

Mt Matthews, Rimutaka Forest Park, Wellington

WILD FILE

Access From Coast Road, 12km south of Wainuiomata, take the side road up Catchpool Stream to the car park

Grade Moderate

Time Car park to Mt Matthews turn-off, 2.5-4hr; Turn-off to Mt Matthews Summit, 2-3hr

Distance 11.7km

Total Ascent 1336m

Map BQ32

Description

The summit of Mt Matthews, 941m, can be done as a day trip, but there are six DOC huts along the route, which must be booked in advance. There are also a host of other privately owned huts along the Orongorongo River.

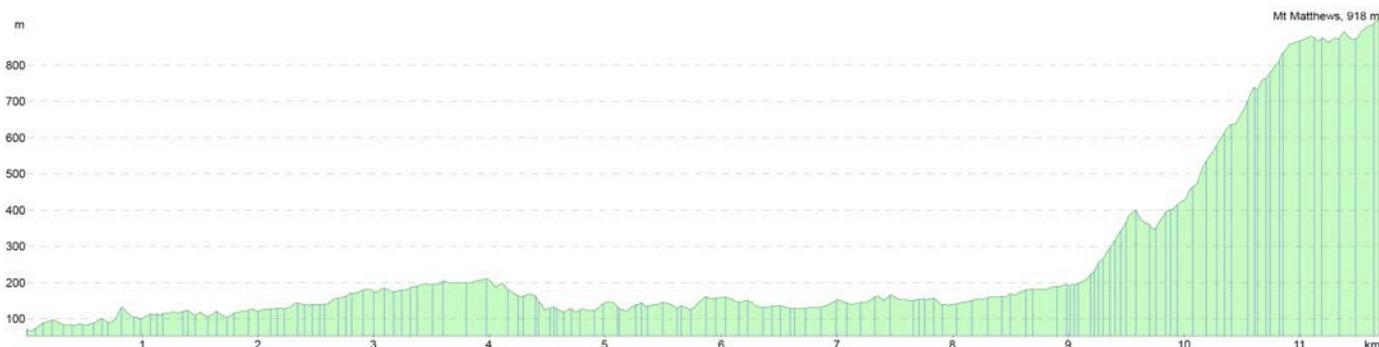
A reasonable level of fitness and good weather are required to climb Mt Matthews. From the Catchpool Valley Reserve car park, take the Orongorongo Track for about 4km until it joins the Orongorongo River at the Turere Bridge, and then either continue along the trail for a further 3km through bush on the true right of the river, or just walk straight up the river bed - an easier and quicker option if water levels are down and you don't mind wet feet.

Access to the summit route is via the true left of Matthews stream. When you leave the stream and head into the bush, find the big DOC orange triangle, which isn't immediately apparent.

The first half of the climb is through native forest, on an obvious but steep trail to 550m, where it branches right to South Saddle. To reach the summit stay left and keep climbing.

Above South Saddle, the trail cuts through areas of grass before heading back into a forest trail. At about 900m you reach a small clearing created by a slip, providing another view northwards and another point where you need to keep an eye on the trail. From the top of the slip face it's only a short slog to the summit. The route here isn't immediately obvious due to the tree cover, so look for the clearing through branches to the Wairarapa coast.

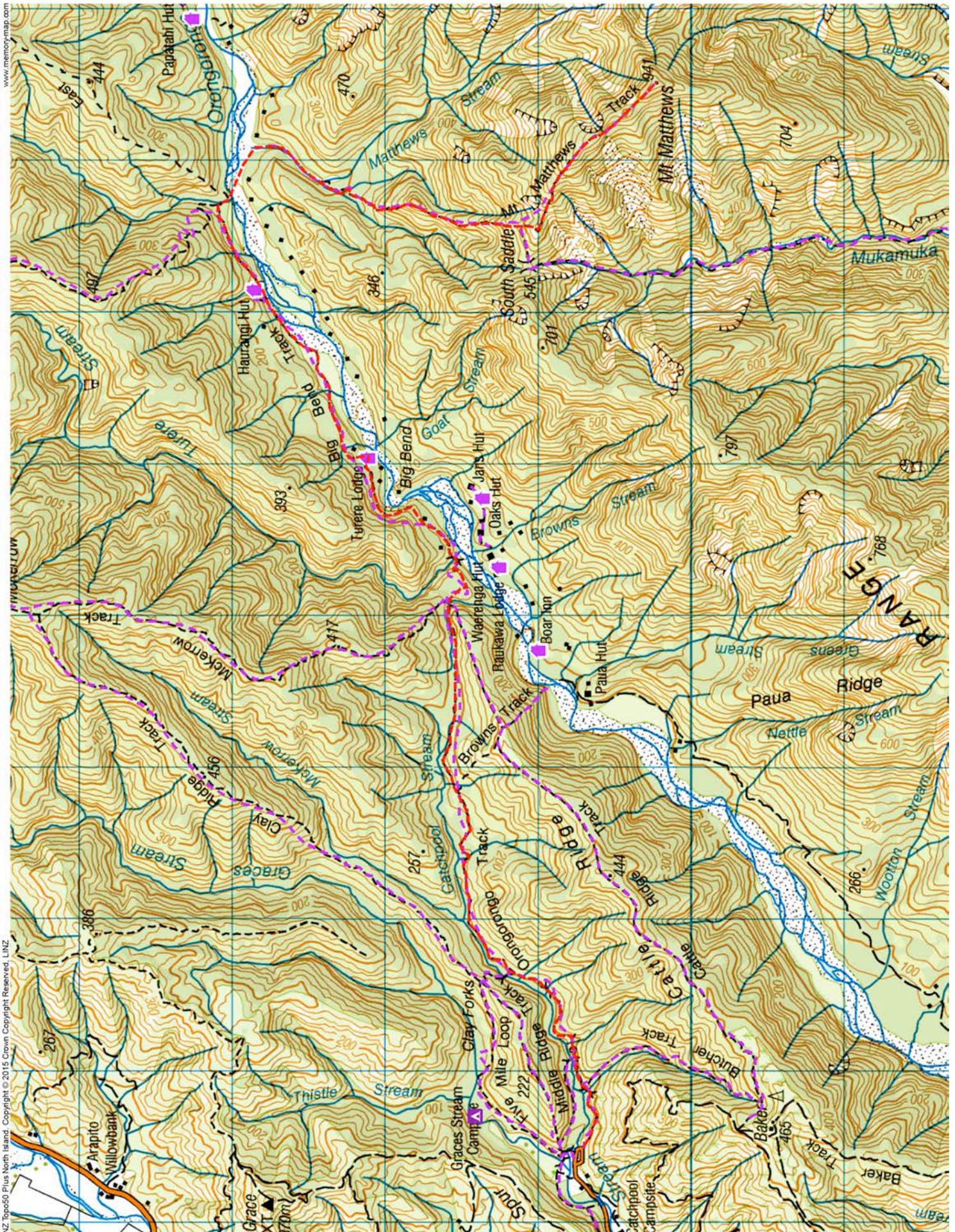
Elevation Profile



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Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to map this route correctly, Wilderness Magazine does not accept responsibility for any errors in the route. Users should use discretion when planning 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. Users should use discretion when following the route, as it is an approximation only. Memory Map 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 on the maps in this document, 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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