

Peggy's Peak to South King, Tararua Forest Park

Given fair conditions, a circuit beginning and ending at Mitre Flats Hut which links seven points above 1500m, including 1571m Mitre, the highest point in Tararua Forest Park, can be completed in a day.

In clear weather, the entire route linking the 1500m points is quite obvious to follow and, while a dramatic and undulating landscape, in summer it is mostly quite straightforward to negotiate. It takes about 12 hours, including a particularly difficult section linking Baldy Ridge with Mitre Flats Hut.

The trail accessing the tops from Mitre Flats Hut is a particularly easy one by Tararua standards, ascending relatively gradually for the first 700m or so through beech forest before breaching the bushline. It takes about three hours to reach Peggys Peak (1545m), the first of the 1500ers on the route.

It's a short but spectacular stroll from Peggy's Peak to Mitre, which offers a brief glimpse of the route north-west to Brocket (1538m) and then south-west to Girdlestone (1546m) and on to Adkin (1450m) and the Three Kings – North King (1535m), Middle King (1521m) and South King (1531m). It is all along classic Tararua tops, sometimes on knife-edge ridge with the steepest, most exposed section coming off Girdlestone. Descending Mitre. The route can be engulfed in the cloud which makes route finding much more challenging and a compass can be required to navigate.

Beyond Girdlestone the route is sometimes on steep and exposed rock. Between Girdlestone and Adkin, there are views of the craggy Broken Axe Pinnacles.

Between North and Mid King there is a ridge on the east side that, if descended for 350m or so, leads to a good camping spot right beside a tarn and above Baldy Ridge.

There is more than one route off Baldy – the longer track marked on the map and shown here, or an unmarked option down an eastern spur that cuts out the worst of the steep up and down found on the marked route.

Wild File

Access From Upper Waingawa Road

Grade Difficult

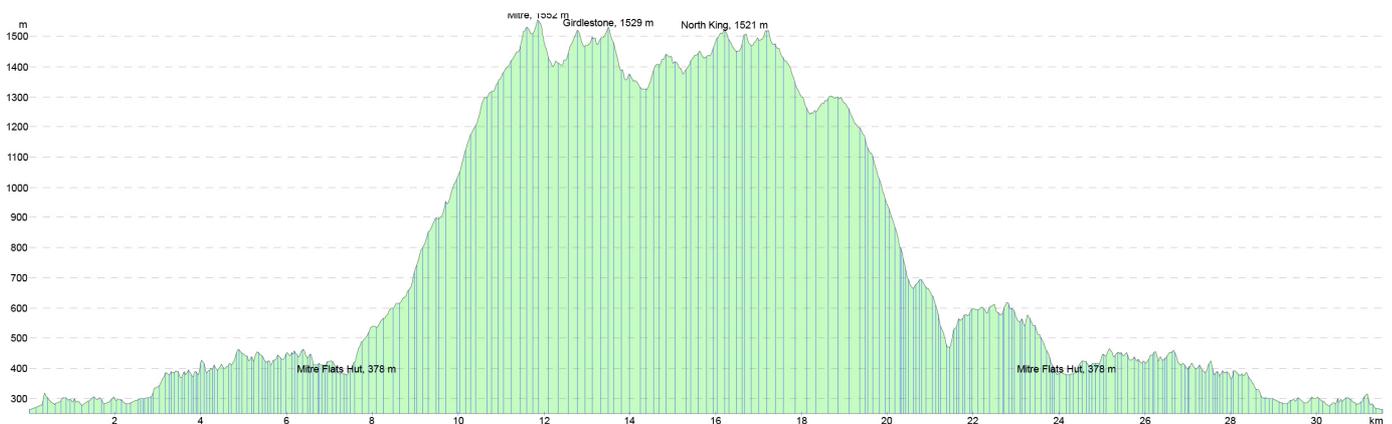
Time Car park to Mitre Flats Hut, 3-4hr; Hut to Peggys Peak, 3-4hr; Peggys Peak to South King, 5-7hr; Baldy Ridge to Mitre Flats Hut, 3-4hr

Distance 31.6km

Total ascent 3266m

Map BP34, BN34

Elevation Profile



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Important Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to map this route correctly, *Wilderness* does not accept responsibility for any errors. The GPX file associated with this route has been drawn using Memory-Map software. Use discretion when following the route, especially when no track is marked on the map. The GPX file in these cases is a 'best guess' of the route. Users should not rely on this. Instead, use a combination of GPS, visual observations, maps and compass – and your own route-finding experience - 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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