

Whirinaki Circuit, Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park

From the car park at Forest Road, the well-graded track heads directly into some of the densest stands of podocarps in the park.

After about 15 minutes, the track crosses a footbridge over Te Whaiti Nui A Toi Canyon, a small but impressive narrowing of the Whirinaki River, confined within mossy ignimbrite walls.

The track continues up the true right of the Whirinaki River, soon passing the Moerangi Track junction. After about 90min, the track reaches the signposted turn-off into Mangamate Stream. Here, travel is mainly on tracks beside the river, but it fords often and sometimes follows the riverbed for short sections (this could be impassable when the river is in flood).

The track reaches a grassy clearing at a prominent fork. The track now sidles and climbs to a low saddle, where the nine-bunk Mangamate Hut occupies a small grassy clearing.

The track drops down the other side of the saddle into the headwaters of Kakanui Stream, a branch of which is followed south, and eventually over another small forest saddle into the headwaters of Taumutu Stream.

Easy travel down the Taumutu Stream leads to its confluence with Whirinaki River, at a footbridge.

Head north along the true right of the Whirinaki on the easy, flat track. Central Whirinaki Hut occupies a substantial clearing, set on flats near the river. It's the largest hut in the park, with bunk space for 25. Ample camping exists nearby.

The track continues north, following the Whirinaki River downstream, with numerous opportunities to reach the river edge and watch for whoio. It sticks to the true right, crossing a few tributaries on footbridges, until reaching Verns Camp, where there is a permanent shelter, sometimes used by guided parties staying in the area, and three campsites.

About 45 minutes north of Verns Camp, the track reaches another junction. Head left to reach a viewpoint of Whirinaki Falls. Although only 8m high, the Whirinaki River has enough volume to make for a decent spectacle.

This track stays on the true left of the Whirinaki River, rejoining the inward track at the footbridge over Te Whaiti Nui A Toi Canyon. The car park and the end of the circuit are just 15 minutes away.

WILD FILE

Grade Easy-moderate

Time Forest Road to Mangamate Hut, 4hr; To Central Whirinaki Hut, 4.5hr; To Forest Road, 5hr

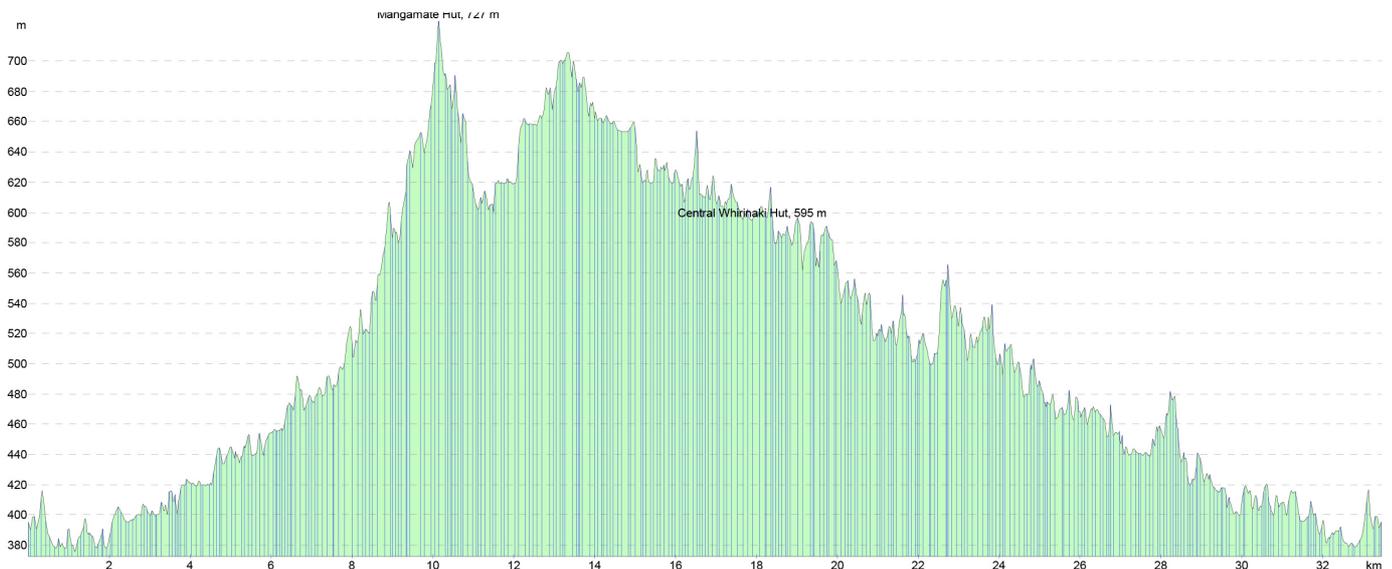
Distance 33.5km.

Total ascent 1742m

Accommodation Mangamate Hut (9 bunks), Central Whirinaki Hut (25 bunks). Whirinaki Recreation Camp also offers accommodation for schools and camps.

Map BG38, BG39

Elevation Profile



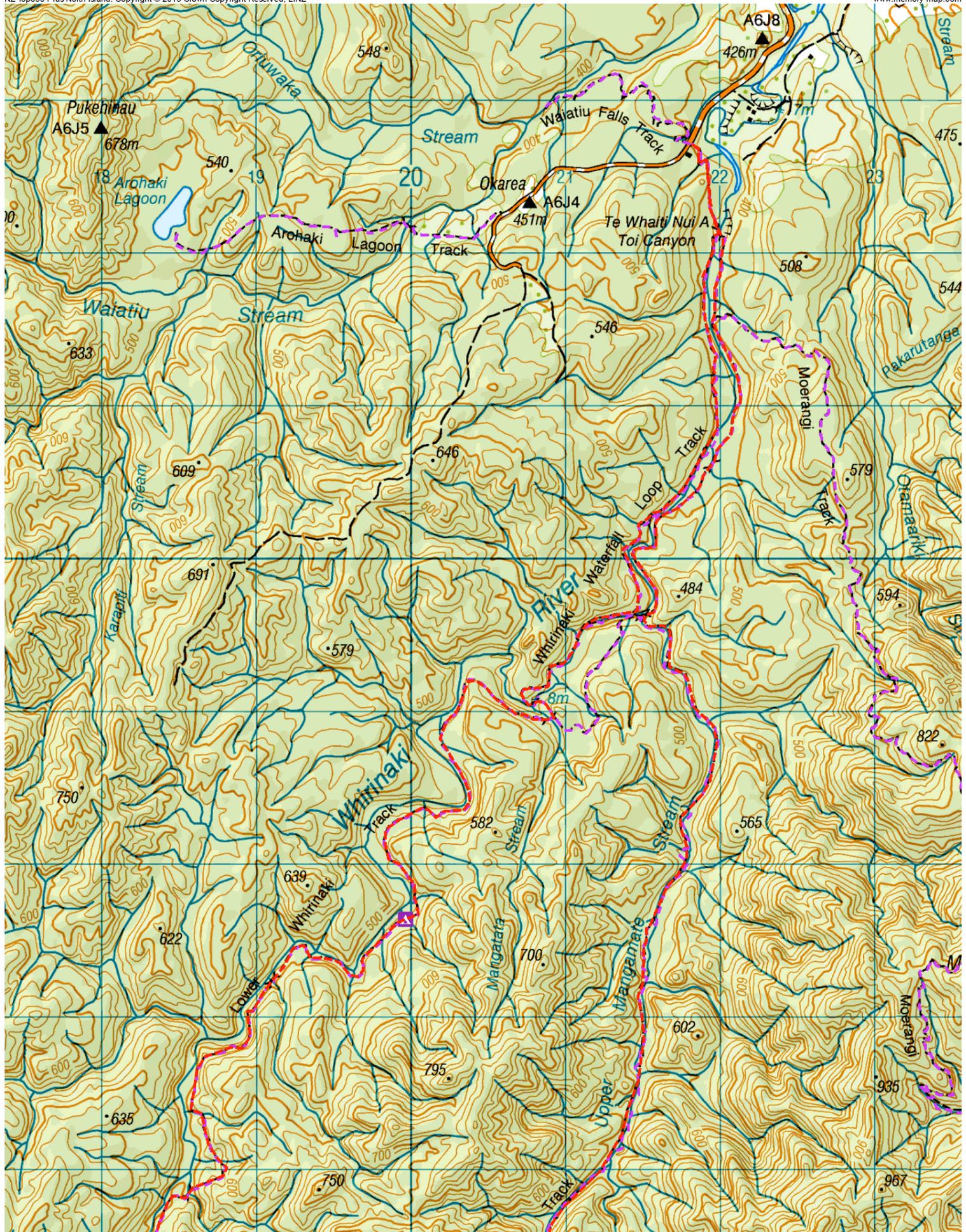
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Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to map this route correctly, *Wilderness* does not accept responsibility for any errors. Users should plan their routes and gather as much information as possible before departing. The GPX file associated with this route has been drawn using Memory-Map software, version 6. Use discretion when following the route, especially when no track is marked on the map. **The GPX file in these cases are a 'best guess' of the route only. Users should use a combination of GPS, visual observations, maps and compass to find the best possible route.** Memory Map shows purple tracks and hut icons as verified routes and huts. Red or blue routes are those drawn by Wilderness.

Whirinaki Circuit, Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park. Map 1

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Whirinaki Circuit, Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park. Map 2

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