

Stafford Hut and Carmichael Plateau, West Coast

The first part of the route to Stafford Hut is easy going, following an old pack track beside Saddle Creek. The pack track ends at the Smoothwater River, where a right-branching trail leads to Smoothwater Bay. A sign for the inland track to Stafford Hut points straight into the river.

500m from the junction, a marked track on the other side of Kakapo Stream, a tributary of the Smoothwater, crisscrosses the stream to Stafford Saddle. The track steepens considerably just before the saddle. and is equally steep on the far side. A marked route leads down a creek, over slippery rocks and fallen trees, to the Stafford River.

The track re-enters the bush for a short distance before reaching Stafford Hut.

There are rocky headlands at each end of Stafford Bay, impassable except at low tide or when the sea is calm. Head south around the headland and walk the coast until Teer Creek is reached.

Head into Teer Creek, where upriver progress can be slow with giant boulders and deep pools. There is a flat space to camp below the Carmichael Plateau, to the south of Pt308.

Climb north out of Teer Creek to reach Carmichael Plateau. Crossing these tussock tops is simple, even with a few tributaries of Carmichael Creek to cross.

At the last tributary of the creek, climb steep terrain up a spur to the north of Pt500 to gain McArthur Tops. The McArthur Tops can be awkward to navigate. A maze of ridges shoot off in multiple directions at times accompanied by tall fern and monkey scrub. Eventually, the tops lead to near Stafford Hut, from where trappers can walk back to Jackson Bay.

Wild file

Access Haast Jackson Bay Road

Grade Difficult

Time Four days. To Stafford Hut, 3-4hr; To Teer Creek campsite, 6l -7hr; To Stafford Hut via Carmichael Plateau and McArthur Tops, 8-9hr

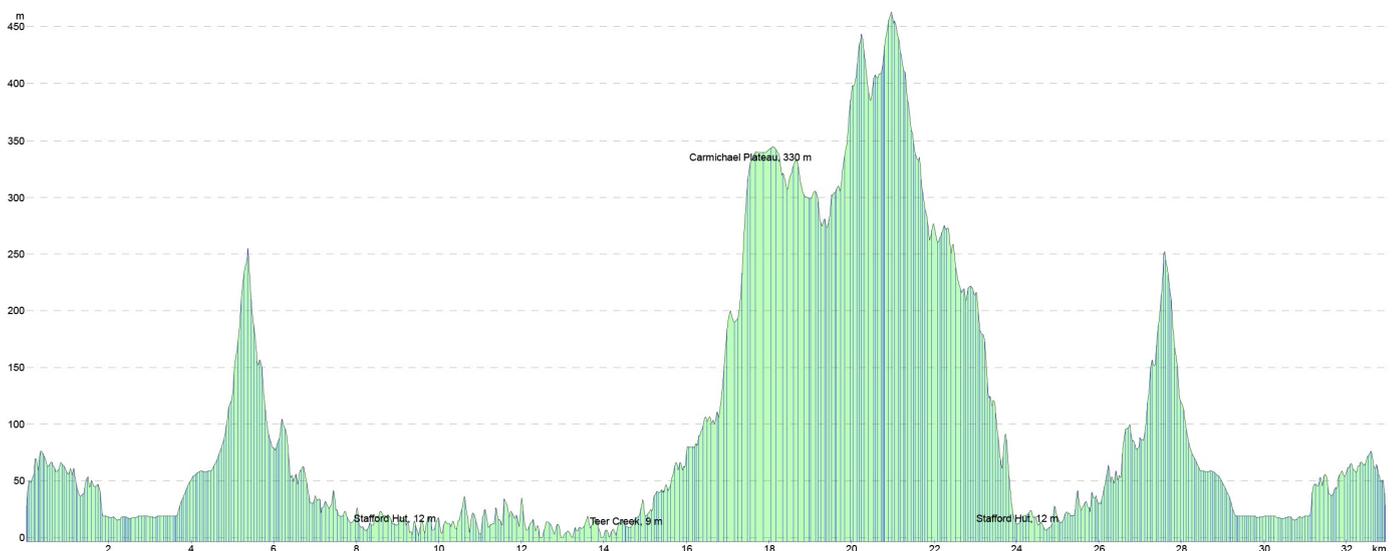
Distance 33km

Total ascent 1932m

Accommodation Stafford Hut (\$5, six bunks).

Map BY10, BZ10

Elevation



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