

## ON AND NEAR MT TONGARIRO

### Walks (less than 3 hours)

See map (pages 21 - 22)

#### 19. Soda Springs Walking Track



2 hours, 6 km return via same track. Begins at the Mangatepopo roadend 13.4 km from Whakapapa Village, 7 km up Mangatepopo Road, off SH 47.

The track to Soda Springs is part of the Tongariro Alpine Crossing Track and follows Mangatepopo Stream. Ngauruhoe's most recent lava flows appear dark in contrast to the older flows which are slowly revegetating. Under the headwall of the Mangatepopo Valley these cold water springs create a small oasis of lush yellow mountain buttercups and white foxgloves in summer.

### Day tramps (3 - 8 hours)

#### 20. Historic Waihohonu Hut



3 hours, 6.3 km return from the Desert Road. 35 km south of Turangi. Part of the Round the Mountain and Tongariro Northern Circuit Tracks.

Built in 1903/04 by the government, this hut used to be a stop-over for stage coaches. The walls are constructed of a double layer of corrugated iron with a layer of pumice sandwiched between for insulation. No longer used for accommodation, the hut is preserved as an historical building and is classified by the Historic Places Trust.

The track meanders through beech forest and open tussock land, crossing the Ohinepango Stream. At the junction where the track branches right to the new Waihohonu and Oturere Huts or left to Rangipo Hut, continue straight ahead towards Whakapapa for approximately 5 minutes to the next junction. Turn left to reach the historic Waihohonu Hut. Return the same way.

#### 21. Ketetahi Hut



4-5 hours, 13.4 km return via same track. Signposted off SH 46, 25 minutes drive from Whakapapa Village or Turangi.

High on the slopes of Mt Tongariro, Ketetahi Hut commands a magnificent view of Lake Rotoaira, Mt Pihanga and distant Lake Taupo. The track to the hut is part of the popular Tongariro Alpine Crossing.

From the carpark, the track climbs through podocarp forest. For part of the way it follows a stream naturally

polluted by thermal activity and unfit for drinking. The track opens out onto a broad tussock-covered ridge and heads up the slopes past Ketetahi Springs to the hut.

### Ketetahi Springs

Ketetahi Springs are on private land, please respect this and keep to the poled route. Walking the Tongariro Alpine Crossing Track does not convey any right of access to the springs.

#### 22. Tongariro Alpine Crossing

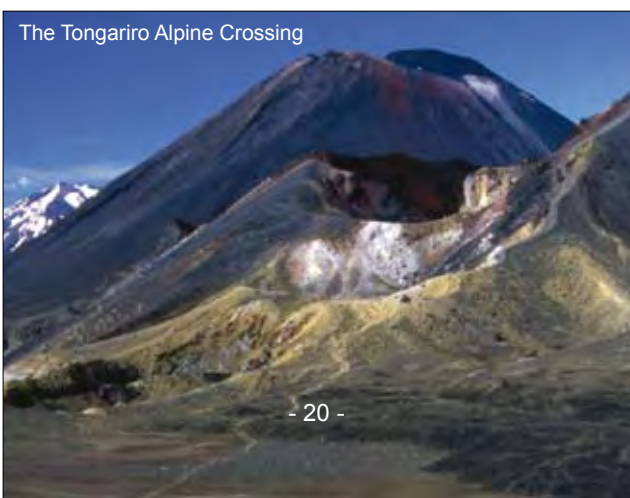


5½-7½ hours, 18.5 km one way. Recommended direction is from Mangatepopo to Ketetahi. This track is part of the Tongariro Northern Circuit and begins at the Mangatepopo roadend, 13.4 km from Whakapapa.

The track winds up the Mangatepopo Valley to the saddle between Tongariro and Ngauruhoe. It climbs to Red Crater (1886 m), then drops down to the vivid Emerald Lakes. After passing Blue Lake the track sidles around the northern slope of Tongariro, then descends in a zigzag to Ketetahi Hut and down to the roadend.

This is not a round trip so visitors will have to arrange transport to the Mangatepopo roadend and back from Ketetahi roadend. Several local operators provide this service. Check weather and avalanche conditions before you set out. This trip should not be undertaken in winter without mountaineering experience and equipment. People intending to do this track should obtain more detailed information and maps than the ones in this booklet. See:

- Tongariro National Park 273/04 map
- NZMS 260 series topographical map T19 Tongariro
- Tongariro Alpine Crossing brochure / fact sheet



## Tongariro National Park

