

REDWOODS ROTORUA

Topo50 Map: BE37 Rotorua

GPS: NZTM on WGS84

How to get to START

Exit Taupo heading north on SH1

At Wairakei continue north on SH5 for Rotorua

Approximately 55 min in Rotorua go right at roundabout to SH30

1:02min go right at traffic lights T-junction still on SH30

1:05min go right at roundabout signposted Redwoods, then

Right again on access to Redwoods, park at the Information Centre

Total driving time is between one hour and one hour fifteen minutes depending on traffic and road or weather conditions.

Rough description: This is a moderate walk based on distance alone since almost 22 kilometres are covered. Depending on whether there is active logging happening this tramp can be an out-and-back as described or an A-to-B walk exiting on SH5 for Taupo after including the Green Lake as well as the Blue.

The walk starts in the magnificent Redwoods and passes through very varied forest after that, including some very regimented looking newer plantations of pine, to reach the Blue Lake which offers toilets and other facilities as a lunch stop. Much of the walking is on well graded forest roads - which can be boring and a bit of a route-march - whilst other sections are on good, almost back-country track. Map data presented is on the Topo50 series topographic maps with the NZTM (New Zealand Transverse Mercator). Outward waypoints are shown in yellow whilst the return route points are in grey.

Detail: From the car park (**WP01** 279masl) virtually walk past the toilet block on to the wide path carpeted in needles heading south west through the very dark forest and soon a section of boardwalk is traversed before reaching a junction (**WP2** 289masl) where the route goes left following the Black trail - the pines are absolutely huge!

Marks on trees



Within 15 minutes there is a junction (**WP3** 306masl) where the Black trail goes right and uphill on a narrower track passing through a plantation of Oriental Plane trees which is over 100 years old - there is a good information board at the start of the plantation. There are many tracks and roads so keep an eye open for the signs which are quite clear - the next one being at about 30 minutes where the route goes right at a Y-fork (**WP4** 418masl) and two minutes later left on Tokorangi Pa Road (**WP5** 453masl). Tokorangi Pa Road then heads off downhill at a clearly marked junction (**WP6** 490masl) and fifteen minutes later after winding about through the forest it goes left at a T-junction (**WP7** 494masl) and immediately left again at a Y-junction. At this point look out for a multi-stemmed tree with quite evenly spaced cut marks on the trunk - it is surmised that these may be from tree loppers using crampons. After a fair bit of gentle climbing the tree cover opens up a bit and there are views to the north over Rotorua.

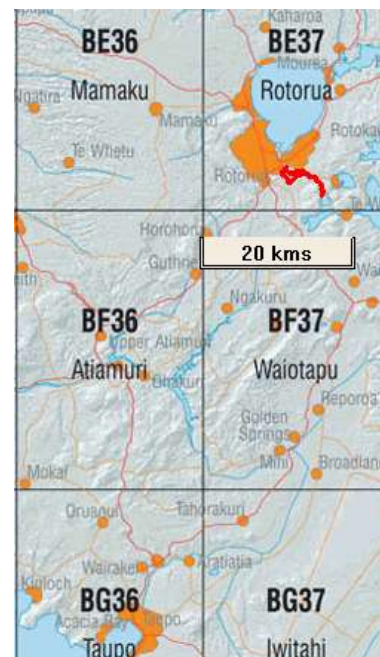
The winding ascent continues till at about 1:30minutes there is yet another turn left at a T-junction on Tokorangi Pa Road (**WP8** 544masl) and ten minutes after this there is a fairly serious descent on a fairly wide but badly rutted track with an exposed clay surface which could be slippery on wet days. The track pops out into the open at a large circular water tank (**WP9** 435masl) on the edge of Tarawera Road. Passing behind the hut on the site the track signs are very obvious indicating down slope following the flagged water-pipe.

Walkers only



Near the bottom of the slope there is a turning bay (**WP10** 419masl) with two track exits on the right - the first one is the bike track so follow the second which soon goes down some steps then crosses a bridge with a metal hand rail and there is a drinking-water fountain at the north end of the bridge. Crossing the bridge leads to a flight of steps upwards, with a view of the hill opposite with a very regimented plantation of pine trees, and a T-junction (**WP11** 416masl) on Red Tank Road - go left for the Blue Lake. There is now a long section of road walking passing the odd junction with the end of Red Tank Road reached in just over 2:20 minutes (**WP13** 450masl) at a junction where Hill Road goes off right but the route goes straight. Minutes later there is a gated access (**WP14** 465masl) from Tarawera Road then the track slips off left (**WP15** 484masl) on to a rougher track. This leads to a small clearing (**WP16** 489masl) on the edge of Tarawera Road.

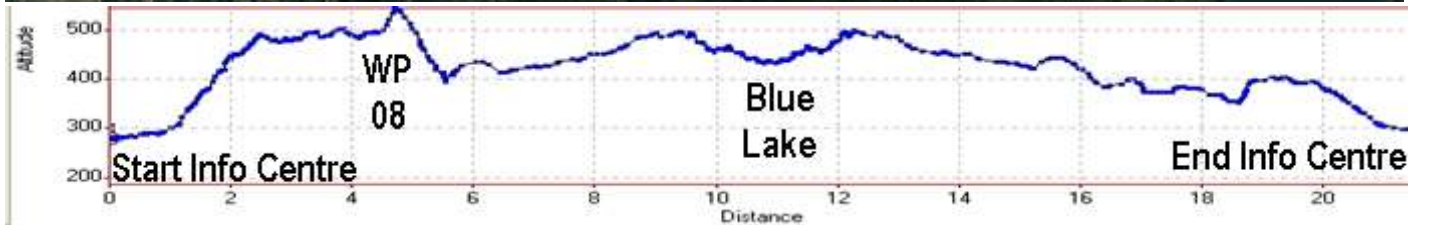
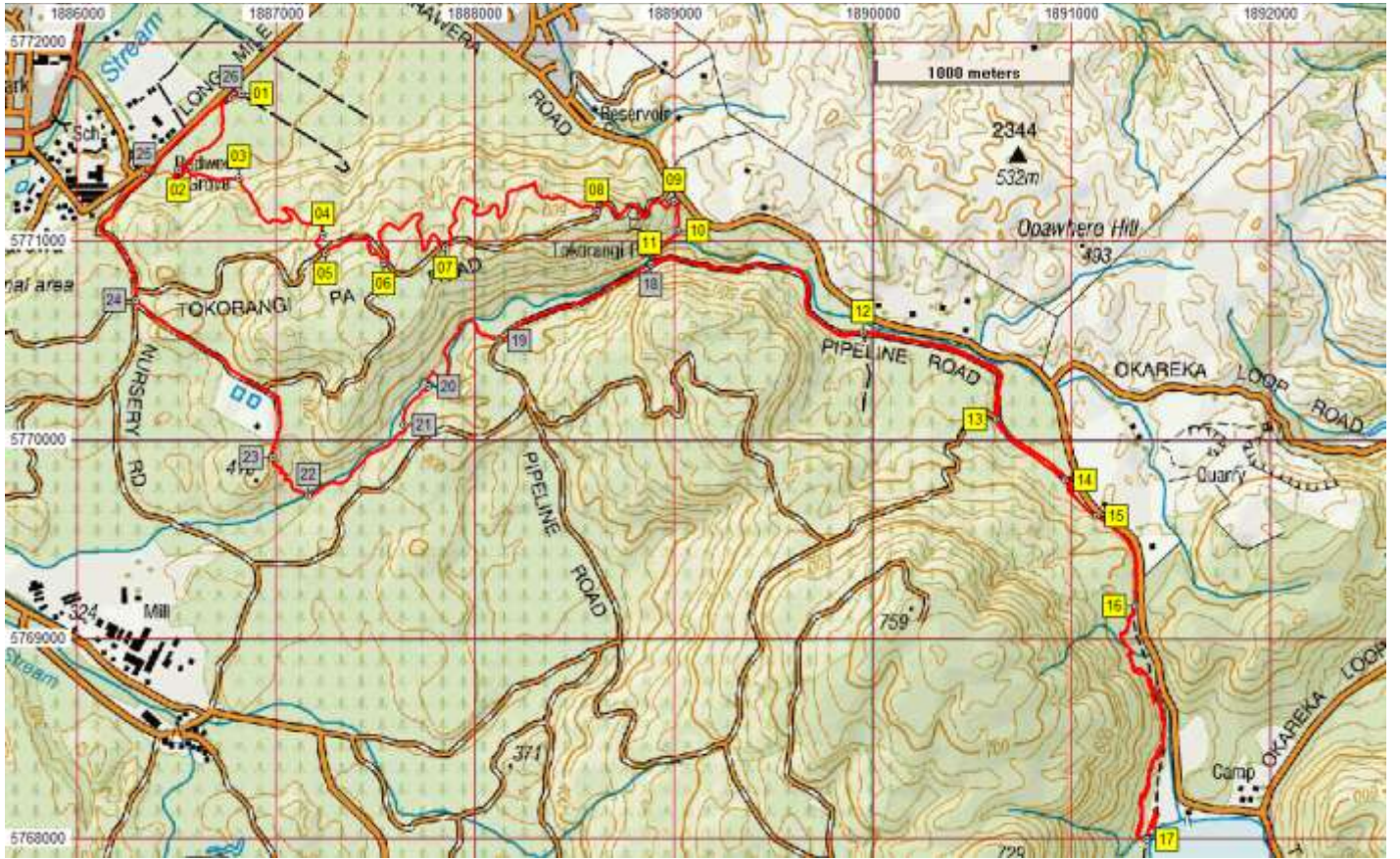
From this clearing the walking improves in that for the next few kilometres there is no road but a delightful track more like a back-country type. This track winds through undulating terrain in mixed forest with many ferns and Punga - in fact there are a few degraded "faces" carved in the Punga near the start of the track. Twenty five minutes down this track there is a barrier (**WP17** 437masl) that can prove awkward for trampers of a certain height wearing a back-pack - the gap is too narrow so remove the pack, go-under or over the barrier!



The tramp route is the **RED** line on sheet bE37 above the 20km marker

Lots of Punga





Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
01	1886824	5771739	279	Park opposite toilets at Information Centre in Redwoods
02	1886507	5771355	289	10min (685m); Left on Black trail after passing through huge trees then boardwalk
03	1886810	5771314	306	15min (1.12km); Right and uphill on narrower track past 107 year old Oriental Plane tree plantation
04	1887240	5771033	418	30min (1.88km); Y-fork, right and uphill again
05	1887248	5770939	453	32min (2.06km); Left on Tokorangi Pa forest road
06	1887540	5770890	490	40min (2.48km); Y-fork, left still on Tokorangi Pa Road and downhill
07	1887852	5770967	494	55min (3.35km); Left at T-junction and immediately left again at Y-fork. Soon views over Rotorua
08	1888616	5771146	544	1:30min (4.71km); Left @ T-junction on Tokorangi Pa Rd and 10min later steep, rutted descent on clay
09	1889005	5771197	435	1:42min (5.31km); Water tank, go behind hut for signs downslope on Black trail. Follow water pipe
10	1889023	5771054	419	1:46min (5.48km); Parking, use lower track exit, steps then meet parallel bike track & cross bridge
11	1888878	5770881	416	1:55min (5.68km); T-junction at top of steps. Left (east) for Blue Lake on Red Tank Road
12	1889950	5770538	426	2:20min (7.02km); Major junction, go straight (SSE) on good gravel road
13	1890622	5770101	450	2:22min (7.99km); End of Red Tank Rd at junction with Hill Rd going off right
14	1890970	5769802	465	2:30min (8.43km); Gated entry from Tarawera Road on left
15	1891125	5769616	484	2:32min (8.68km); Slip off wide gravel road onto rougher track uphill
16	1891320	5769165	489	2:40min (9.26km); Tarawera Rd, bear right on track winding through ferns plus punga with faces
17	1891380	5767993	437	3:05min (10.68km); Barrier then T-junction on Blue Lake edge. Left to open area with facilities
18	1888880	5770883	421	1:15min (16km); post lunch, back-tracked to WP11. Go SW following Purple Trail on wide gravel road
19	1888124	5770498	401	5hours (16.87km); Right on Purple Trail, "no horses/bikes" notice. Mixed forest down to stream
20	1887767	5770266	383	5:15min (17.59km); Pass barrier and right on wide track then cross "Tickler" bike track
21	1887644	5770074	381	5:20min (17.88km); Black trail joins from the right, continue to the SW
22	1887162	5769719	354	5:28min (18.51); Track joins from left then right to Spruce Rd then left on Purple/Black trail
23	1886979	5769911	398	5:38min (18.87km); Meet road + fence at Land Treatment System site with settlement ponds. Go due N
24	1886294	5770702	377	5:54min (20.08km); Cross roads coming off Katone Rd, go right on Purple, Yellow and Black trail
25	1886338	5771330	309	6hours (20.93km); Gate then roads merge above Scion compound. Information boards and maps on right
26	1886772	5771717	299	6:12min (21.51km); Redwoods Information Centre and car park

Going left at the barrier leads to the open grassy area on the Blue Lake and makes a good lunch spot. After refreshment head back to WP11 on the same route then follow the "Purple" track south west on the wide forest road. Turn right off this road on the "Purple" marker (**WP19** 401masl) on a track clearly marked for walkers – no bikes etc. This leads down to then follows a stream before another barrier (**WP20** 383masl) where turning right soon crosses the "Tickler" MTB track.

Five minutes later the Black trail rejoins from the right (**WP21** 381masl) then another track joins from the left and the route goes right on Spruce Road (**WP22** 354masl) then immediately left on the Purple and Black trails. A fenced open area is now reached – this is part of the Rotorua Land Treatment System – and the route goes due north. In a bit under 6 hours go right at the cross roads (**WP24** 377masl) to reach a gate (**WP25** 309masl) where the roads merge up behind the Scion compound.

From here it is a ten minute walk down the road back to the information centre in a total time of just over 6 hours.

Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GPS <i>Garmin GPSmap 60CSx</i> • WP = <i>Waypoint as taken by GPS unit</i> • masl = <i>metres above sea level (as recorded by GPS)</i> 	June 2009
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