

# The Surf Loop

## Mount Maunganui - Tauranga - Matapihi - Bayfair - Papamoa - Paengaroa - Maketu - Papamoa - Mount

**Approx:** Total **92.1 km** + flat, one small hill. 57.22 miles

All year around trail ( except August )

+ 2.6km extra for Little Waihi

+ 3.4 for Ford Rd to The Cut

+ 2km for Pacifica Home and Garden

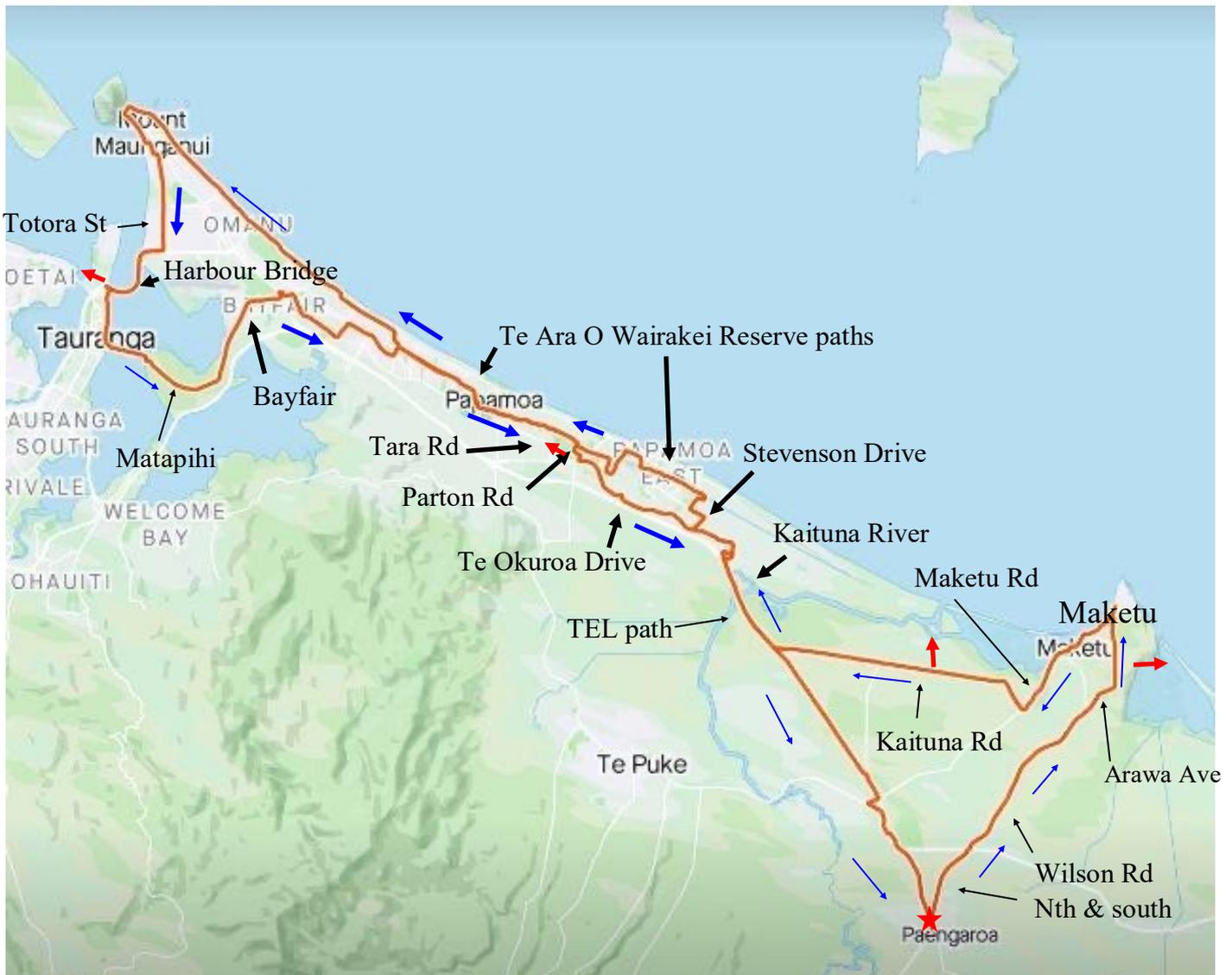
+ 1.2km Nautilus Restaurant and Fort Nautilus Dry Stack

+ 1.7 km Tauranga Marina + return

**Bike Type:** Suitable for road bikes ( some fine gravel surfaces ) , trail bikes or Mountain bikes.

This can be started anywhere you please. It is a Loop so you will come back to your car. A consideration will be where you can safely leave your car if you are doing this ride over several days and accommodation options.

**Park and Start:** We started at Paengaroa. ( Road bikes ) and parked outside the Paengaroa Community Hall in 4 Old Coach Rd, out of the way of the village traffic.



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With your back to Paengaroa Hall ride left out of the car park towards the Paengaroa shops.

Continue through Paengaroa past Comvita ( Comvita on your left ) on for **2.6 km** on **Wilson Rd South**. Cross SHW 2 with a little veer to the right onto **Wilson Rd North** ( sign posted Maketu ), riding **4.7km** down this road turning right into **Arawa Ave** for your one small hill.

Carry on 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 to Mount Maunganui.

**Optional side trip :** 1.6km along Arawa Ave on your right is Bledisloe Park Ave, it is worth a small 210m detour or full 1.3km one way down Bledisloe Park Ave to Little Waihi. Seeing 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. ) There is a store here.

Continue along Arawa Ave, veers briefly left into **Rauporoa Rd**,

Stop opposite **Williams Cres** to admire the spectacular view.

Right into **Williams Cres** for 300m ( **don't get too much speed up downhill at the next T intersection** ) Right into **Town Point Rd** for 300m to the end, from here you get a good view of Plate Island on your right, on the left, low Motiti Island and behind Mayor Island. Also the Mount and Coromandel peninsular.

Cycle back along **Town Point Rd** and down the hill for 1.1km and you come to **Historic Maketu, Maketu Surf Club, Maketu Beachside Cafe and Holiday Park.**

[www.maketu.nz/](http://www.maketu.nz/) Click on 'This is Maketu' then 'Our History'

**Maketu Beachside Café and Restaurant.** There is also accommodation right beside the café (**Maketu Holiday Park:** [www.maketuholidaypark.co.nz](http://www.maketuholidaypark.co.nz) 2 Townpoint Rd, 07 5332165 email: [stay@maketubeach.com](mailto:stay@maketubeach.com)) A refreshment / accommodation option,

Take the time to read the very interesting information boards in Maketu. **Paengaroa to Maketu a total of 10.7 km + 2.6 for Little Waihi 13.3km** Continue past the Surf Club along the Estuary turning right into the playground car park. Across the grass or 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.



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

Otherwise proceed straight ahead veering right until you come to the TEL ( Tauranga Eastern Link Highway ) and turn right onto the trail for 2.6 km, over the Kaituna bridge continuing on directly ahead until you come to the turn off on your right into the wetland area, ride between the white bollards. Ride around the lake following the signs, this brings you out ( left ) onto **Te Okuroa Drive**, turn right at the 1st Round about into **Stevenson Drive** for 450m, Left at the roundabout into **The Boulevard** for 450 m , Right into Harding Drive for 500m. Left at the end onto a trail crossing over the water way for 110m and turning left ( **Henry and Ted’s café option** : after turning left from crossing the water way, ride along the path for 300m taking the third path on your right, turning right off the path into Sarah Place for 210 m. Left into Wairakei Ave for 86m, Right into Turutu Lane ( car park ) and you will see Henry and Ted’s café ( 5 Golden Sands Drive ) on your left or Rise Artisan Bakery at 4 Golden Sands Rd opposite Henry and Ted’s Café.

Otherwise continue straight along the waterway - Te Ara O Wairakei Storm Water Reserve - for 1.9km crossing over Golden Sands Drive and Palm Springs Blvd. right into **Mandalay Key** turn right as you come out of the path for 80m, Left into **Santa Cruz** for 180m riding through a shared path just before you get to house 75 on your left. This brings you out onto **Simpson Rd** for 500m, Opposite Kirkpatrick Rd take the grass reserve path on your left. Please respect this access way owned by Nga Potiki. This comes out into **Hou Hou Cres** for 170m Right into ( **Kopukairoa Blvd** which flows into **Ashley Place** ) for 200m. Taking the dirt path between the avenue of trees on your right, flowing left on to a sealed path which comes out at **Parton Rd**, **carefully as you descend left onto the sealed path.**

Optional side trip: Pacifica Home and Garden Centre: Left at Parton Rd for 350m, at the Tara Rd/ Parton Rd / Te Okuroa Drive roundabout turn right, if you cross the road there is a wide concrete shared path, through the next round about, a total of 1km flat ride, each way, down Tara Rd to Pacifica Home and Garden Centre ( 112 Tara Rd ) on your right for refreshments. Bike parking left of the main door by some outdoor tables. A lovely café / garden centre and gift shop. Retrace your path back to Parton Rd

Otherwise cross Parton Rd into Gordon Spratt Reserve following the path between the skate areas, veering right at the bowling greens and over the bridge then left following the waterway path, across **Longview Drive**, across **Opal Drive**, across **Domain Rd** and that takes you around the back of the Fashion Island shops. ( PaknSave will be on your right as you go along this path, the lake on your left ) ( **Refreshment options : at the Fashion Island Shops.** ) veer a little left on the path as you come out on Gravatt Rd, across the Beachwater Drive roundabout (the Reserve path is not immediately obvious so look out for the rubbish bin ) Across **Palm Beach Blvd**, across **Harford Ave** with a little left veer , across **Evans Rd**. The Te Ara O Wairakei Stormwater trail ends at **Pacific View Rd**.



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Right into **Pacific View Rd** for 450m ( James Henry Ave opposite ) Left at the round about onto **Papamoa Beach Rd** which flows into **Maranui St** for 1.7km Right into **Yale St** for 96m Left into **Ocean Beach Rd** for 3.7km

Take the 2nd left exit at the round about into **Marine Parade** for 3.4km ( **refreshment option: 154 Marine Parade, Tay St Beach Café** ) and follow the shoreline back to the Mount.

Commons Ave will be on your left, opposite you will see a viewing platform on your right. ( well worth a stop and photo opportunity -Toilets beneath, drinking fountain near the foot-path.)

A large selection of Cafes below the accommodation towers ahead of you. There are also many refreshment stops on the whole loop.

Continue on from the viewing platform towards the Mount following the road for 350 m flowing left into **Adams Ave** for 280m , past the Hot Pools on your right and the **Copenhagen Ice Cream shop** on your left.

Flowing left into **The Mall** ( Harbour side ) continue for 1km which flows - left into **Salisbury Ave** for 110m, ride right in between the Sponge drop and toilets, straight through and across Coronation Park which comes out on **Nikau Cres**, ride 170m straight ahead on the shared path on your right. Left onto **Rata St** away from the Port for 120m.

Right into **Totorā St** for 2.6km, along the road cycle path or the **footpath** passing **My Ride** bike shop ( On the Mount wall side of **My Ride** is a fabulous piece of wall art ) & Dominion Salt on your left, straight through the roundabout. **This is a busy road so care must be taken.**

At the second set of lights is a major intersection with Hewletts Rd, The safest way to deal with this intersection is to go up on the footpath at the Seeka road entrance and ride along the footpath to the lights. ( Ultimate Motor Group will be on your left and back) and cross to the right hand side of Totorā street as a pedestrian with the lights, onto a concrete walk/ cycle path. You have now turned right onto busy **Hewetts Rd** on your shared concrete path with the traffic coming towards you. This will take you up and over the harbour bridge. It is worth taking a moment at the top of the bridge to enjoy the view.

**Optional side trip: Refreshment and special interest:** As you come off the harbour bridge turn right down Mirrielees Rd at the lights. Left into Cross Rd, over the railway line and left again into the next Road, sign posted Otumoetai with a bike picture, to 58 Cross Rd, ( whole one way trip 0.6km ). Ride through the Marine Park car park to the boat ramp. Ride up and over the bridge that takes you over the **Fort Nautilus Dry Stack** waterway to the **Nautilus Restaurant & Espresso Bar Tauranga**. There is a bike parking area and outdoor space and tables for you to enjoy refreshments here and or walk back to the gate left of the bridge ( or through the restaurant ) to the most interesting Fort Nautilus Dry Stack, a three boat high storage area. ( the only other one of these in New Zealand is in Auckland ) All the more interesting if they are taking a boat in or out by a fork lift arrangement into the waterway while you are there ! [www.fortnautilus.co.nz](http://www.fortnautilus.co.nz)



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The ride / walk path continues past the Nautilus Restaurant a perfect stepping stone to some of Tauranga's Cycle / walk ways. It is especially close to the 9 km Waikareao Estuary loop.

And / or Alternatively carry on down Cross Rd ( not turning left to the Restaurant after the rail way line) which flows into Keith Allen drive for 1.3km one way from the harbour bridge , and down to the **Tauranga Marina** to enjoy a little boat watching. Refreshments and toilets are here. This side trip is all flat. Retrace your path

As you come off the Harbour bridge immediately turn right onto a cycle path that will take you back the way you came but at ground level, (signed posted Cycle Mount Maunganui. )

This will take you under the bridge you have just ridden over. Head towards the large white building which is the Trinity Wharf Hotel and ride in front of their foundation pillars which will take you out onto the cycle path on **Dive Cres**, turning left here.

Continue left on the cycle footpath ( don't cross over the railway line.) just after **Bobby's Fish shop** ride onto the **foreshore path** and park straight ahead of you.

Proceed ahead, watching out for two sets of **low bollards** in the middle of the path, half way along you will come across the Hairy Maclary bronze sculptures from famed children's book author Lynley Dodd. Toilets here also Tidal steps. Proceed ahead, when you get to a small white building turn right and you will see a small fountain near the rail way line, cross the rail way line **carefully** here. This is downtown Tauranga, with plenty of cafes on the Strand. Left down the **Strand Rd** at the roundabout, ( sign posted Bayfair ) heading towards the railway bridge, ride left up and over and onto the Matapihi cycle / walk path for 5.4km , enjoying harbour views as you go, passing Omanu Golf course on your left.

When you meet the railway line cross **carefully** over it and across into the Bayfair shopping centre car park via the traffic lights. Turn right in the car park and follow the outer edge of parked cars, crossing over the two entry exit ways ( staying in the car park area ), riding straight ahead, and onto the footpath when the covered car park is on your left turn right into the traffic lights area, and ride straight through the traffic lights across **Girven Rd**, into **Gloucester Rd** for 1.8km

Left into **Hibiscus St** for 450m

Right into **Grenada St** for 1.5km

Left into **Pacific View Rd** at the roundabout for 250 m

Right onto the **Te Ara O Wairakei Stormwater Reserve path**. ( slightly obscured behind a rubbish bin and electrical boxes & trees. Watch out for Reef Ave on your right, then you know you are nearly there.) James Henry Ave is on your left. Mind the **bollards** as you enter and exit the reserve paths.

Carry on the **Reserve path** for 2.57km, crossing over **Evans Rd** and **Hartford Ave** ( a little down on your left the reserve path continues.) cross over **Palm Beach Blvd** continue on the reserve, until you pop out at the Fashion Island shopping centre on **Gravatt Rd**. and the Beachwater roundabout.



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You will see the Fashion Island shops ( [refreshment options here](#) ) if you are not stopping - ride through the white bollards under the Norfolk Pine, ( Burger Fuel sign on your left ) there is a path around the back of the Fashion Island shopping centre, passing a small lake on your right, which takes you out onto **Domain Rd**.

Cross **Domain Rd** and continue on the reserve track.

Crossing **Opal Drive**, and **Longview Drive**.

Just before you come out onto Parton Rd take the trail exit on your right signed **Alice Lane**, ride over the bridge, continue straight on with the bowling green and tennis courts on your right for 240m Left into **Alice Lane** for 750m

Right into the **Parton Rd** road cycle lane for 130m ( you are now heading in the direction of the Papamoa Hills. ( from here you can see the front of the hills are contoured with the remnants of ancient Maori fortifications ) Turn Left at the roundabout on **Te Okuroa Drive** following the shared concrete path and then the cycle lane. Optional side trip below can be taken at the Roundabout.

**Optional Side Trip: Coffee option:** Right at the Parton Rd/ Tara Rd roundabout, ride 1km, on your right at 112 Tara Rd, is **Pacifica Home and Garden**, a lovely gift shop, garden centre and café which is well used to cyclists. There is a cycle rack left of the main door by some outdoor tables. Coming out of the garden centre turn left into Tara Rd, back the way you came , ride straight through the round about to Te Okuroa Drive.

At the end of Te Okuroa Drive ride through the white bollards on your right taking the Wetland road / path which brings you out left on to the TEL ( Tauranga Eastern Link ) shared sealed path. Riding the whole length of the TEL Cycle /walk path. ( 6.8 km)

Right into **Te Tumu Rd** at the end of the TEL path for 0.7km ( signed posted Rotorua )

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

Left over the Railway line onto the concrete bike path to Paengaroa for 3.89km, ( sign posted Rotorua ) crossing carefully anticlockwise at the round about, at the start of the TEL motorway, stick to the path, in the right direction of the Maori carvings. Continue on the concrete path to Paengaroa.

Your loop is complete !

