

## WALK/CYCLE FURTHER AFIELD Te Ara o Waipaoa Coastal Waipaoa River Trail



Grade **Easy** 



Distance 16km



4 hours











Scan for more details

This trail is the Gisborne (Tūranganui a Kiwa) end of the Rere Falls Trail, one of the Ngā Haerenga NZ Cycle Trail heartland rides. It follows the top of the Waipaoa River stop bank along with a road ride along Centennial Marine Drive. The stop bank trail provides expansive river mouth views to the south, and to surrounding hills, farms and agricultural production areas to the north and northeast. This can be a "there and back" trail ride from Gisborne to Matawhero. An alternative is to cycle a loop ride by incorporating a rural back road route, a ride of 32 km. To create a loop ride, from the Matawhero Waipaoa River bridge, or from Riverpoint Rd, cross SH2 with care to join Bloomfield Rd, a left turn. After 2km, turn right into Bushmere Rd, then left into Farmer Rd. Cross Makaraka Rd with care and continue on Pilmer Rd, turning right into Tucker Rd, then right again into Nelson Rd. Nelson Rd will take you into Gisborne, and back to your start.

Immerse yourself in the wonders of Tapuwae Tairāwhiti Trails, leaving nothing but your foot or bike tyre prints!

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## TAMING THE RIVER

The stop banks are part of the Waipaoa Flood Control Scheme, designed in 1949. The scheme took 25 years from initial planning until it was declared complete in 1973. This dramatically changed land use on the

Gisborne Flats – from sheep, maize and pumpkins to a mix of vineyards and food crops with multi-million-dollar earning capacity – and protected homes and livelihoods across 9,900ha. The Māori name of the river is associated with Wai-o-Pāoa, the river of Pāoa. The great chief Pāoa lived with his people in the forest of the mountainous interior of the East Coast district.

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