

Mid Greenstone Hut

Location and Directions

The Mid Greenstone NZDA Hut is about 1 - 1.5 hour walk upstream from the DOC Greenstone Hut or 3.5 hrs - 5 hrs from the McKellar hut and it is tucked beside bush line not far from the Guided Walks Lodge.

Mid Greenstone NZDA Hut to Greenstone Road car park end or vice versa: *Time to walk between 3hrs 30 mins – 5 hours, 18 km*

As the hut is a little further to the road than the DOC Greenstone hut, it's worth mentioning, it will be an early start to get to the road end if you are catching the bus back to Queenstown as the last guaranteed one departs the car park at noon.

McKellar DOC Hut to Mid Greenstone NZDA Hut or vice versa: *Time to walk between 3hrs 30 mins – 5 hours, 18 km*

A shorter day for most, great if you want time to explore the river or dry out if the weather has been wet/cold

Upper Caples NZDA Hut to Mid Greenstone NZDA Hut or vice versa: *Time to walk approx 10 - 12 hours*

There are 2 routes, round via McKellar Hut or up and over Steele Creek Saddle, regardless it is a long day to walk from both our huts (but possible) so we recommend staying at the McKellar DOC Hut if you are not an experienced hiker

There are NO SIGNPOSTS to the hut so it is a good idea to print off the directions and or maps, especially if you are arriving after dark

Directions from Steele Creek or McKellar Hut

Once you cross the swing bridge at Steele Creek, there is a DOC direction sign - DO NOT FOLLOW this sign as the path to the NZDA hut starts directly behind the sign and slightly up the hill, whereas the normal path takes you past the guided walks lodge.

Take the path uphill BEHIND the signpost, once in the bush, there are orange track markers on the trees to take you on a track that crosses a small stream to eventually pop right out at the hut. It follows just inside the bush line.

Directions from the Glenorchy side

From the Caples/Greenstone Carpark end, basically walk the Greenstone track as per the DOC information and after about 3.5 hours you'll reach the DOC Greenstone hut turnoff. It is also marked as the start of the fishing beat at this point.

Then after about an hour, you get to the open flats and there is a DOC sign on the right of the path saying something about "cattle and not to disturb them." Continue along these flats – the wind blows quite hard here in the afternoons, the river is on your left.

After crossing the rock slip (it's quite a recent one with few plants growing on it and it's right next to the river)

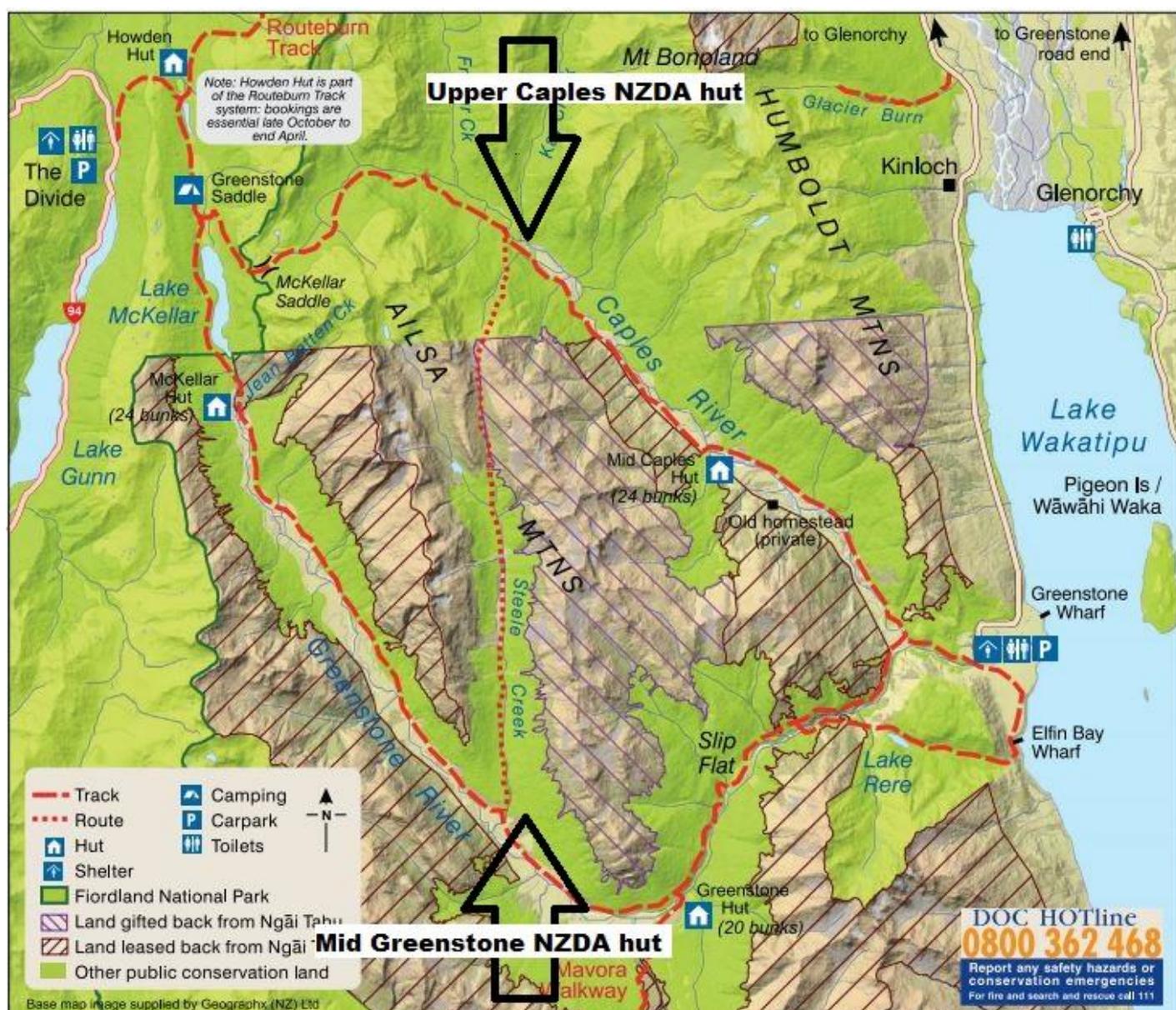


continue for about another 10-15 mins and you get to a small boggy area with stepping stones through it, count 2 orange poles and the path very slightly climbs up to a hump (about the height of a room) and heads nearer the bushline and there is another orange marker pole – this one has different coloured electrical tape round the orange part of it. **TURN RIGHT HERE**

Head up the gully to the right from this pole, cross the dried up stream. There is no obvious path at this point. Just head towards the trees and then you should see the uphill path and/or markers on the trees.

The path is marked with the odd tin can lid on a tree and orange markers on the trees, climbing up quite steep at first with a tiny switch back. Keep on the edge of the tree line and in about 15 mins you will see the track to get to the hut. The last bit is all uphill but it should only take 20 mins from where you turned off the main track at the orange pole.

If you do miss the orange marker and the gully to walk up, the main track heads nearer the river, so look back and to the right and you can see the hut up the hill on the edge of the trees, failing that, if you get to the Ultimate Hikes Guided Walks lodge, you are in Steele Creek and gone too far. See directions above to take from Steele Creek to the hut



Facilities and Items in the hut

It's an old DOC hut so there are:-

- Bunks for 12 people
- Mattresses and some pillows.
- Kitchen bench, sink, table with stool type benches.
- Wood/coal burner
- Drop toilet (away from the building behind the wood store).
- Drinking water (from stream) and tap inside hut.

(During winter this tap is turned off as the pipe freezes and could burst, however there is ample water in the water tank with an outside tap but until the sun comes up it can freeze on very cold nights so fill up with water before you head to bed.)

- LED solar powered lighting to reduce the fire risk, so no need for candles
- USB charging point - bring your own cable
- Axe and saw.
- Plates, cups, glasses, knives and forks and cooking utensils – the spoons keep going missing so maybe take one or two.
- Frying pans, plenty of cooking pots, large sized stock pot, medium and small saucepans, a skillet for meat, a cast iron 'dutch oven' and a "yoyo" yogurt maker
- Gas cooker (2 burners) with a grill underneath, please remember to turn the gas off when you leave.
- Meat safe (for hunters)
- Pantry (with emergency food often left behind)

Key Collection

Keys are kept at Small Planet sports shop, 15 Shotover Street, Queenstown. Phone +64 (03) 442 6393

They are open every day: 7 days a week 9am – 8pm. only exception is 25th Dec and 25th April (Anzac day)

Small Planet kindly hold the keys and take payment on behalf of the club. You only need pay when you collect the keys. PLEASE pay in exact cash as there are no EFTPOS or credit card facilities. Ideally bring the \$50 key deposit in exact cash too as it is just held till you return the key.

You only need to pay for the nights you stay at the hut and we realize you may need to collect keys in advance while staying in another hut along the way, let us know when booking so we can keep track of the keys or you can email info@southernlakesnzda.org.nz if you need them from Te Anau or from Queenstown airport in advance (if you are helicoptering in)

