbs to Petone, catching the train to Petone or driving there.

The Flight Coffee Hangar, Dixon Street, Wellington © Positively Wellington Tourism

Wellington City ■ after Duke of Wellington, British military hero • on SH 1

UPPER HUTT

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- Animals by arrangement

WATCH VIDEO

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Carve a trail through the Valley as you ride the Remutaka Cycle Trail

Explore the Hutt Valley like a local—discover our neighbourhood and big backyard full of unexpected treasures along the trail.

Hop on a train, bus or ferry to explore seaside villages, boutique shopping strips and your next locally-roasted coffee and craft beer fix.



Take an easy detour

Relive the magic of Middle-earth along the trail with sights from *The Lord of the Rings* and put yourself in the scene at Rivendell in **Kaitoke Regional Park**.

Stop in at **Stansborough Mill** to see the makers of the movies' unique costumes and woven wool treasures.

Discover the origins of the Wellington region and other New Zealand firsts at the **Petone Settlers Museum**.

Truly go back in time and relive our rail trails you'll be riding at the **Silver Stream Railway** steam locomotive rides and museum.



Swap your cycling shoes for golf shoes and test your handicap on courses that have hosted international championships with some of the world's greatest golfers. Play a round along the trail at riverside courses including the **Royal Wellington, Manor Park, Boulcott's Farm** and **Te Marua Golf Clubs**.



Explore the Bays

Cruise the bays by pedal power along the **Pencarrow Coast** to visit New Zealand's first lighthouse, lit in 1859. Venture to the stunning **Pencarrow Lakes**, Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatara, and surrounding wetlands with views to the South Island.



Dip your toes along the trail with plenty of options to cool off. Plunge into one of the many swimming spots along the **Hutt River**, loved by locals and visitors alike. Stop in at **Wainuiomata Summer Pool** for poolside miniputt, water slides, and BBQs in the sun.



Break up your trail adventure with a trip into another world at **Staglands Wildlife Reserve**, a unique interactive wildlife park. Nestled in the picturesque Akatarawa Valley, there are no barriers between you and the animals. Pack a picnic or relax at the café.



Embrace the wilderness

Take a break from your ride at **Brewtown** and sample award-winning craft beers at **Panhead, Kererū, Te Aro,** and **Boneface** breweries. Enjoy tours, tastings, and brewpub dining locals rave about—all within walking distance from the Upper Hutt train station.



Get muddy in **Waiu Park**—Lower Hutt's free mountain bike park, which climbs to the top of Wainuiomata Hill. Pedal along easy climbs, technical downhills, and beginner tracks. Ride from the Hutt River up the **Te Whiti Riser** for a MTB detour with stunning harbour views.



Park up your bikes and venture in to the hills with exhilarating **Wellington Adventures** quad bike expeditions and even higher with **Gliding Hutt Valley**. Travel over rugged coastlines and take in spectacular hilltop views.



#HUTTVALLEYNZ

huttvalleynz.com/ridethetrail  

Along the trail



Dowse Art Museum © hut山谷leynz.com
RIGHT: Fell Locomotive Museum in Featherston

The trail's kicking off point, **Petone**, sits at the head of the Wellington Harbour. Known for its coffee roasters, food producers, artisan products and designer fashion labels, it's a great place for a bite to eat and a spot

of retail therapy. Petone's Jackson St is a popular and picturesque boulevard of boutiques, cafés, bars and restaurants, so it's the best place to start. Take a Walk In Style guided tour to local fashion designers for a taste of the new

amongst stories of yesteryear in this historic shopping precinct.

Lord of the Rings fans will want to take a short detour to Harcourt Park, the filming location for the 'Gardens of Isgard' scene where Middle Earth's two most powerful wizards walked and talked.

Park the bike and pick up a set of golf clubs at one of Hutt Valley's nine riverside golf courses. Enjoy nine or 18 holes in this beautiful fertile river valley.

Upper Hutt is home to family-friendly attractions, bustling boutique stores and a superb public art gallery and theatre, while Lower Hutt is home to The Dowse Art Museum, where multimedia, fashion and painting combine in a creative hub.

From Upper Hutt, take a drive into the Akatarawa Valley to visit Staglands, a 25-acre wildlife park where you can interact with the wildlife.



After crossing the Remutaka Range into the Wairarapa, many riders turn off the trail to finish their day's ride in **Featherston**. If you're in need of nourishment, C'est Cheese delicatessen has the makings of a delicious antipasto platter. Featherston's Fell Locomotive Museum provides a fascinating background to the Remutaka Incline rail system, which the cycle trail now follows.

Masterton is the Wairarapa's largest town. It's a great family destination, with the Queen Elizabeth Park providing a playground, flying fox, mini-golf, pedal boats, skate park, swing bridge and deer park. The Castlepoint lighthouse, 70km east of the town, was one of New Zealand's last manned lighthouses.

Martinborough Village is the heart of the Classic New Zealand Wine Trail. Spend a glorious day cycling between the vineyards and olive groves, most of which are within walking/cycling distance of the town centre, sampling the specialties. Antique shopping should also be on your to-do list here.

Lower Hutt

15km NW of Wellington on SH 2

CYCLE-FRIENDLY ACCOMMODATION

Ideally located close to the Hutt River Trail, loads of great cycling tracks and at the start of the Remutaka Cycle Trail. Our fully equipped self-catering cottage meets all your cycling holiday needs.

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Upper Hutt

after the Hutt River • 33km NE of Wellington on SH 2

Martinborough

after merchant John Martin • 80km NE of Wellington

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On the Cycle Trail.

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