

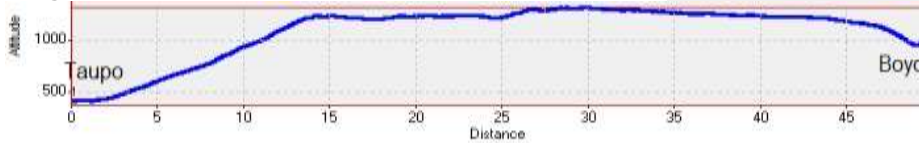
BOYD LODGE or HUT

Topo50 Map: BH36 Motutere , BH37 Rangitaiki

How to get to START:

Very simple, arrange a flight with Air Charter from Taupo airport (WP01412masl) to the airstrip (WP02964masl) at Boyd Lodge or Hut. From boarding to disembarking the trip takes just over 30minutes, offers views of the forest and landscape that might never otherwise be seen. However, this flight relies on eyeball navigation so, to prevent delays, arrange good weather. The aircraft used can carry 4 trampers plus their overnight gear at one time.

Flight profile



From : 30-Nov-12 10:16:36
To : 30-Nov-12 10:50:31
Time taken : 0:33:54
Total Distance : 49.580 Km
Minimum Speed : 0.055 KPH
Maximum Speed : 226.997 KPH
Average Speed : 87.710 KPH
Minimum Altitude : 409 Meters
Maximum Altitude : 1324 Meters

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS84
Access



Rough description: This is a three day outing with Day 1 accessing Boyd then having a local walk up the Boyd Rocks in the afternoon to get a view of where the route is going next day. Day 2 involves getting from Boyd to the Oamaru Hut on pretty good tracks in wonderful forest but is fairly hard work over 6 hours or so. Day 3 is the long one on paper with around 20km distance and close to a 900m of ascent to exit on Clements Mill Road from the Te Iringa track via the Tikitiki Stream.

Day 1: Boyd Rocks

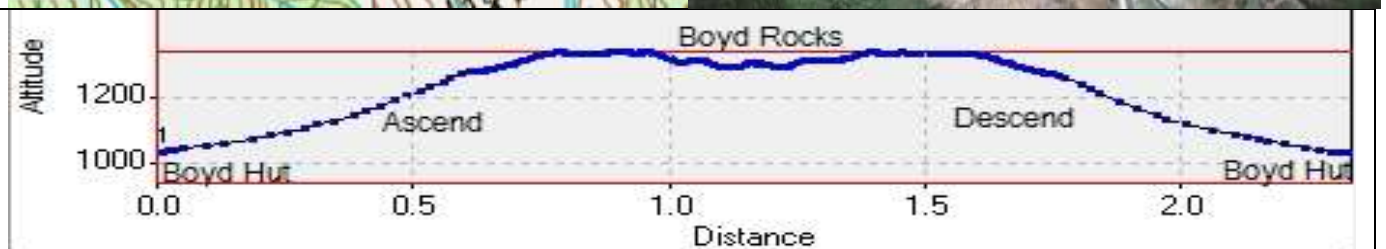
On arrival at the Boyd airstrip (WP02964masl) and after any wobbly legs are brought under control it is a 10min stroll upslope to the hut (WP03986masl) which has a central kitchen area with a wood-burner, sink and internal water supply. There are two separate bunk rooms at either end, each sleeps eight. The hut is very popular with hunters so be prepared in case it is busy.

From the hut it is out the door and uphill from the hut steps passing the water tank on a pretty basic, rather steep track which does have a few markers and is easy to follow. Once out of the bush the slope eases a bit and the first small rocky crest can be seen (WP051340masl) a few metres off to the NNE. From here it is a bit of a scramble – not quite a technical climb – to loop round to have a view (WP061305masl) over the River Ngaruroro below and the route for Day 2. The whole outing takes less than 2 hours ascending 450m.

Boyd wood/coal burner



Map and Google image with GPS Data



Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
03	1873876	5661296	986	Boyd Hut / Lodge
04	1873241	5661621	1339	Bushline above hut on Boyd rocks
05	1873296	5661732	1340	First crest on Boyd Rocks
06	1873469	5661629	1305	Furthest extremity of Boyd Rocks ridge

Are those my legs below me?

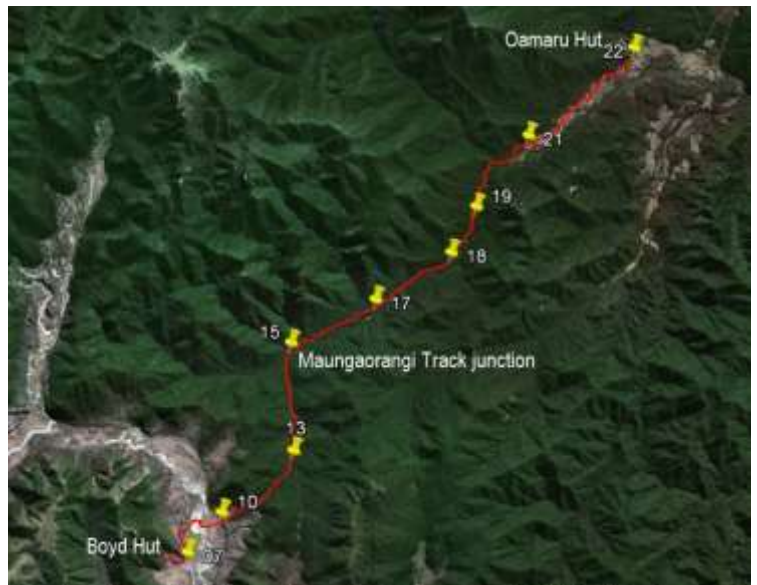
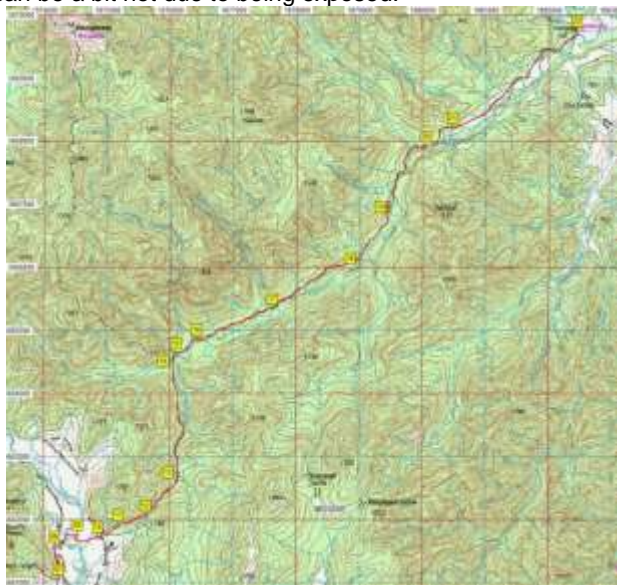


Magnificent views over the Ngaruroro valley



Day 2: Boyd hut to Oamaru Hut

This is quoted as a 4 – 6 hour walk and covers just over 15km which is actually overall downhill with 742m of descent but there are some 400m of ascent. It starts with the crossing of the Ngaruroro River valley followed by a short section of uphill on to and over the old terrace then the bulk of the walk is on good track in very pleasant beech forest. The final couple of kilometres are less pleasant being on the Oamaru River flats which are covered in tussock, can be wet and mucky in places and on sunny days can be a bit hot due to being exposed.



Name	Easting	Northing	Alt..	Description
07	1874229	5661041	977	7min (430m); turn to N (Left) at signpost for Oamaru and into gully with steps
08	1874170	5661568	974	18min (982m); on tussock track to T-junction, go right down stepped gully
09	1874528	5661757	948	30min (1.47km); wide, gravelly, ponded, mossy and tussocky valley. Old high, flat terraces visible
10	1874857	5661721	951	45min (1.92km); up zig-zags on to old terrace
11	1875182	5661914	1013	55min (2.37km); crest of long tussock / low bush slope just short of forest - old wood track sign
12	1875616	5662057	1031	1:15min (2.85km); wood track notice at bend, down narrow valley and into forest on rolling to hilly
13	1876133	5662744	891	1:35min (3.77km); log bridge on stream crossing followed by second stream then steeply upslope
14	1876054	5664519	770	2:37min (5.70km); stream confluence with small hunters' campsite
15	1876098	5664637	773	2:45min (5.86km); track junction with Maungaorangi off left and Oamaru right
16	1876422	5664854	759	2:57min (6.29km); slightly larger stream crossing - one of many crossings
17	1877631	5665353	726	3:35min (7.66km); side stream crossing then upslope to severely steep bluff edge to Oamaru River
18	1879006	5666144	698	4:09min (9.39km); large campsite after mainly level area with undulations
19	1879483	5666954	683	4:28min (10.48km); lunch spot on river bank then steeply up and over to boggy area then ascend again
20	1880040	5667917	663	5:30min (11.98km); wet feet from largest river crossing of the day
21	1880468	5668202	660	5:48min (12.64km); exit forest cover to river flats - grassy with veg clumps and hot on sunny days
22	1882439	5669738	628	6:32min (15.4km); Y-forked junction with sign for hut, 2 mins away



From the hut (**WP02964masl**) it is downhill back to the airstrip to turn left whilst in the tussock at the DoC signpost (**WP07977masl**) to immediately cross a small gully with steps. The track can be dodgy due to the tussock plus there are a few up and overs round boggy bits. Within 20min a T-junction (**WP08974masl**) is reached with a sign post indicating that there are two ways to the Cascade Hut and that for Oamaru it is downslope in the stepped gully to get on to the river flats (**WP09948masl**). The valley is very gravelly, does have ponded and mossy sections but in dry periods the river is so shallow wet feet are avoided. It is worth looking around whilst down here as the Boyd Rocks are clearly visible as are the remnants of the old valley fill terraces – level areas on both sides of the valley plus a few up-standing “mesa-like” hills; geomorphologists can let the imagination run riot here.

The valley crossing takes about 10min then it is up a short zig-zag (**WP10951nasl**) back on to the terrace then up tussock slopes to a crest (**WP111013masl**) just short of the forest cover – a small old wooden track notice is then passed.

Giant trees in the river bed



One hour after this those that had managed to keep the feet dry get a chance to remedy the situation as the largest river crossing of the day of the Ruatea (Paimai) Stream is tackled (**WP20663masl**). Fifteen minutes after this the forest is exited (**WP21660masl**) to continue on the tussock grass river flats with occasional large bushes and the odd boggy area. Most will have weary legs by this time and the river flats seem to go on for ever but eventually a small forked track junction (**WP22628masl**) is reached with a sign for the hut which is less than two minutes away. The Oamaru hut is also a favourite with hunters and there is less accommodation than at Boyd so now is not the time to discover that one forgot to pack a sleeping mat as there are only 12 bunks. However the hut was upgraded in Feb 2012 and the kitchen area is larger than before and the bunk rooms made more spacious. There is a good covered deck area for gear so less has to be dragged inside. There is a wood / coal burner, inside sink and water supply but table / bench space is severely limited. Morepork was heard overnight and actually seen the next day.

Day 3 Oamaru Hut to Clements Mill Road via Tikitiki Stream:

Regarded as the hard day as almost 20km are covered, 873m are ascended and the quoted time of 6 – 8 hours is accurate. Definitely a day of two halves with the first 9km being almost level whilst all the climbing happens after the Tikitiki Stream crossing (**WP28707masl**).

From the hut it is downhill back on to the flats and bushes but within 5min it is into superb beech forest on a good track with quite a few stream crossings. Thirty minutes gets to a boggy section which has large wooden stepping stones (**WP23646masl**) but 40min later progress was halted by a huge uncooperative windfall which was difficult to get round – hopefully sorted out by DoC chainsaws. Easy progress continues with a few more streams then there is a Hunters' campsite (**WP26700masl**) just before the swing bridge (**WP27702masl**) over the Kaipo River. Another 45 minutes reaches the rope-assisted crossing of the Tikitiki Stream (**WP28707masl**) and a superb small campsite suitable for morning tea or lunch.

Enjoy the break here as the hard work now commences with a very steep zig-zag for openers on the 700 – 800 metres of ascent ahead on the Te Iringa track.

Ngaruroro River valley with terraces



Yet another old track notice is found (**WP121031masl**) at a bend in the track which then goes down a small valley and back into mature beech forest rolling to hilly slopes. There are not too many features to note apart from at 90min there is a stream line with a log-bridge (**WP13891masl**) over it and in 2:40min there is a small hunters' campsite at a stream confluence (**WP14770masl**). Definite progress has been made when the track junction to Maungaorangi, which is on private land, is reached five minutes later (**WP15773masl**) where for Oamaru the route is to the right.

For the next couple of hours there are numerous stream crossings with one at 3:36min (**WP17726masl**) where after crossing it is steeply uphill to avoid a severely eroded bluff on the edge of the Oamaru river. At just over 4 hours in a relatively level area there is quite a large campsite (**WP18698masl**) and fifteen minutes later the river edge is approached (**WP19683masl**) which is a good spot for lunch. There is a lot of evidence of just how wild this river gets at times with some very large trees blocking things up. However there is a bit of a grunt immediately after this.

Oamaru River Flats



Oamaru Hut





Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
23	1881828	5670989	646	Day 2. 34min (1.83km); boggy area in forest with large flat wooden stepping stones
24	1881135	5672602	669	1:19min (3.82km); huge, uncooperative windfall- 15min to pass
25	1880726	5673609	670	1:43min (5.16km); very rocky wild streamline - would be bad on wet day
26	1879501	5674896	700	2:35min (7.14km); large, neat hunters' campsite
27	1879499	5674957	702	2:47min (7.24km); Kaipo River swing bridge
28	1878744	5675997	707	3:16min (8.69km); rope assisted crossing Tikitiki Stream to hunters' campsite then steep zig-zags up
29	1878596	5678786	1091	5:24min (12.48km); good contour track, easy going but a few too many side streams to cross
30	1878385	5679333	1095	5:41min (13.27km); end of the main ascent from the Kaipo River
31	1878402	5679752	1116	6:00min (13.84km), middle of windfall area with many side streams to cross, some tricky
32	1878568	5679954	1151	6:08min (14.16km); high point with limited views on narrow ridge
33	1878750	5680280	1091	6:20min (14.6km); Te Ininga clearing
34	1879107	5683089	771	7:33min (18.3km); Te Ininga car park on Clements Mill Road



There is only one good way to attack this lot and that is slow and steady, it really is not that bad and apart from the very steep zig-zags at the start slopes are not too severe – but the stream crossings do seem endless. Within 5:40min or so the main ascent is virtually over and slopes start to ease a bit (**WP30**^{1095masl}) and on wild days some shelter is offered as the track moves to the eastern side of the ridge. Thirty minutes after this the high point of the ascent is reached (**WP32**^{1151masl}) from where there is cell phone coverage. After that the track starts to descend to then pass through the Te Ininga clearing (**WP33**^{1091masl}) where a hut used to stand and continues to drop till the car park on Clements Mill Road is reached (**WP34**^{771masl}) after rather a long, pleasant walk

Notes: GPSTMap62CSx / **masl** Metres above sea level