

Little River Rail Trail 20th Anniversary

Itinerary Title

Motukārara Family Adventure

Target Audience

Families with young children, balance bike riders, first-time trail users, grandparents and mixed-ability family groups.

Short Description

A gentle introduction to the Little River Rail Trail starting at historic Motukārara Station.

Families can ride as far as they feel comfortable towards Kaituna Quarry before turning around and returning.

Why Do This Trip

Ideal first rail trail experience.

Completely flat trail.

Safe riding away from busy roads.

Flexible distance to suit children's energy levels.

Historic railway heritage.

Great picnic and nature-spotting opportunities.

Perfect confidence-building ride for young cyclists.

Route Information

- Start Location
Motukārara Station
- End Location
Return to Motukārara Station
- Route Type (One-way, Return, Loop)
Return
- Distance
5-10km return depending on how far you go
- Difficulty Level
easy



Practical Information

- Access Points
Motukārara Station
- Toilet Locations
Motukārara Station
- Parking Locations
Motukārara Station
- Food & Refreshment Options
Bring a picnic or continue to Little River or back to Tai Tapu afterwards for cafés, ice cream and refreshments.

Additional Activities

- Railway heritage scavenger hunt.
- Bird spotting challenge.
- Domain and playground visit.



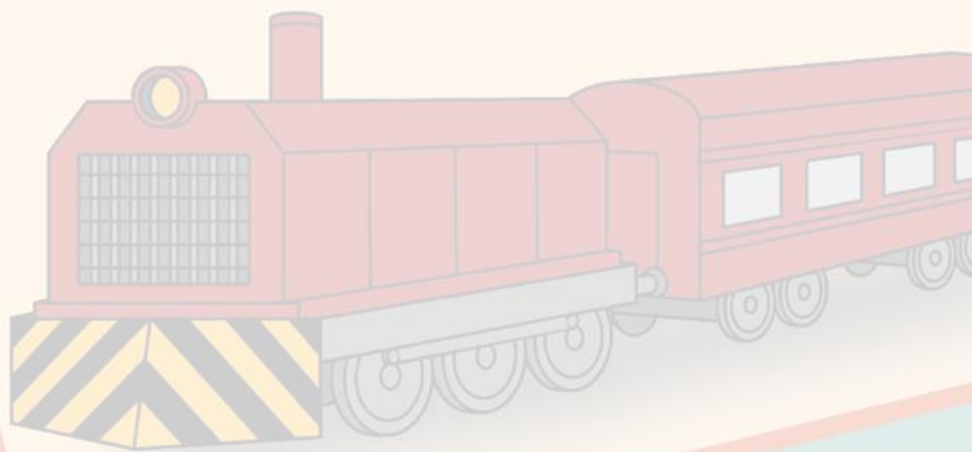
Motukarara Station is located approximately 33 kilometres south of central Christchurch, and the drive typically takes about **34 to 40 minutes** depending on traffic. Situated at the base of the Banks Peninsula, this historic site serves as a popular gateway and parking hub for the Little River Rail Trail. [📍](#)

Driving Directions

The most straightforward and efficient route from central Christchurch is via **State Highway 75 (SH75)**: [📍](#)

- **Leaving the City:** Head south out of Christchurch Central, connecting onto **State Highway 76** (Brougham Street) and transition onto **Halswell Road (SH75)**. [📍](#)
- **The Journey:** Follow **SH75** straight through Halswell and continue past Tai Tapu. You will drive through scenic countryside alongside the western edge of the Port Hills.
- **Arriving in Motukarara:** As you approach Motukarara, look out for the **Motukarara Racecourse** on your right. Shortly after, turn right onto **Park Road** (following signs for the Little River Rail Trail). The historic platform and station site will be immediately visible, where you will find a dedicated gravel parking area perfect for unloading bikes or starting a walk.

FUN
TIMES!



CELEBRATING
20
YEARS!

so much to see!



FAMILY
Adventure!

