

Te IRINGA TIKITIKI WATERFALL

Topo50 Map: BH37 Rangitaiki

GPS: NZTM on WGS84

How to get to START:

- Exit Taupo on **SH5** for Napier.
- In about 25 minutes turn right into **Taharua Road** at 27.5km
- After 8 minutes again turn right (36.5km) into **Clements Mill Road** which quickly becomes gravel (36 min / 38.5km) and enters the forest
- After 10 minutes on this gravel road the **Te Iringa** car park is on the left.

NB All times and distances are from the police station on the Domain in Taupo

Rough description: A hard, 21-26km walk involving 1,000–1,200m of ascent taking 7 -10 hours depending on the exact target. The shorter version to the Tikitiki Stream and back is all on track whilst trying to get to the Tikitiki Waterfall involves a big effort navigating off-track which is very slow going.

The track is pretty good most of the time and work in 2015 improved some of the trickier stream crossings, though there are still one or two slightly trying bits. The track itself can be walked even in inclement weather as the superb forest offers good shelter and the surface is clean and relatively dry – there is very little or no mud! However attempting to get to the waterfall in wet conditions is not advised as there are numerous stream crossings

This is a superb forest area and there are some large trees still standing plus some of the artifacts from logging days can be seen.

Detail: Park in the small car park (**01⁸⁴¹masl**) ten minutes down the gravel section of Clements Mill Road. There is a gated entry to the track which is well groomed for the first several hundred metres. The forest is very dense and lush in this area hence it offers pretty good shelter on days with bad weather. Soon after starting to walk a high (2-3 metres) tree stump will be seen on the right; this is a remnant from pre-chainsaw logging days. Inspection will show wedges cut into the upper part of the stump and these were used to support the platform where the loggers stood to use their axes and huge hand saws. There are also some small streams to cross and these do not present much of a hazard apart from slippery rocks in the bottom.

There are not too many features to note on this track apart from a new, unsigned (**02¹⁰¹⁶masl**) track joining after 2k or 45minutes. The clearing or site of the old Te Iringa Hut (**03¹¹⁰¹masl**) is reached in about 90 minutes, the hut was burned down some years ago (1994). This is a good morning tea stop.

There is a very pleasant meadow area allowing camping and a sign-board exists in case of confusion after a good night's sleep. Presently there are only two clear exits from this site but pre Cyclone Bola there was a link track to Punchy's Road. Continuing on from the clearing the path is not quite as wide or smooth and it does ascend a little more steeply, on clear days there are views of the mountain (Ruapehu) from the ridge (**04¹¹⁵⁹masl**) about 10 minutes after the hut clearing.

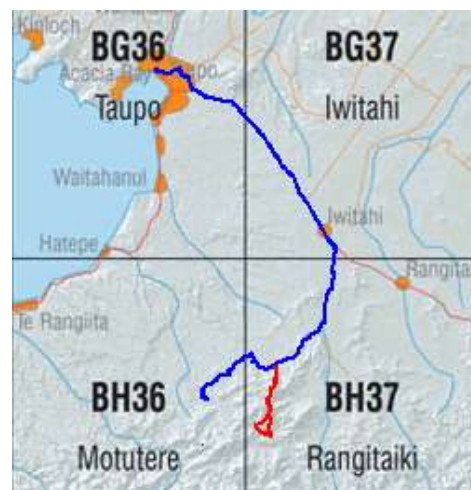
Ten minutes further on the trail transfers to the other (east) side of the ridge and at this point the ridge is rather narrow – again on good, clear days views are offered from around here (**05¹¹¹⁶masl**) and Poronui Station can be seen. There used to be wind-fall damaged sections around here and some care still has to be taken as there are drop offs associated landslips.

Te Iringa Hut clearing



From point **09** it is only 500metres on a bearing of 272degrees before arriving at the Tikitiki Stream (**10⁷⁵⁵masl**) at a triple confluence but it is heavy going requiring almost 50 minutes, there is a hunters' clearing and campsite. From here, which is a good lunch spot, the real fun of the day starts following the stream to the SE. This is a major effort with too many stream crossings to count moving from left bank to right bank as terrain, river and vegetation dictate. The 2km to the SE to get to the end of the Te Iringa Track (**13⁶⁹⁴masl**) at the Tikitiki Stream crossing takes two and a half hours. However it is an adventure for those that like bush bashing with the odd steep up-and-over round gorge areas on the streamline. One such was high above (**11⁷³⁸masl**) the true left bank apparently overlooking where the waterfall was said to be, a glimpse of white water was visible! A family of Blue Duck was spotted (**12⁷⁴⁴masl**) in the stream line. Finally a small confluence was arrived at and wading due N in the side stream reached the Tikitiki hunters' campsite.

This campsite is the turn-around point if the track was followed all the way and takes around three and half hours in and the same out again.



BLUE line is motorable road RED is the tramp route

Stream crossing



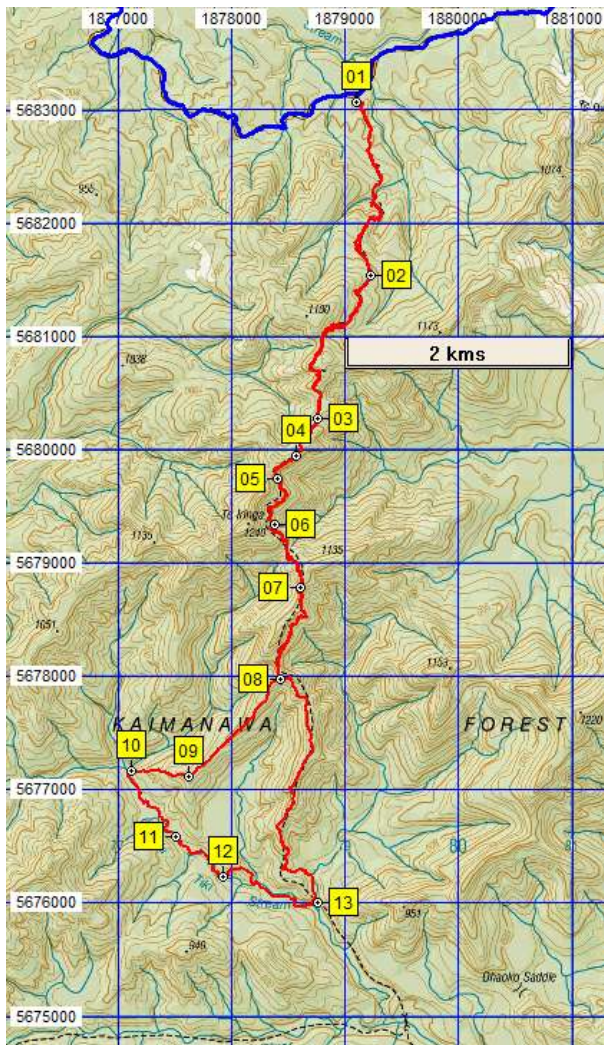
On the return this crossing is a good marker as being about 20 mins from the car park

About 2hours just below the mapped top Te Iringa (1240m) the downhill starts (**06¹⁰⁹⁵masl**) but this is a long, relentless slope rather than anything to test the legs – or the lungs on the way back up. Attempts have been made in the past to try and locate the "Filthy Bivouac" which exists somewhere beyond the high point of the ridge but all efforts failed.

There are now many gentle sections of good track virtually on the contour (**07¹⁰⁹¹masl**) so fast progress can normally be maintained up and downslope. Heading for the Tikitiki Waterfall necessitates leaving the track about 7km out (**08⁹⁹⁵masl**) going right to the SW on a bearing of 221 degrees (magnetic 198degrees) on the gently sloping ridge – there is a vague track on the upper sections. This bearing has to be held for a bit over one kilometre and is slow going (38-40minutes). There is a break of slope – where the slope gets steeper - indicating the end of the ridge (**09⁸⁹⁴masl**) with spurs going left and right, head to the right or due W. If heading to the end of the track instead stay on the marked track where the slopes start getting steeper on the descent.

The Tikitiki Stream (WP10)





Name	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
01	1879100	5683071	841	Te Ininga car park, start of trail just off Clements Mill Road
02	1879223	5681535	1016	2.1km (45min); new track entering from RHS. Needs a track notice
03	1878753	5680274	1101	3.8km (1:24min); clearing where Te Ininga Hut used to be (good camping area)
04	1878568	5679952	1159	4.3km (1:50min); high point on very narrow ridge with, on good days, views of Poronui
05	1878402	5679752	1116	4.6km (1:56min); windfall area plus some landslips and tricky sections on track
06	1878385	5679333	1095	5.2km (2:09min); start of descent to Kaipō River
07	1878596	5678786	1091	6.1km (2:25min); good track, easy gradients with some tricky bits then steep zigzags down
08	1878420	5677984	995	7.1km (2:48min); exit track to the left SW down ridge, almost a track on upper section
09	1877624	5677125	894	8.3km (3:26min); break of slope at end of ridge with spurs left and right. Head R due west
10	1877113	5677167	755	8.9km (4:14min); hit stream at triple confluence with hunters' campsite. Follow Tikitiki to SE
11	1877507	5676579	738	9.9km (4:54min); high above Tikitiki Stream on true left bank over-looking waterfall area
12	1877931	5676227	744	10.6km (5:18min); Blue Duck family
13	1878747	5676014	694	11.8km (6:42min); almost due N up side stream to Tikitiki hunters' campsite. Now 10km to carpark



High above "white water"



Enjoy the break here as more hard work now commences with a very steep zig-zag for openers on the 300 metres of ascent ahead back up the Te Ininga track to pass the point (08995masl) where the track was exited several hours previously. If doing this tramp always carry a torch and extra food as they could well be essential.

Tikitiki Stream campsite



Notes:

- **GPS** Garmin GPSMap 62sc
- **WP** = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
- **masl** = metres above sea level