

MITRE FLATS HUT and ascent of MITRE

Topo50 Map: BN34Masterton & BP34 Shannon

GPS: NZTM and WGS 84

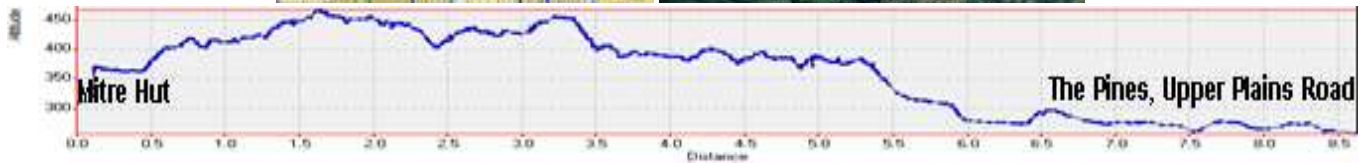
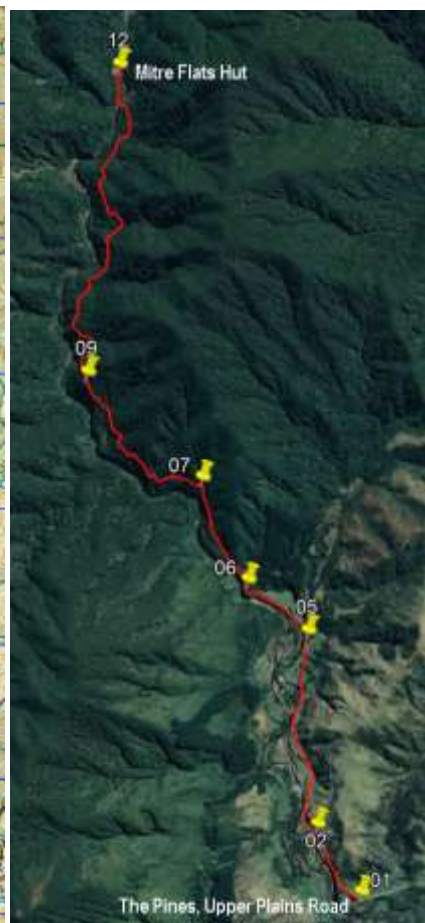
How to get to START: Starting point is Masterton. From the middle of town get on to Lincoln Road passing the medical centre, over the railway then left to Ngawutawa Road. At a small roundabout go right following the Forest Park sign on Upper Plain Road then left at a Y-fork; the road soon becomes gravel. Park near the end of this road in the lee of some pine trees and where there is a Forest Park information board.

Rough description: A pretty hard 2 – 3 day tramp with the ascent of Mitre being classified as falling into the “fit” category. The walk into and out from Mitre Flats Hut is only 8.6km each way but does take 4 hours due to slope, real back-country grade of track with more roots than are usually seen. Mitre Flats Hut has 14 bunks, coal burner – but a wet wood supply when the coal runs out – gas cookers and gas the year round plus a roof-tank water supply. The walk in from the road end to Mitre Flats is 8.6km with an altitude range of 200 metres whilst it is 5.6km from Mitre Flats to the top of Mitre Peak with a gain of 1253 metres.

The Pines to Mitre Flats Hut



Location can be seen above with the access route driven from Masterton as the BLUE line, the walk into Mitre Flats the GREEN line, and RED line the ascent of Mitre.

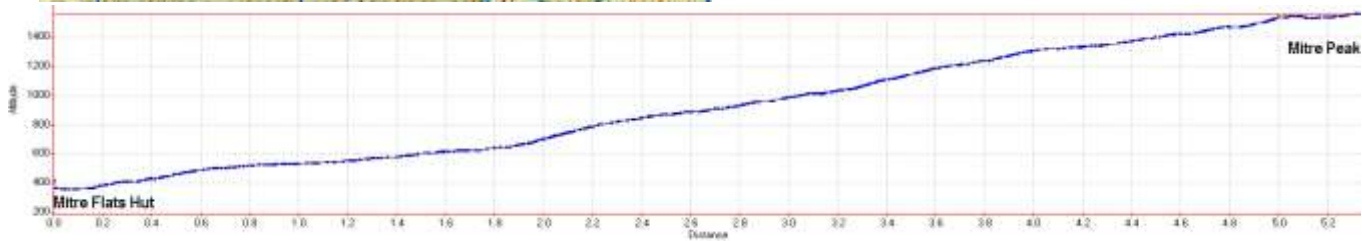
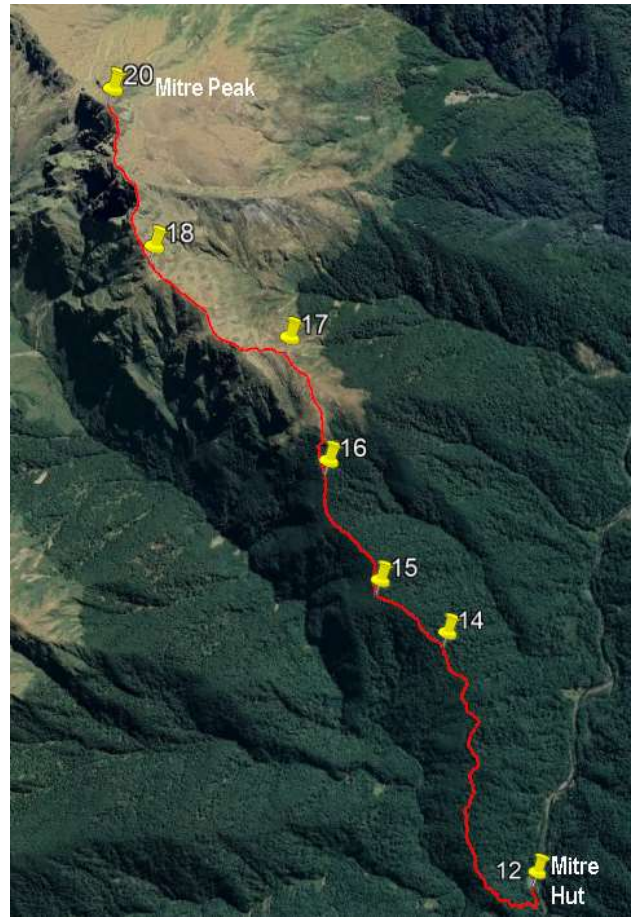


Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
01	1810517	5471188	308	Park at The Pines at end of Upper Plains Road NW of Masterton
02	1810223	5471682	303	10min (615m); gravel road merges from the right with good gravel road heading north
03	1810143	5472747	300	30min (1.74km); on good gravel road to bend with gate and cattle grid, go right up wide grassy track
04	1810181	5472972	308	35min (1.99km); pick-up the gravel road again, pass shed then left track sign thro' a Taranaki gate
05	1810204	5473061	313	40min (2.09km); narrow back country track downslope through trees over bridge to river flats
06	1809789	5473435	318	50min (2.74km); stile after minor upslope to sign Tararua Forest. Old iron culvert on Barra Track.
07	1809517	5474170	370	1:25min (3.66km); first of the tricky stream crossings in rolling to steeply sloping terrain
08	1809160	5474259	417	1:40min (4.23km); small clearing with views out of dense broadleaf forest
09	1808761	5474928	435	2:20min (5.23km); big grunt upslope then track bears to the right
10	1809098	5476824	407	3:40min (8.03km); track sign for the Mitre Flats Hut 8 very hard minutes ahead and 8km from start
11	1809033	5476871	364	3:55min (9.19km); swing bridge after extremely steep lower slope descent
12	1809014	5477093	368	4hrs (8.52km); Mitre Flats Hut just past junction for Mitre Peak

Detail: From the Pines (WP01308masl) walk more or less north in the lee of a row of pine trees on a well formed gravel road, there is no public vehicular access on this road. Another gravel road merges from the right after about 10 minutes and in 30 minutes a gate plus a cattle grid is reached (WP03300masl). From here the track veers right on a grassy road through a paddock to rejoin the gravel road before a shed is passed and the start of the Barra track is arrived at (WP04308masl) and accessed passing through a Taranaki gate. Then pass down-slope through the trees to reach the grassy river flats before the first grunt of the day up to meet a sign board for the Tararua Forest at a stile (WP06318masl). The real work of the day now starts as the walking gets much more tricky with more roots per square metre than seems possible and numerous ascents and descents to cross all the tributary streams flowing in from the slopes to the east. After about 4 hours of this relentless struggle there is a sign (WP10407masl) that the Mitre Flats Hut is only 8 minutes ahead and that 8km have already been tramped. The final descent ahead is probably the trickiest and steepest of the day but then a swing bridge is crossed and 5 minutes later, after passing the junction for Mitre Peak, the Mitre Flats Hut (WP12368masl) is reached.

Mitre Flats to Mitre Peak

Mitre Flats Hut



Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
12	1809014	5477093	368	Mitre Flats Hut
13	1809031	5476991	362	5min (120m) ; Right at junction and steeply uphill on overgrown track in superb broadleaf forest
14	1808628	5478301	671	1 hour (1.92km); good, moderately steep track through podocarp forest then steeper into beech
15	1808335	5478566	858	1:20min (2.43km); slopes eases, track bears right in wet, mossy forest
16	1808130	5479128	1017	1:50min (3.10km); "smoko" in small shelf-like clearing just below the bush line
17	1808000	5479679	1242	2:25min (3.80km); ascend ridge after a stony path with small cairns on to exposed section of ridge
18	1807441	5480079	1426	2:55min (4.57km); gain crest of ridge and bear right
19	1807328	5480506	1547	3:25min (5.08km); Peggy's Peak after fair grunt upwards. Rather exposed
20	1807310	5480748	1565	3:35min (5.35km); cairn at the top of Mitre after rocky, steep and narrow track in places

To ascend Mitre backtrack on the entry track for 5 minutes then turn upslope to the NW at the sign post (**WP13**_{362masl}) on a very steep, badly over-grown track which soon clears a bit as it gains height and superb podocarp forest is traversed before wet beech forest is entered. The bush-line is reached in about 2 hours (**WP16**_{1017masl}) and after that small cairns are followed up the rocky gravelly ridge to gain a minor crest where the route swings to the right (**WP18**_{1426masl}). The first real summit is gained after about 3:30 minutes following a fair grunt upwards and from here, Peggy's Peak (**WP19**_{1547masl}), it is only another 10 minutes to gain Mitre (**WP20**_{1565 masl}) after a minor dip then up a narrow ridge which is very exposed and not possible or safe on windy days.

The descent back to the Mitre Flats Hut is slightly quicker but still slow due to the slopes and root cover – the walk back out to the Pines (road end) takes the same time as inwards.

Mitre summit



Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GPS Garmin GPSMap 60CSx WP = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit masl = metres above sea level
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