

MAUNGATAUTARI

260 Series Map: Putaruru T15

Topo50 Map: BE34 Kihikihi

How to get to START: As this is well outside the Taupo area the first step is to head North on SH1 towards Rotorua then:

- Stay on SH1 at Wairakei by going left 12 minutes
- Pass Kinleith Mill in 45 minutes then through Tokoroa Town
- Pass through Putaruru on SH1 in about 1 hour
- Through Tirau in 1:10 minutes then
- Left into Maungatautari Road (14km to Maungatautari) in 1:25 min
- Right following Maungatautari Road in 1:30 minutes
- Right again 4 minutes later still on Maungatautari Road and
- Left following signs for Maungatautari Scenic Reserve in about 1:40min and soon see the fence and park in small car park (**M01**) at end of Hicks Road

The drive from Taupo takes about 1:45 minutes and the return trip via Arapuni and Old Taupo Road to Tokoroa slightly less. On the map on the right the outward and return road trips are shown in red whilst the tramp line is shown in blue, with the tramp being done from Hicks Road in the north to emerge on Tari Road on the south side of the mountain.

The Maungatautari Scenic Reserve, a forested volcanic cone, was established to restore the local native ecology. There is a 47km mammalian-pest-proof fence surrounding 3,400 hectares of mature native forest. The restoration process involves eradication of all mammalian pests within the fenced area and the re-introduction of a variety of threatened native species many of which have been extinct in the area for the past century.

Rough description: Distance-wise this is not a long walk but the terrain makes it moderately demanding for most trampers and a fair amount of tramping skill is involved. This is an A to B walk a van mover is required to ensure you have transport waiting at the end and there is little chance of getting lost on this well marked track.

The distance is only about 10 kilometres but the terrain is very hilly with a great deal of unrelenting ascending and descending. Most of this is NOT on manicured tracks but involves steep root infested slopes, narrow rocky ridges as well as normal back-country type tracks.

Altitude varies from 247masl at the start (**M01** 247masl) to just over 800masl at the summit trig point (**M09** 806masl) but, at a rough estimate, there are over 850 metres of ascent. However, there is an escape route for the weary since at about 7km distance (**M19** 651masl) the route crosses a new, gently sloping, wide, gravel track which takes about an hour to get through to the end (**M27** 332masl) – some 20 to 30 minutes quicker than the old, rough track as described in this tramp.

Detail: There is a very clearly marked track leaving the car park (**M01** 247masl) at the north end of Hicks Road. This goes uphill to cross a stile into a grassy meadow within 2 – 3 minutes (**M02** 267masl). There are several large tree stumps fenced off on the left as you climb up through this meadow then within 13 – 14 minutes there is an electric fence but there is a stile (**M03** 343masl) and sometimes an open gate into the next meadow. From here the large fence round the reserve can be seen and within minutes you can enter the outer fenced area through the “safety-lock” cage. This is a large cage with spring-loaded doors at either end and only one door will open at a time to ensure no animal can get through. Once through the fence the first grunt of the day awaits and that is a ten minute drag up the gravel road that parallels the fence to a minor crest (**M04** 412masl).

Open and level



Continue along the fence line road through undulating to rolling forested terrain and within about 30 minutes there is a small sign-posted track (**M05** 435masl) branching off right to the summit – the next grunt commences but this is on rough, root infested back-country track. In the next 15 minutes or so you will climb 120 metres to reach a spot suitable for a rest and refreshment break – a small clearing with a seat on a minor crest (**M06** 553masl). The next section is quite long and is a traverse basically southwards on a narrow ridge with some tricky footwork in places due to roots and eroded, anti-hobbit sized steps and the odd patch of mud. Go left at a small Y-junction (**M08** 796masl) sign-posted “peak” on to a muddy rough bit of track which soon becomes a boardwalk and the crest with trig-point (**M09** 806masl) is reached in overall time of 1:50 min.

For the next 20 – 30 minutes you stay above 700 metres as you plod up and down ascending and descending slopes which can be quite wicked at times but at about 2:10 minutes there is a bit of a view (**M11** 777masl) from the ridge top and at 2:20 minutes there are some noticeably larger trees (**M12** 708masl) after a particularly testing descent. The terrain is then rolling rather than hilly and just short of 3 hours the ridge trends SW (**M14** 673masl) before descending to a small saddle before yet another rather steep ascent (**M15** 619masl).

NZ Grid GPS: Geodetic Datum 1949

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS84

Access



The drive from Taupo takes about 1 hour 45 mins

Fence and gate

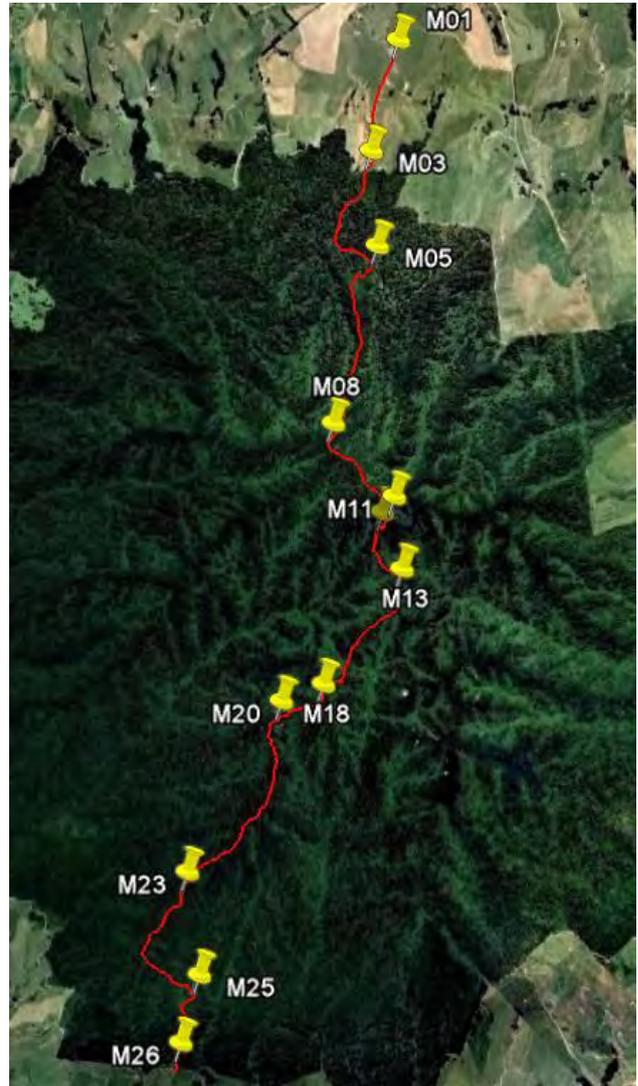
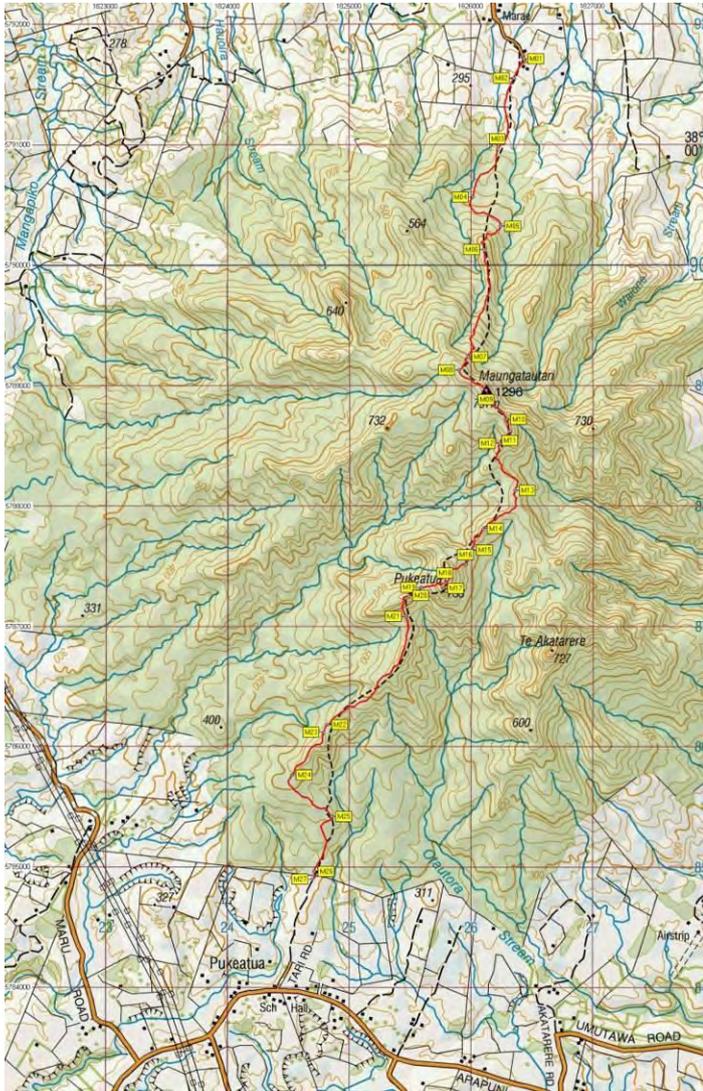


Once through the fence the first grunt of the day awaits and that is a ten minute drag up the gravel road that parallels the fence to a minor crest (**M04** 412masl).

Back country track



Track and Waypoints on Map and Google Earth

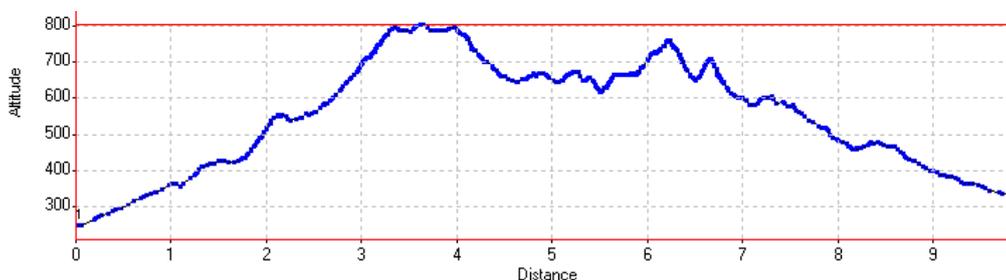


Waypoints – NZ Grid

Name	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
M01	2736561	6353763	247	31 OCT2007; Car park at N end of Hicks Road with very clear access track from the top right
M02	2736481	6353559	267	3 min; gravel track to stile into sloping, grassy meadow with large tree stumps on LHS
M03	2736347	6353018	343	13 min; over stile (on electric fence) then enter Kiwi area through safety gate and steeply uphill
M04	2736140	6352616	412	23 min; first minor crest after fair grunt up parallel to Kiwi fence then undulating to rolling
M05	2736371	6352374	435	30 min; branch right on to mountain/summit track and commence a rooty grunt uphill
M06	2736233	6352178	553	45 min; tea break in small clearing on crest with seat after rather steep ascent
M07	2736095	6351291	748	1:35 min; upper end of long, steep root infested slightly tricky ridge
M08	2736025	6351181	796	1:45 min; left at Y-junction with "peak" signed left on to rough track then extensive boardwalk
M09	2736245	6351010	806	1:50 min; end of boardwalk just short of Trig point
M10	2736408	6350769	798	2:05 min; minor crest after tricky, messy ascent then steep tricky, rooty descent
M11	2736441	6350672	777	2:10min; on ridge top with some view out of the forest
M12	2736354	6350569	708	2:20 min; more or less level with some big trees after wicked descent
M13	2736480	6350179	663	2:40 min; start ascending again in rolling, forest terrain
M14	2736218	6349861	673	2:55 min; SW along ridge then descend
M15	2736127	6349686	619	3:05 min; on small saddle before commencing fairly steep ascent
M16	2736074	6349567	668	3:30 min; continue steep ascent post 15 min lunch break
M17	2735892	6349367	760	3:55 min; five minute diversion up steep, rocky in places ridge for view of Arapuni Lake
M18	2735904	6349416	741	4 hours; back on track at broken track sign and above very steep, tricky rocky descent
M19	2735710	6349375	651	4:15 min; meet and cross new wide, gravel exit track (escape route for the weary)
M20	2735605	6349310	710	4:20 min; very steep, rocky tricky narrow ridge (not for faint hearted)
M21	2735580	6349136	610	4:30 min; slope easing and nice stroll through superb forest
M22	2734943	6348235	461	5:05 min; parallel to new gravel track then, in one minute, hit the track
M23	2734908	6348172	463	5:10 min; left on to "old" track at Y-junction from new gravel track
M24	2734650	6347816	436	5:15 min; merge with the new gravel track, then another track joins from the right
M25	2734973	6347473	372	5:25 min; back on to gravel road and parallel to Kiwi fence
M26	2734829	6347017	336	5:30 min; safety gate out of the reserve area
M27	2734816	6346953	332	5:33 min; car park at N end of Tari Road north of Pukeatua

NZTM

Easting	Northing
1826425	5791444
1826346	5791280
1826212	5790698
1826005	5790296
1826237	5790054
1826100	5789858
1825963	5788970
1825893	5788860
1826113	5788689
1826277	5788448
1826309	5788352
1826223	5788249
1826349	5787859
1826087	5787540
1825997	5787365
1825944	5787246
1825763	5787045
1825774	5787095
1825580	5787054
1825476	5786988
1825450	5786814
1824814	5785912
1824780	5785848
1824522	5785492
1824845	5785149
1824702	5784693
1824689	5784629



From : 01-Nov-07 15:21:28
To : 01-Nov-07 15:21:28

Time taken : 0:00:00
Total Distance : 9.903 Km

Minimum Speed : No Time
Maximum Speed : No Time
Average Speed : No Time

Minimum Altitude : 247 Meters
Maximum Altitude : 805 Meters

Just short of 4 hours a small branch (**M18** 741masl) path left gives a short, 5 minute diversion up a rocky ridge to give superb views (**M17** 760masl) out over Arapuni.

The trickiest descent of the day starts after this diversion and takes about 15 minutes and cannot be hurried as there are some fair drops down the rocks to be scrambled over / down but at the bottom of this the "escape route" is crossed – a wide, sign-posted, manicured gravel path (**M19** 651masl) that takes about one hour to reach the end of the track.

View point for Arapuni



Hero route



The real heroes will, however, decide to go straight ahead on the old track but please note that this route is not recommended for the faint-hearted as the figure on the left indicates – it is a very narrow and quite steep ridge (**M20** 710masl). After this ridge is surmounted the slope does start to ease and the tramp becomes a nice stroll through great forest (**M21** 610masl) and by about 5 hours the track parallels then joins the new gravel track for a few minutes then goes off bush again at a Y-fork (**M23** 463masl).

You once again merge with the gravel track (**M24** 436masl) at around 5:15 minutes and the track meets the fence (**M25** 372masl) plus parallel road 15 minutes later. Turning right when you meet the road leads you to the exit gate (**M26** 336masl)) and then the car park (**M27** 332masl) in less than 10 minutes having done the whole walk in something like five and a half hours.

The return route from Tari Road firstly follows the signs for Putaruru, turns right to cross the Arapuni Dam, passes through Arapuni then picks up the "Old Taupo Road" and finally turns left onto SH32 which joins SH1 in Tokoroa.

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| Notes: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GPS = Garmin GPSMap 60CSx• WP = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit• masl = metres above sea level |
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