

MOUNT TONGARIRO via HARDMAN'S RIDGE

260 Series Map: Tongariro T19

Topo50 Map: BH35 Turangi & BH34 Raurimu

NZ Grid GPS: Geodetic Datum 1949

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS84

How to get to START: Exit Taupo on SH1 down the lake for 47km in 45 minutes to Turangi then:

- Follow the Desert Highway (**SH1**), turn off right to **SH46** for Rangipo
- Continue on **SH46** to the T-junction with **SH47** and turn left
- At 90km (1:15 min) turn left on to gravel road for Mangatepopo & Tongariro Alpine Crossing – speed limit 40kph
- Park at car park with toilets at 96km and about 1 hour 30 minutes driving from Taupo.

Rough Description: A fairly strenuous walk of 6-7 hours covering about 16km, with another 3-4km added for altitude gain and loss, in some of the wildest terrain in the Tongariro National Park. Starts on the tourist track from Mangatepopo car park towards the Tongariro Alpine Crossing and branches off left (N) over the Mangatepopo Stream after about 40 minutes to gain Hardman's Ridge. Three hours uphill grunt gets to the top of Mount Tongariro whilst offering splendid views of Tongariro and the New Alpine Crossing track. South Crater is then circled clockwise to meet the "crossing" track just below Red Crater from where it is 2:30 minutes back to Mangatepopo car park.

Detail: From the car park (**WP01** 1048masl) follow the Alpine Crossing track past the Mangatepopo Hut. At about 40 minutes to just when the rough rocky outcrops start to occur on the right hand side (S) and the valley on the left is quite narrow, look for a small unmarked track on the left. This is also just before the outcrops of rock on the slope to the north (on the left) occur. This track (**WP03** 1212masl) slips off into the valley, parallels the "Crossing" track for a few metres then crosses the stream and heads due north steeply uphill. It is a bit of a grunt upslope on the old, much degraded track to gain the crest (**WP04** 1333masl) of the ridge just below some rock outcrops. Head up the ridge (ENE) where there are some natural mini-terraces (a Himalayan Bhutanese farmer would have these cultivated) and over a flattish crest (**WP5** 1399masl), down through a dip which offers a good spot for "smoko". From here there are superb views of the flows and fans coming off Tongariro and a first glimpse of the new "Alpine Crossing" track.

Ngauruhoe and Ruapehu from Hardman's Ridge



Another 30 minutes steady ascent on the ridge gains a rocky top (**WP6** 1516masl) from where superb views of the new crossing path are seen as well as the very clear channels of the flows on Ngauruhoe. The track now being followed is clearer and there are a few cairns to be found. Soon after this the serious work of the day commences as the slopes of Tongariro are hit with a hefty grunt occurring in-line with a small bluff (**WP7** 1606masl). There is a slight respite at about 2:15 minutes when a small shelf (**WP08** 1669masl) is gained before passing through a slight dip and then it is up gain on loose scoria gravel and a small scoria wall has to be surmounted. Twenty minutes later the scoria track gets steeper then it eases to cross (**WP09** 1770masl) to the N bank of the gullied stream line being paralleled. This next section is very steep, very loose scoria and a bit dangerous and advice is to cross back to the other (S) side of the gully (**WP10** 1898masl) and go up the rocks there. From here it is almost a pleasant scramble up the rocks to the summit (**WP11** 1967masl) of Tongariro where the remnants of the old trig points can be seen.

New Alpine crossing track



Splendid views all round



After lunch on the crest follow the poled route to the NE which circles round "South Crater" giving new views of the Alpine Crossing, Ngauruhoe plus the Blue and Emerald Lakes (**WP12** 1889masl). This track is a bit rough and there are patches of unstable, loose scoria but nothing too technical or difficult and within about an hour joins the Tongariro Alpine Crossing track just below Red Crater (**WP13** 1855masl).

Lunch on crest Tongariro



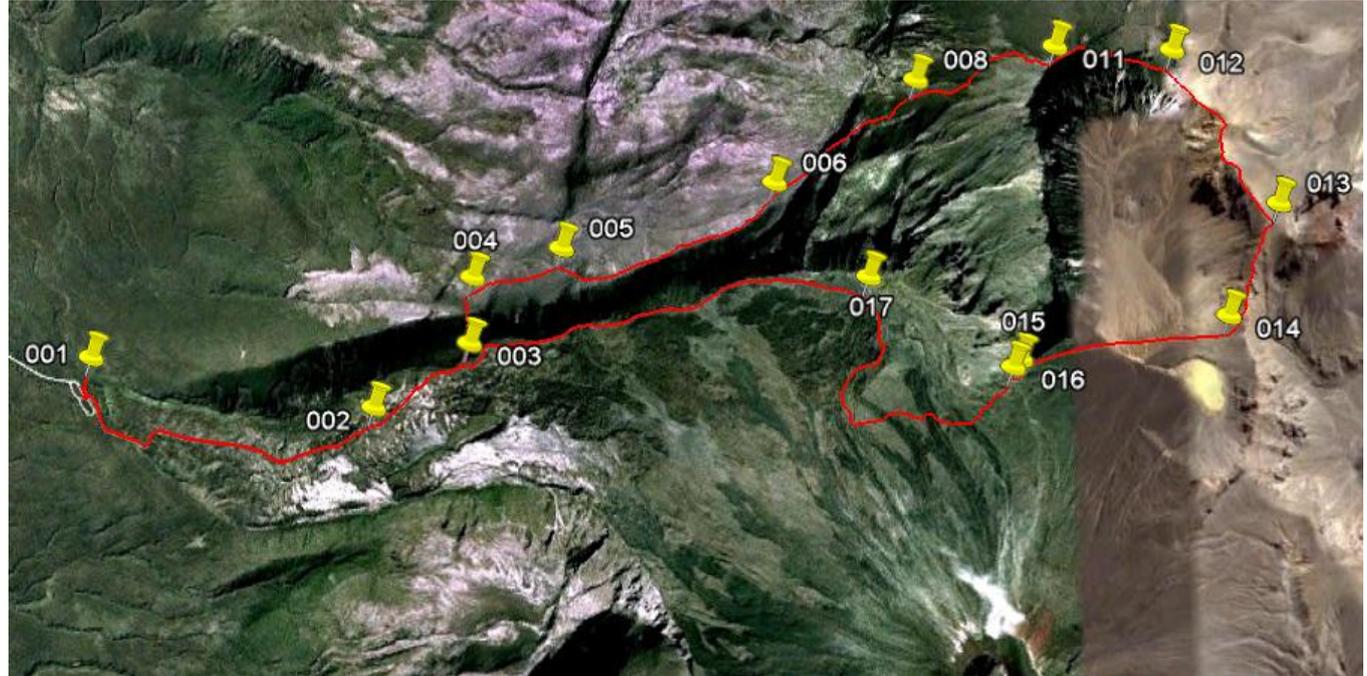
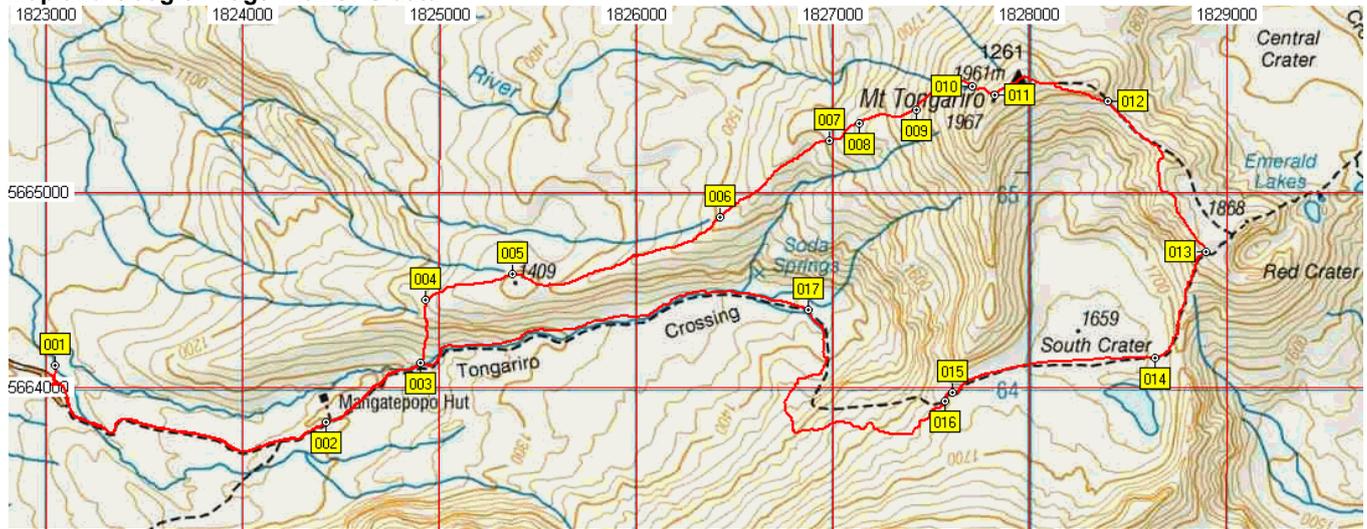
It is then a bit of a scrambling, slippery descent down past the remnants of the rock-wall to get into the flat bed of South Crater (**WP14** 1672masl) from where it takes 20 minutes to cross to the west side of the crater and the T-junction for the route up Ngauruhoe (**WP15** 1671masl). The return is then on the new "Crossing" track (**WP16** 1663masl) which takes about 25 minutes to get down through some amazing scoria terrain to the DOC toilet (**WP17** 1379masl). The new section of track completely cuts out the badly eroded, steep, rocky, infamous "ladder" which can now hardly even be seen. From the DOC toilet it is 1:15 minutes from the starting car park at Mangatepopo.

New track



Distances and times are taken from the Police Station in Taupo and the route can be followed above1. The tramp route is the blue line.

Map and Google image with GPS data

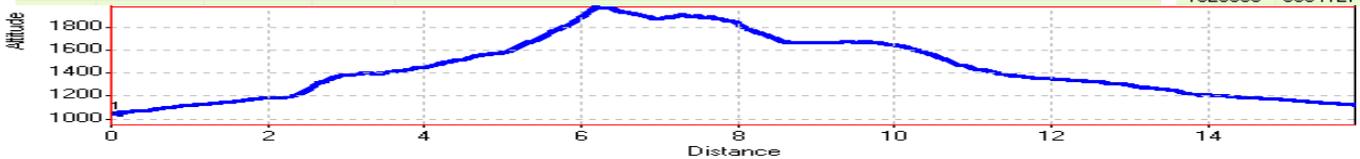


Waypoints – NZ Grid

Name	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
001	2733036	6226213	1048	26 MAR 2008 Mangatepopo car park
002	2734415	6225926	1168	25min; Mangatepopo Hut junction
003	2734894	6226228	1212	38min; Off left into narrow valley, upstream then cross stream line and steeply uphill
004	2734918	6226551	1333	50min; on ridge just below rocky tops after fair grunt using degraded path
005	2735359	6226682	1399	1:10min; on flattish crest after ascent of ridge with "terraces" then into dip with Ngauruhoe views
006	2736414	6226972	1516	1:45min; rocky top then a few cairns on the improving track. Good view of new "Crossing" track.
007	2736970	6227369	1606	1:55min; into serious grunt up slopes of Tongariro and in-line with small bluff
008	2737121	6227457	1669	2:15min; small shelf with easing of slope, a dip then on to loose scoria + scoria wall
009	2737410	6227524	1770	2:35min; steep grunt on track through scoria then cross stream line to go up N bank of gully
010	2737693	6227644	1898	2:55min; severe grunt on scoria slope, cross to rocky slope on S bank ASAP
011	2737809	6227601	1967	3:05 min; crest for lunch then down left (NE) on poled track to circle round South Crater
012	2738383	6227566	1889	3:50min; just before saddle below Mnt Tongariro with good views of Blue and Emerald Lakes
013	2738886	6226798	1855	4:15min; meet Tongariro Alpine Crossing track just below Red Crater, go left SSE
014	2738623	6226254	1672	4:45min; at east end of South Crater after steep descent on loose gravelly track
015	2737596	6226072	1671	5:05min; T-junction with track off left (S) for Ngauruhoe ascent
016	2737559	6226032	1663	5:06min; top of new track through scoria and replacing the "Staircase"
017	2736862	6226496	1379	5:30min; bottom of new path at DDC toilet with 1:15 min walk to return to carpark

NZTM

Easting	Northing
1823036	5663842
1824415	5663556
1824894	5663857
1824918	5664181
1825359	5664312
1826414	5664604
1826971	5665001
1827121	5665089
1827410	5665156
1827693	5665276
1827809	5665233
1828383	5665199
1828887	5664431
1828625	5663886
1827598	5663704
1827560	5663664
1826863	5664127



Notes:

- **GPS** = Garmin GPSmap 60CSx
- **WP** = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
- **masl** = metres above sea level

Total Time: 6 hours
Total Walk Time: 6 hours 48 minutes
Total walk length: 15.9 + 4km for altitude
Overall altitude gain: 930metres

Time taken : 6:48:36
 Total Distance : 15.909 Km
 Minimum Speed : 0.000 KPH
 Maximum Speed : KPH
 Average Speed : 2.336 KPH
 Minimum Altitude : 1037 Meters
 Maximum Altitude : 1977 Meters