

Wilderness Magazine Wild Trip guidelines

Wild Trips provide a description of a route to a certain destination. They are not about your personal experience of the walk. The goal is to provide directions, points of interest and highlights walkers will see.

- A Wild Trip should be half a day to three days in duration.
- Stories should be between 450 and 700 words in length (the longer the trip, the longer the story).
- The sell: Why should readers give the track a go?
- **Avoid writing in the First Person** - Wild Trips are simply descriptions of places to go and how to get there.
- Story style for Wild Trips is all about the route description – **tell us what the trip is like**, the route, best bits, hard bits, where you turn at track junctions. Write the story as if you were giving detailed instructions for someone to follow.
- Where applicable, mention interesting facts about the area, e.g.: local history etc.
- The story must be sufficiently descriptive for us to follow your directions and mark the route you took on our mapping software.
- A 'Wild File' detailing access, maps, times between huts or to complete the trip, grade: difficult, moderate, easy: including physical difficulty, river crossings, navigation, time taken...), where you finish the trip, any other useful information such as key contact details for DOC, landowners etc.
- Photos should be hi-res digitals
- Please provide captions for the photos that detail where the photo was taken and who should be credited for the photo.
- Stories and hi-res photos should be emailed to editor@lifestylepublishing.co.nz.
- If you have a GPX file of the trip, please send this with the submission.

Please format the story as follows:

[Head] Name of track/hut, National Park/Forest Park (E.g. Waihothonu Hut, Tongariro National Park)

[standfirst] Sell the trip. What can you say to entice readers to try this walk (25-40wds).

[text]

Text of story goes here. 450-750 wds

Wild File

Access Where does the track start

Grade Choose from: Easy, Easy-moderate, moderate, Moderate-difficult, Difficult

Time Be specific e.g.: Car park to Hut 1, 3-4hr; Hut 1 to Hut 2, 8-9hr; Hut 2 to car park, 5-6hr

Distance If known

Total ascent If known

Accommodation If any. Include hut name, cost/night for adults and number of bunks

Map Topo50 map sheets

Further information if trip crosses private land include contact details of landowner here

[Photos]

Name of photo: Caption goes here **Credit:** Photographer's name here

Name of photo1: Caption goes here. Etc, etc **Credit:** Photographer's name here

Example wild trip:

[head] Skyline Track, Wanaka

[standfirst] Go beyond the summit of Roys Peak to find a captivating ridgeline with expansive scenery featuring Mt Aspiring National Park and the Cardrona Valley. **By Lee Johnson**

[text]

The track begins from Roy's Peak car park, which has been known to be full before 10am in peak season, so an early start is advised (there is a smaller, quieter car park on the Cardrona Valley roadside where the track can be walked in reverse).

A steep and winding 4WD trail zigzags relentlessly through farmland – supporting plenty of farm animals – before eventually reaching the tussock tops. The tough ascent is consistently rewarded by the surrounding breathtaking views of Lake Wanaka, however, this view remains unchanged for a couple of hours of climbing.

When the ridgetop is reached, the spectacular landscape of Lake Wanaka, its islands and the rolling mountains of Mt Aspiring National Park open up, including Tititea/Mt Aspiring itself. At this point, a drop-down toilet can be accessed, tactically placed near the famous viewpoint. This location is the prime spot due to its photogenic perspective. However, there are plenty of quieter viewpoints en route to the summit of Roys Peak.

The track climbs steadily to the radio tower at 1578m, showcasing the Southern Alps and the majority of the tallest peaks in Mt Aspiring National Park.

The Skyline Track continues along the ridge just before the summit, leaving the majority of people (if not all) behind. The ridgeline is relatively straightforward with just a few rocky sections with steep drop-offs that require care. These sections can become icy even outside the winter months. The highest point of the track is at Mt Alpha (1630m) where stunning 360-degree vistas of the surrounding landscape are revealed. It's hard to believe that just an hour earlier, at Roys Peak, there is usually an abundance of excited hikers marvelling at the view, yet most decide to go no further. Despite Mt Alpha being the larger of the two summits, the peace and tranquillity here feels unprecedented in comparison to Roys Peak.

The descent into tussock terrain begins from here. The initially steep gradient eases slightly and the trail becomes a gradually descending 4WD track through farmland. Once the signposted junction is reached in the saddle below Pt979, the route, marked by poles, heads to the right to join the Spotts Creek Track through the remaining rolling hills before reaching Spotts Creek. It's then alongside the creek before turning towards the car park on Cardrona Valley Road where a car shuttle is required to return you to the track start.

Wild File

Access Roys Peak Track car park, Wanaka-Mount Aspiring Road

Grade Moderate

Time 8-11hr

Distance 23km

Total ascent 1970m

Topo50 map CB12

Photos:

Mt Alpha: The view from Mt Alpha takes in the mountains of Mt Aspiring National Park and Lake Wānaka

Photo: Lee Johnson

And this is how it looks in the magazine:



Skyline Track, Wanaka



Go beyond the summit of Roys Peak to find a captivating ridgeline with expansive scenery featuring Mt Aspiring National Park and the Cardrona Valley. By **Lee Johnson**

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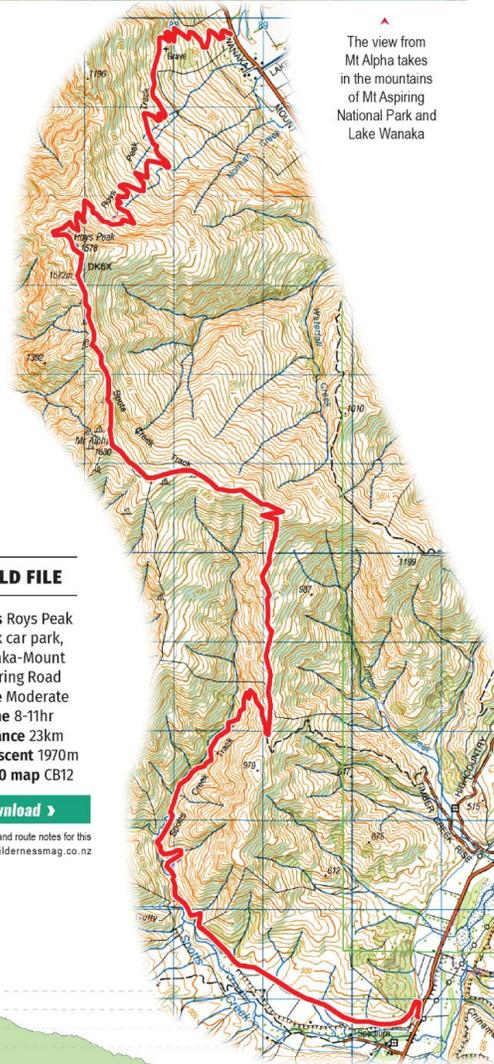
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The view from Mt Alpha takes in the mountains of Mt Aspiring National Park and Lake Wanaka



WILD FILE

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[download >](#)

Find the map and route notes for this trip at www.wildernessmag.co.nz

