

Here are some of the sights of the walk and some of the options available.

We usually like to start at the lower end of the walk and head uphill.

Why? To keep the view of Mt Ruapehu in our field of view as much as we can!



We might start all of the way down at the Whakapapanui stream and add another hour onto our trip, enjoying the shelter of the lush, moss covered tree in this Mountain Beech forest.

We could also start at the top of the Silica Rapids track and view this unique formation, the only one of it's kind in Tongariro National Park.



The lower reaches of the Whakapapaiti track give us a true New Zealand bush track. We get away from the manicured trails that are close to the roads and experience a bit of dirt. Real Kiwi tramping, in a forest that has real Kiwi, (we've never seen one here, they only come out after dark).

Boardwalks get us over the delicate Alpine bogland (not smelly bog, just really damp) with ease.

Mt Ruapehu stands resplendent in the background.



In the upper reaches of the Valley the Stream remains unbridged. If you know the right spot, most days it is possible to keep our feet dry, otherwise, wet feet can just be considered part of the adventure! A small price to pay to be in such a beautiful place away from the crowds.

The climb up on to the final ridge does not take long. We experience the rapid changes as we move above the tree-line into rocky terrain that is sparsely covered by alpine shrubs and mosses. The views back into the Valley show us what we have achieved.



A world looking very different from where we began.

Not far to go now and we will be at the road to the Ski-field. Getting that satisfying feeling of a good day's walk now!

Mt Ngauruhoe and Mt Tongariro have chosen to show themselves today too, lucky us.

