

## UMUKARIKARI

Topo50 Map: BH35 Turangi

GPS: NZTM on WGS84

### How to get to START:

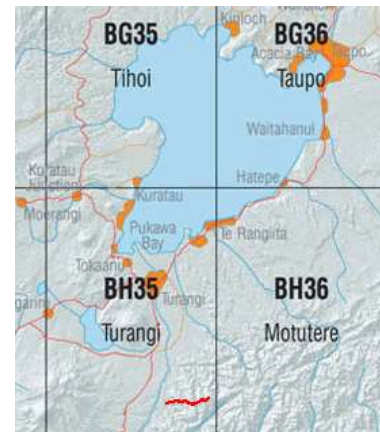
- Exit Taupo down the lake on **SH1** through Turangi on to the **Desert Highway (SH1)** for 15 km.
- Turn left off Desert Highway on road signed to Rangipo Power Station (**Kaimanawa Road**)
- Kaimanawa Forest Park on the road then turn left on to gravel track signed **Umukarikari** and over wooden bridge.
- Turn right at next sign for **Umukarikari** for the car park **WP01**
- Path leaves through wooden gate on the upslope side

The location of the tramp can be seen opposite as a red line above the label for Umukarikari Tramp in the lower right hand corner of sheet T19 whilst the actual trail followed can be seen on the map which shows the GPS waypoints and track.

**Rough description:** A long, relatively strenuous walk of 6–7 hours ascending 1038metres, covering 15km (GPS). This can be shortened to 5-6 hours if the target is the track junction for Urchin just below Sharp Cone. From this junction It takes another hour to summit Umukarikari and involves another 2–3km and 140 metres of ascent and descent.

There is a bit of a brutal start as it is steep uphill as soon as the car park is exited into the beech forest. Once up through the forest the path is well marked but rather exposed on adverse weather days so beware since there are some bluffs near Sharp Cone. The track alignment can be seen along with the GPS trace on the map. Stopping before the final ascent to Sharp Cone involves an overall altitude gain then subsequent loss of just over 900 metres whilst to the top involves 1147 metres.

**Detail:** Exit the car park (**01<sup>712masl</sup>**) on the upslope side via the wooden gate. The going is steep from the start through forest with red beech and quite a few “big steps” are encountered so “Hobbits” may find this tiresome – these steps are more bother on the way down when the legs are tired. There are several possible morning-tea or coffee stop places hence resting points are common. The first of many descents whilst ascending occurs after about 30 minutes then the going is undulating to rolling with a series of zig zags to ascend just short of an hour (**02<sup>1010masl</sup>**). A noticeable zig zagging descent occurs just over an hour into the walk and before some big steps with gnarly roots to negotiate. There are a few of these descents and re-ascents on the way up (undulating to rolling with none too steep) till a final steeper section leads out from the forest (mountain beech) to the bush line after 1:30-2 hours (**03<sup>1288masl</sup>**). This open area, about 600 metres above the starting point, is stony, eroded and rather exposed in places but there are plenty of DOC marker poles. There are a few obvious changes of course on the track such as at 2 hours when it bears right (**04<sup>1353masl</sup>**) then 30 min later it goes hard left to the NE (**05<sup>1334masl</sup>**) and then again (**06<sup>1472masl</sup>**) on a bit of a ridge just below Sharp Cone to arrive at the track junction (**07<sup>1500masl</sup>**) for Urchin (to the right). For Umukarikari summit it is on uphill as a turn is made to get round up past Sharp Cone. This bit of a grunt is over a loose gravelly, scree area and some care is needed to get back up on to the ridge. Be careful after the turn to the NE as steep cliffs or bluffs exist on the north side of the ridge.



Red line is the tramp line

### Ruapehu from the bush-line



### Exposed walking to Sharp Cone



From here the path is exposed to the weather but the views back over Ruapehu and Lake Taupo are good on clear days. The going is generally good, not steep and well-marked with new DOC poles.

From Sharp Cone to the summit is easy walking on a good path, which continues on to Waipakihi Hut, with a turn off uphill required at an ill-defined crest (**08<sup>1593masl</sup>**).

Turning left at this point leaves about 50 metres or so to the unspectacular round summit which is marked by two small stony cairns (**09**). The return to Sharp Cone can be made slightly more interesting by getting on to the rocky top (**1578masl**) for views of the scree slope sand bluffs on the northern side.

### Ngauruhoe from the bush-line

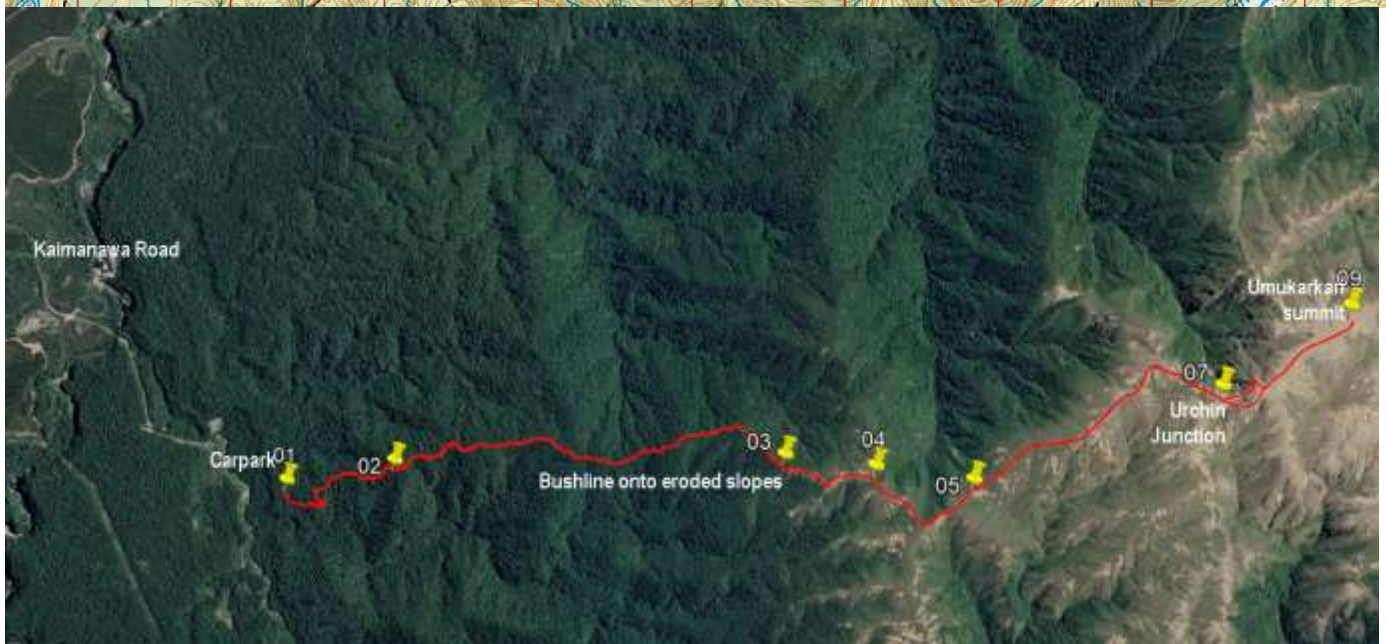


### Gentle summit of Umukarikari

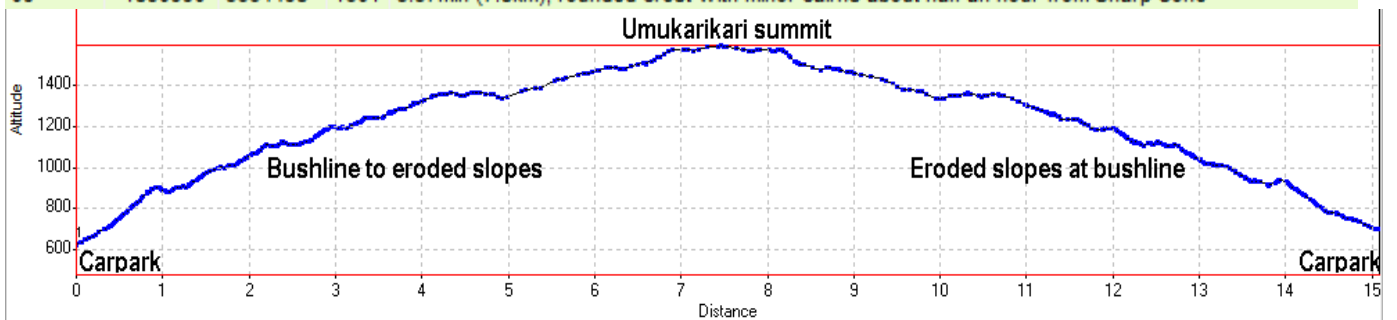


Normally the inward, uphill walk takes about 3hrs – 3:30min whilst the return requires 2:30 minutes. In summer time a much longer, more strenuous tramp can be done by firstly ascending Urchin then working round and up the ridges to approach Umukarikari from the south to arrive at the track junction just below Sharp Cone.





Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
01	1845058	5663793	712	Car Park
02	1845754	5663876	1046	32min (1.09km); minor crest after steep walk up through beech forest
03	1847987	5663813	1254	2:30min (4.3km); bush line onto eroded slope after grunty ascent in beech forest (1:30 - 1:45min)
04	1848473	5663745	1353	2:18min (4.3km); ridge with old basic track off to SE then S 500m before veering to NE & Sharp Cone
05	1848999	5663655	1334	2:30min (5.1km); low coll offering some shelter before long, moderate climb towards Sharp Cone
06	1850111	5664244	1472	2:58min (6.4km); narrow ridge heading SE below Sharp Cone
07	1850322	5664105	1500	3:07min (6.7km); track junction for Urchin to the right + sign boards
08	1851021	5664453	1593	3:35min (7.7km); branch left off path for crest only a few metres to NNW
09	1850990	5664498	1601	3:37min (7.8km); rounded crest with minor cairns about half an hour from Sharp Cone



**Notes:**

- **GPS** Garmin GPSmap 60CSx
  - **WP** = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
  - **masl** = metres above sea level
- Total distance over 15km  
Total ascent and descent 1038metres