

WHAKATANE TO OHOPE BEACH

Kohi Point Walkway

Topo50 Map: BE40 Whakatane

GPS: NZTM on WGS84

How to get to START: It is about 2:15 to 2:30min driving from Taupo and the route favoured by TomTom is SH5 towards Rotorua as far as Rainbow Mountain, head for Murapara and turn left out via Galatea. This route has a few tight bends but otherwise is straightforward with good signage. On entering Whakatane head towards the middle and turn right at KFC to go towards the Memorial Hall which has a large car park (**WP01**).

Rough description: A fairly tasking little walk with a bit of everything from town walking, grinding slopes and staircases – up and down – very pleasant back country style track, sandy and rocky beaches. The sea-shore and ocean views are spectacular and birdlife is prolific with Tui ruling the roost. Once at Ohope one can walk back to Whakatane but there is the very pleasant alternative of using the Bay Hopper bus which virtually drops you back almost at the car park in Whakatane.

Location



As noted above this is a fairly stiff tramp and if steep ascents and steps are not a favourite then best avoid it.

Starting at the Memorial Hall (**WP01**^{11masl}) walk NE to cross the busy road then bear right to follow the road to the NE for about 1.5km with a detour to the obvious public conveniences if required. A sign on the RHS is quite obvious at the foot of a flight of steps (**WP02**^{8masl}) which lead back to a road. Go up the road then cross to the LHS for a viewpoint (**WP03**^{49masl}). Continue up the road a bit further and the start of the Kohi Walkway will be found on slipping off left.



A hundred metres or so down the walkway there is a bridge straight ahead (**WP04**^{53masl}) but before crossing the bridge go left for a viewing platform to overlook the waterfall on the Wairere Stream. On crossing the bridge a winding, beaten earth track with several sets of steps begins to gain some serious altitude. This is now part of the route of the hilly Toi Challenge mountain run

There is a junction (**WP05**^{162masl}) sign-posted Toi's Pa off to the right after about 50 minutes walking, this rejoins the main track after a short distance. Minutes after this there is yet another viewing platform (**WP06**^{167masl}) off to the left from which Whale Island can be seen. Twenty minutes later superb ocean views are again seen (**WP07**^{143masl}) as the track heads steeply downwards to the NE. Just as the downhill starts a radio mast can be seen on a high point 500metres ahead, this high point (**WP08**^{155masl}) also has a descriptive notice about the ancient Pa.



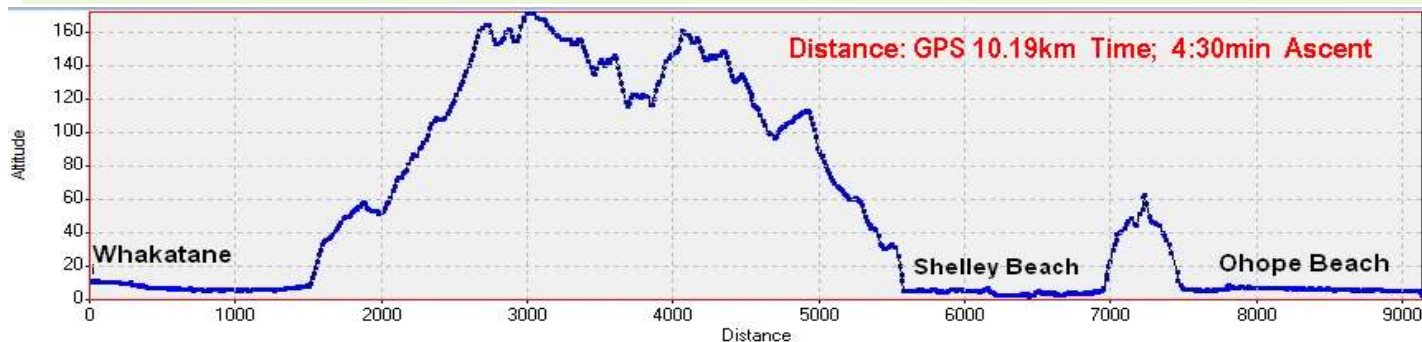
Within two hours the end of the headland at Kohi Point is reached where the lookout spot (**WP09**^{132masl}) must be approached with caution as it is a precipitous drop that is NOT protected - seemingly a runner went over here and was killed during a race some years back. From Kohi Point the track swings sharply east then heads SE to rapidly lose altitude and offer a seat with coastal views again (**WP10**^{32masl}). There is then a descent on a steep, quite recently built flight of steps to arrive at a rocky beach (**WP11**^{5masl})



This is Otarawairere Bay which is sandy and rocky in areas and there are 2 escape tracks marked (**WPS12 & 13**) but it is worthwhile continuing along the beach on the rocks as far as possible before "escaping". The track used had 165 (**WP14**^{45masl}) steps upwards before descending to Ohope Beach via 184 easy or gentle steps down a staircase. From Ohope the Bay Hopper bus was used to get back to Whakatane – free if a Gold Card is held.



N...	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
01	1950604	5790913	11.0	Park at Memorial Hall, Whakatane 2:00 - 2:30 drive from Taupo
02	1951233	5792012	7.9	1.5km (23min); Start of walkway up flight of steps then up and cross road to viewpoint
03	1951424	5791954	49.1	1.8km (31min); Viewpoint for town and estuary then continue up road to slip off left on walkway
04	1951607	5791912	53.0	2km (35min); Bridge after going left for Wairere Stream waterfall view. Winding dirt track + steps
05	1952166	5791787	162	2.7km (53min); Junction, straight and right for loop to Toi's Pa. Loop rejoins main track
06	1952318	5791953	167	2.96km (59min); Left for viewing platform for Whale Island
07	1952580	5792450	143	3.63km (1:18min); Steeply down with good ocean views
08	1952729	5792797	155	4.07km (1:43min); Pa notice at high point with communications mast
09	1952815	5793106	132	4.44km (1:54min); Kōhi Point viewpoint then head east
10	1953397	5792497	32.0	5.49km (2:17min); Long descent, lots of steps to seat with magnificent coastal views
11	1953361	5792444	4.9	5:57km (2:33min); Steep newish staircase down to rocky beach
12	1953213	5791983	7.0	6.16km (2:46min); Southern end of Shelley Beach in Otarawairere Bay at first exit track up to SW
13	1953486	5791781	4.9	6.51km (2:55min); Exit track uphill after exploring rocky shoreline and bluffs
14	1953611	5791724	45.0	7.17km (3:17min); Halfway or 98 steps up from the beach, then 67 steps more
15	1953485	5791516	7.9	7.49km (3:29min); On Ohope Beach after 184 gentle, easy steps down staircase
16	1954539	5790469	3.0	9.15km (4:28min); Bay Hopper bus stop for transport back to Whakatane after coffe stop!!



On the higher parts of the tramp the bird life was impressive with Tui ruling the roost whilst sea birds were very active, including nesting shags, on Ohope Beach.

Notes:

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