

Milford Track, Fiordland National Park

At just over 53km in length, the world-famous Milford Track is liberally endowed with some of the most spectacular natural sights of any track in the world.

Walking the track requires taking a ferry across Lake Te Anau from Te Anau Downs to Glade Wharf at the lake head and near the mouth of the Clinton River.

From the wharf, it's a two-hour walk to the 40-bunk Clinton Hut. The track then continues up the Clinton Valley – a wild and dramatic place where the valley climbs steadily through the unfolding majesty of the Clinton Canyon – a defile of rock and precipice lorded over by 2000m summits and split by fissures where waterfalls tumble.

Sited in the forest in the upper valley at 600m, directly below MacKinnon Pass, Mintaro Hut is a full day's walk from Clinton Hut and is the staging point for tackling the pass. Lake Mintaro is nearby.

From Mintaro, it's a steady climb up a steep zig-zag trail to Mackinnon Pass – the hardest day of the walk for most. From the pass, the track descends into the Roaring Burn passing beneath the flanks of Mt Balloon and Mt Elliot which during winter and spring regularly send large airborne avalanches over their precipitous slopes and into the valley. A direct short-cut 'emergency track' is available to avoid this danger during spring.

The track continues to Quintin Lodge and day shelter at the confluence of the Roaring Burn and Arthur River. From the shelter, there is a 90-minute return trip to Sutherland Falls (580m) – one of New Zealand's highest waterfalls and a highlight of the track.

The track then continues down the Arthur Valley to Dumpling Hut, the final hut on the walk. From the hut, the track continues down the valley to Lake Ada and the Giant Gate Falls – a memorable spectacle viewed from the swingbridge which spans the downstream flow.

The track then continues to Sandfly Point – the end of the walk. From here, access is only by boat, and yes, the sandflies are intolerable!

Wild File

Access By boat from Te Anau Downs

Grade Moderate

Time Four days. Glade Wharf to Clinton Hut, 1-2hr; Clinton Hut to Mintaro Hut, 6hr; Mintaro Hut to Dumpling Hut, 6-7hr; Dumpling Hut to Sandfly Point, 5-6hr

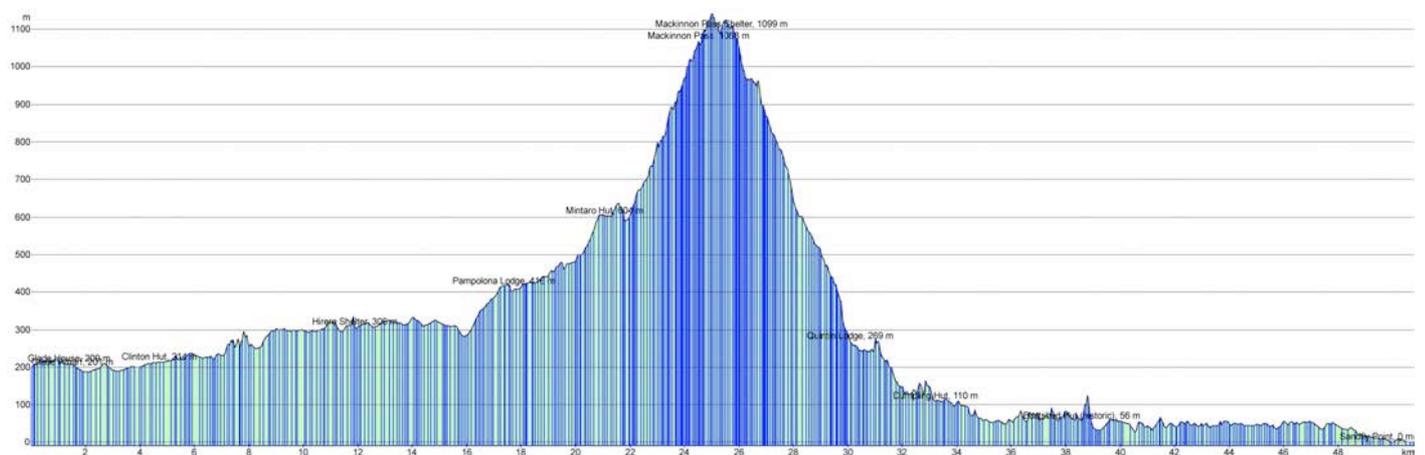
Distance 53 km

Total ascent 2201m

Accommodation Clinton Hut (40 bunks), Mintaro Hut (40 bunks), Dumpling Hut (40 bunks)

Map CB08, CB09

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.



Lawrenny Peaks

▲ Mt Philipps 1446m

Milford Sound

▲ Terror Peak 1786m

▲ Devils Armchair 1627m

▲ Sandfly Point Shelter
Water taxi

▲ Mt Danger 1825m

Giant Gate Falls
▲ Giant Gate Falls Shelter

Sheerdown Hills

▲ Sheerdown Peak 1878m

▲ Lady of the Snows 1818m

Mackay Falls

FIORDLAND NATIONAL PARK

▲ Mt Ada 1881m

Milford Sound Highway 94

▲ Mt Talbot 2105m

Homer Tunnel

▲ Dumpling Hut

▲ Mt Kepka 1781m

▲ Mt Gendarme 1931m

▲ Quintin Lodge and Shelter

▲ Andersons Cascade Shelter

▲ Mt Mitchelson 1936m

Sutherland Falls

▲ Mackinnon Pass

▲ Mackinnon Pass Shelter

Wick Mountains

▲ Mt Park 2020m

Lake Quill

▲ Mintaro Hut

Clinton River North Branch

Lake Erskine

▲ Bus Stop Shelter

▲ Prairie Shelter

▲ Mt Anau 1956m

▲ Barrier Peak 1982m

▲ Pairoa / Castle Mount 2122m

Clinton River West Branch

Neale Burn

Earl Mountains

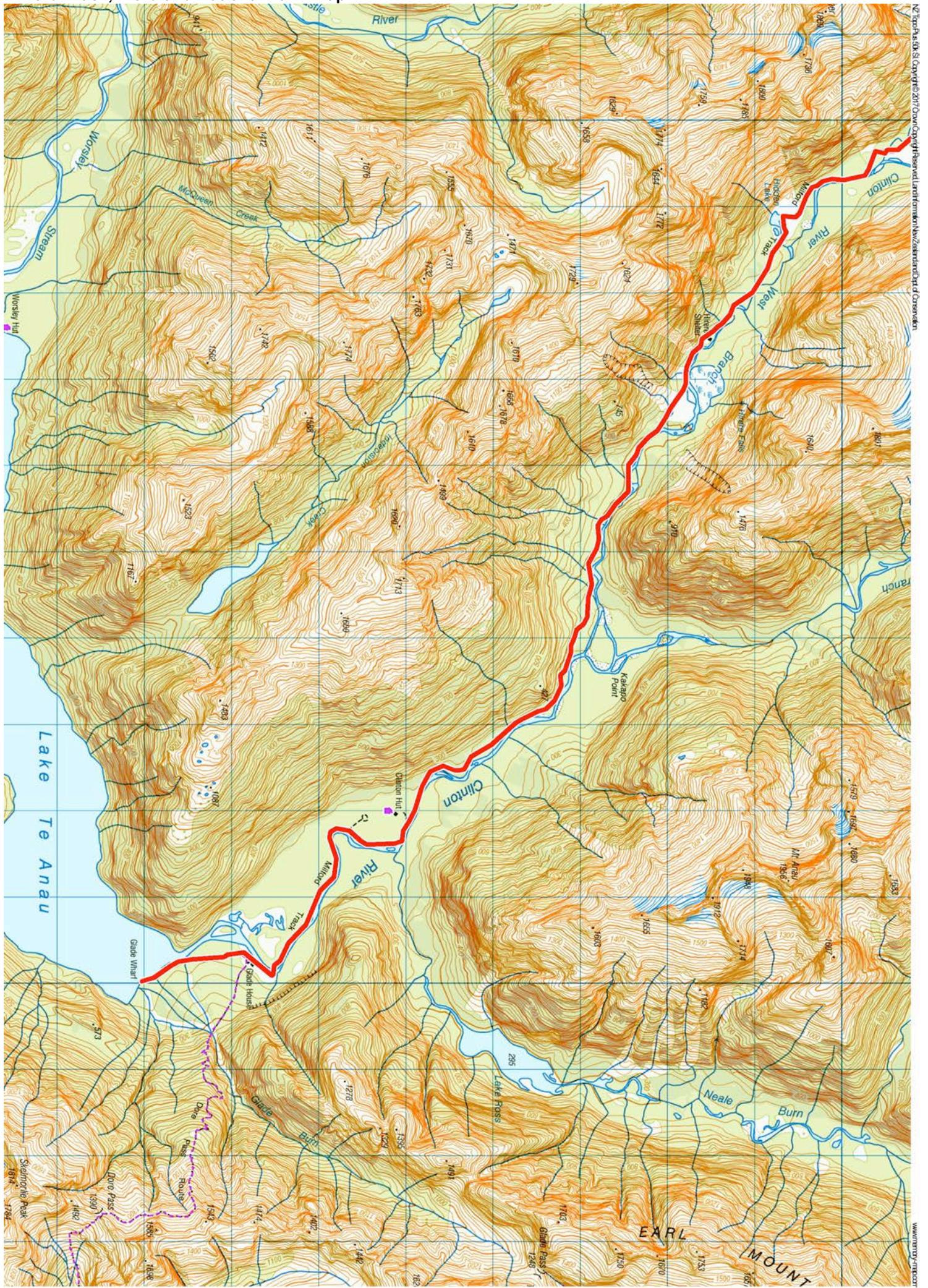
▲ Clinton Hut

Lake Te Anau

▲ Glade Wharf Water taxi

Dore Pass Route

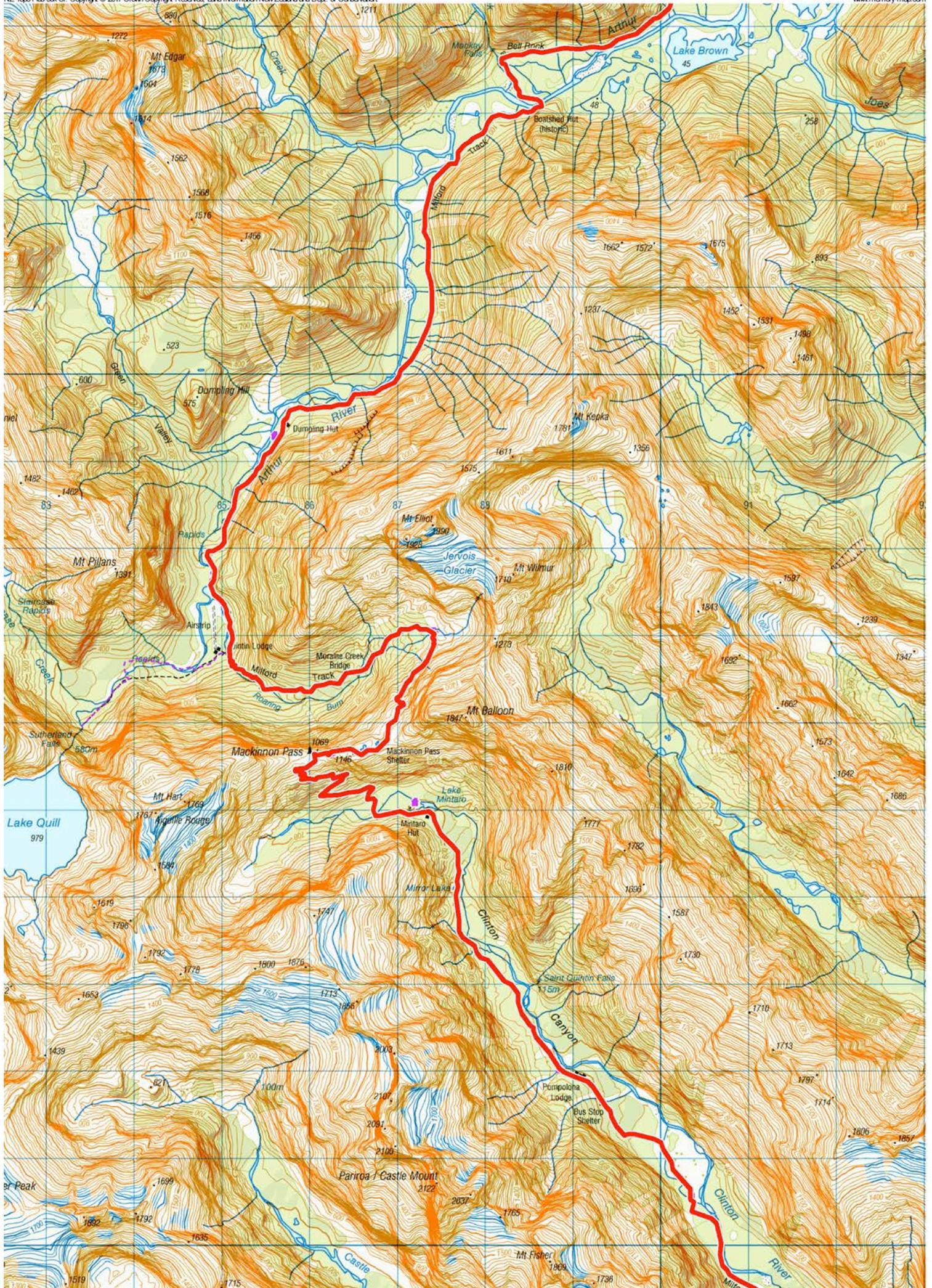
Milford Track, Fiordland National Park. Map 1



Milford Track, Fiordland National Park. Map 2

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Milford Track, Fiordland National Park. Map 3

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