

## Hurunui No.3 Hut via Mackenzie Hut, Lake Sumner Forest Park

A 4WD is helpful to gain access to the Hurunui Valley as far as Loch Katrine, before donning packs and walking up the flats. In marginal weather, the valley is a good option with its many huts and swingbridge access over the river.

The Mackenzie Stream Route, which follows a tributary of the Hurunui, is reasonable going, and if the river is low enough, it's possible to scamper along the bed in places where the track descends off the hill.

Mackenzie Hut offers a good branch-off point for the tops, or head back down the valley and visit Hurunui No 3 Hut, one of two surviving shelters (Locke Stream Hut No 4, is the other) of a series of five huts constructed here in 1939 to facilitate a tourist walk over Harper Pass to the Taramakau Valley and out to Otira. There are nearby hot pools, which this part of the Hurunui River is known for.

Retracing steps out of the Mackenzie Stream, and then walk back along the Harper Pass Track until reaching Hurunui No 3 Hut, which is nestled along a corridor of manuka, beyond some grassy flats. It's a substantial two-roomed building with wood panelled walls, lots of bunks, plenty of space, and an air of distinction.

Its gabled ends make it notable too, and it's in a wonderful location below thick forested hillsides from where the roar of a voluminous hidden waterfall wafted in on the wind.

### Wild File

**Access** At Waikari on the Lewis Pass Highway, take the turn-off to Hawarden and then the Horsley Down and Lake Sumner Roads to Lake Taylor. 4WDs can continue from here to the car park and locked gate west of Loch Katrine.

**Grade** Easy

**Time** Loch Katrine to Mackenzie Hut, 4-5hr; Mackenzie Hut to Hurunui No 3 Hut, 3-4hr; Hurunui No 3 Hut to Loch Katrine, 3-4hr

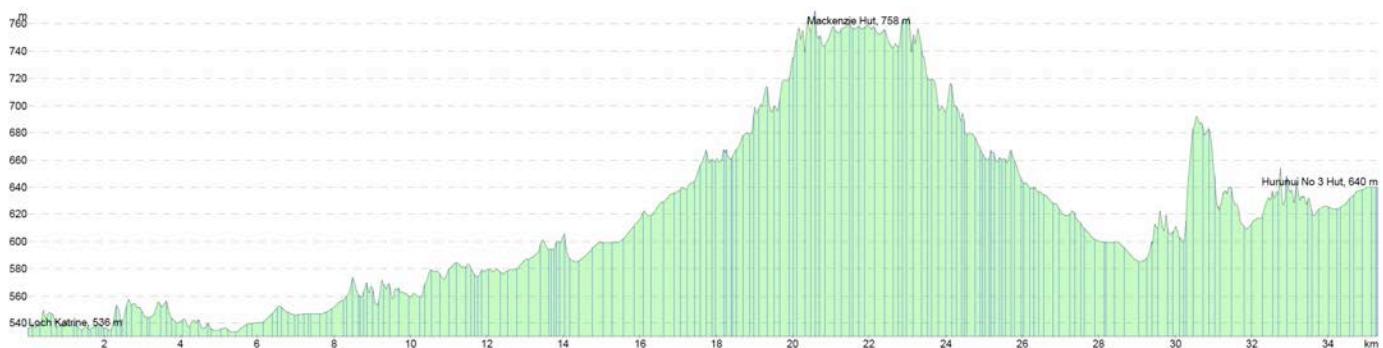
**Distance** 35.3km

**Total ascent** 934m

**Accommodation** Mackenzie Hut (Free, 6 bunks); Hurunui No 3 Hut (\$5, 16 bunks)

**Map** BU22

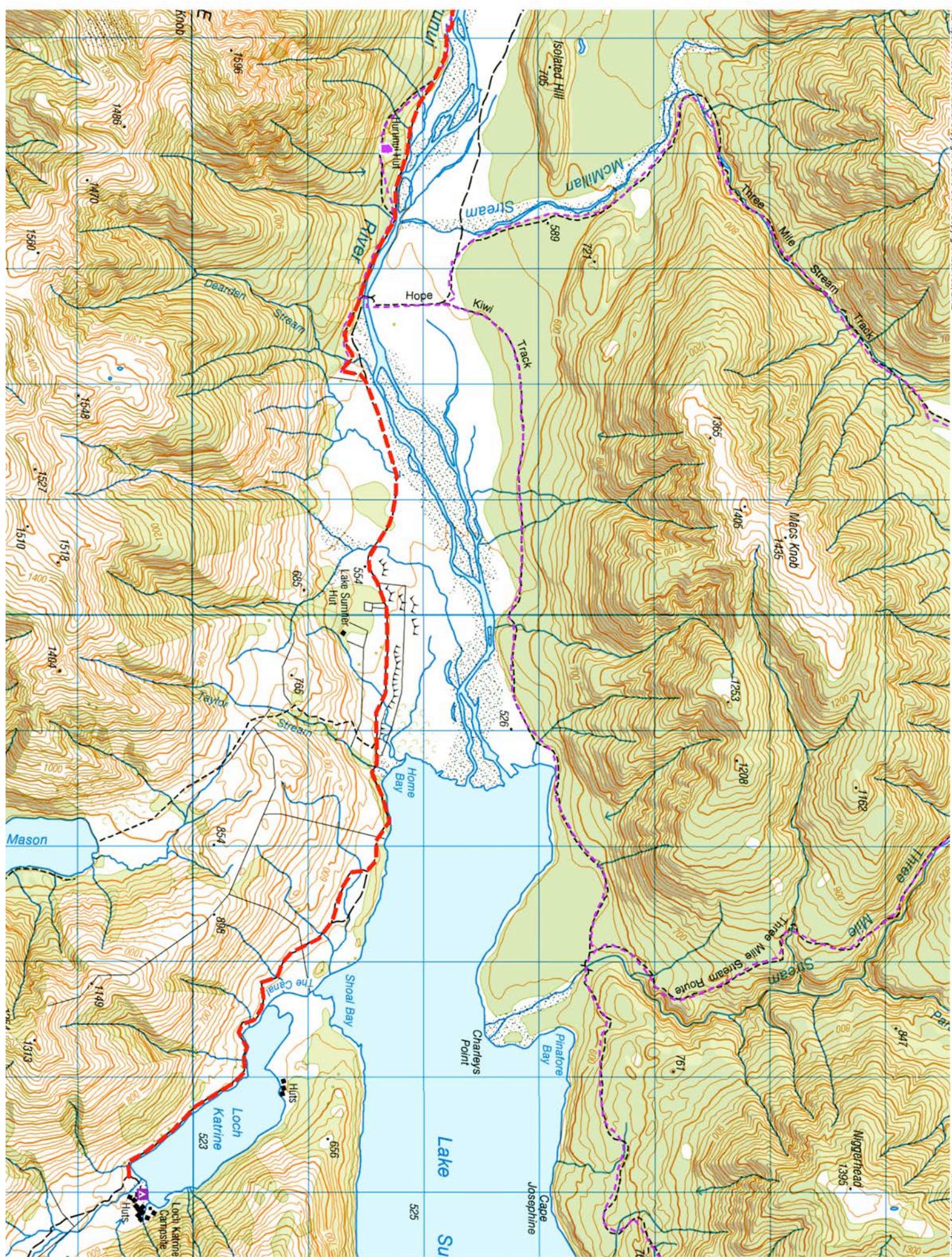
### Elevation Profile



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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*.

# Hurunui No.3 Hut via Mackenzie Hut, Lake Sumner Forest Park. Map1



# Hurunui No.3 Hut via Mackenzie Hut, Lake Sumner Forest Park. Map2

