

Waingawa River

Upper & Lower Reaches

- DRY
- CLEAN
- CHECK



Photo: Andrew Harding



Wellington Region

Waingawa River

The Waingawa River is sourced from the Tararua Ranges and offers a classic backcountry fishing in its upper reaches. From the Tararua Forest Park boundary it then flows down through to the mid and lower reaches and becomes a braided river system, with rapids and runs that provide great habitat for mainly brown trout, with a few rainbow trout also present. It eventually joins the Ruamahanga River east of Masterton. The Waingawa River is another important pathway for spawning trout as they travel up into the headwaters and streams to lay eggs. Fly fishing is the most preferred method, however, spin fishing in the lower reaches can be equally rewarding mid to late season. Access is limited to the river but the few spots that are available can be very rewarding. The season duration upstream from the SH2 is October 1 to April 30. Downstream it is open year round.

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

Mitre Flats

From the centre of Chapel Street in Masterton turn westward onto Renall Street and drive for about 1.7km to the end where you reach a round-about. Continue straight across onto Upper Plain Road and drive for another 1.13km and veer left/straight and continue along Upper Plain Road for approximately 9km until you reach a fork in the road. Take the left and drive for about 4km or until you reach the DOC sign on the right hand side of the road near the end. The track begins at the DOC sign and is marked and sign posted. The track to Mitre Flats runs up the true left of the Waingawa River for 8.2km to the hut. No vehicles allowed past this point, and make sure you adhere to the rules on the sign!

2

Pines

To reach the Pines, follow the same driving instructions for Mitre Flats (access #1). The Pines access is just another 100m down the gravel road from the start of the walking track to Mitre Flats. The Pines access puts you right in the riverbed, whereas the Mitre Flats track doesn't reach the river for several hundred metres. This spot is very popular with swimmers in summer so it pays to get well downstream or a few pools upstream of the swimming hole before you start fishing.

3

Atiwhakatu Confluence

Follow the driving instructions to Mitre Flats. However, after taking the left fork on Upper Plain Road, only continue a further 1.1km along. There is parking space on the left hand side and gently sloping track down to the river where the Waingawa and Atiwhakatu meet. This access point provides easy access to good fishing on the mainstem both upstream and downstream. It is also one of the few points where anglers can get into the lower Atiwhakatu as most of the river flows through private land until the DOC boundary.

4

Skeets Road

From the centre of Chapel Street in Masterton turn westward onto Renall Street and drive for about 1.7km to the end where you reach an intersection. At this intersection, continue straight across onto Upper Plain Road and drive another 1.13km and veer left/straight and continue along Upper Plain Road for approximately 1.92km. Turn left onto Evans Road and drive for about 1km until you reach the intersection with Skeets Road. Turn left onto Skeets Road and drive to the end. A locked gate prevents vehicle access to the riverbed so park on the road side and walk the short distance to the river. Park your vehicle on the roadside and walk down past the gate to the river.

5

South Road

From the southern end of High Street in Masterton turn eastward onto Vivian Street and travel about 500m to the end of Vivian Street where it meets up with South Road. Turn right onto South Road and travel south until you get to the end where there is a track leading to the river. The river is wide and easily waded in low flows in this section, providing plenty of water to fish both above and below the access point.

6

Hughes Line

About 1km south of the SH2 Bridge at the southern end of Masterton is Cornwall Road. Travel east on Cornwall Road for about 1.4km until you reach an intersection. At this intersection, turn left onto Hughes Line which will take you to the river. There are several tracks to the river from the end of Hughes Line to choose from. This location is opposite to #5 above.

7

Wardells Ridge

From the Solway area in Masterton head south on South Belt toward Solway Crescent for 63m. Turn left to stay on South Belt and drive for 1km until you reach a four-way intersection where you continue straight onto Manaia Road for 3.6km. Then continue straight onto Te Whiti Road for 1.7km to reach a bridge crossing the Ruamahanga River. On the east side of the bridge there is an access point for the Ruamahanga. Walk downstream for approximately 450m and you will reach the confluence of the Waingawa and Waiohine rivers.

Waingawa River



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

Access online
by scanning
the QR Code



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