

## Travers-Sabine circuit, Nelson Lakes National Park

From Lake Rotoiti, take a water taxi to the lake head – or walk for 2-3hr on the LakeHead Track to Lakehead Hut, situated about 15 minutes up the valley from the jetty.

The tramping is now up the long Travers Valley to and John Tait Hut (27 bunks). The walk to this point is beautiful and passes several good campsites. Not far from the hut is the voluminous Travers Falls, a 20m cataract over which flows the entire Travers River. A side track leads to a viewpoint.

The track climbs steadily to the grand alpine cirque below Travers Saddle which contains Upper Travers Hut (24 bunks). The hut is nestled among tall tussock and patches of stunted forest beneath the vast east face of Mt Travers and the steep horn-like profile of Kehu Peak, both well over 2000m.

Travers Saddle lies just 90 minutes from the hut at almost 1800m and has stunning views of Mt Travers' south face, as well as into the deep gulch of the East Sabine. The route here is poled.

It is a long, steep descent into the heavily forested East Sabine. A short distance downstream from where the track meets the valley floor is the impressive dark slot of a canyon over which the track passes on a surprisingly short footbridge.

Continuing on into the valley, the track stays high above the canyon until it reaches a major junction where the West Sabine flows from Blue Lake. The 30-bunk West Sabine Hut is sited here.

It is, at times, a tedious walk from West Sabine Hut to Sabine Hut (32 bunks) at the head of Lake Rotoroa. The Sabine Valley has few open flats and viewpoints, it can flood quickly during heavy rain, and is narrow and heavily forested.

There is a water taxi service from Sabine Hut to Rotoroa Village at Lake Rotoroa's northern end. This needs to be prearranged.

Otherwise, the walk to Mt Robert car park is slow and arduous, and many walkers choose to stay at Speargrass Hut en-route.

The Mt Robert car park is reached in half a day's walk from Speargrass Hut. From here, it takes about 90 minutes to walk to St Arnaud.

### Wild File

**Access** From St Arnaud village on SH63

**Grade** Moderate

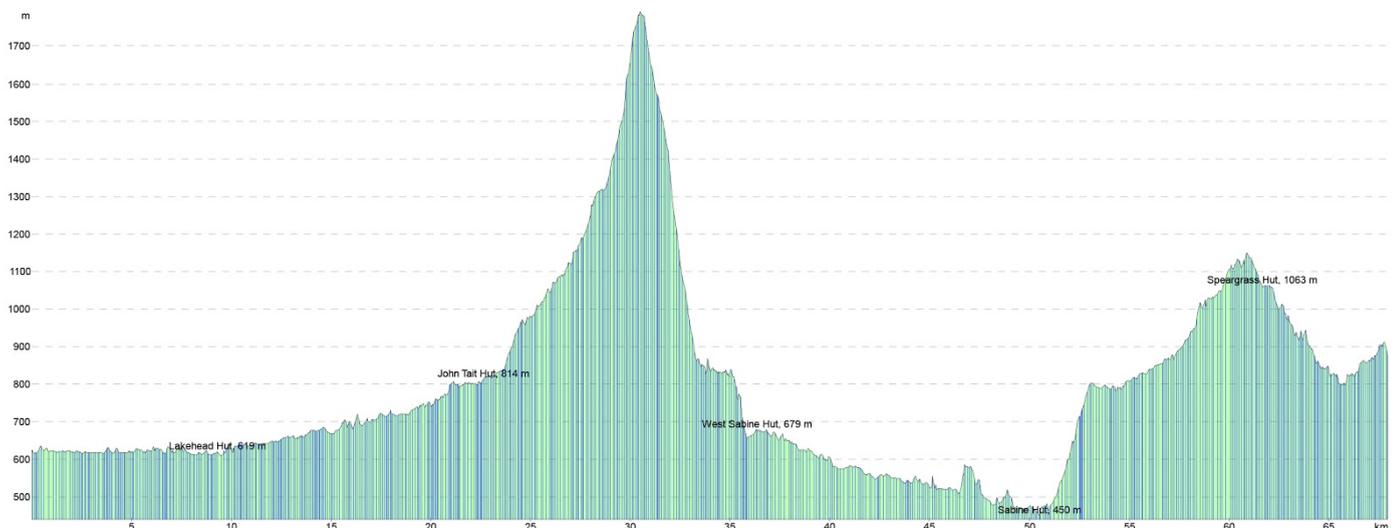
**Time** 4-6 days. Lake Rotoiti to Lakehead Hut 2-3hr; To John Tait Hut, 5hr; To Upper Travers Hut, 3hr; To West Sabine Hut, 7-9hr; To Sabine Hut, 5hr; To Speargrass Hut, 5hr; To car park, 3hr

**Distance** 68km

**Total ascent** 3468m

**Map** BR24, BS24

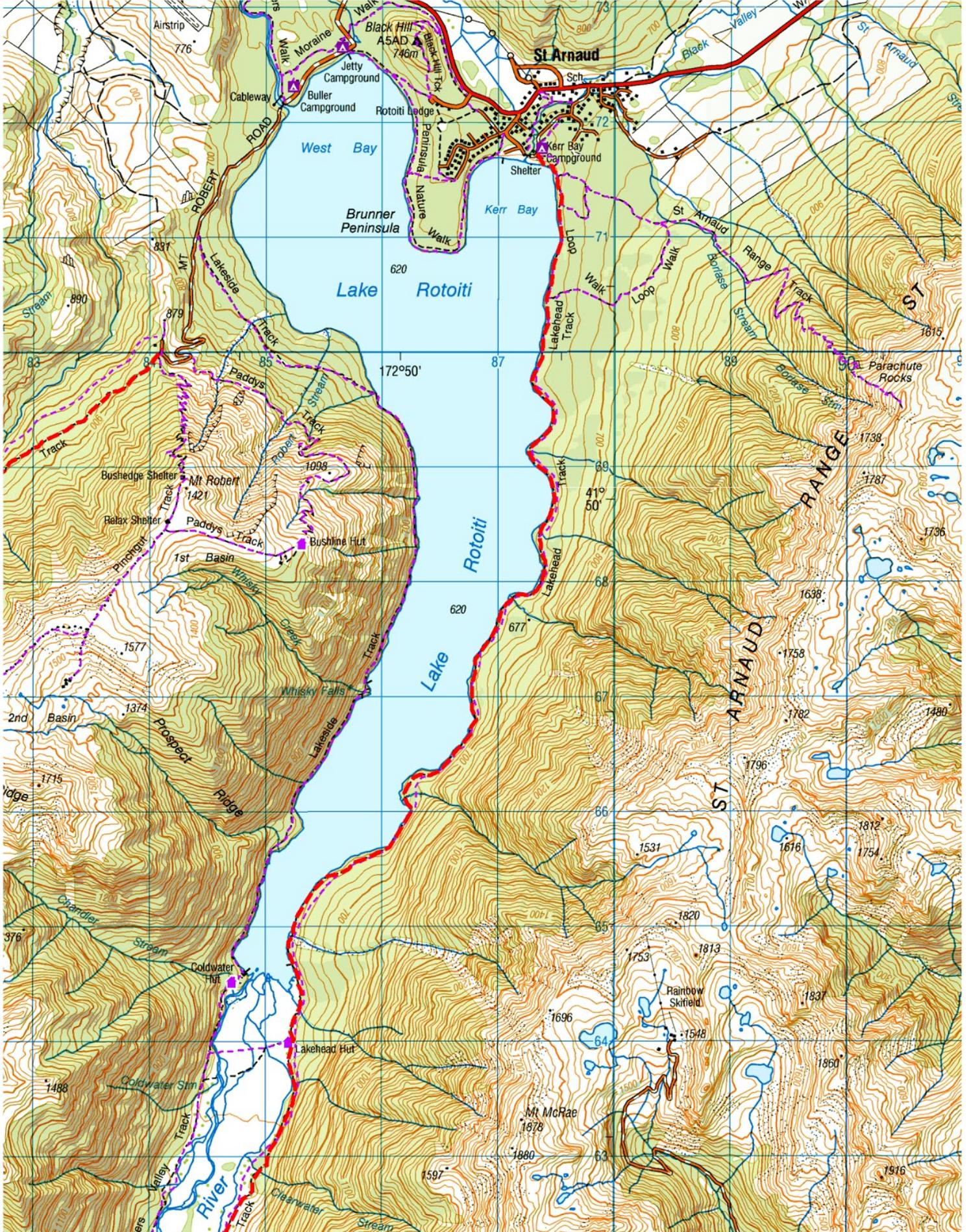
### Elevation Profile



# Travers-Sabine circuit, Nelson Lakes National Park. Map1

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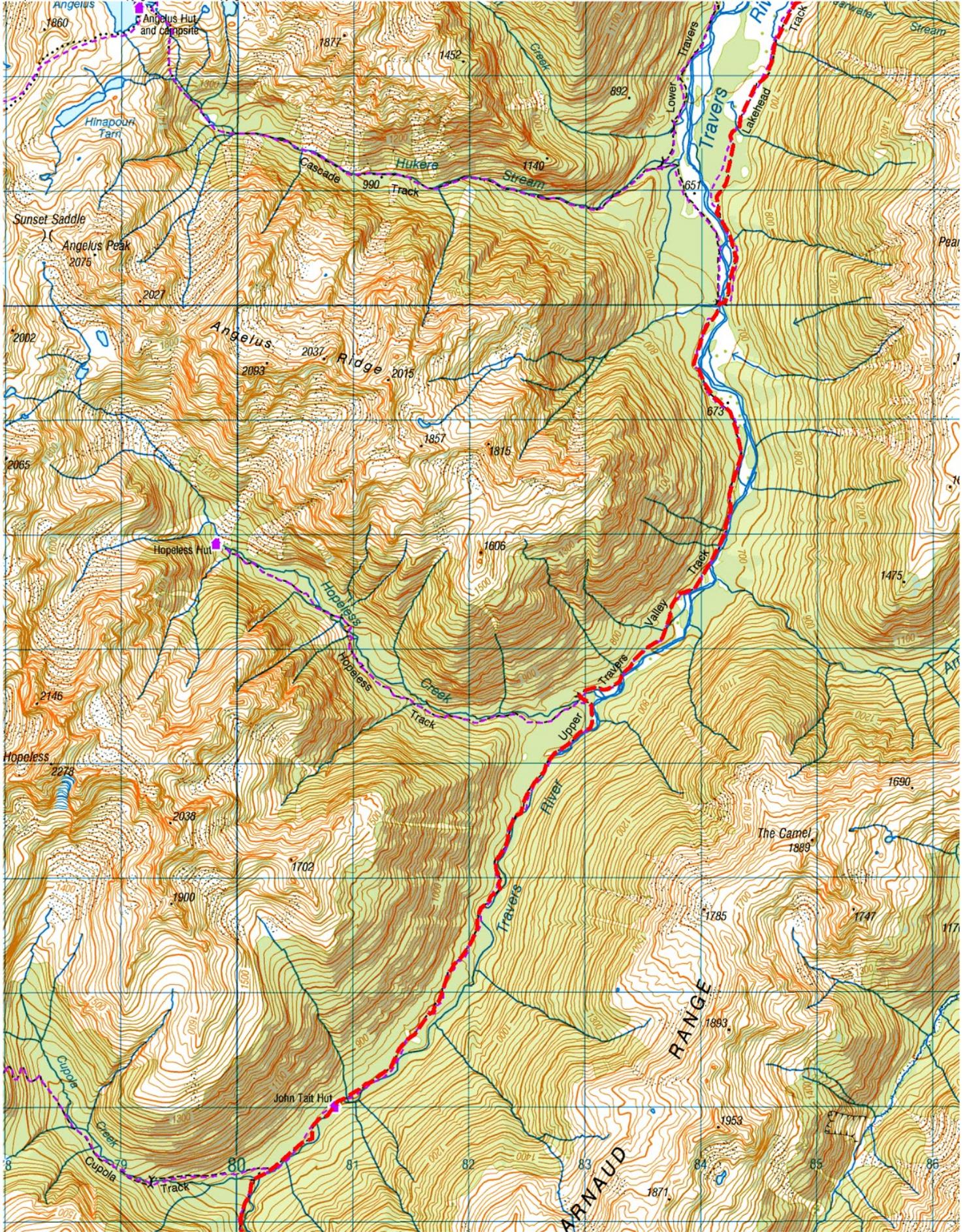
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# Travers-Sabine circuit, Nelson Lakes National Park. Map 2

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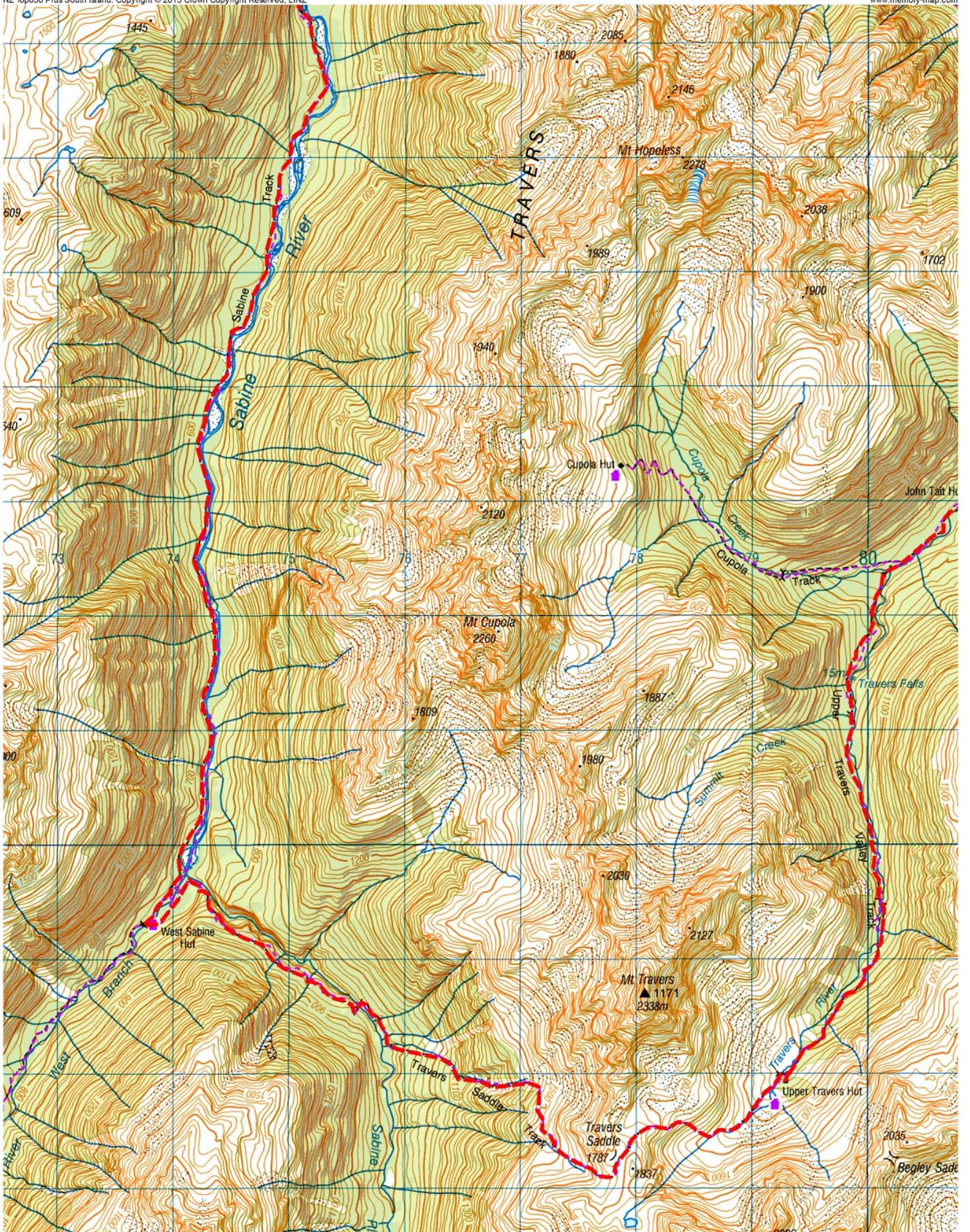
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# Travers-Sabine circuit, Nelson Lakes National Park. Map 3

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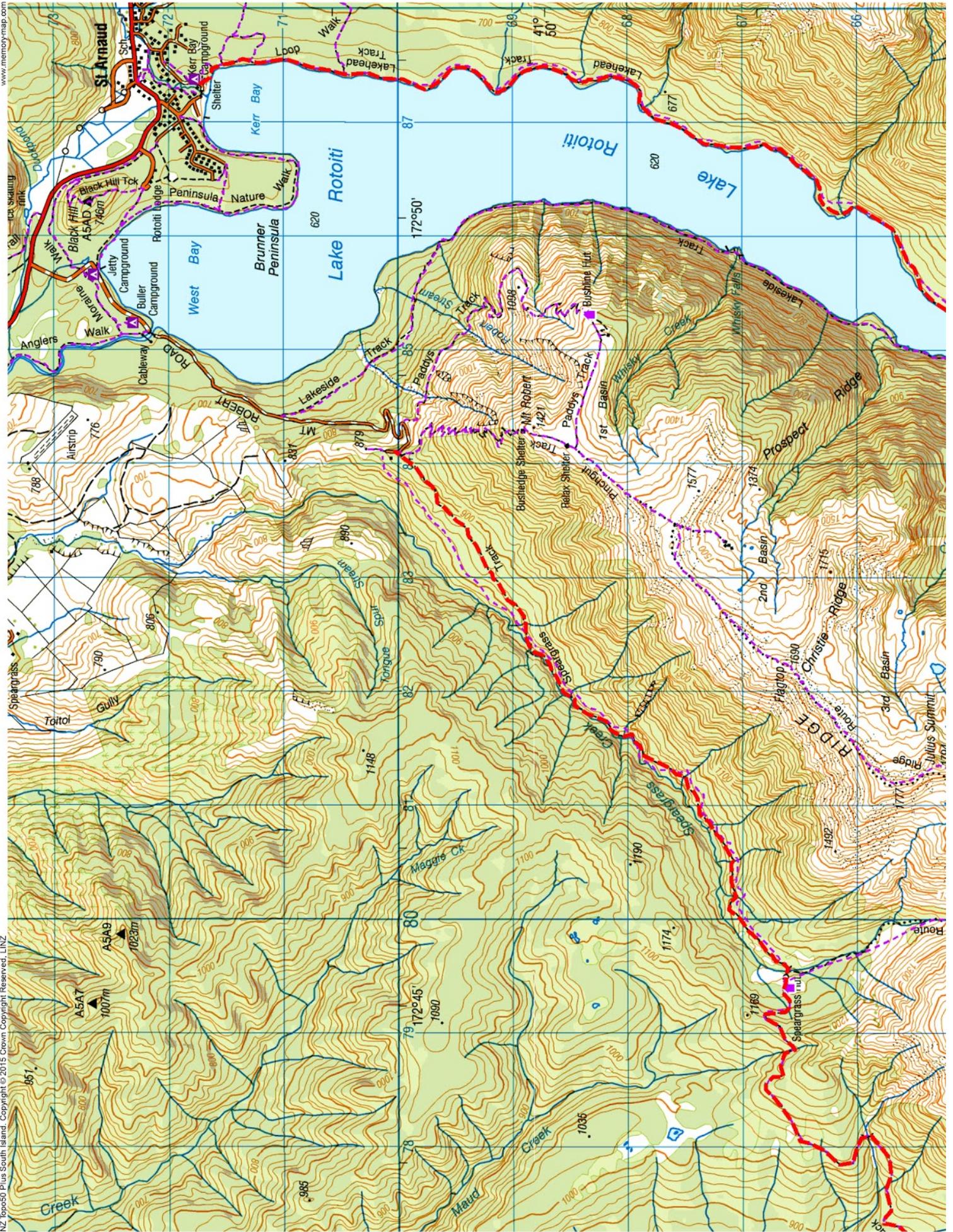
# Travers-Sabine circuit, Nelson Lakes National Park. Map 4

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Travers-Sabine circuit, Nelson Lakes National Park. Map 5



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