Kiwi Burn Hut, Snowdon Forest

Wild file
Access: From SH94 to Te Anau, turn right into Mavora Lakes Road. Follow the unsealed road for 30km to the sign for the Kiwi Burn Hut
Distance: 12.1km
Time: 4.5-6hr (Car park to Kiwi Burn Hut, 1.5-2hr; Hut to car park via loop, 3-4hr)
Grade: Easy
Accommodation: Kiwi Burn Hut (standard,12 bunks)
Topo50 Map: CD09

Description
Located in the Mavora Lakes Park, an impressive landscape of mountains, lakes, forest and tussock grassland, recognised as part of the Te Wahipounamu/South-West New Zealand World Heritage Area, is Kiwi Burn Hut.
Tucked in amongst the lush Snowdon Forest, Kiwi Burn Hut is a little gem and ideal for introducing families and new trampers to the backcountry, as well as being a refuge for those needing a shot in the arm.
This is the area where a monorail has been proposed. If given the go-ahead, it will impact on the tracks available in the forest and park. Giant pillars of carbon-steel and bubble-domed monorail cars would be grotesquely out of place in this natural environment which has given so much simple pleasure to so many people.
From the access point signposted on Mavora Road, cross the swingbridge over the Mararoa River. Views of the Mararoa River, the Livingstone and Thompson mountains are frequently visible from between the trees. The track is very easy underfoot with a few undulations to keep you honest.
Within an hour the track winds away from the river and before too long arrives at a large clearing with the Kiwi Burn rambling through the tussock-clad landscape. Just around the next corner is the hut, tucked up amongst the trees.
To make the trip a loop, continues up the Kiwi Burn, around hill 805, to a junction and a track heading east and south back to the car park.

Elevation Profile

Kiwi Burn Hut, 550 m

1000

1100

1036.

900

1200

1100

1187.

1100

800

900

800

700

1116.

900

906

1130.

900

900

800

700

Kiwi Burn

.805

700

700

700

Swing bridge

600

.711

700

Quarry

009

600

Kiwi Burn Hut

600

ROAD

700

Hikuraki Station

LAKES

A1UB

534m

900