

## NGAPUKETURUA

Topo50 Map: BH36 Motutere

GPS: NZTM on WGS84

### How to get to START:

- Exit Taupo southwards on SH1
- 30 – 35 minutes enter Tauranga Taupo on SH1
- 38km (35min) from Taupo Police Station go left to Kiko Road
- 39km (37min) leave sealed road on to gravel
- 52km (50–52 min) bear right still on Kiko Road
- 54km (55min) left on to loop with Kaimanawa sign
- 55km (57–60min) car park on LHS of loop with paths exiting
- About one hour driving on pretty rough gravel road for 20km

*All times and distances from Taupo Police Station on Tongariro Domain*

The alignment of Kiko Road can be seen opposite as the blue line running south-eastwards from near Te Rangitira on SH1. The location of the tramp is the red line crossing the junction of sheets T19 into U19.

**Rough Description:** A moderate tramp through mature beech forest in rolling to hilly terrain with a reasonable ascent starting from 844m, dipping through 740m then grunting all the way up to 1347m – giving an overall gain of 600m. Between 5 – 7 hours required for this out and back walk which can be shortened by turning at any time. No views as such but a walk that can be undertaken during inclement weather. In Sept 2016 there were one or two minor diversions caused by large windfalls from recent storms.

However it must be noted that permission is required from Air Charters, Taupo to go all the way to the slopes of Ngapuketurua and this restriction must be observed, there is also a DOC warning notice board at the start of the track.

**Detail:** On leaving the car park (**WP01** 844masl) on the clearly marked trail immediately go right following the sign for Ngapuketurua – note that the track going left is a loop from which a branch goes off for the Tauranga Taupo waterfall.

There is an immediate section of uphill on a wide track passing through beech re-growth which soon turns to mature forest and there is good birdlife evidenced by the bird calls. In 11 to 15 minutes there is a Y-junction (**WP02** 821masl) where the loop track joins in from the left and for Ngapuketurua the track goes right and soon crosses a dry gully. There is little to see apart from the forest and in 30-40 minutes there are two very large native trees (**WP03** 879masl) on the right as the top of the slope is approached.

To date no steep slopes to tackle and very easy walking on very good track and a small clearing (**WP04** 910masl) is reached in about an hour where morning tea or coffee can be taken whilst one listens to the small stream which lies a few metres to the south – seen but not heard.

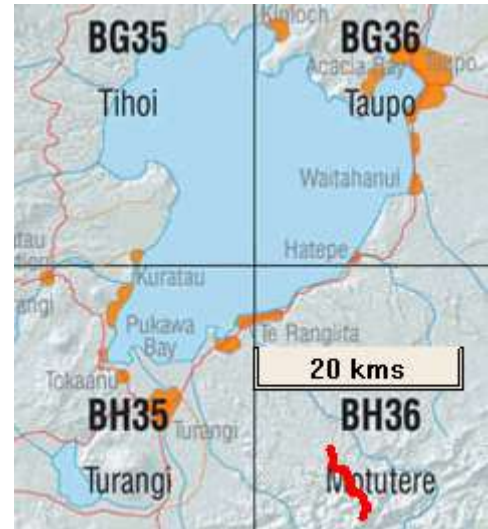
### Good path in mature forest



An area of windfalls (**WP05** 959masl), which has been cleared making easy passage, is passed through after about 1:15 minutes then there is a gently undulating upper slope or crest before a descent (**WP06** 974masl) ten minutes later. Study of the map again shows that the actual track does not follow the mapped track and crosses the old alignment several times. A small bivouac (**NGA07** 962masl) is found on a shelf after 1:50min total time. It should be noted that the fit and competent can use this point if desired to leave the track and start some bush-bashing down-slope eastwards to meet the NE flowing stream with the intention of following this stream all the way to the Tauranga Taupo waterfall on the Tauranga Taupo river. Minutes beyond this point the hard work of the day commences and there is a 10 minute grunt up quite a steep slope but there are a few metres of respite at the near level top (**WP08** 1040masl) before a short descent.

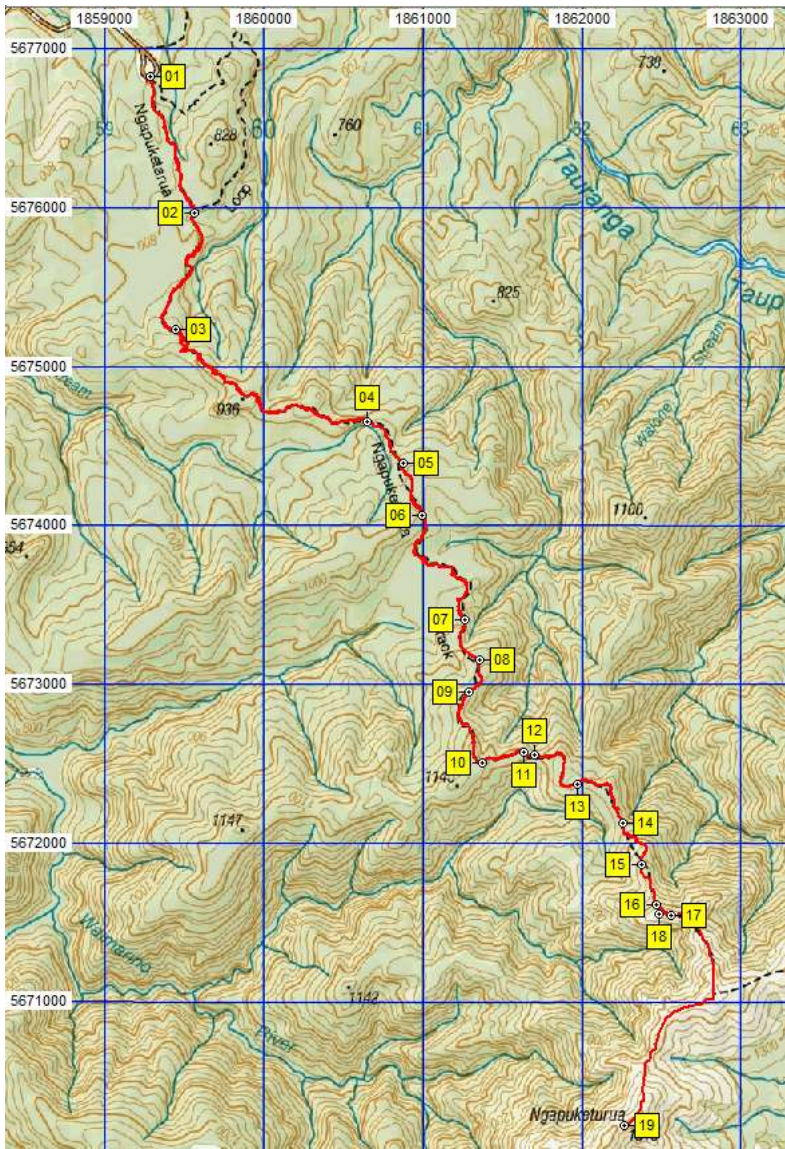
There is another bit of a grunt to reach a high point (**WP09** 1063masl) then along a ridge before dropping down a few metres through a dip to face yet another grunty section before having some near level walking. Downhill now commences (**WP10** 1125masl) at about 2:20 minutes and gaps in the trees allow glimpses of the hills to the east. Five minutes into this descent, it becomes a bit steep and care is needed (**WP11** 1108masl). Soon the bush starts to open up a bit and more sky, if not views, can be seen. A second bivouac is located on the right hand side of the track (**WP12** 1103masl) as the slope is ascended. The forest or bush is thinner here and a fairly good view of Ngapuketurua and the neighbouring hills is obtained after about 2:30min total outing (**WP13** 1134masl). Very soon after this the track becomes more exposed as the bush line is neared and, during inclement weather, the tramp can be curtailed whilst still in the shelter of the trees and lunch taken (**WP14** 1147masl).

At around 3 hours the path is rough and rocky and the bush is open enough (**WP15** 1253masl) to allow good views of Ngapuketurua and a white notice board (Private Land) can be clearly seen on the slope ahead – however the print at the bottom of the sign is quite small and it does say that a permit is required to tramp through the area.



### Restricted access notice





### The notice

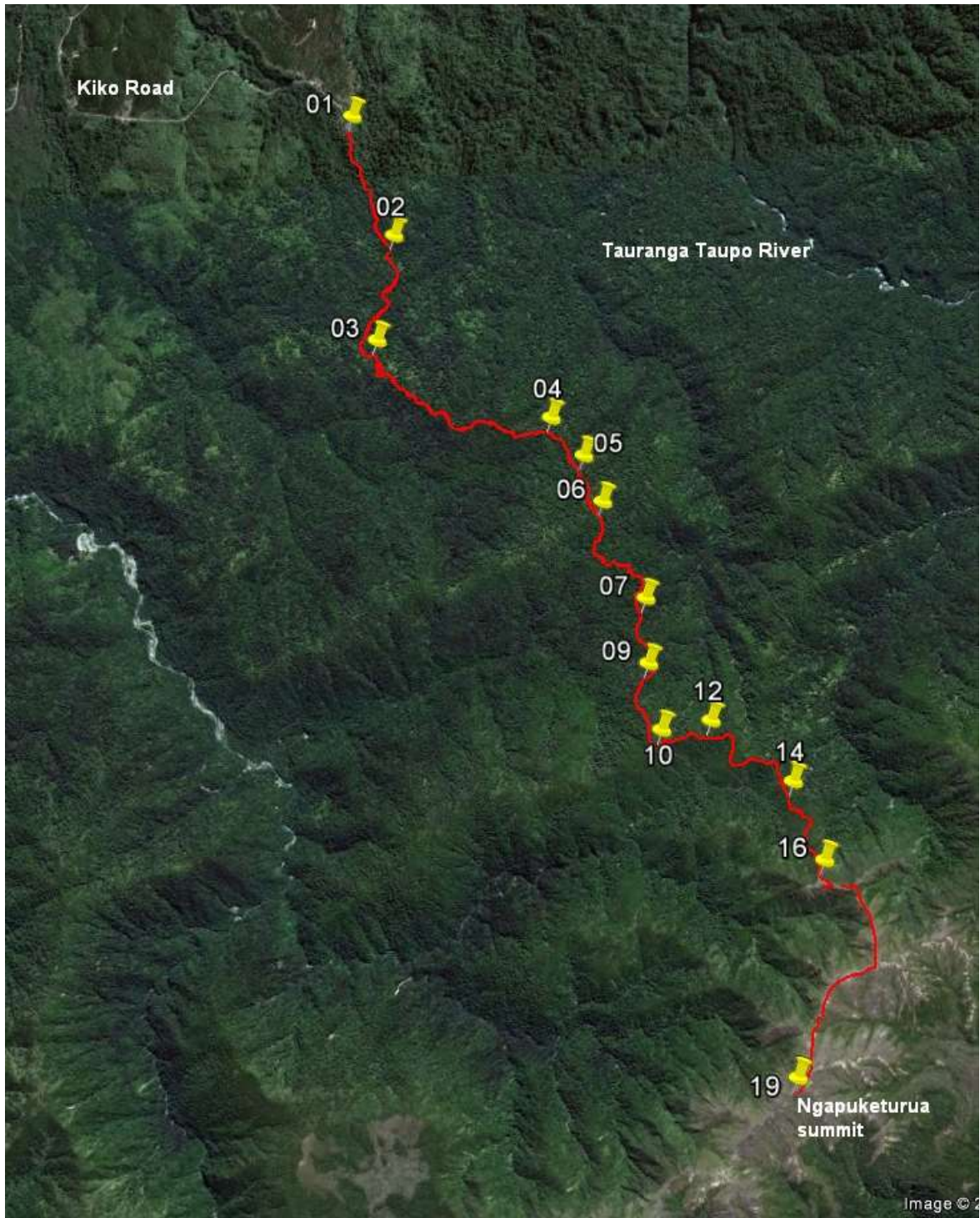


### Ngapuketuria Ridge towards the summit



N...	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
01	1859207	5676162	844	Park at end of Kiko Road. Go right, uphill at Y-fork at track start
02	1859486	5675313	777	16min (1.1km); undulating, wide track in beech forest go right, left is for loop track back to start
03	1859370	5674578	879	35min (2.2km); more mature forest with 2 huge trees on RHS near top of slope
04	1860567	5673999	913	1:04min (4.1km); open clearing for coffee break just north of stream which is heard not seen
05	1860794	5673728	959	1:15min (4.5km); windfall area but track clear then gently undulating top
06	1860915	5673409	974	1:25min (4.9km); commencing downhill section with glimpses of hill views through the trees
07	1861185	5672742	962	1:50min (6.2km); small bivouac area on LHS. Can bush-bash to Tauranga Taupo waterfall from here
08	1861275	5672490	1040	2:00min (6.6km); at the top of a 10minute grunt to plus / minus level top then descend
09	1861211	5672297	1063	2:10min (6.8km); another grunt up to level high point then along ridge and through dip
10	1861297	5671846	1125	2:23min (7.4km); edge of level top then down with views of "snow covered" hills to East
11	1861556	5671912	1108	2:28min (7.7km); steeply downslope to more open area bush / forest
12	1861627	5671897	1103	2:32min (7.8km); second bivouac site; on RHS (S) of track
13	1861893	5671710	1134	2:45min (8.3km); more open with views of Ngapuketuria and other hills to S and E
14	1862178	5671471	1147	2:56min (8.9km); sheltered forest area as area ahead more open, exposed and wind blasted on bad days
15	1862293	5671204	1253	3:10min (9.2km); open area with view of Ngapuketuria and notice board on steep, rocky path
16	1862389	5670953	1311	3:25min (9.7km); at Private Land notice board on steep, rocky slope
17	1862481	5670887	1342	3:35min (10km); cairn on ridge after fair grunt uphill
18	1862408	5670892	1343	3:40min (10.2km); high point on west end of the ridge with views of Lake Taupo etc
19	1862187	5669561	1510	Crest of Ngapuketuria





### Lunch on the ridge



Generally the walk in can take three to three and a half hours whilst the return trip can be accomplished in slightly less time. From the cairn (WP17 1342masl) the summit of Ngapuketurua involves at least another 30 minutes south then south-west as shown by the trace in on the map to ascend a further 170m over about 1.8kilometres.

- Notes:**
- **GPS** = Garmin GPSMap 60CSx
  - **WP** = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
  - **masl** = metres above sea level altitude