

## TUKINO STREAMS

**260 Series Map:** Ruapehu, T20

**Topo50 Map:** BJ35 Waiouru

### How to get to START:

- Leaving Taupo go down the lake through Turangi on to the **Desert Highway** passing the turn offs to Waihohonu, Umukarikari and the road quarry on the left.
- Exit the Desert Highway as shown below on the right hand side on to the **Tukino Access Road** – taking note of the signs at the start about 2 wheel drive vehicles.
- Follow the gravel road and avoid going left at any point as this leads into Army territory. Variants of the road weave around a little bit but follow the poles.
- The **2 wheel-drive car park** is reached in 15 minutes and another 20 minutes is needed to get up the **4 wheel-drive** track to the repeater station with masts but stop a short distance before the communication masts. Driving time from Taupo is 1:45 minutes.
- Park on the gentle crest (**TS1 1324masl**) on the RHS of the road as and prepare to walk off-road in a NW direction.

*The vehicle should then be moved by someone else to the pick-up point on the Desert Highway about 500m south of Rangipo Intake Road (see **TS10** on the map).*

*The route to the start can be traced in opposite with the access road off **SH1** being shown as a mauve line running up to Mount Ruapehu in the upper middle of sheet T20.*

**Rough description:** An easy walk of 4 hours including coffee / tea stops and lunch break. The route starts off cross-country northwest-wards heading towards Ngauruhoe then goes north on the Round-the-Mountain track to cross the bridge over the Mangatoetoenui stream. The rest of the walk is off-track traversing parallel to the stream heading ENE then ESE and finally NE to the Desert Road.

**Detail:** The drive from the middle of Taupo to just below the communications masts on the Tukino Access Road takes about 1:30 to 1:45 minutes. The place to park is shown on the map (**TS1 1324masl**) and, despite being beyond the 2-wheel drive car park, is normally easily accessible by most cars and vans so 4-wheel drive is NOT an essential requirement.

The highest point on this walk is where the transport drops you and turns back; the whole walk is basically a gentle downhill stroll with an overall loss of 340 metres with only minor up-hills en-route and from the GPS data the distance is 10.6 kilometres

From the car park head cross-country NW, basically towards Ngauruhoe, for fifteen minutes when the poled "Round-the-Mountain" track is met (**TS2 1299masl**). This section of off-track walking is easy with soft footing and not too many rocks.

Follow this track (NNE) for just on 2km to arrive at the bridge over the Mangatoetoenui Stream (**TS4 1217masl**) taking a total of 55 minutes from the start. The track is not manicured but presents no problems.

The view of the mountain from the bridge is good with Te Heuheu peak (2732masl) being very clear. Cross the bridge, which offers a good refreshment stop, ascend the minor slope then immediately branch right off the track (**TS5 1231masl**) and follow the ridge that runs parallel to the stream heading NNE then ESE. There is no track but the walking is easy with good footing through tussock with the occasional sand bar near the stream line.

### Mangatoetoenui bridge



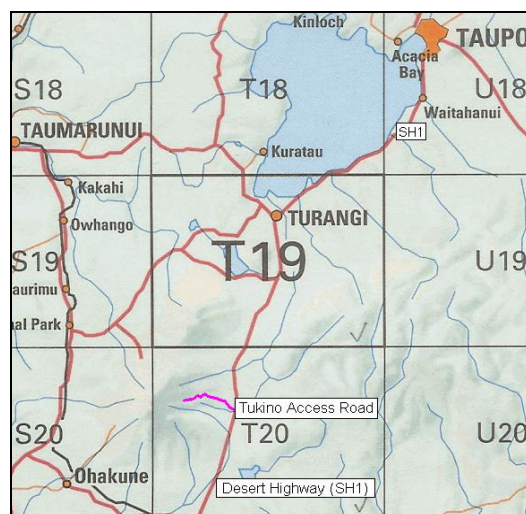
Just short of 2 hours total time (**TS6**) some small effort and scramble has to be made by going upslope a bit as the slope is a bit steep, rough and narrow near the stream. However within 15 minutes the edge of the stream is again approached (**TS7 1166masl**). From here it is necessary to head slightly upslope again into and through an eroded area. A relatively new gully (*it is not indicated on the map at all*) has to be crossed (**TS8 1162masl**) at about 2 hours total walk time.

On ascending the far bank of this gully some bush bashing is required and thick scrub vegetation has to be entered to work back down to the stream line. Close to the river the walking is again quite good with river boulders, stones and gravel on a low terrace. This area is quite sheltered and good lunch spots can be found (**TS9 1110masl**) after about 2:30 minutes total walk time. From here on it might be necessary to put the mind in neutral and adopt a numb-mind approach since the rest of the tramp is through endless tussock and lasts about 1hour to 1:15 minutes over the 4km involved.

**NZ Grid GPS:** Geodetic Datum 1949

**NZTM GPS:** NZTM on WGS84

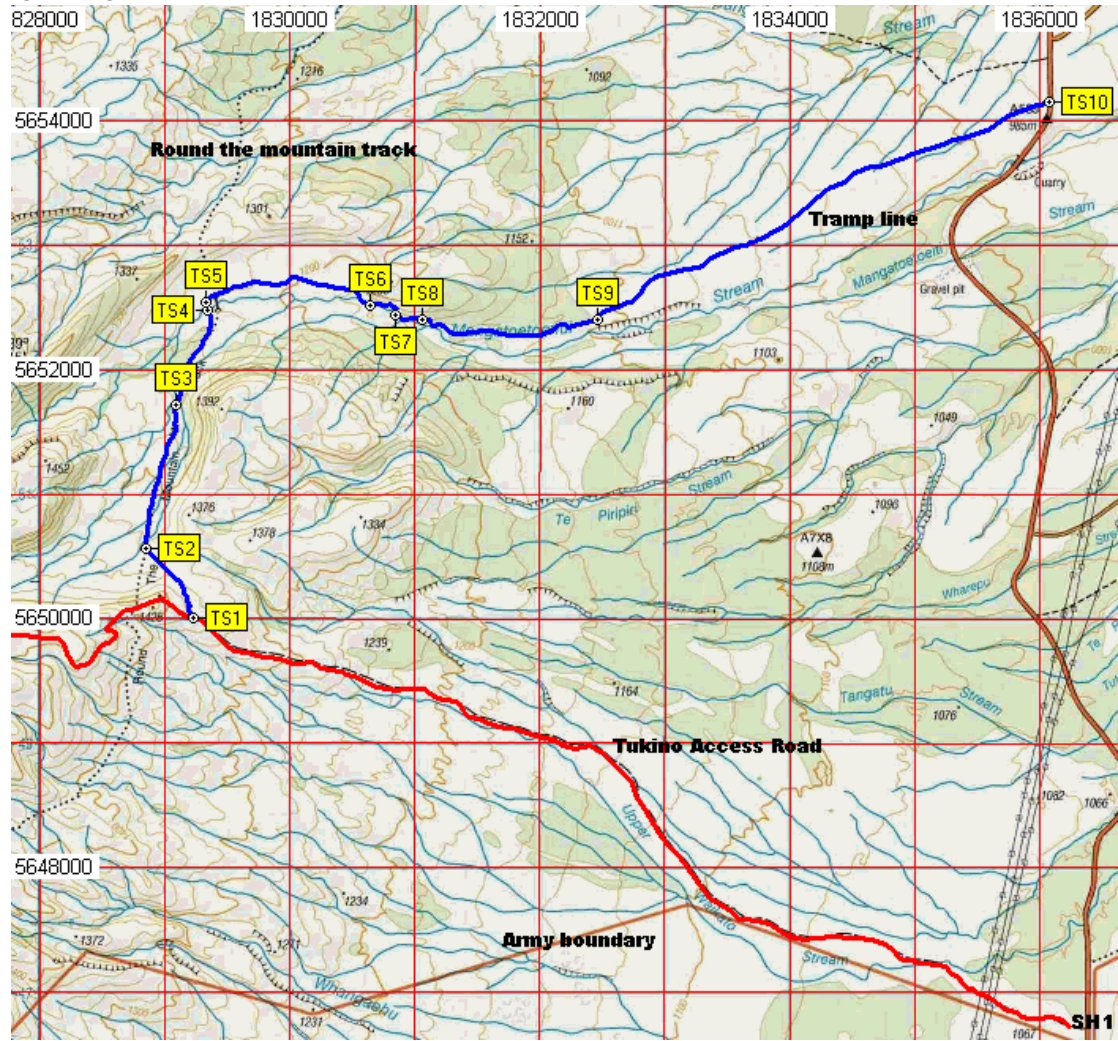
### Access



### Start point is on crest behind



Map and Google Image with GPS data

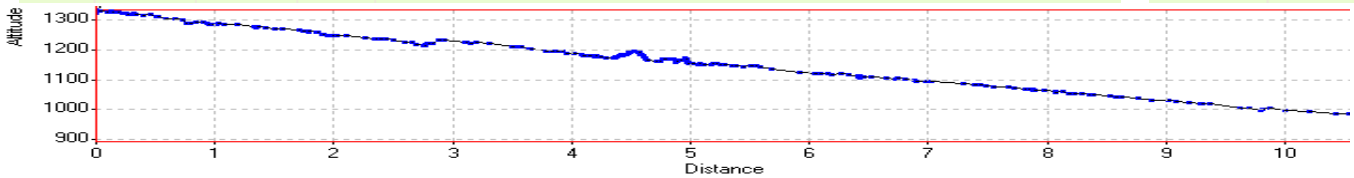


### Waypoints NZ Grid

Name	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
TS1	2739204	6212106	1324	Park on RHS Tukino Access Road just below communications masts. Cross country on NW bearing
TS2	2738823	6212664	1299	15 min meet Round the Mountain Track after tracking NW
TS3	2739064	6213817	1249	15 min NNE on Round the Mountain Track, easy but rough walking and on river edge
TS4	2739320	6214578	1217	55 min total walking, mid-bridge over Mangatoetoeui Stream
TS5	2739297	6214649	1231	One minute beyond bridge, turn right off track and go E on ridge parallel to stream
TS6	2740628	6214621	1173	1:55 min total. Head upslope on true left bank as slope too rough / narrow near stream
TS7	2740825	6214549	1166	15 min on slope then back down to stream line, head NE up through eroded area
TS8	2741037	6214500	1162	2:05 total. Cross large gully then head into thick bush back down to stream
TS9	2742439	6214503	1110	2:30min total. Lunch spot then over slight rise then NE in tussock all the way to the Desert Highway
TS10	2746056	6216245	984	4:15min total. Desert Highway at solar powered road warning signs

### NZTM Grid

Easting	Northing
1829215	5649733
1828834	5650291
1829074	5651445
1829330	5652206
1829307	5652277
1830639	5652250
1830835	5652178
1831048	5652129
1832450	5652133
1836067	5653879



### The eroded area



Tracking basically NE (40° N magnetic) through the tussock meets the Desert Highway at the solar powered warning signs displaying the message "Road Closed – Flash Flooding" which is a few hundred metres south of the start of the Waihoonu Hut track and the Rangipo Intake road.

Total walking time at an easy pace is around 4 hours including refreshment and photo stops.

### New active gully



### Ruapehu view



### Notes:

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