

Timetable for Taupo, Turangi National Park & Whakapapa

How to pick the best bus time for you.

- Want extra time to ascend the summits of Tongariro or Ngauruhoe?
- Do the difficult climbs before the main heat of the day?
- Not such a fit or fast hiker and concerned about amount of time?
- Want to avoid the crowds?
- Want a service that will allow between 7 & 10 hrs on the track?
- Need to hire clothing or equipment?

If you have answered yes to any of the above then the earlier bus services are for you.

Taupo Departures (Nov-May)

5:40am track arrival 7:00am
6:20am track arrival 7:55am

Turangi Departures (Nov-May)

6:00am track arrival 6:40am
6:20am track arrival 7:00am
7:00am track arrival 7:45am

Ketetahi Car Park : One way to track start

Multiple departures - 6:15am - 6:30am - 7:30am

National Park Departures (Nov - May)

5:40am track arrival 6:15am
6:40am track arrival 7:15am
7:40am track arrival 8:15am
8:40am track arrival 9:15am
(Extra service will run on demand during peak season)

Whakapapa Departures (Nov-May)

6:00am track arrival 6:15am
7:00am track arrival 7:15am
8:00am track arrival 8:15am
9:00am track arrival 9:15am
(Extra services will run on demand during peak season)

These times may change due to demand or weather conditions.

Waihohou Traverse

Departs opposite Whakapapa info centre 8:00am

Mountain Departures at the end of the day.

No matter what bus you are on in the morning, you can catch any of the multiple departures between 3:00pm and 4:30pm. If all hikers are checked in early then these services will depart early. Departures work on a first in first served basis.

TONGARIRO ALPINE CROSSING



BOOK WITH TONGARIRO EXPEDITIONS

0800 828 763

e-mail: info@tongariroexpeditions.com

www.tongariroexpeditions.com

TONGARIRO ALPINE CROSSING

THE WINTER
SPECIALISTS



BE PREPARED:

Weather in the Tongariro National Park can be extremely changeable -

Expected temperatures:

* Summer: 5°C to 35°C

* Winter: -5°C to 10°C

You will need to bring:

- * Raincoat & over trousers
- * Strong shoes or boots
- * Sunscreen & sunglasses
- * Cellphone (highly recommended)
- * Warm clothing
- * Food & water
- * Camera

AVAILABLE FOR HIRE ON BUS:

- * Day packs
- * Polar fleece jackets
- * Hiking boots
- * Easy-to-use crampons (Winter only)
- * Water/wind proof jackets and trousers
- * Hiking poles

AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE ON BUS:

- * Drinking water
- * Gloves
- * Chocolate bars
- * Hats and sunscreen

PAYMENT:

By cash or pre-paid vouchers only

CANCELLATION POLICY:

There are **no refunds** after departure. If the weather is not suitable for the Tongariro Crossing, alternative tracks can be hiked.

We make no guarantee for the weather.

We reserve the right to cancel any trips at short notice due to bad weather conditions.



TONGARIRO
EXPEDITIONS

TONGARIRO EXPEDITIONS,

Your original operator.

The Central Plateau's only locally-owned transport and guiding service owned and operated by hikers for hikers. And the only operator specialising in winter hikes, with your safety in mind.

Our company policy is that we will not operate unless we are prepared to be on the mountain ourselves - a pledge that safety can only be judged by those qualified to make such decisions and that being there is everything. If you've heard that winter hikes are unsafe, then you have been talking with someone who is ill-informed. Of course there is a need for common sense and the utmost care - but those are considerations we practise on all our hikes, summer or winter. Call us now for the latest information, or visit our photo gallery for images of summer and winter expeditions.



THE TONGARIRO CROSSING

7-8 hours, 18.5km

One way. Grade: Challenging.

Recommended hiking direction: Mangatepopo to Ketetahi.

Often described as the best one-day hike in New Zealand, the Tongariro Alpine Crossing provides an opportunity to experience some of the most scenic and active volcanic areas of the park.

The track winds up the Mangatepopo Valley to the saddle between Tongariro and Ngauruhoe. It climbs to Red Crater (1886m), then drops down to the vivid Emerald lakes. After passing Blue lake, the track descends around the northern slope of Tongariro, then descends in a zig-zag to the Ketetahi Hut.

THE NGAURUHOE SUMMIT

(2287m).

Side Track. Grade Very Challenging. The 2500 year old, near perfect cone of Mount Ngauruhoe entices many visitors to its summit.

Relatively quiet since 1975, this parasitic cone of Mount Tongariro is traditionally one of New Zealand's most active volcanoes. Allow an extra 2-3 hrs (Earlier service required)

THE TONGARIRO SUMMIT

(1967m)

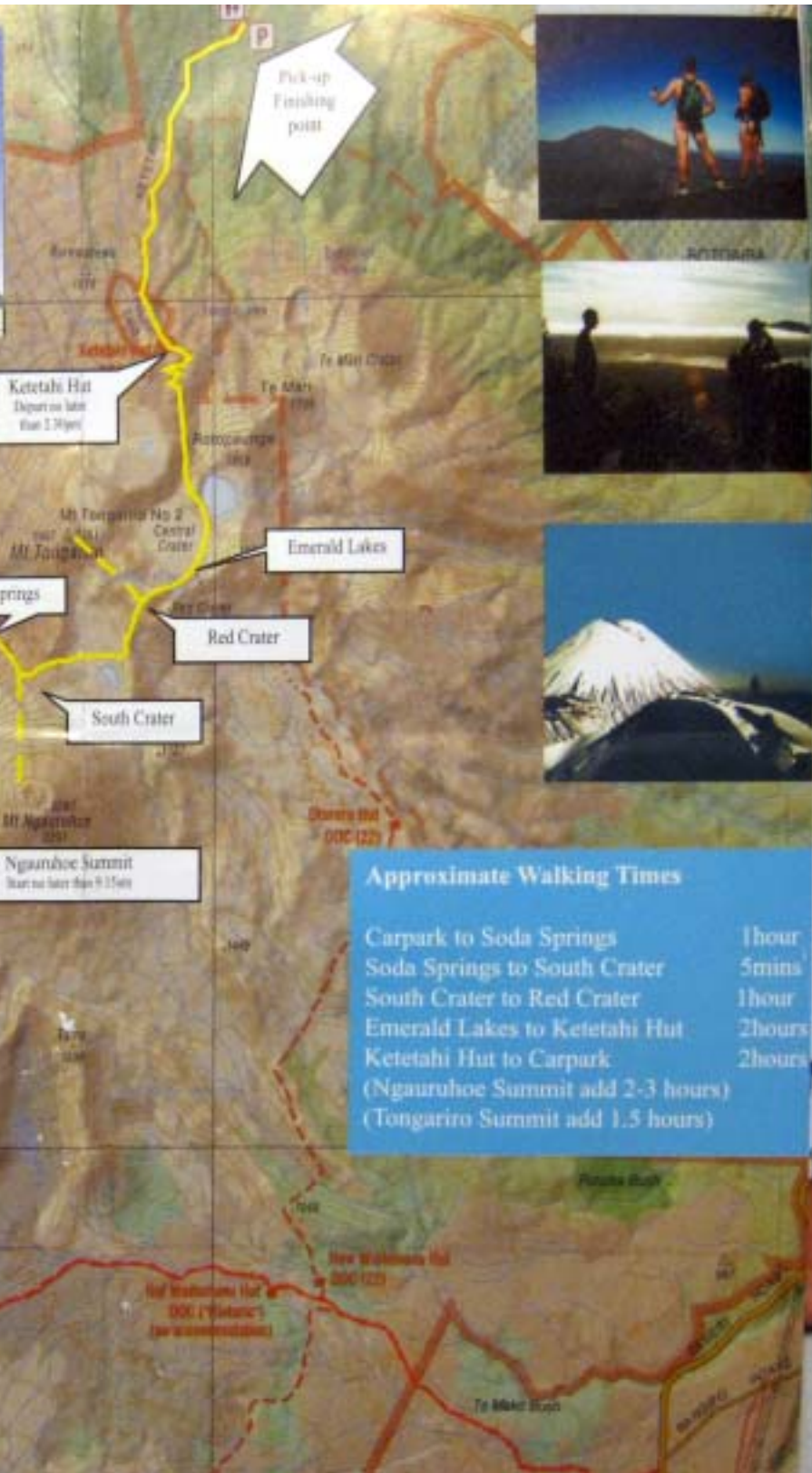
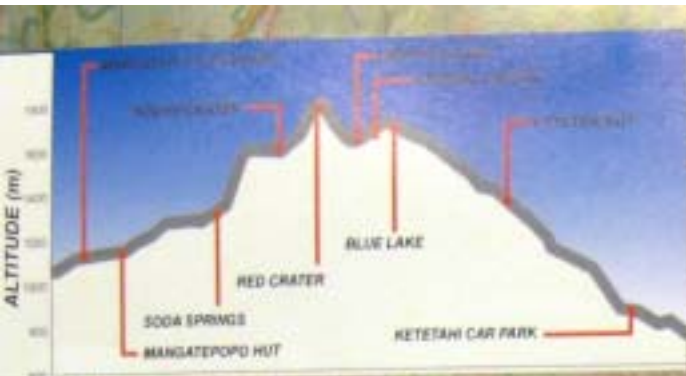
Side Track. Grade Relatively Easy. Taking 1 1/2 hrs return from the main track (Earlier service required)

THE WAIHOHONU TRAVERSE

7- 8hrs, 17km

One way. Grade: moderate. This is in most cases an even better track than the highly used Tongariro Alpine Crossing. Unlike the crossing track there are very few people, so you can experience the park how it should be, and generally is sheltered from the weather. The track passes between the bases of Mt Ngauruhoe and Mt Ruapehu from the extreme eastern to the extreme western boundaries of the park. Cascading waterfalls, pristine crater lakes, bubbling rivers and beech forests are to be experienced along the way. Absolutely awesome!

WINTER CONDITIONS: During winter, conditions on both tracks can be extremely changeable and will require specialist equipment. We carry this equipment on the buses for hire. When conditions require we will accompany the trip for your safety, at no charge.



Approximate Walking Times

Carpark to Soda Springs	1 hour
Soda Springs to South Crater	5mins
South Crater to Red Crater	1 hour
Emerald Lakes to Ketetahi Hut	2 hours
Ketetahi Hut to Carpark	2 hours
(Ngauruhoe Summit add 2-3 hours)	
(Tongariro Summit add 1.5 hours)	



WELCOME TO THE TONGARIRO ALPINE CROSSING

N.Z.'s Best One Day Alpine Hike

Please keep this information and our brochure with you, as it will help you along the way.

THE TRACK

- Starting from the Mangatepopo car park you have an easy hike up the valley to 'Soda Springs', this is the first location on your map. This should take you about an hour. This section is nice and easy.
- Between 'Soda Springs' and the 'South Crater' you will notice that the contour lines on the map get very close together, this means that it is going to be steep, we call this section the 'Devils Staircase'. You will find out why we call it this when you get there. This should take you about 45mins.
- When you get to the top of the 'Devils Staircase' you are at the entry to the 'South Crater' and the start point for the summit sidetrack to 'Mt. Ngauruhoe'. The South Crater is nice and easy as it is dead flat. When you get to the other side of this crater you will be at the base of the 'Red Crater Ridge', your last big climb for the day.

Please read special note at the end of info sheet.

MT NGAURUHOE SIDE TRACK. This starts from the top of the 'Devils Staircase' and is signposted to the base of the mountain, only. There is no marked track up this mountain so it should only be done if the weather is totally clear and not too windy. **You need to be making your climb by no later than 9.15am to have enough time.** This sidetrack is **extremely difficult** and should only be done by people who have found the 'Devils Staircase' easy and for those who do not suffer from **vertigo**. This sidetrack should take you about **2hrs return**; it is about 1 ½ hrs up and about 30mins to come down. To help you get up, look to the left-hand side about 1/3 the way up and you will see a solid lava flow, head toward it and go up it. When you come down from the top put your weight on your heels and come down the scree, but be careful as you will be coming down very fast and if you lose your footing you may slip all the way to the bottom. **You need to leave the top no later than 11.45am.** If part-way up you are feeling that it is **too tough** or it is taking you **too long**, turn around and come down **you do not want to miss your last bus at 4.30pm.** You will also need at least ankle-high boots and long trousers for this climb as protection against the sharp rock. If you do not follow this advice you could find yourself in serious trouble. **FALLING ROCKS AND POOR FOOTING ON THIS TRACK ARE A SERIOUS HAZARD, CAUTION IS REQUIRED.**

- Going up the 'Red Crater Ridge' is not too difficult and will take you about ½ hr and will bring you out on top of the 'Red Crater', caution is required as this section of track is steep and has big drops on either side. This section can be scary when the winds are strong (50kph +) as you may get pushed around or even find you may need to be on your hands and knees. Please do not walk too close to the edge of the Crater because if you fall in you will not come out. The bottom of the ridge also marks the **POINT OF NO RETURN**. This means if you are having trouble or difficulty for any reason, or if the weather has closed in and you feel you need to get down, this is the place to do it, **at the bottom not, the top of the ridge.** If you get to the top of the ridge and the weather turns bad keep going, as you will be over the worst and most dangerous section and you will be more sheltered.

MT TONGARIRO SIDETRACK When you get to the top of the Red Crater Ridge this marks the summit sidetrack to 'Mt Tongariro', this is a nice easy track that is fully marked and should take you about 1 ½ hrs return. **This track should also only be done if the weather is good.**

- At the top of the 'Red Crater' is the summit of the main track and is a great spot to have your lunch if conditions permit. On a clear day you can see coast to coast and get a nice warm bum at the same time as the crater is active and there are hot spots on the ground. When you leave the top the track is almost all down hill from here. From the top follow the track down to the 'Emerald Lakes' (no swimming), when you get to the bottom you will be inside the 'Central Crater' (front cover photo on brochure) this is flat and easy through the crater to the 'Blue Lake' (no swimming). **You need to be leaving the top of the Red Crater no later than 12.30pm to be on time for the last bus at 4.30pm. Also take care when coming down the red crater as the track is loose scree.**
- From the 'Blue Lake' follow the track down the Rotopaunga valley and down the north face to the 'Ketetahi Hut'.
- When you leave the 'Ketetahi Hut' it is about 1 ½ -2hrs to the end of the track. **You need to leave the hut by no later than 2.30pm to catch the last bus at 4.30pm**

WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED YOU NEED TO SIGN IN WITH YOUR BUS A.S.A.P.

If you are all signed in early the bus will go early, listen for the bus to start. Do not sit on the grass and fall asleep and **do not wait until the departure time to sign in.** If you fail to get on the bus when it departs you have missed the bus and you may need to make alternative arrangements to get home.

- In the morning listen carefully to your driver who will advise how many departures there will be on that day as there may only be one. If **you** have missed the 3.30pm or the 4.30pm bus, then **you** have missed the bus and it is **your** responsibility to find an alternative way home but **you** will need to contact us as soon as you are off the mountain as **SEARCH AND RESCUE (S.A.R.) WILL BE GIVEN YOUR DETAILS AND MAY START A SEARCH FOR YOU.** If you are going to miss the bus try to call the number on the cover of the brochure, if you do not have a phone ask somebody and use theirs. Call 0800 828 763 this is an emergency number only, please call also if you have turned around and gone back to the start of the track so we can advise you what to do. The phone numbers you have given us on the sheet in the morning are passed to S.A.R. we do not call them looking for you.

WATER

Water is available from the huts, but this is only when they have it, you are best to take your own as the hut do run out. Ask your driver for advice.

TOILETS

Toilets are available at the following.

Mangatepopo car park, Mangatepopo hut, Soda Springs, Ketetahi hut and Ketetahi car park.

Special note:

The weather in the National Park is extremely changeable and you can experience very different weather to what has been forecast, this **weather can** often be **extreme** and **dangerous**. Please, if you experience bad weather prior to reaching the far side of the south crater turn around and come back to the track start. Then call us so we can collect you from there. Do not attempt to continue this Alpine track, as many people underestimate the weather conditions and people can get lost, cause rescue operations or even die. Do not be a statistic.