



Pirongia to Waitomo

(Map 038, 039)

Northern Start	Junction of Pirongia West Rd with Omanawa Stream
Southern End	Waitomo Walkway carpark, Waitomo Village
Distance	43.5km
Time	2 days
Tramping Standard	Tramping track

Route

This is a sometimes steep, rough tramping track with some back country road walking. Please respect track closure during lambing - 1 August to 1 October each year.

Potential hazards: Vehicles; Farming operations - Leave gates as you find them; River crossings - never cross flooded rivers - one stream before connection with Ngatapuwaie Rd is dangerous after heavy rain; Respect private land; NO dogs, camping or fires.

From the Omanawa Stream, follow Pirongia West Rd in an southerly direction. After 2km, you'll reach the intersection with Pekanui Rd. Cross over it and continue S/S-W along Te Rauamoia Rd. After 5.5km, you'll reach SH 31/Kawhia Rd. Turn SE (left) and follow it 2.7km and turn SW (right) into Kaimango Rd. Follow Kaimango Rd for 7.5km to reach the intersection with Honikiwi Road. Veer W (right) and walk 50m to the small carpark on the S side of the road.

Cross the stile onto a formed farm road and follow the orange markers. Then 2km after the rural airstrip, look out for double orange markers. It is not obvious but the track goes over a stile here (while the formed farm road continues on) and into a bush track on an old timber trail.

Keep following the orange markers over high point #405 and past #513 – Omarama, and through to a woolshed near the N end of Mahoe Rd.

Take the gravel Mahoe Road which extends beyond the woolshed, and keep heading south 500m past a DOC sign "Omarama Scenic Reserve".

Immediately south of the Mahoe Rd/Orongo Rd intersection, there is a stile where you head east onto farmland. The route heads due east following a fenceline, with a couple of up and downs and small waterway crossings, however these are easily leapt.

1km in, you will encounter a grass airstrip. More than likely, it wont be in use however in the instances it is, please note as below.

This airstrip is a high risk area. If the airstrip, and/or the fertiliser shed adjacent, is in use - wait where the signs indicate, attract the attention of the site manager, and await their instruction to cross. DO NOT cross until invited.

After crossing the airstrip, continue along the marked fenceline some 400m, which eventually joins a graded track. Follow the track 700m until a stile takes you across a fence - and into a neighbouring property - where the route continues to follow a fenceline 1.5km through cut scrub until crossing another stile by the edge of more mature forest.

A lovely walk through the forest follows - navigate carefully the first 500m along the ridge, then it is slippery when wet on the downhill slopes - and there is a crossing of the Moakururu Stream partway along the track. In "normal" weather this will be no

more than knee high but does come up after heavy rain. Be prepared to wait it out and if that's the case, recommend you head back N along the track to higher ground.

Once over the stream a gentle uphill before entering a track - look out for the markers on the right - that is based on the old logging routes, note the hand formed rock cuttings. Occasionally you'll get a good view out across the forest. Follow the markers through to the northern end of Ngatapuwa Road.

Walk the (approx. 2.5km) length of Ngatapuwa Rd (S/SE) into Te Anga Rd. Down the hill and just before the roundabout intersection, it joins up (to the right) with DOC's Waitomo Walkway which meanders beside the Waitomo Stream through a mixture of shady forest and open farmland. Turn east and follow the track into Waitomo Village. (Note: The Waitomo Walkway crosses Te Anga Rd, so it is possible to walk the final 1km to Waitomo Village along the road).

Other Information

South of Pirongia

Bartlam's Bush Homestay - four birth caravan, tent sites, hot showers, homegrown organic meals, laundry, and shuttle options. Please enquire: P 0272943652 or E lynnbartlam1@gmail.com

Waitomo

Note: that just before Ngatapuwa Road (when tramping south) you have to wade the Moakurua Stream. The crossing here is unsafe when in flood, so do not attempt the Mahoe Road to Ngatapuwa Road when there's been persistent rain in the area.

Waitomo Village/Caves

General information

The Waitomo Glowworm Caves Visitor Centre - 39 Waitomo Caves Rd, Waitomo - P: 07 878 8227 or 0800 456 922 freephone. Also includes a Restaurant & café.

Getting there/away

[InterCity](#) - P: 09 583 5780 - E: info@intercity.co.nz

Accommodation

[YHA Waitomo](#) - 600 Waitomo Caves Road, Waitomo P: 07 878 7649 E: waitomo@yha.co.nz

[Kiwi paka backpackers](#) - Hotel Access Rd, Waitomo - P: 07 878 3395 - E: waitomobackpackers@xtra.co.nz

[Waitomo Top 10 Holiday Park](#) - 12 Te Anga Rd, Waitomo - P: 0508 498 666 freephone or 07 878 7639 - E: stay@waitomopark.co.nz

[Waitomo Caves Hotel](#) - School Access Rd, Waitomo - P: 07 878 8204 - E: info@waitomocaveshotel.co.nz

[Hamilton Tomo Group](#) - 155 Te Anga Rd, on the Trail route 1.5km before Waitomo Village - E: info@htg.org.nz

Friendly caving club hut with plenty of bunk rooms and space to camp. Hot showers, kitchen and large communal sitting room with wood burner and large deck. There is also space on the grounds for camping and outbuildings for drying gear. A warm hut to weather a wet day or just hang out in the sun and the cavers.

\$15pp/night for bunkbed, \$7.50pp/night camping - both include shower/kitchen. The club trips are held 1st Saturday of each month, email ahead if you'd like to join the trip - some equipment can be hired.

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track
- Poisons & traps
- Farming operations
- River crossings - Never cross flooded rivers - one stream before connection with Ngatapuwa Road is dangerous after heavy rain.
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Take extreme care crossing the airstrip 1km E of Mahoe Rd - if in use follow the instructions from the site manager

Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Respect private land
- Leave gates as you find them
- No dogs
- No horses
- No firearms
- No vehicles
- No bikes
- No camping
- No fires

- Wear hi-viz clothing/pack cover and don't use headphones

Amenities (Start)

- No amenities
- Roadside parking only - room for 3 or 4 cars.

Amenities (On Route)

- No amenities