

SCORIA FLATS to WHAKAPAPA

260 Series Map: Ohakune, S20

Topo50 Map: BJ34-Mnt Ruapehu

How to get to START: Exit Taupo on SH1 down the lake to Turangi :

- Follow Desert Road (SH1) and turn off right on to SH46 for Rangipo
- Meet SH47 at a T-junction and turn left then turn off SH47 on to SH48 signposted for Whakapapa and the Chateau, or
- In Turangi turn off SH1 on to SH41 on the right and then turn left off SH41 on to SH47 and proceed as above.

Pass the Chateau on the left and continue up Bruce Road parking in the "Round the Mountain" car park on the right hand side at the Scoria Flats (**WP011445** masl).

Your transport will have to leave you here and make its way back into Whakapapa to the car park with toilets opposite the Chateau (**WP14** 1180 masl).

Rough description: An easy to moderate **A** to **B** walk of 4 to 5 hours using part of the round the mountain track (RMT) and passing by the Whakapapa Hut. Some of the slopes soon after the start can be very slippery due to ice and snow and care is needed when the walk is done in winter time.

Map and Google Image with GPS data

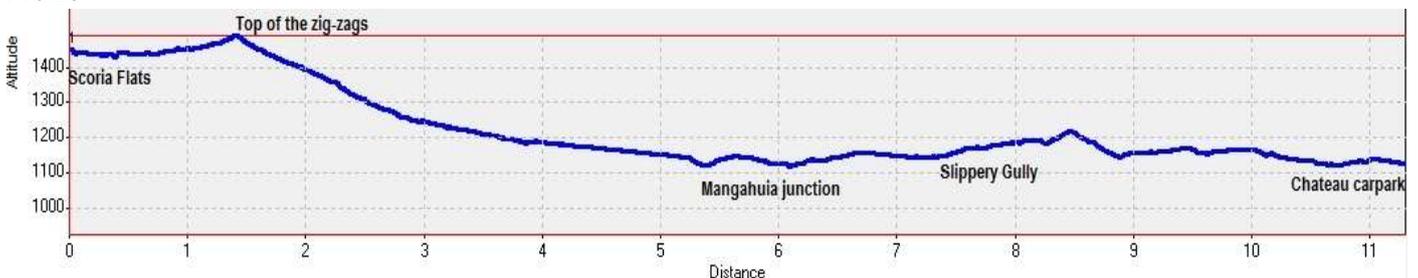


The location of the tramp can be seen above

NZTM Waypoints

N...	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
01	1819375	5654513	1445	Scoria Flats car park on RHS going up Bruce Road
02	1818680	5653993	1452	18min (950m); on "moraine wall" + views
03	1818164	5653908	1472	35min (1.5km); Edge of crest at top of zig-zags down into Whakapaiti Valley
04	1818041	5653718	1383	50min (2.1km); Junction with distance notices for various walks, right for Whakapaiti Hut
05	1817283	5653840	1247	1:28min (3km); Whakapaiti Hut
06	1816656	5654327	1185	1:41min (3.9km); River crossing of Whakapaiti Stream
07	1816004	5655411	1145	2:13min (5.2km); Junction with left for Mangahuia Camp and straight for Whakapapa
08	1815941	5656220	1120	2:30min (6.1km); Off boardwalk, down to bridge then into forest
09	1817020	5656326	1149	3:15min (7.4km); Slippery Gully
10	1817527	5656764	1194	3:30min (8.3km); The chute gully crossing
11	1818020	5656758	1150	3:43min (8.9km); Large eroded valley / gully Tironga Pai
12	1818274	5657206	1159	3:53min (9.5km); T-junction with Silica Rapids to right
13	1819036	5657663	1126	4:09min (10.6km); Junction to Whakapanui off left
14	1819315	5657795	1126	4:19min (11.3km); Car park with toilets opposite Chateau

Profile



The moraine wall - winter



There are two or three river / stream crossings but these are easy at the right time of year. Come back into Whakapapa to the car park opposite the Chateau after passing close to the caravan park and Whakapapa Lodge compound. There are a few steady climbs in places but, overall, the altitude gain and loss is less than 400 metres. With good weather fantastic views of Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe can be obtained.

Detail: Leave the car park (WP01¹⁴⁴⁰ masl) in a SW direction following the “Round the Mountain” poled track. If it is winter time take care from the start as there are a few relatively steep downhill slopes which can be icy. In less than 30 minute start to traverse round and on to the moraine wall which can be seen above.

Within twenty to thirty minutes the moraine wall is summited (WP02¹⁴⁵²masl) with great views and an ideal tea / coffee stop. Continuing onwards starts the descend into the Whakapapaiti Valley via a series of 11 zig-zags (WP03¹⁴⁷² masl) and a group of distance boards near the bottom of the zig-zags (WP04¹³⁸³masl) reached well within an hour, this is the junction to the Whakapapaiti Valley.

In about an hour enter an eroded, ditch descending through trees to reach close to the edge of the river in about 1:20 minutes.

Five or six minutes later reach the Whakapapaiti Hut (WP05¹²⁶⁴⁷masl). This is a fairly modern hut and is well equipped to offer a good night's stay-over and is useful for an early lunch stop. Before and after the hut there are sections of boardwalk and about 15 minutes after leaving the hut a minor deviation from the track occurs. The current poled route parallels the stream line then descends a staircase to reach the edge of the Whakapapaiti Stream. This crossing point is a few hundred metres upstream from the mapped crossing and can involve two minor crossings but, for most people, the stepping stones are good enough to avoid wet feet – the second crossing can be deeper if you come off the stones – this crossing (WP06¹¹⁸⁵masl) is reached after about 1:45 minutes to 2 hours walking from the start.

Re-join the poled track about 50 metres from the river and staircase heading almost west then swing to the NW and proceed through a flatter, rather wet boggy area of low bush. This is one of the few places in the area where mud and standing water can be found and the going can be tricky. Go straight ahead at a minor junction (WP07¹¹⁴⁵masl) reached in 2:15-2:30 minutes as the branch to the left goes into the Mangahuia Valley and on to the Mangahuia Camp; the start of the track is petty horrendous. After this junction there is quite a steep descent to the river and a bridge and the descent can be rather slippery and a tumble into the thick bush ensues. If lunch has not been taken earlier then a good lunch spot is located just before crossing the above mentioned bridge.

After crossing the bridge (WP08¹¹²⁰masl) there is a steep climb back up out of the valley and on to an extensive section of boardwalk. The end of the boardwalk is reached then re-enter the forest. The forest is Silver Beech then Kaikawaka (NZ Cedar) is found. The quality of the footpath does deteriorate a bit around here and the first of a series of gullies is encountered:

- Slippery Gully (WP09¹¹⁴⁹ masl) in 3:15 min
- The Chute in 3:30-3:45minutes (WP10¹¹⁹⁴masl)
- Tirohanga Pai 3:45 - 4:00 minutes (WP11¹¹⁵⁰masl)

Soon after this a spectacular view of Ngauruhoe can be seen in clear weather from a small bridge but the vegetation is starting to obscure this view. A stream crossing is now encountered then there is a set of steps upwards then one comes to a T-junction (WP12¹¹⁵⁹masl) where going right takes you to Silica Rapids (separate walk unless one is dead keen and fit enough). The next T-junction reached is the one with the Whakapapanui Track which goes off left (WP13¹¹²⁶masl). After this there is a small ascent before descending to cross the big bridge over the Whakapapanui Stream and follow the track back into Whakapapa Village or branch off through the caravan site and Whakapapa Lodge to reach the car park (WP14¹¹²⁶masl) opposite the Chateau – and transport home.

Bottom of zig-zags



Whakapapaiti Hut



Whakapapaiti Stream



Spectacular Ngauruhoe view –in good weather



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| Notes: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GPS Garmin GPSMap62sc• WP = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit• masl = metres above sea level |
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