

Pongakawa - Rotoehu Loop

Approx: 57.2 km 2 hours 33 minutes (café option + 17.8km return, + 1 hour 14 minutes) Total 75km

Time: approx 3hrs 47 minutes.

About this ride:

Area - Pongakawa, Rotoehu, Rotoiti.

There are no café or toilet facilities on this route unless you do the Café option.

There are some hills, sealed and gravel road. Generally it is a gentle climb. A wonderful hinterland ride through Kiwifruit orchards, dairy, sheep and cattle farms with some sea and lake views. There is no cell phone coverage in some areas.

Bike type: Mountain bike or off road tyres required.

Park and Start; Pongakawa School, 956 Old Coach Rd, Pongakawa, Te Puke (park opposite the school)

Directions:

Ride East (if you are facing Pongakawa School – ride left) on **Old Coach Rd** past Pongakawa School , (watch for the left turn at the 1.3km) to **Rotoehu Rd** for 4.3km

Turn Right (straight ahead) into **Rotoehu Rd** for 28.4km

Rotoehu Rd/ Maniatutu Rd T intersection * **Café option at this point look below for directions**

Turn Right into **Maniatutu Rd** for 21km

Turn right into **Old Coach Rd** at the T Intersection for 2.6km to reach Pongakawa School.

Okere Falls Café Option: * L into **Maniatutu Rd** from Rotoehu Rd for 5.9km

Scenic Option:

At the end of Maniatutu Rd, if you wish to take a rest & (toilet stop next to the playground) by Lake Rotoiti, Turn left down **Otaramarae Rd** for **400m** and you will come to the lake.

Retracing your path back up **Otaramarae Rd**

L into **SHW33** for 1.1km (this is the main Te Puke to Rotorua Highway with a good verge)

L into **Okere Rd** for 1.8km to the end of the road and walk down a small path on your left. Cross over a bridge and back onto **SHW 33** from here you can see Okere Falls Café on your left. This is a very busy area with rafters, kayakers & café patrons, care is required crossing the road.

Scenic Option : Okere Falls Scenic Reserve: At the Okere Falls café lock up your bikes there and enjoy refreshments before or after. Walk back to Trout Pool Rd, which is just opposite the bridge you crossed. 0.3 km down Trout Pool Rd on your right you will find a parking area to the very pretty Okere Falls Scenic Reserve. From this very pretty bush clad area you observe the rafters/ kayakers and waterfalls on the river. (**mind slippery spray laden steps in your bike**

shoes) Or ride/ walk your bikes. It is not safe to lock your bikes up in this car park.

Return the way you came, riding the length of **Maniatutu Rd** for 27.1km

Turn right into **Old Coach Rd** at the T intersection for 2.6km to reach Pongakawa School.

Pongakawa Rotoehu Loop

Loop 57.2 km 2 hours 33minutes approx

Coffee Option at Okere Falls + 17.8km return 1 hour 14 minutes

Total 75 km 3 hrs 47minutes approx. Direction

