

TE MATA PEAK

Topo50 Map: BK39 Hastings

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS84

Location



How to get to START

Get down to Hawkes Bay and head south to get to Hastings and Clive. At the time of this trip major road works were happening hence no step by step route is presented and not all the roads one might use are named on the 1:50,000 scale map sheet (BK39). It would be best to get an up to date route off the internet or use in-car navigation, which has hopefully been updated. The area of the walk can be seen on the bottom of map sheet BK39 shown opposite.

Rough description: Although being only 5km long this is a delightful walk with sufficient challenge to keep most trampers happy. Most of the tracks, and there are many of them, are tourist standard and well-marked. It is a bit of an uphill struggle to get to the top via the zig-zagging Red Track followed. At the time of the tramp the car park was less than perfect as a major upgrade of all facilities at the entrance to the park were "nearly" complete and nothing was too obvious. For up to date information visit www.tematapark.co.nz.

Detail:

From the entrance car park (**WP01**_{200m}) basically head SE on the Red Trail as it wiggles its way steeply down into the Takahika Stream valley to cross the stream (**WP02**_{148m}). Step over the stream then head up to cross gravel road (**WP03**_{150m}) then immediately slip off left on a slightly less good track that heads steeply upwards. However it is only five minutes upwards to the edge of the crest (**WP04**_{198m}) with views. There is a small circular table showing directions and names of points of interest but is rather worn and not too informative.

Direction is now to the SE for a few metres then branches right at a track junction (**WP05**_{187m}) to head to the SW on the Red Trail.



Within about 500m there is a spectacular grove of fairly large Red Woods (**WP06**_{134m}) complete with a small rickety wooden bridge over the small stream line. After passing through the Red Woods it is soon into open grassland to head SW then SE on easy walking track. After one hour (**WP07**_{167m}) it is again back into forest for a bit then the track follows the edge of the woods



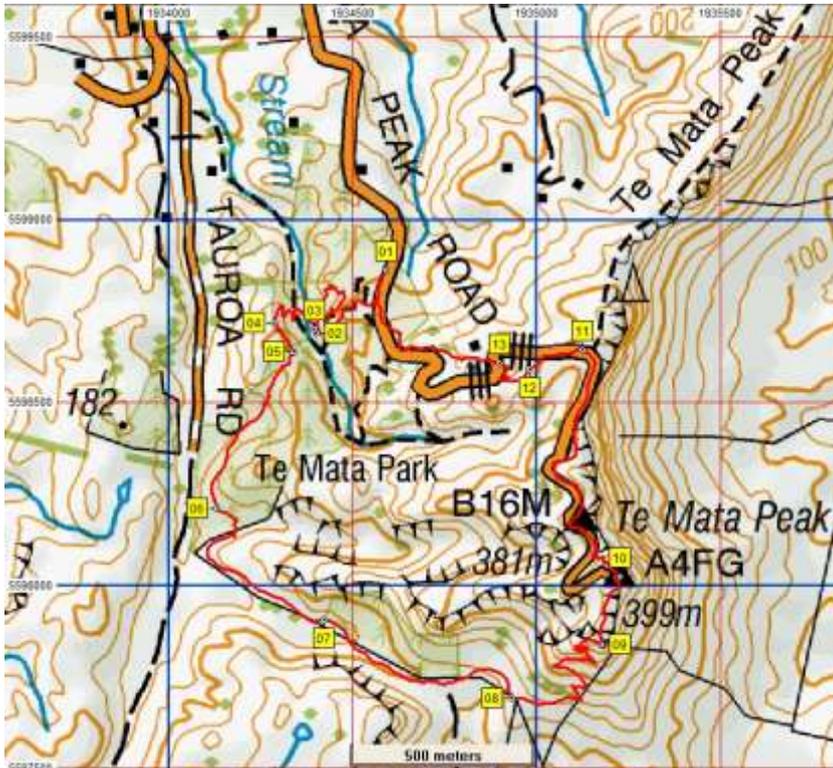
Views of the surrounding steep slopes and crests now improve and soon the trees are left behind as the track does a loop to the NE and starts to ascend to get onto a spur (**WP08**_{223m}) with magnificent views of the Tuki Tuki Valley to the SE. At this point things start to go uphill and soon the track is zig-zagging steeply upwards – keep the eyes open for a few reasons. It would almost be possible to fall off the track, the really fit can find shortcuts and there are fossil shells to be seen in the exposed geology. The uphill grunt is almost over when a "caution" sign (**WP09**_{370m}) comes into view just before the crest is reached with a steep bluff in front of you. A narrow track then wiggles its way along the side of the bluff to get you to the Trig (**WP10**_{388m}) on Te Mata Peak. Feel smug as you look at the people who have driven up and parked here



There are several good spots for lunch here offering great views virtually all around, just keep out of the wind. From the Trig the track, now marked red and blue, more or less shadows the road as it wiggles NW then NNE. At a sharp bend in the road (**WP11**_{304m}) many tracks – including what looks like a daunting bike track – can be seen and the rightmost track was followed on the 30 or so minutes required to descend back to the car park. At just over two and a half hours the track merged (**WP12**_{292m}) with another that came in from the right. After a few metres of bush bashing the road was crossed at the entrance to the Peak restaurant (**WP13**_{269m}) to pick-up the track some ten minutes from the carpark.



Map and Google Earth



WP	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
01	1934591	5598861	200	Parking at stone gate on Te Mata Peak Road
02	1934402	5598689	148	700m (19min); Bottom of gully on Green Trail
03	1934396	5598703	150	725m (20min); Cross gravel road and head left steeply upwards on Red Trail
04	1934287	5598719	198	985m (26min); Edge of the crest with views at worn out indicator table
05	1934340	5598636	187	1.2km (40min); Track junction, go right on Red Track
06	1934129	5598212	134	1.7km (51min); Red woods grove then to open grassland
07	1934423	5597905	167	2.3km (1:02min); Back under tree cover then walk SE on edge of forest
08	1934934	5597691	223	3km (1:14min); On spur with views of Tuki Tuki Valley to SE steep zig zags ahead
09	1935175	5597837	370	3.8km (1:40min); "Caution" sign just before reaching bluff edge after grunty ascent on zig zags
10	1935226	5598023	388	4km (1:47min); Te Mata Peak Trig with nearby road and carpark
11	1935125	5598644	304	5km (2:33min); Pass bike track and follow furthest right track (Blue)
12	1934982	5598592	292	5.2km (2:36min); Join track coming from right and head SW
13	1934900	5598610	269	5.4km (2:41min); Cross road at entrance to restaurant after short-cut off-track 400m 10min from end

Notes

- **GPS** = Garmin GPSMap 62sc
- **WP** = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
- **masl** = metres above sea level