

Stanley Vale Hut and Scotties Hut, St James Conservation Area

This is a two or three-day through-trip which allows access to the interior of the St James Range. The hike to Fowlers Pass is steady but not too hard, as it follows the mostly well-graded horse track around the flanks of Mt Seymour right into the pass and so a good rate of climb can be maintained for the entire ascent.

The historic Stanley Vale Hut stands near the bush at the edge of the flats, well back from the river on a terrace and has a great view of the St James Range and Mt Clara, 1945m, one of the highest summits. On day two, tramp down Stanley River to link with the Edwards River, where the St James Cycleway comes through from the Wairau Valley.

The Stanley River Track is a pleasant march downstream on easy terraces above the river until Muddy Stream, which is forded, and then onto Stanley Gates Gorge where a small canyon constricts the river and a bypass route climbs above the rock walls.

Follow Racecourse Stream, and cross The Racecourse, a large, expansive flat locked between the ranges and filled with tussock and some swampy sections.

Scrubby hills overlooking the Wairau Valley are eventually reached – from here, climb to gain Charlies Saddle.

From the saddle, drop into the Edwards River and make your way to Scotties Hut.

The final day is easy walking on wide flats beside the river and over dusty Edwards Pass, before an easy descent to Tophouse Road.

Wild File

Access North of Hanmer on Tophouse Road

Grade Moderate

Time Fowlers Camp to Fowlers Pass, 1-2hr; To Stanley Vale Hut, 3-4hr; Scotties Hut, 6-7hr; To Tophouse Road, 2-3hr

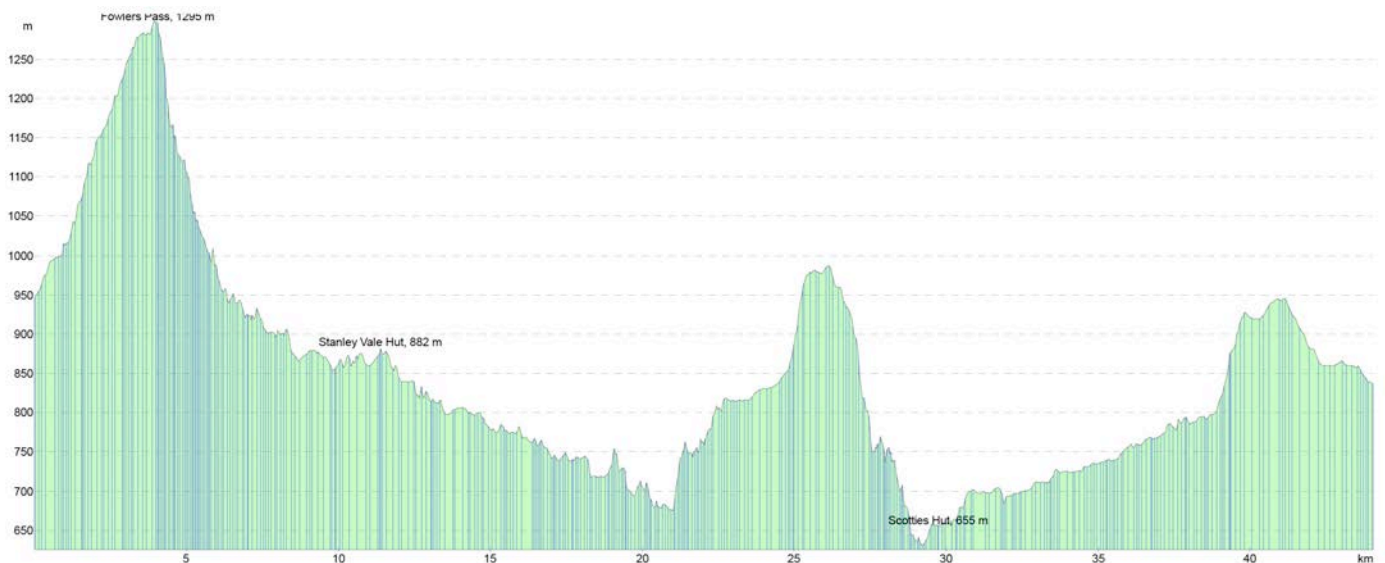
Distance 32.8km

Total ascent 1892m

Accommodation Stanley Vale Hut (free, six bunks), Lake Guyon Hut (\$5, four bunks), Scotties Hut (free, four bunks)

Map BT24

Elevation Profile



www.memory-map.com



Stanley Vale Hut and Scotties Hut, St James Conservation Area. Map 2

