

STANTON MEMORIAL anticlockwise

Topo50 Map: BJ34-Mnt Ruapehu

GPS: NZTM on WGS 84

How to get to START: Exit Taupo on SH1 down the lake to Turangi where there is a 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 off SH1 on to SH41 on the right and then turn left off SH41 on to SH47 and proceed as above. (This is shorter)

Pass the Chateau on the left and continue up Bruce Road parking in the "Round the Mountain" car park on the right hand side at the Scoria Flats (01 1463 masl).

Rough description: A 9km circular, mainly off-track challenging tramp that takes 5 – 6 hours. In the past this walk has been done in a clockwise direction and this is a new access route travelling anticlockwise. A good degree of skill in off-track walking plus some scrambling ability is required.

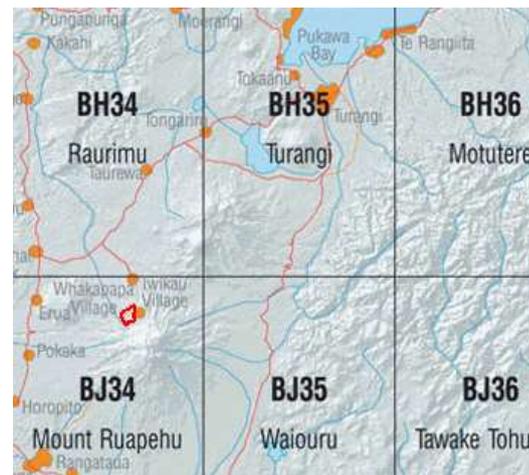
Detail: From the car park (01¹⁴⁶³masl) head off SW on the Round-the-Mountain Track (RMT) which is fairly hard going due to a few slopes and many boulders etc. A ridge crest (02¹⁴⁹⁹masl) is gained within half an hour or so then it is downhill to the SW on the zig-zags which are also hard going due to loose gravel and stones in places. The track junction (03¹³⁸⁴masl) off right to the Whakapapaiti Hut is the next target and takes about an hour. The route continues to the SW until a final steep descent arrives at the Whakapapaiti Stream (05¹²⁹⁵masl).

The RMT is abandoned at this point as the route now roughly parallels the Whakapapaiti Stream heading SE through wet, sometimes even boggy tussock then swings more to the SSE (06¹³⁴⁶masl) aiming at a high point which can be identified on the map at 1640masl.

After around 20 minutes through the tussock area rocks appear as the slope increases and there is a rock ladder to ascend (07¹⁴³⁶masl). This ascent is overall pretty easy though there are a couple of points with a bit of scrambling whilst heading almost due S to arrive at a minor summit. This area (08¹⁴⁸⁵masl) is very rocky and has magical views of the mountain ahead and the vertical, semi-circular face of bluffs on the left.

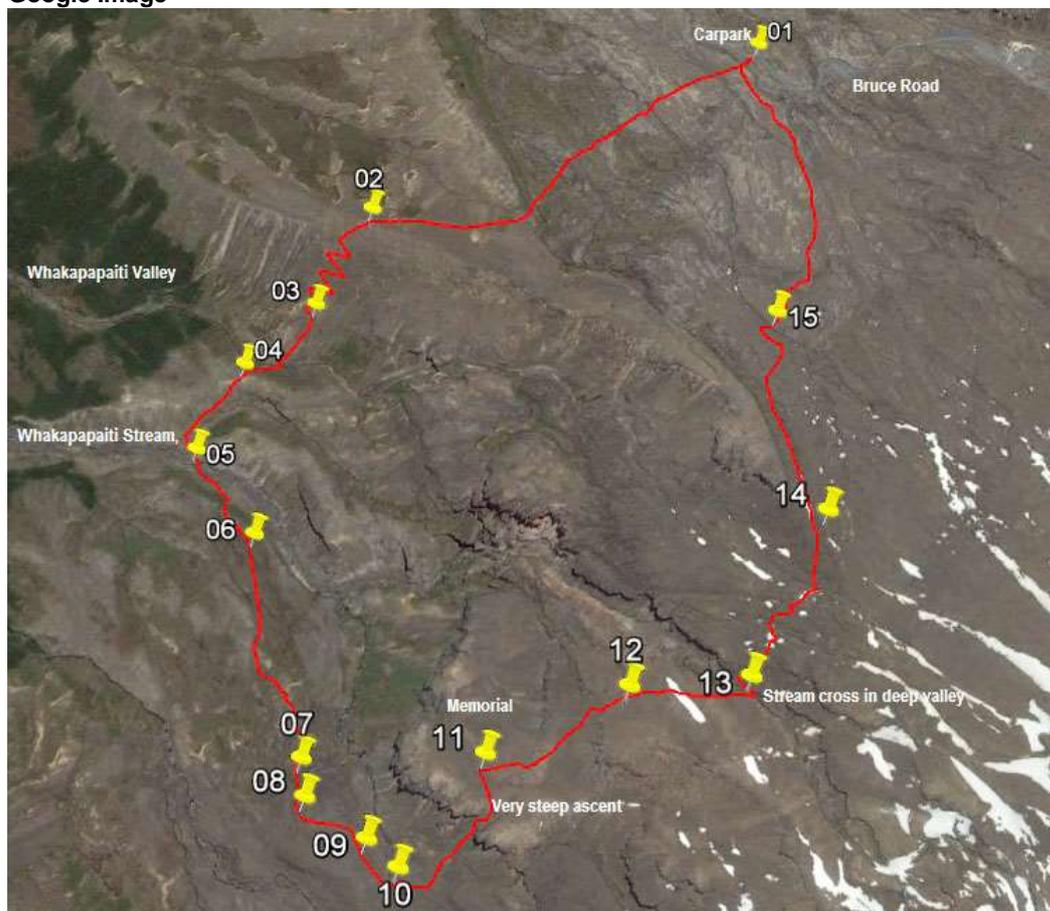


A bit more ascending arrives below and just north of the mapped high-point 1640m (09¹⁵⁰⁶masl) and fairly close to the bluff edge. This section is more or less a shelf between the hill and the bluffs and the fearful might get a bit nervous walking here but the footing is good and the shelf is much wider than is required. Walking round here the next feature is to cross a small stream (10¹⁵¹⁹masl) before starting to head downhill to the NE passing one or two clearly visible cairns.

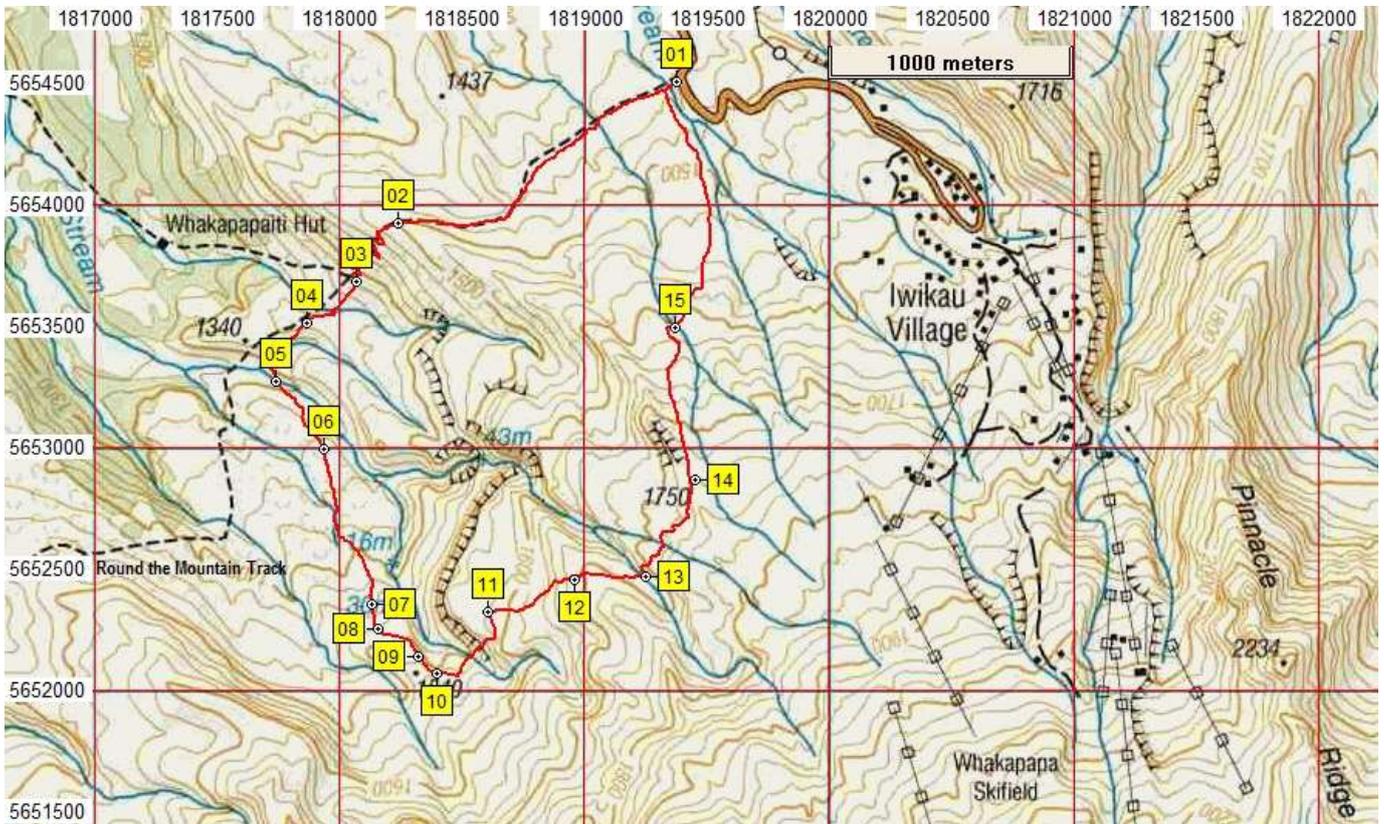


The tramp shows as the red loop on BJ34

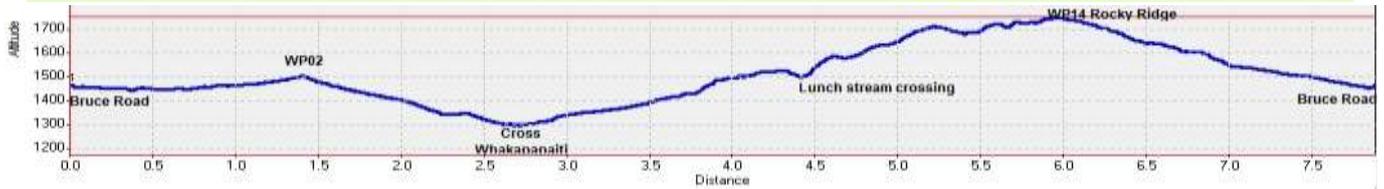
Google Image



At the bottom of this steepish descent there is yet another stream crossing then a daunting looking ascent up through really rugged terrain starts – this is the slope normally descended after visiting the Memorial whilst doing the clockwise circuit. The slope is steep, there is a lot of loose material but the ascent is done and dusted in 10 minutes or so. Once up, swing round to the left NNW to find a huge boulder bearing the Stanton Memorial (11¹⁵⁸²masl) plaque.



Name	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
01	1819376	5654507	1463	Park at Scoria Flats then walk SW on the Round-the-Mountain Track (RMT)
02	1818239	5653924	1499	35min (1.4km); crest Crest above the zig zags after tricky walk on in bouldery track
03	1818067	5653682	1384	53min (2.08km); T-junction in track with right for Whakapapa Hut and straight for the RMT
04	1817865	5653516	1347	60min (2.4km); Minor crest after grunted up fairly rough track
05	1817738	5653271	1295	1:26min (2.7k); steep bank to valley, cross Whakapapa tributary then head SE though wet tussock
06	1817935	5652994	1346	1:38min (3.08km); Head SSE on 156deg magnetic towards high point 1640m
07	1818132	5652353	1436	1:58min (3.8km); Off tussock and moss to start up rock ladder almost due S
08	1818158	5652250	1485	2:07min (3.9km); Top of fair ascent in very rocky area with magic views of mountain
09	1818319	5652141	1506	2:12min (4.13km); Below & N of high point 1640 and above semi-circular bluff
10	1818401	5652068	1519	2:19min (4.25km); Stream line on level shelf above bluff to soon pass first of a few cairns
11	1818609	5652324	1582	2:42min (4.69km); Stanton Memorial on huge boulder after huge ascent on basic track
12	1818961	5652455	1691	2:59min (5.12km); on cairned NE slope with memorial, view Taranaki & Whakapapa Hut behind
13	1819251	5652470	1680	3:07min (5.41km); Stream crossing in deep valley with a few cairns then rough scramble to the NE
14	1819454	5652870	1748	4:00min (6km); Highest, rocky ridge with Taranaki view. Then NNW following ridge down
15	1819370	5653495	1606	4:22min (6.7km); Cross stream line then head towards Bruce Road to the NNE



Get up that slope



Stanton Memorial Rock



The memorial boulder sits on a huge shelf and the way home is due east off the shelf to start a long rocky ascent to the ENE from where (121691masl) good views behind can be had with Taranaki and the Whakapapa Hut often being visible. As the crest of the ridge is reached the route swings almost due east then descends on a side into a deep rocky valley with a stream crossing (131680masl). It looks as if there is no easy way out of this but a few cairns lead on to a slope to the NE that comes in quite easily if tackled in a slow steady manner – then it is downhill into another rocky valley and up again. The target is the tail end of a dinosauric looking outcrop on the top of a ridge (141748masl) – Taranaki can again be seen on clear days from here. There is no definite, “correct” route from here back to the car park on Bruce Road and, on the day, the chosen one was down the ridges and

valleys to the NNW to then turn to the NNE on crossing a stream line (151606masl). Most of this descent allows views of the road and eventually the track marking poles of the RMT can be seen then used to hit the carpark by following them to the right (NE).

Slightly daunting ascent

From tussock to rock



Studying the plaque

Heading for Bruce Road



STANTON MEMORIAL - for those who don't know the history of this rock:

In 1931 fourteen Auckland University students set out from the Chateau to climb Ruapehu. The weather was fine. Blizzard conditions struck while the party was at the summit and visibility was nil. While descending the Whakapapa glacier, the students drifted across to the left and became hopelessly lost. The party split into several groups and spent between one and three nights on the mountain, still in blizzard conditions.

All survived apart from Warwick Stanton, aged 18, who set off on the third day in an effort to get help. His body was found after three weeks, in the forest on a tributary of the Makatote.

The large rock, with the plaque, which we know as the Stanton memorial, was where the party spent the first night. The grid reference for the Stanton memorial on the 260/S20 (Ohakune) map is 28.6 / 14.0 (Full NZTM grid of the memorial is shown as waypoint 11).

Memorial plaque



<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GPS Garmin GPSmap 60CSx • WP = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit • masl = metres above sea level 	<p>Distance and Altitude Data</p> <p>From : 06-May-15 09:07:53 To : 06-May-15 13:58:56</p> <p>Time taken : 4:51:02 Total Distance : 7.891 Km^{Flat map} GPS Distance 9.14km Minimum Speed : 0.010 KPH Maximum Speed : 4.883 KPH Average Speed : 1.627 KPH</p> <p>Total ascent: 652metres Minimum Altitude : 1295 Meters Maximum Altitude : 1750 Meters</p>
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