



### SAFETY DISCLAIMER & GENERAL INFORMATION

***The Whanganui River is hazardous. This sheet contains safety information that must be read before booking with us and ensures you are aware of the risks involved before committing to a trip.***

Whanganui River Canoes are proud to have been safely transporting visitors to the Whanganui River since 2009. Our canoe trips and tours are an outdoor adventure conducted in an everchanging environment that is subject to changeable weather conditions, river levels, changes in rapid sizes, rocks and logs sticking out of the water, unpredictable slips, rockfalls, strong wind, rough and rugged terrain and other naturally occurring hazards. There are also man-made hazards such as jet boats, and due to isolation and lack

Whanganui River Canoes  
10 Parapara Road Raetihi SH4 New Zealand  
0800 40 88 88

of cell phone reception there are delays communicating in an emergency.

We have taken all reasonable and practicable steps to provide you with the level of care and assurances of safety appropriate to this activity. However, you should be aware that certain inherent risks remain which are integral to the activity - travelling on the river, paddling through rapids, around obstacles, and a lack of phone reception. You will also be paddling below high cliffs, which cannot be eliminated. At campsites, land can be rugged, with slippery muddy sections and uneven ground – especially hazardous at night; or when carrying your barrels. Be aware at campsites that landslides and tree fall are a possibility in extremely adverse weather conditions. While on the river there is a chance of weather and river levels changing.

Tours may be cancelled with little notice and we may also have to turn back en-route to ensure your safety, due to conditions outside of our control.

Please ensure you read through the accompanying information before the trip, and a safety briefing will also be conducted at our base. If you are in a large group booking, ensure everyone has access to the accompanying information, and work together when planning the time to watch your safety briefing. So that we can safely include everyone, please advise us when booking if you or anyone in your group has any physical or medical condition/s (including pregnancy) that we need to be made aware of - this is to ensure everyone's comfort and enjoyment of the tour at all times. Talk to your own doctor if you need to confirm your ability to participate in this trip. We reserve the right to withdraw any person who in our opinion is likely to endanger themselves or others. Please note you will be asked to sign a risk disclosure form at our Office.

Warning: Under New Zealand law it is extremely unlikely that you will be able to sue anyone if you are injured. In addition, New Zealand's Accident Compensation scheme provides only limited

assistance to visitors to New Zealand who are injured. We strongly recommend that all visitors to New Zealand have full insurance covering any injury they might suffer, including medical treatment cover, before undertaking our activity.



[www.whanganuirivercanoes.co.nz](http://www.whanganuirivercanoes.co.nz)  
[info@whanganuirivercanoes.co.nz](mailto:info@whanganuirivercanoes.co.nz)



### GENERAL TOUR INFORMATION

Our tour is an outdoor adventure conducted in an ever-changing river environment that is subject to unpredictable weather conditions, floods, slips, rockfalls, rough, slippery and rugged terrain and other naturally occurring hazards. There are on road hazards pre/post trip and hazards in the river.

**TOUR DURATION:** Daily departure times are at 8am. Our trips are either 2, 3, 4 or 5 days - we will communicate with you about which particular trip you are planning.

**Check in is recommended the day before your trip** so that you can watch our half hour safety briefing and pack your gear. We play our safety briefing between 2, and 7pm. If you cannot arrive before 7pm the afternoon before your trip, arrive at 6.00 am on the morning of your trip, please communicate your expected arrival time with us before your trip.

Ensure you are on time as due to paddling time constraints we cannot wait for late arrivals.

**DEPARTURE POINT:** Our office and departure area are located at Raetihi Holiday Park 10 Parapara Road, Raetihi.

This is approximately 10 mins drive from Ohakune, or just over an hour from Whanganui or Taumarunui. Parking is available

### WEATHER:

We recommend you check the local weather forecast before arrival and come suitably equipped – we reserve the right to turn you away if we feel you are unprepared. If you are unsure of the weather, feel free to get in touch with us, as it is often changeable – we look at Taumarunui, Taranaki and Whanganui Forecasts. A really fantastic new tool for looking at the weather is [here](#) (NIWA weather) We work with all operators on the Whanganui River and have agreed to safe paddling levels. We will not put paddlers on the river if it is forecast to go above 3.5 Metres at [Pipiriki](#) (Horizons Envirodata) 1.8 metres at [Wades Landing](#) (Horizons Envirodata)

**TRANSPORT COMFORT:** We try our best to provide you with a comfortable ride. Please remember that to the majority of sections of the river the roads are very long and windy, with some gravel sections.

### THE BRIDGE TO NOWHERE WALK:

This is an optional walk part way through your paddle. It is about 2.7 km to the Bridge to Nowhere, then 2.7km back. Steep at the start while you get out of your canoe, and quite slippery. But the main walking track is fairly easy, and a well-maintained DOC track.

There is a rest shelter is approximately 5mins walk from the River. Long drop toilets (you will need toilet paper) and picnic tables are located on this walk.

**CHILDREN:** Our minimum age is 7. We do like to discuss with each group if they have a number of children, so we can give suggestions about sensible adult/child ratios and paddling distances.

**WATER:** As you are paddling in a river, there is always the possibility that you may get wet. Please remember this when bringing along cameras, cell phones and other items of an electronic nature - we recommend keeping these in a sealed plastic bag or container if you feel you must bring them. Even items in sealed plastic bags and containers have been damaged on trips in the past.

**DRUGS & ALCOHOL:** We do not permit any drugs on the Whanganui River. If you bring alcohol with you, please do not bring an excess amount. Only drink sensibly at your accommodation (do not drink to excess) Respect others at your campsites. John Coull Hut, and Tieke do not permit alcohol. Do not drink while you are paddling. Operators on the river who see you paddling unsafely under the influence are permitted to remove you from the river, and charge you for their costs.

### SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT:

At Whanganui River Canoes we are committed to looking after our environment, and to sustainability. Check out our commitment [here](#) We also ask our visitors to commit to the [TIAKI PROMISE](#):

WHILE TRAVELLING NEW ZEALAND I WILL:

*CARE FOR LAND SEA AND  
NATURE TREADING  
LIGHTLY AND LEAVING NO  
TRACE  
TRAVEL SAFELY, SHOWING  
CARE AND  
CONSIDERATION FOR ALL  
RESPECT CULTURE,  
TRAVELLING WITH AN  
OPEN HEART AND MIND*

[www.whanganuirivercanoes.co.nz](http://www.whanganuirivercanoes.co.nz)  
[info@whanganuirivercanoes.co.nz](mailto:info@whanganuirivercanoes.co.nz)

Whanganui River Canoes  
10 Parapara Road Raetihi SH4 New Zealand  
0800 40 88 88



## What to Bring - Unguided

- Pots, pans, and eating utensils, can opener as well as dish washing material and tea towels
- Matches or lighter and a gas cooker
- Enough food for the whole trip and for an extra day
- Snacks and nibbles for in between meals
- Toilet paper
- Torch / batteries/headlamp
- Tent
- Canoeing clothing – layers of clothing that you can easily add and remove. No jeans
- Camping clothing and equipment
- Swim wear
- Complete change of warm clothes
- Shorts
- Towel
- 2-3 x Polypropylene or woollen tops
- Spare light weight top (fleece and wool preferably)
- Sun hat / warm hat
- Warm socks
- Waterproof light weight jacket or Parker
- Beanie (depending on season)
- Wind-proof leggings (optional)
- Shoes suitable for canoeing in, and a separate pair for at the camp-sites. Please note, jandals, thongs,

and flip flops are not suitable for this trip.

- Track suit or poly-pro pants (not jeans or cotton)
  - Sleeping bag / sleeping mat
  - Wetsuit (optional for colder months)
  - Lightweight gloves for warmth or blisters
  - Water bottle
  - Basic toiletries (no soap in river)
  - Spare plastic bags – for clothing and rubbish
  - Sun glasses with strap
  - Insect repellent/ Sunscreen
  - Small camera – carried in waterproof box (we don't recommend paddling with any expensive electronics)
  - Small pillow (optional)
- Please note, there are rain water tanks at every DOC camp-site approximately every two hours along the river. DOC do advise that you boil or filter the water. It is good outdoor practise to bring plenty of water with you.

## What to Bring - Guided

- Canoeing clothing – layers of clothing that you can easily add and remove. No jeans
- Camping clothing and equipment
- Swim wear
- Complete change of warm clothes
- Shorts
- Towel
- 2-3 x Polypropylene or woollen tops
- Spare light weight top (fleece and wool preferably)
- Sun hat / warm hat
- Warm socks
- Waterproof light weight jacket or Parker
- Beanie (depending on season)
- Wind-proof leggings (optional)
- Shoes suitable for canoeing in, and a separate pair for at the camp-sites. Please note, jandals, thongs, and flip flops are not suitable for this trip.
- Track suit or poly-pro pants (not jeans or cotton)
- Sleeping bag / sleeping mat
- Wetsuit (optional for colder months)
- Lightweight gloves for warmth or blisters
- Water bottle
- Basic toiletries (no soap in river)
- Spare plastic bags – for clothing and rubbish
- Sun glasses with strap

- Insect repellent/ Sunscreen
  - Small camera – carried in waterproof box (we don't recommend paddling with any expensive electronics)
  - Small pillow (optional)
- Please note, there are rain water tanks at every DOC camp-site approximately every two hours along the river. DOC do advise that you boil or filter the water. It is good outdoor practise to bring plenty of water with you.

Whanganui River Canoes  
10 Parapara Road Raetihi SH4 New Zealand  
0800 40 88 88

[www.whanganuirivercanoes.co.nz](http://www.whanganuirivercanoes.co.nz)  
[info@whanganuirivercanoes.co.nz](mailto:info@whanganuirivercanoes.co.nz)



**GENERAL:**

- We encourage you to bring plenty of drinking water. There are rain water tanks at each DOC site, but DOC do advise that you boil or filter water before drinking it.
- Jet boat operators also operate on the Whanganui River. We find them a fantastic asset especially in an emergency.
- You must wear a life jacket at all times while on or near the water.
- No animals are permitted in the National Park
- DOC campsites are approximately every two hours along the Whanganui River
- DOC campsites offer basic facilities such as long drop toilets and rain water tanks
- There are huts at Whakahoro, John Coull and Tieke (no alcohol is permitted at John Coull Hut or Tieke)
- You can also find alternative accommodation at [Posh Pioneers](#), [Blue Duck](#)

[Station, the Bridge to Nowhere Lodge](#), The Bridge to Nowhere (Ramanui) [Campground & Cabins](#)

- If booking your first night of your Whakahoro Trip at Blue Duck Station, please arrive a full day early, so that we can arrange space for you on our 8am shuttle (you will still need safety briefing etc before departure). Arrange with Blue Duck any activities you may like to do during the day, or look at a day hike. If you need afternoon transport this is very rare, and will need to be arranged with Whanganui River Canoes prior, you will need to pay extra per person to cover the cost of the extra shuttle.
- If you have questions about sensible campsites to book, feel free to discuss with us before making your booking, use our map on our website as a reference.

- The Intercity bus does stop only a couple of hundred metres from our Holiday Park. If you book a train to Ohakune, let us know and we can pick you up.

To further ensure your safety we require that the following guidelines be reviewed prior to your tour.

- A verbal safety briefing will also be given prior to departure on the river.
- You must follow the instructions from your Driver, or other staff member at all times, especially if an emergency situation arises.
- Personal belongings are your responsibility. Please look after them carefully – Whanganui River Canoes will not be responsible for loss or damage.
- Once in the DOC Reserve, please ensure that everyone camps at designated accommodation.
- If your group consists of adults and children, we

require that supervising adults be a suitable ratio with children.

If you require further information or require clarification on any aspect of the trip, please contact us on (06) 385 4176 or 0800 40 88 88. Additional information is also available on our website.

To the extent permitted by law, no liability will be accepted by Whanganui River Canoes for damage to your property, disruption to travel plans, mental injury, or the consequences of your failure to follow our instructions. These exclusions are subject to any rights or remedies you may have under the Consumer Guarantee's Act 1993

*With the constantly changing Covid environment our team are following updates, and are following relevant guidelines sent to the Tourism Industry.*



Endorsed by QUALMARK®

