

## Manuka Hut, Hakatere Conservation Park

Tucked into a little corner of a high country valley, beneath the towering flanks of the Mt Somers Range, is an archetype of the rustic musterer's hut.

Manuka Hut is easy to reach along a poled route from nearby Lake Emily – a modest body of water boasting an attractive wetland and grand views of the Alps. It makes a perfect family tramp.

If you have a 4WD you will be able to drive almost to Lake Emily from the Hakatere-Heron Road, saving about 45 minutes walk, otherwise cars can be left just off the road. Once at Lake Emily, the route continues along the vehicle track which climbs gently onto the broad saddle east of the lake.

At this point, there are grand views of the Arrowsmith Range. The track splits here with the rougher and higher route heading north-east over undulating terrain and through some small patches of matagouri before descending steeply onto the Stour riverbed. An easier, but slightly longer route continues south-east along the vehicle track to also reach the Stour River where it turns to the north to follow the river valley up to the hut.

The hut looks directly onto the western face of the Mt Somers Range, rising over 1000m above the hut and stretching in an unbroken wall for 10km in a north-south orientation. It can be reached from the hut by choosing one of the more open spurs that head east onto the large sloping tableland beneath the range.

The nearby Manuka and Seagull lakes make for good side-trips.

### Wild file

**Access** Signposted off the Hakatere-Heron Road, just north of Maori Lakes

**Time** Two hours to hut

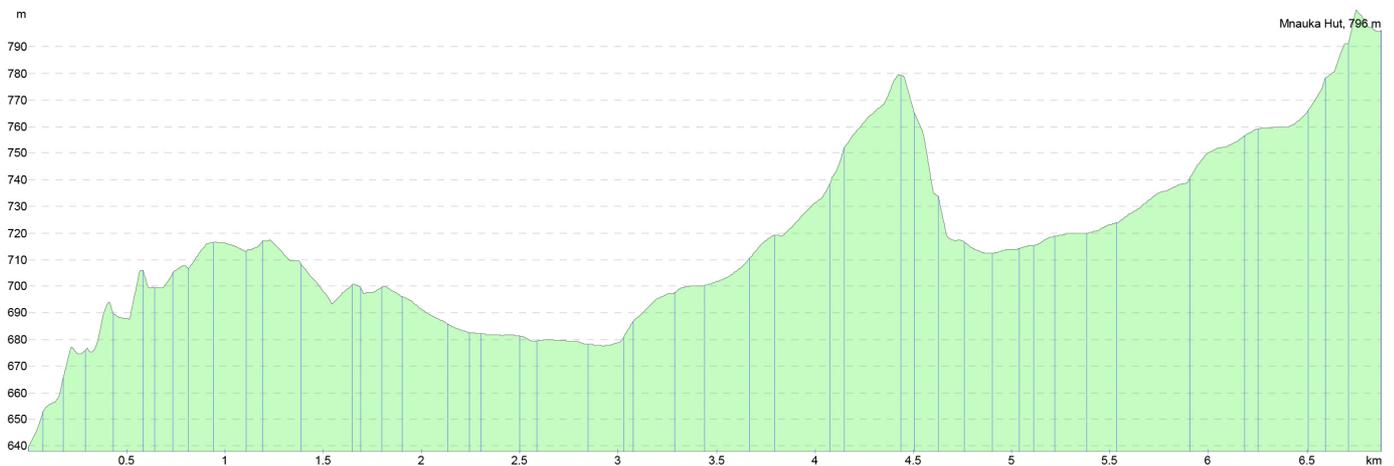
**Distance** 6.88km

**Total ascent** 292m

**Grade** Moderate

**Map** BX19

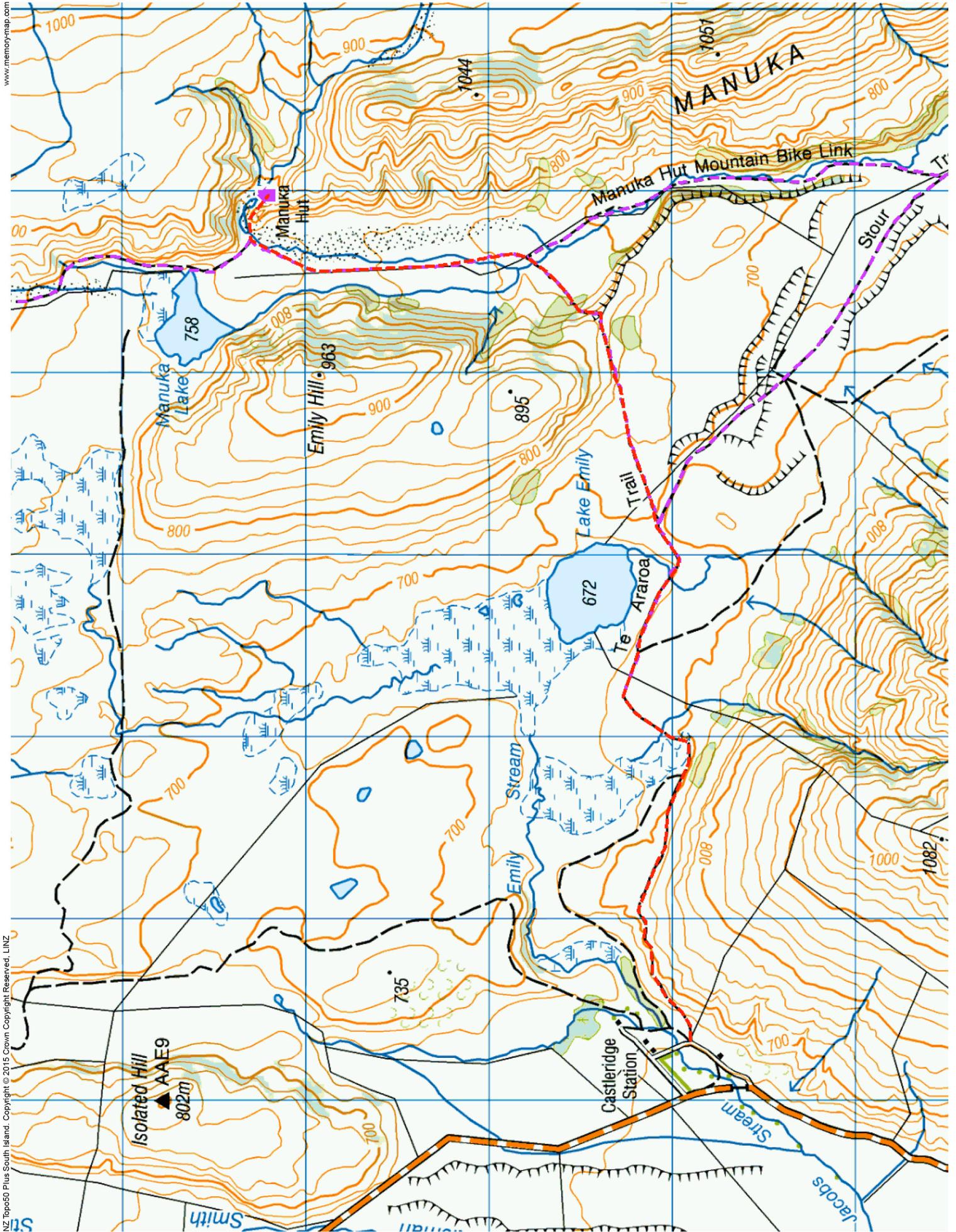
### Elevation Profile



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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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