List of heritage railways in New Zealand

List compiled by Richard Maund: updated 19 March 2026

This is a list of heritage railways – some of which can be considered tourist railways – and heritage tramways of New Zealand. Most are members of the Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand (FRONZ). In addition to active operations, abandoned and putative operations are also included, but static museum sites and rolling stock operators without a dedicated line are excluded (these do not fall within Wikipedia's definition of heritage railways).

Miniature railways and model engineering society circuits with gauges of less than 15in/380mm are excluded.

Unless shown otherwise, lines are 3ft6in/1067mm gauge. 'Standard gauge' is 4ft8½in/1435mm, and was used by urban tramways apart from Wellington.

Links (as underlined, below) are given to the various lines' webpages but some seem not to be assiduously updated, the operators relying instead on Farcebook.

North Island

Kaimai train: Kaikohe, within Pioneer Village; 1km; 2ft/610mm gauge
Bay of Islands Vintage Railway: Kawakawa – Whangae Tunnel; 10km (aspiration to extend to Opua)
Kiwi North Heritage Park Railway: Whangārei, within Kiwi North Heritage Park; ca. 1.8km
Dargaville Rail Carts: Dargaville – Tangowahine; 15km (operation, by rail carts, ceased October 2025)
Rainforest Express (Waitakere Tramline Society): near Swanson; 2.4km; 2ft6in/762mm gauge (operation ceased November 2014)
Western Springs Tramway: MOTAT (Museum of Transport and Technology) Aviation Hall – MOTAT Great North Road, Auckland; 1.72km; standard gauge
Auckland Dockline Tram: 1.5km circuit through the Wynyard Quarter; standard gauge
Steam Trains at MOTAT: at Museum of Transport and Technology, Auckland; ca.0.7km
Whangaparaoa Narrow Gauge Railway: Stanmore Bay; 15in/381mm gauge (operation ceased May 2018)
Glenbrook Vintage Railway: Glenbrook – Waiuku Victoria Avenue; 6km
Glen Afton Line Heritage Railway: Rotowaro – Glen Afton; 5.4km
Driving Creek Railway: Coromandel; 3km; 15in/381mm gauge
Goldfields Railway: Waihi – Waikino; 6km
Victoria Battery Tramway: Waikino; 1.2km; 2ft/610mm gauge
Awakeri Rail Adventures: Awakeri towards Taneatua; 10km (by rail carts)
RailCruising: Ngongotaha – Mamaku; 13.3km (by rail carts)
Totara Springs Christian Centre Kids' Railway: Matamata; ?length; 2ft/610mm gauge (operation ceased "many years" ago – replaced by road train)
Forgotten World Adventures: Stratford – Okahukura; 142km *(yes, really!* – by rail carts*)*
Gisborne City Vintage Railway: Gisborne – Muriwai; 17km (the section southwards from Muriwai to Beach Loop (16km) has been out of use since 2021 and the section eastwards from Gisborne station to the harbour (2km) has been out of use since December 2022)
Remutaka Incline Railway: Maymorn; ca.1km on the site of the original (pre-1955) Wairarapa railway (but not on the incline itself; aspiration to extend line *towards* the incline summit)
Silver Stream Railway: McKirdy, Silverstream, Upper Hutt – Northern end loop; 1.5km
Whanganui Tramways: Whanganui Tram Museum Moutoa Quay – Waimarie Wharf; 180m; standard gauge
Waitara Railway: Waitara – Lepperton Junction; 7km

Wellington Tramway Museum: Paraparaumu McKay's Crossing, within Queen Elizabeth Park; 1.8km; 4ft/1219mm gauge
Wellington Cable Car: Lambton Quay – Kelburn; 600m; 3ft3$^{3}/_{8}$in/1000mm gauge

South Island

Marlborough Sounds Railway: Onahau Bay; short; 2ft/610mm gauge (operation ceased by 2012)
Blenheim Riverside Railway: Brayshaw – Blenheim Beaver station and Brayshaw – Omaka Park; 6km; 2ft/610mm gauge *(the longest 2ft gauge railway in New Zealand)*
Nelson Railway Society: Nelson, within Founders Heritage Park; ca.2km
Weka Pass Railway: Waipara (Glenmark) - Waikari; 12.8km
SteamScene bush tramway: Waimakariri River Regional Park, McLeans Island, Christchurch; 1km
Christchurch Tramway: 3.9km circuit from Cathedral Square; standard gauge
Ferrymead Heritage Park near Christchurch contains two active 'transport systems':
railway operated by Canterbury Railway Society: ca.1km
tramway operated by Tramway Historical Society: 1.5km; standard gauge
Site also formerly (operation ceased March 2021) contained the Ferrymead Two Foot Railway Society: 450m; 2ft/610mm gauge
Plains Vintage Railway: Tinwald (Ashburton) – Frasers Road; 2.5km
Pleasant Point Railway: Pleasant Point – Keane's Crossing; 2km
Oamaru Steam & Rail: Oamaru Harbourside station – Quarry Siding; 2km
Dunedin Railways: Dunedin, Wingatui Junction – Pukerangi; 45km (the section northwards to Middlemarch (19km) has been out of use since January 2020)
Ocean Beach Railway: St.Kilda, Dunedin; 900m (*the first operating heritage railway in New Zealand - first train ran July 1963)*
Mornington Cable Car: Dunedin (aspiration to create a replica cable car route)
Kingston Flyer: Kingston – Fairlight; 13km
Waimea Plains Railway: Mandeville; 200m (at present, the site of Mandeville station; aspiration to run a line round the adjacent airfield)
Infants Creek Heritage Railway: Paroa, Greymouth, within Shantytown Heritage Park; 1.5km
Nile River Rainforest Train: Festival Site (Charleston) – Softrock; 2km; 2ft/610mm gauge

Cook Islands

Rarotonga Steam Railway: 170m; 750mm gauge (operation ceased ca.2005)

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Note that although the Waiorongomai tramway (a.k.a. Te Aroha mountain railway) is New Zealand's oldest railway with rails still in place it is not a passenger-carrying railway.

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