

Waiohine River

Upper, Middle & Lower Reaches



Photo: Hamish Carnachan



Wellington Region

The Waiohine River offers backcountry fishing in its upper reaches and braided river fishing experiences throughout the rest of its journey to the point where it joins the Ruamahanga River. Fly fishing and spinning are equally rewarding on this river, which has good numbers of mainly brown trout.

ATTENTION ANGLERS

Sections of riverbed covered by this pamphlet may be in private ownership, which means anglers do not have a right of access. Some landowners may have agreed to anglers having access along the riverbed without having to obtain permission first.

Please respect the privilege of access. Once you are on the river, stay within the riverbed and do not wander on to adjacent farmland without the express permission of the landowner. If you require clarification around where you are legally entitled to go, please visit the Walking Access Commission website - www.wams.org.nz - and use the public access layers.

Conditions of access are:

- NO dogs. NO camping. NO fires. NO vehicles on the riverbed.
- Leave gates as you find them.

Please Note:

Fish & Game has endeavoured to show where legal public access exists to and along this river. Because of a variety of factors beyond our control, this is a guideline only. The onus of avoiding trespassing on private land rests with the angler and, where doubt arises, landowner permission should be sought. If any difficulty occurs through the use of this information, please contact Wellington Fish & Game.

What is true left and true right?

'True left' or 'true right' refers to the side of the river when you are facing downstream.

Waiohine River

1

📍 Waiohine Gorge Road

Head north from Greytown on SH2 for about 3.5km then just after the bridge turn left onto Matarawa Road. Travel west for 4km then turn right onto Moffats Road. Drive for approximately 2km and turn left onto Waiohine Gorge Road. If you travel approximately 5km along Waiohine Gorge Road you will reach a row of mature pine trees where the road comes closest to the river. There is a stile crossing a fence which will lead you to the river. The water is deep in this area and wading may be difficult. If you drive to the end of the road past the first rest area for another 4km you will reach a toilet block, a swing bridge and several walking tracks. Take the track to the left of the information kiosk to get down to the river. Wading in the gorge section should be undertaken with extreme care and only at low flows.

2

📍 Waiohine Valley Road

From SH2 in Greytown turn onto Humphries Street which is beside the Challenge Service Station. Travel to the end of Humphries Street until it veers left into Woodside Road. Drive over the railway tracks to the end of Woodside Road. When you get to the end, turn right onto Underhill Road and travel for about 50 metres and turn left onto Waiohine Valley Road. Just before the end of Waiohine Valley Road there is a track on your right that leads down to the river.

3

📍 Corner of Underhill and Waiohine Valley Roads

From SH2 in Greytown turn onto Humphries Street which is beside the Challenge Service Station. Travel to end of Humphries Street until it veers left into Woodside Road. Drive over the railway tracks to the end of Woodside Road. When you get to the end, turn right onto Underhill Road and travel for about 50 metres and on the corner on your right is an entrance that goes down a track past a couple of houses to a gate on your right. Drive through the gate leaving it as you found it. This will take you along a small driving track where you can gain access to the river.

4

📍 Matarawa Road

Around 2.8km north of Greytown is a bridge over the Waiohine River. About 100 metres north of the bridge is Matarawa Road which travels in a westward direction from SH2. Drive for approximately 3.8km and then turn left onto River Road which will lead to the Waiohine.

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5

📍 Kuratawhiti Street

From SH2 in the middle of Greytown turn west onto Kuratawhiti Street. The road does a 90-degree turn right and becomes gravel. Follow all the way to the end. This will lead you to the river on the opposite side to access #4.

6

📍 Waiohine Bridge

On SH2 north of Greytown is the Waiohine Bridge. On the southern end of the bridge there is access on either side down to the river.

7

📍 Tilsons Road

Turn off SH2 onto Papawai Road when you reach the Challenge Service Station in Greytown. About 2.8km along Papawai Road, Pah Road leads off to the right. Access through the Gliding Club via Pah Road no longer exists. Instead, continue along Papawai Road, which becomes Tilsons Road, all the way to the end. Cross the concrete ford and you will arrive at a gate with an access sign and information from South Wairarapa District Council. Drive through the gate, leaving it as you find it, and the gravel track will lead to the Waiohine River where there is space to park vehicles around 1.2km upstream of the confluence with the Ruamahanga. This section fishes well late season when fish start their spawning runs. Use medium sinking lines and stream fly patterns such as Woolly Buggers. During summer low-flows, it is easy walking and wading - knee deep - all the way to the confluence. There is excellent fishing at the confluence and for some distance downstream.

Access information online: www.fishandgame.nz/access.org/wellington

Access online
by scanning
the QR Code



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Wellington Region

PO Box 1325 Palmerston North
Telephone: 06 359 0409 www.fishandgame.org.nz