

Lake Morgan Hut via Cone Creek Hut, West Coast

Follow the Haupiri River for a few hours, eventually reaching the junction of Cone Creek.

The creek is tightly enclosed by the surrounding ranges. The track, which sidles above the lower gorge, was cleared and marked in 2015 by the Permolat group, but it is still hard going with a lot of windfall.

After an hour of steady climbing, the track drops to the creek and the travel is better, despite slippery boulders. The track heads into the bush again in a slippery climb to gain altitude, but within an hour there's a steep descent to regain the creek. The boulders get bigger and the valley rougher, but it's only another 500m travel of before reaching the hut.

Cone Creek Hut, built in 1965 by the NZ Forest Service was in excellent order when visited in late 2016, thanks to maintenance by DOC in 2012. The area around the hut is beautiful and rugged with mountain cedar, rata, kamahi, hall's totara and mountain cabbage trees dominating the landscape.

From the hut, the track continues on up a steep scree and boulder slide which leads to the open tops. The track leads through a small saddle and an easy valley, with a long ridge leading to the Morgan tops.

Lake Morgan then comes into view, nestled in a cirque of hills and snowgrass. Descend around the lake's outlet and through a group of tarns to Lake Morgan Hut, another cosy six bunker. The hut book dates back to 1982; this part of the Morgan Range has regular visitors.

From Lake Morgan Hut, head north over Mt O'Shanessy (1462m), passing a tarn where an earlier hut once stood.

From the summit, walk in a big arc along the tops, over Pt1196 and around to the Brian O'Lyn Route to the Haupiri River. It's a good route at first, through gently descending subalpine bush, but as it descends the track becomes steeper, and the last 500m is near vertical. The Haupiri River flats are a welcoming transition, and it's an easy walk back to the car.

Wild File

Access From Greymouth take SH7 to the Nelson Creek turn-off and head towards Kopara and Heaphy Road. Access to the Haupiri River should be obtained from Gloriavale Christian Community

Grade Difficult

Time Car park to Cone Creek Hut, 7.5hr; Cone Creek Hut to Lake Morgan Hut, 5hr; Lake Morgan Hut to car park via Brian O'Lyn Route, 8hr

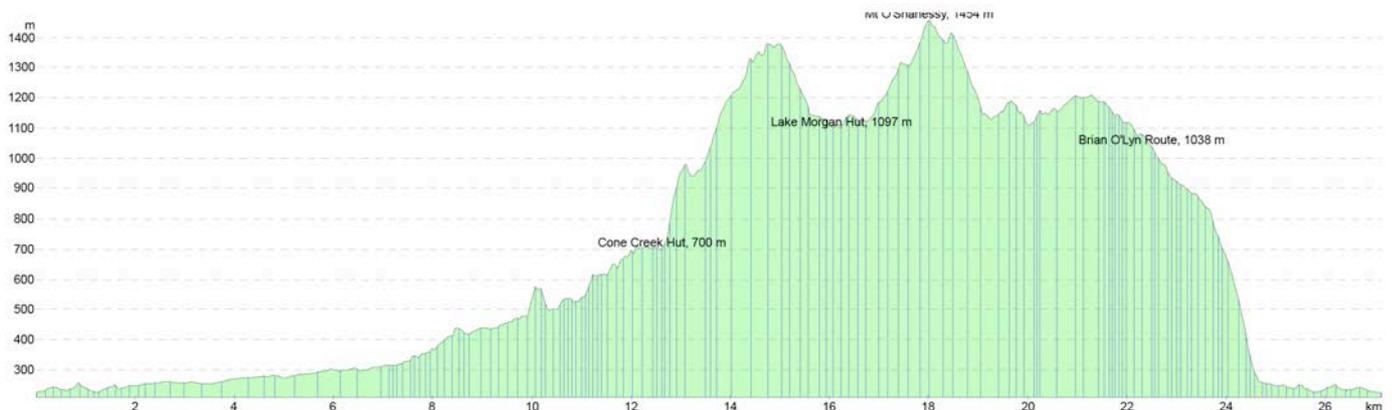
Distance 30.4km

Total ascent 2104m

Accommodation Cone Creek Hut (free, six bunks); Lake Morgan Hut (free, six bunks)

Map BU21

Elevation Profile



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