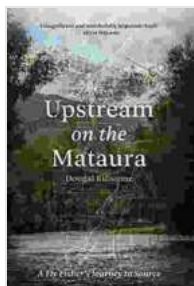


# Upstream On The Mataura: A Journey Through New Zealand's Untamed Wilderness



## Upstream on the Mataura: A Fly Fisher's Journey to

**Source** by Dougal Rillstone

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 22241 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
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Nestled in the heart of New Zealand's remote Southland region, the Mataura River winds its way through a pristine wilderness, offering a captivating journey for adventurers seeking an escape from the ordinary.

As you venture upstream, the landscape transforms from rolling farmlands into a rugged and untamed backcountry. The riverbanks are adorned with towering ancient podocarp forests, their verdant canopies providing a haven for native birdlife.

## Natural Wonders

The Mataura River is a haven for nature enthusiasts. Its crystal-clear waters teem with brown trout, luring anglers from around the world. The

surrounding forests are home to a diverse range of wildlife, including cheeky kea parrots, elusive kiwi, and majestic red deer.

Along the river's edge, you'll encounter stunning natural landmarks. The Niagara Falls of New Zealand, a thunderous waterfall, cascades into a deep gorge. Upstream, the Mataura Gorge offers breathtaking views of sheer rock cliffs and swirling rapids.

## **Cultural Heritage**

The Mataura River holds deep cultural significance for the Maori people of New Zealand. It was a vital waterway for trade and transportation, and its banks are dotted with ancient Maori pa (fortified villages) and burial grounds.

Today, Maori cultural traditions continue to thrive in the Mataura valley. You can visit the Te Hikoi Southern Scenic Route, which showcases the region's rich Maori heritage through interactive displays and guided tours.

## **Thrilling Activities**

In addition to its natural and cultural wonders, the Mataura River offers a range of thrilling activities for adventurers of all levels.

Fishing enthusiasts can cast their lines for trophy trout in the river's pristine waters. Hunters can pursue red deer and other game species in the surrounding forests.

For those seeking a more adrenaline-pumping experience, jet boating is a must-try. Speed through the Mataura Gorge, navigating white-water rapids and marveling at the stunning scenery.

## **Exploring the Upper Reaches**

As you travel further upstream, the Mataura River becomes increasingly remote and pristine. The riverbanks are lined with pristine beech forests, their golden leaves shimmering in the sunlight.

The Upper Mataura provides a sanctuary for native wildlife, including endangered birds such as the blue duck and the black stilt. Birdwatching enthusiasts can spend hours observing these rare and elusive creatures in their natural habitat.

At the end of the Mataura River lies Lake Hauroko, a stunning alpine lake nestled amidst towering mountains. Surrounded by towering peaks and glaciers, Lake Hauroko is a true hidden gem, offering breathtaking views and opportunities for hiking, camping, and fishing.

## **Planning Your Journey**

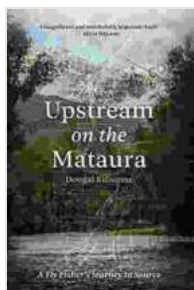
Upstream on the Mataura is a journey that will stay with you long after you return home. To ensure a safe and enjoyable experience, it's important to plan your trip carefully.

Access to the Mataura River is limited, so it's essential to book your activities in advance. Guided tours are available for all levels of experience, and they provide a great way to learn about the region's history and natural environment.

Camping is permitted in designated areas along the riverbanks. Be sure to pack all essential gear and supplies, including food, water, and warm clothing. Remember to follow all Leave No Trace principles to protect the pristine environment.

## Discover the Magic of Upstream On The Mataura

Upstream On The Mataura is a journey into the heart of New Zealand's untamed wilderness. Prepare to be captivated by the river's natural wonders, rich cultural heritage, and thrilling activities. Embark on this epic adventure and discover the magic that awaits you in this remote and timeless land.



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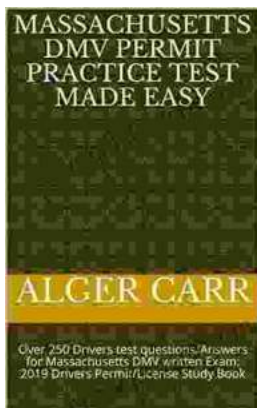
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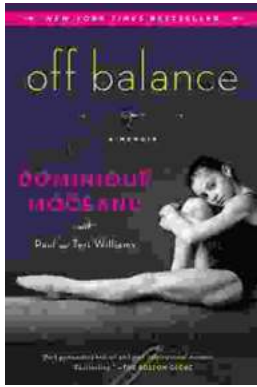
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