

Greta Track, Ruataniwha Conservation Park

With stunning views from Ben Ohau summit and the ridgeline traverse, the Greta Track is worth walking in every season.

Just a few minutes after starting out, the derelict Back Hut is reached. This hut dates from the 1890s and is a relic from the area's muster heritage. From the hut, continue south-east onto a well-worn and well-signposted track. The grassy track zigzags along a 4WD road to the top and though this trail is no longer used by vehicles, it is shared with mountain bikers. It's a wide easily walked pathway with space for all users. The trail weaves through tussock and a mix of native and non-native plants, some large enough to offer shade on hot days. After about 45min, the track opens to an exposed ridgeline showing the route ahead. The trail continues on a gradual uphill gradient to pass along the western and northern slopes of Ben Ohau to reach a saddle between Pt1387 and the 1522m peak.

Ben Ohau's summit is a 10-minute deviation from the track at this point – a straight shot up to the top, though it can be unpleasant in windy conditions.

Back on the track, the ridge stretches out for just over 2km in a gradual descent towards the track junction leading to Greta's Stream.

The views on this side of the summit are a change of scenery, falling upon the Ohau River and canal. The trail though is still a wide easily traversed 4WD track.

Around 200m east of Pt1150, the trail branches northwards to begin the descent into Greta's Stream. The landscape here is a sharp contrast from the yellow and orange, almost desert-like landscape above. Lush greenery awakened by the stream, pokes out amongst native beech, tōtara and mānuka, offers a cool reprieve from the exposed tops.

The trail now follows Greta's Stream and walkers can expect to get their feet wet as the track crisscrosses the stream several times on the 7km descent back to the road.

The descent is consistent and as altitude is lost and tree cover returns to provide shade on hot days. Directly beneath Pt1012, there's a final climb of 60m to get out of the stream. From here, the trail passes through farmland before popping out onto the road at Greta Lodge. Turn left (south) to walk the remaining few hundred metres back to the car park.

Wild File

Access From Greta's Stream car park on Glen Lyon Road, north of Twizel

Grade Moderate

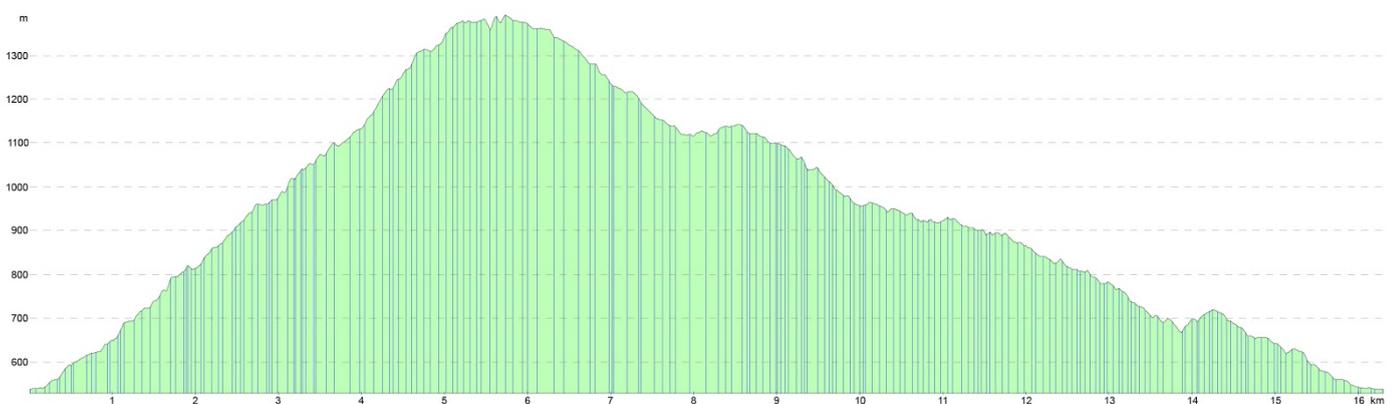
Time 4-6hr

Distance 16.3km

Total ascent 1091m

Topo50 map BZ14, BZ15

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**

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