

TARANAKI

like no other

FORGOTTEN WORLD HIGHWAY

New Zealand's oldest heritage trail
between Taumarunui and Stratford

[taranaki.co.nz/visit](https://www.taranaki.co.nz/visit)

Nau mai, haere mai. Welcome to the FORGOTTEN WORLD HIGHWAY

Don't forget ...

Drive on the
LEFT
at all times!



0

petrol stations
– fill up before
you go!



4

public
restrooms



0

(limited)
mobile coverage
– relax & switch off



4

geographic
saddles
to cross



12

km of
unsealed
road



180

m-long
road
tunnel



1

republic



New Zealand's oldest heritage trail is 148 km long. Starting in either Stratford or Taumarunui, it follows ancient Māori trade routes and pioneering farm tracks through ambitious historic settlements, untamed native bush and stunning natural scenery. Along the Forgotten World Highway, you'll encounter a landscape where people and nature have battled for centuries. Whether you approach the Forgotten World Highway as a **three-hour** scenic drive or explore its many stories over several days, you'll be treated to an adventure like no other.

Review this guide's overview of route highlights before you plan your journey. For more details, visit taranaki.co.nz/visit.



DRIVE



The route includes four **saddles** (driving from Stratford to Taumarunui).

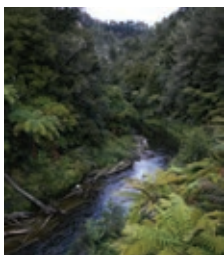
Strathmore offers stunning views of Mt Taranaki and the Central Plateau. **Pohokura**, named after a prominent Māori Chief, provides views into the valley once used as a large railway construction campsite.



Whangamōmona offers spectacular surrounding landscape views with a backdrop of beech and podocarp forest. **Tahora** offers remarkable views of ancient Māori pā sites, railway tunnels and the central North Island mountains. It is worth stopping at the top of each saddle to take in the superb views.



The single-lane 180 m-long **Moki Tunnel** was built in 1936 and is known locally as the 'Hobbit's Hole'. Home to fossilised giant crabs, the tunnel's floor was lowered in 1985 to increase the height to 7m, allowing access for triple-decked stock trucks. It has a timber gabled roof and hand-carved walls.



The **Tāngarākau Gorge** is an incredibly scenic passage through a magnificent podocarp forest. This section is unsealed for 12km.



The memorial for **Joshua Morgan**, respected early surveyor and trailblazer, who died in 1893, age 35, is a short walkway through native bush. The site also pays respect to the many other pioneers who sought their fortunes in this remote area.



CYCLE

The spectacular, yet challenging, 180km **Taumarunui to New Plymouth Cycle Trail** follows the Forgotten World Highway from Taumarunui to Whangamōmona. It turns off at the top of the Pohokura Saddle, follows Junction Road through Pūrangi and over the Tarata Saddle before joining New Plymouth's famed Coastal Walkway into the city centre. Best done over 2–3 days, the ride includes more than 2,000m of climbing. Note that supplies are limited along the route.

Read NZ Cycle Trail's overview before departing:
nzcycletrail.com/forgotten-world-highway.



EXPLORE



Mt Damper Falls is a 14-km detour off Moki Road, through to Mangapapa Road, then follow the signposts for the 30-min walk. At 74m high, the falls are the North Island's second highest waterfall, making it a must-see, particularly after heavy rain. Note that the track is closed to hunters and dogs from 1 August to 31 October due to lambing season.



Lauren's Lavender Farm and Café, 15km just out of Taumarunui, is a treat for your senses, particularly during the summer months when in full bloom. Hours vary, so check before you go.



Te Wera Arboretum and camp is the base for the 6500-ha forest. The former New Zealand Forest Service campsite is still well used, and several walks lead from here through the arboretum and forest. Te Wera Valley Lodge is a unique base to experience the beauty of the area. Find out more at tewera-lodge.co.nz.



The **Bridge to Somewhere** is a two-hour return journey off the beaten track from Strathmore over mainly unsealed roads. See the map for more information.



Eastern Taranaki Experience

are tour guides and experienced trampers, offering hiking and cycling tours and transportation.



Experience Pūrangi project provides a safe place for kiwis to thrive.

The base is a 15-km detour along Junction Road from the Pohokura Saddle summit. Two self-guided walks through native bush and forest (30 min and 2.5 hours) are best experienced in summer. Check the track status beforehand. A \$10 donation per person goes towards the kiwi project.



Forgotten World Adventures is a unique experience, with modified golf carts to ‘ride the rails’, and purpose-built rail bikes to zip through a number of tunnels, over viaducts and between landscape inaccessible by road.





WHANGAMŌMONA

Rich in pioneering history, the township of **Whangamōmona** was first settled in 1895 with 300 residents, and provided strong service links, roading and rail construction to the hardy farming community. Despite a great flood in 1924, the population didn't decline to around 20 residents until farm mergers and rationalisation took place in the 1960s. The town has a Heritage New Zealand precinct rating, and centres on the iconic **Whangamōmona Hotel**, which is still open for business.

Rugby fans will find it interesting that Whangamōmona is the only club in New Zealand allowed to wear an all-black strip because they wore it well before New Zealand's All Blacks. The team competes for the Dean Cup – the oldest rugby challenge cup in New Zealand, dating back to 1907. The contest is between three teams in the East Taranaki district – Whangamōmona, Strathmore and Toko.

In 1989, Whangamōmona declared itself a republic. The famous **Republic Day** is held biennially in January and is enjoyed by thousands of visitors. Presidential elections are held on this day – mentionable past presidents being Billy Gumboot the Goat and Tai the Poodle. Find out more about Republic day dates and activities at taranaki.co.nz/visit.

STAY

For accommodation along the route visit taranaki.co.nz/visit or book at your closest i-SITE.

KEY



State Highway



Smaller Towns



State Highways Sealed



Sealed Local Road



Walking Trail



Towns



SITE

i-SITE Visitor Centre



Unsealed Road



Railway



Rivers



Accommodation



Refreshments



Toilets



Petrol



Rest Areas

DRIVE TIMES

TIME DISTANCE

STRATFORD TO:

Douglas

18 min

18 km

Strathmore Saddle

23 min

23 km

Pohokura Saddle

45 min

45 km

Whangamōmona Saddle

56 min

56 km

Alice King Memorial

1 hr 3 min

65 km

Tahora Saddle

1 hr 15 min

75 km

Moki Rd Tunnel

1 hr 21 min

81 km

Nevin's Lookout

1 hr 50 min

110 km

Taumarunui

2 hr 30 min

150 km

TAHORA/SH43 TO:

Tāngarākau

6 min, one way

6 km

**MOKI RD/
SH43 TO:**

Mt Damper Falls

15 min, one way

15.1 km

Moki Forest

8 min, one way

7.9 km

* Approximate distance and drive times

PLEASE NOTE

Twelve kilometres of the Forgotten World Highway is unsealed road and there are no petrol stations. When in New Zealand, please drive on the left! The Highway traverses four saddles, where the road passes between two summits. Take care driving these features, as they are steep and windy but offer spectacular views.



↑ TO NEW PLYMOUTH (30 min)



Midhurst



↓ TO MOUNT TARANAKI (15 min)



STRATFORD

 SITE

FORGOTTEN
WORLD
ADVENTURES

CLOCK
TOWER

EASTERN
TARANAKI
EXP.

TARANAKI
PIONEER
VILLAGE



↓ TO HĀWERA (30 min)



Toko

↑ TO NEW PLYMOUTH (45 min)



KIORO TUNNEL

Douglas

Strathmore

Huia

Brewer Rd

Douglas Rd

Mangaroa Rd

Mohakau Rd



EXPERIENCE PŪRANGI

• Pūrangi

HISTORIC CHURCH

• Matau

JUNCTION RD



POHOKURA SADDLE



WHANGAMOMONA SADDLE

OL
R

TE WERA CAMP

kama

TO BRIDGE TO SOMEWHERE VIA MAKAHU

Makahu



MANGAP...

MOKI RD

MO...

MOKI TUNNEL

Tahora

RAEK...

Kohuratahi

Marco

Whangamomona

ALICE KING MEMORIAL

OLD WHANGA ROAD TRAIL



WHANGA NATIONAL PARK



TO MT
DAMPER
FALLS

TĀNGARĀKAU
GORGE

Tāngarākau

NUI
AL



↑ TO OHURA

Tatu

NEVIN'S
LOOKOUT

Tokirima

43

OHINER
CAMPS
(DOO...



↑
TO TE KUITI



**FORGOTTEN
WORLD
ADVENTURES**

TAUMARUNUI



Site



**TO LAKE
TAUPO →**

**LAUREN'S
LAVENDER**

Te Maire



PAPAROA RD

**TE MAIRE
TRACK**

**TE MAIRE
VALLEY RD**

FORGOTTEN WORLD HIGHWAY



STRATFORD I-SITE VISITOR CENTRE **SITE**

Prospero Place and Miranda Street, Stratford

Email: info@stratford.govt.nz

Phone: 06 765 6708

Freephone: 0800 765 6708

Hours: Monday–Friday from 8.30am–5pm,
Saturday 9.00am–1.00pm, closed Sunday and Public Holidays.

TAUMARUNUI i-SITE VISITOR CENTRE **SITE**

Railway Station, Hakiaha Street, Taumarunui

Email: taumarunui@i-site.org

Phone: 07 895 7494

Summer Hours: Monday–Sunday: 8.30am–5.30pm.
Closed Christmas Day.

Winter Hours: Monday–Sunday: 8.30am–4pm.

taranaki.co.nz/visit and
doc.govt.nz