

SILICA RAPIDS via GOLDEN RAPIDS

260 Series Map: Ohakune, S20

Topo50 Map: BJ34-Mnt Ruapehu

NZ Grid GPS: Geodetic Datum 1949

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS84

How to get to START: Exit Taupo on SH1 down the lake to Turangi then you have the choice:

- Follow the Desert Highway (**SH1**) and turn 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 right off SH1 on to SH41 and then turn left off SH41 on to SH47 and proceed as above.

Pass the Chateau on the left and then pass the entrance to Whakapapa Lodge, from where this walk was done. The track is on your right a few metres up the road from Whakapapa Lodge and the car park with the toilet.

Rough description: An easy 2 hour out and back or circular walk on a well formed track through Montane forest (beech / silver birch for the Europeans) to Silica Rapids passing Golden Rapids on the way.

Also pass the junctions to other short walks:

- The Whakapapanui Track, and
- The Whakapapaiti Hut

The out and back walk can be made circular by exiting to the Bruce Road from Silica Rapids – but this does mean some little distance walking on the road with traffic, on a bad day this can be less than pleasant.

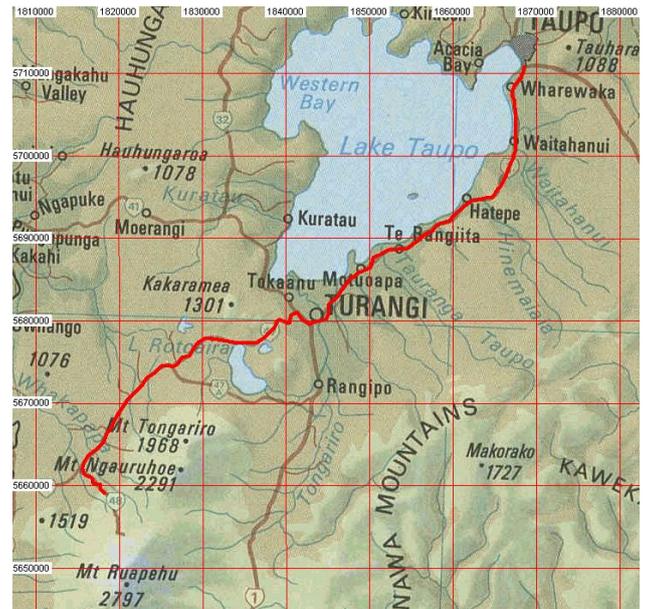
The track can easily be seen on the extract of the map shown in. There is very little altitude gain or loss on this track with the overall increase from start to target being 140 metres.

Detail: From the Bruce Road, as indicated above in the directions to the start, walk down the well formed and sign-posted track. In 10 minutes you will come to a T-junction (**WP4**) where you go straight ahead – going right takes you on the Whakapapanui Walk. Another 5 minutes brings you to the Golden Rapids (**WP5**). There are descriptive boards explaining all about the rapids. Another feature is the tree as seen in the photograph at the end of this article; this is a natural phenomenon and there are living examples of this species (Kaikawaka) on this track.

Continue on the good track and in another 5 or 6 minutes you can have a rest on a seat with views of the mountains (**WP6**) then you go down hill for a spell and back into the forest. In a few minutes more you reach a T or Y-junction (**WP8**) and if you want a longer walk try the right branch which goes to the Whakapapaiti Hut – but there are river crossings and wet feet involved.

Another 12 minutes gives a sign indicating the Punaruku Falls (**WP9**) but these are not too visible through the dense vegetation. In a few minutes more the valley opens up (**WP10**), you cross the stream you are following and there is a section of boardwalk. In less than one hour walking you reach a Y-fork (**WP11**) which is signed Bruce Road (if you want to exit that way) and the Silica Rapids which are only minutes straight ahead. The exit to Bruce Road takes 35 – 45 minutes but then have to walk down the main road.

Access



Map with NZTM Grid

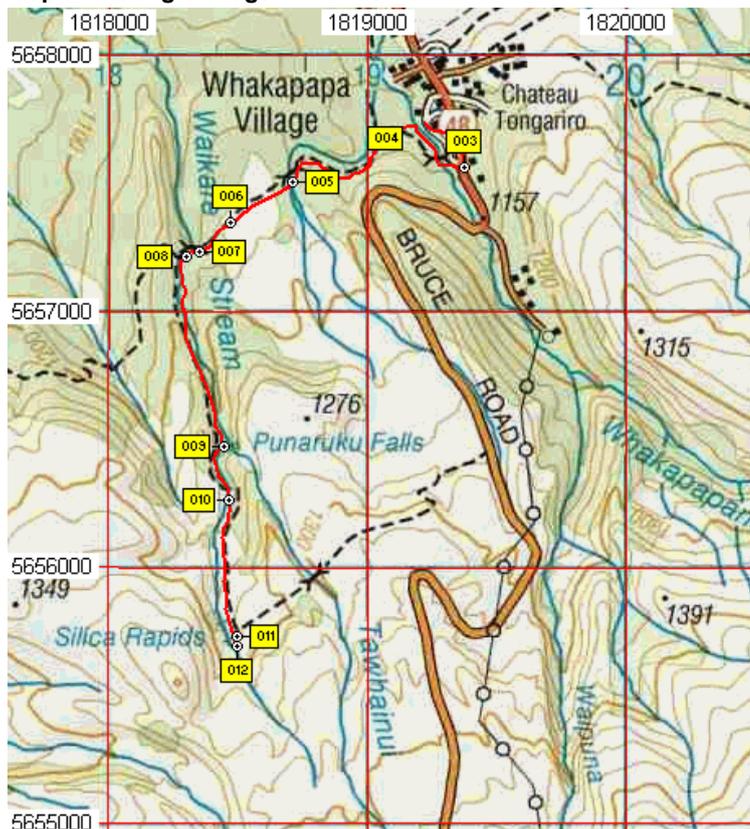
Golden Rapids



Silica Rapids



Map and Google Image with GPS data

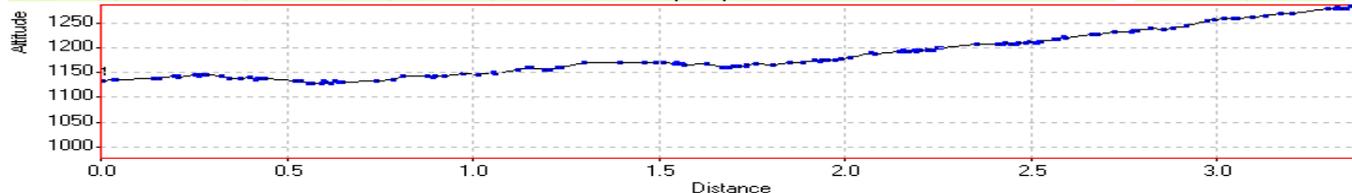


Waypoints NZ Grid

Name	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
001	2729311	6219590	1132	Whakapapa Lodge
002	2729436	6219552	1137	Entrance to Lodge Campsite, turn right go up road
003	2729459	6219416	1144	3 min walk - entrance to track on RHS of road
004	2729155	6219533	1132	10min T-junction go straight, right for Whakapapanui Walk
005	2728796	6219361	1156	16 min - Golden Rapids, up to open area and boardwalk
006	2728559	6219203	1170	22min - seat with views, down hill and back into forest
007	2728433	6219092	1160	Wooden bridge in Montane Forest - mainly beech (silver)
008	2728384	6219073	1165	25min - Y-junction, right goes to Whakapapaiti Hut
009	2728528	6218329	1212	37min - Punaruka Falls, hardly visible
010	2728550	6218118	1233	40min - Valley opens up, cross stream onto boardwalk
011	2728578	6217589	1280	53min - Y-fork + sign for Bruce Road and Silica Rapids
012	2728581	6217552	1284	55min - Silica Rapids platform

NZTM Grid

Easting	Northing
1819225	5657734
1819351	5657696
1819374	5657560
1819069	5657677
1818710	5657505
1818473	5657346
1818347	5657235
1818298	5657216
1818443	5656471
1818464	5656261
1818494	5655731
1818496	5655695



Silica Rapids platform



Kaikawaka tree



Notes:

- Garmin Summit GPS
- **WP** = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
- **masl** = metres above sea level as recorded by GPS unit