

REDWOODS ROTORUA

260 Series Map: Rotorua, U16

Topo50 Map: BE37 Rotorua

How to get to START

- Exit Taupo heading north on SH1
- At Wairakei continue north on SH5 for Rotorua
- Approximately 55 min in Rotorua go right at roundabout to SH30
- 1:02min go right at traffic lights T-junction still on SH30
- 1:05min go right at roundabout signposted Redwoods, then
- Right again on access to Redwoods, park at the Information Centre (**WP01** 279masl).

Total driving time is between one hour and one hour fifteen minutes depending on traffic and road or weather conditions.

Rough description: This is a moderate walk based on distance alone since almost 22 kilometres are covered. Depending on whether there is active logging happening this tramp can be an out-and-back as described or an A-to-B walk exiting on SH5 for Taupo after including the Green Lake as well as the Blue.

The walk starts in the magnificent Redwoods and passes through very varied forest after that, including some very regimented looking newer plantations of pine, to reach the Blue Lake which offers toilets and other facilities as a lunch stop. Much of the walking is on well graded forest roads - which can be boring and a bit of a route-march - whilst other sections are on good, almost back-country track.

Map data presented is on the 260 series topographic maps with the NZTM (New Zealand Transverse Mercator) superimposed in red. Outward waypoints are shown in yellow whilst the return route points are in grey.

Detail: From the car park (**WP01** 279masl) virtually walk past the toilet block on to the wide path carpeted in needles heading south west through the very dark forest and soon a section of boardwalk is traversed before reaching a junction (**WP2** 289masl) where the route goes left following the Black trail - the pines are absolutely huge!

Marks on trees



Within 15 minutes there is a junction (**WP3** 306masl) where the Black trail goes right and uphill on a narrower track passing through a plantation of Oriental Plane trees which is over 100 years old - there is a good information board at the start of the plantation. There are many tracks and roads so keep an eye open for the signs which are quite clear - the next one being at about 30 minutes where the route goes right at a Y-fork (**WP4** 418masl) and two minutes later left on Tokorangi Pa Road (**WP5** 453masl). Tokorangi Pa Road then heads off downhill at a clearly marked junction (**WP6** 490masl) and fifteen minutes later after winding about through the forest it goes left at a T-junction (**WP7** 494masl) and immediately left again at a Y-junction. At this point look out for a multi-stemmed tree with quite evenly spaced cut marks on the trunk - it is surmised that these may be from tree loppers using crampons. After a fair bit of gentle climbing the tree cover opens up a bit and there are views to the north over Rotorua.

The winding ascent continues till at about 1:30minutes there is yet another turn left at a T-junction on Tokorangi Pa Road (**WP8** 544masl) and ten minutes after this there is a fairly serious descent on a fairly wide but badly rutted track with an exposed clay surface which could be slippery on wet days. The track pops out into the open at a large circular water tank (**WP9** 435masl) on the edge of Tarawera Road. Passing behind the hut on the site the track signs are very obvious indicating down slope following the flagged water-pipe.

Near the bottom of the slope there is a turning bay (**WP10** 419masl) with two track exits on the right - the first one is the bike track so follow the second which soon goes down some steps then crosses a bridge with a metal hand rail and there is a drinking-water fountain at the north end of the bridge. Crossing the bridge leads to a flight of steps upwards, with a view of the hill opposite with a very regimented plantation of pine trees, and a T-junction (**WP11** 416masl) on Red Tank Road - go left for the Blue Lake. There is now a long section of road walking passing the odd junction with the end of Red Tank Road reached in just over 2:20 minutes (**WP13** 450masl) at a junction where Hill Road goes off right but the route goes straight. Minutes later there is a gated access (**WP14** 465masl) from Tarawera Road then the track slips off left (**WP15** 484masl) on to a rougher track. This leads to a small clearing (**WP16** 489masl) on the edge of Tarawera Road.

Walkers only

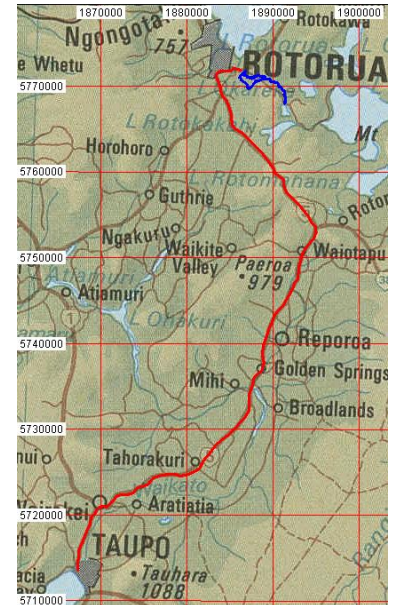


From this clearing the walking improves in that for the next few kilometres there is no road but a delightful track more like a back-country type. This track winds through undulating terrain in mixed forest with many ferns and Punga - in fact there are a few degraded "faces" carved in the Punga near the start of the track. Twenty five minutes down this track there is a barrier (**WP17** 437masl) that can prove awkward for trampers of a certain height wearing a back-pack - the gap is too narrow so remove the pack, go-under or over the barrier!

NZ Grid GPS: Geodetic Datum 1949

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS84

Access and tramp Line



Route to the start is the **RED** line

The tramp route is the **BLUE** line

Lots of Punga



Map and Google image with GPS data



Going left at the barrier leads to the open grassy area on the Blue Lake and makes a good lunch spot. After refreshment head back to WP11 on the same route then follow the "Purple" track south west on the wide forest road. Turn right off this road on the "Purple" marker (**WP19** 401masl) on a track clearly marked for walkers – no bikes etc. This leads down to then follows a stream before another barrier (**WP20** 383masl) where turning right soon crosses the "Tickler" MTB track. Five minutes later the Black trail rejoins from the right (**WP21** 381masl) then another track joins from the left and the route goes right on Spruce Road (**WP22** 354masl) then immediately left on the Purple and Black trails. A fenced open area is now reached – this is part of the Rotorua Land Treatment System – and the route goes due north. In a bit under 6 hours go right at the cross roads (**WP24** 377masl) to reach a gate (**WP25** 309masl) where the roads merge up behind the Scion compound. From here it is a ten minute walk down the road back to the information centre in a total time of just over 6 hours.

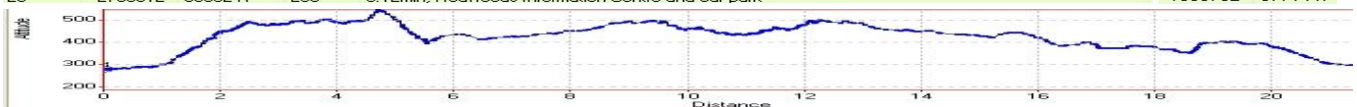
Minimum Altitude : 276 Meters
 Maximum Altitude : 545 Meters
 Total Distance : 21,509 Km

Waypoints NZ Grid format

Name	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
01	2796363	6332623	279	Park opposite toilets at Information Centre in Redwoods
02	2796646	6332679	283	10min: Left on Black trail after passing through huge trees then boardwalk
03	2796949	6332638	306	15min: Right and uphill on narrower track past 107 year old Oriental Plane tree plantation
04	2797378	6332557	418	30min: Y-fork, right and uphill again
05	2797386	6332463	453	32min: Left on Tokorangi Pa forest road
06	2797678	6332414	430	40min: Y-fork, left still on Tokorangi Pa Road and downhill
07	2797989	6332490	494	55min: Left at T-junction and immediately left again at Y-fork. Soon views over Rotorua
08	2798753	6332668	544	1:30min: Left at T-junction still on Tokorangi Pa Rd and 10min later steep, rutted descent on clay
09	2799142	6332718	435	1:46min: Water tank on roadside, go behind hut for signs downslope on Black trail. Follow water pipe
10	2799159	6332575	419	1:46min: Parking bay, use lower (2nd) track exit, steps then meet parallel bike track & cross bridge
11	2799014	6332403	416	1:55min: T-junction at top of steps. Left (east) for Blue Lake on Red Tank Road
12	2800085	6332058	426	2:20min: Major junction, go straight (SSE) on good gravel road
13	2800757	6331621	450	2:22min: End of Red Tank Rd at junction with Hill Rd going off right
14	2801103	6331322	465	2:30min: Gated entry from Tarawera Road on left
15	2801258	6331136	484	2:32min: Slip off wide gravel road onto rougher track uphill
16	2801452	6330685	489	2:40min: Edge of Tarawera Rd, bear right on narrow track winding through ferns plus punga with faces
17	2801511	6329514	437	3:05min: Barrier then T-junction on Blue Lake edge. Left to open area with facilities
18	2799017	6332404	421	1:15min post lunch; back-tracked to WP11. Go SW following Purple Trail on wide gravel road
19	2798261	6332021	401	5 hours: Right off road on Purple Trail with "no horses/bikes" notice. Mixed forest down to stream
20	2797904	6331790	383	5:15min: Pass barrier and right on wide track then cross "Tickler" bike track
21	2797781	6331598	381	5:20min: Black trail joins from the right, continue to the SW
22	2797299	6331244	354	5:28min: Track joins from left then right to Spruce Rd and immediately left on Purple/Black trail
23	2797116	6331436	398	5:38min: Meet road and fence at Rotorua Land Treatment System site with settlement ponds. Go due N
24	2796433	6332227	377	5:54min: Cross roads coming off Katone Rd, go right on Purple, Yellow and Black trail
25	2796477	6332855	309	6hours: Gate on road then roads merge above Scion compound. Information boards and maps on right
26	2796912	6333241	299	6:12min: Redwoods Information Centre and car park

NZTM Grid

Easting	Northing
1886813	5771469
1886496	5771084
1886799	5771044
1887229	5770763
1887237	5770669
1887529	5770620
1887841	5770697
1888605	5770676
1888994	5770927
1889012	5770784
1888867	5770611
1889939	5770267
1890612	5769831
1890959	5769532
1891115	5769346
1891309	5768895
1891369	5767723
1898970	5770612
1898114	5770228
1887756	5769996
1887634	5769804
1887152	5769449
1886968	5769641
1886284	5770432
1886327	5771060
1886762	5771447



- Notes:**
- **GPS** Garmin GPSmap 60CSx
 - **WP** = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
 - **masl** = metres above sea level (as recorded by GPS)

NZTM

June 2009