

Mt Tongariro (returning via Hardman's Ridge), Tongariro National Park

Wild file

Access From the car park at the end of Mangatepopo Rd

Grade Moderate

Length 15.5km

Time 6-8hr

Topo50 Map BH36

Description

This is a sublime winter trip – choose a sunny day and you'll have the area almost to your self (when compared to summer at least) and you'll experience Tongariro National Park at its best: under a blanket of gorgeous snow.

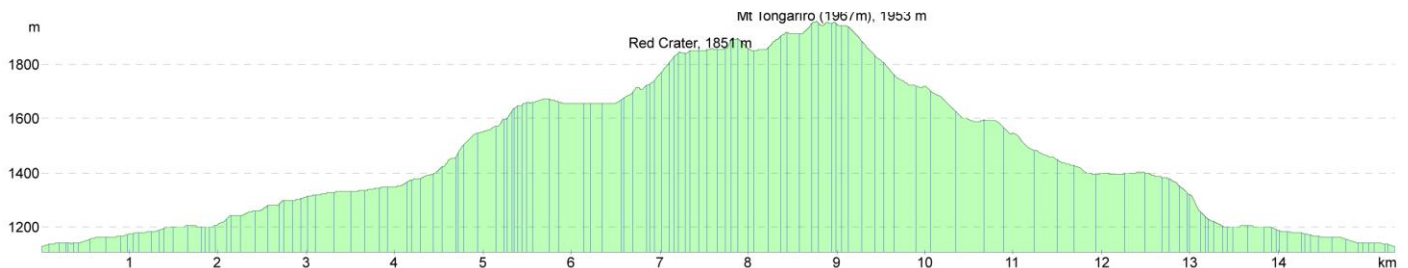
The tramp to South Crater is fairly easy along the well-maintained Tongariro Alpine Crossing Track.

From South Crater, begin climb to Red Crater and follow the poled route along the ridge to the summit of Tongariro. The route is straightforward and makes a good introduction to winter tramping.

Descend the northern slope and take Hardman's Ridge (unnamed on the map), which overlooks the TAC, to a point around 600m past Pt 1409m. You know you're there when you appear almost directly above Mangetepopo Hut. Drop down here to rejoin the TAC and an easy walk back to the car.

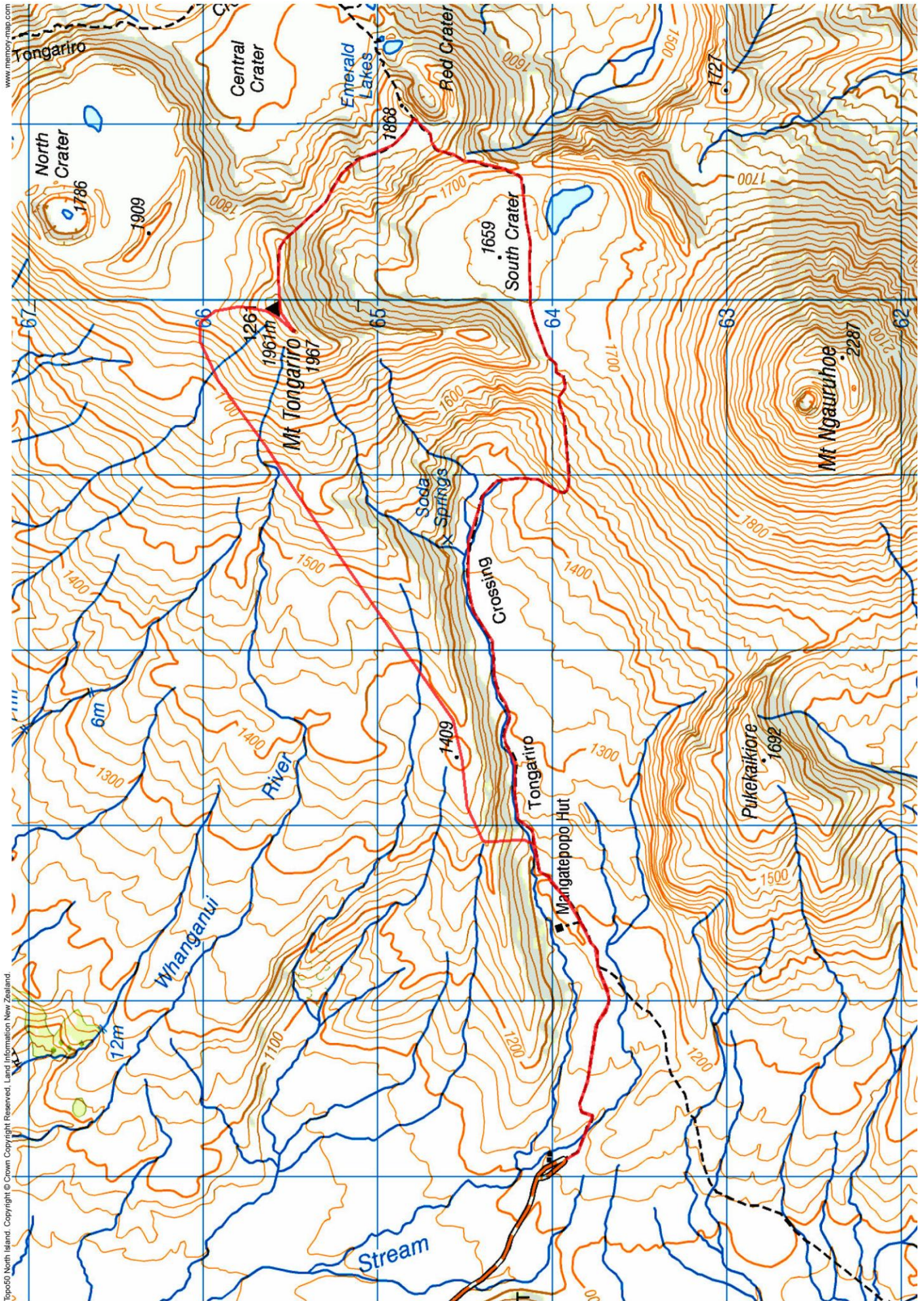
If climbing Tongariro in winter you will need crampons or snowshoes. Trekking poles and/or an ice axe wouldn't go amiss.

Elevation Profile



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Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to map this route correctly, Wilderness Magazine does not take responsibility for any errors in the route. Users should use discretion when planning their routes and gather as much information as possible before departing.



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