

TUPAPAKURUA FALLS

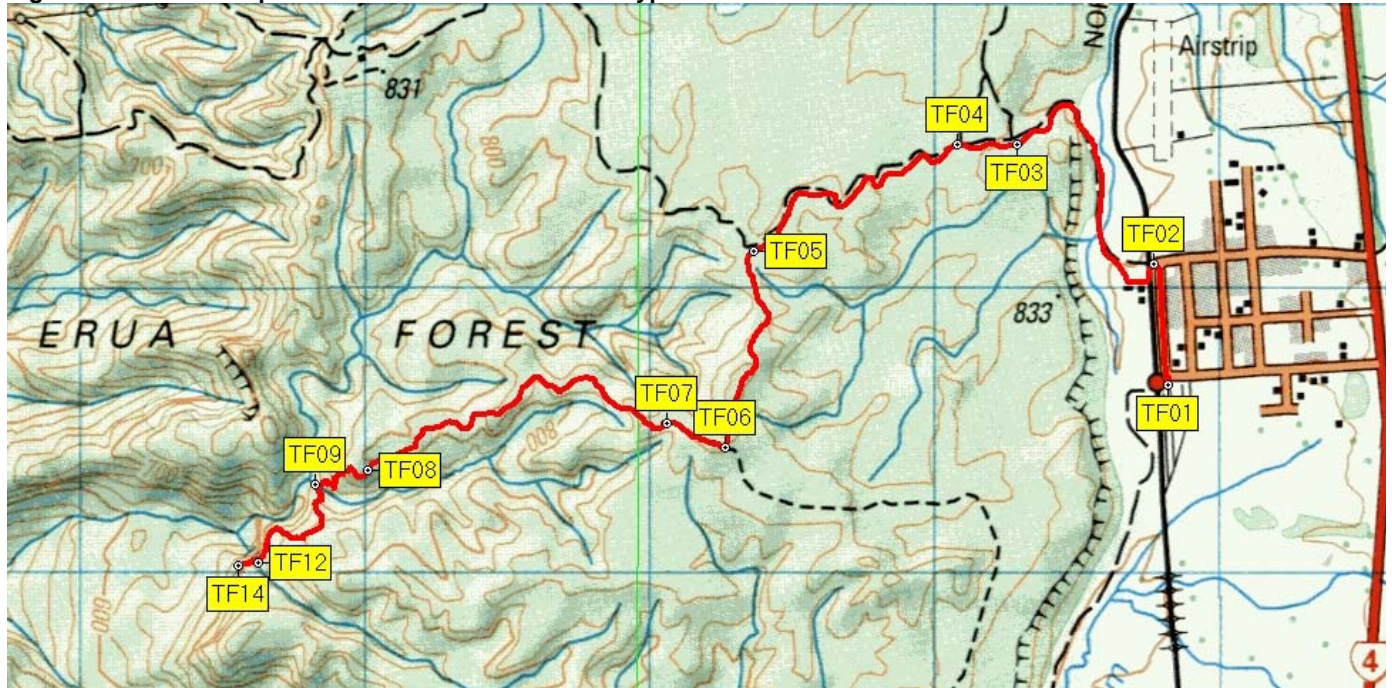
Map: Raurimu, 1:50,000 S19, refer Figures 1 and 2

How to get to START:

- Exit Taupo southwards on SH1 to Turangi
- From Turangi there is a choice of two routes but the aim is to get onto SH 47 heading for Whakapapa
- Figure 1 shows the most direct, shortest way going via SH41 towards Tokaanu and turning left onto SH47
- Pass the turn off to Whakapapa in 1:10min
- Turn right onto SH4 at National Park in 1:17min
- Turn Left off SH4 into Carroll Street, proceed to near the end
- Turn left into Station Road
- Park at NATIONAL PARK station (TF01 814masl) in 1:20 – 1:30 min and 100km from Taupo

Rough description: A moderate out-and-back tramp of 13km total length requiring 4 – 5 hours to view a wonderful waterfall. With this target the walk is best done when it is or has been raining but this means the track will be slippery and tricky after the halfway point (TF07 881masl) to the end since only the first section of track has been upgraded. A few sections are a bit of a grunt with an overall altitude variation of 185 metres. Good footwear is required as several of the slopes on the latter part are steep and slippery when wet. The furthest point reached took 3 hours on the day but this did include a 30 minute lunch break.

Figure 2 Extract of Map with GPS Track and Critical Waypoints

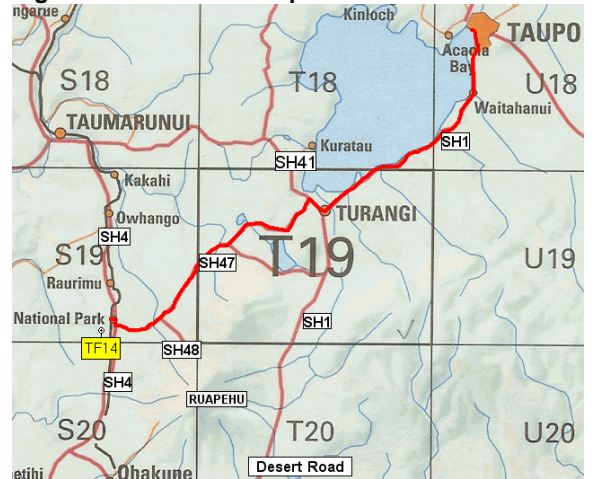


Name	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
TF01	2716740	6223106	814	19-AUG-07 Car Park at National Park Station
TF02	2716689	6223531	810	10 min walk due N, turn left over railway, left again then immediately right to Fisher Road
TF03	2716209	6223953	818	25 min walk, track off right on Fishers Road to wetland area (20mins)
TF04	2715998	6223952	831	30 min walk, Renovated sign for Erua Forest
TF05	2715284	6223577	851	40 min walk; off left uphill (S) on upgraded track to Tupapakuraa Falls
TF06	2715186	6222887	884	One hour walk change to 'WNW' direction with old " Log Skid" off on the LHS
TF07	2714979	6222974	881	1:10min walk: Taranaki Lookout with views to the South and seats for a coffee break
TF08	2713929	6222806	810	1:50 min walk: High point above steep zig zag descent and the sound of running water
TF09	2713743	6222756	714	2 hours walk: Stream line crossing then left uphill to work round head of canyon
TF10	2713702	6222576	761	2:15 min walk: Very thick forest in undulating area, hear waterfall then zig zags steeply down
TF11	2713662	6222568	753	2:20min walk: T-junction with left branch being a new, less steep descent
TF12	2713543	6222483	702	2:30min walk; Steep descent and re-ascent with tricky crossing of small gurgling, stream line
TF13	2713532	6222491	704	2:32 min walk; view of Tupapakuraa Falls and the canyon - good lunch spot
TF14	2713472	6222472	712	End of narrow ridge 5 mins beyond viewpoint with good all round views of area

This tramp from National Park Station is on a track refurbished by volunteers of the National Park Progressive Association supported by Department of Conservation (DOC) and, to date, about half of the track has been upgraded whilst the remainder presents some challenge to the hardened trampler.

GPS: Geodetic Datum 1949 – refer Figure 2 (NZ Grid)

Figure 1 Access and Map Sheets



Distances are taken from the Police Station in Taupo and the route is shown as the thicker red line in Figure 1 with the waterfall as waypoint TF14

Detail: As described above it takes a bit over an hour to cover the 100km from Taupo to the Station in National Park where there is safe parking plus the possibility of a hot meal or coffee and cakes after the tramp has been completed.

From the Railway Station car park head off North on the road which parallels the railway line for ten minutes then turn left to cross the railway, left again then right into Fishers Road where a signboard for Waimariri Scientific Reserve will be seen on the left. Fishers Road is not metalled, is quite rough in places with loose gravel, not maintained by Ruapehu Council and does get closed in wet weather.

Fifteen minutes down the road there is a small track off to the right (TF03 818masl) which leads to a wetland area in about 20 minutes and just after this there is sign for Erua Forest (TF04 831masl) on the right, this sign was found by the volunteers and is being refurbished. In about a total of 40 minutes from the start branch off left (TF05 851masl), uphill on the upgraded track sign-posted Tupapakuria Falls.

Figure 4 Start of Upgraded Track

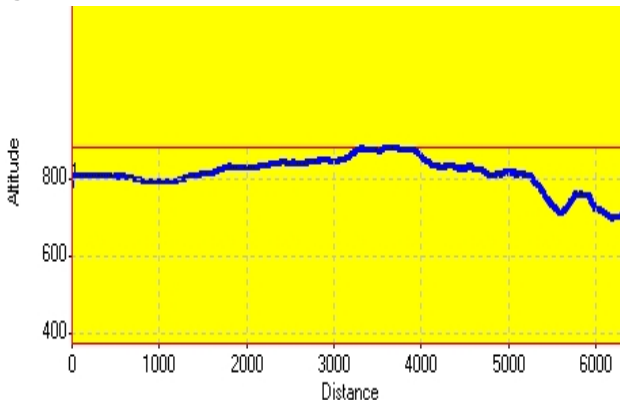


Fifteen minutes further on there is very thick, dense forest on quite strongly sloping (rolling) terrain (TF10 761masl) and the waterfall can be heard; then there is a tricky, steep zig zagging descent. There is a T-junction on your left at about 2:20 minutes total walk time (TF11 753masl) and this is reportedly a less steep descent under upgrading.

The less sure-footed find the next stream crossing (TF12 702masl) slightly daunting; this is over a small, rocky gurgling stream but there are ample footholds though caution still has to be exercised. A short ascent from this stream-crossing brings you to a point (TF13 704masl) suitable for lunch and offers good views of the canyon and waterfall.

After lunch it is well worth while spending 5 minutes continuing to the SW past an old bivouac site along to the snout of a narrow ridge where an even better view of the canyon and falls can be obtained as well as views to the west and south.

Figure 6 Tramp Profile



Notes:

- GPS Garmin GPSmap 60CSx on Geodetic datum 1949
- **WP** = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
- **masl** = metres above sea level (as recorded by GPS unit and may not agree exactly with map spot heights)

Figure 3 National Park Station



The track offers easy walking, albeit slightly uphill, through quite lush forest basically heading S to SSW over undulating terrain. There is a change in direction to WNW just past the start of an old log skid (TF06 884masl) on the left. One of the high points of the day, the Taranaki Lookout (TF07 881masl), is reached in about 1 hour 10 minutes walking and can make a good morning tea / coffee stop whilst enjoying the views from the seats.

From here the track has not yet been upgraded and a certain amount of care has to be exercised, especially in wet conditions, as the slopes can be slippery and there are a few windfalls to get over in this area of more mature forest with several impressive trees.

Another relatively high point (TF08 810masl) is reached in a bit under 2 hours where the sound of running water can be heard and a steep zig zagging descent starts. Fifteen minutes gets you down into the valley and across the stream line (TF09 714masl) where you find a small information notice before you head off to your left and uphill; the aim now is to head round and get a view of the canyon with the waterfall.

Figure 5 View of Canyon and Falls



Figure 7 GPS Data

From : 19-Aug-07 09:51:35
 To : 19-Aug-07 12:54:44
 Time taken : 3:03:09
 Total Distance : 6.377 Km
 Minimum Speed : 0.000 KPH
 Maximum Speed : 8.554 KPH
 Average Speed : 2.089 KPH
 Minimum Altitude : 701 Meters
 Maximum Altitude : 886 Meters

Figure 8 Thick Lush Forest

