

## Dorset Ridge Hut and Mid King Bivouac, Tararua Forest Park

This three day loop in the Tararua Ranges features a range of unique huts, as well as a nice mix of track, route and off-track travel, traversing from Mitre Peak along the tops to Dorset Ridge Hut and over to Mid King Bivouac.

From the Pines car park at the Upper Waingawa Road end, head on the Barra Track for about three hours up the Waingawa River to Mitre Flats Hut.

From the hut, head up the Mitre Peak Track. At about 1100m the track reaches the tops, and it's a scramble up the remaining 470m to reach the summit on a well-trodden route with occasional cairns.

Continue on to Dorset Ridge by traversing Brockett and Girdlestone peaks, which can be exposed in places. Dorset Ridge provides flatter and easier travel, down to Dorset Ridge Hut.

From the hut, descend the spur to Dorset Creek. The route here has been taped and poled in places.

After about an hour the creek is reached. Head up stream until you reach the first side stream on the true left of the creek. About 50m up the side stream, there is a cairn and tape on the true left which indicates the start of the route up a spur towards the summit of South King. It is taped but not officially marked.

From South King, continue along the tops to Middle King and then follow the spur down to the bush edge, where an orange marker signals the track to Mid King Bivouac. The two-person bivy is maintained by the group ex-NZ Forest Service. It's been renovated and is in a lovely sheltered spot.

From the biv, continue down the spur descending from Middle King, following cairns and occasional tape before coming to the South Mitre Stream footbridge. From here, follow the Barra Track back to the car park.

### Wild File

**Access** The Pines roadend

**Grade** Moderate-difficult

**Time** To Mitre Flats Hut, 3-5hr; Mitre Flats to Dorset Ridge Hut, 7-8hr; Dorset Ridge to Mid King Bivouac, via Dorset Creek, 6-7hr; Mid King to car park, 7-8hr

**Distance** 32km

**Total ascent** 3257m

**Accommodation** Mitre Flats Hut (\$15, 14 bunks); Dorset Ridge Hut (\$5, six bunks); Mid King Bivouac (free, two bunks)

**Map** BN34, BP34

### Elevation Profile



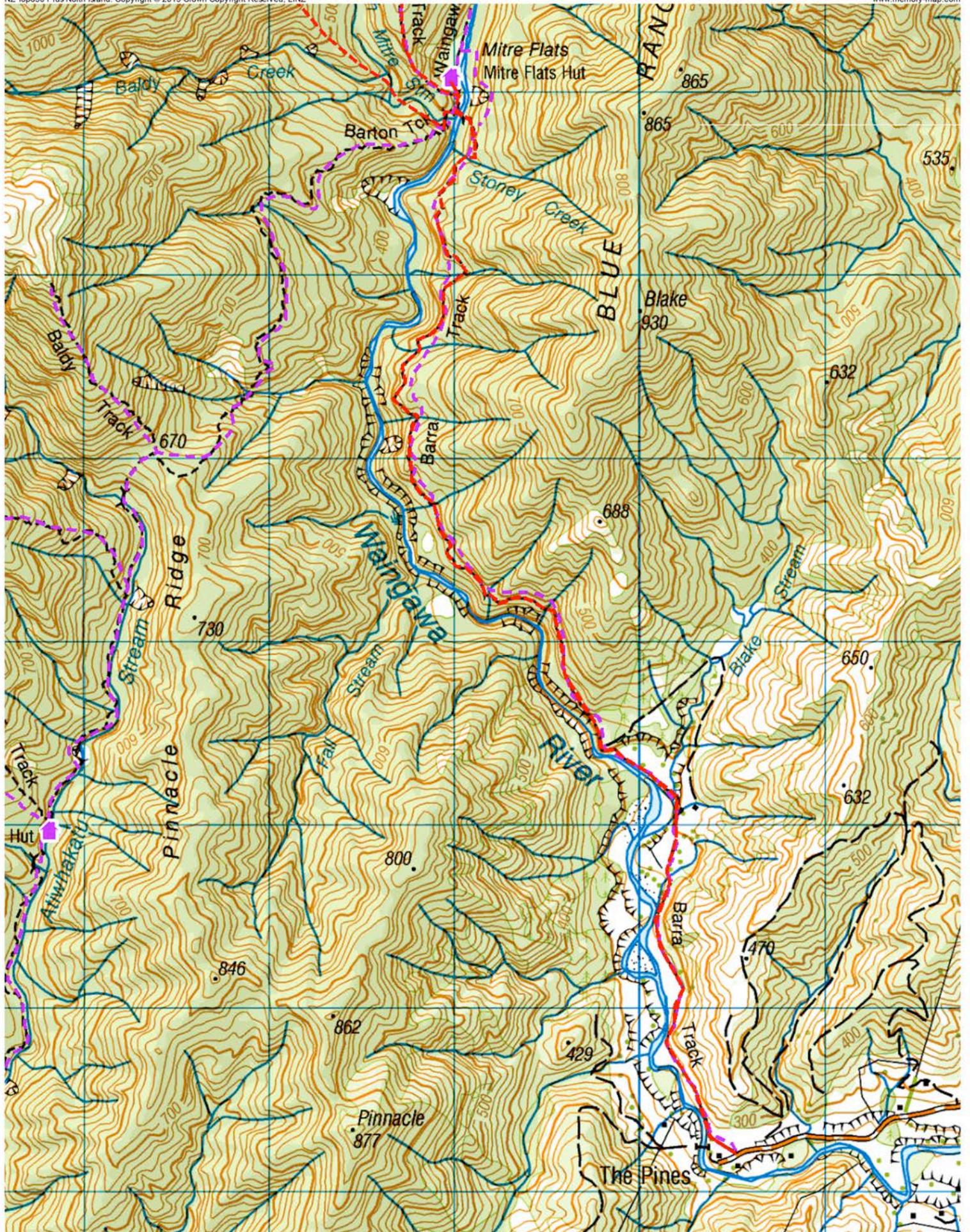
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**Disclaimer:** While every effort has been made to map this route correctly, *Wilderness* does not accept responsibility for any errors. Users should plan their routes and gather as much information as possible before departing. The GPX file associated 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.

# Dorset Ridge Hut and Mid King Bivouac, Tararua Forest Park. Map1

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# Dorset Ridge Hut and Mid King Bivouac, Tararua Forest Park. Map2

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