



*Island Saddle, the highest publicly accessible road in NZ*

After installing a fresh UB engine into the Morris, we drove over this “road” from Hanmer to Blenheim and back through The Molesworth Station. 4WD yeah, nah, 2WD & 8 HP is all you need.

Island Saddle is a high mountain pass at an elevation of 1371m (4,498ft) above the sea level located on the boundary of Canterbury and Marlborough, in New Zealand.

Tucked away in the Crimea Range, the road to the summit is unpaved. It’s called Rainbow Road, also known as Rainbow Valley–Hanmer Road. At this elevation it’s said to be New Zealand's highest public road. The road was built in the 1950's to install electricity pylons to the Nelson and Buller regions.

The road to the summit is 112km (70 miles) long, running from Hanmer Springs to Saint Arnaud. It is accessible by 4WD vehicles only (2WD to Lake Tennyson). The road crosses private land and is only open for public access from late December to early April.

(Summer in New Zealand) Our mileage was 422km for the Hanmer to Hanmer return nearly all on gravel roads. We also has the journey to and from Ashburton to Hanmer which was another 428km so a total of 850km for a 4 day holiday.



1937 4 seat Tourer