

Hidden Lake, Oteake Conservation Park

Tucked in the high bare hills south of Omarama, where northern Otago butts up against southern Canterbury, is a sparkling alpine lake. Sitting at 1550m amid the tawny landscape, it's a legacy of the glaciers which once occupied the cirques here.

Hidden Lake, as it is known, laps against a south-east spur of the St Bathans Range where it falls to Omarama Saddle.

The route begins on a 4WD track which starts from the Broken Hut Road end. The track can be mountain biked if you want to make a day trip of it. The last section of the road to the saddle is steep and rough and entails a 400m ascent.

From Omarama Saddle, the slope eases and as the remaining 4km to the lake is walked, the immense backdrop of the Mackenzie Basin, with many of the country's principal summits, is slowly revealed. At the lake itself, there are several good campsites but this view is hidden, and the outlook turns to the south and east. But if you take the short climb to the crest of the St Bathans Range, even more of the grand spine of the Southern Alps is on display, including the grand spectacle of Aoraki/Mt Cook far to the north, hovering over the turquoise expanse of Lake Pukaki.

Despite all this, Hidden Lake and basin draws you in. The large rough blocks of stone at the edge provide an entrancing spectacle where the blue-green waters lap and tussock heads wave in the breeze.

Wild File

Access Broken Hut Road end, south of Omarama. Between Labour weekend and April 30th, 4WD vehicles can be taken into the park over either Little Omarama Saddle or Omarama Saddle

Grade Moderate

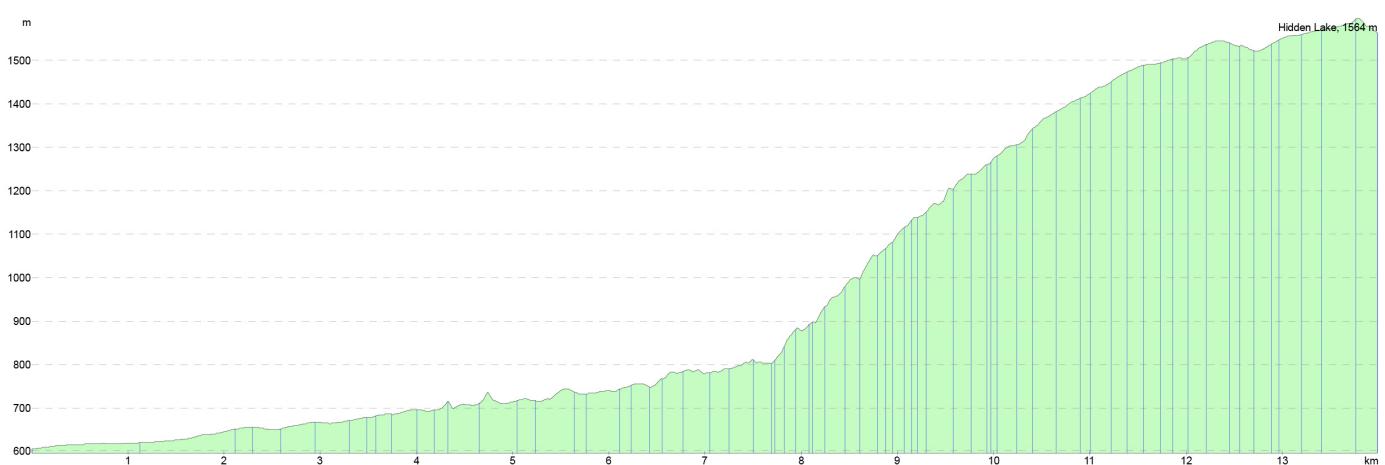
Time 3-4hr

Distance 14km

Total ascent 1130m

Map CA14, CA15

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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