

## Ohakune Old Coach Road cycle trail

The coach road forms one section of the 231km Mountain to Sea Cycle Trail and is described as one of New Zealand's best half-day rides.

The trail can be ridden in either direction, but officially starts from the beautifully-restored Ohakune Railway Station and café.

From here, it follows the recycled railway sleeper marker posts onto Marshalls Road and crosses a narrow bridge to climb into Tongariro National Park and onto the Old Coach Road.

The track bisects vivid green farmland on the downward slope and lush regenerating bush on the upward slope. It's a rough track in places where the more than 100-year-old original cobbles still remain.

At the top of the climb, head right off the main trail at the Hapuawhenua Viaduct sign to investigate the disused Hapuawhenua Tunnel and the views across to the modern 414m viaduct.

Back on the main trail, and after a few kilometres, there's a climb to the impressive rusting Taonui Viaduct which is about half the size of the Hapuawhenua Viaduct.

The track now continues in single-track mode through old growth forest which includes giant rimu, totara, mountain cabbage and a sea of ferns. There's a brief, cruisey descent back to the Old Coach Road and this soon emerges onto farmland and eventually Horopito, and the rusting remains of the *Smash Palace* car wreckers.

There's a few good spots for a picnic before riding back to Ohakune – riding a track in reverse is like riding a new trail.

### Wild file

**Access** Ohakune Railway Station

**Grade** 2

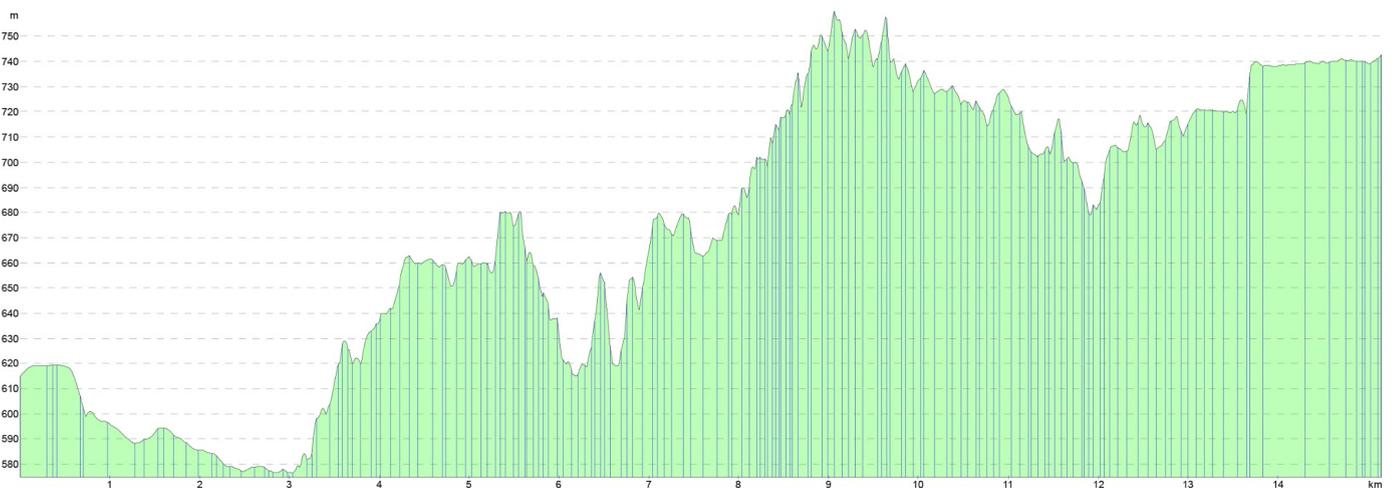
**Time** 2-4hr

**Distance** 15km each way

**Total ascent** 555m

**Topo50 map** BJ34

### Elevation Profile



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