

FURTHER AFIELD

Walks (less than 3 hours)

See map (pages 21 - 22)

23. Taurewa Loop Walking Track



2 - 3 hours, 4.5 km loop track. 17 km from Whakapapa Village. Take SH 47 north and turn left at John McDonald Road (this is a gravel road so you should turn on your headlights). Turn right onto Pukehinau Road and look for the Taurewa Track sign.

The track starts on the edge of Tongariro Forest and follows old milling trails through bush.

24. Okupata Caves



25 km from Whakapapa Village. Turn off SH 47 and travel 11 km down John McDonald Road. Veer left at the Pukehinau Road intersection, continue to caves.

A natural, unmarked network of limestone passages in Tongariro Forest. Only enter the caves with people who know them well as it is easy to get lost. Heavy rainfall may result in rising water levels or flooding in the caves.

25. Te Porere Redoubt Walk



45 minutes, 2.5 km return via same track. 25 km from Turangi on SH 47 (just south of junction with SH 47A), 22.3 km from Whakapapa.

These 1869 earthworks fortifications (outpost and main redoubt) were built by the Maori warrior Te Kooti and his followers. It was here that the last of the Maori land wars was fought. This area is preserved as an historic place.

25. Lake Rotopounamu Walking Track



20 minutes to lake (one way), or 2 hours to and around the 5 km loop track. 11 km from Turangi and 35 km from Whakapapa on SH 47. Carpark signposted on south side of Te Ponanga Saddle.

Beautiful Rotopounamu (the greenstone lake) lies nestled in the side of Mt Pihanga. It is a favourite of tree lovers, birdwatchers, walkers and swimmers. Beginning opposite the carpark, the track winds gently uphill. At the top it branches at a junction. Either track leads around the lake, past several beaches and returns to the junction.

27. Ohinetonga Walking Track



2 hours, 3.8 km loop track. 35 km from Whakapapa Village. Turn right onto SH 4 at National Park and head north towards Taumarunui. Turn right at the

'Walking tracks' sign in Ohwango. This reserve lies between Ohwango and the Whakapapa River (not shown on map). The track winds through a variety of attractive scenery, past Ohinetonga Lagoon and through beautiful forest. There are picnic areas and good places to swim by the river.

Day tramps (3 - 8 hours)

28. Tupapakuria Falls Track



4 - 5 hours return to Tupapakuria Falls Lookout. Begins at Fishers Road, National Park Village.

Walk about 30 minutes down Fishers Road to the start of the Tupapakuria Falls Track (left side of road). The track has recently been upgraded by the local community in partnership with DOC. It begins with an easy 20 minute walk to the Taranaki Lookout. From this point the track becomes a back country adventure track and is suitable for experienced trampers only. The track follows a ridge and then descends steeply to a stream. There are good stands of tawa, mature rimu, miro and totara to see along the way. Climbing from the stream, the track winds its way around bluffs to a good lookout point with views of the falls. Return via the same track.

