FORGOTTEN WORLD HIGHWAY

New Zealand’s oldest heritage trail between Taumarunui and Stratford
FORGOTTEN WORLD HIGHWAY

Don’t forget…

Drive on the LEFT at all times! 0 petrol stations - fill up before you go!

4 public restrooms 0 (limited) mobile coverage - relax & switch off

4 geographic saddles to cross 12 km of unsealed road

180 m long road tunnel 1 republic

New Zealand’s oldest heritage trail is 155kms long. Starting in either Stratford or Taumarunui it follows ancient Maori trade routes and pioneering farm tracks through ambitious historic settlements, untamed native bush and stunning natural scenery. Along the Forgotten World Highway, you’ll encounter a landscape where man and nature have battled for centuries. Whether you approach the Forgotten World Highway as a three-hour scenic drive or explore its many stories over several days, you’ll be treated to an adventure like no other.

Review this guide before you embark to plan your journey. This guide offers an overview of route highlights - for more details please visit www.visit.taranaki.info
Along the route you will cross four saddles – **Tahora** offers spectacular views of three prominent Maori Pa sites, railway tunnels and the central North Island Mountains. The **Whangamomona Saddle** offers spectacular views of the surrounding landscape with a backdrop of beech and Podocarp forest. The **Pohokura Saddle** is named after a prominent Maori Chief and provides views into the valley used as a large railway construction campsite. It’s worth stopping at the top of each to take in these stunning vistas. The **Strathmore Saddle** offers stunning views of both Mt Taranaki and the Central Plateau.

The single-lane 180m long **Moki Tunnel** was built in 1936 and is known locally as the ‘Hobbit’s Hole’. Home to fossilized giant crabs, the tunnel’s floor was lowered in 1989, increasing the tunnel’s height to 7m to allow access for triple-decked stock trucks. It has a timber gabled roof and hand carved walls.

The **Tangarakau Gorge** offers an incredibly scenic passage through the magnificent podocarp forest that still characterises the region. This section is unsealed for 12kms.
The final resting place of respected early surveyor and trail blazer Joshua Morgan, who died in 1893 at the age of 35, is marked by a memorial and a short walkway through native bush to his grave site. This memorial also remembers the many other pioneers who sought their fortunes in this remote area.

**CYCLE**

The 185km Forgotten World Highway cycle trail is a spectacular, though challenging, touring route. The trail follows the Forgotten World Highway from Taumarunui to Whangamomona, before turning off at the top of the Pohokura Saddle to follow Junction Road through Purangi and over the Tarata Saddle before joining New Plymouth’s famed Coastal Walkway into the city centre. Best done over 2-3 days, the ride includes more than 2,000m of climbing, and supplies are limited along much of the route.

Read the NZ Cycle Trails overview online before departing: [www.nzcycletrail.com/forgotten-world-highway](http://www.nzcycletrail.com/forgotten-world-highway)
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go! – fill up before

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public
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DRIVE
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Mt Damper Falls is a 14km detour along Moki Road. Follow the signposts for the 20min walk. At 85m this is the North Island’s second highest waterfall, and is a spectacular sight, particularly after heavy rain. Surrounded by native bush, the falls spill over a papa bluff. Please note – the track is closed to hunters and dogs from 1 August to 31 October due to lambing.

Te Maire track – this 2 hour walk (rated: easy) starts with a suspension bridge, and loops around a mosaic of native trees including rimu, miro, totara, kahikatea, matai, rewarewa, hinau and tawa.

Te Wera arboretum and camp was an early settlement and is the base for the 6500ha Forest. The former New Zealand Forest Service campsite is still well used, and a number of walks lead from here through the arboretum and forest.
The Purangi Kiwi Project, a 15km detour towards Purangi along Junction Road from the Pohokura Saddle summit, offers two self-guided walks through native bush and forest (0.5 and 2.5 hours). Best experienced in summer, check track status before you go. A donation of $10 per person goes towards the kiwi project.

Lauren’s Lavender Farm and Café, on the Whanganui Riverbank just out of Taumarunui, will treat your senses, particularly during the summer months when in full bloom. Hours vary, so check before you go.

The Bridge to Somewhere is a two-hour return journey from either Whangamomona or Strathmore. Please see the map for more information.

Let Eastern Taranaki Experience make it easy to explore the unique features of the highway and surrounds with their hiking and cycling tours and transportation.

Ride the rails with Forgotten World Adventures. Riding modified golf carts, or purpose built RailBikes, you can zip along through a number of tunnels, over viaducts and through landscape inaccessible by road. A truly unique experience.
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HIGHWAY WORL

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Rugby fans might be keen to know that Whangamomona

is the only club in NZ that is allowed to wear an all-black

strip – as they had it well before NZ’s All Blacks. The team

compete for the Dean Cup – the oldest rugby challenge cup

in New Zealand dating back to 1907 and contested between

three teams in the district – Whangamomona, Strathmore and

Toko in East Taranaki.

Whangamomona declared itself a republic in 1989, complete

with its own presidential election. The famous Republic Day

is held biennially in January and is enjoyed by thousands of

visitors. Passports to the Republic of Whangamomona are

available from the Hotel. Find out more about republic day

dates and activities at www.visit.taranaki.info

WHANGAMOMONA

First settled in 1895, the village of Whangamomona was once

a bustling frontier town, with up to 300 residents providing

strong service links, roading and rail construction to the hardy

farming community. The town experienced a great flood in

1924, but the town didn’t decline to around 20 residents until

farm mergers and rationalisation took place in the 1960s.

The village has a Historic Places Trust precinct rating, and

centres on the iconic Whangamomona Hotel, which provides

refreshments.

STAY

For accommodation along the route visit www.visit.taranaki.info or book at your closest i-SITE.
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TO NEW PLYMOUTH (30 mins)

TO MOUNT TARANAKI (15 mins)

TO HAWERA (30 mins)

FORGOTTEN WORLD ADVENTURES

EASTERN Taranaki Exp.

CLOCK TOWER

TARANAKI PIONEER VILLAGE

STRATFORD

i-SITE Visitor Centre

Unsealed Road

Walking Trail

Driveways

State Highways Sealed

Sealed Local Road

Towns

Smaller Towns

Accommodation

Refreshments

Toilets

Petrol

Rest Areas

Rivers

Railway

Country Roads

Walking Track

KEY

DRIVE TIMES

Time Distance

Stratford to:

Douglas 18 mins 18 km

Strathmore Saddle 23 mins 23 km

Pohokura Saddle 45 mins 45 km

Whangamomona Saddle 56 mins 56 km

Alice King Memorial 1 hr 3 mins 65 km

Tahora Saddle 1 hr 15 mins 75 km

Moki Rd Tunnel 1 hr 21 mins 81 km

Nevin's Lookout 1 hr 50 mins 110 km

Taumarunui 2 hr 30 mins 150 km

Tahora/SH43 to:

Tangarakau 6 mins, one way 6 km

Moki Rd/SH43 to:

Mt Damper Falls 15 mins, one way 15.1 km

Moki Forest 8 mins, one way 7.9 km

* Approximate distance and drive times

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- Driving times
- Distance
- Towns
- State Highways
- Sealed
- Local Road
- Walking Trail
- i-SITE Visitor Centre
- Unsealed Road
- Accommodation
- Refreshments
- Toilets
- Petrol
- Rest Areas

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  - Alice King Memorial 1 hr 3 mins, 65 km
  - Tahora Saddle 1 hr 15 mins, 75 km
  - Moki Rd Tunnel 1 hr 21 mins, 81 km
  - Nevin's Lookout 1 hr 50 mins, 110 km
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TOKO DOUGLAS

**State Highways**
- Sealed
- Sealed Local Road

**Walking Trail**
- i-SITE Visitor Centre
- Unsealed Road

**Railway**
- Rivers

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POHOKURA SADDLE
LAUREN'S LAVENDER
TE MAIRE TRACK
CLOCK TOWER
TARANAKI PIONEER VILLAGE
TE WERA CAMP
TOKO DOUGLAS
STRATHMORE
HUIAKAMA
MOKI TUNNEL
TO MT DAMPER FALLS
MORGAN'S GRAVE
EASTERN TARANAKI EXP.
PURANGI KIWI PROJECT
TO BRIDGE TO SOMEWHERE VIA MAKAHU CAMPSITE (DOC)
WHANGAMOMONA SADDLE
HISTORIC CHURCH
KIORE TUNNEL
TANGARAKAU GORGE
FORGOTTEN WORLD ADVENTURES
OLD WHANGA ROAD TRAIL
TAUMARUNUI
STRATFORD
Whangamomona
PAPAROA RD
TE MAIRE VALLEY RD
JUNCTION RD
PEMBROKE
TO LAKE TAUPO
TO TE KUITI
TO NEW PLYMOUTH (30 mins)
TO NEW PLYMOUTH (45 mins)
BREWER RD
TO LAKE TAUPO
TO HAWERA (30 mins)
TO OHURA MATAU
MOHAKAU RD
MANGAOAPA RD
RAEKOHUA RD
Purangi
DOUGLAS RD
TAUMARUNUI STRATFORD
State Highway Smaller Towns
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