

RANGI HUT & DEADMAN'S RIDGE

260-Series: 1:50.000 Sheet U22

Topo50 Map: BL36 Norsewood

How to get to START: SH1 south from Taupo with a morning tea stop at Taihape. Turn off in Mangaweka heading for Ruahine on Ruahine Road. Pass through Rangiwahia and follow Te Para Para Road then Renfrew Road to the end where a gated entrance to the Ruahine Forest Park is clearly marked. There is a second gate and after this the track is a bit steep and loose gravel can cause some slippage. Good sized car park at **WP01**^{828masl} with a DoC toilet.

Rough description: A fairly easy overnighiter in the Rangi (Rangiwahia) Hut with Day 1 having a grunty ascent, which is over within the first hour, up past a huge landslip on recently constructed track. Views, sunsets and sunrises from the hut can be magic. Day 2 involves a long slow ascent through tussock to the high point of Mangahaia then it is virtually all downhill back to the car park. Total distance of 13km with ascent of just over 900m requires total walking time of just less than 6 hours.

Detail: The drive from Taupo takes around 3:30 – 4 hours so it is feasible to leave mid-morning and start walking in early afternoon. The start is fairly steep then there are a few zigzags for five minutes on a shady track up to two dead trees and within 20minutes a small junction **WP02**^{934masl} indicates the start of the detour up past the landslip via some zigzags. This is on well benched track and is a treat compared to the original “grunty” bypass route; **WP03**^{1021masl} has been left to help indicate the old route. From **WP04**^{1072masl} a glance around will reveal where the old route joined the new track. The old route is shown on the map in blue. From this point on very good views of the gigantic slip which has just been worked around and also of a stunning, curved wooden bridge up ahead.

The slip



Five minutes later the bridge is crossed (**WP06**^{1008masl}) over the Rangiwahia then it is immediately uphill on natural stone steps on rough but good track. Fifty minutes later a small cool looking pool (**WP07**^{1267masl}) sits at a bend in the track and appears very inviting on hot days, someone has even deposited a small dinosaur on the rocks to amuse bathers. Minutes later the high point (**WP08**^{1301masl}) of the day's walk is reached a hundred metres or so before Rangi Hut (**WP09**^{1298masl}). The hut is relatively small with 14 bunks, gas supplied for cooking, roof-water supply to internal and external sinks, very good kitchen / cooking space and a huge table. In good weather the views, sunsets and dawns are magnificent. The murals on the toilets are good!

There is quite a hard start to Day 2 as the track is gravelly in places, is a bit incised and is in tussock and often one cannot see where the foot is going to land, often leading to stumbles. Also, there are no poles or track markers so good weather is preferred to low cloud and mist. However it only takes about an hour to reach a junction with an old wooden sign (**WP10**^{1548masl}) where the route goes right to reach the high point of Mangahaia (**WP11**^{1588masl}).

Sunset from Rangi



Rangi Hut



Ruapehu at dawn



Cool and moist track junction



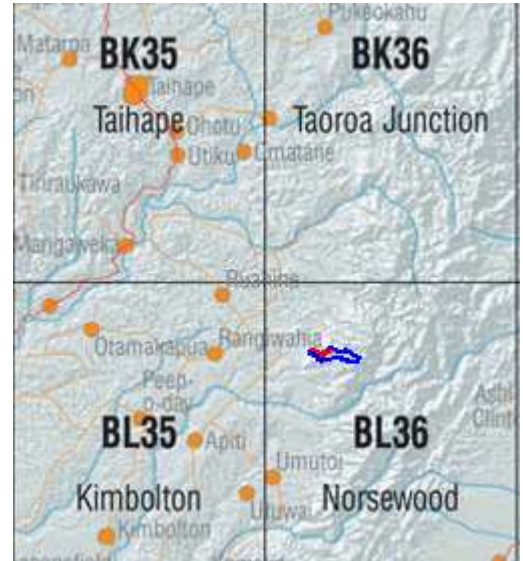
From Mahuia the track now heads westwards firstly through small rolling, tussock covered hills where walking is again not easy as foot-planting can be a hit or miss process. The hills soon give way to a long gentle descending slope with the odd steeper section. Within an hour the track improves (**WP13**^{1323masl}) dramatically as it has been widened and the tussock surface scraped off but roots can be a tripping trap for the unwary – this is just short of the bush line.

On clear, sunny, hot days the trees offer shade (**WP14**^{1258masl}) after about a total of 6km for the day and about an hour. After wandering through the forest, which has a fair number of Cedar in it, there is very short, fairly steep grassy descent to meet up with the outward track (**WP15**^{827masl}). From this point it is only a few metres back to the car park. The day's outing covers approximately 10km and requires between three and half and four hours.

NZ Grid GPS: Geodetic datum1949

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS 84

Access & Location

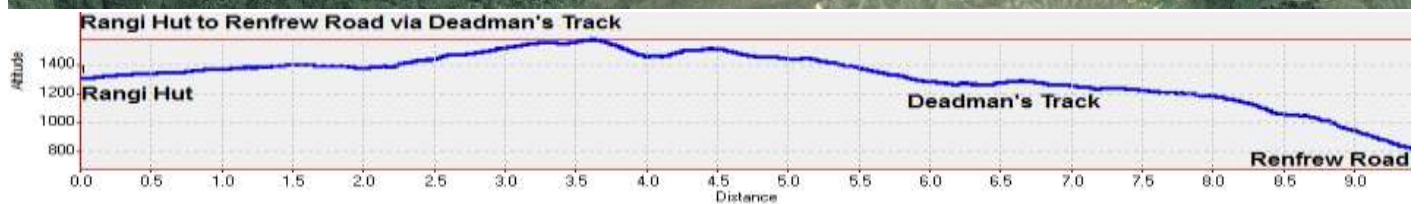
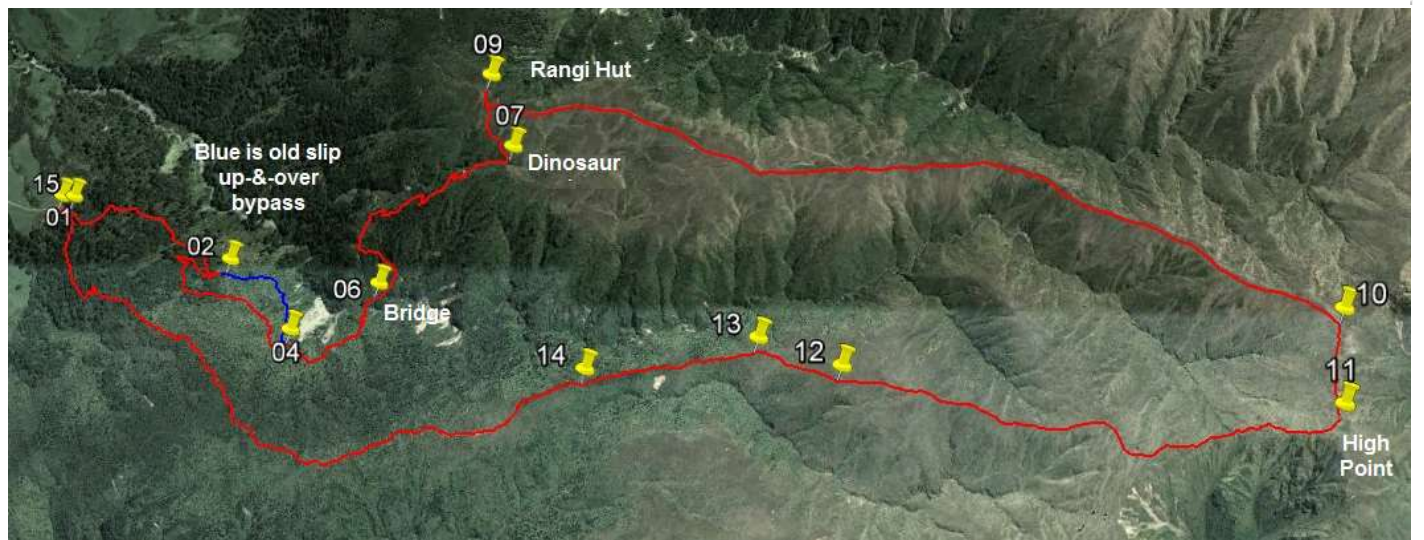
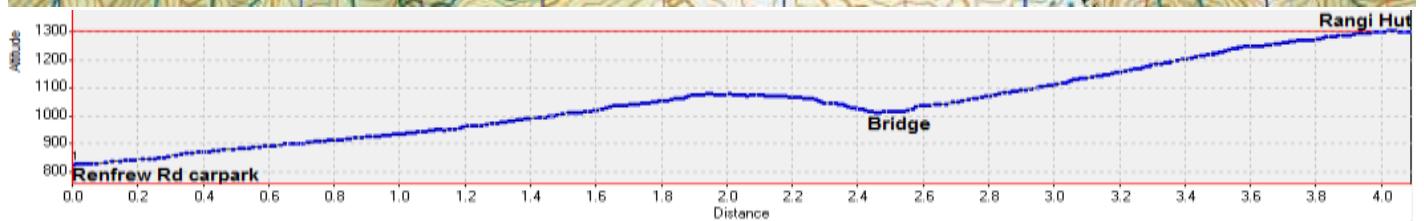


The tramp is entirely within the Ruahine Forest park with access off SH1 south of Taihape and via Rangiwahia to the very end of Renfrew Road.

Rangiwahia Bridge



Map with GPS data



Waypoints - NZTM

N...	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
01	1856278	5579762	828	Park at end of Renfrew Road, Ruahine Forest Park
02	1857001	5579452	934	20min (1km), marked new junction on to zig zags track above slip
03	1857267	5579234	1021	Crest of gnarly, steep original detour around big slip (Route now redundant)
04	1857286	5579141	1072	47min (1.9km); +/- level walking where old bypass emerges above slip
05	1857533	5579255	1002	1:02min (2.4km); off detour and back on original track after steep rooty descent, good view of slip
06	1857599	5579316	1006	1:06min (2.5km); middle of wooden bridge then up natural stone steps
07	1858160	5579735	1267	1:41min (3.8km); small pond at sharp corner of track with plastic dinosaur on rocks
08	1858083	5579944	1301	1:45min (4.02km); high point on track with building in view to the right
09	1858079	5580009	1298	1:50-2hrs (4.1km); Rangi (Rangiwhahia) Hut & toilets with murals
10	1861002	5578983	1548	[Day 2] 1:06min (3.3km); Sign-posted junction after tussock walk on incised track with no poles.
11	1860956	5578659	1568	1:19min (3.6km); Turn to west at high point on tussock track - not easy walking
12	1859315	5578876	1386	2:05min (5.5km); smoko stop before steeper descent section ahead and still in tussock
13	1859029	5578998	1323	2:26min (5.8km); track much wider with easier walking and just short of bush line
14	1858408	5578919	1258	2:43 (6.4km); good shade as back under the trees, some cedar
15	1856326	5579759	827	3:49min (9.4km); track junction with outward track and car park minutes away to the left

Notes: • **GPS** Garmin GPSmap 62sc **WP** = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit **masl** = metres above sea level