

## MOERANGI PEAK HELIPAD from MINGINUI

**260 Series Map:** Whirinaki, V18

**Topo50 Map:** BG38 Wairapukao

**NZ Grid GPS:** Geodetic Datum 1949

**NZTM GPS:** NZTM on WGS84

**How to get to START:** From the Taupo police station on the Domain:

1. Exit town on SH1 North either up Control Gates Hill or via the ETA
2. Get on to SH5 at Wairakei and head for Rotorua
3. In one hour turn right on SH38 on passing Rainbow Mountain.
4. 1:20 min (78km) Pass through Murupara
5. 1:35 min (97km) Pass through Te Whaiti
6. 1:37 min (99km) Right into Minginui Road
7. 1:45 min (106.5km) Bear right to Forest Park
8. 1:46 min (107.2km) Right again on unsealed road
9. 1:47 min (108km) Left to River Road then left again
10. 1:55 min cross bridge
11. 2:00 min (113.5km) River Road car-park / track end

*Times and distances from Police Station, Tongariro Domain, Taupo and the route to the start is the bright red line on the map opposite*



*BLUE road access RED tramp line  
Te Whaiti Nui A Toi Canyon*

**Rough Description:** A moderate, out-and-back walk of about 16km total length requiring about 5 hours including refreshment breaks and breathers. No real grunts but with a long steady ascent for an overall altitude gain of almost 700 metres. Mostly good quality track, much of which is now bike track, through lovely native forest. It should be noted that much of the latter quarter of this track has been re-routed and views to the SW are greatly improved from previously. The target is the “Helipad” on the upper slopes of Moerangi Peak, the peak can be tackled but the path is pretty vague, not too well marked and seldom accessed nowadays. If one continues outwards on this path the Moerangi Hut can be reached after about another 5–6 hours depending on condition of the track – which may well have been upgraded.

**Detail:** From the Minginui River Road car park (**01407masl**), where there is a toilet, exit southwards under the arch on the wide, flat track. Almost immediately there are notices naming and identifying many of the native trees plus info boards about the “Podocarp” trees and about local (Blue) duck and in about 5 minutes there is a log book (**02397masl**) at the edge of the track – sign this and see who else has been on the track recently. In ten minutes go straight at the T-junction (**03394masl**), the right branch is the way to the waterfall loop, then up to a bridge (**04391masl**) on the Te Whaiti Nui A Toi Canyon. In 20 minutes or so after crossing a bridge go left at the T-junction (**05404masl**) sign-posted Moerangi, this is where the uphill starts! The track is easy grade and has a good walking surface without being manicured to tourist levels but in places is starting to rill and gully with erosion following wear from the MTB traffic.



A stream is then crossed on a new small bridge (**06485masl**) close to the site of an old, larger bridge. Within 40-50 minutes a 4-wheel drive track (**07506masl**) is met, go right. This track is fine on the level but quad bike damage that used to exist is being replaced through MTB usage causing gullying virtually on all slopes as the bikes have chewed through the loose gravelly pumice. In late 2008 upgrading had improved the situation but by 2015 erosion was again a feature. Keep your eyes open for Rata vines in this area. A good spot for a refreshment break comes after about one hour at a T-junction (**08533masl**) where the 4WD track goes straight on but for Moerangi branch off left. There used to be an old Forest Service notice board at this point but there is now a DoC green pole with signs on it, though some of these do NOT seem to point in the correct direction so make sure you know where you are going. A few hundred metres beyond here careful study will show where the old track went off steeply uphill in a SE direction whilst a new track has been cut heading more to the south. Refer the map below where the old track is shown on the map whilst the current track is red. One waypoint (**Old**) is shown on the previous track where a view of Mt Tuwatawata can be obtained.

There are many Rimu and Lancewood saplings growing in this area so regeneration is good. The track now relentlessly makes its way upwards with little respite; There is one item that can be looked for and that is the stubs of where an aluminium gate used to exist (**09592masl**). Bikes (and horses?) were prohibited from this track as shown on the old sign but recent realignment and development of the track was all part of making this a “bike” track. The track is good, though as yet not quite totally stabilized, eroding in places and offers many good views off to the west and south west. Near the top, if a careful eye is kept open, some of the old track markers can be seen on the trees indicating the line of the old track as it converges from the left, though the actual point where the old and new tracks meet is now not at all clear. The new track is a few hundred metres longer than the old one but the helipad is still reached within 2:30 minutes by going left at a very clear T-junction. The helipad has been revamped with the surface cleared and leveled and was bare earth but this has now vegetated over.

The walk out is at least 15 minutes quicker than inwards.

### Old Forest Service signboard



*This sign was at WP08 but is long gone & replaced by a standard DoC track sign but in 2015 some of the indicators seemed to be missing or pointing in vague directions*

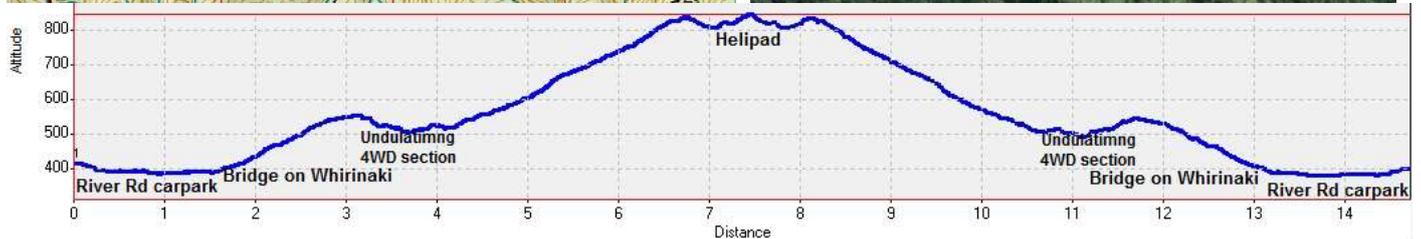
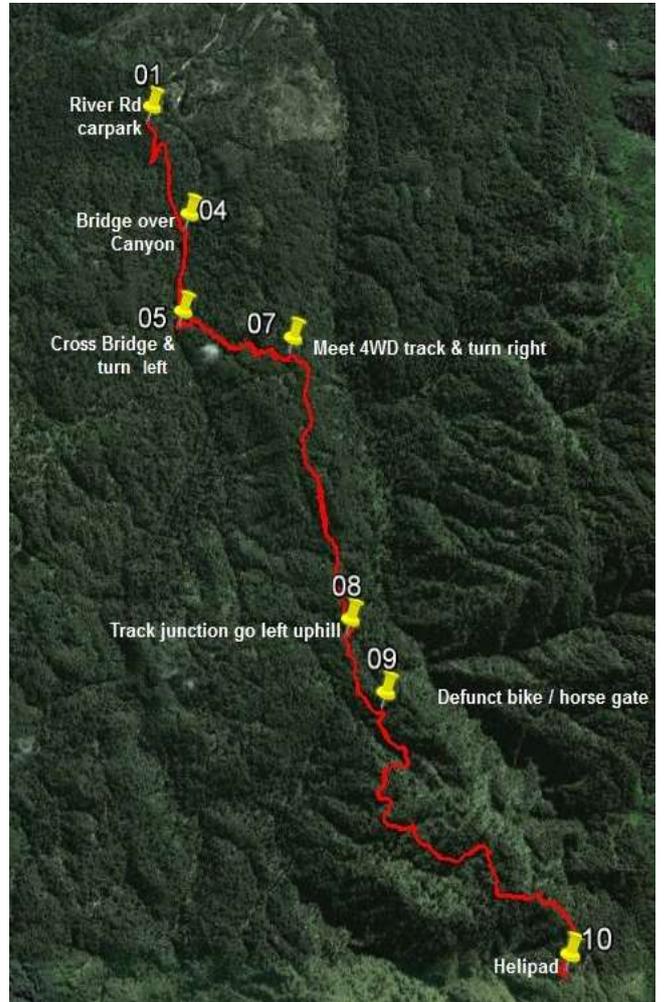
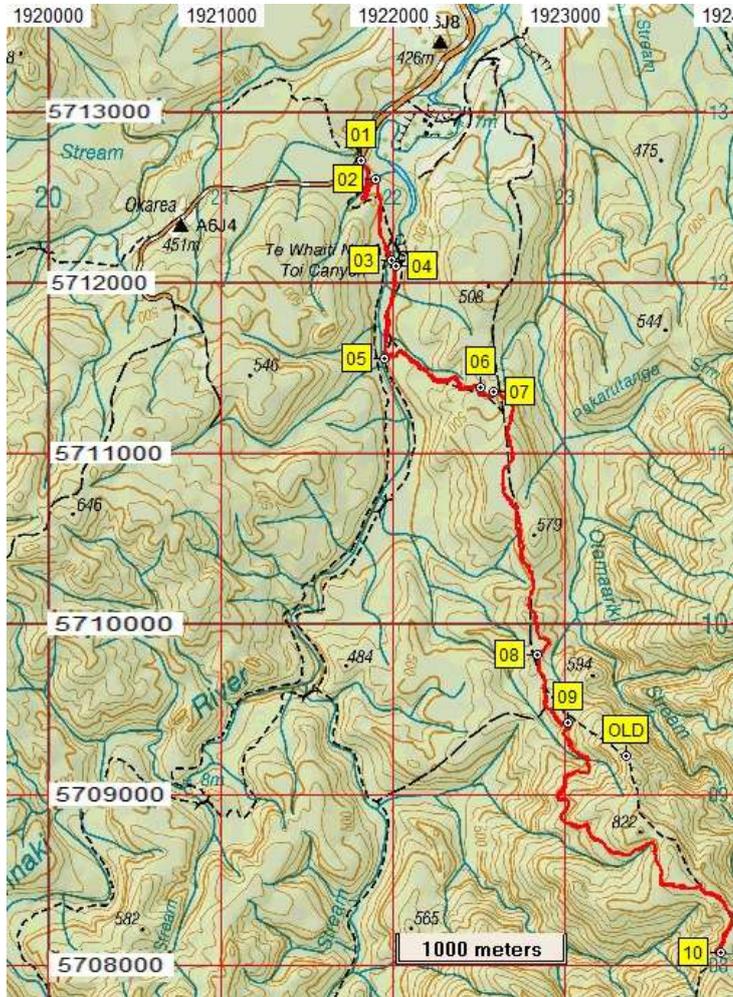
From : 17-Jun-15 09:30:53  
To : 17-Jun-15 14:36:36

Time taken : 5:05:42  
Total Distance : 14.741 Km  
GPS Distance 16.1km  
Minimum Speed : 0.012 KPH  
Maximum Speed : 7.814 KPH  
Average Speed : 2.893 KPH

Minimum Altitude : 381 Meters  
Maximum Altitude : 848 Meters  
Total ascent : 696metres

*This tramp is the first part of the multi-day overnighter staying at the Moerangi and Rogers Huts which is fully described in “Selection of Overnight Tramps”.*

**Map and Google Image with GPS data**



Name	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
MP01	1921816	5712719	407	River Road car park
MP02	1921905	5712611	397	5min (400m); Visitors' log book on RHS of track
MP03	1921993	5712133	394	14min (900metres); Junction to waterfall track
MP04	1922017	5712106	391	15min (980metres); Bridge over Te Whaiti Nui A Toi Canyon
MP05	1921954	5711563	404	23min (1.5km); Bridge over Whirinaki then turn left and uphill
MP06	1922506	5711386	485	36min (2.3km); New board bridge over incised stream where old bridge used to be
MP07	1922590	5711366	504	54min (2.5km); Meet 4-wheel track and go uphill to the right
MP08	1922844	5709824	533	1:23min (4.3km); Track sign with route off left and uphill
MP09	1923015	5709429	592	1:32min (4.8km); Stumps of previous aluminium gate across track to block bikes and horses
MP10	1923908	5708077	849	2:25min (7.5km); Revamped helipad 10metres off left of main track at T-junction
OLD	1923354	5709231	738	2:10 min walk: Open area on old track with views of Mt Tuwatawata

**Old horse and bike barrier**



**New track**



**Revamped helipad**



**Notes:**

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