

HOROMANGA VALLEY

260 Series Map: Murapara, V17

Topo50 Map: BF39 Galatea

How to get to START:

- Exit Taupo northwards on **SH1** to Wairakei
- At the new roundabout go on to the Rotorua Road **SH5**
- Just past Waitapu go right to **SH38** for Murupara
- In Murupara turn left to Troutbeck Road
- After heading ENE then SE continue to the NE for about 9km and turn off right just before the bridge over the Horomanga River
- This road leads to the Horomanga Base camp so look out for **ARROWS** off to the left then parallel to the river for the car park **WP01214masl**
- The car park is a large, virtually flat river terrace and is quite popular with fishermen and the local populace – there are great pools for swimming.

Time required to the car park from the Police Station in Taupo is 1:30 to 2 hours and the route is shown as the thicker red line opposite whilst the tramp route is the blue line.

Rough description: A moderate tramp of 5 – 6 hours up the Horomanga Valley to the Midway Hut. Wet feet are guaranteed as there are 46 river crossings to get there – the same for the return trip. There are track markers but they are not always easy to spot though the track route is easily located as long as the eyes keep working to spot the exits across the river when the track dies on one side. However, GPS is not particularly helpful on this tramp since poor signals are received much of the time due to the deeply incised very narrow valleys. In addition, due to the topography – steep slopes and narrow valleys – this is not a tramp to undertake when it has, is or is expected to rain

Detail: From the car-park it is downhill to get the feet wet immediately crossing the river then heading to the right / SE upstream. At this point the river is carried in a rocky channel but the rocks soon vanish, the valley bottom widens a bit and there are several large pools very popular with fishermen and the local population who use them for swimming. The crossings soon increase in number but none of them are too difficult or deep but some of the rocks in the bottom are slippery and taking a dip is not unknown – carry and use a walking pole! Some crossings get to be knee deep in the height of summer and this is a good warning that this tramp must not be attempted when there has been rain, if it is raining or if rain is forecast – study just how narrow the actual river bed is in the photo on the right. There is little to look at on this tramp apart from most of the valley areas being covered in Buddleia, with or without Toitoi, and the very steep slopes of the surrounding hills. However, staying upright in the river and not getting wet is sufficient challenge for most.

The dipper



Toitoi flats approaching the hut



Midway Hut site



NZ Grid GPS: Geodetic Datum 1949

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS84

Access



Narrow valley and Buddleia

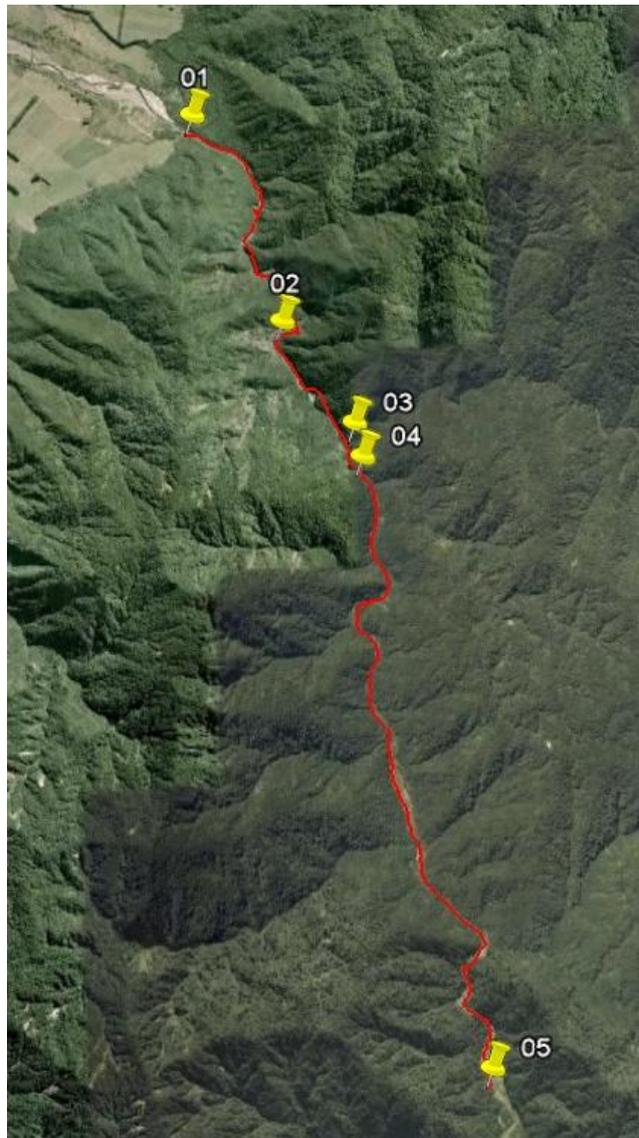
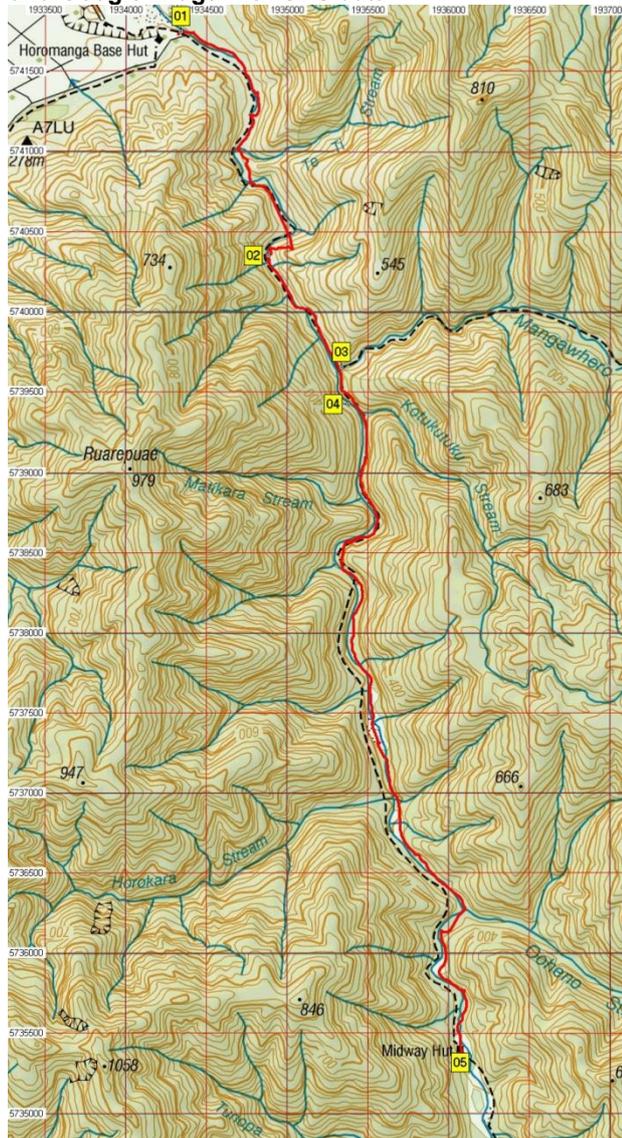


The site of the old Mangawhero Hut is passed in about 1:20 minutes and ten minutes after this there is a huge tree to admire at the bottom of a fairly substantial land slip – the question is did the falling tree cause the land slip or did the land slip remove the tree. No fish were seen during the tramp but there are so many pools where there just have to be fish and most of these appear very inviting for those interested in cooling down on hot days by having a swim.

The Midway Hut is reached in a bit under 3 hours and hence acts as a target for lunch. The surroundings of the hut are a bit messy with scattered litter and near the toilet there is a huge pit used for litter – not a nice site or with a pleasant odour and the garbage needs covering up.

The hut itself is tidy, has nine bunks, a wood stove, a couple of work benches plus a table and an out-side sink with roof-water supply. There is also an outside fireplace plus table and bench for sitting out on nice evenings. The normal thing is to turn around here and head back but another 5 hours or so upstream will reach the Mangapuri Hut.

Map and Google Image with GPS data



Waypoints – NZ Grid

Na...	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
01	2844423	6303436	214	Car park on edge of Horomanga River
02	2844963	6302040	270	45 min; On reasonable dry track after several crossings - poor GPS signal
03	2845413	6301343	258	1:20min; Clearing at site of old Mangawhero Hut - poor GPS signal
04	2845457	6301117	262	1:30min; Opposite huge tree fall from major land slip on NE facing slope
05	2846143	6297010	329	2:50min; Midway Hut

NZTM

Easting	Northing
1934341	5741746
1934883	5740348
1935334	5739651
1935378	5739425
1936070	5735314

Midway Hut



Notes:

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

From : 20-Jan-10
 Total Distance : 7.987 Km
 Minimum Altitude : 210 Meters
 Maximum Altitude : 334 Meters