



Lake Whakamaru

## Lake Whakamaru

Route card No. 026 | Skill level: Intermediate | Distance: Varies | Map: BF35 | Tidal Port: N/A

**Start point:** Whakamaru Dam picnic area  
**Finish Point:** Whakamaru Dam picnic area  
**Emergency contact:** Cell phone or PLB  
**Comms coverage:** VHF person to person. Cellphone coverage in gorges is unreliable – you may need to climb a hill. This is common in this area, so don't rely on other cellphones in the area working. Use landlines where possible.

### Introduction:

This is a lovely paddle along the Waikato River upstream of the Whakamaru Dam and ski club. Lake Whakamaru was formed in 1956 when it was dammed for hydro-electricity generation. It is probably the shallowest of all the hydro-electric lakes on the Waikato River system.

### Description:

From Lake Whakamaru, paddle upstream to Hukurangi Island and the Christian camp (9km) and return. Alternatively launch at Tram Rd after doing a car shuttle, stop at Island for lunch and exit before the Whakamaru picnic area.

### Hazards:

- Access/park – Tram Rd is off Ongaroto Rd. May be too much current for beginners to safely launch.
- Other vessels such as water skiers.

### Accommodation:

- This reserve is located between Mangakino and Whakamaru on the edge of Lake Maraetai. The camping area is in the paddock near the toilet block. No power is available. This reserve does get used for events so check [www.eventscapital.co.nz](http://www.eventscapital.co.nz) to make sure it is available for camping. There is no charge for camping here, and campers may stay a maximum of 2 nights.
- Bookabach has a number of houses to rent locally.



Camping



Bird and wildlife watching



Toilets



Fishing

#### Please note;

Every care has been taken to ensure the information contained in this Trip Card is correct at the time of publication, but things change and you will need to confirm the information provided. You will also need to get further information to ensure a safe trip, this will include an up to date, relevant weather forecast and the ability to understand its implications for the area and talking to locals in the area to garner new information on any hazards in the area. It is also expected that an appropriate level of knowledge, skills and equipment are required to safely complete the trip. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are unsure of any information or you find the Trip Card needs updating. Cheers Peter Townend, Yaky Yak Kayak Club. Updated: August 2015