

## MANGAEHUEHU HUT

Topo50 Map: BJ34 Mnt Ruapehu

GPS: NZTM on WGS84

### How to get to START:

- Exit Taupo southwards on **SH1** to Turangi
- From Turangi there is a choice of two routes but the aim is to get on to SH 47 heading for Whakapapa
- The map opposite shows going via **SH1** and turning right on to **SH41** then left on to **SH47**
- Pass the turn off to Whakapapa at 95km in 1:10min
- Turn left on to **SH 4** at National Park in 1:30min and 104km
- Turn off **SH49** left for Ohakune at 129km in 1:45 min
- Enter Ohakune in 1:50 min, cross the bridge then turn left into Ayr Street at 137km (second road on the left after entering town)
- At mini-roundabout, left into Goldfinch Street then under bridge
- Convenient public toilets on the left at 140km

Continue up Ohakune Mountain Road and park (**01**) on the right side of the road at the new access track for the Blyth Hut Round-the-Mountain track sign at 152km and 2:05 min from Taupo.

**Rough description:** This is an easy in-and-out walk of a total 12.7km distance (*Refer Notes*) taking 4 - 5 hours including rest and lunch stops. The path is part of the Round The Mountain track and runs from the Ohakune Mountain Road to the Mangaehuehu Hut passing the path for the Blyth Hut en-route. There are several swing bridges to cross, a few stream crossings to negotiate, many sections of boardwalk and several, as yet, un-bridged gullies to cross. There are a couple of seats for the weary to sit down and admire the view of the mountain – on a clear day.

**Detail:** The well manicured path leaves from the lower side of the Blyth Hut car park (**01 1149masl**) and within a couple of minutes the first bridge of the day presents itself – this is a solid structure and NOT a swing bridge. After the bridge there is a long, steady, gentle ascent with a switchback near the top. A few minutes further on the first section of boardwalk with a few steps (**02 1211masl**) is encountered. In less than 20 minutes the T-junction (**03 1245masl**) with the old Blyth track is met – this old track is not recommended as it is a bit long, meandering and offers wet feet.

Soon after the T-junction the trees vanish and the track is in an open, rather exposed area but does offer some new boardwalk. This leads upwards and towards beech trees from where a descent commences. In a total time of about 30 minutes there is a zig-zag in the path and a glimpse of the Waitonga Falls can be had.

Within 40 minutes a good place for a refreshment stop with photo opportunity of the falls is reached (**06 1162masl**), this is right on the edge of the stream line. At this point the manicured footpath dies out and rougher walking begins.

A matter of minutes from the above stop point the first river crossing occurs – keep the eyes open and look for the “orange” triangular marker at the other side of the stream line. The rough walking continues and minutes later the second stream line crossing awaits – both these crossings are easy enough when the water level is low but exercise care when there has been recent rain. From here there is a rough ascent with some steps parallel to the river.

Just on the hour at a minor crest a second T-junction is found (**07 1223masl**) with the left branch going to the Blyth Hut. Going straight ahead for 4 minutes over some strong boardwalk leads to a bridge. Fifteen minutes later (1:20 min total time) there is a swing bridge (**08 1187masl**) over a badly eroded valley and another swing bridge is found 10 minutes later – there is a steepish climb after this second swing bridge (**09 1155masl**). The ascent continues up a long boardwalk on to rough ground and out into the open where (Dec 2006) piles of wood etc offer evidence of planned path upgrading by DOC.

The rough walking now continues all the way to the hut apart from small sections associated with new swing bridges. In just over 2 hours a large gully with a stream crossing (**11 1255masl**) presents itself and the next section of path is in need of upgrading. Yet another swing bridge has to be crossed at about 2:20 minutes (**12 1248masl**) – this is a new bridge with stainless steel rope and fabric netting. After this there are 2 or 3 more gullies to cross with the last one only 5 minutes from the hut (**13 1287masl**).



Distances are taken from the Police Station in Taupo and the route is shown as the **BLUE** line above whilst the **RED** line is the tramp route to the target – the **YELLOW 13**

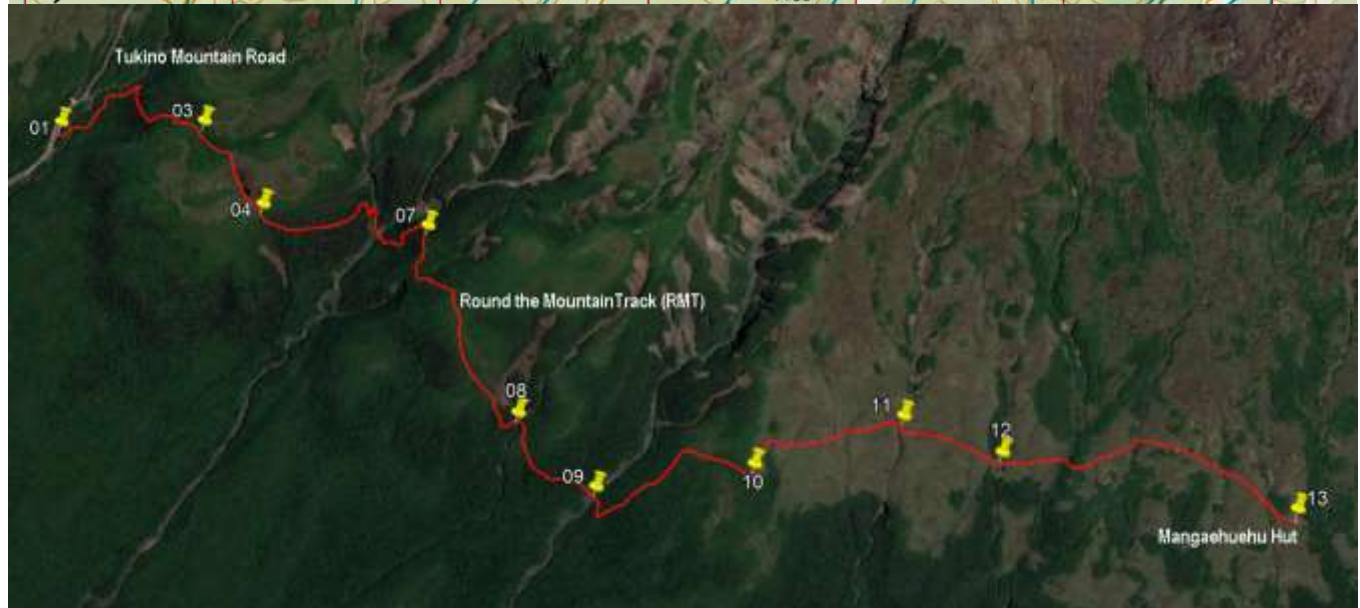
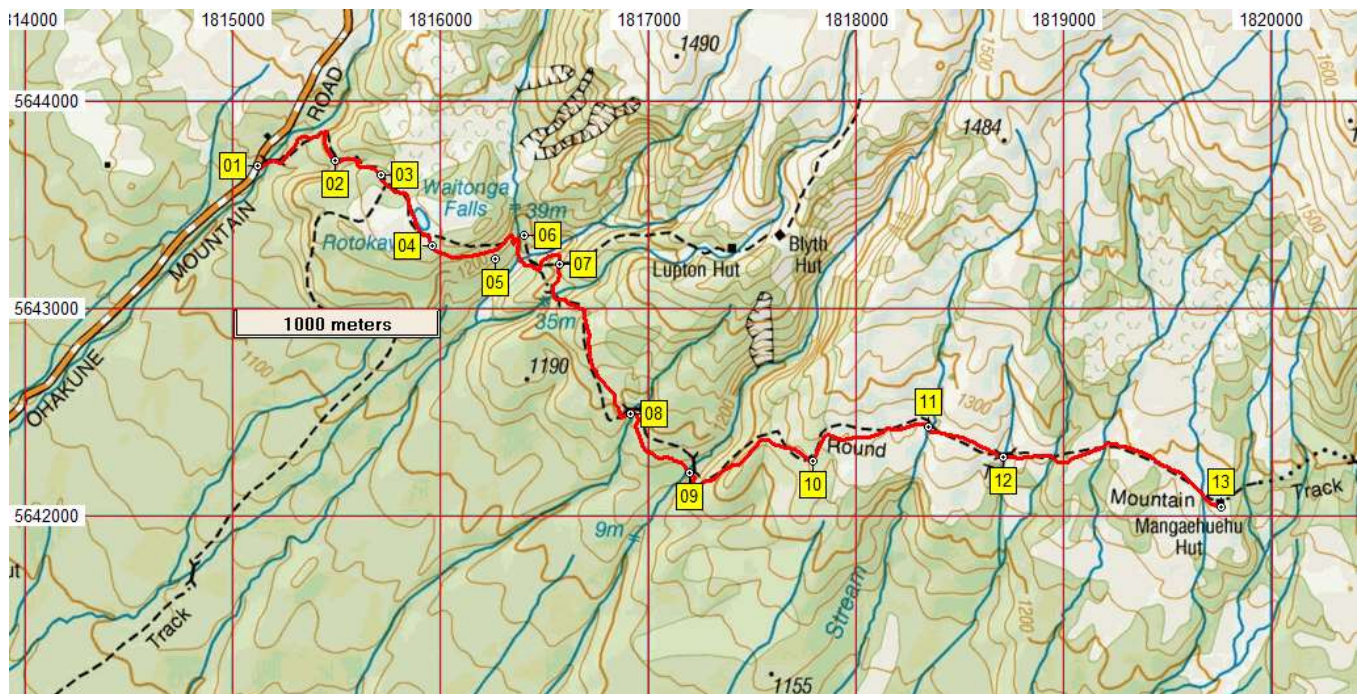
### Long section of boardwalk



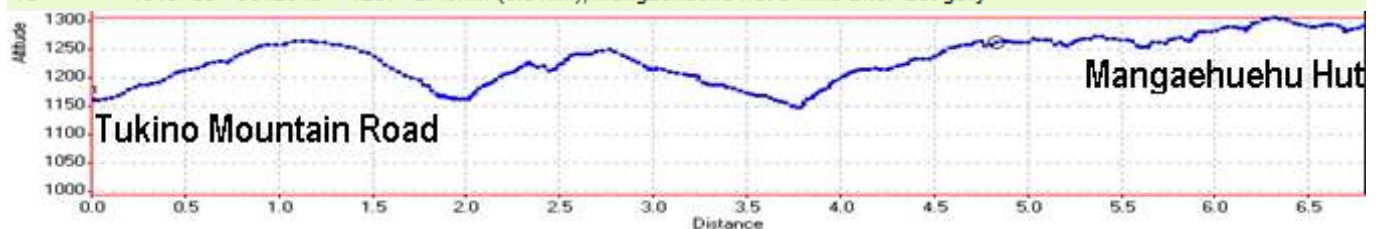
SE from near **03** towards the trees at **04**

### Waitonga Falls viewpoint





Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
01	1815121	5643687	1149	Car park on RHS of Mountain Road for Blyth Hut
02	1815494	5643711	1211	5 - 6 mins (620m); first section of boardwalk plus steps
03	1815716	5643644	1245	18 mins (880m); T-junction with old Blyth track on the RHS then open, exposed area
04	1815957	5643303	1248	25mins (1.33km); start descent through beech after open exposed area with boardwalk
05	1816264	5643241	1185	30mins (1.67km); zig zag in path with glimpse view of Waitonga waterfall
06	1816402	5643356	1162	40min (1.89km); tea stop at edge of stream line below Waitonga waterfalls
07	1816575	5643212	1223	+/- 1 hour (2.32km); minor crest with T-junction to left for Blyth Hut and 10 min to swing bridge
08	1816914	5642491	1187	1:20min (3.31km); long swing bridge over badly eroded valley
09	1817199	5642210	1155	1:30min (3.76km); swing bridge then steep zig zag up
10	1817792	5642269	1245	1:50min (4.54km); long boardwalk section then rough area into open with ongoing track work
11	1818347	5642429	1255	2:05min (5.21km); pass down through big gully with stream crossing
12	1818705	5642285	1248	2:13min (5.64km); long swing bridge with stainless steel rope then sections of boardwalk
13	1819755	5642048	1287	2:40min (6.81km); Mangaehuehu Hut 5 mins after last gully



The red GPS track correlates quite well with the mapped track except between WP04 and WP11, the poor agreement sections would be due to poor signal in forested areas and possible realignment of the track in other areas.

Most of the path from the car-park (01 1149masl) to the suggested tea stop (06 1162masl) is in superb condition whilst the remainder is of variable quality but a great deal of work is in progress by DOC and several of the gullies are now bridged.

**Heading to last gully**



**Ruapehu from Mangaehuehu Hut**



**Waitonga Falls**



<b>Notes:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Garmin GPSMap 60CSx</li><li>• <b>WP</b> = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit</li><li>• <b>masl</b> = metres above sea level (as recorded by GPS unit)</li></ul>	<b>Total Time:</b> 5 – 6 hours
		<b>Total Walk Time:</b> 4 – 5 hours
		<b>Total walk (km):</b> 14km
		<b>Overall altitude gain:</b> 159m
		<b>Total altitude gain:</b> 350m