

## Upper Tama via Mt Tongariro, Tongariro National Park

From behind Mangatepopo Hut, faint tracks lead up to the western ridge of Mt Tongariro, known as Hardmans Ridge. After a short bush bash, climb to Pt1409 and enjoy the silence. While the hordes on the Tongariro Alpine Crossing zig-zag up to South Crater, the sulphurous smell of Soda Springs will accompany you on the straight-line ascent of Mt Tongariro.

Once on the Summit Route Track, head straight south along the western flank of south crater.

Rejoin the Tongariro Alpine Crossing Track, then follow a faint route to a saddle on the north-eastern flank of Ngauruhoe.

The traverse around Mt Ngauruhoe and on to Upper Tama is the section that can present the biggest delays. Anyone who has tried to walk perpendicular to a scree slope might be able to relate to the challenge.

Eventually the track reaches the magical valleys north of Upper Tama; flanked by volcanic columns.

The little tarn north of Upper Tama resembles may, or may not, have water, but there's a perfect camping spot on a rocky perch overlooking the main lake a bit further on.

From the tarn, the Upper Tama Lakes Track leads back to Whakapapa Village.

### Wild File

**Access** From Mangatepopo car park and Whakapapa Village.

**Grade** Moderate

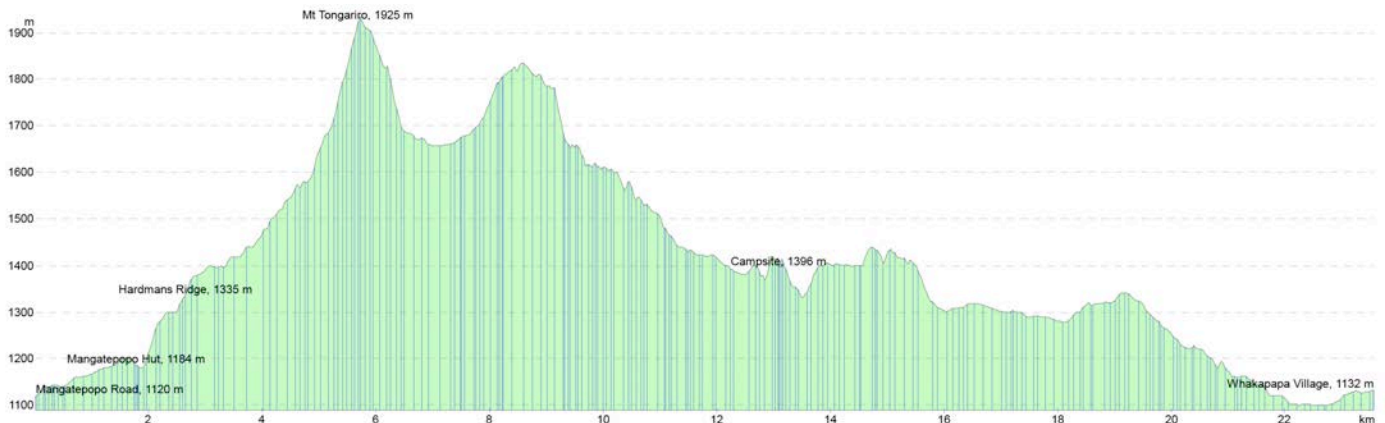
**Time** 10hr

**Distance** 23.6km

**Total ascent** 1488m

**Map** BH34, BH35, BJ34

### Elevation Profile



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