

PUKAHANUI to UPPER TE HOE HUT

Topo50 Maps: BH38 Te Haroto, BG38 Wairapukao, BG39 Ruatahuna

GPS: NZTM on WGS84

How to get to START:

- Exit Taupo on **SH5** for Napier
- Straight on through Rangitaiki
- 40 minutes turn left on to **Pohokurua Road**
- Cross bridge to **T-junction** and **left** on rough forest road
- About 1 hour pass through mature coniferous forest
- 1:05min go **right at T-junction** signed for SH5 on the way out
- 1:07min bear right at next T-junction passing Circuit Road
- Go right on **Pine Milling Road**
- 1:15min right on **Pine Milling Road at Y-fork**, Plateau Road goes left
- 1:20min pass crest of **Matakuhia Saddle** cross roads
- 1:35min park just before locked gate opposite sign for **Upper Te Hoe Hut** (4 hours), track going off steeply uphill on N side

All times and distances from Taupo Police Station on Tongariro Domain

The alignment of SH5 and the route into the Matakuhia Saddle can be seen opposite. However it should be noted that there is an alternative route into the start via High Level Road but permission is required to go this way. The routes are of equivalent length and require the same time – on the assumption that the forest road is not washed out!

Rough Description: A moderate to fit day tramp through very thick, mature native forest on back-country track – a bit of a challenge in places but with some fantastic giant trees to admire. There are rather neat huts for over-night stops and refreshment breaks. To get to the Upper Te Hoe Hut is classified as easy to moderate and requires 4 hours or less to cover the 11km, but of course there is a similar input required for the return.

Detail: From parking at the road side (**WP01** 808masl) walk a few metres back up the road and get on to the signed track heading NE up the hill. The track is immediately recognisable as a back-country one with tricky bits, over-grown patches and wash outs but still allows good progress. Within 10 – 12 minutes there is a sign (**WP02** 799masl) indicating direction – assumed this was erected when the track was possibly realigned. There is an indistinct Y-fork (**WP03** 845masl) ten minutes later where the route is left and, again, there is a track sign as the slope increases a bit on this well-defined track. Within an hour or so the forest is entered.

About 2 hours up the track after a moderately long ascent parallel to the valley a well-defined “helipad” (**WP04** 1163masl) is entered after a bit of a grunt over the last section of the hill-climb. There are good views from the helipad. It should be noted on study of the map that the existing track has a totally different alignment from the mapped track. Twenty minutes after this the track from the Upper Whirinaki Hut joins from the left (**WP05** 1166masl) and again this is a fair distance from the junction as mapped. There is now a long section of winding track with several valley heads on the right (SE) side before a pretty grunty set of zig-zags (**WP06** 861masl) are tackled but there is then respite with a fair descent. Around 4 hours there is a clear T-junction (**WP07** 768masl) with the Central Te Hoe Hut signposted off right some 7.2km and 5 hours distant. Carry straight on at this junction and it is minutes to the Upper Te Hoe Hut (**WP08** 767masl).

Upper Te Hoe Hut



This is a good hut with 9 bunks, a wood-burner plus ample supply of firewood, table, seats and cooking bench. There is outside sink with a roof-water supply.

Interior of Upper Te Hoe Hut



Access to start and tramp route



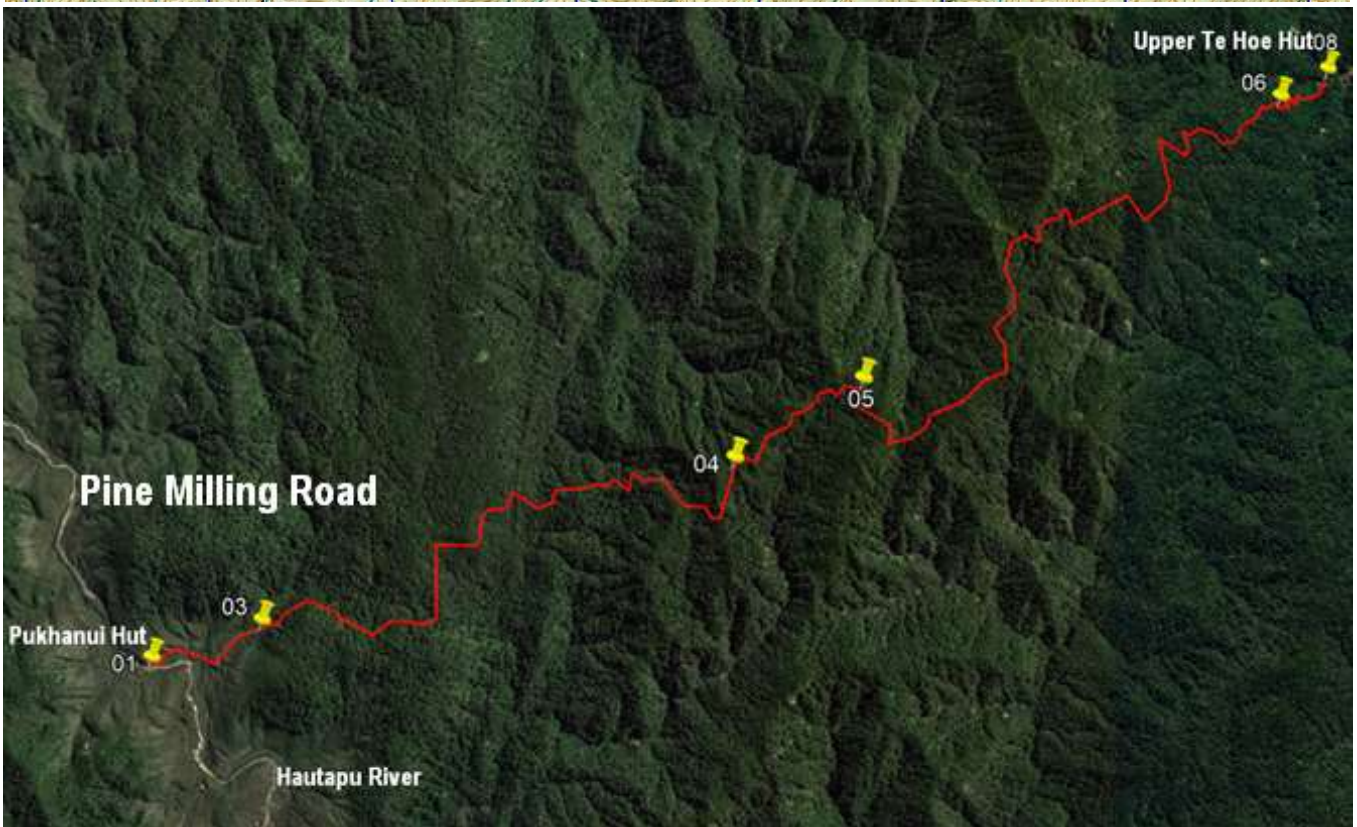
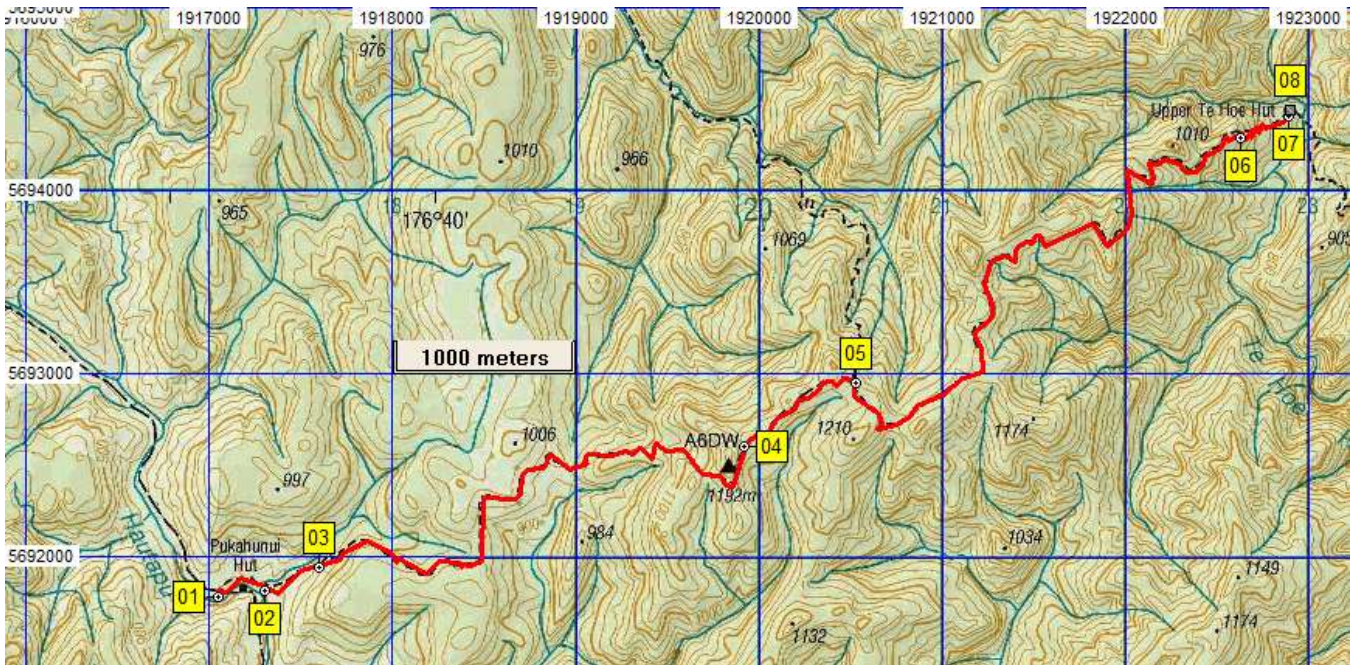
Road access **BLUE** – tramp line **RED**

Heavily overgrown

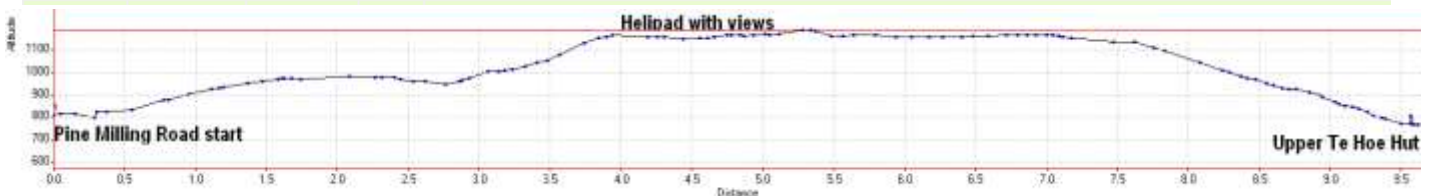


Helipad





Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
01	1917050	5691787	807	Park at edge of Pine Milling Road just before locked gate
02	1917303	5691816	799	12min (310metres); Track sign indicating new routing of track NE
03	1917599	5691944	845	21min (700metres); Faint Y-junction at "track" sign
04	1919916	5692607	1163	2:05min (4.2km); Helipad with views after long grunt upwards
05	1920528	5692950	1166	2:20min (5km); Junction with Upper Whirinaki Hut track from the left (NW)
06	1922626	5694286	861	3:45min (9.1km); Well up wicked zig-zags then fair descent
07	1922886	5694407	768	4 hours (9.6km); Junction with track for Central Te Hoe hut track off right, straight for upper hut
08	1922897	5694444	767	4:05min (9.7km); Upper Te Hoe Hut - GPS distance recorded as 11km



Notes: GPS – GPSmap60csx masl – metres above sea level