

TARANAKI

Taranaki Maunga Summit Climb

Ngā hīkoi o Taranaki Maunga



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Nau mai, haere mai Welcome

*Nei rā te mihi atu ki ā koutou
i raro i te korowai o tō tātou
nei tauheke a Taranaki*

*Greetings to everyone who sits
under the cloak of our ancestor
Taranaki Maunga*

Taranaki Maunga is a mauri or life force and a spiritual tupuna or ancestor for Taranaki Māori. Please respect this by not standing directly on the summit peak or camping, cooking, or littering in the summit area.



Tahurangi Lodge (privately owned). Photo: Jonty Crane, jontynz.com



Volcanic rock on the Taranaki Maunga Summit Track.
Photo: Jonty Crane, jontynz.com



The last section towards the summit. Photo: Tim Weston

Taranaki Maunga

Rising above the clouds, the majestic Taranaki Maunga offers spectacular scenery to those who make the challenging climb to its peak.

The 2518m high volcano lies in the centre of Egmont National Park (to be named Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki). At around 125,000 years old, it is the park's most recent volcanic peak. Its last eruption was around 1755AD. The mountain is now considered dormant.

For generations, Taranaki Maunga and its surrounding ranges have been the central pillar for iwi, hapū and whānau of Taranaki. The mountain has long been an honoured tupuna (ancestor), a source of physical, cultural, and spiritual sustenance, and a final resting place.

Te Kāhui Tupua (comprising Taranaki Maunga and the other tūpuna mountains including Pouākai and Kaitake and all the surrounding lands) will be recognised as a legal person, reflecting the view of the Tūpuna Maunga as a living and individual whole. Te Kāhui Tupua will have its own legal personality with all the corresponding rights, powers, duties and liabilities as a legal person.

Aerial view of cloud blanketing Taranaki Maunga. Photo: Stefan Marks



Taranaki Maunga Summit Climb

5–6 hr uphill (3–4 hr downhill), 6.3 km one way.

For non-mountaineers, the best time to climb the maunga/mountain is from January to early April when the maunga is often clear of snow and ice, apart from in the crater.

This is a strenuous, full-day hike for fit, well-equipped trampers. Allow plenty of time and leave early. Times stated are approximate only.



Climbing the mountain in snow and ice conditions requires mountaineering experience and equipment, and a different route into the crater than that described below.



North Egmont (946 m) to Tahurangi Lodge (1492 m)

1 hr 30 min – 2 hr, 4 km

From Egmont Road end the Summit Track follows the boardwalk up to a locked gate. Go through the pedestrian gate and continue up the gravel Translator Road (walking access only) to the privately owned Tahurangi Lodge. Sections of this track are very steep. There is a public toilet 100 m below the lodge and a small day shelter room at the lodge. The route gets much more difficult from here, so if you are already finding it hard or the weather is deteriorating, then it's better to turn back.



Tahurangi Lodge to the Summit (2518 m)

3–4 hr, 2.3 km

The track passes in front of Tahurangi Lodge and continues upwards via the poled route through the rock-covered Hongi valley. A series of steps leads out of the valley onto steep gravel slopes. It is much more exposed to the weather here and the hardest sections are still ahead. Check your group is still feeling fit and confident and assess the weather further up the mountain.

Continue uphill to the Lizard (2134 m), a prominent narrow rocky ledge that leads down into the crater. It has a steep drop-off and can be icy at any time of year – extreme caution is required. The route then crosses the crater ice to the final short climb up to the summit rock.



Warning: Be alert for rockfall from above dislodging rocks onto those below. Warn others of rockfall by yelling to those below you.

There is ice in the crater all year round. Crampons and/or an ice axe may be required to cross the crater at any time.

Be prepared to turn back if the weather deteriorates or you are finding the climb too difficult.

Remember: reaching the summit is only the halfway point. Allow yourself plenty of time to descend safely before nightfall.



Tramping track: Challenging day or multi-day tramping/hiking. Mostly unformed track that may be rough and steep with unbridged stream and river crossings. Suitable for fit, experienced people with moderate to high-level backcountry (remote area) navigation and survival skills. Tramping/hiking boots required.



Route: Challenging day or multi-day tramping/hiking. Unformed track with markers, poles or rock cairns. Expect unbridged stream and river crossings. Suitable only for people with high-level backcountry (remote area) skills and experience, above-average fitness, and navigation and survival skills. Complete self-sufficiency and sturdy tramping/hiking boots required.

Are you prepared for the challenging route to the summit?

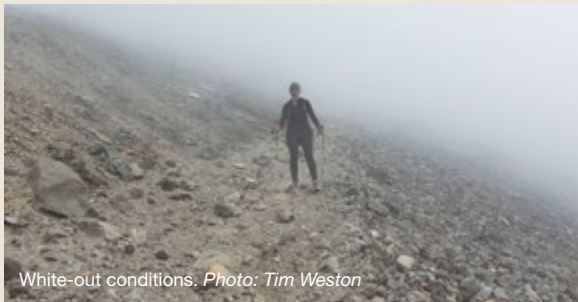
Trampers have died or been severely injured attempting this expert route. Know the Land Safety Code – 5 simple rules to help you stay safe.

1

Choose the right trip for you: Learn about the route and make sure you have the skills for it. Mountaineering experience is required for this track in snow and ice conditions. For updated track conditions, check with the DOC Visitor Centre and the DOC website at doc.govt.nz.

2

Understand the weather: Attempt this route in good weather only – it can quickly change to sub-zero conditions. Check the forecast before you go at weather.niwa.co.nz and change your plans if needed.



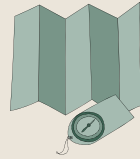
White-out conditions. Photo: Tim Weston

DOC HOTline
0800 362 468

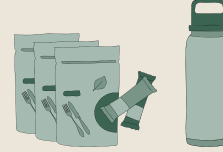
Report any safety hazards or conservation emergencies
For Fire and Search and Rescue Call 111

3

Pack warm clothes and extra food: Prepare for bad weather and an unexpected night out.



Map and compass



Food and 2–3L of water (no water available on the track)



Waterproof raincoat and trousers



Cellphone/ personal locator beacon (can be hired from the Visitor Centre)



Sturdy hiking boots



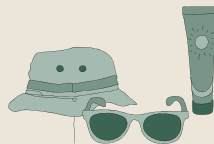
Walking poles (optional)



Warm clothing, gloves and hat



Putties / gaiters (optional)



Sunhat, sunglasses, sunscreen



Ice axe and crampons in snow and ice conditions



First aid kit

4

Share your plans and take ways to get help:

Telling a trusted person your trip details and taking a distress beacon can save your life. See adventuresmart.nz.

5

Take care of yourself and each other: Eat, drink and rest, stick with your group, and make decisions together.



Crater ice. Photo: Tim Weston

Pets



Dogs and other pets, even inside vehicles, are not allowed in Egmont National Park (to be renamed Te-Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki).

Getting there



Further information

For park information and hut tickets

Taranaki / Egmont National Park Visitor Centre

(Open daily)

2879 Egmont Road,
Egmont National Park

PHONE: 06 756 0990

EMAIL: egmontvc@doc.govt.nz

doc.govt.nz

Cover photo: The walk up to the Summit begins on the Translator Road. *Photo: Tim Weston*

This information was accurate at the time of printing. For the latest information on DOC's policies and facilities, visit doc.govt.nz.

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