

Sections of the Lake Track

Stage 1 The Bays (33km)

This section is made up of the W2K and the Kawakawa Bay tracks, which are grade 3 tracks that are best ridden in a West to East direction. Both tracks have already been built by Bike Taupo and will only require the upgrading of two bridges on the Kawakawa Bay section to bring them up to Cycleway standards.

This section has land entry points at Kinloch and Whakaipo Bay and one water based entry point at Kawakawa Bay. Both tracks have spectacular lookouts overlooking the lake and the mountains.

On W2K, the section from Kinloch township to the tank saddle rises 110m vertically. Further on, in the section to the headland of the peninsula there is another 110m climb.

The section from Kinloch to Kawakawa Bay climbs 100m up to the main ridge at the top of the peninsula.

Stage 2 The Gorge and Beaches (29km)

The features of this section are diverse from the spectacular gorge on the Waihora River with its chasms, waterfalls and big high bluffs, to the easier terrain along Kawakawa Bay from Boat Harbour to Te Kauwae Point.



Overhanging bluff

This section has three water based entry points; one at Waihora Landing by Kotukutuku Stream; one at Boat Harbour and one at the eastern end of Kawakawa Bay beach.

The 15km track from the Waihora landing to Boat Harbour will be through spectacular gorges with numerous stream crossings and therefore requiring a number of extra bridges. It will start on the Waihora landing climbing up beside a waterfall then climbing up a gorge to a frost flat area passing through a small podocarp forest set in a gorge. It will then descend down another gorge crossing a waterfall and on to Boat Harbour. This section will have two main climbs of 120m and 90m.

Boat Harbour to Kinloch (20km) - The route from Boat Harbour to Kinloch will have two climbs, one of 40m and one of 100m. Most of the route is under full native bush canopy and will be a 2.0 meter wide grade 2 track with easy gradients if ridden in a West to East direction.

Stage 3: The Lake and Rivers (31 km)

From the Waihaha Road bridge on SH32 the track will run alongside the Waihaha River with views of the main waterfall down towards the lake. The track then carries north towards the Waihora Bay flowing through and around large rock outcrops offering fantastic views of Lake Taupo as it drops in and out of the river valleys. There will be two main climbs in this section, one of 90m and the other 60m.



Lake views from Waihora Bay

This will be a grade 3 ride with rock ledge traverse's that will result in a section of spectacular riding.