

## MANGATEPOPO to the CHATEAU

Topo50 Map: BH34 Raurimu & BH35 Turangi

GPS: NZTM on WGS84

**How to get to START:** Exit Taupo on SH1 down the lake for 47km in 45 minutes to Turangi then:

- Follow the Desert Road (**SH1**) and turn off right on to SH46 for Rangipo
- Continue on **SH46** to the T-junction with **SH47** and turn left
- At 90km (1:15 min) left on to gravel road for Mangatepopo & Tongariro Crossing – speed limit 40kph
- Park and off-load at car park with toilets at 96km and about 1 hour 30 minutes driving from Taupo.

The location of the tramp can be seen in the bottom right of map sheet BH34  
NB There are now restrictions on how long one can park at certain times of the year, check with DoC Whakapapa

**Rough Description:** This is a walk of only 10km but it can feel much longer as it is on a badly eroded, gullied track which is part of the Northern Circuit and Round the Mountain tramps. It is locally known as the “ditch” and maintenance repairs are usually wiped out by the effects of inclement weather. Track notices do advise 3 – 5 hours may be required depending on the conditions. The use of tramping boots with a good tread is recommended as is the use of a tramping pole – though sometimes both hands are required to negotiate some sections.

**Detail:** In general drop off at Mangatepopo as the start point is often preferred but there are now parking restrictions at certain times of the year as this is also the start of the Tongariro Alpine Crossing so pick-up / drop-off time has to be carefully planned. Parking is also becoming tight in Whakapapa around the other end of the track behind the Chateau. Overall it probably would make more sense to start at the Chateau and get picked up at Mangatepopo 3 -4 hours later when the main congestion in the Mangatepopo car park has eased.

### Access



Junction at WP02

A blow by blow description is not given as a look at the map is indication enough of what is in store – endless stream line crossings. In general those that present a bit of a challenge or have a bridge have been way-pointed and the easy ones just not mentioned. The time and distance to reach the various gullies is supplied but it must be noted that some people can travel much quicker than others and that even the skilled can slip-over on this track



Yes this is the track



Very slippery descent



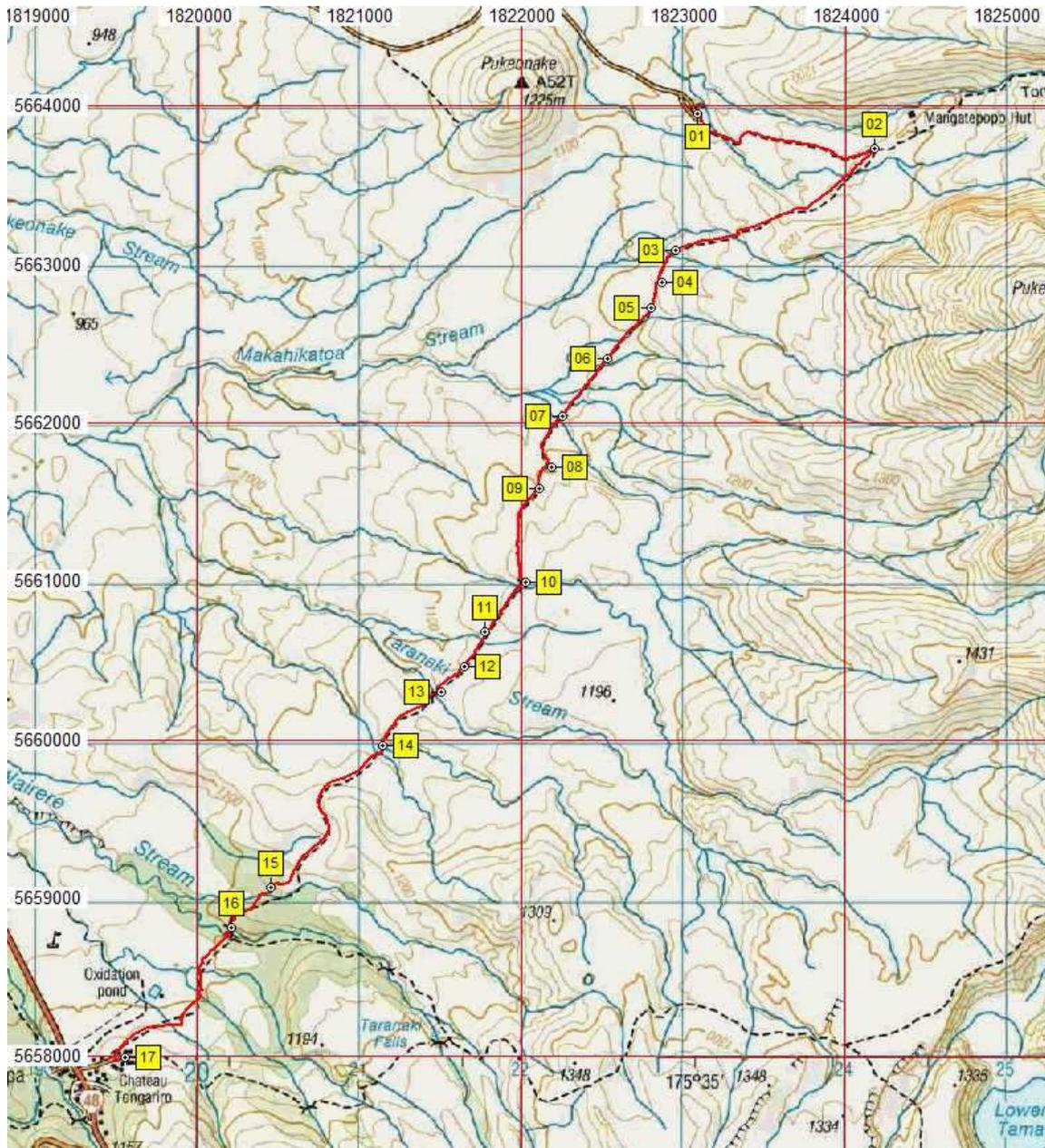
Helping each other over a bad bit

The bigger bridge at WP13 is over the Taranaki Stream and is where an off-track tramp from the Lower Tama Lake joins the track; this tramp is also a bit of challenge requiring scrambling along with navigational skills.

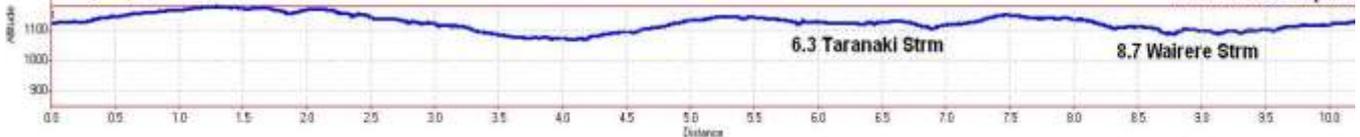
The last couple of kilometres include a slightly tricky descent down degrading steps to the bridge over the Wairere Stream WP16. On crossing the bridge the route turns right and follows the tourist track back to Whakapapa and is generally pretty easy walking but the odd flight of steps upwards keeps the lungs and legs in action



Final section with view of the Chateau



Mangatepopo Carpark      GPS distance 10.5km Total GPS ascent 349metres      Moving time 3:04min Stopped time 56min      Tama Lakes Carpark



N	↑	Easting	Northing	Alt	Description
01		1823092	5663958	1124	Start of track on edge of Mangatepopo carpark
02		1824185	5663726	1178	1.29km (19:25min); Junction on the Alpine Crossing track with Whakapapa Track near Mangatepopo Hut
03		1822951	5663085	1126	2.77km (51min); Slightly tricky gully crossing
04		1822863	5662893	1114	3km (57min); Gully crossing
05		1822800	5662728	1109	3.27km (1:14min); Steps down to cross then parallel stream line
06		1822531	5662406	1072	3.72km (1:22min); Another slightly slippery gully
07		1822251	5662042	1071	4.19km (1:30min); Bridge over gully then uphill
08		1822185	5661728	1093	4.55km (1:38min); Tricky rocky approach to gully
09		1822111	5661587	1109	4.76km (1:44min); Steps then ascend up eroding gully
10		1822023	5661000	1137	5.41km (2hours); Bridge over incised stream line
11		1821779	5660677	1124	5.83km (2:08min); Steep tricky descent to gully
12		1821646	5660462	1122	6.10km (2:15min); Bridge over stream line
13		1821500	5660301	1119	6.33km (2:19min); Bigger bridge over Taranaki Stream
14		1821139	5659962	1106	6.90km (2:33min); Flowing stream then on to new section of track with blue poles
15		1820450	5659061	1105	8.33km (3:27min); Stony, gravelly river crossing - ankle deep
16		1820203	5658820	1090	8.74km (3:34min); Steep, rough down to Wairere Strm Bridge, right at track junction on tourist track
17		1819554	5657992	1129	10.21km (4:01min); Small carpark up beyond the Chateau at start of Tama Track

<b>Notes:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>GPS</b> Garmin GPSMap 62sc</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>
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