

Dundas Hut Loop, Tararua Forest Park

WILD FILE

Access Putara Road end, about 15km west of Eketahuna

Grade Moderate-difficult

Time Car park to Dundas Hut, 10hr, Dundas Hut to car park via Cattle Ridge, 10hr

Distance 25.5km

Total ascent 2892m

Accommodation Dundas Hut (\$5, 6 bunks)

Map BN34

DESCRIPTION

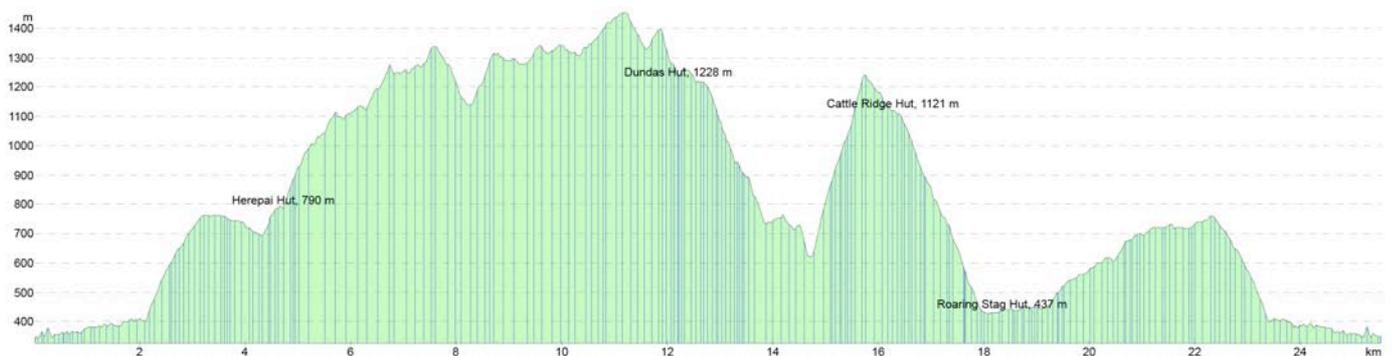
If you're seeking a feeling of remoteness, without having to lug a heavy pack for days, then the route linking Dundas Ridge and Cattle Ridge in a loop from Putara Road end over two long days, could be the ticket. The loop covers rugged country, with a lot of climbing and descending, plenty of time on the tops and magnificent viewpoints. With four huts along the route, there is the option to slow down and take your time, too.

On a weekend dash, the obvious place to overnight is the midway point at Dundas Hut. Your first view of the hut, if coming from 1125m Herepai (doing the loop anti-clockwise) is just before the summit of Pukemoremore, 1474m, the highest point on the route. From here, Dundas Hut is a tiny red-roofed spec, dramatically accentuating the scale of the landscape.

Nestled in a cirque 250m beneath Pukemoremore, the hut offers a sense of remoteness. The sun, setting on the tops above, is lovely and the hut itself, with just six bunks, is spartan and rustic. Perhaps the only downside is the steep descent from the ridge at the end of a long day.

It's a small price to pay for the dramatic vista that unfolds once back on the ridge. Both sides drop steeply away. At eye level, directly across the narrow and densely bush-clad Ruamahanga Gorge below is Cattle Ridge. This will be your high point on day two and, by the time you reach it, you'll probably be glad to know that most of the climbing on this journey is done.

Elevation Profile



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Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to map this route correctly, *Wilderness* does not accept responsibility for any errors. Users should plan their routes and gather as much information as possible before departing. The GPX file associated with this route has been drawn using Memory-Map software, version 6. Use discretion when following the route, especially when no track is marked on the map. The GPX file in these cases are a 'best guess' of the route only. Users should use a combination of GPS, visual observations, maps and compass to find the best possible route. Memory Map shows purple tracks and hut icons as verified routes and huts. Red or blue routes are those drawn by Wilderness.

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