

Rangitikei River

Upper, Middle & Lower Reaches

- CHECK
- CLEAN
- DRY



Fish & Game

NEW ZEALAND

Wellington Region

Rangitikei River

The Rangitikei River is widely regarded as one of the country's premiere trout fisheries in its upper most reaches, highly prized for large population of trophy-sized brown and rainbow trout.

Access to these reaches is normally via helicopter or a long in through the Kaimanawa Forest Park. For more information on this section of the river, click here [link to URL <https://fishandgame.org.nz/licences/fishing-licence-info/backcountry-licence/wellington-backcountry-licences/>]

This access guide covers the more easily accessible parts of the river where anglers can drive or take a short walk to reach the river's edge, but still find superb angling to an excellent trout population.

The Rangitikei River is a diverse and, in the upper and middle reaches, incredibly scenic fishery. In the lower section it loses a bit of character as it increases in size, however, good angling is still on offer at numerous easily accessible locations.

ATTENTION ANGLERS

Sections of riverbed covered by this pamphlet may be in private ownership, which means anglers do not necessarily have a right of access. Some landowners may have agreed to anglers having access along the riverbed without having to obtain permission first.

Please respect the privilege of access. Once you are on the river, stay within the riverbed and do not wander on to adjacent farmland without the express permission of the landowner. If you require clarification around where you are legally entitled to go, please visit the Walking Access Commission website - www.wams.org.nz - and use the public access layers.

Conditions of access are:

- NO dogs. NO camping. NO fires. NO vehicles on the riverbed.
- Leave gates as you find them.

Please Note:

Fish & Game has endeavoured to show where legal public access exists to and along this river. Because of a variety of factors beyond our control, this is a guideline only. The onus of avoiding trespassing on private land rests with the angler and, where doubt arises, landowner permission should be sought. If any difficulty occurs through the use of this information, please contact Wellington Fish & Game.

1
Springvale Bridge

From Taihape turn off SH1 onto Hautapu Street at the northern end of town. Continue straight onto Spooners Hill Road and continue for roughly 9km. Turn right onto Te Moehu Road, follow this all the way to the small settlement of Moawhango. Crossing the Moawhango River, continue north onto Taihape Napier Road and drive for approximately 23km, at which point you will reach the Springvale Bridge crossing the Rangitikei River. There is a beautiful freedom campground here and excellent fishing both upstream and downstream of the bridge. Please respect the adjacent private farmland and keep to the riverbed.

2
Mangaohane

Follow the direction above to get to Springvale Bridge. Continue along for another 10km then turn right onto Mangaohane Road. Follow this windy gravel road all the way until you reach the bridge crossing the Rangitikei River (about 15 to 20 minute's drive after turning off the Taihape Napier Road). About 100m north of the bridge there is a gate and instructions set out by the landowner for access. Please respect the privilege of being able to reach the river across private property, leave gates as you find them and do not block access to farm operations.

3
Mangaweka Picnic Area

Just north of Mangaweka is Mangawharariki Road. When driving north from Mangaweka turn eastward onto Mangawharariki Road and continue driving for 1.2km until you reach the Mangaweka Campground on your right. Entering this picnic area you will find several tracks that will lead you to the river. There are many paths that will take you to different sections of the river and it is a great spot for a family outing, picnic or BBQ.

4

📍 Mangarere Road

From SH1 just south of Mangaweka turn eastward onto Mangarere Road. Drive for 1.2km along this road to the bridge. At the end of the bridge there is a track that will take you down to the river. There is limited parking here, so make sure your vehicle is parked off the side of the road.

5

📍 Otara Road

Around 1km north of the small township of Ohingaiti on SH1, turn eastward onto Otara Road. Drive over the railway tracks and continue for 1.8km until you reach an open gravel area on your left. Drive through the gate at either end of this gravel area to get access down to the river. Please note - before you go to this area please contact Geoff Duncan (027 2551401) to find out which gates to go through.

6

📍 Vinegar Hill Road Picnic Area

Around 6km north of Hunterville on SH1 turn eastward onto Vinegar Hill Road and drive for 2km over the bridge to find the entrance to the large picnic area on your right. If you come from the Feilding side along Cheltenham Hunterville Road the entrance is on your left before the bridge. Drive down to the picnic area where there are several tracks that will lead you to the river. This is another great spot for camping, a picnic or a BBQ.

7

📍 Double gates on the Cheltenham Hunterville Road

From the Vinegar Hill bridge, drive a further 4.7km south along the Cheltenham Hunterville Road and on your right you will see a gate that leads to a gravel track. This will take you down towards the river. The gravel track is approximately 1 km long. Please leave gates as you find them. It is possible they may be locked at times.

8

📍 Rangitikei Valley Road

From the Vinegar Hill bridge head south along Cheltenham Hunterville Road for approximately 13.2km to reach an area called Rewa. Turn right onto Rangitikei Valley Road and drive for 2km to reach a gateway that gives you legal access via an unformed 'paper road' to the river. Please note that this is private property with granted access, please leave gates as you find them.

9

📍 Putorino Road

On SH1 about 9km south of Hunterville and 25km north of Bulls is a turnoff called Putorino Road. Turn onto Putorino Road and drive approximately 8.5km to the end. There is small grass area on the right side of the road beside the river where you can gain access to the river. Depending on what side the river is flowing on, this point can be difficult to reach the water.

10

📍 Rangitikei Road - end of road

Follow directions to Rewa for access point 8. Once you turn onto Rangitikei Road, drive all the way to the end - around 6km - where an unformed 'paper road' allows legal access downstream, and a marginal strip access gives upstream. Please note that access is still through a working farm, so respect the landowner and leave gates as you find them.

11

📍 Te Houhou Road

On SH1 about 10km south of Hunterville and 24km north of Bulls turn eastward onto Te Houhou Road and drive for 4km to the end. We advise you to ask the landowner for advice on how to get to the river. At the end of the road there are several driveways, take the one that goes up a small hill to the right. Talk with the land owner, Hamilton McConachy, for information on where to go. You will have to go across a small paddock to gain access to the river, however there is an informed 'paper road' allowing legal public access.

12

📍 Reu Reu Road

From the centre of Halcombe township head northwest on Halcombe Road for about 4.5km then veer straight/right onto Pryces Line. Drive for about 1 km along Pryces Line then turn left and continue on Pryces Line for another 7km. At the end take a slight right onto Reu Reu Road and drive for about 8km at which point there is a track by a bridge across a creek. This follows the creek bed down to the river. Access only by two-wheel-drive when dry.

13

📍 Makino Road

Follow the directions for [the point number above] but, instead of taking the right at the end of Pryces Line, turn left onto Makino Road. Access to the river at the end of the road. At the end of

Pryces Line turn left onto Makino Road and drive to the end of this road to gain access to the river.

14

📍 **Onepuni Road**

From the center of Bulls township head north on High Street, keep driving straight along SH1 for about 11 km to reach Onepuhi Road. Drive along Onepuhi Road veering right at all intersections to stay on the right. From the turnoff at SH1 it is about 6km to the end of the road where there is a track that gives access to the river.

15

📍 **Kakariki Road Bridge**

From the centre of Halcombe township drive northwest and travel along Halcombe Road for 4.5km and then turn right onto Kakariki Road. About 1 km down the road is a bridge where at either end there is access to the river.

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📍 **Bulls Bridge - True Left Access**

When heading south out of Bulls there is a bridge. Just past the bridge on your right on SH1 is Tangimoana Road crossing the Rangitikei River. Turn onto Tangimoana Road and 100m on your right is a gravel track that leads under the bridge where is plenty of access.

17

📍 **Treatment Plant**

Immediately after crossing the Bulls bridge on SH1 turn right onto Tangimoana Road. Drive for approximately 1.6km to reach a gate on your right that travels past a small treatment plant. Drive down this track towards the river to get access. At times this gate may be locked.

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📍 **Bulls Bridge - True Right Access**

At the southern end of Bulls township on SH1 a bridge crosses the Rangitikei River. When heading south out of Bulls turn right onto Bridge Street and drive along past a small park down to the river via a gravel road.

19

📍 **Double Gates -McDonell Road**

Heading north on SH1, around 3km south of Sanson, turn left onto Speedy Road and drive for 3.5km to reach Tangimoana Road. Turn left onto Tangimoana Road and drive for 1km then turn right onto McDonell Road. About 2km along McDonell Road is a set of big double gates on your left. Drive through these gates and down a

gravel road to access the river. These gates could potentially be closed at times.

20

📍 **Campion Road**

On SH1, around 7.5km south of Sanson, turn westwards onto Campion Road. Drive for about 5km traveling straight through the intersection with Tangimoana Road. At the end of Campion Road there is a gravel site. Please adhere to the conditions on the sign on the fence as you enter.

21

📍 **Rosina Road**

Traveling on SH1, about 11km north of the township of Himatangi, turn westwards onto Rosina Road. Drive for about 5km to reach Tangimoana Road. Head straight across the intersection onto Rosina Road and continue for about 1km to the end where there is a gravel road that will lead you to the river.

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📍 **Tangimoana - Scotts Ferry Road**

The small township of Tangimoana lies close to the mouth of the Rangitikei River, some 30km northwest of Palmerston North. When you reach the township travelling on Tangimoana Road, turn right at Punga Street and drive 900m to the end then turn left onto Aru Street. Drive to the end, which is about 400m, to find on your right a gravel road that will lead you to the river, along Scotts Ferry Road.

23

📍 **Parewanui Road**

From the middle of the Bulls head south along High Street for 1km and continue straight along Parewanui Road for another 17.3km to reach access tracks to the river on your left.

Access information online: www.fishandgame.nz/access.org/wellington

Access online
by scanning
the QR Code



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