

## Mount Somers via western face, Hakatere Conservation Park

The main routes on Mt Somers are not technical, but the landscape offers more than you might expect. From the Sharplin Falls car park to the summit involves a 1200m height gain. The standard route can be done in a day, but there are good reasons to take less direct routes – like the south face – for quality high country scenery.

From Sharplin Falls car park, the track heads west, climbing steadily to Staveley Hill (1085m). This is where the standard route to the summit branches right, becoming the Mount Somers Summit Track. From here, another 700m of slog through rocky terrain will see you on the summit.

At the branch in the track, continue along the Mt Somers Track (South Face), skirting beneath steep craggy pinnacles that ring the southern and eastern edges of the mountain. When out of the beech forest, there are expansive views of the Canterbury Plains. At Acland Shelter, unmarked on the map but near Stony Creek, the trail dips through beech forest to around 800m, before steadily ascending again to 1100m.

As the track starts to veer north, there is a saddle at Pt967 and an old 4WD track that diverts from the Mt Somers Walkway and climbs north and then east, leading to a large tussock and wetland shelf at around 1200m – a good place to camp.

From here, resume a gradual climb through tussock slopes and rocky outcrops to the summit.

### Wild file

**Access** From the Sharplin Falls carpark at the end of Flynns Road

**Grade** Moderate

**Time** Car park to tarn campsite, 6hr; To car park via Mt Somers, 5hr

**Distance** 18.8km

**Total ascent** 1714m

**Topo50 map** BX19, BX20

### Elevation Profile





