

## WAIHOHONU HUTS

**Map:** Ruapehu, 1:50,000 T20 – Refer Figures 1, 4 and 6

**GPS:** Geodetic Datum 1949 – Refer Figures 7a (Geographic) and 7b (NZ Grid)

### How to get to the start

- Exit Taupo down the lake on **SH1** through Turangi onto the **Desert Highway** (SH1) for just over 15 km.
- Turn right off Desert Highway just after the Rangipo Intake Road on gravel, motor track signed **Waihohonu Track**
- Drive in the few hundred metres and off-load in the car park (**WP1**).

The route to the start can be followed in Figure 1. The tramp can be seen as the brighter red line running NW from the label indicating the start of the Waihohonu Track on SH1 at the top right of sheet T20.

### Rough Description

This is an easy to moderate one-day tramp passing the new Waihohonu Hut (**WP6**), visiting the old Waihohonu Hut (**WP7**) then returning with a diversion to the Ohinepango Springs (**WP10**).

The first part consists of 1:30 to 1:45 minutes walk into Waihohonu Hut on first rate, virtually level track then having morning tea, though there is view-point after about 1 hour (**WP3**) on the way in where a stop can be made.

Another 30 - 40 minutes takes you to the old Waihohonu Hut which now is classified as a historic building.

The small spur on the red line showing the tramp in Figure 1 is the diversion to the Ohinepango Springs and it should be noted that there is one extremely steep, often slippery descent getting to and from the springs. There is, however, a rope on this slope to help get up and down.

The whole tramp can be completed in around 5 hours to 5:30 minutes and there is very little gain or loss of altitude on the walk.

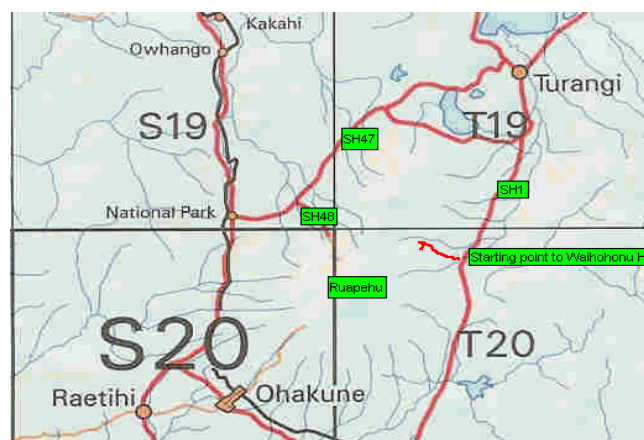
### Detail

From the car park just off SH1 (**WP1**) it is a relatively easy, straightforward walk along the wide track. Some slight confusion can occur when descending towards the stream line on entering some trees – just stay awake and look for signs bearing in mind that the track bends round slightly to your left here and not to the right. You know you are on-course when you reach a small bridge (**WP2**) after about 1.25 kilometres. In fact this section of the walk can be rather boring as it is a bit flat, unexciting and on windy days slightly exposed – these comments are more appreciated when walking out from Waihohonu Hut.

You are almost at Waihohonu when the notice board (Figures 2 & 3) is seen (**WP5**) where the path to the Ohinepango Springs goes off on your left, straight ahead takes you to the Old Waihohonu Hut and subsequently to Tama Lakes and Whakapapa.

You go right from this notice board and you reach Waihohonu Hut in 5 minutes after crossing a small stream with a wooden bridge. Take note of these cross-roads since you come back to here a couple of times on this tramp.

**Figure 1 Map Sheet, Access to the Start and Location**



**Figure 2 Facing Westwards from the Cross-roads**



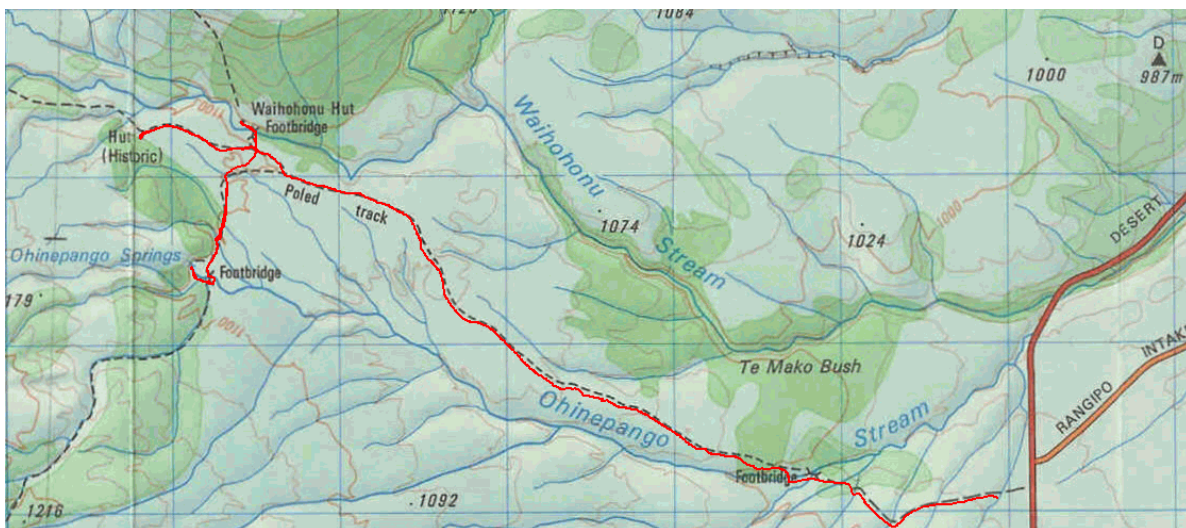
**Figure 3 Facing Southwards from the Cross-roads**





Waihohonu Hut is relatively new, is very well furnished with sleeping space for 24 – but many more can squeeze in, there is piped water and cooking and heating is by gas supplied by DOC. Even when carrying full packs the Waihohonu Hut can be reached in about 1:30 – 1:45 minutes from the car-park.

**Figure 4 Map Extract with the Route**



After a short rest and refreshments at Waihohonu Hut retrace your route back to the cross-roads (WP3) where you will turn to your right – that is to the WNW. A short easy walk uphill brings you to the Historic Old Waihohonu Hut (WP7). The Hut is painted bright orange and cannot be missed. Allow yourself 10 to 15 minutes to browse around here and see what things used to be like.

**Figure 5 The Old Waihohonu Hut**

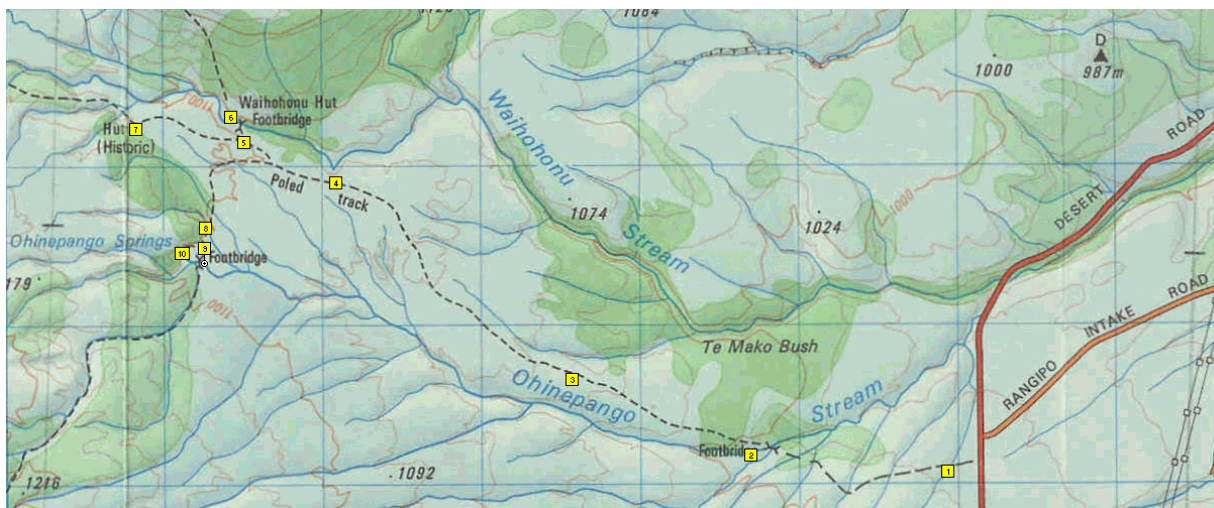


Your total walking time to reach the hut will be around 2 hours to 2:15 minutes.

Once you have done the touristy bit once again retrace your steps and head back to the cross roads (WP5).

Study of Figures 4 and 5 will show that there is a slight change in the layout of the track at the “cross-roads”. The GPS trace and data indicate more of a cross roads whilst the original map shows the track to Ohinepango Springs coming off slightly further back (eastwards) along the main access track. Tracks are well marked so there is no problem.

**Figure 5 Extract of Map with Critical Waypoints**



Follow the sign for the Ohinepango Springs and you will reach your destination in a total walking time of about 3:30 minutes – that is about just over an hour from leaving the Old Waihohonu Hut. This part of the tramp is slightly more taxing as there is some steep slope work involved and, as mentioned earlier, the steepest slope does have a rope “hand-rail” to assist you. Do take care as the base earth on part of this slope can be very slippery and an extremely rapid descent would follow and fall.

AT the foot of the steep slope you go round to your right, soon come to and cross a bridge (**WP9**) and five minutes later come to the springs (**WP10**). Again it is quite nice to browse around here for a few minutes but remember you still have something like 2 hours walk back to the car park (**WP1**) on the edge of SH1.

**Figure 7a**      **GPS Waypoint Data – Geographic Format**

Datum           : Geodetic Datum 1949

Waypoint File : D:\Walks & Treks\NZ Tramps\GPS Data\Waihohonu Huts.wpt

04/08/2005 17:29:52

Num	Name	Latitude	Longitude	Alt(m)	Description
1	1	-39 13 44.8	175 43 56.7	959	Waihohonu Track car park SH1 0:0hrs
2	2	-39 13 42.7	175 43 04.9	983	Bridge 25min walk
3	3	-39 13 28.3	175 42 17.3	1045	Viewpoint / coffee stop 1 hour walk
4	4	-39 12 49.6	175 41 14.0	1090	Enter trees on track 1:25 min walk
5	5	-39 12 42.0	175 40 49.6	1096	Tracks cross, go right to Waihohonu Hut 1:35 min walk
6	6	-39 12 36.8	175 40 45.8	1097	Waihohonu Hut - 1:40 min walk
7	7	-39 12 39.8	175 40 20.9	1111	Old Waihohonu Hut 2:10 min walk
8	8	-39 12 59.6	175 40 40.1	1085	Stream after steep downhill with rope - 3:15 min walk
9	9	-39 13 06.8	175 40 39.9	1083	Bridge over "spring" stream - 3:30 min walk
10	10	-39 13 04.8	175 40 34.1	1084	Ohinepango Spring 3:35 walk (Total return 5:15 min)

**Figure 7b**      **GPS Waypoint Data – NZ Grid Format**

Datum           : Geodetic Datum 1949

Waypoint File : D:\Walks & Treks\NZ Tramps\GPS Data\Waihohonu Huts.wpt

04/08/2005 17:27:42

Num	Name	Zone	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
1	1		2745935	6216086	959	Waihohonu Track car park SH1 0:0hrs
2	2		2744695	6216190	983	Bridge 25min walk
3	3		2743569	6216669	1045	Viewpoint / coffee stop 1 hour walk
4	4		2742085	6217906	1090	Enter trees on track 1:25 min walk
5	5		2741508	6218160	1096	Tracks cross, go right to Waihohonu Hut 1:35 min walk
6	6		2741422	6218321	1097	Waihohonu Hut - 1:40 min walk
7	7		2740823	6218247	1111	Old Waihohonu Hut 2:10 min walk
8	8		2741264	6217623	1085	Stream after steep downhill with rope - 3:15 min walk
9	9		2741253	6217400	1083	Bridge over "spring" stream - 3:30 min walk
10	10		2741116	6217467	1084	Ohinepango Spring 3:35 walk (Total return 5:15 min)

The return trip, taking in both diversions after the Waihohonu Hut, takes something in the order of 5 to 5:30 minutes and the overall gain and loss in altitude is around 150 metres only.

#### Notes

(Garmin Summit GPS on **Geodetic datum 1949** with good signal)

**WP** = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit

**masl** = metres above sea level