

Mountain Bike Grades



EASIEST

Grade 1: Easiest

Fairly flat, wide, smooth track or gravel road.



EASY

Grade 2: Easy

Mostly flat with gentle climbs on smooth track with easily avoidable obstacles such as rocks and potholes.



INTERMEDIATE

Grade 3: Intermediate

Steep slopes, obstacles and poor traction possible on narrow track.



ADVANCED

Grade 4: Advanced

Long steep climbs, narrow track, poor traction, and obstacles present. Some parts may be easier to walk.



EXPERT

Grade 5: Expert

Technically challenging, giant climbs, narrow track, drop-offs, sharp corners, some bike carrying required.



Respect others

- Stay in control.
- Give way to walkers.
- Signal your approach and pass with care.
- Ride shared-use tracks in small groups.

Respect the rules

- Ride only where permitted.
- Obtain permission from private land owners.
- Leave gates as you find them.
- Be prepared - take food, water, tools, First Aid and warm clothes.

Respect the track

- Don't skid, cut corners or make new lines.
- Avoid riding in the mud and rain.
- Take rubbish home.
- Clean your bike to prevent spreading weeds.

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This publication is produced using paper sourced from well-managed, renewable and legally logged forests.



Rotorua Visitor Centre & i-SITE is located at the lake end of Fenton St (Rotorua's main street). We are open every day (except Christmas Day) from 7.30 am–6.00 pm during the winter, and from 7.30 am–7.00 pm during the summer. A DOC visitor counter is staffed part-time.

Check out rotoruaNZ.com for extensive information on what to see and do in Rotorua – NZ's Coolest Hot Spot RotoruaNZ.com

10 Great Rotorua Rides

Mountain bike trails around Rotorua



RotoruaNZ.com



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Distance: 19.1 km

Grade 3

Dual use



This dual use track through the Lake Okataina Scenic Reserve can be ridden in either direction. Catch your breath as you enjoy amazing views of Rotorua's lakes followed by an exhilarating downhill to the Outdoor Education Centre. We recommend entering this trail from the car park at Millar Road, Lake Ōkareka.



Distance: 6 trails in an 8.5 km trail network

Grades 2-5

Biking only



Rotorua is now home to New Zealand's first year-round gondola-assisted bike lift providing access to world-class downhill mountain biking. From a height of 532 m, visitors can access 6 different trails varying from grades 2-5. The Skyline Gravity Park can be accessed from Fairy Springs Road. Visit www.skyline.co.nz/rotorua for more information.

NOTE: Fees apply, see www.skyline.co.nz



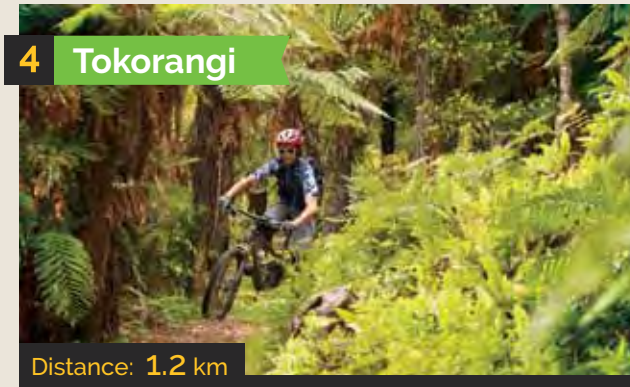
Distance: 2.7 km

Grade 4

Biking only



It's a demanding trip up Direct Road to get to the track start but it's worth it for the complex downhill ride. Rated grade 4, this track is relatively steep with some sharp edges. Catch a shuttle from Waipa Mill car park to get close to the action.



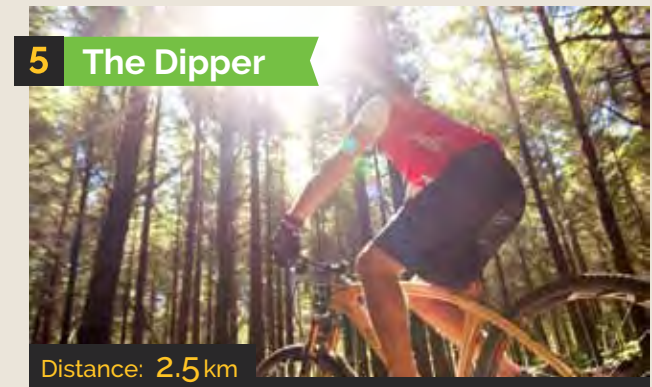
Distance: 1.2 km

Grade 3

Biking only



Opened in 2012, this trail was built by the Rotorua Mountain Biking Club with permission from Ngāti Whakaue. The trail starts on the Tokorangi ridge and flows from a logged area into lush native bush. Enjoy a fast and flowing track. Make your way to the Waipa Mill car park for maps of the Whakarewarewa MTB trail network.



Distance: 2.5 km

Grade 2

Biking only



Starting off Pohaturua Rd near the intersection of Nursery Road, this is an iconic Whakarewarewa trail accessed from the Waipa Mill car park. Mostly flat with some good berms, this is a great introduction to riding for first timers and families. Built in 1994, the track was remodelled in 2011 by the Rotorua Mountain Biking Club.



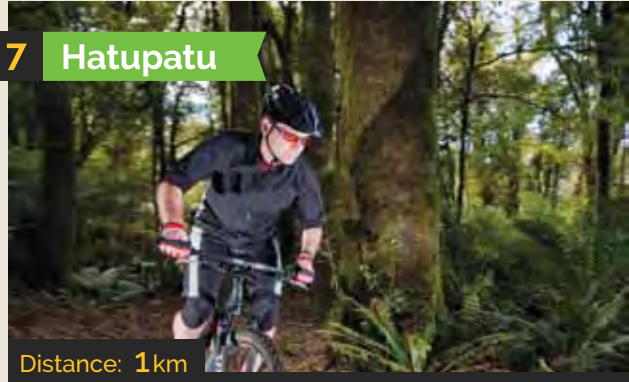
Distance: 5 km

Grade 4

Dual use



Specifically designed as a dual use track through native bush for both riders and walkers to enjoy. Named after a respected Tuhourangi tohunga (priest) who predicted the Tarawera eruption in 1886, this trail starts from the highest point in the Whakarewarewa forest at 765 m. Catch a shuttle from the Waipa Mill car park (fee applies) or make your way to the summit by riding Moerangi Road and turning into Tawa Road.



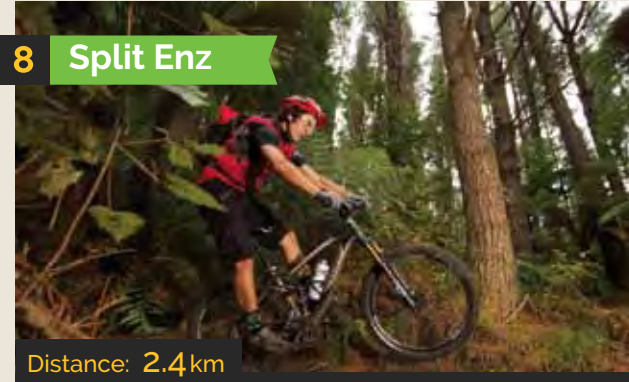
7 Hatupatu

Distance: **1 km**

Grade 5
Biking only



Recommended for MTB experts, this track descends a total of 160m and is graded 5 due to its off-camber benching and roots. This is a challenging ride for lovers of technical trails. Hatupatu was a famous warrior who hunted in this area made famous through Māori legends. Access Hatupatu from the Tuhoto Ariki trail. Full map of Whakarewarewa Forest trails available from the Waipa Mill car park.



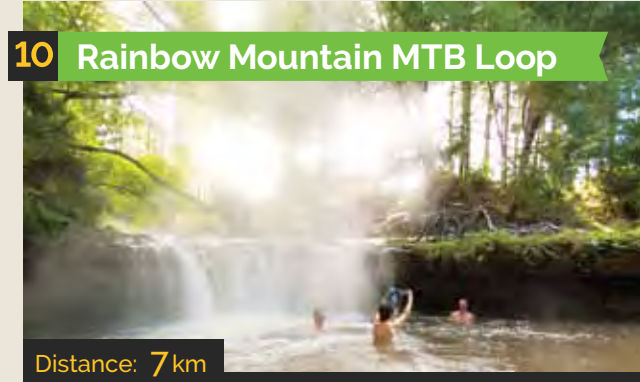
8 Split Enz

Distance: **2.4 km**

Grade 3
Biking only



Split Enz is just one of the tracks that connect to form an epic MTB loop. Linking Tuhoto Ariki to Pandy New, this grade 3 track was first opened in 2007. This track can be ridden after finishing either Tuhoto Ariki or Hatupatu. Follow Moerangi Road southward for 1.5km and find the entrance on the right.



10 Rainbow Mountain MTB Loop

Distance: **7 km**

The Rainbow Mountain MTB loop is formed by a series of short tracks which join to form a circuit. Te Tihi o Ruru/ Summit Track is a challenging uphill ride that will take you 743 m up Maungakakaramea with stunning 360° views at the summit. From here enjoy the exhilarating downhill Te Ranga MTB track to Kerosene Creek for a naturally warm swim. To get there, ride Te Ara Ahi from the CBD or park your car in the Rainbow Mountain car park on SH5.



RideRotorua.com is the place to get up-to-date information on the trails and services related to mountain biking in Rotorua. A great place to start when planning a ride in Rotorua.

Special thanks to Rotorua Mountain Bike Club for their work maintaining Rotorua's trails and supporting the riding community.



Join RMTBC or donate to the trails at www.mtbclub.org.nz



9 Te Ara Ahi

Distance: **48 km**

Grade 3
Dual use



Part of the National Cycle Trail, Te Ara Ahi (thermal by bike) takes riders from Rotorua CBD through a unique geothermal field with bubbling mud pools and spectacular geysers. A range of tourism ventures are accessed on the way plus the fantastic Rainbow Mountain MTB loop. The trail starts from the CBD, at the arches opposite the Princes Gate Hotel and ends at Waikite Hot Pools.

Te Tihi o Ruru uphill section

Distance: 2 km
Grade 4
Dual use – uphill riding only



Te Ranga downhill section

Distance: 2.4 km
Grade 4
Biking only



Te Ara Ahi traverse at the bottom

Distance: 2.6 km
Grade 2
Dual use



10 Great Rotorua Rides

- 1 Western Okataina
- 2 Skyline Gravity Bike Park
- 3 Hot X Buns
- 4 Tokorangi
- 5 The Dipper
- 6 Tuhoto Ariki Trail
- 7 Hatupatu
- 8 Split Enz
- 9 Te Ara Ahi
- 10 Rainbow Mountain MTB Loop

Maps and shuttle information for trails in the Whakarewarewa area are available from the Waipa Mill car park

Map key

- Mountain bike track (biking only)
- Mountain bike track (dual use)
- Highway
- Sealed road
- Gravel road
- Public conservation land

- Parking
- Information
- Toilets
- Geothermal feature
- Lookout

