

Mangaokewa Reserve

Topo50 Map: BF33 Te Kuiti

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS84

How to get to START:

- Exit Taupo on Poihipi Road and get over to Whakamaru
- Pick up SH30 and head down past through Benneydale
- Just short of Te Kuiti turn off right at the Waiteti Viaduct
- Drive into the Mangaokewa Reserve and park (WP1)

Rough description: A longish drive out through Whakamaru and Benneydale on SH30 to just short of Te Kuiti to park after passing under the Waiteti Viaduct. The walk described heads out upstream on the true right bank and back on the true left of the Mangaokewa Stream on mainly back-country grade forest tracks. Grazing land is passed through and in the wet this is messy and can be badly pugged and the actual track becomes pretty tricky. Shortcuts to get away from the mud can end up on very steep slopes more suited to mountain goats than trampers – it is better to stick to the track no matter how muddy.

Tramp location



Good info boards

The drive from Taupo takes around 90 minutes and there is ample parking and several picnic tables available in the Mangaokewa Reserve. Once parked (WP01^{66masl}) walk to the SE towards the edge of the river, cross the swing bridge (WP02^{66masl}) do not go uphill at the small T-junction but follow the track to the right. This is on a small tricky forest track with ample opportunity to trip up and a few fairly muddy spots.



Over bridge and go right



Cascade notice

In less than half an hour there is a small wooden bridge (WP03^{68masl}) then a T-junction with left if the cascade is on the target list, otherwise go straight. A minute or so further on there is another section of muddy uphill on the second set of wooden (WP04^{71masl}) steps of the day. Then it is back down again to the edge of the river (WP05^{67masl}) with a good view of the fast flowing water – levels were high due to very recent rain.



Waterfall



Second swing bridge

The next noticeable feature is a waterfall on the left (WP06^{72masl}) then 30minutes later the second swing (WP07^{76masl}) bridge of day allows the stream to be crossed – there are good views of the limestone bluffs on crossing the bridge. At this point there is a choice; immediately head for home by going right or following the indicated section of the Te Araroa Trail. The latter is through muddy, wet badly pugged grazing land.



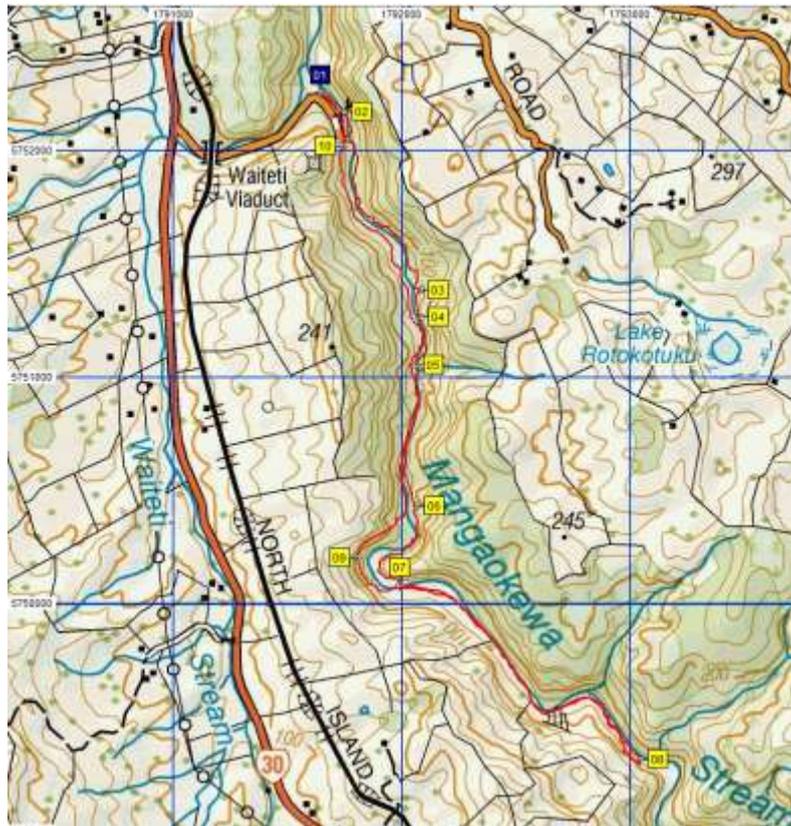
Go left or right?

On the day the group went left and made the mistake of attempting an up-and-over short-cut to get away from the mud. However the slopes became rather steep and all aborted (WP08^{89masl}) to return to the valley bottom and the marked muddy track and headed back down valley to the swing bridge for lunch. The return track on the western side of the stream heads virtually due north and does have a few steeper sections, which can be stony and muddy, but is overall a better track than the outward one. Nothing of great note to mention but there is a stile in the middle of nowhere (WP09^{101masl}) then 50minutes later the track ends (WP10^{67masl}) in the car park area of the reserve.



Steep, tricky forest track

Map with GPS Data



Google Image with GPS data



N...	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
01	1791644	5752260	66.1	Car park at Mangaokewa Reserve near Waiteti Viaduct off SH30; walk to SE
02	1791748	5752175	66.1	150m to Swing Bridge. For Riverside Walk cross and go right
03	1792085	5751388	68.0	1.22km (28min); Small wooden bridge at T-junction with left for cascade. Go right / straight
04	1792085	5751270	71.0	1.36km (30min); second set of steps on tricky track
05	1792062	5751058	67.1	1.61km (37min); on stream edge
06	1792066	5750432	72.0	2.27km (52min); waterfall visible off LHS (East)
07	1791991	5750087	75.9	2.88km (1:22min); Cross swing bridge looking at bluffs and sign for Te Araroa Trail
08	1793046	5749316	89.0	4.44km (2:02min); abort on very steep slopes of attempted short cut. Return on marked track
09	1791811	5750204	101	6.26km (3:12min); Stile on steep, stony slippery forest track
10	1791748	5752021	67.1	8.40km (4:02min); Off track and into level car park area of reserve

Notes:

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



A muddy Hobbit

From : 11-Aug-16 09:36:49
 To : 11-Aug-16 13:43:52

Time taken : 4:07:02 **Flat map**
 Total Distance : 8.676 Km
GPS distance 10.4km
 Minimum Speed : 0.024 KPH
 Maximum Speed : 7.311 KPH
 Average Speed : 2.107 KPH

Minimum Altitude : 63 Meters
 Maximum Altitude : 114 Meters
Total ascent 226metres

GPS Data