

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK ... IN NEW ZEALAND

by Peter Tremayne

PCT/JMT Trail Name: "Tinman"

www.highsierrakiwi.com

US Hiking/Climbing Classification

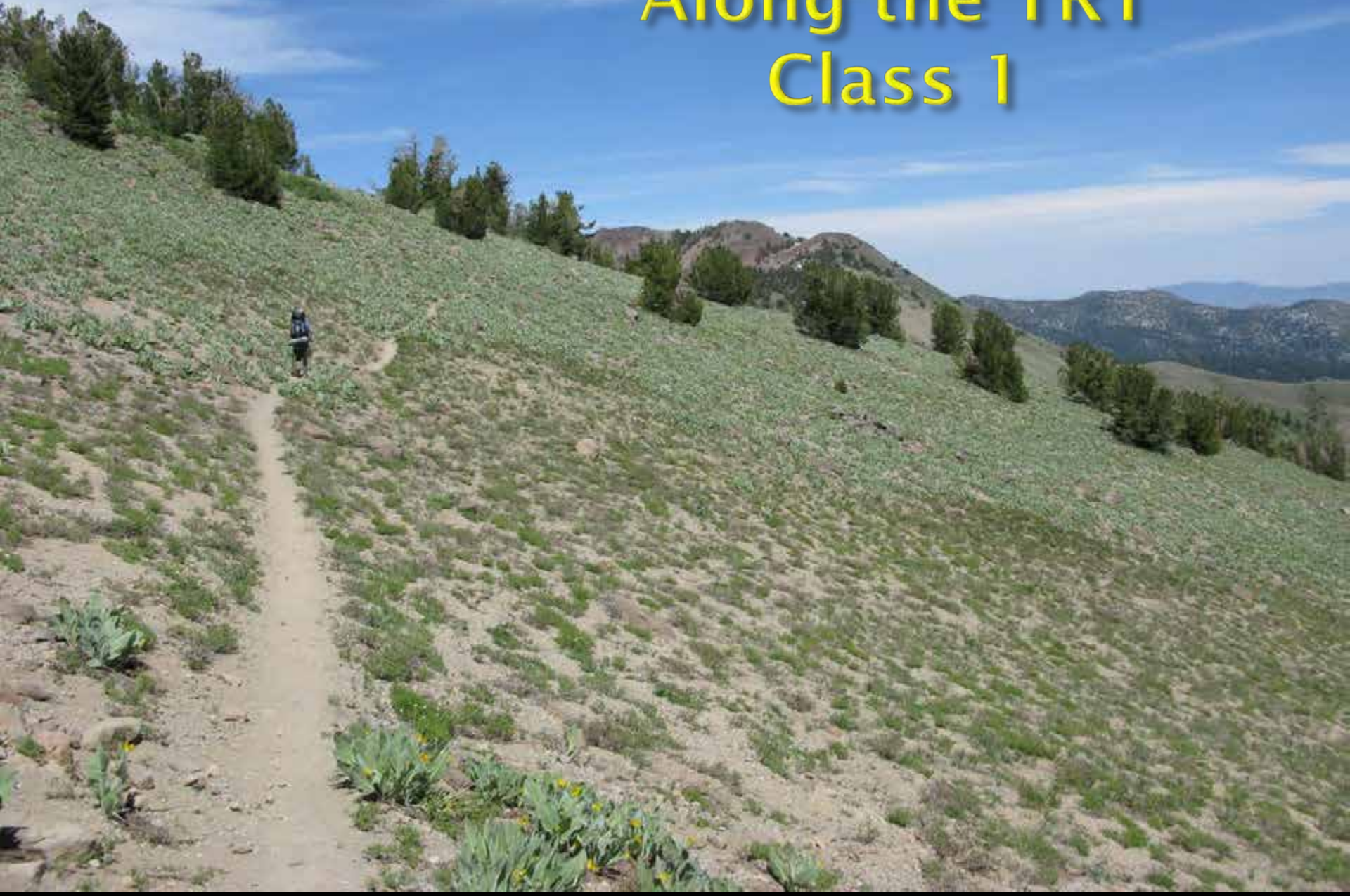
Class 1: indicates either trail walking or extremely easy cross-country travel.

Class 2: The terrain has become more rugged. At all times hikers must watch where they plant their boots; hands must be used occasionally to maintain balance. Steep talus exemplifies this level of difficulty. Few hikers will have trouble on class 2 terrain.

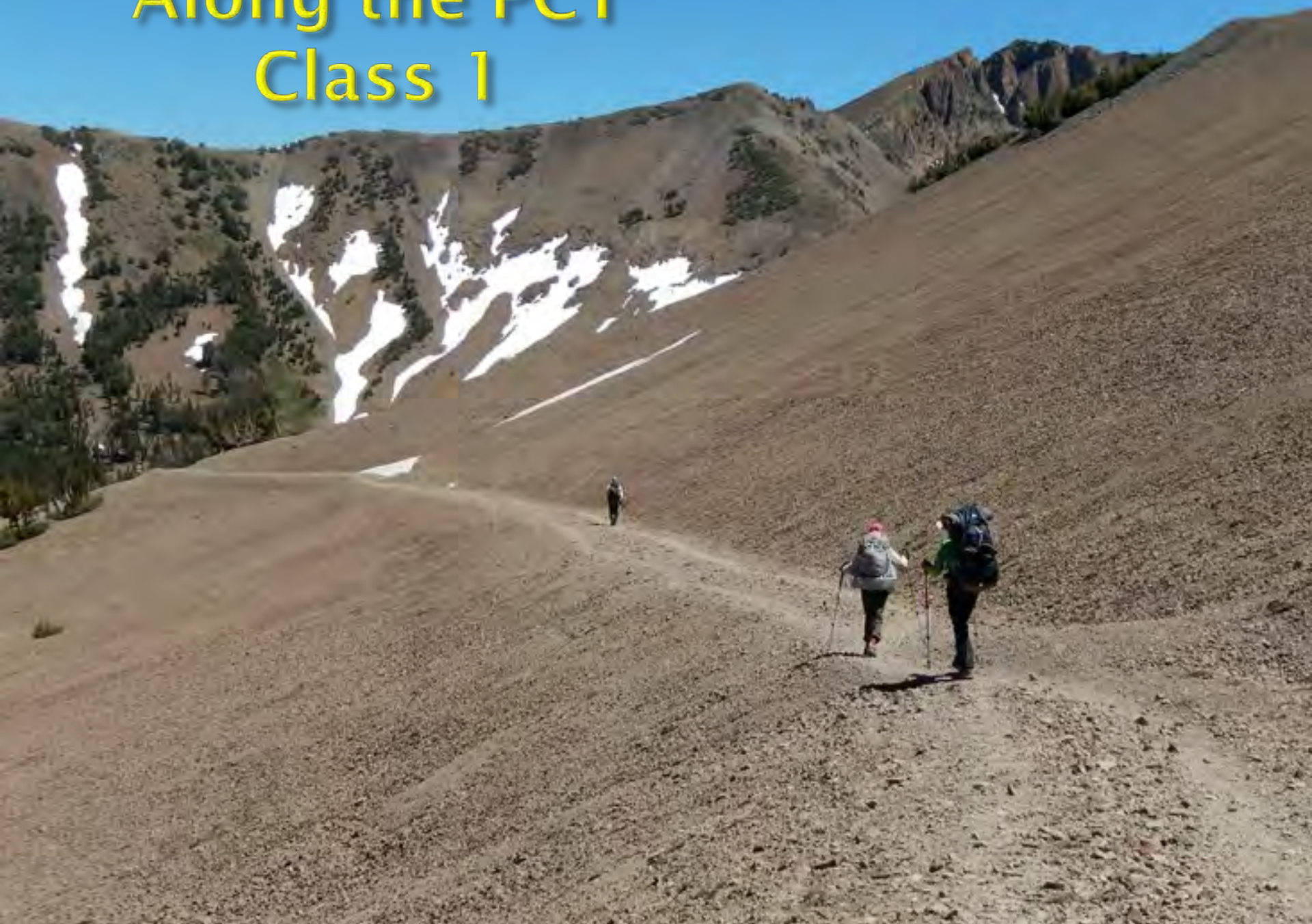
Class 3: Actual handholds and footholds must be found, tested, and used. The angle of the rock has steepened to the point where a fall might result in injury. The traveler must use caution while moving across this type of landscape.

Class 4: Means that the holds have become smaller and the exposure has increased. A rope should be used to safeguard the climbers.

Along the TRT Class 1



Along the PCT Class 1



A wide-angle photograph of a high-altitude mountain valley. The foreground is a rocky, gravelly slope. In the middle ground, a small stream flows through a rocky bed. The background features steep, rocky mountain slopes under a clear blue sky. The text 'Along the JMT at 11,000' Class 1' is overlaid in yellow on the right side of the image.

Along the JMT
at 11,000'
Class 1

Along the JMT at 13,200'
still Class 1



Climbing Italy Pass Class 2



Climbing Whitebark Pass Class 3 [off-route]



Roper's "Sierra High Route" Class 2, 3 and some 4

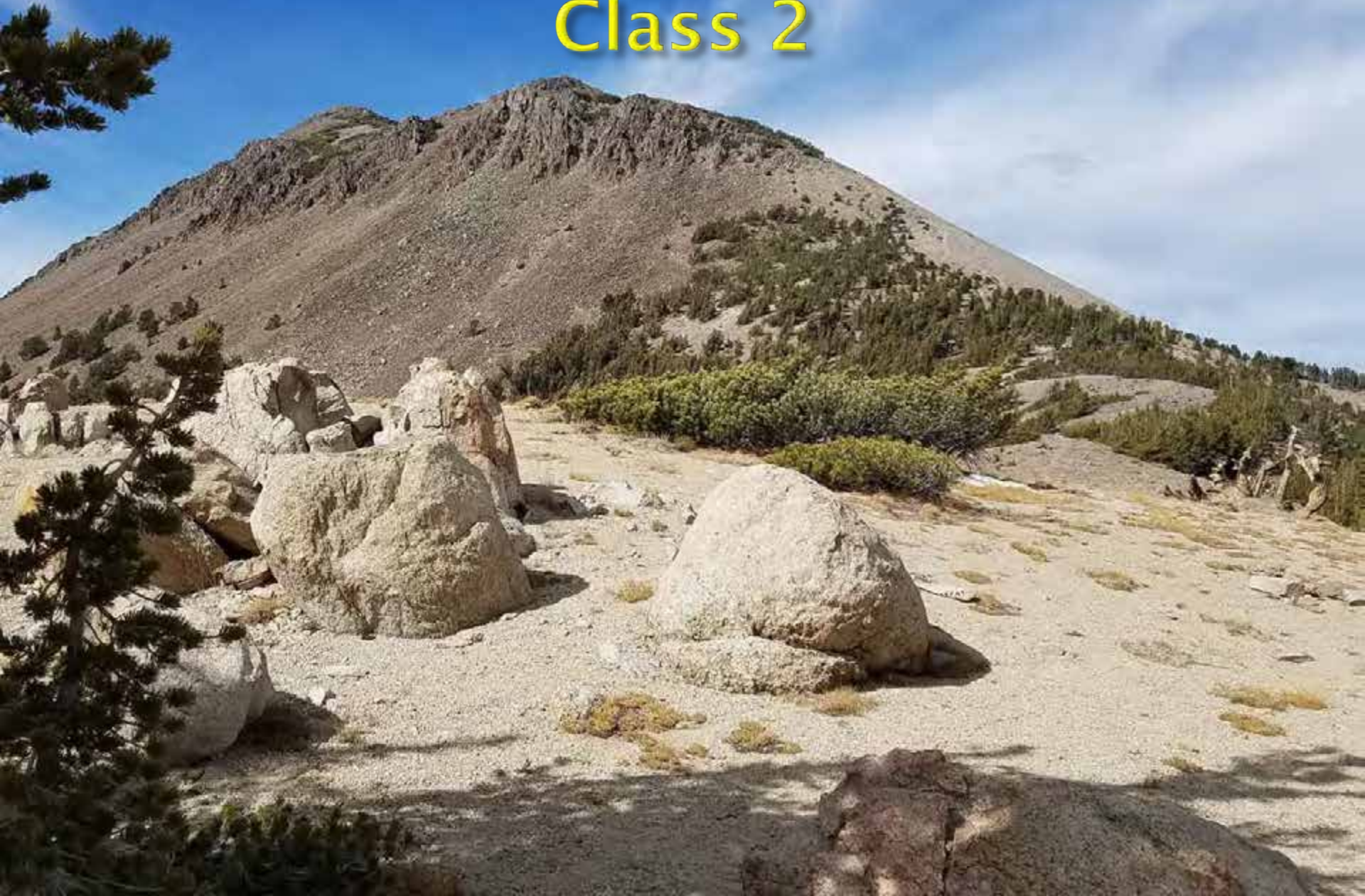


Mount Rose the Hard Way

Class 2



Mount Rose the Hard Way Class 2



Laid Back New Zealand



NZ- The Good News

- ▣ No Bears
- ▣ No Mountain Lions
- ▣ No Coyotes
- ▣ No Snakes
- ▣ No shortage of water sources [Rains often!]
- ▣ There's always the "Great Walks" that will minimize the potential hazards of hiking in New Zealand.
- ▣ On most Tracks, no tents required. You can stay in well equipped huts.

New Zealand's Great Walks

The [Milford Track](#) is the jewel in New Zealand's hiking crown, an extremely popular 4-day track through Fiordland, from Lake Te Anau to the stunning Milford Sound.

The [Routeburn Track](#) is a 32km, 3-day tramp between Glenorchy and The Divide, crossing through Mt Aspiring and Fiordland National parks.

The [Kepler Track](#), at 60km, is possibly the most challenging of the Great Walks, taking 3-4 days to complete. It is also the course for the Kepler Challenge - an 'ultra-marathon' trail running race of the entire track, which takes the winners around 5 hours to complete!

The [Abel Tasman Coastal Track](#) is one of the most popular tramps for visitors to the country as it runs along the coastline of the sunniest part of the South Island, featuring some stunning beaches of golden sand and crystal-clear water.

The [Heaphy Track](#) is another hike in the northern South Island and at 79km (4-6 days) is the longest of the Great Walks, with some of the most diverse scenery, from the forests of the Kahurangi National Park to scenic West Coast beaches. It is also unique in that it is open to mountain bikers during the Winter Season.

MILFORD TRACK



Duration: 4 days
Distance: 53.5 km (one way)



Great Walks season:
27 October 2015 – 27 April 2016



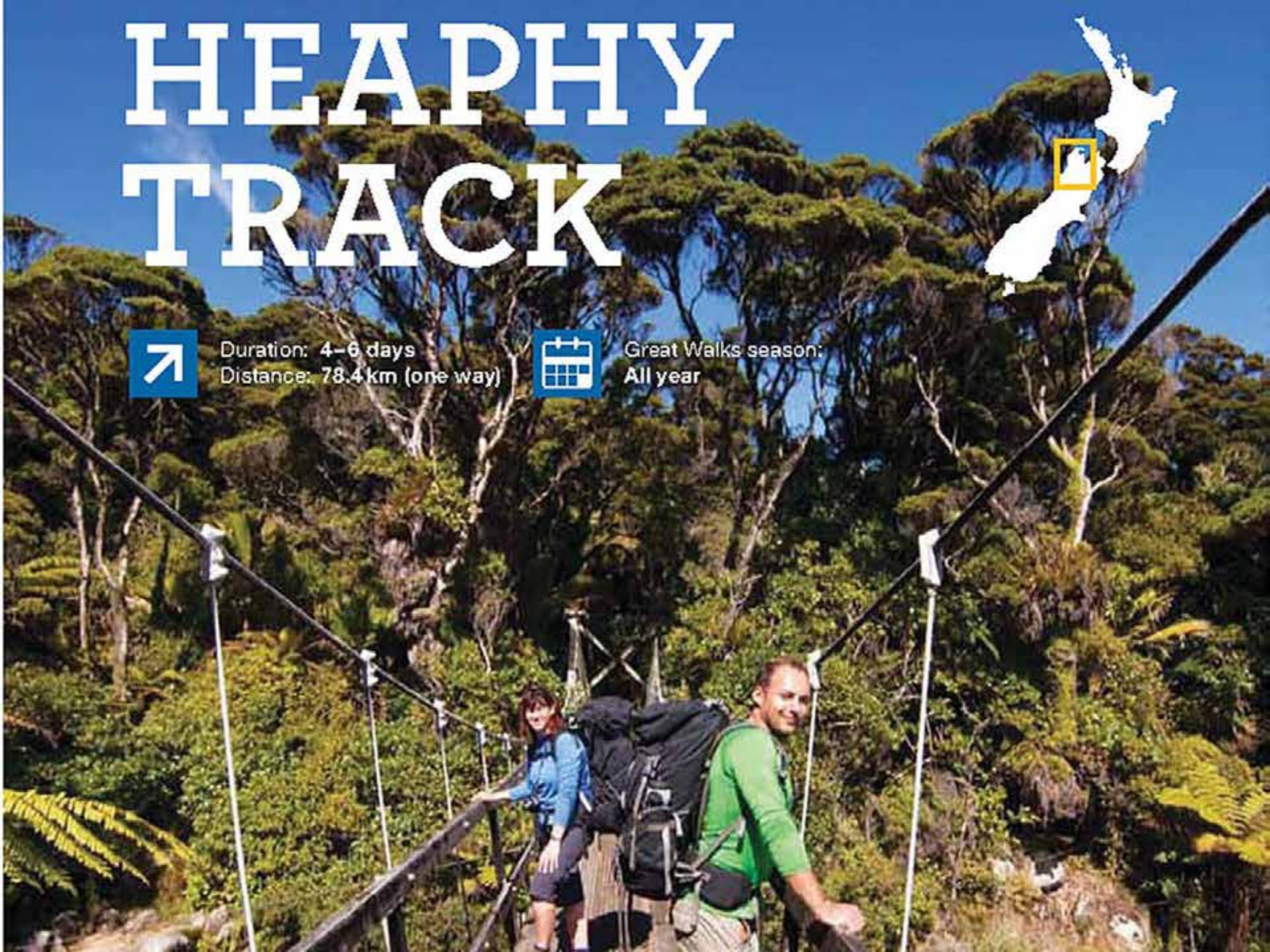
HEAPHY TRACK



Duration: 4–6 days
Distance: 78.4 km (one way)



Great Walks season:
All year





Department of Conservation
Te Kaitiaki

Kahurangi National Park

Heaphy Track

- Nikau Walk (start) 5 km
- Scotts Hill Lookout 20 km
- Scotts Beach 1 hr
- Kaiapo Shelter 2 hr 30 min
- Heaphy Hut 1 hr
- Dogs are not permitted





Our friends across the Tasman call it bushwalking. Visitors from the Northern Hemisphere refer to it as trekking or hiking. In New Zealand, heading off into the wilds with packs loaded for several days has long been referred to as tramping, a term which might seem mildly eccentric -until you visit the landscape.

It is the rugged nature of the land which has shaped New Zealand's tramping culture and which also dictates the slow plodding movement sometimes necessary to move steadily through the backcountry on foot.

Stumbling over tree roots, easing along a craggy ridge, or scrambling up a streambed of boulders is not everyone's idea of enjoyable travel, but such is the nature of New Zealand tracks that tramping is a more apt description for it than others.

Easiest: Short walk

Duration: Easy walking for up to an hour.

Suitable for: People of most ages and fitness levels.

Standard: Track is well formed, with an even, well drained surface. There may be steps. Stream and rivers crossings are bridged.

Footwear required: Walking shoes.

Typical tracks: [Riwaka Resurgence](#) | [Waterworks Walk](#)



Easy: Walking track

Duration: Gentle walking from a few minutes to a day.

Suitable for: People with low to moderate fitness and abilities. Some tracks suitable for mountain biking.

Standard: Track is mostly well formed, some sections may be steep, rough or muddy. Clearly signposted. Stream and river crossings are bridged.

Footwear required: Walking shoes or light tramping/hiking boots.

Typical tracks: [Arthur's Pass Walking Track](#) | [Orongorongo Track](#)



Intermediate: Great Walk/Easier tramping track

Duration: Comfortable multi-day tramping/hiking

Suitable for: People with limited backcountry (remote area) experience. Some tracks suitable for mountain biking.

Standard: Track is generally well formed, some sections may be rough, muddy or steep. Track has signs, poles or markers. Major stream and river crossings are bridged.

Footwear required: Light tramping/hiking boots.

Typical tracks: Tongariro Northern Circuit | Lake Daniell Track



Class 1 [equivalent]

Advanced: Tramping track

Duration: Challenging day or multi-day tramping/hiking

Suitable for: People with moderate to high level backcountry (remote areas) skills and experience, navigation and survival skills required. Some tracks suitable for mountain biking.

Standard: Track is mostly unformed, may be rough and steep. Track has markers, poles or rock cairns. Expect unbridged stream and river crossings.

Footwear required: Tramping/hiking boots.

Typical tracks: Kapakapanui Track | Inland Track



Class 2 [equivalent]

Expert: Route

Duration: Challenging overnight tramping/hiking.

Suitable for: People with high level backcountry (remote areas) skills and experience, navigation and survival skills required. Complete self sufficiency required.

Standard: Track unformed and natural, may be rough, muddy or very steep. Track has markers, poles or rock cairns. Expect unbridged stream and river crossings.

Footwear required: Sturdy tramping/hiking boots.

Typical tracks: [Three Passes Route](#) | [Tararua Northern Crossing](#)

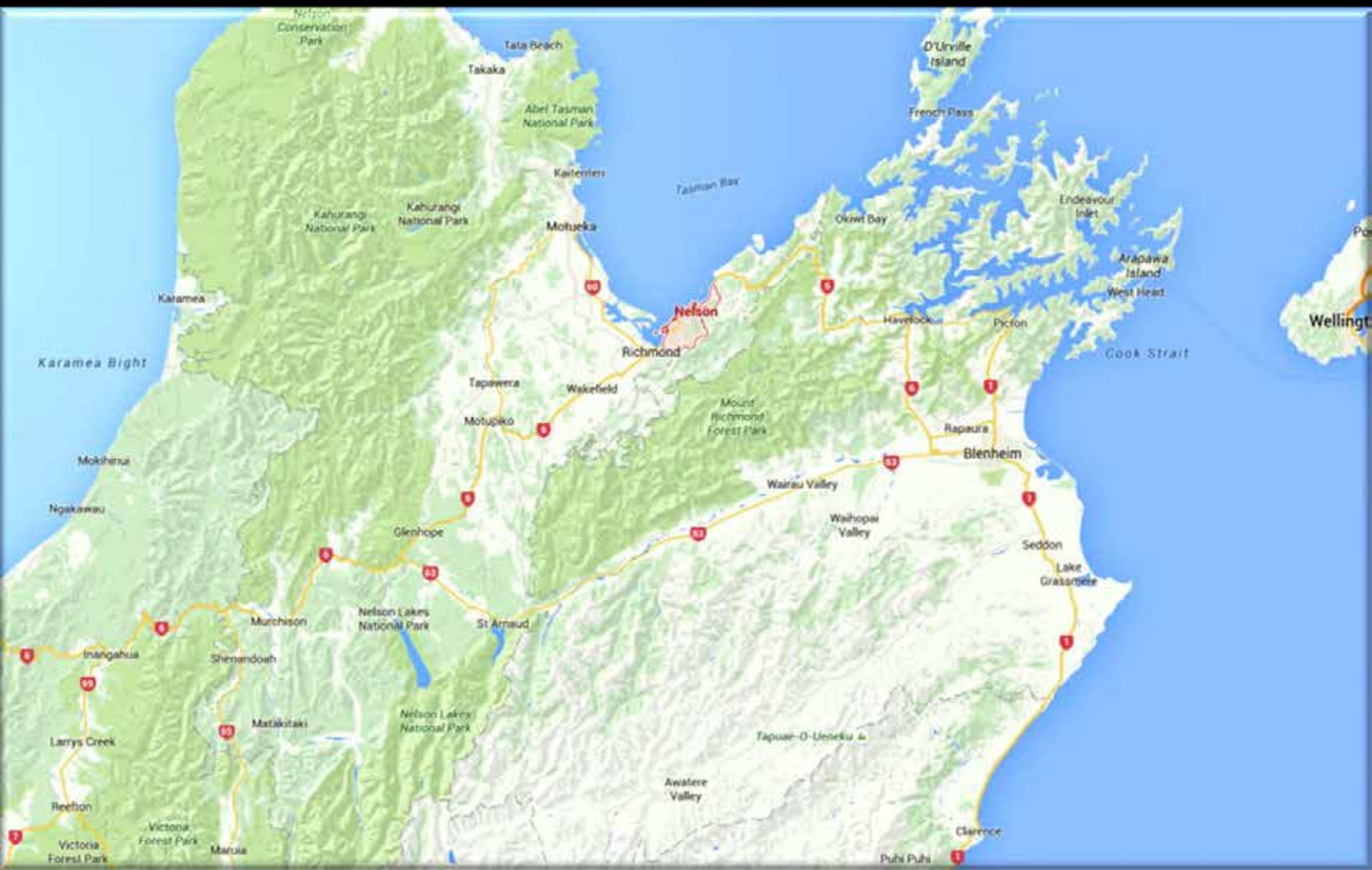


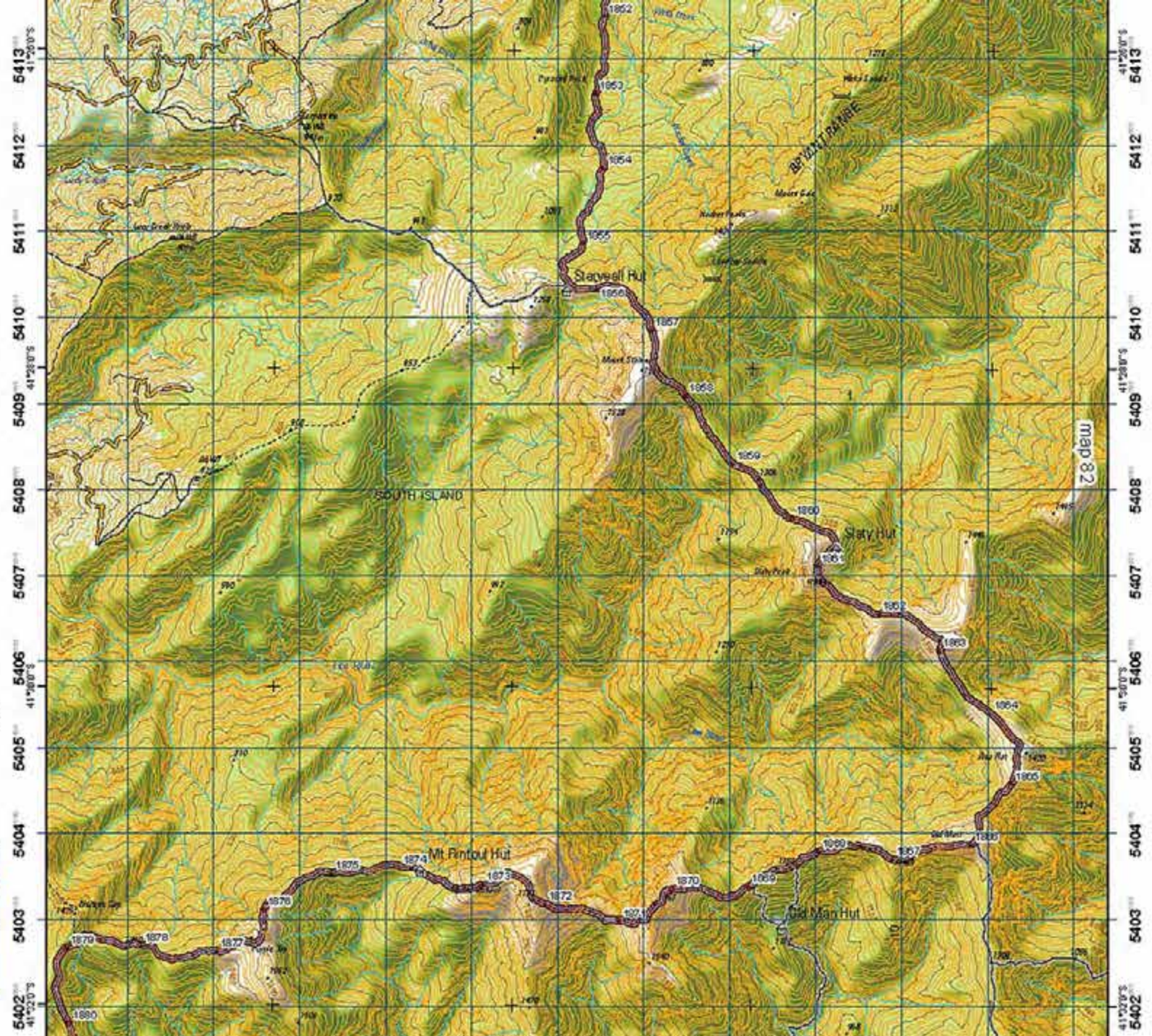
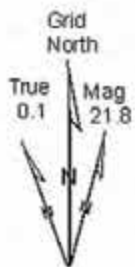


[http://www.
teararoa.org.nz](http://www.teararoa.org.nz)









map 8.2

41° 20' 0" 5402
41° 20' 0" 5403
41° 20' 0" 5404
41° 20' 0" 5405
41° 20' 0" 5406
41° 20' 0" 5407
41° 20' 0" 5408
41° 20' 0" 5409
41° 20' 0" 5410
41° 20' 0" 5411
41° 20' 0" 5412
41° 20' 0" 5413



Hacket Hut

← 100m 2min



Starveall Hut



4hr 30min

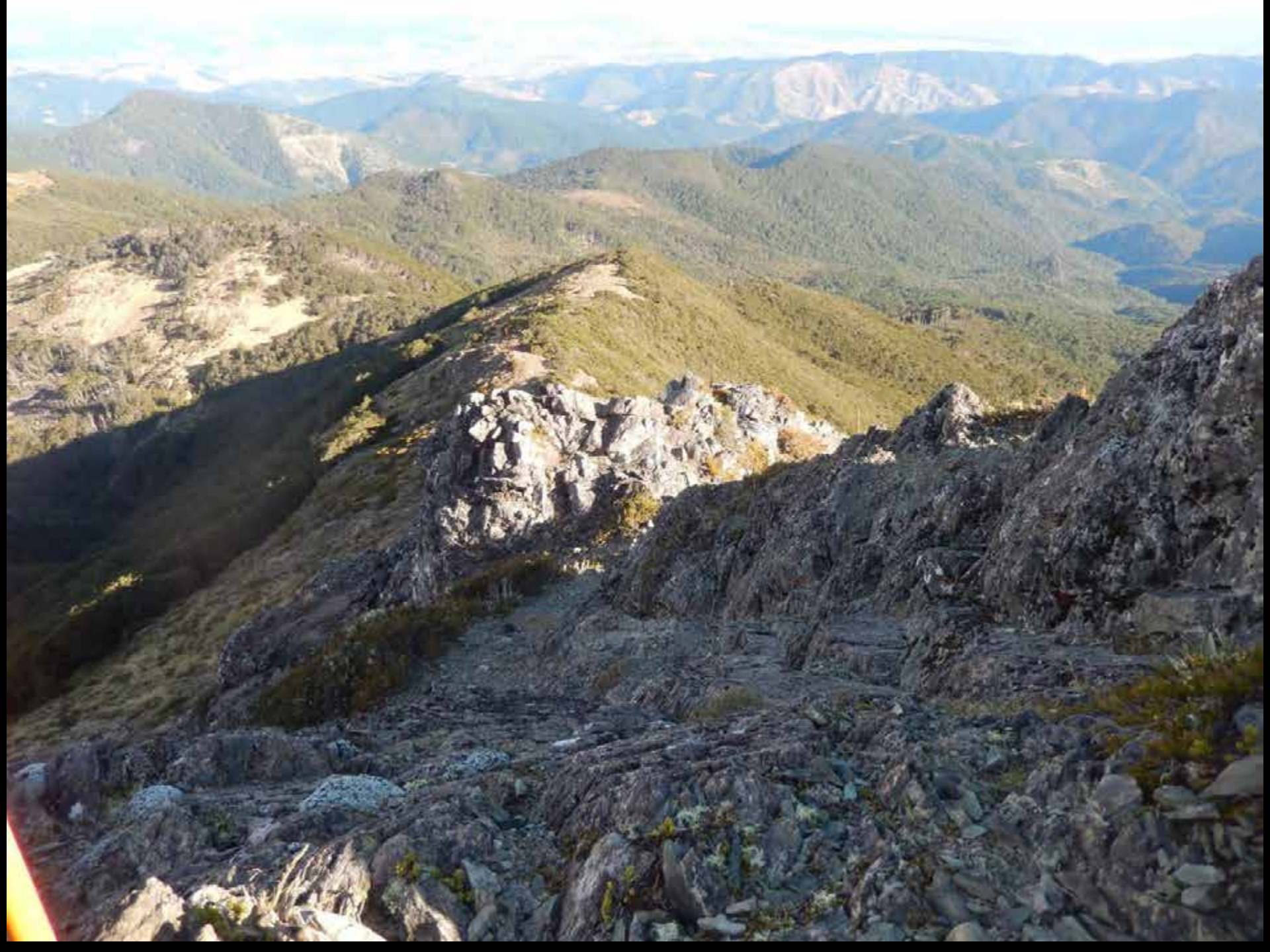
Caution! Access to Starveall Hut and the Alpine Route from this point involves multiple creek crossings. During, or after heavy rain these are likely to be dangerous and impassable.



Hacket Road End → 6.6km 2hr

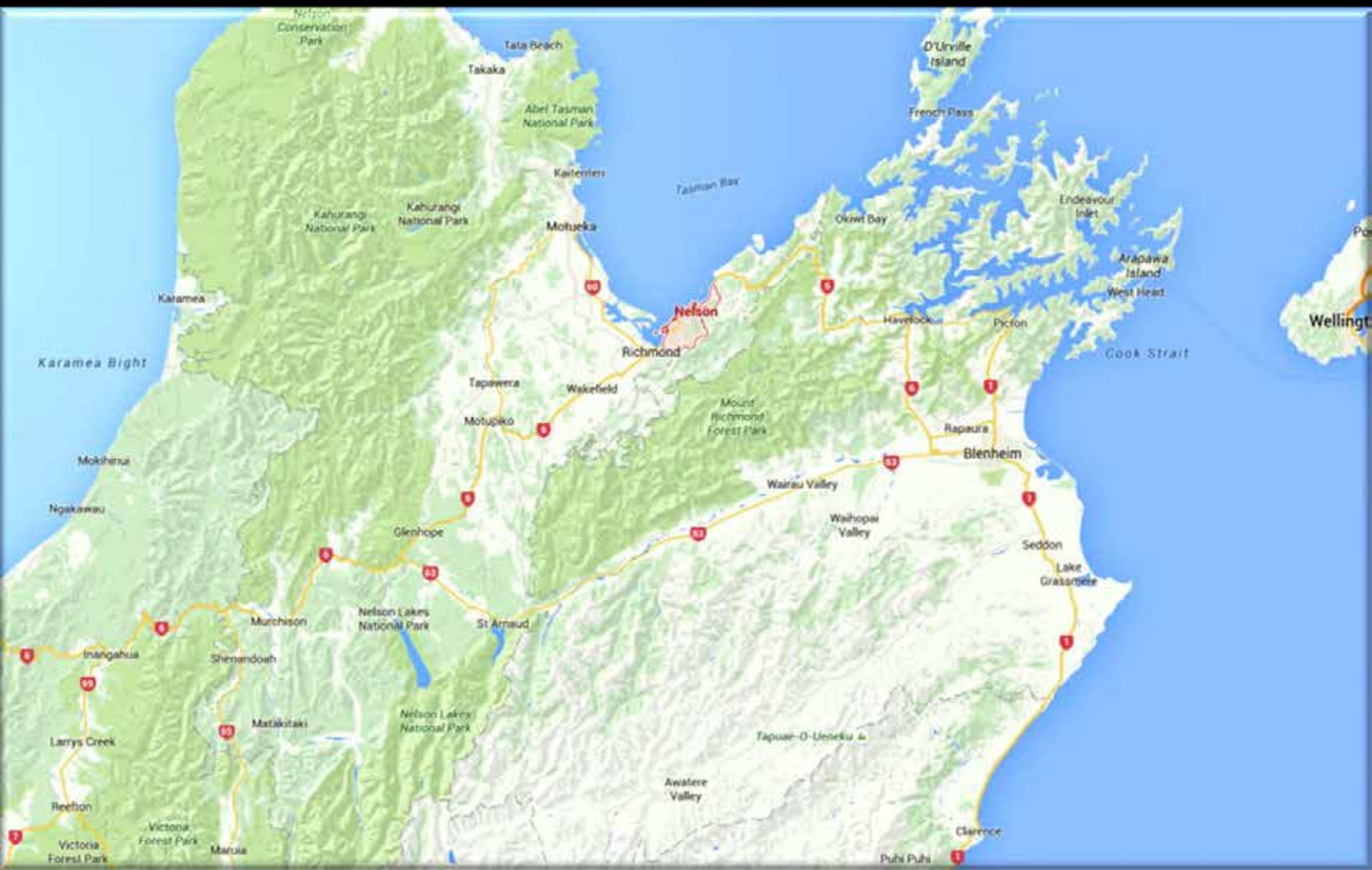






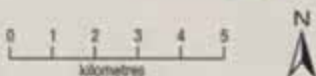









Travers-Sabine Circuit

-  State Highway
-  Sealed road
-  Unsealed road
-  Walking track
-  Tramping track
-  Route
-  Travers-Sabine Circuit
-  Information centre
-  Serviced hut
-  Standard hut
-  Basic hut
-  Serviced campsite
-  Standard campsite
-  Car park
-  Toilet



This map is a guide only. For more information consult Parkmap 273-05 or Topo50 maps BR24 Kawatiri and BS24 Mount Robert.

Hut categories

-  **Serviced huts** have mattresses, a water supply, toilets, hand washing facilities and heating, with fuel available. They may have cooking facilities with fuel, and a warden may be present. Backcountry Hut Passes or Backcountry Hut Tickets are required.
-  **Standard huts** have mattresses, a water supply and toilets. Wood heaters are provided at huts below the bushline. Backcountry Hut Passes or Backcountry Hut Tickets are required.
-  **Basic huts** provide very basic shelter with limited facilities; no charge.

Campground categories

-  **Serviced campsites** have a wide range of facilities and services. Flush toilets, tap water, kitchen/cooking bench, hot showers, rubbish collection and road access for all types of vehicles are available. Laundry facilities, BBQs, fireplaces, cookers and picnic tables may be available.
-  **Standard campsites** have a more limited range of facilities and services. Toilets (usually composting or pit variety), a water supply (tap, stream, or lake) and vehicle or boat access are available. Wood BBQs and fireplaces, showers (cold), picnic tables, a cooking shelter and rubbish bins may be provided.



Travers-Sabine Circuit profile from Lakehead Hut to Mt Robert Car Park



Introduction

The 80-km Travers-Sabine Circuit reaches deep into the heart of the mountains of Nelson Lakes National Park. Tranquil beech forests, fields of waving tussocks, 2000-metre-high mountains and clear rushing streams are highlights of the journey.

The circuit requires 4-7 days to complete and involves a crossing of Travers Saddle, an alpine pass subject to freezing conditions at any time of the year.

Most of the track is classified as a tramping track. It is well marked and although most rivers and streams are bridged, after heavy rain, there are a number of streams that may not be safe to cross. Sturdy boots and a good standard of fitness are recommended, and warm, waterproof clothing is essential.

A Backcountry Hut Pass or Backcountry Hut Tickets are required to stay in any of the huts on the circuit.

Lake Rotoiti - Nelson Lakes NP



Lake Rotoroa - Nelson Lakes NP









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Image © 2016 DigitalGlobe

Google

Travers Saddle is an alpine pass requiring ice axe and crampons in winter and well into spring. Be prepared for sudden weather changes. The Sabine side of the saddle in particular is exposed to avalanches. At Upper Travers Hut, the track becomes a route marked with snow poles as far as the bushline on the Sabine side.

Cross the Travers River near the hut and follow the poles through dense alpine shrubs. Leaving the boulder-strewn valley, the track steepens and zigzags up a scree slope before continuing more gently to the saddle with its panoramic views. The saddle is 450 metres above the hut, about 1 hour 30 minutes walking.

From the saddle, the descent is steep—the Sabine forks lie 1000 metres below. The track crosses tussock and scree and then briefly enters stunted beech forest before emerging into a steep gully. Descend by zigzagging to the valley floor, where the track begins again and the walking becomes easier.



Steep gully leading down from Travers Saddle.
Photo: Markus Baumann











For each night in a hut, date the appropriate number of tickets per person. Display this section of the ticket on your pack.

Know the outdoor safety code:

1. Plan your trip
2. Tell someone
3. Be aware of the weather
4. Know your limits
5. Take sufficient supplies

Visit:

www.adventuresmart.org.nz

Nº 228800

DATE OF USE

///

DEPOSIT

this section in the box provided

Nº 228800

DATE OF USE

///

ADULT

BACKCOUNTRY HUT PASS



Know the outdoor safety code:

1. Plan your trip
2. Tell someone
3. Be aware of the weather
4. Know your limits
5. Take sufficient supplies

DOC HOTline
0800 362 468

Report any safety hazards
or conservation opportunities
to the Fore and Forest and Nature Call 191



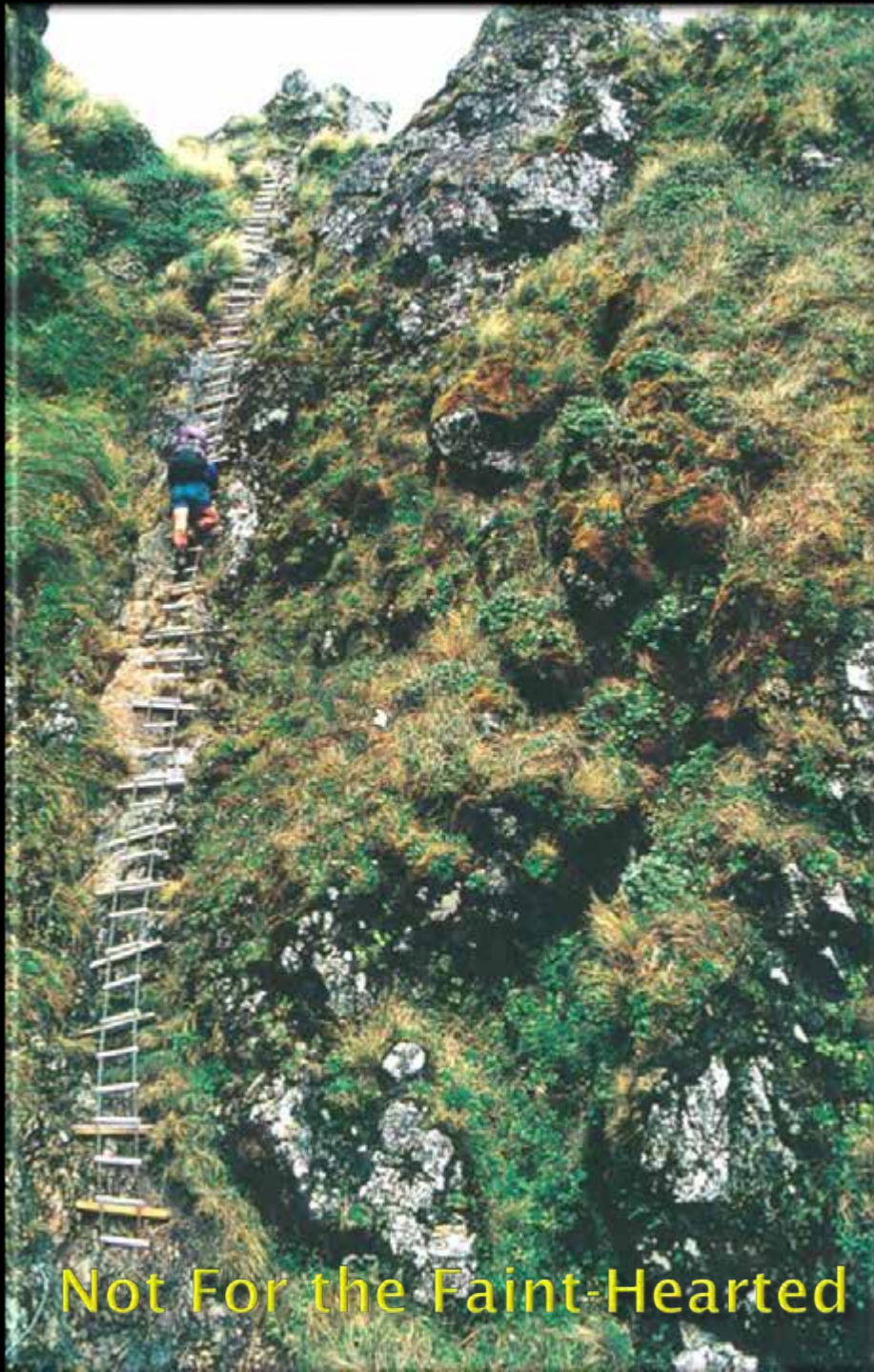
Department of
Conservation
To Papatia Atahua

NZ-THE BAD NEWS

- Surprise snow at any time of year
- Unformed, often hazardous trails
- Dangerous river, stream & creek crossings, including Tri-Wire and narrow Swing-bridges
- Rapid river, stream & creek flows during and after heavy rain
- River and stream trail washouts
- Sandflies

Be Careful What You Wish For





Not For the Faint-Hearted

















 **Caution**

Rock Fall Hazard
Detour Available →





WEB REFERENCES

Department of Conservation [DOC]:

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation>

Te Araroa Trail:

<http://www.teararoa.org.nz>