

TUKINO TROT

Topo50 Maps: BJ34 Mnt Ruapehu & BJ35 Waiouru

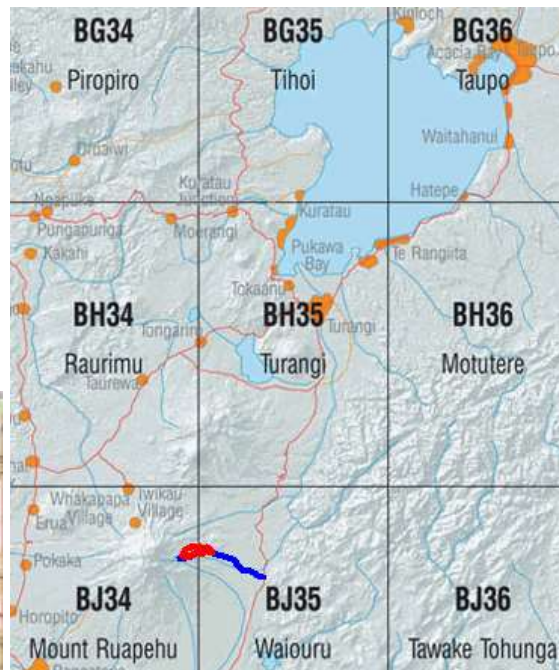
GPS: NZTM on WGS84

How to get to START: The route to the start can be traced in the figure opposite with **SH1** running through Turangi and down the Desert Highway. Exit the Desert Highway as shown opposite and below turning right on to the **Tukino Access Road (Shown as a blue line)** – taking note of the signs at the start about 2 wheel drive vehicles.

Follow the gravel road and at the obvious **Y-fork go right** as turning left is posted as Army territory. Variants of the road weave around a little bit but follow the poles and in wintertime watch out for some minor puddles to rather large stretches of wet flooded areas.

The **2 wheel-drive car park** is reached in 15 minutes and another 20 minutes takes you up the **4 wheel-drive** track towards the repeater station with twin masts. On the day in question the snow line was a few hundred metres below the masts and the vehicle was parked at **WP01** at about 1300 metres.

Tukino Access Road



Rough description: A moderate round-trip of 4 hours including coffee / tea stop and lunch break. There are a few areas where care has to be exercised since in the summer the ground is rough with many ankle turning opportunities and, in wintertime, some of the slopes can be slightly icy. There is an overall height gain of about 230 metres, a few climbs but none of these are too severe.

From the access road an anti-clockwise loop of about 10 – 11 km takes you over the Round-the Mountain track – easily seen as it is a poled track – over two or three stream crossings, including the Mangatoetoenui, then up behind a small hill (1536m) (see photograph below) with bluffs on the approach side. The path then ascends a slightly steep stream line or gully and after a climb up you are on a ridge with views of some of the huts or lodges at the Tukino Alpine Village – you head for the road which accesses the huts then come back down the road.

Detail: Leave the car parked on the edge of the access road (**01**₁₃₂₀ masl) heading cross country in a NW direction and in about 15 – 20 minutes you will cross the line of the Round-the-Mountain track which will be running NNE to SSW and is well marked with poles. In wintertime this section can be bitterly cold with icy blasts coming in from the south. In about 45 minutes a small sheltered stream line running basically NE – SW is entered and crossed, this is a good tea and coffee stop.

From here the route is basically westwards cross country with the object of getting to the right of and behind the small hill shown in the photograph opposite. There are a few stream crossings which vary in difficulty with the time of year – can be virtually dry in summer to slippery and difficult in winter time unless it is very cold when snow bridges do build up. A few well frozen waterfalls can exist on your right and as you get close to the hill there is a descent which does require care if the ground is frozen.

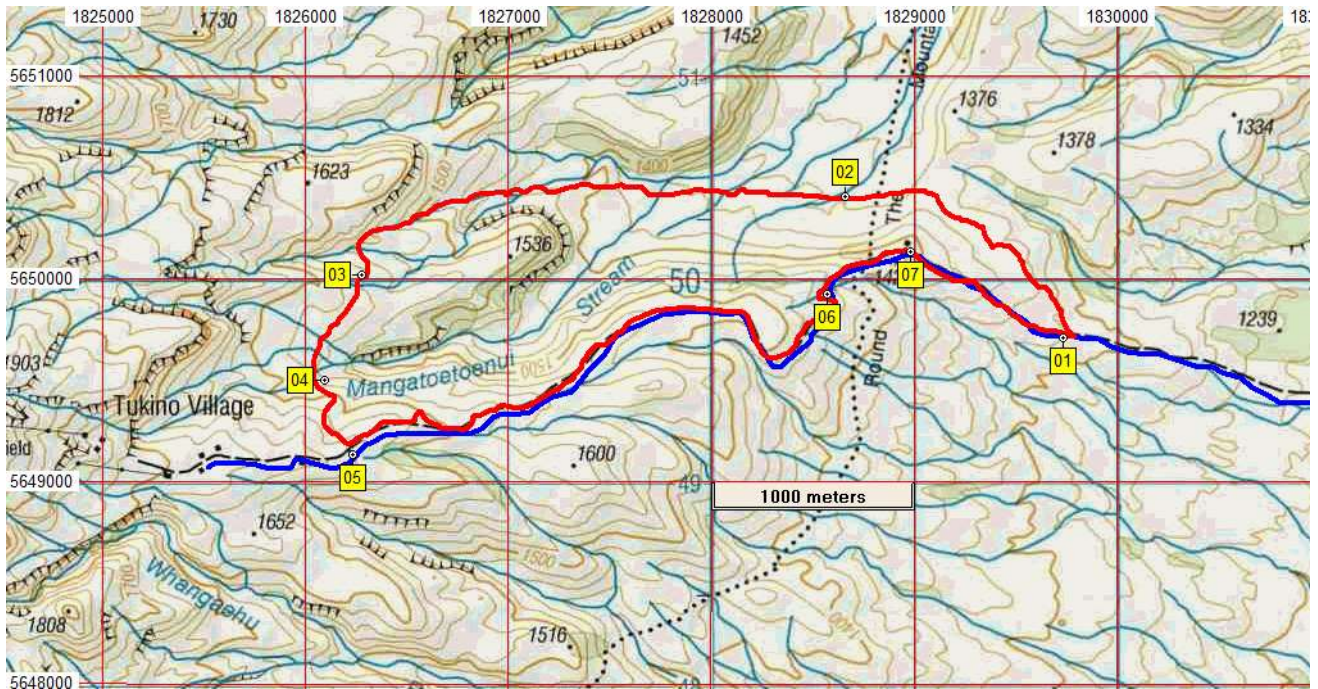
About an hour after the tea stop you will be in a stream line running parallel and behind the hill round which you are walking. After 2 hours total walking time you will be on a small ridge (**03**₁₅₆₄masl) after the steepest ascent of the walk and from this ridge you will see some of the huts or lodges of the Tukino Alpine Village. These were ski lodges but due to “not the best skiing conditions or access” the area has now been taken over for use for Outward Bound or outdoor skills and training for youngsters.

After descending from this ridge there is a small stream to cross and, in winter-time this does have good snow bridges but exercise caution. On the upslope from here there are a few outcrops of rock which, on a windy day, give good shelter for lunch (**04**₁₅₇₅masl). From here it is only a matter of something like 15 – 20 hard minutes getting up the last slope of the day to meet the gravel access road (**05**₁₆₅₆masl) in about 3 hours walking time in total.

Once on the road turn left and there are a few features to take note of such as the locked gate (**06**₁₄₄₃masl) after losing about 100 metres or so of height then the twin communication masts (**07**₁₄₂₀masl) come into view after a total outing time of about 4 hours. From here another 10 – 15 minutes takes you back to the starting point further down the road.

The hill to be walked around





Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
01	1829735	5649708	1320	Car park at side of Tukino ski access road
02	1828661	5650406	1328	42min (1.55km); tea stop just past round-the-mountain track in small valley
03	1826276	5650019	1564	1:57min (4.39km); on ridge with view of ski huts after steep ascent after coming up gully
04	1826095	5649501	1575	2:13min (4.98km); lunch stop at rock outcrop after crossing snow bridge
05	1826233	5649134	1656	2:29min (5.44km); meet ski road downslope from huts / lodges
06	1828570	5649926	1443	3:45min (8.64km); at locked gate on ski access road
07	1828978	5650133	1420	3:56min (9.12km); below twin communication masts and 15 minutes from car park

Snow bridge



Ruapehu



Ngauruhoe



- Notes**
- **GPS** Garmin Summit
 - **WP** = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
 - **masl** = metres above sea level