

KAWAKAWA BAY

Topo50 Maps: BG35-Tihoi & BG36-Taupo

GPS: NZTM on WGS84

How to get to START: Exit Taupo Northwards on SH1 over the control gates bridge then left near the top of the hill to Poihipi Road

- left to Whangamata Road signposted to Kinloch
- left to Kinloch Road signposted to Kinloch
- follow signs to the lakefront
- park (**WP01**) in the carpark or on the domain opposite the shops near the public toilets close to the marina.

Rough description: A tramp that can be tackled in almost any weather conditions and that takes about three hours each way. The track, which is shared with cyclists, is fairly good though it can be slippery in wet weather and there are a few slopes which take a bit of an effort and require care. Good views over Lake Taupo can be had (**WP06**) and there is a DoC toilet on the shore edge when Kawakawa Bay is reached and another near the bike shelter (**WP12**). Other ways to get to this bay is by boat or on the bike track from Whangamata Road.

Detail: From the car park (**WP01**^{367masl}) walk north west along the wide track which lies under some bluffs – there is a grassy area and houses above the bluffs. Within less than 10 minutes cross a low bridge (**WP02**^{365masl}) over the Whangamata Stream and keep following the shore edge till the track goes uphill (**WP03**^{363masl}) on a dirt track.

Over the years the track has been improved to become part of the bike track being built and expanded to encircle much of Lake Taupo and is widely used for biking and running so remain vigilant. There are a few steepish bits with the odd sharp corner but nothing gut-busting. After half an hour there is a junction **WP04**^{386masl} (New in Oct 2019) to the O2K track – Otaketake. Soon after this there is a long steady ascent and **WP05**^{478m} marks the spot where there used to be a track sign and this point is basically halfway, there is a new 5km marker post on the track but this is not located at the half way point. The track now loops round above the bluffs in broad-leaf woodland then falls to cross a stream line on a newish bridge before heading uphill again. The slopes are all quite easy for the next while then there is a sharp bend in the track (**WP06**^{504masl}) from where good views over Lake Taupo can be had whilst having morning tea.

View from the lookout (**WP06**)



There is now a fairly easy walk downhill with grading done to suit cyclists and at about 2hours watch out for a small defile/ravine off to the right (**WPs07-08**) which makes a pleasant, exciting interlude.

Once on the level a small T-junction(**WP09**^{359masl}) is marked with a pile of stones – going left for 2 - 3 minutes leads to the base of the bluffs where some serious rock-climbing (**WPRC**) is possible. Back on the main track it then takes only a couple of minutes to reach the lake edge where again good views can be obtained – there is an old DoC toilet here (**WP10**^{362masl}). In summer time this is a busy spot with a fair number of boats and kayaks moored and picnics or lunches being consumed. Much of the last section of the track can be badly dug up by rooting wild pigs.

Turn-off for Climbing Bluffs



From here the bold can go get their feet, and possibly other parts of the body, wet by working SW along the shore line for 500metres or so to reach the cave (**WP11**^{360masl}). This is not an easy walk as when the water is high as the rocks are slippery and footwork is tricky.

After exploring the cave get back to the old DoC toilet and head back up the track then take the left turning at a junction onto the bike track that goes out to Whangamata Road for a short distance to reach the large bike shelter (**WP12**^{361masl}) which makes a good lunch spot.

After lunch all you have to do is get back up and over the hill to Kinloch a mere 9km requiring about 2hours 30minutes.

Walk in water to the headland



Looking out of cave



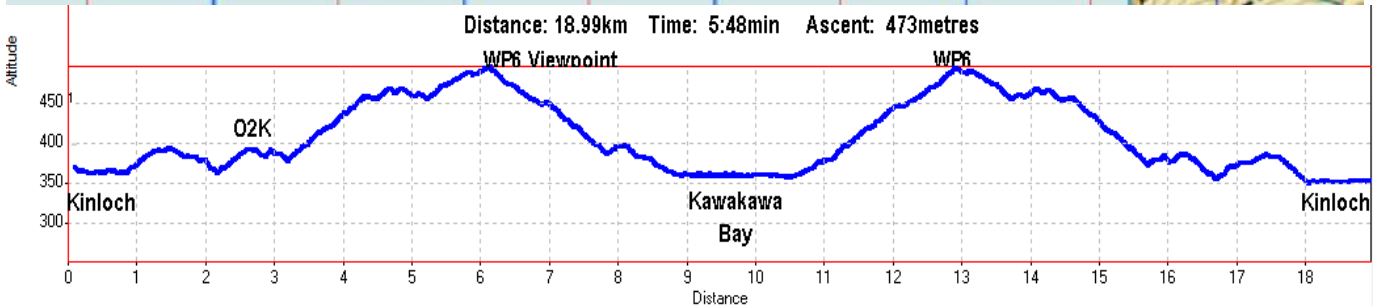
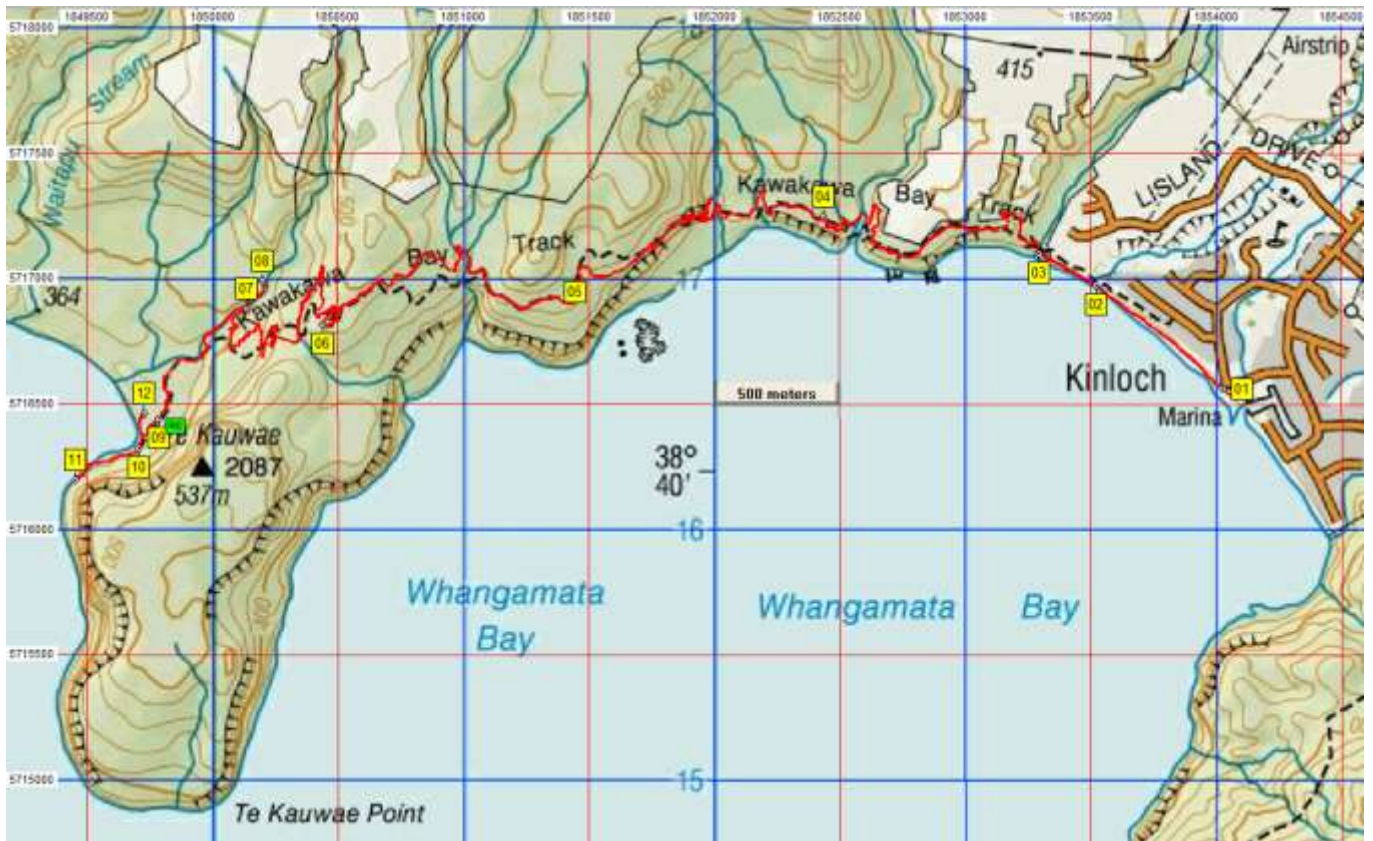
BLUE line is road access RED line is tramp

The Defile



Cave entrance





Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
01	1854026	5716558	367	Carpark with toilet opposite shops in Kinloch, walk NW along shore path
02	1853521	5716975	365	7min (624m); small bridge & Y-fork with path entering from upslope on right. Go straight
03	1853295	5717105	363	10min (891m); away from beach heading uphill on Kawakawa Bay track
04	1852436	5717246	386	35min (2.53km); start of new O2K track (Otaketake)
05	1851445	5716952	478	1:04min (4.52km); site of old marker posts claiming 3.1k covered and 2.7k to go
06	1850440	5716818	504	1:27min (6.08km); viewpoint rocks after undulating, winding track passing several vegetated gullies
07	1850139	5716882	388	2:09min (7.86km); small gully / ravine, accessible to NNE with pumice walls
08	1850199	5716988	397	2:14min (8.06km); up gully / defile
09	1849791	5716446	359	2:27min (8.91km); small T-junction with path off left to rock climbing area on bluffs
10	1849707	5716325	362	2:32min (9.08km); old DoC toilet on lake edge near picnic area. Sign of pig rooting has been seen
11	1849453	5716197	360	2:58min (9.49km); cave entrance after feet-wetting, slippery walk along shore line
12	1849725	5716463	361	3:22min (10.11km); large bike shelter for lunch on Whangamata Track
RC	1849853	5716413	372	2min from WP9 junction; base of the bluffs used for rock climbing



Notes: • GPS Garmin GPSMap62s / 62sc WP = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit masl = metres above sea level Updated Oct 2019