

Valley of the Trolls, Mt Aspiring National Park

WILD FILE

Access From Harris Saddle on the Routeburn Track or via Deadmans Track in the Hollyford Valley

Grade Moderate

Time 8-10hr return from Routeburn Shelter Road End

Total ascent 1468m

Distance 14km to Lake Wilson

Map CB09

Description

For those looking for a special side trip off the Routeburn Track that offers a pristine environment and an uncrowded location a world away from the busy Great Walk, an overnight stay at Lake Wilson, passing through an area known as the Valley of the Trolls, comes highly recommended.

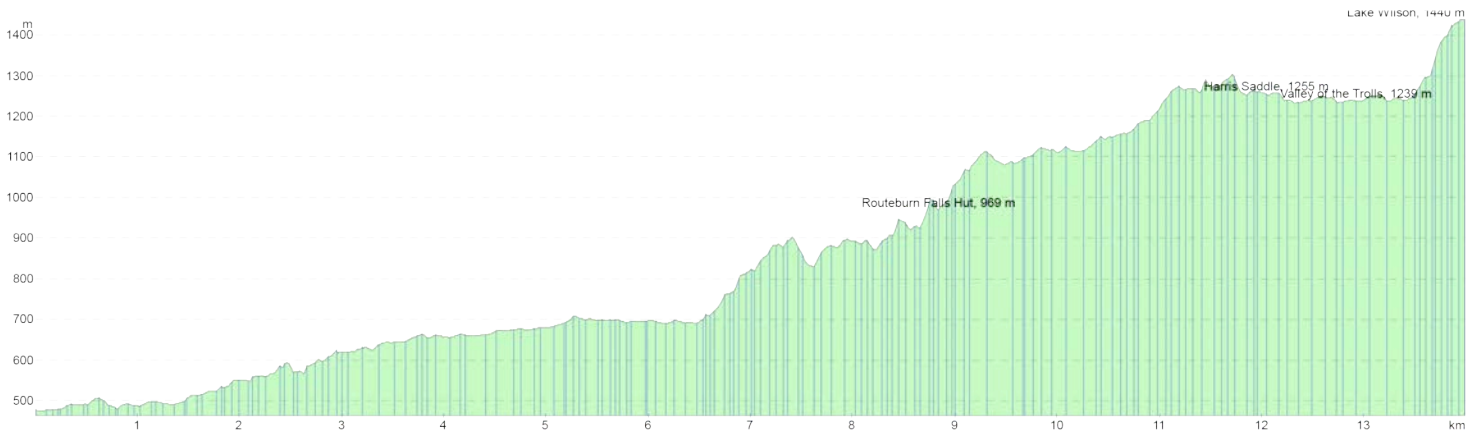
The Valley of the Trolls is reached from Harris Saddle by tracing around the western side of Lake Harris via a goat track. The valley is a fragile swampy area so you'll need to be careful as you pick your way through the swampy tarns. At the head of the valley, the outlet of Lake Wilson descends as a waterfall down a deep gut in the wall.

A variety of unmarked routes provide access to Lake Wilson depending on your experience and the conditions. Whichever route you choose, navigation, route finding skills and a head for heights are required. Gaining the headwall reveals Lake Wilson surrounded by a series of lesser unnamed peaks with Mt Erebus to the north-east. Pitching a tent here makes for a magical campsite.

Rocks near the lake outlet provide a superb vantage point, offering unrivalled views over the Valley of the Trolls and Lake Harris to the Routeburn Track.

A shorter, but more brutal, way to Harris Saddle is via Deadmans Track from the Hollyford Valley.

Elevation Profile

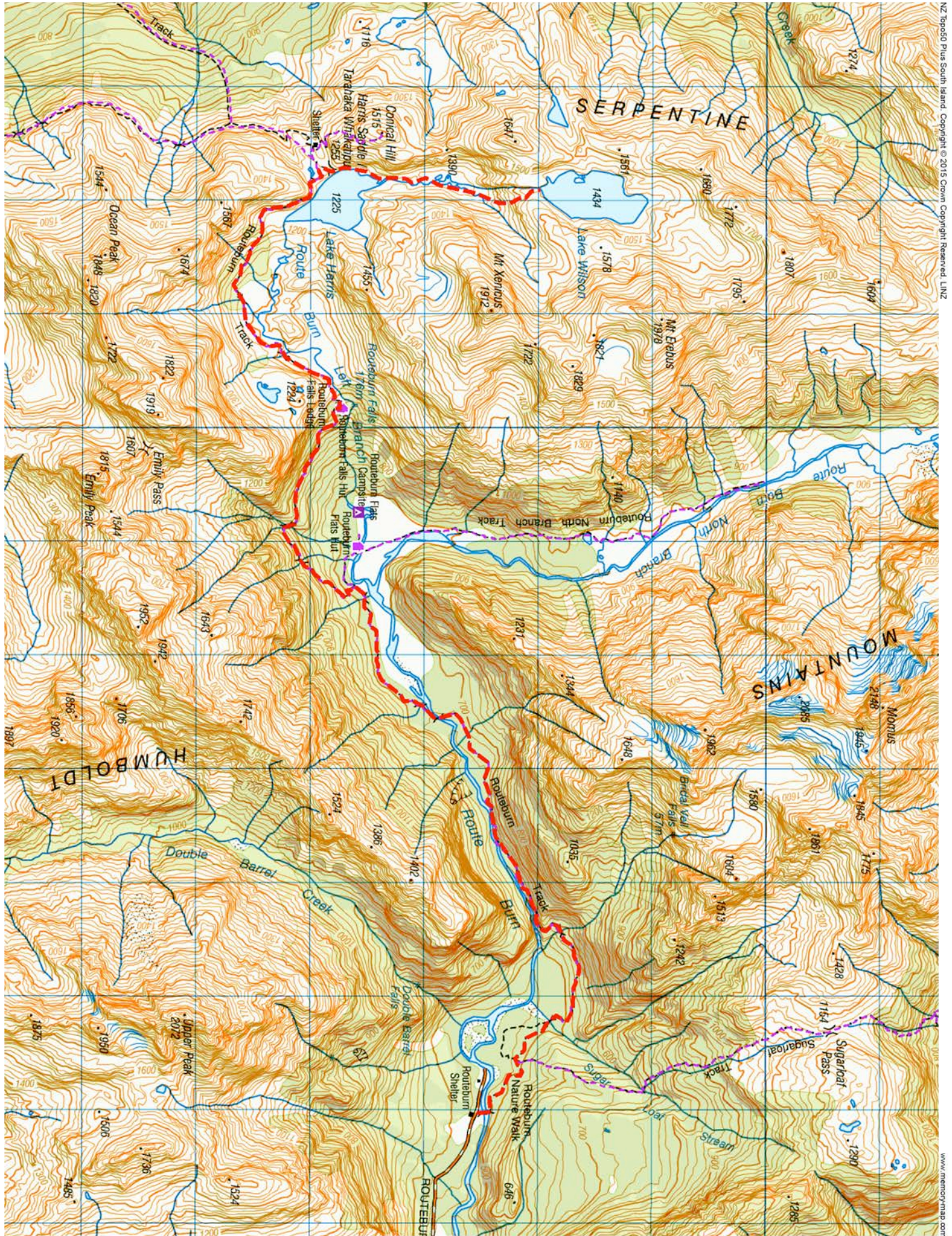


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Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to map this route correctly, Wilderness Magazine does not take responsibility for any errors in the route. Users should use discretion when planning their routes and gather as much information as possible 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 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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