

Paengaroa – Maketu Loop

Approx: 30.7km

Time: 1 hr 33 mins ride time

About this ride:

Area: Paengaroa, Maketu

This is a flat ride with one hill, the ride will take you past Dairy farms, Kiwifruit orchards and into historic Maketu, where you can stop for refreshments at the Maketu Beachside Café right on the waters edge beside Maketu Surf Club, (toilets underneath) with fabulous views down the coast to Mount Maunganui and the Coromandel peninsula behind, Mayor Island, long flat Motiti Island and Plate Island.

There are several cafes at Paengaroa including a café at Comvita

Also toilets at the playground of Eastern Districts playing fields, Paengaroa Domain just south of the Gull Service station on SHW 33.

Bike type: Road bikes, as all this ride is on sealed road and sealed off road paths

Parking and Start: Paengaroa (just south of Te Puke) A good parking area is outside Paengaroa Community Hall on 4 Old Coach Road at the edge of the village shops.

Directions:

With your back to Paengaroa Community Hall ride (left) north on Old Coach Rd, into the village and continue through Paengaroa past Comvita (with Comvita on your left) for **2.6 km** on **Wilson Rd South**. (this way around will give you the kindest gradient on your one hill) Cross **SHW 2** with a little veer to the right onto **Wilson Rd North** for **4.7km** Sign posted **Maketu**.

(If you do not wish to do the one hill, do not turn into Arawa Ave but carry on Wilson Rd North directly ahead at the round about into Park Rd, and follow the Estuary around to the ~~Surf~~ Club)

Right into **Arawa Ave**. From the top of Arawa Ave you get magnificent views east along the coast and also of the whole hinterland, Papamoa Hills, and coast to the West in the direction of the Mount.

Optional Side Trip: It is worth a small 210m detour or full 1.3km one way down Bledisloe Park Ave to Little Waihi to see the East Coast towards Whakatane, Pukehina Beach and Estuary just below you, Whale Island, Volcanic White Island and on a clear day, down to Cape Runaway, or all the way to the bottom of this hill through the Park & white barrier arm on your left to the beach, this hill has a surprisingly friendly gradient to return up.

Otherwise carrying on **Arawa Ave**

Flowing briefly left down **Rauporoa Rd**, stop opposite Williams Cres to admire the magnificent view.

Right into **Williams Cres** for 300m (**Caution: !! don't get too much speed up for this T intersection**)

Right into **Town Point Rd** for 300m to the end of this road. From here you can see Plate Island to your right, low Motiti Island to your left and Mayor Island behind, the Bay all the way along to the Mount and the Coromandel behind. Turn about and proceed down **Town Point Rd** for 1.1km and you come out at the bottom at **Maketu Surf Club, Maketu Beachside Café** (an excellent refreshment stop)

For more information about Historic Maketu:(www.maketu.nz/ Click on 'this is Maketu' then 'Our History ')

The rest of the riding is all flat, Continue past the Surf Club following the Estuary 400m Right at the playground through the car park onto the path to the next car park.

Left into **Park Rd**

Right at the roundabout (third exit) into **Maketu Rd** for 2km

Right into **Kaituna Rd**, (2.7km from Maketu to this turn off) another 2.7km takes you to Ford Rd on your right.

Optional Side Trip : a side trip if you wish down Ford Rd, on your right, 1.7km one way – commonly called 'The Cut' where a White Heron can sometimes be seen and plenty of anglers fish and whitebaiters congregate where the Kaituna River meets the sea with a fabulous view right down to the Mount.

Continue riding straight along **Kaituna Rd** until you reach the Tauranga Eastern Link Motorway (TEL) sealed biking /walking track. Ride through the track entry bars, then left a the T. for 4 km This trail comes out on **Te Tumu Rd** where you will turn right for 0.7 km (sign posted Rotorua / Whakatane)

Right again at the T intersection into **Maketu Rd** for 0.3km on a concrete path on your left.

Over the Railway line and left onto the concrete bike path to Paengaroa, (sign posted Rotorua) crossing carefully when you come to the round about, at the start of the TEL motorway, stick to the path. (don't go clockwise around the roundabout but cross as soon as you reach the road and roundabout) in the direction of the Maori carvings. Continue on the concrete path to Paengaroa. Look out for **Comvita** on your left and then you come out again into the Paengaroa Village beside the stage wagon.

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