

MOUNT TAUHARA

Topo50 Map: BG36-Taupo

GPS: NZTM on WGS84

How to get to START: Leave Taupo on SH1 along the lake

- From the roundabout on the ETA Taupo follow SH5 to Napier
- Turn off left to "Mountain Road" – about 5min
Park at car park at end of Asphalt (T01)

Rough description: A moderately easy walk for children of about 2 hours up and 1:30 minutes down on fairly good footpath which has some tricky bits where gullies have formed – there are detours. Distance covered is just over 3km in each direction and the climb is 536 metres, with the same 536 metres to descend on the way down. Quite a lot of bird life (Tui) and many ferns. This walk is suitable for children but they must be supervised. The track is on private land and can be closed.

Detail: This is a good outing especially when children have to be looked after and they are willing to partake in an adventure. It only takes minutes to get to the start and there is enough to interest even the young as Tui can be heard but the roar of Tiger is usually disputed by the adult walkers.

From the car park (01 536masl) continue through the farm gate on to the gravel road and in a matter of yards look to the right where a stile over the fence into a cattle paddock will be seen – this can be really muddy and messy in wet weather. Looking at the hill a second stile will be seen over the far fence. From here probably the hardest part of the walk faces you – it is steeply uphill on a multi-branched track through the grassland. Within 8 minutes you pass a circular cattle trough (02 594masl) and the feed pipe for the water supply can now be followed up the hill. After about 20 minutes you will be walking parallel to a fence line (03 675masl) and the slope will be easier then there is a third stile (04 685masl) over the fence. In about 25 minutes pass two large plastic water tanks, one small plastic tank and two old concrete collection tanks. These are / were all part of the water supply for the cattle trough.

Child-attracting Stream



For the athletically minded the part just ascended from the first stile to the tanks makes a good hill-training circuit – the suggested routine is three repetitions. Behind the concrete tanks there is a stile over the fence giving access to the bush-land leaving the grassland behind. Walking may now be less strenuous but it is tricky in places especially for the young and less agile in that there are many roots, gullied sections and the detours round these mini-gullies have to be followed – a good game for junior walkers is finding the detours. There are two points, both reached in less than an hour, where views over Taupo are quite good at about 845masl. The second of these points has an old seat where a rest can be taken whilst admiring Taupo and parts of the lake. The slopes remain moderate with only minor rooty sections and for the imaginative there is a mini-cave on the side of the path reached in 50 minutes (06 901masl), a large rock has to be got round (07 954masl) then another view point just above a rocky section is found in about one hour.

Four or five minutes later a second large boulder (08 976masl) on the path has to be worked around and from here there are more views of Taupo. A stream can now be heard and on the day in question Tui were clearly heard. Minutes later the stream is a matter of feet from you on the left and is good place for small people to wash hands and puddle about. The next feature (09 993masl) is a high-sided gully or gulch and some care is needed in here as there can be loose gravel in the bottom and in wet weather it can be a bit slippery, it is very narrow and rotund people can get stuck plus it is too easy to skin the knuckles on the walls. However there is a very obvious detour on the left of the gully and this new detour is recommended. Above the gully the path is on an easier gradient and the forest is really pleasant – approaching "enchanted forest" status - then, in about 1:10 minutes there is a very small grassy area which could just about suffice as a camp site for a small tent.

Trig Point and Lake Taupo



Ten minutes later a small junction (10 1050masl) with a rough track heading steeply uphill to the right is found. Kids love this one but it is pretty tricky and many adults cannot get up here. There are rocks on the top and kids must not be allowed up on to the rocks on the right unsupervised – falls are too easy from this high point (11 1080masl). A badly overgrown track does then lead NE to the Trig point (12 1088masl) and should be reached in just under 90 minutes. Up here children have to be supervised as there are relatively steep slopes around the top area. There are good views of Lake Taupo and also of some of the active forestry work to the north of Tauhara.

The return track starts as a steep, bare, gravelly slope leading back in to the forest directly from the Trig point. The return is easily 30min quicker than the ascent but even more care has to be taken to ensure all the detours are found round gullied sections since there are some very high "steps" or drops involved on the original track.



Drive from Taupo takes about 20 minutes.

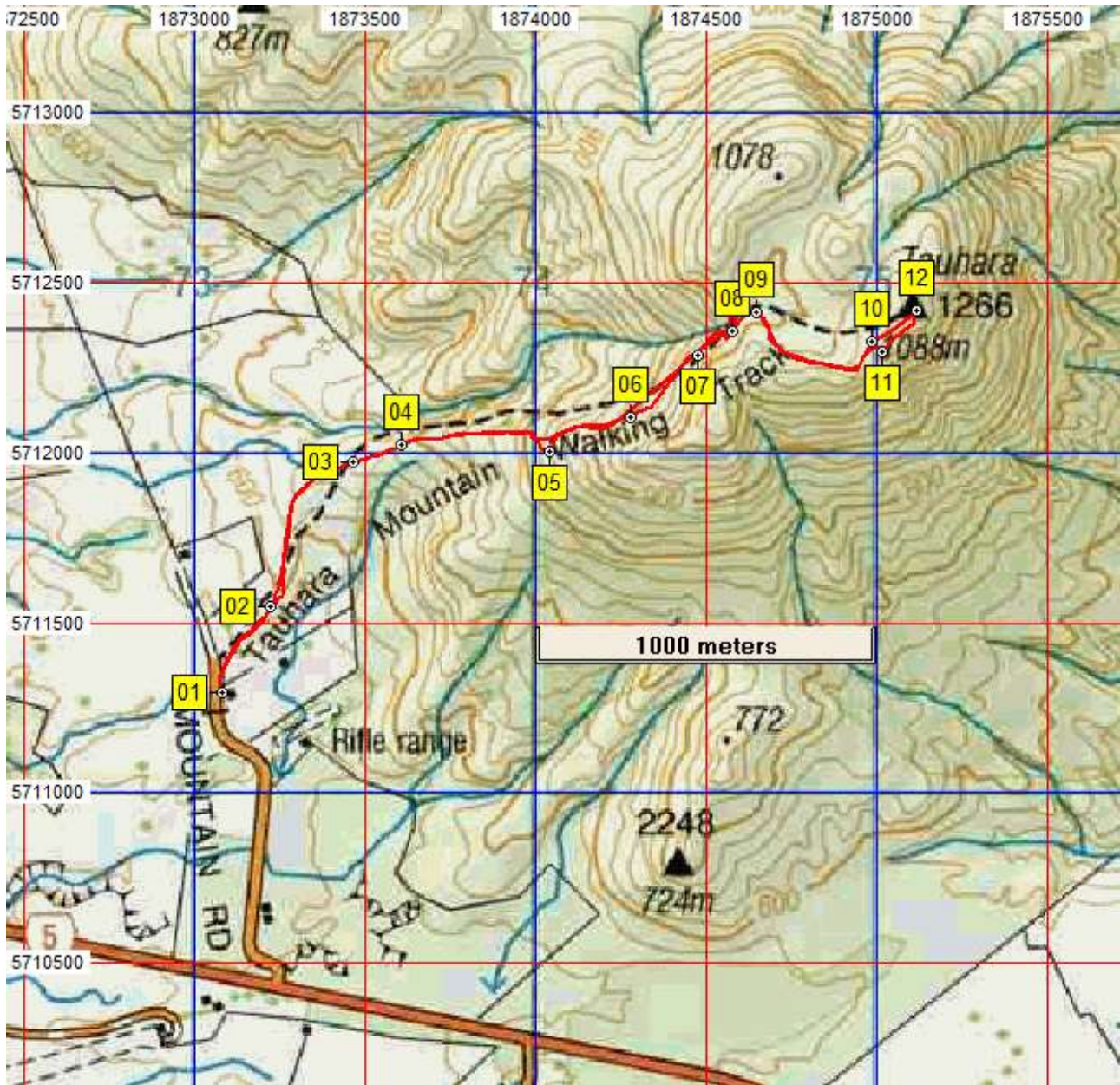
Tauhara from First Paddock



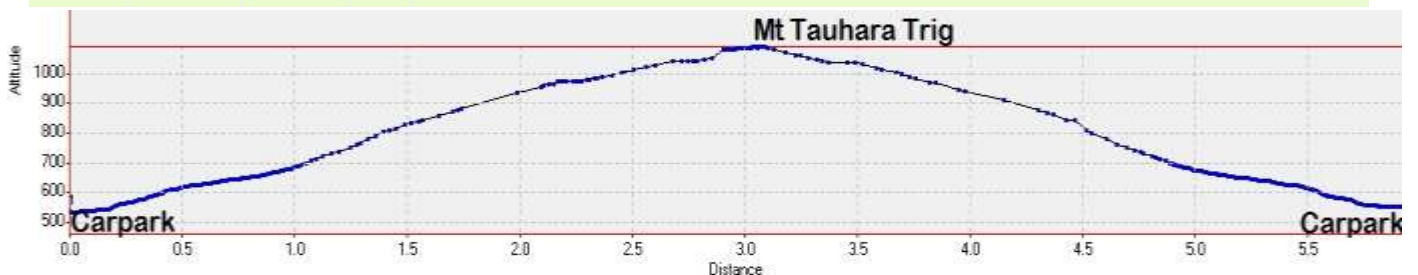
There are cattle pens on the right and often there are sheep and cattle in the fields.

High-sided Gully

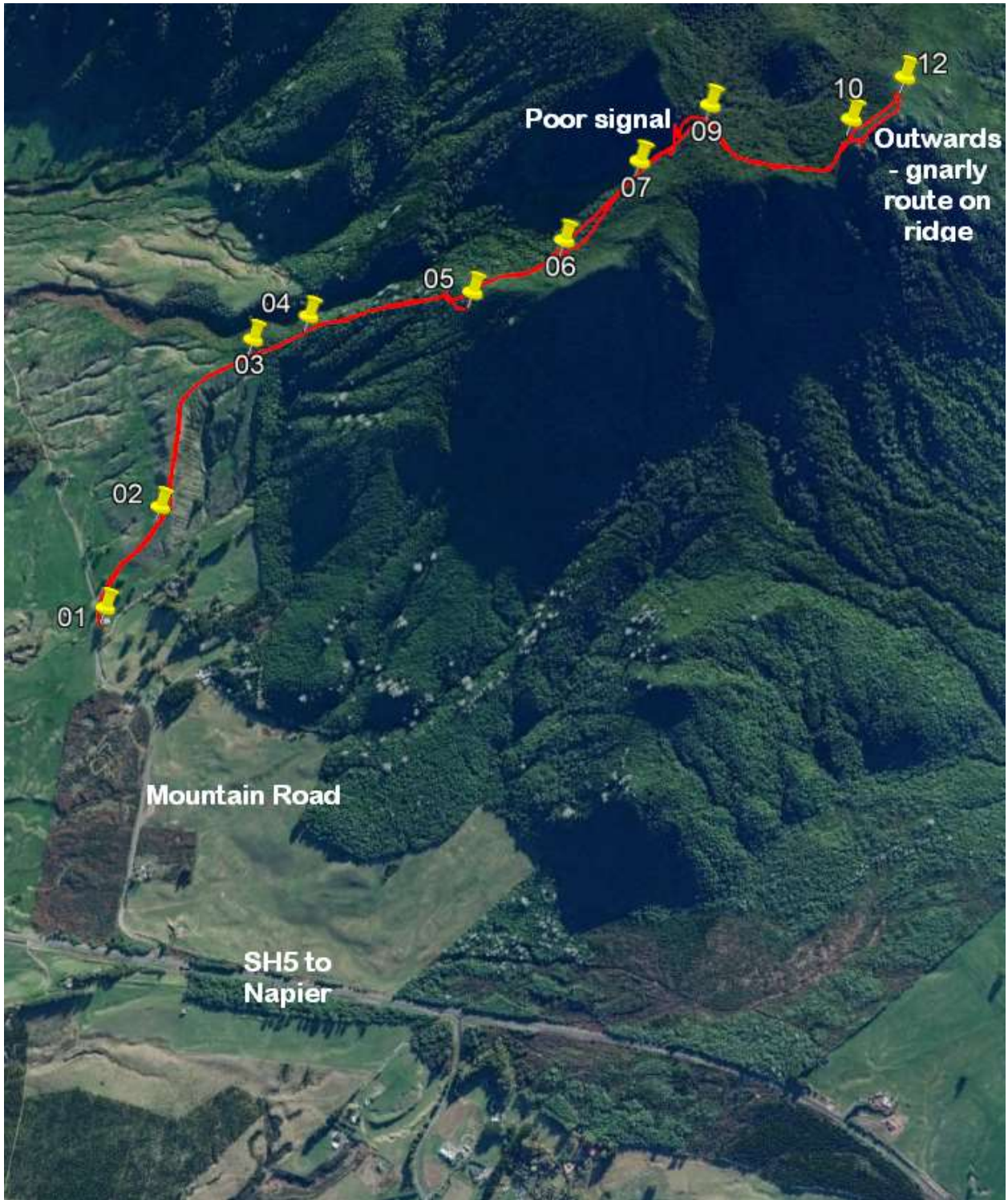




Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
01	1873080	5711295	536	Car park on Mountain Road. through gate then to the right and two stiles
02	1873220	5711549	594	6min (300m); cattle trough halfway up steep grassy slope
03	1873460	5711972	657	23min (850m); up side of fence on gently sloping cattle track to third stile
04	1873605	5712022	685	26min (1.01km); stile from meadow to rough grass bush upto water tanks
05	1874044	5712003	845	43min (1.45km); long, gullied uphill section to view to South then an old seat on RHS
06	1874278	5712106	901	53min (1.71km); steep tricky slope with many roots and small "cave" on bank on RHS
07	1874470	5712287	954	1:02min (2.06km); large rock in path to get round then muddy section
08	1874571	5712359	976	1:05min (2.17km); pass round second big rock, views of Taupo and hear stream and sometimes Tui.
09	1874646	5712411	993	1:09min (2.38km); pass close to the stream then go into high-sided gully or new bypass for gully
10	1874985	5712325	1059	1:19min (2.82km); small track off uphill to the ridge on the right
11	1875018	5712294	1080	1:25min (2.89km); atop rocky outcrop at SW end of crest ridge
12	1875116	5712419	1088	1:30min (3.05km); on crest at Trig point with good views of Lake Taupo



This outing can be tackled by anyone, even small kids if they are well supervised. It also offers a good workout for runners and fit, fast people can get to the top within 30 minutes whilst slower runners and fast walkers can still do the ascent in under one hour. Another training opportunity lies in doing repeat ascents from the first stile, just after waypoint T01, up to the fence line at waypoint T04. Three repetitions of this leaves the legs and lungs knowing an effort has been made.



View north



View over Taupo



Notes:

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