

MARTON SASH & DOOR TRAMWAY

Topo50 Map: BH33 Retaruke, BH34 Raurimu, BJ33 Raetihi & BJ34 Mt Ruapehu

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS84

How to get to START:

- Exit Taupo southwards on SH1 to Turangi
- In Turangi take SH41 towards Tokaanu and turn left to SH47
- Pass the turn off to Whakapapa in 1:10min
- Turn right on to SH4 at National Park in 1:17min
- Immediately turn left off SH4, proceed to near the end
- Park at NATIONAL PARK station (WP01809masl) in 1:20 – 1:30 min and 100km from Taupo – this offers fairly safe parking plus a café if required.

Rough description. This tramp offers alternatives in that shorter walks can be organised and all are on bike tracks or roads which are mostly gravel:

- Out and back as far as desired plus a café at National Park Station
- Go down the Western branch WP6 and come back from WP11
- Get transport to wait at Erua WP15 for a pick-up

Detail: From the station car park walk due north then use the level crossing to safely cross the railway then immediately turn left to Pehi Road heading for the signposted Transfer Station. Just past the Transfer Station bear left off the road (WP02813masl) to walk parallel to the railway for 2km then go right through the metal bike gate (WP03801masl) basically heading WSW in a grassy area. This leads to an old road quarry (WP04790masl) which is a good spot for morning tea before crossing the Otamaewa Stream and a bit of uphill walking whilst the track swings round the head more or less south following the gentle slopes of old tramway. Within 2 hours a DoC toilet (WP05804masl) is passed then there is a wooden bridge just before a junction (WP06797masl) where there is choice of a long walk by going right on the western branch or a shorter one by going left; the following describes the longer walk.

Between WP3 and WP4



A very pleasant spot came up when some pines (WP07786masl) were approached on the left, there might have been a small track going into the area and minutes later a notice (WP08780masl) giving some information about an accident on the tramway back in 1937 when the jigger ran away injuring and killing people – this was on a long slope so it can be imagined just how fast the thing was going. Almost immediately after this the track swings uphill (WP09799masl) to the right (W) away from the tramway to meet a gravel road (WP10809masl). Going left on the road for just over a kilometre reaches a junction on the left with a gate plus a bike gate (WP11782masl). This makes a good lunch spot and if this junction is followed it leads back to the junction at WP06.

Gated road at WP11



Staying on the gravel road for the long walk very quickly gets to a Y-fork (WP12784masl) where the route goes right and downhill to then turn off left (WP13775masl) within a few hundred metres on to a wide section of bike track from which there are good views through the trees on the right over the Waimarino Stream. At a bit over 3 hours meet and turn right WP14725masl on Erua Road to cross a white wooden bridge then almost immediately turn left to bike track again.

This section of track heads NNE then swings round to ESE to meet the railway and SH4 again, make a turn (WP15737masl) to the left just before the road on to gravelly track. This would be a good point for transport to wait if a shorter walk was wanted. Soon after this (WP16742masl) the rail line has to be crossed and the track lies between the railway and the road but soon it is again walk to the left of and parallel to these bits of transport infrastructure. After about a kilometre pick up a road that heads west then near the end of the tar seal (WP17753masl) head right back on to a narrower trail into pine forest and pass rather an old dilapidated hut.

Dilapidated hut



This leaves about 2.5km still to do back to National Park Station on the same tracks / roads as used on the way out. The whole walk covers just on 22km, ascends 2-300metres and requires over 5 hours depending on the rate of progress, but there are the options of cutting out some sections and having some nice coffee at the railway café on return. If lucky a train or two can help break the monotony of walking along parallel to the rail line, some of the freight trains really are very long!

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS84

Taupo to National Park



National Park Station



Accident

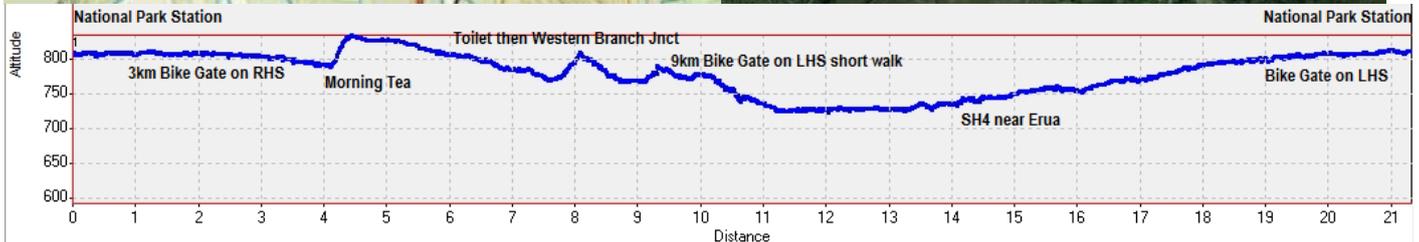
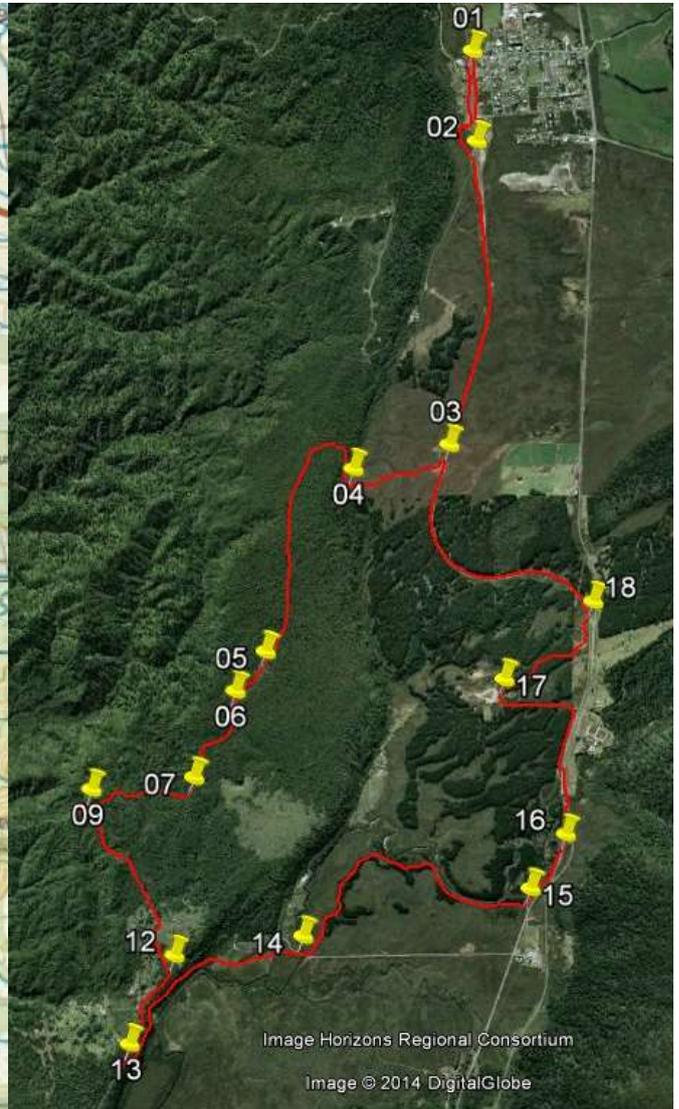
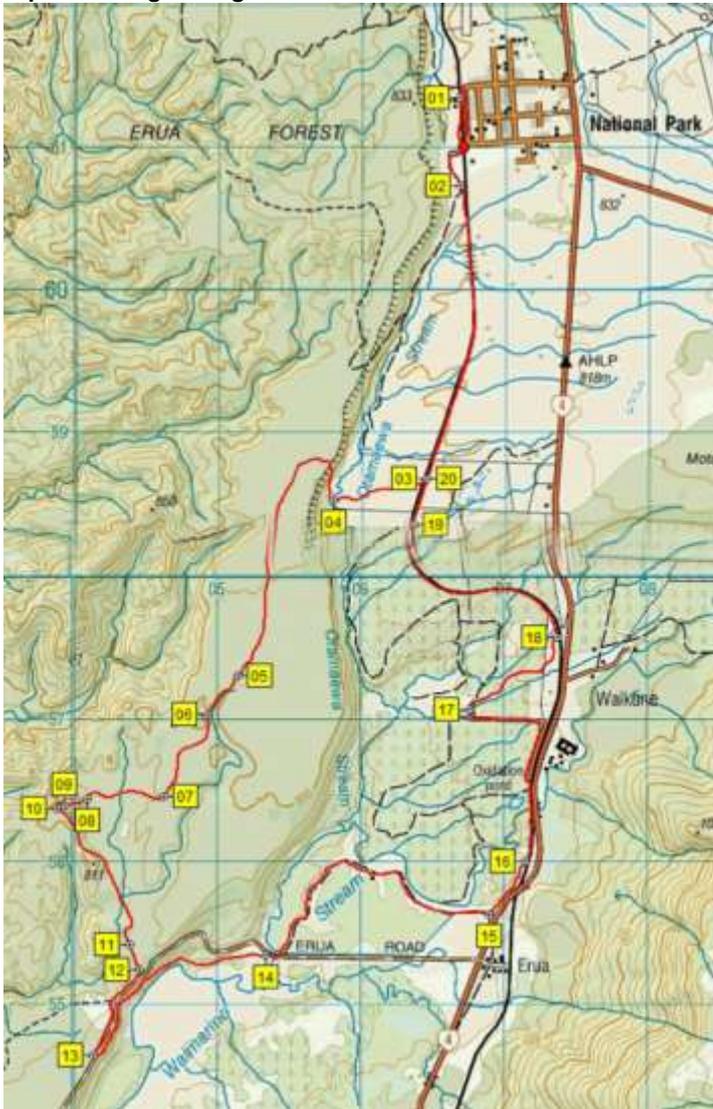


View over Waimarino Stream



After winding through the pines emerge into an open area of grass and broom just before meeting the railway again (WP18771masl) – turn left to head NNW and slowly swing round to a more westerly heading parallel to the rail line. The rest of the walk is not too pleasant as it is often on the gravel ballast from the rail-line so ankle turning could happen. Pass a gravel road that crosses the rail line in about 4 hours 45 (WP19798masl) then pass the bike gate used on the way out (WP20800masl).

Map and Google Image with GPS data



Waypoints – NZTM

N...	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
01	1806679	5661351	809	0.5km (7min); Bike trail sign opposite National Park Station on Pehi Road heading south
02	1806690	5660735	813	1.2km (16min); Left off gravel road just after Transfer Station on to trail parallel to railway
03	1806451	5658679	801	3.3km (45min); Right off gravel track parallel to railway and through bike gate heading WSW
04	1805796	5658531	790	4.1km (1:17min); Small bay/old road quarry with steep walls just before bridge over Otamaewa Stream
05	1805169	5657306	804	6.2km (1:50min); DoC type toilet on old tramway
06	1804957	5657041	797	6.6km (1:56min); New wooden bridge then to Y-junction going right for Western branch
07	1804658	5656459	786	7.3km (2:11min); Cutting with conifers and small access path on LHS
08	1804121	5656448	780	7.9km (2:20min); Accident notice from 1937 Jigger crash
09	1803963	5656398	799	8.1km (2:24min); Bear right uphill and off tramway
10	1803905	5656381	809	8.2km (2:26min); Meet gravel road, turn left
11	1804421	5655420	781	9.4km (2:41min); Junction with bike gate going off left - this leads back to WP6 on short route
12	1804488	5655243	784	9.6km (2:44min); Y-junction, go right downhill
13	1804165	5654643	775	10.3km (2:54min); Left off gravel road to wide track with views on right over Waimarino Stream
14	1805364	5655342	725	11.9km (3:13min); Meet gravel road, go right over white bridge and left to bike track
15	1806925	5655632	737	14.1km (3:43min); Left just before SH4 at Erua - pick-up point if short walk desired
16	1807175	5655999	742	14.6km (3:50min); Cross railway, go left between rail and road 100m or so then back on side of road
17	1806784	5657070	753	16.2km (4:10min); Parallel to rail then W on road & R to trail in pines plus pass old hut
18	1807400	5657585	771	17.1km (4:25min); NE heading into open grassy area with broom then meet railway, go left NNW
19	1806355	5658362	798	18.6km (4:45min); Pass gravel road crossing railway, rough gravelly walking parallel to rail,
20	1806455	5658678	800	19km (4:50min); Bike gate on LHS as WP No3 near start. Another 2.5km and 32 min to National Park

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