

TOITOI TRACK from PUREORA LODGE

Map: Whakamaru, 1:50,000 T17, refer Figures 1 and 2

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

How to get to START: Exit Taupo northwards on SH1 towards Rotorua and turn off just outside town left onto Poihipi Road:

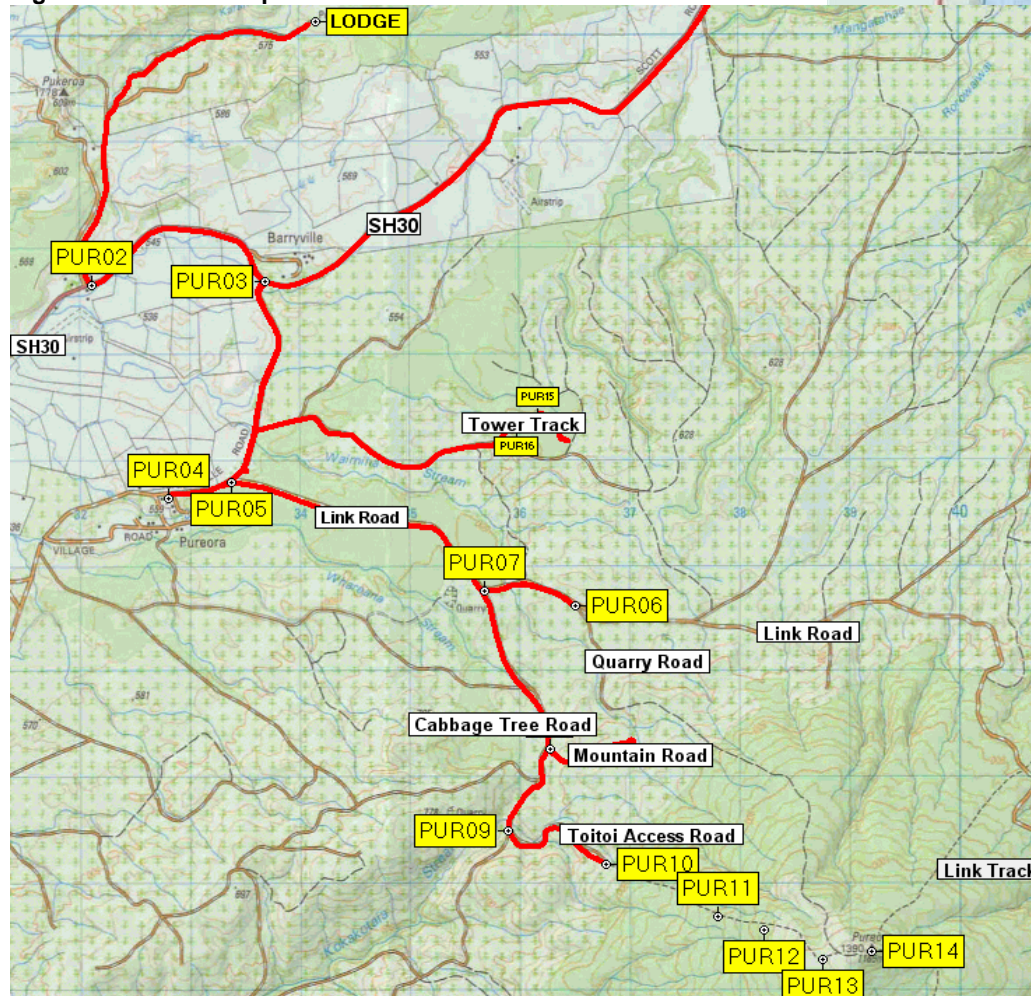
- Turn right onto SH32 northwards
- At Whakamaru turn left (NW) on SH30
- In 3km bear left still on SH30 Mitchell Road
- Two km further on turn left (SW) on Scott Road which is still SH30
- At Barryville, about 16km, pass entrance on left to Pureora Information Centre
- About 1.5km on turn right (NNW) onto gravel road and in another 1.5km turn right again and
- Follow signs for Pureora Lodge on road with locked gate
- Approximately 1:15 minutes from Taupo arrive at Pureora Lodge

Times are taken from the Police Station in Taupo and the route is shown as the thicker black line in Figure 1

Figure 1 Access and Map Sheets



Figure 2 Extract of Map with GPS Trace of Pureora Forest Roads



Rough Description: This was actually the TTC Winter Solstice outing in June 2007 when the opportunity was taken to carry out reconnaissance and verification of some of the forest tracks from the Pureora Information Centre. The main track being checked was the access to the Toittoi Track up Pureora; this track was not located not too long ago when it was approached via Link Road. In fact there is active logging and there are some newer tracks which are not on the map – hence Figure 2 has been compiled where tracks used have been named. The walk up Pureora on the Toittoi Track is a very easy out-and-back on a fair track which has not been given much attention by DOC of late as, obviously, the track is not overused. There are no difficult sections, no steep slopes and there is some newish boardwalk and steps near the summit. Waypoints PUR10 to PUR14 were taken to show times; there are no real features to note.

Name	Easting	Northing	Alt[m]	Description
LODGE	2734147	6300143	543	16-JUN-07 Pureora Lodge 1:10 min drive from Taupo
PUR02	2732117	6297668	523	Turn off N off SH30 for Pureora Lodge
PUR03	2733690	6297699	537	Turn off to S for Pureora Information Centre
PUR04	2732814	6295662	553	Pureora Information Centre
PUR05	2733389	6295805	562	Junction to Link Road which runs off eastwards
PUR06	2736502	6294642	635	Junction with Quarry Road on Link Road
PUR07	2735680	6294784	607	Junction of Link Road with Cabbage Tree Road which goes SSE
PUR08	2736270	6293293	678	Junction with (unmapped) Mountain Road (which goes Eastwards) on Cabbage Tree Road
PUR09	2735901	6292533	647	Junction to Toittoi Road which goes SE off Cabbage Tree Road
PUR10	2736777	6292206	762	10:32:49 at car park at start of Toittoi Track
PUR11	2737800	6291713	960	45 minutes up good but unused Toittoi Track
PUR12	2738217	6291583	1035	One hour up on Toittoi Track
PUR13	2738751	6291302	1124	1:15 min up Toittoi track with boardwalk and steps on almost level area
PUR14	2739190	6291376	1182	1:30min at top of Pureora via Toittoi track at Trig Point
PUR15	2736169	6296414	620	Base of the "tower", 12m ascent into lower canopy
PUR16	2735974	6296332	619	Car park for forest tower 5 minutes walk inwards

Detail: For the winter solstice the TTC based themselves in Pureora Lodge which is very well equipped with sleeping for over 30 in spacious bunk rooms (take sleeping bag and pillow), hot showers, a very well equipped kitchen, plenty of camping area round the lodge and there is a well constructed BBQ with tables outdoors.

Several easy walks are possible even for the older, less-agile trumper including:

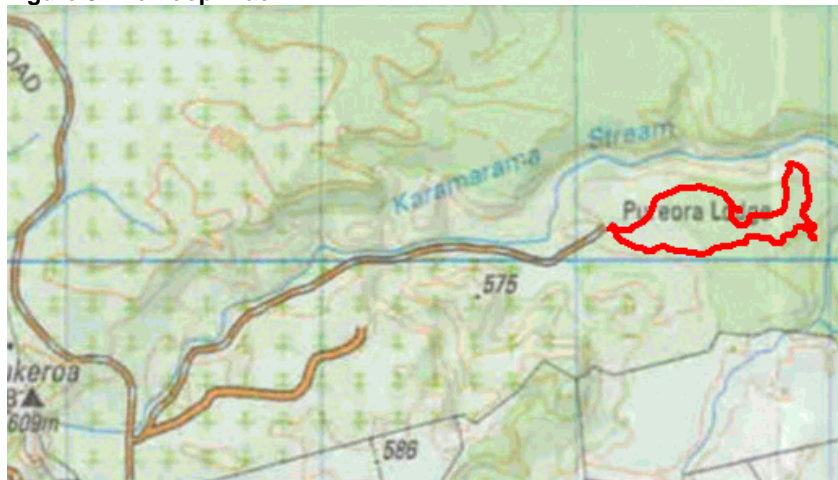
- the Loop Track through fantastic forest with very active birdlife – this starts and ends at the Lodge and is 2.5km long
- access to the “tower” (PUR15) which allows one to get up into the lower storeys of the canopy and view the remaining forest giants – this can be accessed in virtually any motor vehicle within 10 – 15 minutes from the Lodge, and
- Pureora via the Toittoi Track – this is just over a 6km out-and-back walk with just over 400m altitude gain and takes about three hours total

LOOP TRACK

As can be seen in Figure 3 the track starts and ends at Pureora Lodge and virtually any length of time can be spent on this very easy stroll. There is such a variation in the forest cover with many species it is well worthwhile having an “expert” along to point out which of the giants are which, or check the Information Centre for leaflets.

There is also very rich birdlife and “Kaka” were seen in June 2007.

Figure 3 The Loop Track



From : 18-Jun-07 16:08:15
 To : 18-Jun-07 16:08:15

 Time taken : 0:00:00
 Total Distance : 2.582 Km

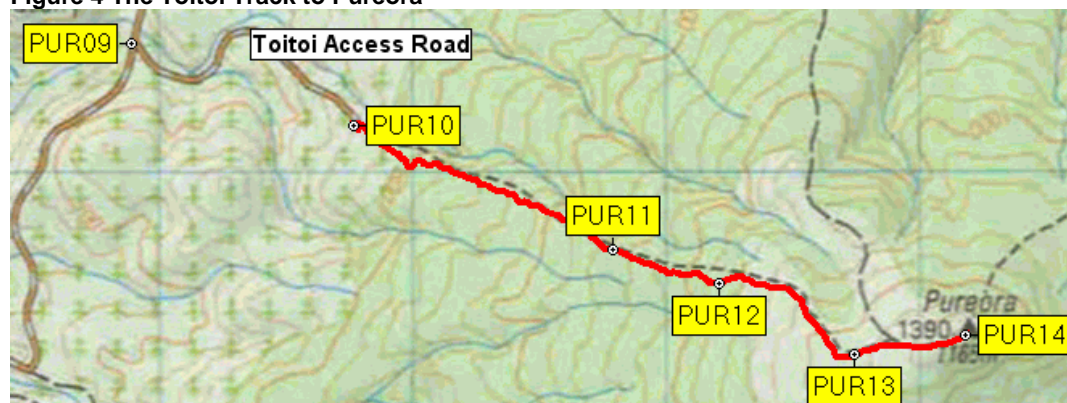
 Minimum Speed : No Time
 Maximum Speed : No Time
 Average Speed : 581017.701 KPH

 Minimum Altitude : 541 Meters
 Maximum Altitude : 609 Meters

THE TOWER The tower can be accessed by virtually any vehicle with the access route being shown in Figure 2 with the car park as PUR16 and the Tower as PUR15. The stroll from the car park to the tower takes about 5 minutes and all can get there, however only the agile should attempt the series of steps on the ladders up the 12 metre wooden structure. The views of the various giants of the forest make this climb worthwhile if you can make it. The track does continue out past the tower but this has not been followed to the end.

PUREORA via TOITTOI TRACK The Toittoi Track can be accessed in about 15 – 20 minutes from Pureora Lodge with the route being traceable in Figure 2. Basically one sets off down Link Road from close to the Information Centre (PUR04) by turning ESE at waypoint PUR05. At PUR07 go right onto Cabbage Tree Road taking note that from here the road is slightly less used and not quite so good, but again most vehicles can use this road. At PUR08 there is a new, unmapped road going off to the SE – Mountain Road. Stay on Cabbage Tree Road and at the next junction (PUR09) turn left onto Toittoi Access Road and it is then only minutes to the car park (PUR10).

Figure 4 The Toittoi Track to Pureora



From : No Date
 To : No Date

 Time taken : No Time
 Total Distance : 3.105 Km

 Minimum Speed : No Time
 Maximum Speed : No Time
 Average Speed : No Time

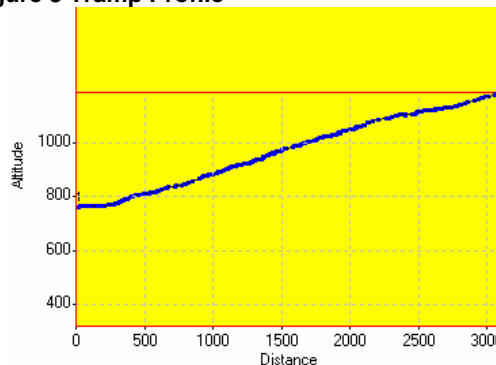
 Minimum Altitude : 762 Meters
 Maximum Altitude : 1185 Meters

Overall GPS data indicates a total tramp distance of 6.21 kilometres during which the altitude variation is from 762 to 1185, a gain of 423 metres – all this taking about 3 hours. Most of the walk is through very nice forest with several giants seen as you progress – Totara, Rimu etc.

The track is obviously not heavily used and is not manicured but it is quite passable. On frosty days in wintertime the design of the existing older steps does mean that the raised, exposed wood edges can be very slippery.

Further up (PUR13) the track there are more modern steps and some sections of boardwalk – reached after about 1:15 minutes walking. The vegetation then changes from forest to bush and eventually you come out into the open and the Trig point can be seen on the top. On clear days Ruapehu and Taranaki can be seen.

Figure 3 Tramp Profile



GPS: Garmin GPSMap 60CSx