

Mt Brown Hut, West Coast

WILD FILE

Access The car park on the southeast side of Lake Kaniere at Geologist Creek. Also accessible from the lower Styx Valley Track when the river is low

Grade Moderate

Time 3-4hr

Distance 3.94km

Total ascent 971m

Accommodation Mt Brown Hut (free, four bunks)

Map BV19

Description

The track starts from the edge of Lake Kaniere, climbing steeply to the Newton Range, which overlooks the Styx and Arahura rivers.

The climb up the range is a small price to pay for the view of the Westland landscape. It encompasses lofty summits, gorges, river plain and the Tasman Sea in barely half a turn of your head.

Mt Brown has boasted a hut in earlier days, but the orange box there now was 'borrowed' from an adjacent catchment, re-sited and given a complete make-over. It now welcomes all who venture up from the lowlands on the muddy track.

The hut sits on a sloping terrace at 1100m, near the edge of a scrubby face that drops sheer for 1000m to the lakeshore, a proximity with an opera-box-like view of Westland.

The summit of Mt Brown is two kilometres away, up past scrub and sharp ascents along the ridge.

From the summit are views of the lower Arahura, Westland's famous greenstone river, the over-steepened gulch of the Styx and, further off, the Hokitika and Taramakau valleys. Scattered among those catchments are the ridges, bluffs, and razorbacks of the fortress-like interior of the hinterland.

Return the way you came or head out via the Styx Valley, through forest and river flats.

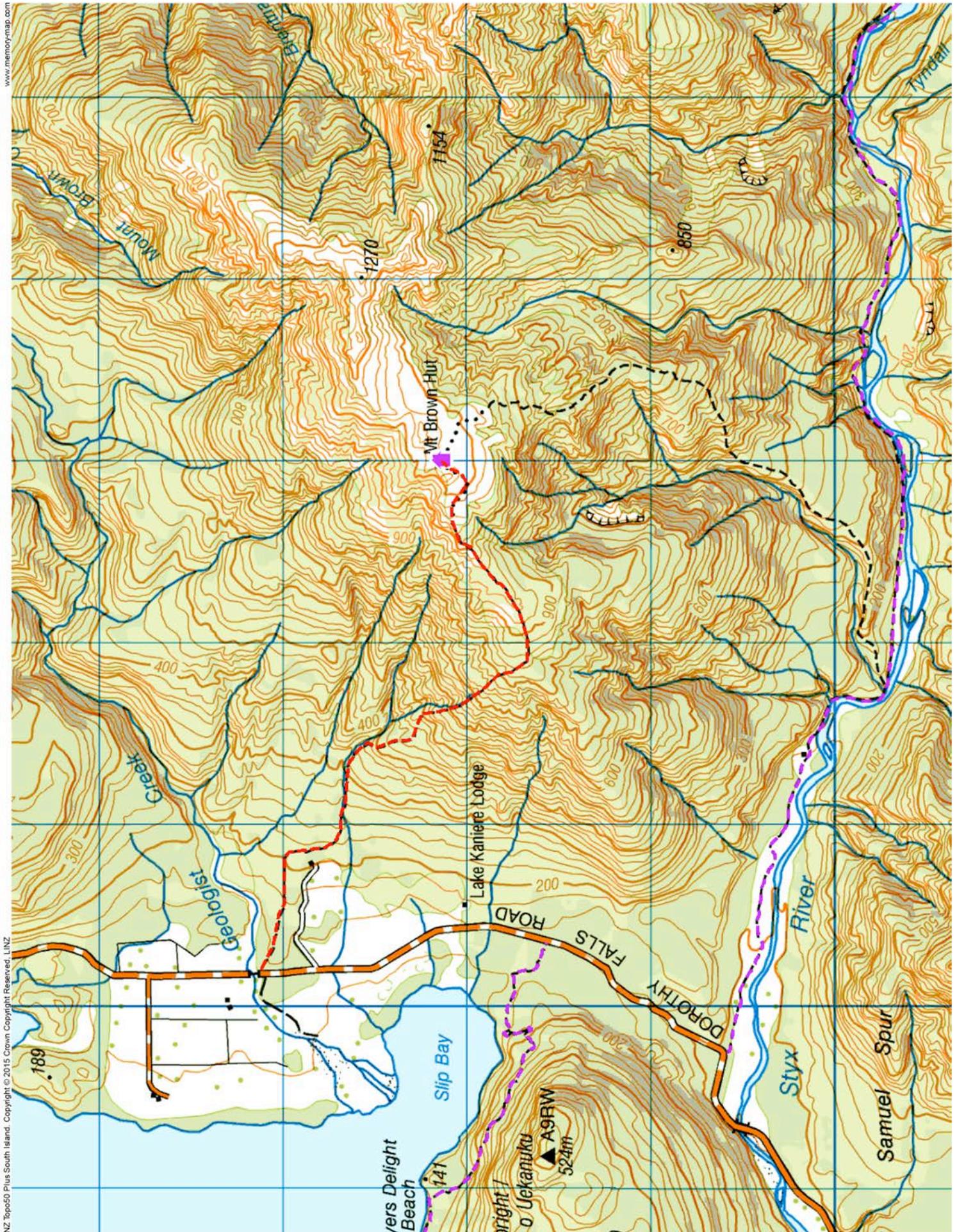
Elevation Profile



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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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