

Arthur Range traverse, Kahurangi National Park

Wild file

Access: To drive up Rocky River Rd to Mt Campbell, permission and a key can be obtained from Mt Campbell Communications at Quarantine Rd, Stoke, Nelson. www.mountcampbell.co.nz. A second vehicle must be placed at Flora car park, at the top end of Graham Valley Rd.

Distance: 10.5km

Time: 8-12hr

Grade: Moderate

Topo50 Map: BP24, BQ24

Description

This trip from Mt Campbell to the Lodestone is 20.8km, traverses five peaks over 1300m and lasts more than 10 hours, requiring a high level of fitness and aptitude in negotiating a route along beech-clad ridges and up steep rock faces – all off-track. The entire route is along a series of disjointed ridge tops and there is no water supply.

the start and end are some distance apart, so a car shuttle will be required.

From the car park, take the track to the tops, aiming for Mt Campbell and then on to the exposed expanse of Hoary Head, a monolithic table-top of shattered marble, 1473m above the Riwaka River. From this high vantage, views to as far as Mt Taranaki are possible.

From the summit cairn, the next objective – the serrated top of Mt Crusader can also be seen.

Dropping off the broad ridge and press on along the scrubby ridgeline which narrows into a knife-edge, forcing a sidle beneath rock outcrops.

Mt Crusader is steep and guarded by prickly Spaniard grass. Scramble up the north face of the mountain – the crux of the route – to its 1428m summit.

The route now descends through stands of dracophyllum onto a saddle and the gentle slopes of Mt McMahon (1342m). There's a long stretch of ridge travel after this in order to reach the final peak – Lodestone.

There's a final 30-minute descent to Flora car park.

Elevation Profile



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Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to map this route correctly, Wilderness Magazine does not take responsibility for any errors in the route. Users should use discretion when planning their routes and gather as much information as possible before departing.

