

who know the area well, pick suitable conditions, and take the right gear.

Join one of the park summer programme trips if you can. In any event, get advice from park headquarters. Have dark glasses, sun-screen cream (do not forget under the chin), gloves, as well as warm clothing and a parka, good boots, food, and the like.

As conditions may change quickly and unpredictably, be prepared for sun on snow and wind, rain, and mist. Start out early. If you find icy conditions, turn back.

For the first two stages the chair-lift may be taken if it is available (you can take photos from it). From Hut Flat at the top of the first chair-lift, follow the poled route to Delta Corner, above the New Zealand Alpine Club Hut. Snow is likely most of the way from here. Steadily rise to the top of Knoll T-Bar (2-2½ hours).

From the top of the Knoll ridge walk up the glacier to Glacier Shelter, perched at 2600 m atop the Glacier Knob rock (though the rock, and possibly most of the shelter, may be snow covered). In good conditions, fine views are obtained over the Pinnacles and Ngauruhoe, with Tongariro behind. Veer left to climb the ridge which takes you to The Dome, and from there look down on to the Crater Lake (right) and into the Plateau (left).

Descend by the same route. The views downward will be more obvious, and on a clear day Mount Egmont may be seen in the distance before a right turn shows Ngauruhoe straight ahead and looming large. Continue back down the rocks on the poled track to the Top of the Bruce.

(Six and a half hours return to the Top of the Bruce; 1630 m altitude.)

Further information

The map "Tongariro National Park" (N.Z.M.S. 273, Department of Lands and Survey) is an indispensable reference. Particular reference should be made to the Ruapehu ski-fields map and the inset Whakapapa Village; brief track descriptions are included. Part of this map is reproduced on page 4.

"The Vegetation Map of Tongariro National Park" (I. A. E. Atkinson, DSIR) gives a very good picture of the vegetation of the area, with much information on canopy species and predominant growth, and valuable supporting text.

The handbook *The Restless Land* gives a wide-ranging description of the park and its features in 112 interest-packed pages with colour photos and diagrams and gives further references.

Pamphlets which describe specific tracks are available from park headquarters.

Crater Lake from Ohakune

This trip is included in the park summer programme, from the Ohakune ranger station. Get further information from one of the ranger stations.

This is a more consistently upward climb and approaches the Crater Lake from the west, by the Mangaturuturu Glacier, after first ascending to the Mangaturuturu Shelter, from where there are views to the south-west, including Lake Surprise.

North-east of park headquarters

Tracks to the north-east were dealt with in the previous article in the February 1978 issue. However, two variations are worth brief mention:

Tama Lakes

Start on the upper track to the Taranaki Falls and continue ahead on the Waihohonu Track. At Tama Saddle (2½ hours) turn left and after a few minutes come to the elevation overlooking the Lower Tama Lake. The Upper Lake, nestling below the slopes of Ngauruhoe, is reached by ascending an exposed scoria ridge. Good views back to Ruapehu over the Lower Tama Lake can be obtained.

(A full-day trip; 6 hours return.)

Mangatepopo to Ketetahi

This walk starts at the Mangatepopo Valley and finishes at the end of the Ketetahi Track, near Lake Rotoaira. If you join a park summer programme trip, the problem of return transport is taken care of.

The track climbs from the Mangatepopo Valley over the top of the Red Crater, across the Central Crater, and out to the north side of Tongariro. Ketetahi Hut is bypassed by taking the direct track to the springs, where a dip may be had. Then continue down to the road.

(A full-day trip; 7 hours one way.)

Conclusion

In winter the Top of the Bruce resounds to the steady tramp of skiers. In other seasons the park offers different attractions — to the walker, the student of nature, and the person who simply enjoys mountain air and scenery and alpine flowers.

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