

Lochnagar via Cascade Saddle, Mt Aspiring National Park

From Raspberry Creek car park, begin the easy walk along the grassy flats of the Matukituki River West Branch.

Continue up the valley to Aspiring Hut, before beginning the route to Cascade Saddle. Ascend through steep beech forest over roots and steps, and from from the treeline, follow the steep poled route to The Pylon. The walk along the tops, in constant view of Mt Aspiring/Tititea, reaches its dramatic culmination at Cascade Saddle. Care should be taken on the ascent, especially when out of the treeline. The slopes are slippery in winter snow and summer tussock and the run-out is poor – several people have died from falling on this route. Use firm footwear.

The descent into the upper Dart Valley is a straightforward walk down scree-and-boulder slopes towards the flat, moraine-strewn Dart Valley. Two hours later the 32 bunk Dart Hut comes into view.

Climb towards Rees Saddle, and drop into Snowy Creek, avoiding bands of bluffs on the way.

About 1500m from the head of the valley, veer due east to climb a steep but straightforward spur to the high point of the trip, Pt1950. From here, view of the upcoming crux of the trip: the sidle between Pt2000 and Pt1865, above Pine Creek.

Continue through rocky bluffs, until halfway through to the crux, pick up a faint goat trail that leads safely across the mountainsides.

From the razorback ridge between Tyndall and Snowy creeks, enjoy sweeping views of the emerald blue Lochnagar, stretched out below before heading down easy scree slopes. Travel can be slow near the hut due to thick vegetation. If you can find the trail following a spur east of the lake outlet, you will avoid a dense dracophyllum scrub, and arrive at Lochnagar Hut.

The following day, follow the good trail down Lake Creek to the Shotover River where an overgrown 4WD track leads north to Tummel Burn Hut.

At the bush edge, directly outside the hut, follow a sign reading 'Track' up steep terrain – intense bush bashing is required to pass brambles, vines, thorns and mud and reach the treeline.

Following this, walk through tall snowgrass towards Shotover Saddle, until the final push to the head of Tyndall Creek. Once over the saddle, pick your way down the slope to the valley floor and on to the Raspberry Creek car park..

WILD FILE

Access From Raspberry Creek car park. Permission required to cross Branches Station: 03 441 8421

Grade Difficult

Time 4+ days. Raspberry Creek Car Park to Dart Hut, 7-9hr; To Pt1950, 3.5-4.5hr; To Lochnagar Hut, 4-5hr; Yo Tummel Burn Hut, 5-7hr; Yo Shotover Saddle, 5-7hr; To car park, 2-3hr

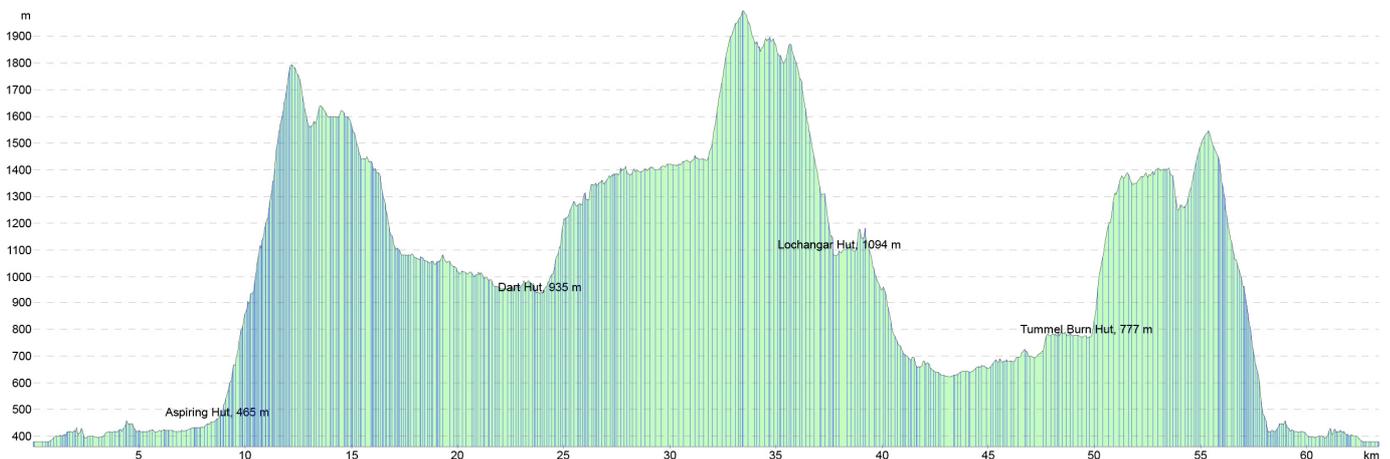
Distance 63.4km

Total ascent 5152m

Accommodation Dart Hut (\$15, 32 bunks), Lochnagar Hut (free – private, four bunks), Tummel Burn Hut (free – private, three bunks)

Map CA11, CA10, CB10

Elevation Profile



© Wilderness Magazine, www.wildernessmag.co.nz

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.

Lochnagar via Cascade Saddle. Map1



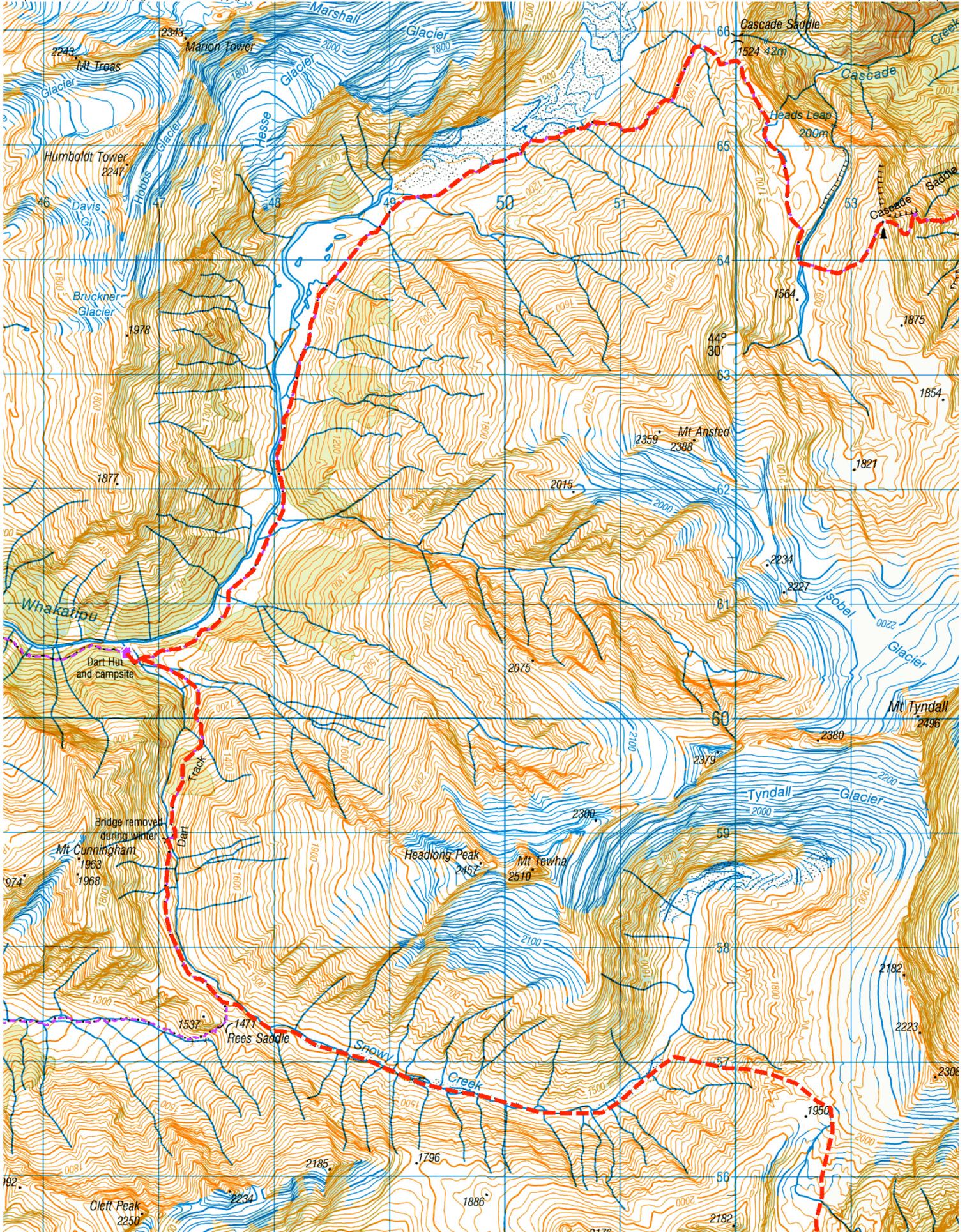
www.memory-map.com

NZ Topo50 Plus South Island. Copyright © 2015 Crown Copyright Reserved. LINZ

Lochnagar via Cascade Saddle. Map2

NZ Topo50 Plus South Island. Copyright © 2015 Crown Copyright Reserved. LINZ

www.memory-map.com



Lochnagar via Cascade Saddle. Map3

NZ Topo50 Plus South Island. Copyright © 2015 Crown Copyright Reserved. LINZ

www.memory-map.com

