

## WHAKAPAPANUI TRACK

**260 Series Map:** Ohakune, S20

**Topo50 Map:** BJ34 Mnt Ruapehu

### How to get to START:

Exit Taupo on SH 1 down the lake to Turangi then you have the choice:

- Follow the Desert Highway (**SH1**) and turn off right on to SH46 for Rangipo.
- Meet **SH47** at a T-junction and turn left then
- Turn off SH47 on to SH48 signposted for **Whakapapa** and the **Chateau**, or
- In Turangi turn right off SH1 on to SH41 and then turn left off SH41 on to SH47 and proceed as above.

Pass the Chateau on the left and then pass the entrance to Whakapapa Lodge, from where this walk was done. The track is on your right a few metres up the road from Whakapapa Lodge and the car park with the toilet.

**Rough description:** An easy 7km, 2 hour circular, or out and back, walk on a well formed track through Montane forest (beech / silver birch for the Europeans) basically following the Whakapapanui stream down stream from near the Chateau in Whakapapa Village.

Nothing spectacular on this track but nice secluded forest which is pretty wet in parts with a lot of lichens and moss on the trees plus some mistletoe, look for the anti-possum bands.

Near the end of the track there are some views of the mountains just before you reach State Highway 48 (just past **WP24**). The options are to turn round and go back the way you came or walk up the highway past the golf course etc – but this does mean some little distance walking on the road with traffic, on a bad day.

The track can easily be seen on the extract of the map shown. It should be noted that the walk described here does not meet the road (SH48) as marked in this map but actually rejoins the road nearer WP24; some track re-alignment has taken place.

Overall there is an altitude loss of around 150 metres from the start to the end point. This has to be regained on the return.

**Detail:** From the Bruce Road, as indicated above in the directions to the start, walk down the well formed and sign-posted track. In 10 minutes you will come to a T-junction, right takes you to the Whakapapanui Walk – going straight takes you to Golden and Silica Rapids. This early part of the walk is described in more detail in the Silica Rapids walk.

In 8 minutes walking you go down hill and cross Golden Rapids (**WP17**) just above an obvious stream confluence. In another 2 minutes there is a T-junction (**WP18**) where you turn left – going right gives another view of the rapids. A couple of minutes further on there is a bit of a fence on the right over which there is a view down to an overflow channel.

There is often quite a lot of birdlife in this area and you will notice that there must also be a lot of possum activity as many of the trees are banded to protect them – assume some of what is being protected is mistletoe but at the time of this walk this was not seen.

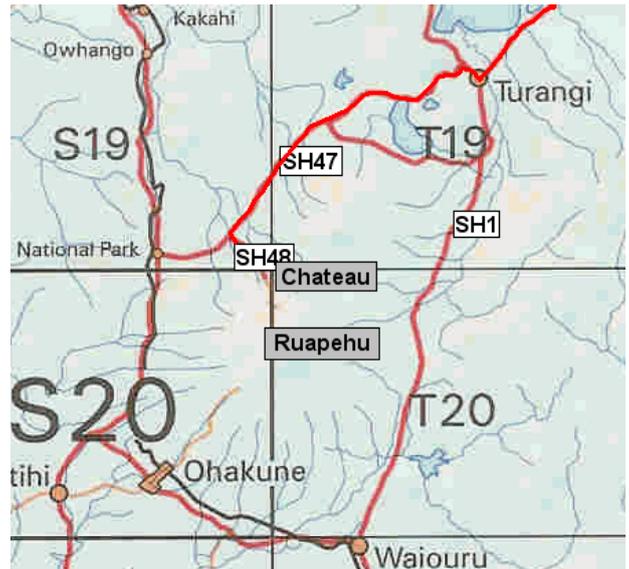
Yet another T-junction is reached in a total walking time of 20 minutes (**WP20**) with the right branch going down some steps where there is a seat from where you can watch the river flow past. Continuing down the left branch of the path a seat with views of Ngauruhoe is reached in a total of 40 minutes walking (**WP21**) then there is a wetter area with well formed boardwalk through the bog.

In just under an hour you cross a bridge with good mountain views – Ngauruhoe and Ruapehu – and then you are back on to SH48. At this point you have a choice – go back the way you came or walk up the road, the latter is not recommended during busy times.

**NZ Grid GPS:** Geodetic Datum 1949

**NZTM GPS:** NZTM on WGS84

### Access



**Note:** The second alternative from Turangi is shown in **RED**

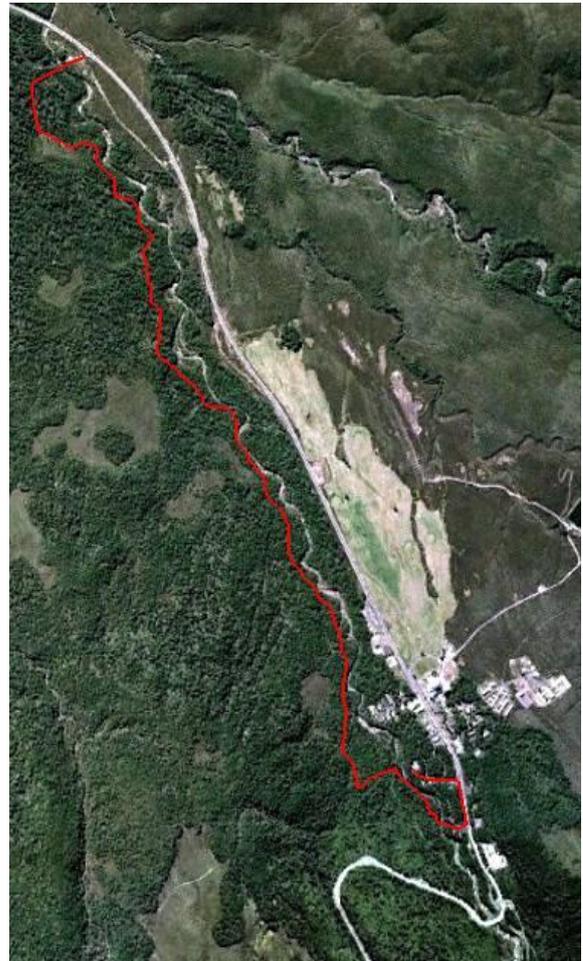
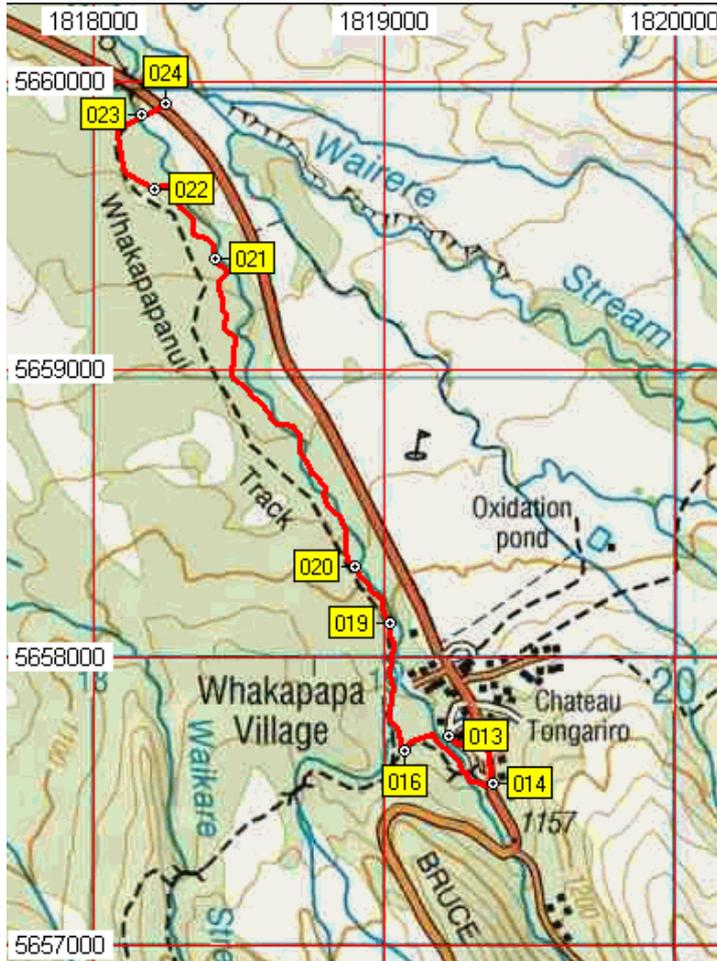
### View of Ruapehu from near the end of the walk



### Heavy moss covering in thick forest



**Map and Google Image with GPS data**

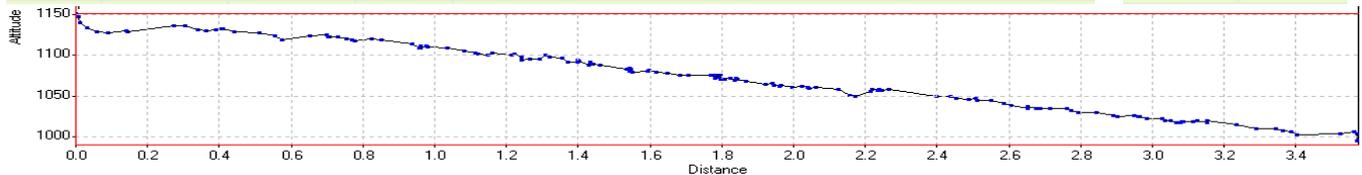


**Waypoints NZ Grid**

Name	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
013	2729209	6219835	1147	Whakapapa Lodge camp
014	2729359	6219670	1136	2 min turn right onto walk from main road
015	2729289	6219677	1130	3min - mid bridge, up steps then parallel to stream line
016	2729056	6219786	1125	7 min - T-junction, go right for Whakapanui track
017	2729037	6219856	1119	8min - downhill & over Golden Rapids at confluence of streams
018	2729018	6219970	1117	10min - T-junction, go left as right is for a view of rapids
019	2729004	6220225	1101	12min - view over overflow channel above streamline
020	2728886	6220420	1093	20min - T-junction with steps on right down to river + seat
021	2728406	6221492	1035	40 min - seat with mountain views, Ngauruhoe
022	2728195	6221736	1019	45 min - open area with boardwalk through bog
023	2728151	6221992	1002	54 min - bridge with good mauntain views, Ngauruhoe and Ruapehu
024	2728236	6222029	1006	55min - junction with Whakapapa Road below Chateau
025	2728907	6220413	1081	Seat with views below steps from WP20
026	2728923	6220417	1081	River Edge

**NZTM Grid**

Easting	Northing
1819212	5657458
1819362	5657294
1819292	5657300
1819058	5657409
1819039	5657479
1819021	5657593
1819007	5657848
1818888	5658043
1818407	5659115
1818196	5659359
1818152	5659616
1818237	5659652
1818909	5658036
1818925	5658040



**Banded trees**

Although mistletoe was not seen it is assumed that trees with two wide metal bands round the trunk probably have mistletoe growing between the bands. There are bands above and below to stop possum reaching the mistletoe, or other protected plant, from the ground or via aerial routes through the surrounding trees. This form of protection is no longer used as it proved to look good but did little good since the possum could still get at the plants.



- Notes:**
- **GPS** Garmin Summit
  - **WP** = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
  - **masl** = metres above sea level as recorded by GPS unit