

Green Lake Hut via tops, Fiordland National Park

WILD FILE

Access Borland Saddle, at Pt990 on Borland Road

Grade Moderate

Time Borland Saddle to Green Lake Hut, 4.5hr; Side trip to Mt Burn, 2hr return; Green Lake Hut to Borland Rd, 4hr

Distance 12.5km (not included side trips to Mt Burn and Clark Hut)

Total ascent 704m

Accommodation Green Lake Hut, 12 bunks

Map C44

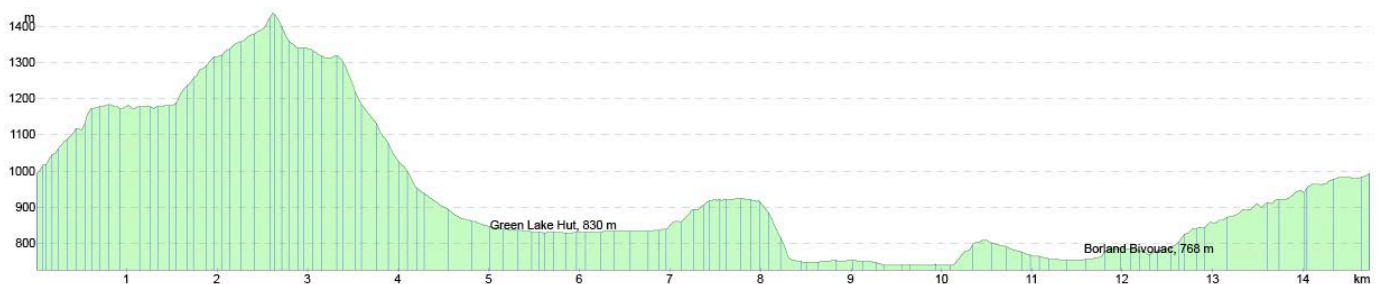
Description

A sign at Borland Saddle describes the biggest known landslip in the world, when 27 cubic kilometres fell off the side of the Hunter Mountains some 12,000 years ago, forming the lakes you visit on this trip.

From the saddle, a good track leads to the bushline in 15 minutes. The views here are more than enough to justify the effort for anyone passing by without the inclination to walk further. Before long, Island Lake reveals itself, with the Merrie Range on the skyline beyond the Grebe Valley. The route, which is only lightly marked and eventually peters out, meanders past a few tarns which would provide acceptable campsites in reasonable weather. There's a short steepish section and then you can either cross a ridge towards Green Lake or, if you fancy a climb, drop your packs and head across a saddle towards Mt Burns. If climbing Mt Burns the last couple of hundred metres along the ridge is a bit of a scramble.

Returning to your packs, cross the ridge to your first look at the full extent of Green Lake, some 600m below. From the first tarn, two possible routes can be taken. One involves a descent south to the saddle on the track over from Lake Monowai; the other a knee-jarring plunge to flats near the lake. If the latter, the flats are deceptively slow travel, with deep watercourses hidden amongst the tussock, but eventually, the 12 bunk Green Lake Hut is reached. Return to Borland Saddle via Green Lake Track.

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.

Maps are created with Memory-Map software, version 6. This software shows purple tracks and hut icons as verified routes and huts – meaning they are where they say they are and should be passable. If a purple track is shown, it is the route from the Memory-Map software. If a red or blue route is shown, it has been drawn by Wilderness.

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