

WAITOMO TRAMPS

Tawarau & Double Falls / Mangaohae Track

Topo50 Map: BF32 Piopio & BF33 Te Kuiti

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS84

How to get to START:

Starting point for both these tramps is Waitomo where the Top 10 Holiday Park is a good base.

The Tawarau Falls and Double Falls

Head west out of Waitomo on Te Anga Road

After 14 – 15km turn left to Appletree Road (gravel)

Park at the end at WP01 as on the map

The Mangaohae Track

Head west out of Waitomo on Te Anga Road for about 8km

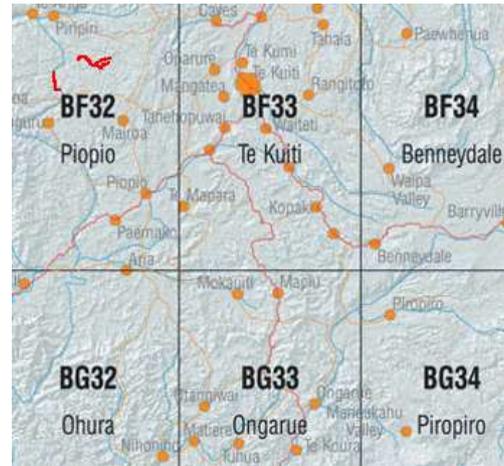
Left to Waipunga Road heading more or less south

At T-junction go right to Ngapaenga Road

Pass Tawarau Road on the right

Right to Were Road at large turn-back bend

Park at the track end at gate to Suffolk Stud farm (WP01)



Rough description - The Tawarau Falls and Double Falls: There are options on the walks to the waterfalls in that one can walk out and back to the Double Falls on the same track (12+km), out to Double Falls and via the Loop Track to visit the Tawarau Falls on the return trip (16+km) or only tackle the Loop Track (6+km) to visit Tawarau Falls by turning off at **WP3**. Option 1 is by far the easiest taking around 5 hours whilst the return via Tawarau Falls requires about 7 hours. The Loop Track may be short but is close to being a "fit" tramp and fairly strenuous over 4:30min as the walking is tricky, there are three significant river crossings and some fairly steep slopes to negotiate.

Detail: Appletree Road is gravel but in good condition though there is some vegetation that will brush a wide vehicle. At the end of the road park at the final fork (**WP01302masl**) and head off down the right hand branch on the wide track. Two points to note are that the track does not follow what is shown on the map and that there are two unmapped branch roads off to the left to ignore – these roads show on Google and the second is at **WP02310masl** where the right hand branch downhill is taken. The track is pretty obvious and there are orange DoC track markers though it is a bit ominous that study of the track signboard shows that the times have been blotted out. In less than an hour the junction to the Loop Track is reached (**WP03342masl**). There are few features to note, apart from the superb forest, until **WP04263masl** is reached at a track junction where one passes from native to pine forest and the left fork is followed to the SW.

There are a couple more track junctions but the route is pretty obvious and in about 2:30min the Double Falls are reached. It is then a case of back-tracking to **WP03** and deciding on the easy way home or to tackle the Loop Track.

Confusion can kick in pretty soon after starting on the Loop Track as the direction followed is totally different from what is shown on the map. This really should be noted as an avid map user will get very disorientated later when one seems to be on the wrong side of the stream line – but track marking is good so follow the orange markers. Eventually after a fairly steep descent the river has to be crossed and this can be challenging! Dry feet are possible at the first crossing if one has good balance and the skills to hold on to the vegetation but crossings two and three can be a bit daunting – steep, eroded banks and fairly deep water which appears to be fast flowing, in fact it is not too bad but care is required. If scrambling is not a strong point carry a length of rope to help get up and down the banks.

Missing time information



From : 29-Oct-16 10:40:23
To : 29-Oct-16 17:54:58

Time taken : 7:14:35
Total Distance : 14.390 Km
GPS Distance 16.71km
Minimum Speed : 0.004 KPH
Maximum Speed : 7.037 KPH
Average Speed : 1.987 KPH

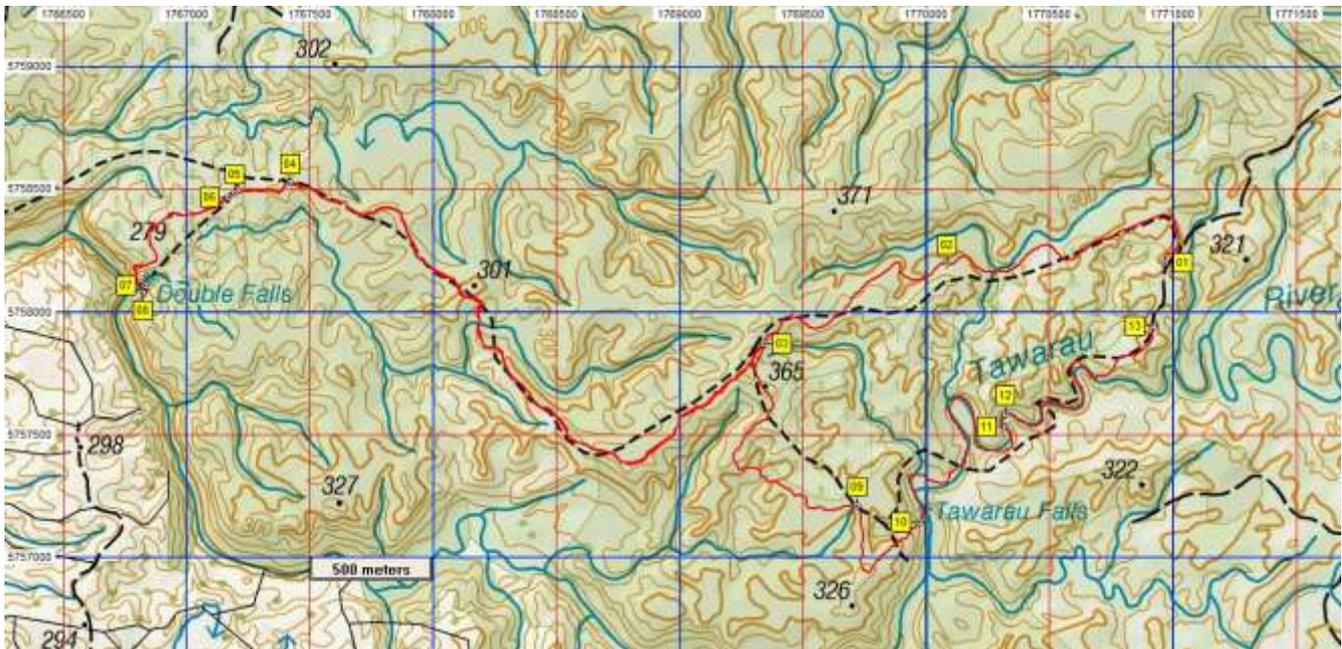
Minimum Altitude : 202 Meters
Maximum Altitude : 365 Meters

Total ascent 669metres

There must have been a fourth crossing at one time but this river crossing is now on a stout wooden bridge. Then it is quite steeply uphill to pass some very tall gum trees before popping out into a level grassy car park / camping area on the left fork at the end of Appletree Road only a few hundred metres from the starting point.



GPS Data for option 1

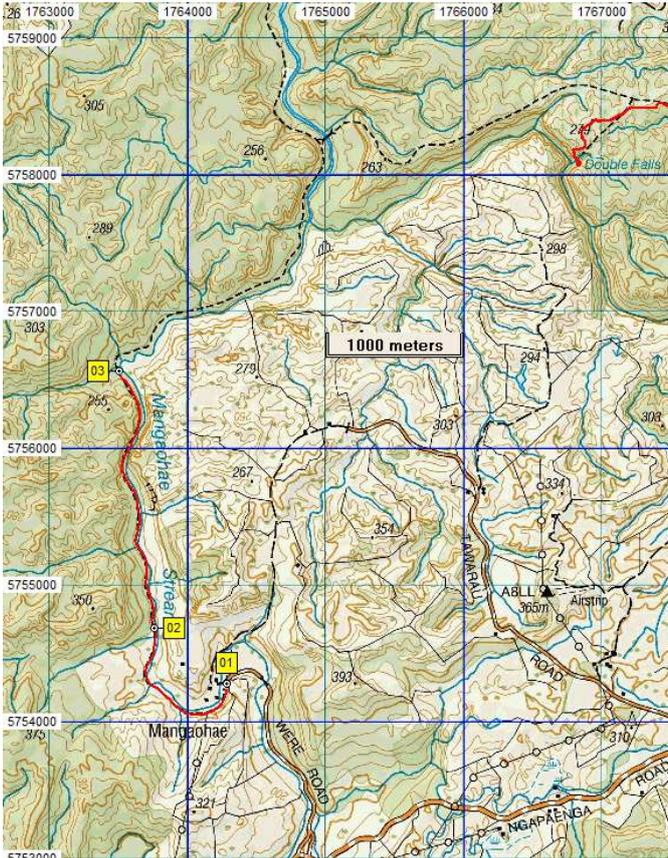


N...	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
01	1770892	5757546	302	Car park at end of Apple Tree Road
02	1770006	5757540	310	1.28km (30min); Unmapped junction, go right downslope
03	1769265	5757214	342	2.29km (52min); Track junction with left for Loop / Tawaru Falls and right for Double Falls
04	1767342	5757869	263	5.13km (1:57min); Junction with left for Double Falls and into pine forest
05	1767116	5757830	260	5.37km (2:01min); Track junction - go left
06	1767092	5757810	254	5.41km (2:03min); Track junction where current track heads right away from mapped track
07	1766753	5757451	205	6.06km (2:21min); Above Double Falls
08	1766746	5757421	203	6.13km (2:32min); Below Double Falls
09	1769640	5756552	305	11.32km (5:30min); Track sign?? crossing mapped track
10	1769894	5756488	254	11.94km (5:51min); Tawarau Falls
11	1770241	5756876	251	13.22km (6:40min); First river crossing
12	1770240	5756927	251	13.28km (6:41min); Second river crossing
13	1770842	5757284	298	14.4km (7:14min); Grassy car park at track end on Apple Tree Road



Rough Description - The Mangaohae Track: The plan was to walk up the track from the Suffolk Stud (**WP01**) farm to the bridge and junction to the right which goes in to Double Falls where the track is shown in red on both the following map and Google image. Almost from the word go whilst on the wide, grassy farm track there are patches of slippery deep mud, easily avoided whilst still in the open. A few hundred metres out there is a tricky little incised stream to cross, but there is a log to walk on. Then there is a stile (**WP02**) to get over the fence into the bush area of the valley proper. From here on the watchword is mud!

There are wonderful views of the spectacular limestone bluffs on the right across the river but the endless mud patches make this less than a totally enjoyable outing in an area with very interesting geology and vegetation.



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