

## Minaret Burn Track, Wanaka

This is an enjoyable high country station adventure located on the western side of Lake Wanaka.

The track begins at Homestead Bay and climbs straight up above the convoluted lake edge to the West Wanaka Station 4WD track. It then heads inland, around Lookout Hill and over Station Creek to Colquhouns Flat. It passes through well-established regenerating bush before the flat.

The track then sidles across Station Creek Conservation Area with Mou Waho, the famous 'lake within a lake' island floating 2km offshore.

The Rumbling Burn stream-crossing marks the start of the ride's biggest climb and is a good place to fill drink bottles with crystal clear stream water and to check out the beautiful lake edge vista. The catchment spans the Mt Alta Conservation Area and is thickly bush-clad from top to toe.

Beyond the stream is the start of an honest ascent that will have riders changing into granny gears and stripping off unwanted layers. The top arrives in its own good time along with expansive views and a chance to really appreciate the vast glacier-formed landscape below.

There is a farmed corridor sandwiched between the Mt Alta and Minaret Burn conservation areas where the 4WD track leads over an open high terrace. About halfway along this is the West Wanaka Station's private Minaret Hut. It's the perfect spot to gaze out across the lake and stare skywards at the high mountains above.

The trail continues to the end of the terrace and into the Minaret Burn on a short steep descent that's often subjected to slips and washouts. The track splits before reaching the stream with the right fork heading downwards to the lake and the left heading into the Minaret Burn catchment (permission is required from West Wanaka Station (03 443 7144) to access the track on the true left of the Minaret Burn).

It's a rough farm track for the first kilometre and then the trail descends to the river below Twin Peaks. There is a short forested gorge and a kilometre of open river flats to ride with views up and down the valley. The track is rough in places and narrows to a pack track as it leaves the river for the last stretch to an old mustering hut. The hut is just past Slip Creek and is a good turn around point, though keen riders may wish to push further up the Burn to the top hut near Boil the Billy Creek. Both huts are derelict providing just a basic shelter from a storm.

### Wild file

**Access** From the Wanaka Mt Aspiring Road, take West Wanaka Road and park at the road end

**Grade** 3

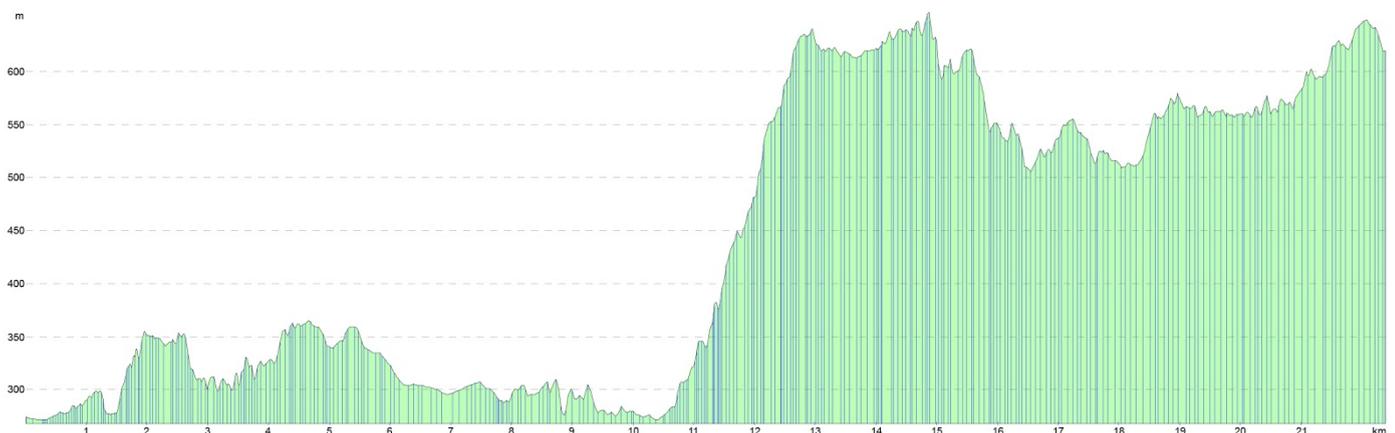
**Distance** 24.4km one way

**Total ascent** 1215m

**Time** 5-7hr

**Topo50 map** CA12

### Elevation Profile



# Minaret Burn Track, Wanaka. Map 1

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# Minaret Burn Track, Wanaka. Map 2

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