

Beech Hut, Eyre Mountains/Taka Rā Haka Conservation Park

With Fiordland National Park to the west and Aspiring National Park to the north, the Eyre Mountains are a rarely-visited gem. A weekend trip up the Mataura River to historic Beech Hut makes an excellent tramp into this area.

From Cainard Road, a bony vehicle track allows 4WD access five kilometres up the river. From a large slip, continue on foot up the Mataura Valley. It's an easy hour's walk up the riverbed with some icy river crossings to Cowshed Hut, a lovely hut featuring beautiful wooden framework and an ancient-looking, but welcoming, armchair.

Continue up the scrubby river flats for about three hours. As the valley gradually narrows you must cross the Mataura River several times, following old animal trails and the occasional orange triangle.

Beech Hut is perched on a river flat. It is a restored musterers' hut, complete with a bare ground floor, corrugated iron walls, a bed base constructed from beech saplings, and a fire.

Wild File

Access The Mataura Valley is accessible via Cainard Road, off SH6 at Fairlight. A 4WD track runs along the true left of the Mataura River for approximately 5km. A large slip 100m from the end of the 4WD road needs to be negotiated.

Grade Easy-moderate

Time 4hr to Beech Hut

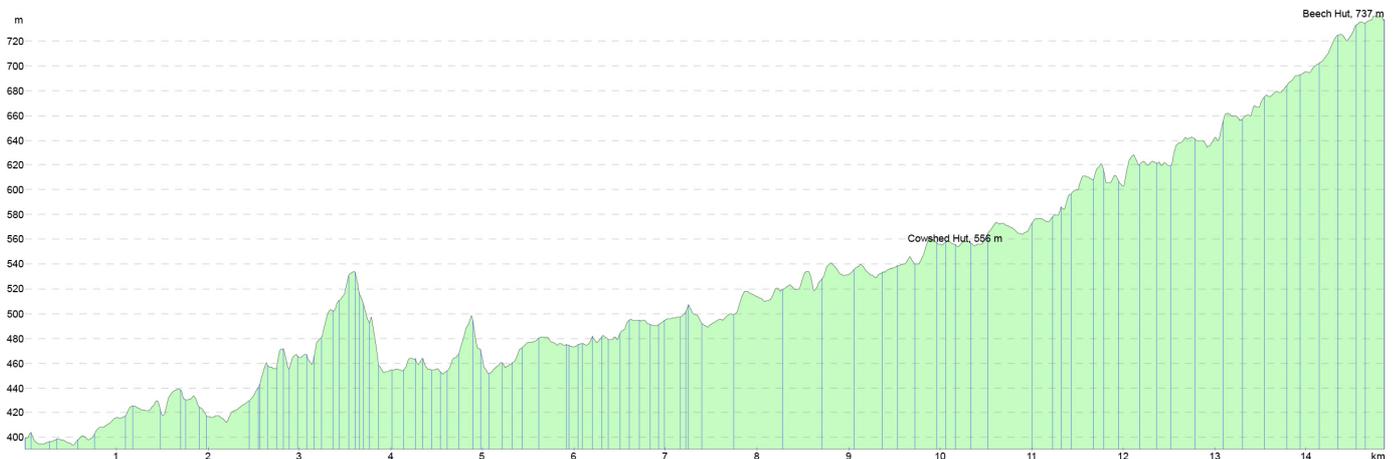
Distance 14.9km

Total ascent 731m

Accommodation Cowshed Hut (free, four bunks), Beech Hut (free, four bunks)

Map CD10

Elevation Profile



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