

TE TUHI to MANGAMUKA HUT

Topo50 Map: BD36 Lower Kaimai

GPS: NZTM on WGS84

How to get to START: As this is well outside the Taupo area the first step is to head North on SH1 towards Rotorua then:

- Stay on SH1 at Wairakei by going left 12 minutes
- Pass Kinleith Mill in 45 minutes then through Tokoroa Town
- Pass through Putaruru on SH1 in about 1 hour
- Go right on to SH28 in 1:05 minutes
- Pass T-junction to SH5 for Rotorua in 1:10 minutes
- In Tirau turn right on to SH27 then pass over SH29 1:20min
- In Matamata turn right into Burwood Road just before the rail-crossing chicane 1:25 min
- Straight ahead on Tower Road at small round-about passing the Tower on the way
- Turn off right in 1:30 mins at sign for Wairere Falls
- Turn left in another 3 minutes with Wairere Falls 7km sign
- Right to Te Tuhi Road in a further 3 minutes and go to end of asphalt in 1:45 – 2 hours
- Drop trampers at start of gravel road (**TW01** 132masl)

NB There are several routes to get to the start at the end of Te Tuhi Road.

Rough Description: As indicated above it takes about 2 hours to drive from Taupo to the car park (**01** 132masl) at the end of Te Tuhi Road. The walk is best described as a hard grunt uphill through farmland then native forest followed by a moderately long walk in undulating terrain in places within superb broad-leafed, mainly beech trees. After about 90 minutes there is relatively easy walking but there are no features of note hence the map shows few waypoints. After the Mangamuka Hut there is some bog to get through then it is more featureless forest walking back to the North South track then retrace the entry route.

Detail: From the drop-off point (**01** 132masl) walk SW on the gravel road up through farmland coming to a gate within 10 minutes with a stile over the fence. Minutes later follow the fence line and orange markers rather than the road as this cuts the corner bringing you back to the road (**03** 236masl) and another stile in about 18 min total. The route is well marked with orange triangles so easy to follow. It is quite a grunt up through all the farmland then there is a steep little descent to cross a stream line (**06** 301masl) where you enter the forest. One of the “gruntest” 30 minute ascents then starts through superb broadleaf forest passing one small track joining from the left (**07** 456masl) about halfway up. There is respite after about 1:10 minutes with a good place for morning tea at a large moss covered log (**09** 532masl).

About 500m past here go right at the track junction (**10** 519masl) where the Mangamuka Hut is noted as being 1:15 minutes to the south whilst the North South track is 30 minutes to the NE. For the next 90 minutes the walking is easy with no “slopes” to talk about but there are a few damp areas in the hollows and near stream lines.

Mangamuka Hut Interior



The Mangamuka Hut (**11** 567masl) is reached within 3 hours – this is a small 4 bunker with a bench, toilet out the back and a big walk-in meat safe – if you pass the meat safe you are not on the correct track so head back and ensure you are going eastwards!

You are on the correct track when the opportunity to get wet, dirty boots comes along as there is a fairly large area of bog to traverse. Apart from the bog there is nothing to note till a change in direction from SE to NE is made and 10 minutes later another change takes the route on a more northerly bearing.

There is now some quite gentle downhill and some of this is on quite a narrow ridge where steep side slopes can be noted. A large windfall (**14** 547masl) has been sawn through for ease of access on the track and note that the small vague track going straight ahead would not be a short cut as it appears to head down to the stream line – must be a hunter’s track. The route turns to the right (NNE), gets a bit steeper and leads down to meet the N/S track (**15** 503masl) – go left here to the north and immediately cross a stream with a flat, relatively smooth rocky bed. There is more endless forest to pass through but progress can be fairly fast as this is a well-defined easy-walking track.

Somewhere around 5 hours there is a large clearing (**16** 525masl) with a simple lean-to shelter – Ngamuwahine Shelter - where it is possible to spend an acceptably comfortable night. There is also a picnic table and the remnants of an old cast iron BBQ – but this is well past the sell-by date. The track now seems endless as it heads to the NW but eventually, in around 6 hours, there is a junction (**17** 478masl) with rather a depressing notice board – it states that Te Tuhi Road-end is over 2 hours away. This is not accurate and even a slow party can get back down within one and a half hours.

From this junction (**17**) the Te Tuhi Track continues a long way to the NE whilst by going straight it is possible to get over to the Wairere Falls and come down that way. The quickest way out is the 90 minutes heading SW where soon the junction noted as **WP10** was passed much earlier in the day then it is downhill through the forest, through the small stream (**WP6**) and back into the farmland with the stiles to reach the road-end and transport home.



Farmland stile



Mangamuka Hut entrance





That deer's head



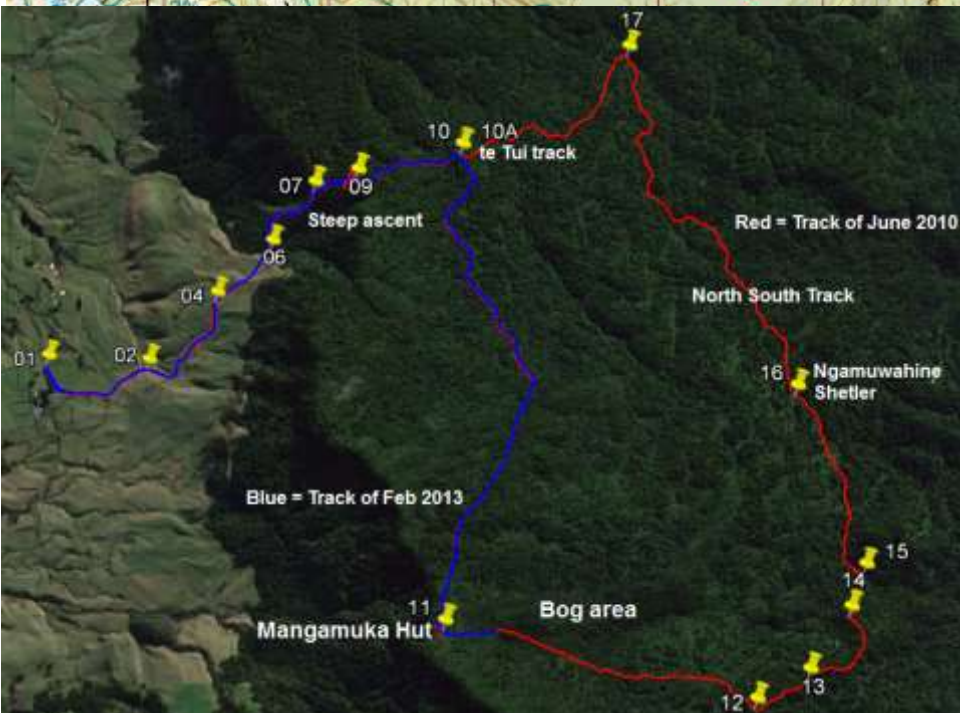
Sun avoidance



The Ngamuwahine Shelter



Even Hobbits duck



Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
01	1852813	5815171	132	Car park at end of Te Tuhi Road
02	1853374	5815134	191	13min (0.7km); over stile on gated gravel road just past T-junction then follow fence line not road
03	1853664	5815271	236	20min (1.13km): cross gravel road to stile and uphill
04	1853771	5815484	280	27min (1.40km): cross another stile
05	1853932	5815586	311	32min (1.58km); through gate on to track going left towards forest
06	1854077	5815752	301	36min (1.82km); steep down to stream then enter forest going steeply upslope
07	1854335	5816036	456	59min (2.31km); "grunty" walking on small track entering from LHS
08	1854463	5816079	513	1:15min (2.47km); slight easing in the slope but still a bit of a grunt
09	1854575	5816080	532	1:19min (2.60km): almost level with large mossy log for tea stop
10	1855109	5816205	519	1:36min (3.23km); track junction - go right / south Mangamuku Hut at 1:15min
11	1854979	5813746	567	2:57min (6.08km); Mangamuku Hut with 4 bunks, bench, fireplace and water supply from stream
12	1856534	5813318	606	4:15min (7.8km); clear change in direction from SE to NE
13	1856805	5813460	593	4:25min (8.17km); directional change to E then N and on to narrow ridge
14	1857030	5813766	547	4:40min (8.73km); cut log on track with possible track straight ahead - hunters' track? Go right
15	1857113	5813979	503	4:50min (8.97km); meet N/S track with Te Tuhi Track at 1:30. Cross river with flat rocky bottom
16	1856789	5814907	525	5:15min (10.08km); clearing with lean-to Ngamuwahine Shelter and picnic table. Hut is usable.
17	1855975	5816710	478	6:10min (12.41km); junction with Te Tuhi Road at 2:05 to left. Straight ahead leads to Wairere Falls
10A	1855109	5816205	519	6:40min (13.64km); back at track junction (WP10) - go straight ahead for 3.2km and 1+ hour more



Notes:

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