

## Mt Gibbs, Kahurangi National Park

From the Cobb Reservoir, it is an easy four-hour walk through a wide valley of alternating forest and open grassland to Fenella Hut. Dotted along the way are other huts offering excellent lunch and snack stops, including Chaffey Hut, reached after 90-minutes, and Tent Camp, midway.

The walk to Fenella Hut is relatively flat until the last section from Cobb Hut, where the track climbs a rocky section. The hut offers a level of comfort and luxury not often found in the backcountry, including a gas stove and an impressive array of kitchen utensils.

A 400m walk following a series of cairns from the hut leads to a swimming spot in a nearby tarn. The start of the track is well marked with a wooden sign.

From the swimming hole, there is a route marked by rock cairns to the summit of Mt Gibbs.

Follow the cairns through the interesting rock formations, initially heading south towards Lake Cobb. At a broad saddle just past Pt1186 and above the lake, the trail switches direction to head north through a short forested section across the lower east-facing slopes of Xenicus Peak. As the forest is left behind in favour of a tussocky alpine environment, the ascent on the north-eastern slopes of Xenicus steepens and the summit of Mt Gibbs appears ahead to the west.

The cairns in this section become few and far between but it is of little consequence as it is a straight-forward ascent on the tussock slopes to the ridge between Xenicus Peak and Mt Gibbs.

A final short climb up the ridge is required to reach the mountain's summit. To make a loop back to Fenella Hut, it is relatively straightforward to pick a path through the rocky southern slope of Mt Gibbs to Round Lake. The Cobb Lake Track then leads back to Cobb Hut and on to Fenella Hut. When the lake level is high, an old but well-worn unmarked trail exists, slightly further into the forest from the lake edge.

### Wild File

**Access** From Cobb River Campsite, Cobb Dam Road

**Grade** Moderate

**Time** Car park to Fenella Hut, 3-4hr; To Mt Gibbs, 2-3hr

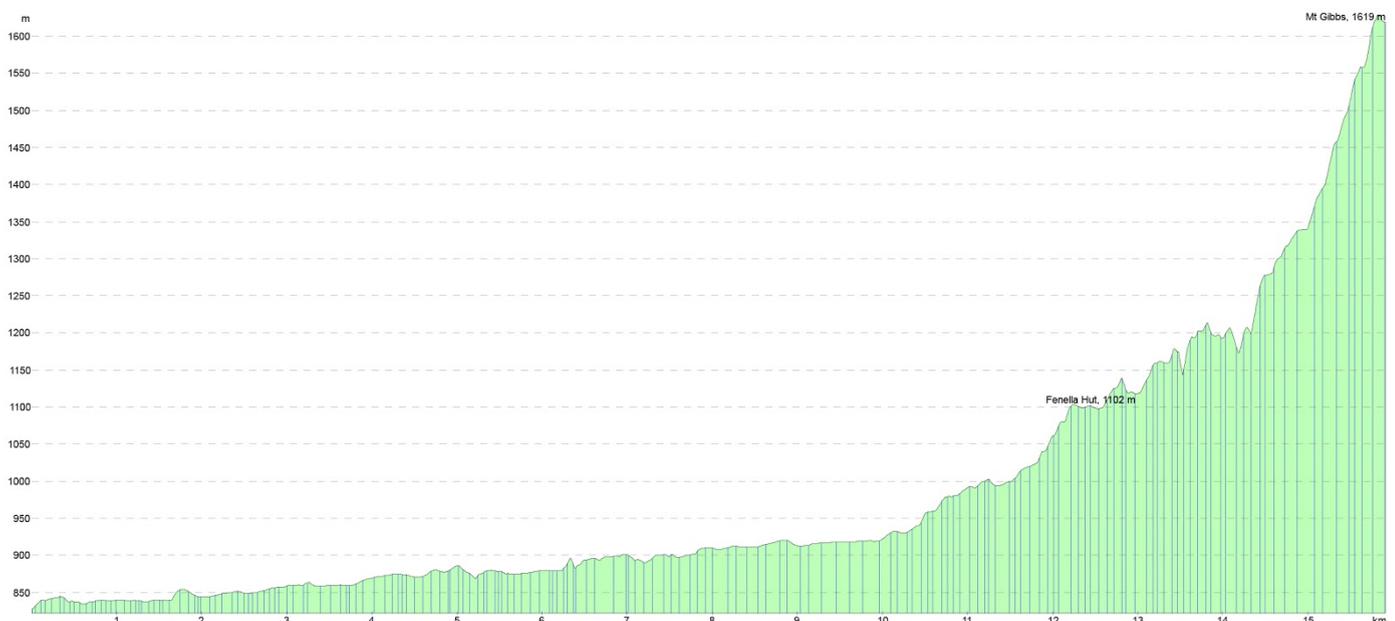
**Distance** 15.9km to Mt Gibbs

**Total ascent** 1024m

**Accommodation** Fenella Hut (\$15, 12 bunks)

**Topo50 map** BP23, BP24

### Elevation Profile



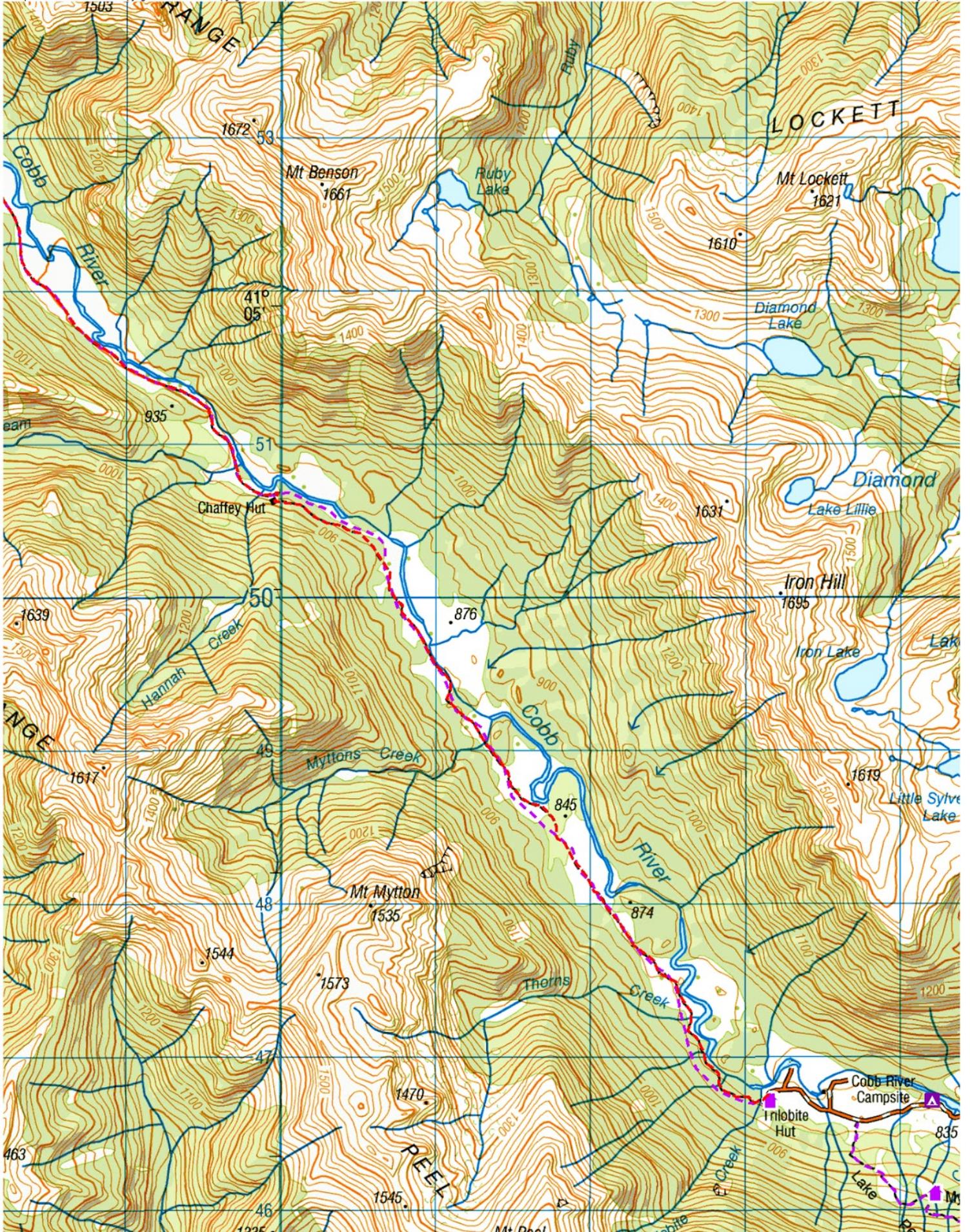
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**Disclaimer:** While every effort has been made to map this route correctly, Wilderness does not accept responsibility for any errors. Users should plan their routes and gather as much information as possible before departing. The GPX file associated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

# Mt Gibbs, Kahurangi National Park. Map 1

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# Mt Gibbs, Kahurangi National Park. Map 2

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