

MOUNT TAUHARA

260 Series Map: Taupo, U18

Topo50 Map: BG36-Taupo

How to get to START: **NB—from Mid December 2014 Access Permission denied**

- Leave Taupo on SH1 along the lake
- Turn left up SH5 to Napier
- Take third road on left "Mountain Road"
Park at car park at end of Asphalt (T01)

Rough description: A moderately easy walk for children of about 2 hours up and 1:30 minutes down on fairly good footpath which has some tricky bits where gullies have formed – there are detours. Distance covered is just over 3km in each direction and the climb is 536 metres, with the same 536 metres to descend on the way down. Quite a lot of bird life (Tui) and many ferns. This walk is suitable for children but they must be supervised. The track is on private land and can be closed.

Detail: This is a good outing especially when children have to be looked after and they are willing to partake in an adventure. It only takes minutes to get to the start and there is enough to interest even the young as Tui can be heard but the roar of Tiger is usually disputed by the adult walkers.

From the car park (T01 536masl) continue through the farm gate on to the gravel road and in a matter of yards look to the right where a stile over the fence into a cattle paddock will be seen – this can be really muddy and messy in wet weather. Looking at the hill a second stile will be seen over the far fence. From here probably the hardest part of the walk faces you – it is steeply uphill on a multi-branched track through the grassland. Within 8 minutes you pass a circular cattle trough (T02 594masl) and the feed pipe for the water supply can now be followed up the hill. After about 20 minutes you will be walking parallel to a fence line (T03 675masl) and the slope will be easier then there is a third stile (T04 685masl) over the fence. In about 27 minutes pass two large plastic water tanks, one small plastic tank and two old concrete collection tanks (T05 696masl). These are / were all part of the water supply for the cattle trough.

Child-attracting Stream



For the athletically minded the part just ascended from the first stile to the tanks makes a good hill-training circuit – the suggested routine is three repetitions. Behind the concrete tanks there is a stile over the fence giving access to the bush-land leaving the grassland behind. Walking may now be less strenuous but it is tricky in places especially for the young and less agile in that there are many roots, gullied sections and the detours round these mini-gullies have to be followed – a good game for junior walkers is finding the detours. There are two points, both reached in less than an hour, where views over Taupo are quite good T06 and T07 at about 843masl. The second of these points has an old seat where a rest can be taken whilst admiring Taupo and parts of the lake. The slopes remain moderate with only minor rooty sections and for the imaginative there is a mini-cave on the side of the path reached in 50 minutes (T08 901masl), a large rock has to be got round (T09 954masl) then another view point just above a rocky section is found in about one hour (T10 957masl).

Four or five minutes later a second large boulder (T11 976masl) on the path has to be worked around and from here there are more views of Taupo. A stream can now be heard and on the day in question Tui were clearly heard. Minutes later the stream is a matter of feet from you on the left and is good place for small people to wash hands (T12 979masl) and puddle about. The next feature (T13 993masl) is a high-sided gully or gulch and some care is needed in here as there can be loose gravel in the bottom and in wet weather it can be a bit slippery, it is very narrow and rotund people can get stuck plus it is too easy to skin the knuckles on the walls. However there is a very obvious detour on the left of the gully and this new detour is recommended. Above the gully the path is on an easier gradient and the forest is really pleasant – approaching “enchanted forest” status - then, in about 1:10 minutes there is a very small grassy area (T14 1004masl) which could just about suffice as a camp site for a small tent.

Trig Point and Lake Taupo



Ten minutes later a small junction (T15 1050masl) with a rough track heading steeply uphill to the right is found. Kids love this one but it is pretty tricky and many adults cannot get up here. There are rocks on the top and kids must not be allowed up on to the rocks on the right unsupervised – falls are too easy from this high point (T16 1080masl). A badly overgrown track does then lead NE to the Trig point (T17 1088masl) and should be reached in just under 90 minutes. Up here children have to be supervised as there are relatively steep slopes around the top area. There are good views of Lake Taupo and also of some of the active forestry work to the north of Tauhara.

The return track starts as a steep, bare, gravelly slope leading back in to the forest directly from the Trig point. The return is easily 30min quicker than the ascent but even more care has to be taken to ensure all the detours are found round gullied sections since there are some very high “steps” or drops involved on the original track.

NZ Grid GPS: Geodetic Datum 1949

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS84

Access to Start



Drive from Taupo takes about 20 minutes.

Tauhara from First Paddock

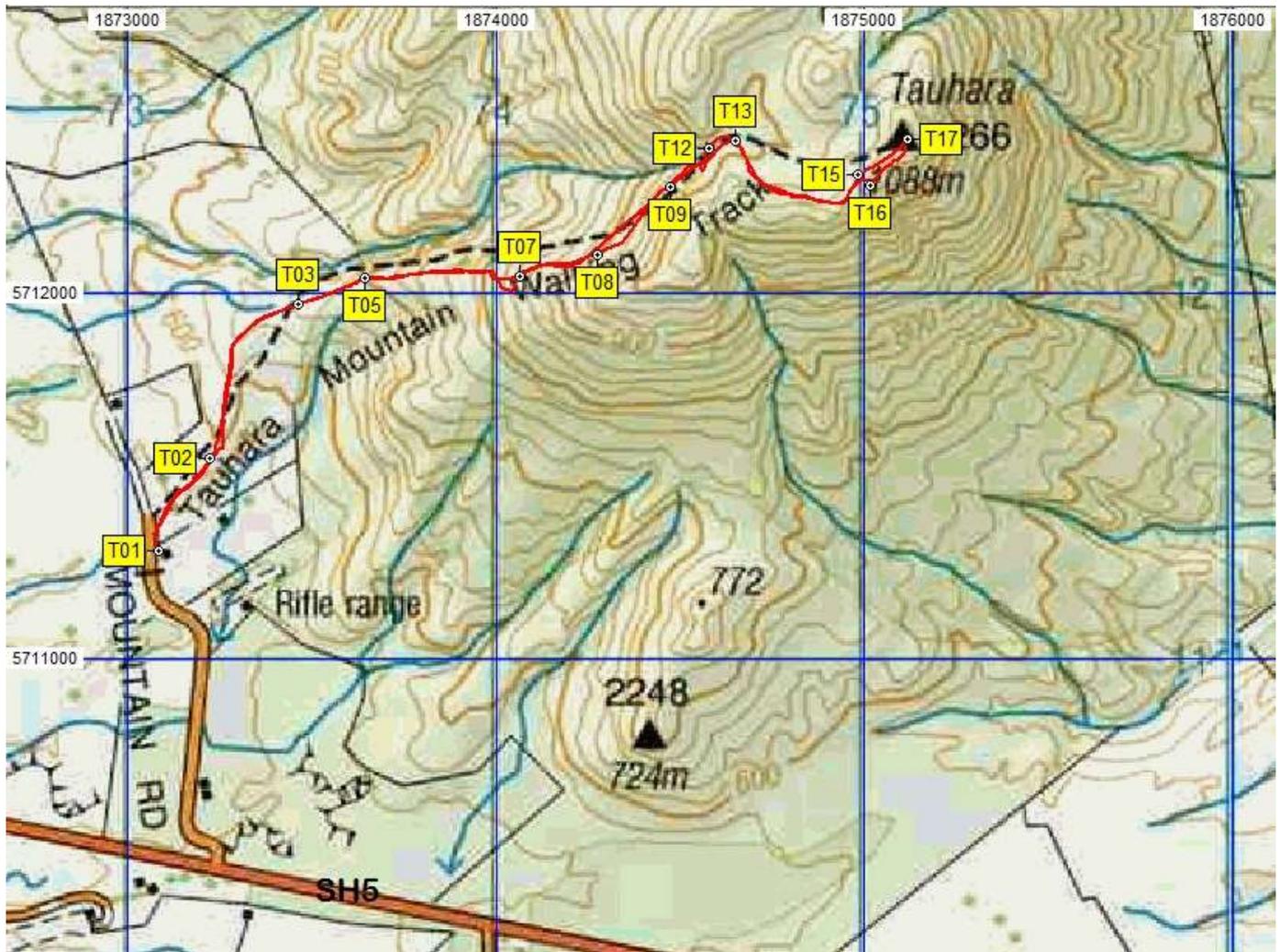


There are cattle pens on the right and often there are sheep and cattle in the fields.

High-sided Gully



Map with GPS data

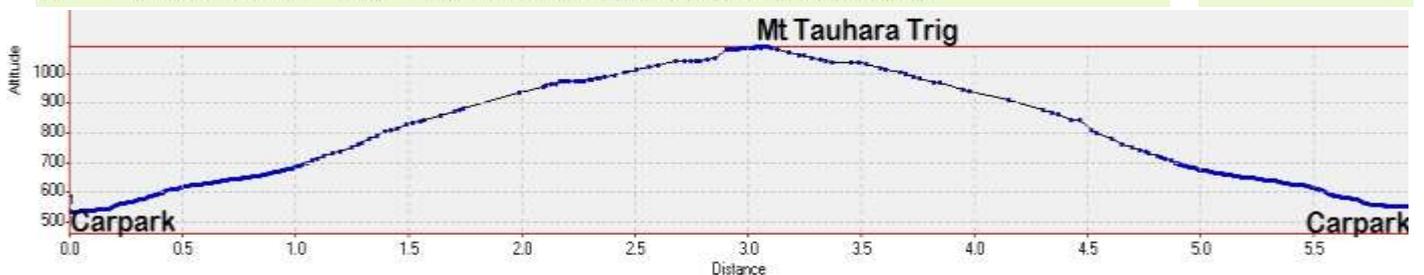


Waypoints NZ Grid

Na...	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
T01	2783183	6273078	536	Car park on Mountain Road. through gate then to the right and two stiles
T02	2783323	6273332	594	8 min; cattle trough halfway up steep grassy slope
T03	2783563	6273754	657	22min; up side of fence on gently sloping cattle track to third stile
T04	2783708	6273804	685	26min; stile from meadow grazing land to rough grass and bush
T05	2783746	6273825	696	27min; at 2 large plastic watertanks just below stile into fairly dense native bush
T06	2784147	6273784	845	43min; long, gullied uphill section to open point with view to South
T07	2784162	6273831	843	45min; pass old gate on LHS as gully protection then old seat on RHS with view to West
T08	2784381	6273887	901	53min; steep tricky slope with many roots and small "cave" on bank on RHS
T09	2784572	6274068	954	59min; large rock in path to get round then muddy section
T10	2784582	6274084	957	1:00min; steep, rocky slope then open area with views
T11	2784674	6274140	976	1:04min; pass round second big rock, views of Taupo and hear stream then Tui.
T12	2784685	6274176	979	1:06min; on the stream line
T13	2784749	6274192	993	1:07min; pass close to the stream then go into high-sided gully or new bypass for gully
T14	2784775	6274160	1003	1:09min; small meadow big enough for tent
T15	2785087	6274105	1059	1:19min; small track off uphill to the ridge on the right
T16	2785120	6274074	1080	1:23min; atop rocky outcrop at SW end of crest ridge
T17	2785219	6274200	1088	1:29min; on crest at Trig point with good views of Lake Taupo

NZTM Grid

Easting	Northing
1873080	5711295
1873220	5711549
1873460	5711972
1873605	5712022
1873642	5712043
1874044	5712003
1874059	5712049
1874278	5712106
1874470	5712287
1874479	5712303
1874571	5712359
1874582	5712395
1874646	5712411
1874672	5712379
1874985	5712325
1875018	5712294
1875116	5712419



This outing can be tramped by anyone, even small kids if they are well supervised. It also offers a good workout for runners and fit, fast people can get to the top within 30 minutes whilst slower runners and fast walkers can still do the ascent in under one hour. Another training opportunity lies in doing repeat ascents from the first stile, just after waypoint T01, up to the fence line at waypoint T04. Three repetitions of this leaves the legs and lungs knowing an effort has been made.

Taupo and Tauhara on Google



View north



View over Taupo



Notes:

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