

TARANAKI

like no other

TOP 10 REGION
Taranaki,
New Zealand

lonely planet

BEST OF TRAVEL
2017

FORGOTTEN WORLD HIGHWAY

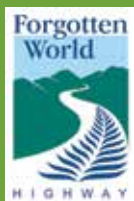
*New Zealand's oldest heritage trail
between Taumarunui and Stratford*



An initiative of New Plymouth District Council



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



DRIVE



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



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. Follow ancient trails through a world that time forgot.



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.





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.

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



STAY

For accommodation along the route visit www.visit.taranaki.info or book at your closest i-SITE.

KEY



State Highway



Smaller Towns



State Highways Sealed



Sealed Local Road



Walking Trail



Towns



SITE

i-SITE Visitor Centre



Unsealed Road



Railway



Rivers



Accommodation



Refreshments



Toilets



Petrol



Rest Areas

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

PLEASE NOTE

12km of the Forgotten World Highway is unsealed road and there are no petrol stations. When in New Zealand, please drive on the left! The Highway traverses four saddles, where the road passes between two summits. Take care driving these features, as they are steep and windy and offer spectacular views.



↑ TO NEW PLYMOUTH (30 mins)



↓ TO MOUNT TARANAKI (15 mins)

Midhurst

STRATFORD
SITE

FORGOTTEN
WORLD
ADVENTURES

EASTERN
TARANAKI
EXP.

TARANAKI
PIONEER
VILLAGE

3

↓ TO HAWERA (30 mins)

Toko

↑ TO NEW PLYMOUTH (45 mins)



KIORO TUNNEL

Douglas

Strathmore

Huiakau

BREWER RD

DOUGLAS RD

MANGAOPARA RD

MOHAKAU RD

TO
SO
VIA



PURANGI
KIWI
PROJECT

Purangi

HISTORIC
CHURCH

Matau

JUNCTION RD

POHOKURA
SADDLE

WHANGAMOMONA
SADDLE

OLD
ROAD

43

TE WERA
CAMP

ma

BRIDGE TO
MEWHERE
A MAKAHU

Makahu



MANGAP

MOKI
TUNNEL

Tahora

RAEKO

TAHORA
SADDLE

Kohuratahi

Marco

Whangamomona

OLD WHANGA
ROAD TRAIL



WHANGA
NATIONAL
PARK



TO MT
DAMPER
FALLS



MORGAN'S
GRAVE



TANGARAKAU
GORGE



Tangarakau

NUI
AL



↑ TO OHURA

Tatu

Tokirima

43

OHINER
CAMPS
(DOO)



↑
TO TE KUITI



**FORGOTTEN
WORLD
ADVENTURES**

TAUMARUNUI



SITE



**TO LAKE
TAUPO →**

**LAUREN'S
LAVENDER**

Te Maire

PAPAROA RD



**TE MAIRE
TRACK**

**TE MAIRE
VALLEY RD**

FORGOTTEN WORLD HIGHWAY



STRATFORD i-SITE VISITOR CENTRE

Prospero Place and Miranda Street, Stratford

Email: info@stratford.govt.nz

Phone: 06 765 6708

Freephone: 0800 765 6708

Hours: Monday-Friday from 8.30am-5pm,
weekends and public holidays from 10am-3pm.



TAUMARUNUI i-SITE VISITOR CENTRE

Railway Station, Hakiaha Street, Taumarunui

Email: taumarunui@i-site.org

Phone: 07 895 7494

Hours: Monday – Sunday: Summer 8.30am – 5.30pm
Winter – 8.30am – 4pm. Closed Christmas Day.



www.visit.taranaki.info

www.doc.govt.nz