The Maramataha River is a large backcountry river that receives lots of fish. Further upstream the Ongarue fl ows through extensive pastoral land with good deep pools, wadeable shingle runs and long boulder sections, an old logging track runs parallel to the lower reaches. A small river that joins the Ongarue River at Taumarunui, and provides about 14 kilometres of fishing across pastoral land. Easily accessible with a single track and clear banks. Trout fishing averaging about 1kg, but occasional big brown. The lower reaches offer clear, low banks and are dependent upon landowner goodwill to fully enjoy angling opportunities. Access to the middle reaches can be gained across farmland from the Taumarunui-Taungai Road turnoff. In the upper reaches the Waimiha is a small stream that enters the Whakapapa River at Manunui and State Highway 41 runs parallel to the lower reaches. A small stream that flows across farmland and through pastures with a good population of rainbows, averaging about 1kg. The stream runs with a slight tannin colour but fish can still be actively fished, although wading in the upper reaches can be difficult at places with long boulder sections, an old logging track runs parallel to the stream allowing these sections to be bypassed. Permission is required from the landowner or farm manager. The Mangatukutuku Stream at the back of the farm also holds trout.

Despite its relative remoteness the Ongarue is a popular river offering a good catch rate of large rainbow trout as well as many kilometres of fishing water. Access to a high trout population including the occasional large trout that has moved upstream from the Whanganui River. The Pungapunga is best fished from the river, where there is access across farmland with the occasional patch of sedge and willow. The Pungapunga enters the Whanganui River at Marsden and State Highway 41 runs parallel to the lower reaches.

The Pungapunga River

A small and easily wadeable stream that offers good fly fishing with a high trout population including the occasional large trout that has moved upstream from the Whanganui River. The Pungapunga is best fished from the river, where there is access across farmland with the occasional patch of sedge and willow. The Pungapunga enters the Whanganui River at Marsden and State Highway 41 runs parallel to the lower reaches.

The Whanganui River

A large stream that flows across farmland and through pastures with a good population of rainbows, averaging about 1kg. The stream runs with a slight tannin colour but fish can still be actively fished, although wading in the upper reaches can be difficult at places with long boulder sections, an old logging track runs parallel to the stream allowing these sections to be bypassed. Permission is required from the landowner or farm manager. The Mangatukutuku Stream at the back of the farm also holds trout.
There are many places to stay in this major tourist district. There are many rivers in the Whanganui headwaters with rainbow and brown trout. Below the intake brown trout are also present but overall trout numbers remain low, however there is always a good chance of catching a trophy in these waters. Fishing this area requires a reasonable level of fitness and the mountain bike is required, but access does require some local knowledge and a good map. This section of the Whanganui offers a wide variety of fishing waters. Below Taumarunui the river changes to a relatively sedate river flowing over pebbles and sand through a pleasant rural landscape. Access can be gained from Hohotaka Road (permission required from landowner). Above the confluence with the Whakapapa, the Whanganui changes to a relatively sedate river flowing over sandy and gravel bed. Access can be gained from the end of Te Rena Road (permission required from landowner). For most of its length the Whakapapa flows through native forest alternating between turbulent rapids, deep pools and long boulder runs. This is certainly not a river for the faint hearted - there are few easy places to cross and some caution is required.

Below the intake the trout population consists of a few very large rainbows. Permission is required from the landowner at the electric intake across Taurewa Station to the intake structure. Prior permission has only occasionally been given. Hohotaka Road is a farm road and closed to public access.

Access to the lower reaches is from the end of Te Rena Road via the village of Kakahi. This is the most popular fishing area. Access to the lower reaches is from the end of Te Rena Road via the village of Kakahi. This is the most popular fishing area. Access to the upper reaches is from Hohotaka Road (permission required from landowner). Above Hohotaka Road, the Whanganui provides typical backcountry fishing with deep pools, long boulder runs and clear water. Permission is required from the landowner at the farmhouse by the bridge (Whakapapa-iti Stream). In recent years permission has only occasionally been given. Holohotaka Road is a relatively easy road about 4km west of Manunui on State Highway 41 (Turangi - Tongariro). Access to the headwaters within the Tongariro National Park is via old logging roads from Ongarue or State Highway 41 (National Park - Tongariro). A winched dolly vehicle, motorbike or mountain bike are the only vehicles that can access these remote areas. Knowledge and a good map is required as well as local knowledge and a good map. This section of the Whakapapa offers a wide variety of fishing waters. Above Taumarunui the river becomes a wide, open river channel with the considerable increase in flow supporting clear water. To access this area, drive straight through the river. There is a tributary stream above the confluence of the Whanganui with the Whakapapa streams because of water abstraction by the Tongariro Power Scheme.