

YMCA, Titiraupenga, CNI to Link Road

Topo50 Map: BF35 Whakamaru

GPS: NZTM on WGS84

How to get to START:

1. Exit Taupo on SH1 North, Figure 1.
2. Near the top of the hill out of Taupo turn left into Poihipi Road
3. Follow the road out past the Wairakei Forest then turn left into Whangamata Road following the signs for Kinloch
4. Do NOT turn left at the next sign for Kinloch but go straight ahead
5. At the T-junction on SH32 (Western Bay Road) turn right and proceed for about 1.5 km
6. Turn left to Kakaho Road in 35 min and cross the bridge over the Huruhurumaku stream, then the road becomes gravel (37 min)
7. Turn right in to Swamp Road and at about 47 min the YMCA Hut is signed to the right – go this way but many of the roads have been blocked off so follow the signs

If the full tramp is completed the return is easy as all that is done is to follow Link Road in a SE direction to get back to Western Bays Road.

Times and distances from the Taupo Police Station on Tongariro Domain

Rough description: An easy to moderate, muddy in places, slightly tricky tramp of 3:45 to about 6 hours depending which ending is used once the CNI is reached. This is all through some of the wettest forest in the area. Generally the track is rather neglected these days and the crest ridge close to Titiraupenga summit can be tricky. From the Centre of the North Island (CNI) it is 5 minutes to the car park but 2 hours if the track to Link Road is followed.

Detail: As mentioned above it seems to be slightly more difficult to get to the car park for the YMCA Hut now since many of the forest roads / tracks have been blocked off. However there are signs and if the current map is used it is still possible without too much of a problem. Soon after exiting the vehicle (**WP01522masl**) the locked gate across the road leading to YMCA is passed then within a minute the building (**WP03549masl**) is located on the left hand side. From here the uphill commences and the track can be quite badly overgrown. In May 2011, a large active gully was taped off. A small stream line is crossed after about 30 minutes (**WP04641masl**) then, for the easily tired, there is an old seat (**WP05704masl**) at the top of this gentle ascent and before a series of degraded steps are ascended.

2011 Gully



The junction with sign



Twenty minutes further up what is now starting to be a bit of a noticeable grunt there is another, even more degraded seat (**WP06817masl**) – one would need to be pretty desperate to try and use this one. The slope does not ease and the hard work continues for the best part of another hour until a small exposed crest is reached (**WP071001masl**). This crest is on a narrow ridge and care is needed as it is rough and root infested and could prove problematical on days with high wind.

There is a bit of scrambling involved around here so be wary and keep an eye open for the track signs – the notice that used to be at the junction ahead is actually lying on the ground blocking off a steep rocky gullied area as you descend. Once down off this rocky protuberance the above-mentioned junction (**WP08991masl**) is reached where straight ahead is private land leading to the summit of Titiraupenga whilst steeply downhill is the route to follow. By this time the wet state of the forest really can be seen by the moss laden trees.

From here it is a long descent to the SW with the odd gently sloping area, several stream crossings and tricky footwork but eventually the slope really eases and the monument marking the centre of the North Island – CNI – is reached (**WP12724masl**). Most days that this site has been visited have been wet-weather days and the forest can be very dark and getting good photos of the monument is not always easy. From here the walk is nearly over or the fun really starts. On leaving the monument there is a small junction with one direction marked “Waimoana” and the other “Link Road”. The one to Waimoana is easy tourist grade with some boardwalk and takes about 5 minutes to a small car park. However the other track, invitingly signed to Link Road, should not be undertaken unless you are fit and want another two hours’ walking. This track is well marked but has some very steep slopes, especially at the river crossings where four wheel drive would be a useful asset. After the last of these crossing (**WP16742masl**) the track eventually emerges 15 minutes later on Link Road where you hope your transport awaits.



BLUE = Taupo to Western Bays Road
GREEN = Link Road exit route and access
RED = Tramp Route

For access info DOC Te Kuiti 07 878 1050

Seat for the weary

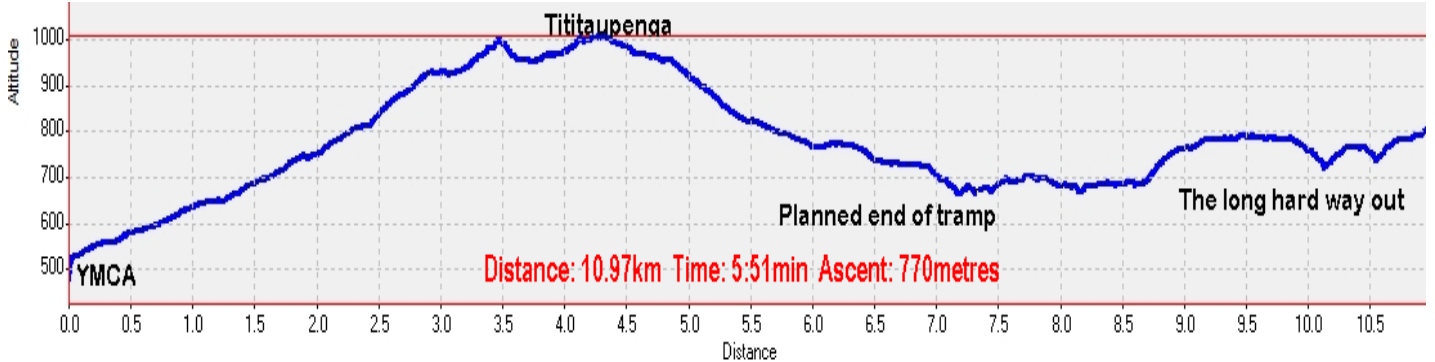
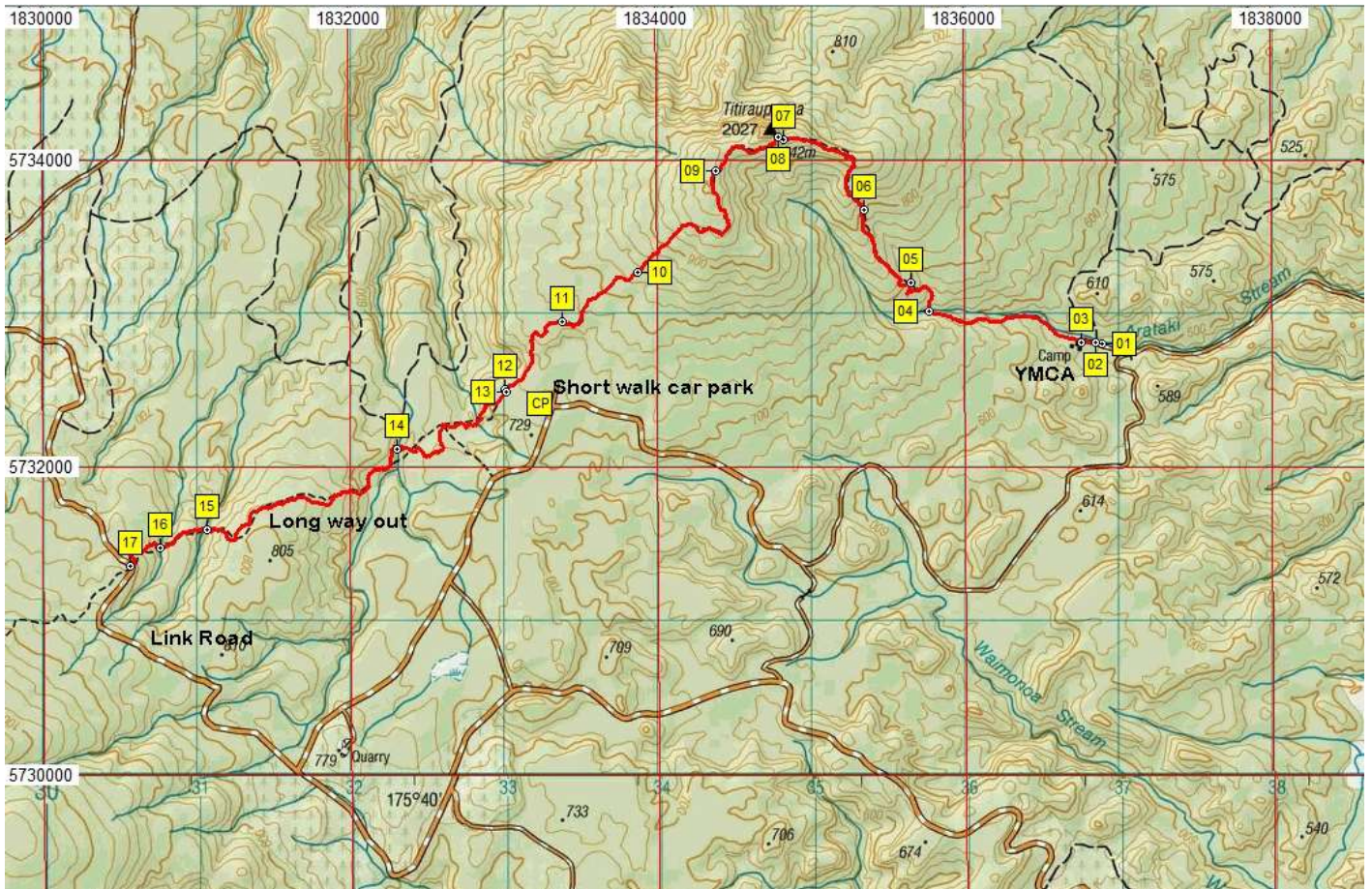


Mossy forest

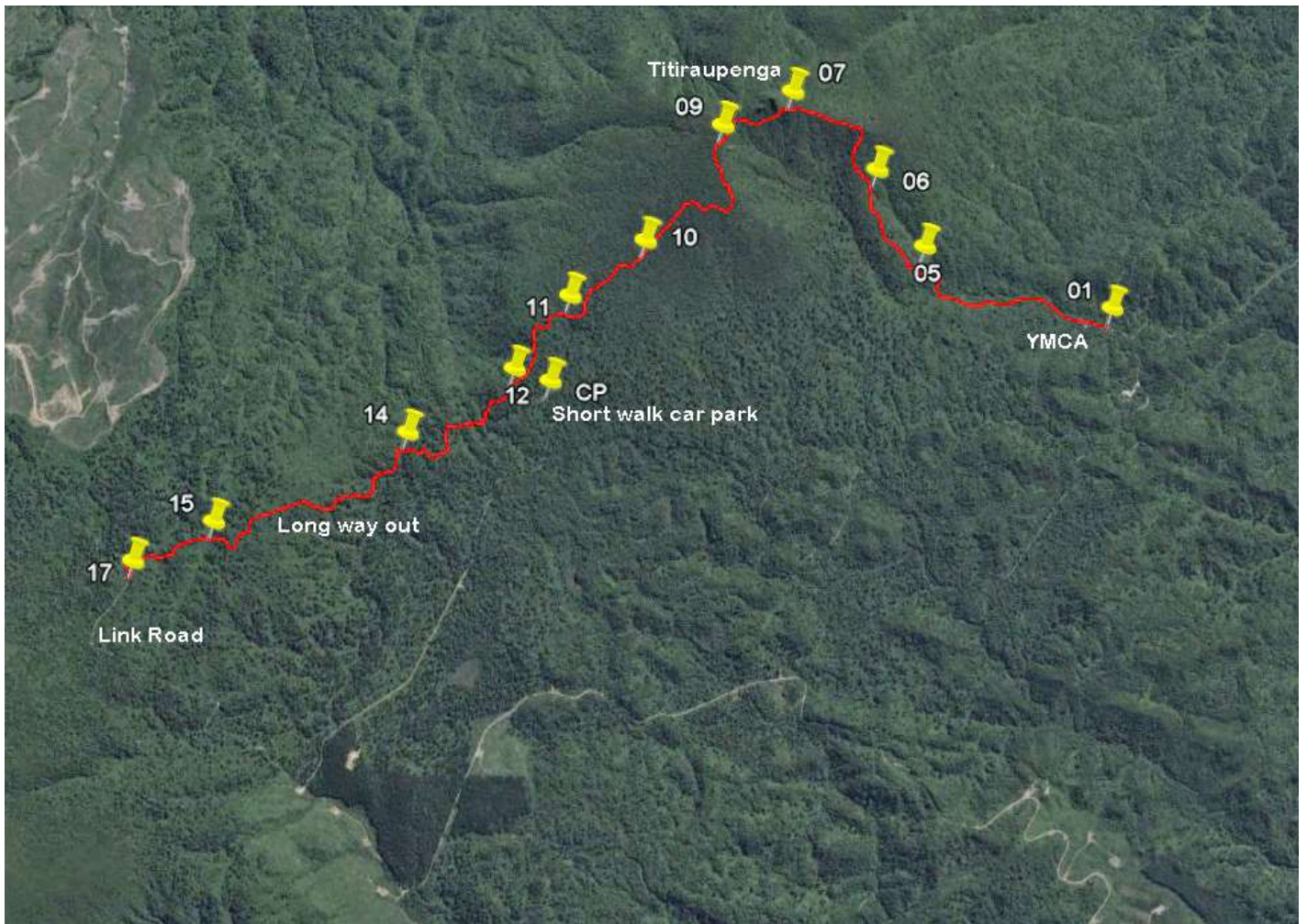


CNI monument





Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
01	1836894	5732804	522	Car park metres before locked gate
02	1836852	5732811	525	2min (50m); Locked gate just below YMCA Hut
03	1836760	5732816	549	3min (134m); YMCA Hut on left a few metres off track
04	1835777	5733012	641	28min (1.21km); Minor stream crossing
05	1835657	5733205	704	44min (1.65km); Wooden seat on LHS after long gentle ascent then degraded steps up next section
06	1835352	5733672	817	1:04min (2.41km); Very old degraded seat on steep section
07	1834824	5734135	1001	1:50min (3.43km); Exposed crest
08	1834795	5734148	991	1:53min (3.46km); T-junction with Titiraupeka (private) straight and CNI route steeply down left
09	1834383	5733929	1003	2:26min (4.09km); Minor level area on ridge then steeply downhill
10	1833876	5733266	832	3:06min (5.37km); Minor stream line crossing
11	1833385	5732946	766	3:19min (6.07km); Stream crossing in undulating to rolling forest
12	1833009	5732506	724	3:33min (6.78km); Beacon for Centre of North Island
13	1833016	5732495	723	3:37min (6.83km); T-junction with straight for carpark and right for Link Road on hard track
14	1832305	5732124	658	4:15min (8.16km); Stream crossing in area with very steep slopes
15	1831068	5731590	723	5:24min (10.1km); Stream crossing 30min from Link Road, steep tricky lower slopes to / from stream
16	1830759	5731480	742	5:35min (10.5km); Last of several steep stream crossings 15 min from Link Road
17	1830571	5731356	812	5:51min (10.97km); End of hard exit from CNI on to Link Road
CP	1833238	5732418	721	5min from CNI; car park with notice to Centre of North Island



The track not to follow – Link Road

The second seat on the track



Colourful fungi



Colourful wet trampers



Notes:	GPS	Garmin GPSMap 60CSx
	WP	Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
	masl	metres above sea level (as recorded by GPS unit and may not agree exactly with map spot heights)