

# RUAKITURI RIVER FISHERY



**Fish & Game**  
NEW ZEALAND

Eastern Region

## MAJOR ACCESS POINTS for river fishing

*Following is a description of the main points to access the Ruakituri River and its tributaries.*

*Numbers correspond to those marked on the map overleaf.*

- 1 Te Reinga Falls**  
Access is available to fishing spots above and below the spectacular Te Rainga Falls.  
Travelling along State Highway 36 towards Gisborne, turn left at Te Reinga into Ruakituri Road. It is possible to park in the reserve on the left side of the road, immediately after the bridge.
- 2 Piwhanga**  
Piwhanga is a collection of farm buildings on the left of the road about 10 kilometres from Te Reinga. The river can be easily accessed from the road. There is a vehicle track leading to the waters edge. Caution should be exercised if using the track during wet weather. Ample parking also exists on the road verge.
- 3 Ruakituri bridge**  
Easy access to the river is again available further along Ruakituri Road. There is a bridge crossing the river just past the Ruakituri school. The river can be reached from the bridge, and there is room to park vehicles at the road edge.
- 4 Erepeti bridge**  
Continuing along Ruakituri Road, Erepeti Road is located at the end of the seal. Anglers may follow this unsealed road to the Erepeti bridge. There is space for parking on the road side next to the bridge. The river can be accessed from the bridge.
- 5 Erepeti gorge and reserve**  
The lower section of the Erepeti Reserve and the Ruakituri River can also be accessed from point 5. Anglers fishing in the Erepeti gorge should exercise extreme caution. Fishing in the gorge involves spending a lot of time in the water and a large number of river crossings. As the river can rise quickly during rain, anglers should avoid the gorge when weather is forecast to deteriorate.
- 6 Smiths bridge**  
Smiths bridge is located on Ngapakira Road, which runs off Papuni Road. The bridge crosses the Ruakituri River. There is no public access on the true right, which is private property. However, the bridge allows easy access to the true left of the river. As with many of the other access points, parking is readily available.

The following information is an overview of the fishery and how to access it.

What we suggest now, is that anglers get out and experience the fishery. If you have any queries, call the Eastern Fish and Game office - we would be pleased to help.

## Ruakituri RIVER FISHERY

The Ruakituri River is an internationally renowned trout fishery. Unmatched scenic beauty, large stretches of fishable water, and the chance to catch magnificent trophy trout are all features of the river. The Ruakituri River has its source in the Te Urewera National Park on the eastern slopes of the Huiarau Range. The river flows in a south easterly direction for 70 kilometres before joining with the Hangaroa River at Te Reinga. Angling opportunities within the Ruakituri catchment range from wilderness fishing above the Waitangi Falls in Te Urewera National Park to easily accessible river fishing just off the Ruakituri and Papuni Roads. Both rainbow and brown trout are common, although only rainbow trout are present in the headwaters above Waitangi Falls.



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The Ruakituri River and its tributaries are open to fishing from 1 October until 30 June each year. Fly fishing only is permitted throughout the system. The daily bag limit is 8 trout below the Waitangi Falls and 2 trout in the upper Ruakituri above Waitangi Falls. Throughout the river system, the minimum size of trout that can be taken is 30cm. The upper Ruakituri River also has a slotted size limit to protect the trophy status of the fishery - only trout between 30-60 cm in length may be taken.

## GENERAL FISHING INFORMATION

### Lower Ruakituri River

As the gradient of the river decreases in the lower Ruakituri, the bed widens to a long deep runs interspersed with deep pools. Brown and rainbow trout are available to anglers, ranging in size from 1-2 kilograms. Easy access due to close proximity of the road (sites 1-4) means that fishing opportunities exist for a wide range of anglers.

### Middle Ruakituri River

The middle stretches of the Ruakituri River are narrow and characterised by frequent, steep bush clad bluffs. Water flows as a series of pool, run, and riffle combinations, providing varied environmental conditions for fish. High numbers of trout in the middle section of the river are testimony to high quality habitat.



Large, bouldery pools provide ideal trout habitat in many stretches of the Ruakituri River

Anglers can expect trout to average 1.5 to 3 kilograms, although it is possible to catch fish weighing more than 4 kilograms. As can be seen from the map, sites 5 to 8 are easily accessed from the road.

### Upper Ruakituri River

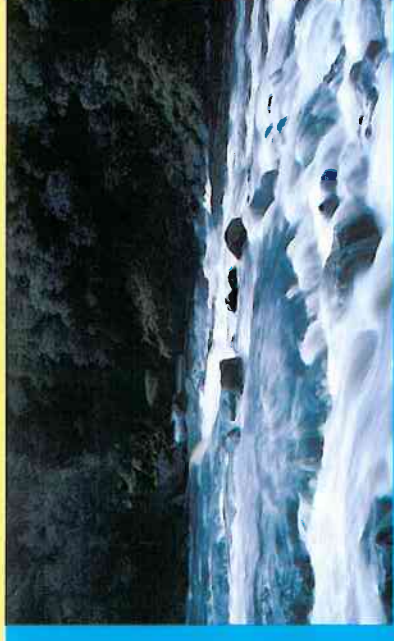
The headwaters of the Ruakituri River lie above the Waitangi Falls, in Te Urewera National Park. Here anglers can experience both spectacular scenery and a true wilderness fishing experience. The upper section of the river has a more rugged nature, but large boulders and open shallow channels make navigation easy for anglers. Only rainbow trout are present in this part of the river, but the upper Ruakituri River has earned a reputation as a pristine trophy fishery. There are two gorges that are difficult to pass, but in good weather conditions the rewards are worth the effort. Trophy trout over 5 kilograms are available, and average trout caught are between 2 - 3 kilograms. The upper size limit and lower bag limit for the headwaters have been put in place to ensure that large, well conditioned fish continue to thrive in the upper river.

### Anini Stream

Access to the Anini Stream is via Rua's track from Waimaha Station. The walk to the stream takes between 5 and 6 hours. Crystal clear pools are a feature of the stream, while gravel beaches allow easy access along the water's edge. The deep pools provide ideal habitat for trout. As the water is so clear, it is important to approach fishing holes with stealth so as not to scare the fish.

### Waipaoa Stream

It is possible to access the Waipaoa Stream through the Ruakituri Reserve on the true right of the river. The stream is made up of a bouldery stream bed with bush clad banks. Clear water and lots of cover mean that excellent trout habitat is present. Beautiful scenery is an added bonus for anglers. Deep shady pools upstream from the confluence are most likely to produce good rewards to the angler. These areas can be accessed by walking in the stream, and catches are usually between 1 - 2.5 kilograms in weight.



Scenery and wilderness fishing opportunities are part of the experience

### 7 Willow flat

1.5 kilometres further along Papuni Road after the Ngapakira Road intersection, a dirt track gives vehicle access to the Ruakituri River.

Again, there is ample space for parking vehicles. Anglers may seek permission from Puhoro station to camp at Willow flat.

### 8 Ruakituri Reserve

Another kilometre along Papuni Road is a sign posted turn off to the Ruakituri Reserve. Parking is available, and the river is easily accessible.

### 9 Papuni

The Makokomuka Stream marks the boundary between Puhoro station and Papuni Station. A ford across the stream (Papuni ford) provides a landmark for anglers to recognise the boundary. The Ruakituri from this confluence to Te Urewera National Park boundary at Flanagan's Creek is closed to access for fishing.

### 10 Waitangi Falls

The river above Waitangi Falls is in Te Urewera National Park. Access to the park is via the formed paper road. As it is necessary to cross Papuni Station, anglers should advise the station manager. Vehicles may be left at the end of the road in the area known as the "Lockwood". The walk to Waitangi Falls takes approximately 4 hours. It is often demanding, so it is important to be prepared.

TE UREWERA  
NATIONAL PARK

Ruakituri River

Waitangi Falls

Makokomuka Stream

NGAPAKIRA ROAD

PAPUNI ROAD

EREPETI ROAD

Ruakituri River

Pihanga

Ruakituri River

ROAD

Hangaroa River

To Gisborne

Te Reinga Falls

Te Reinga

Mairoa River

STATE HIGHWAY No. 36



**0800 LICENCE**



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