

CAPE RUNAWAY

Topo50 Map: BD43 Raukokore

GPS: NZTM on WGS84

How to get to START

Get to Whakatane then head for Opotiki on SH35 and keep going through Waihou Bay and on to Whangaparoa. When the road starts to head SE near the Whangaparoa River slow down and turn left onto Ngarue Road. The starting point **WP01** is in a paddock just past the end of this farm access road, but it must be noted that this is on private land. Contact for local information 07 325 3949 & 021 1088817.

Rough description: Although only being 11km long in 5 – 7 hours this tramp should be considered as being in the fit category with tricky walking in places due to very steep slopes – especially descending – and the overall ascent of 700metres often through thick vegetation on a barely discernible track. Most of the descending is on open grassy slopes which can be slippery. The entire tramp is on private land and permission must be sought before entering the area. The vegetation includes dense native bush with Manuka, Kanuka, Nikau Palms and open grassland which is grazed by cattle. There are amazing shoreline views plus ocean views which include White and Whale Islands. One section of boulder hopping is involved so note the tide times.



Cape Runaway is in the top right corner of the above map

Detail: At the end of the gravel access road there are farm tracks to follow to reach the parking spot (**WP01**) which is only metres above sea level. From here head SE for a couple of minutes the turn left – (**WP02**) almost due N – into another paddock where reception was found on Vodafone but generally coverage is poor. The route then heads E before going left uphill on a less well defined (**WP03**) grassy and gravelly track heading NE into fairly dense Kanuka. Some altitude is now gained and after about half an hour a view of the sea is seen and a ridge (**WP04**_{107m}) heading NW is followed. At a high point (**WP05**_{233m}) direction changes to SSW for a few metres to another obvious high point (**WP06**_{260m}) with better sea views. Ascent to the NW continues until a ferny area is encountered where the slope is almost flat (**WP07**_{320m}) and there were signs of wild pig.



From **WP07** the route heads downslope to the SW for a few metres before continuing to the NW and emerging close to the edge (**WP08**_{361m}) of a very steep slope above the shoreline. Another couple of hundred metres gets you to the first Trig of the day (**WP09**_{373m}) Tikirau. The real fun of the day now starts as the ridge is narrow with very steep slopes.



The end of the ridge (**WP10**_{324m}) is reached in about 3 hours then it is steeply down to a small col (**WP11**_{265m}) before re-ascending to the next trig (**WP12**_{290m}). From here the lighthouse (**WP13**_{54m}) and a knee trembling descent on grass to it is probably the hardest so far. The next three kilometres are relatively easy walking paralleling the shore line with a magnificent Pohutakawa offering shade for afternoon tea (**WP14**), a small loop (**WP15**) in around the head of a small stream for face wash then an area with some pretty large dead trees (**WP16**) which looks like a tree graveyard.

At about 6 hours there is a tricky descent, basically down a small stream line to reach the shoreline (**WP17**) – must be reached at low tide.

Three hundred metres of boulder hopping are now required but there is nothing difficult as long as care is taken. Grassland is again picked up (**WP18**) and after crossing a small stream (**WP19**) the route ahead can be envisioned by looking up to the SE where a small grassy saddle (**WP20**) can be seen. From here it really is (almost) downhill all the way back on well-established track firstly through grassy paddock with a small grave-yard (**WP21**) to eventually pass through a bit of native woodland with blackberries to arrive at the end (**WP22**) or starting point.





Waypoint	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
01	2041761	5830834	4.0	Park in paddock beyond end of Ngarue Road
02	2042017	5830725	3.0	3min (285m); Turn left to next paddock heading North (Vodafone coverage)
03	2042138	5831187	7.0	12min (880m): Bear left to narrower track on grass, gravel through Kanuka
04	2042203	5831691	107	30min (1.46km); Sea views then leftish to NW on ridge
05	2041905	5832073	233	54min (2km); High point and turn to WSW
06	2041806	5832037	261	1:17min (2.17km); High point with even better sea views
07	2041447	5832137	320	1:41min (2.65km); Plus or minus level in ferns, turn to SW to find pig wallow
08	2041225	5832231	361	2:25min (3.20km); Above very steep views of sea to NE
09	2041050	5832346	373	3:46km (2:35min); Tikirau Trig [No1500]
10	2040805	5832699	324	2:56min (3.99km); N end of ridge with views of White & Whale Islands - steep descent
11	2040731	5832890	265	3:06min (4.21km); Col at bottom of very steep grassy descent, up again to NW
12	2040620	5833005	290	3:12min (4.37km); Paparinga Trig [B129] facing very steep grassy descent
13	2040343	5833605	54.0	4:25min (5.35km); Cape Runaway lighthouse
14	2040182	5833197	22.0	4:50min (6.06km); Huge shade tree on rocky shore edge
15	2040323	5832784	44.0	5:16min (6.76km); Head uphill to left (SE then SW) to get round stream line
16	2040216	5832378	40.0	5:31min (7.36km); Several large dead trees - tree graveyard
17	2040335	5831690	-2.0	6:06min (8.42km); On rocky shoreline after tricky, steep descent in stream line
18	2040457	5831518	-3.0	6:19min (8.71km); End of boulder hopping
19	2040524	5831281	-5.0	6:28min (8.99km); Cross stream and head SE uphill to saddle on wide track in grassy area
20	2040857	5831215	59.0	6:39min (9.46km); Crest on flat grassy saddle area, then downhill
21	2041236	5830577	1.0	6:55min (10.35km); Grassy paddock just north of graveyard
22	2041750	5830836	-3.0	7:07min (11.1km); End after downhill section through trees with black-berries

Notes

- **GPS** = Garmin GPSMap 62sc
- **WP** = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
- **masl** = metres above sea level

