

Whakapapaiti Hut via Bruce Road, Tongariro National Park

Typically accessed via the Whakapapaiti Valley Track (2.5hr from Whakapapa Village), there is also a shorter, easier route (90min from Bruce Road), well suited to family groups or those simply wanting quicker access to the valley.

Essentially following a branch of the longer Round the Mountain Track, begin at Scoria Flat car park, approximately 5km up Bruce Road.

The first kilometre is non-technical, crossing two small creeks and maintaining a fairly flat gradient over rocky terrain. Already sitting at about 1450m in elevation, the weather is the main consideration here as the track is completely exposed until near Whakapapaiti Hut.

The track climbs slightly as a spur is approached, which is sidled for a couple of hundred metres before eventually crossing over it, reaching the highest point on the route at over 1500m. Clearing the spur, trampers are greeted with a full view of the Whakapapaiti Valley, emerging from a series of cliffs and waterfalls on Ruapehu's slopes. From here, the track descends steeply into the head of the valley through a series of switchbacks to the junction with Whakapapaiti Valley Track.

Turn right (west), towards Whakapapaiti Hut, indicated as 30 minutes away. Still descending, the track runs alongside a tributary of the Whakapapaiti Stream and is claimed for a while by stunted mountain beech and mountain toatoa before opening up to a shrubby clearing upon which sits Whakapapaiti Hut.

With 18 bunks and a perfectly situated deck looking up the valley towards Mt Ruapehu, the serviced hut is a lovely overnight stay.

The Whakapapaiti Valley Track continues from the hut down the valley, reaching Whakapapa Village in approximately 2.5hr. Beech forest, board-walked alpine bogs and stunning views make this route highly recommended, although trampers must consider the unbridged crossing of the Whakapapaiti River about 1km from Whakapapaiti Hut, which poses a significant hazard after increased rainfall.

Wild File

Access From Whakapapa, continue up Bruce Road towards Whakapapa Skifield for approx 5km to Scoria Flat car park on right. 4WD may be required by skifield staff in winter

Grade Easy-moderate

Time 90min

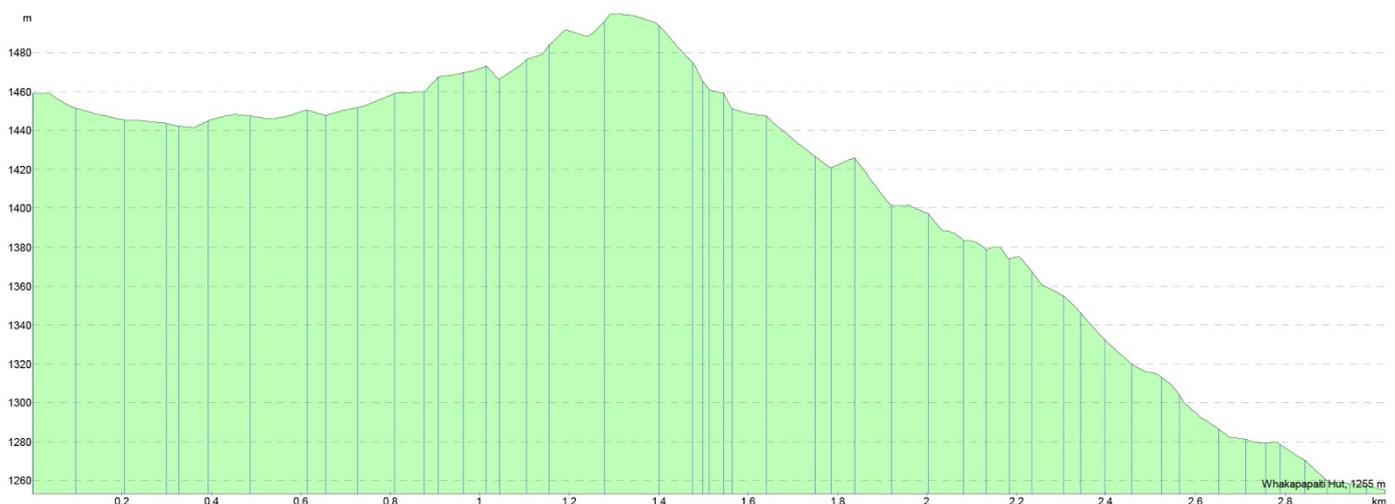
Distance 3.03km

Total ascent 77m

Accommodation Whakapapaiti Hut (\$15, 18 bunks)

Topo50 map BJ34

Elevation Profile



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