

Tararua Northern Crossing (extended), Tararua Forest Park

This is an extended version of the Tararua Northern Crossing.

Beginning at Poads Road end on the western side of the Tararua Range, the route begins by following the Ohau River to Gable End Ridge, which is followed all the way to the junction with Dora Ridge.

The route now heads east towards Butcher Saddle, where 300m of height is lost, then gained again on the far side. Te Matawai Hut is about 1km from the saddle.

The route continues in an easterly direction, over Pukematawai and along a craggy section of ridge beneath Arete, the 1500m peak on the crossing. Its a steep descent from Arete to Arete Biv where the route turns south towards the Waiohine Pinnacles.

From the Pinnacles, Tarn Ridge resembles a geographic Jekyll and Hyde with a 200m descent along a narrow and steep-sided knife-edge that requires determined focus before the terrain morphs into wider and more gentle rolling tops.

Climb past the memorial and gravesite to hunter Basil Blatchford who died from exposure on the ridge in 1959, to arrive at Tarn Ridge Hut nestled just below the ridgeline in a little dip, with Girdlestone towering above.

Climb over Girdlestone and descend its a steep and craggy southern side and walk the tops over Adkin, North King, Middle King and South King (the Three Kings). At South King, the route turns south-westerly to pass the Broken Axe Pinnacles.

DOC has put a detour in place at the pinnacles, to the left, and it is advised to use this rather than clamber over the Pinnacles themselves.

McGregor then Angle Knob are crossed as the route loops back to the east towards Jumbo and the Jumbo Hut.

From the hut, take the Raingauge Spur Track to Atiwhakatu Hut and the Atiwhakatu Track to the Holdsworth Road end.

Wild File

Access From Poads Road car park or Mt Holdsworth Road end car park

Grade Moderate-difficult

Time 30-4 days. Poads Road to Te Matawai Hut, 6-7hr; To Tarn Ridge Hut, 7-8hr; To Holdsworth Road end, 10-12hr

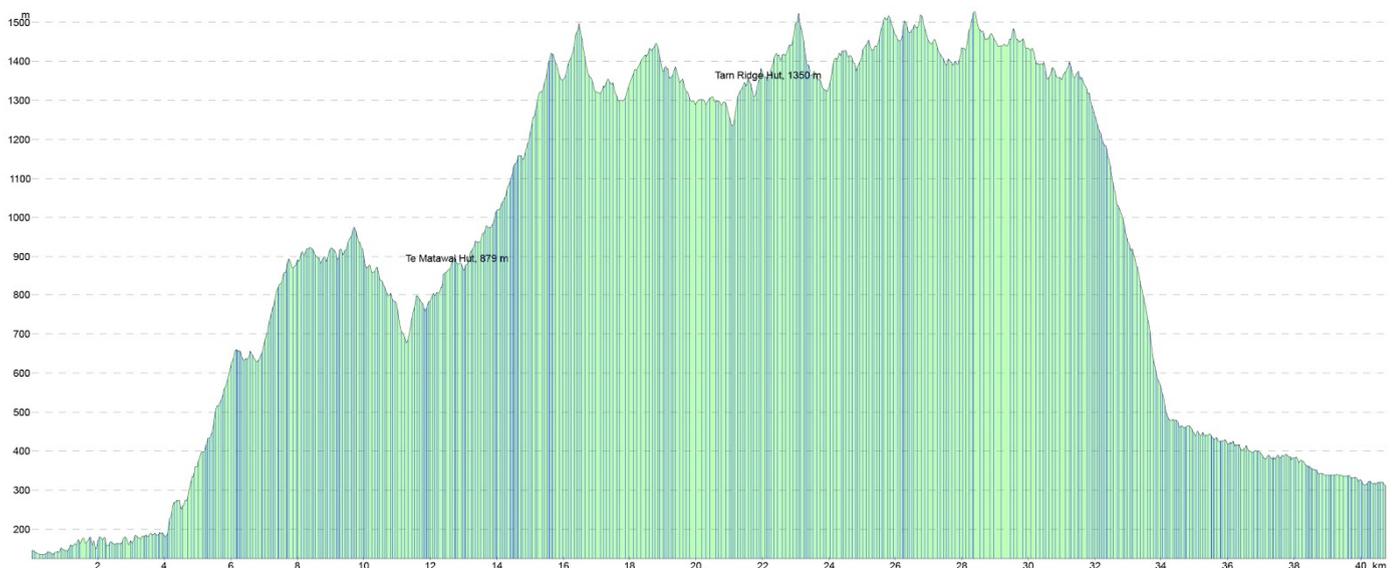
Distance 40.8km

Total ascent 3691m

Accommodation Te Matawai Hut, Tarn Ridge Hut

Topo50 map BN33, BN34, BP33, BP34

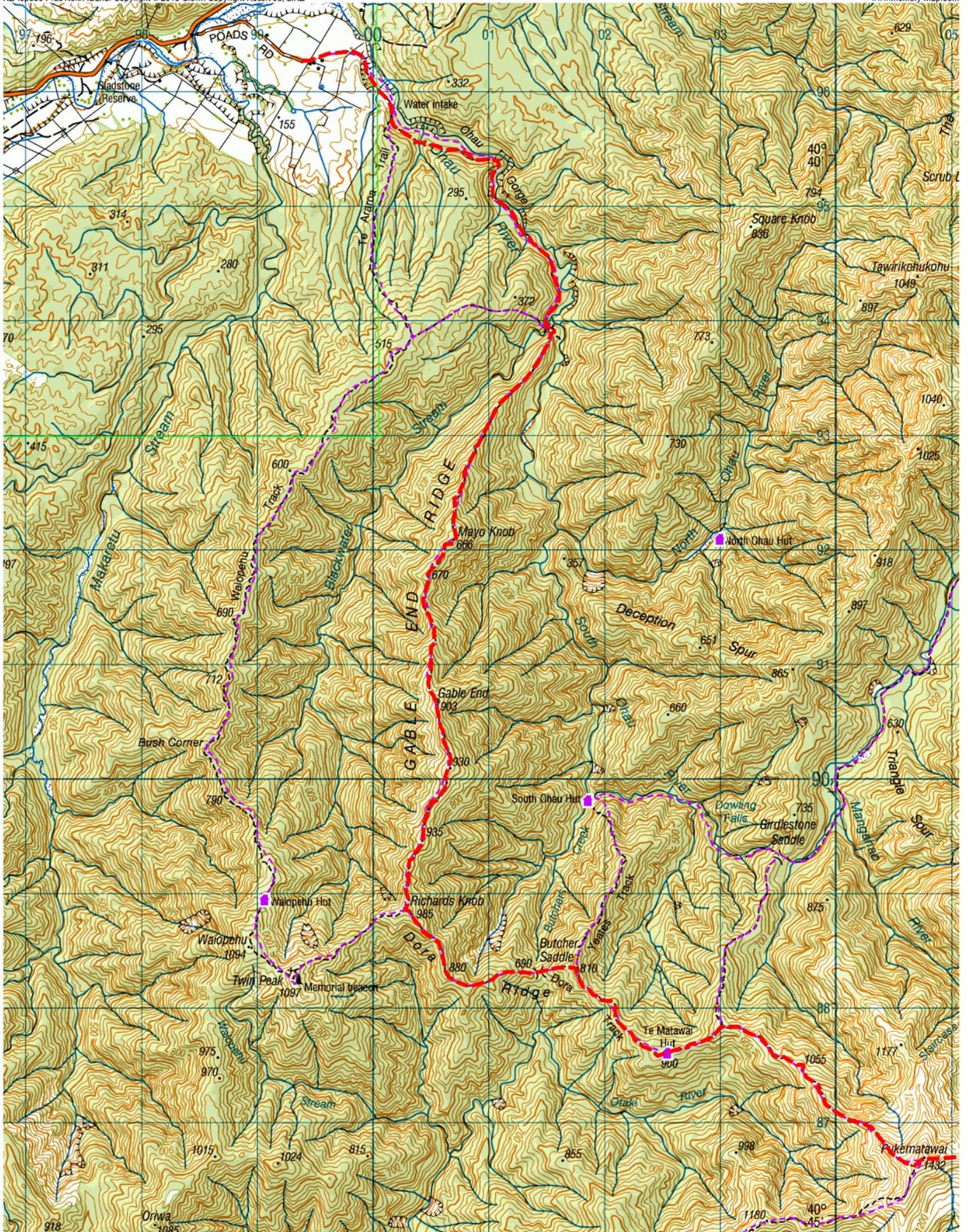
Elevation Profile



Tararua Northern Crossing (extended), Tararua Forest Park. Map 1

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Tararua Northern Crossing (extended), Tararua Forest Park. Map 2

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Tararua Northern Crossing (extended), Tararua Forest Park. Map 3

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