

MOTHER CUMMINGS (NORTH)

Mother Cummings Peak (1260m) is one of the most prominent peaks of the Great Western Tiers and affords the walker 360° views of the valley and Tiers beyond. This is the northern track up Mother Cummings to the saddle and peak and begins at the end of Westrope Rd in Western Creek. Mother Cummings Peak is not to be confused with Cummings Head which is further south on the mountain and is accessed via Smoko Falls Track in Meander.



Time: To saddle: 3 hours return. To peak: 4 hours return

Distance: 4km return



From Deloraine, head towards Mole Creek on the B12 for approx. 8kms then turn left into Dairy Plains Rd (C168). After 12km turn right onto Western Creek Rd (towards Caveside), left onto Westrope Rd (gravel) and follow the road to the end (12km). The road is suitable for 2wd and the parking area at the trailhead will fit around 4-5 cars.

Ref: -41.6567, 146.5310 (type this grid reference into Google Maps)

Retail Map: TL07 Breton



There are no amenities at the walk location. However there are toilet, cafe and accommodation options at nearby Deloraine, Chudleigh, Mole Creek and surrounds.



Grade 3: Some bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface, and many steps.



Weather may change suddenly with exposed alpine conditions, especially on the peak. Track is steep and slippery in places with rock scrambling required to reach the peak. Beware of snakes during summer.

The track ascends gently at first through dogwood and eucalypt regrowth. Leaf litter covers the moderately well-defined track here, with the odd red triangle to guide you. As is typical of these bush tracks that lead up to the plateau, there are some fallen trees to navigate. Along the way you will see remnants of past logging activity evident in the footholds carved in the decaying stumps.

The track gradually narrows and steepens as the fern understory is overtaken by moss-covered fallen debris and rocks. Myrtle, Blackwood and native shrubs slowly begin to replace the dogwood scrub and a watercourse is audible to the west in the wetter months. A few tall gums tower overhead.

The track can be slippery in all seasons due to its steep incline and the abundance of leaf litter that covers it; however there are numerous rocks to help you gain traction. You may feel your legs and your lungs on this walk.

Within 30 mins you will begin to see the view to the northwest and realise how high you have climbed, but there is still a way to go. As the track opens out further up, alpine scrub and Tasmanian Waratah feature as well as a few colourful Snow Gums. Not long after this you reach a low stone wall; experienced walkers can bear left here and follow the cairns and occasional markers straight up to the peak. Allow 40 minutes to reach the peak. Note: The track from the stone wall to the peak is not well defined as it covers several sections of scree and alpine vegetation with limited directional markers, so only experienced walkers should attempt this route.

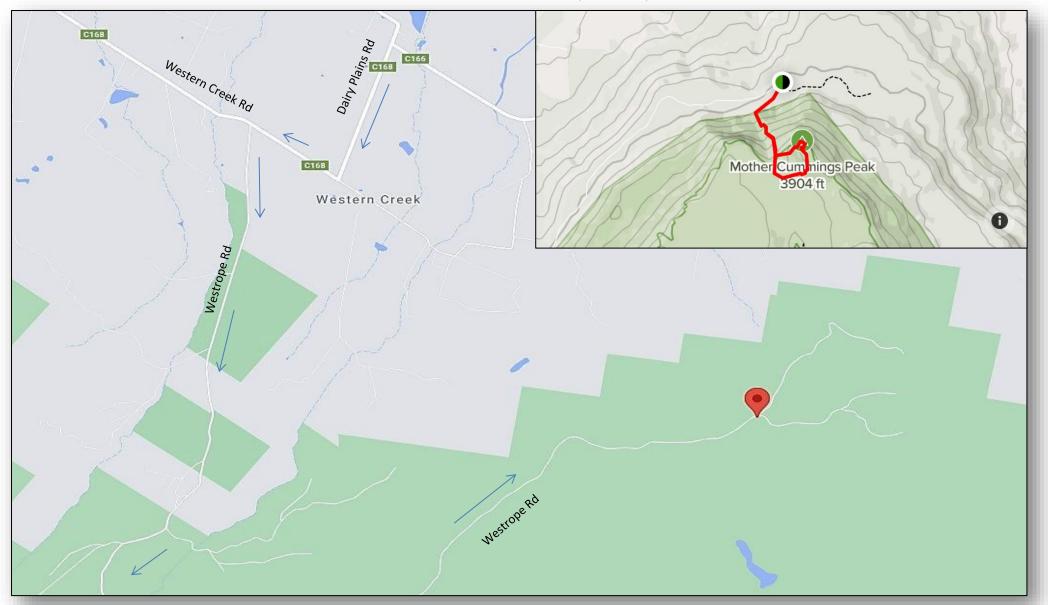
Alternatively, keep tracking southward through wombat country to the saddle (5 minutes away) which is a nice place to stop for lunch. Return the way you came. Note: The track continues on from the saddle to the peak. This is a longer route than that from the stone wall and is recommended for experienced walkers only. The two tracks to the peak may be done as a loop (see map).

<u>SAFE WALKING:</u> Plan, be prepared, walk with friends, tell someone where you are going. Consider hiring an EPIRB from Service Tasmania (Launceston & Devonport) to prepare for emergency events. Make a personal determination as to your fitness and ability to undertake specific walks.

LEAVE NO TRACE: walk on formed tracks, observe all restrictions, dispose of waste properly and leave what you find.

<u>FURTHER INFO:</u> National Parks: <u>www.parks.tas.gov.au</u> Restrictions & Alerts: <u>www.fire.tas.gov.au</u> & <u>www.police.tas.gov.au/community-alerts</u> Weather: <u>www.bom.gov.au/tas</u>

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