

The Stirling Ridge Walk

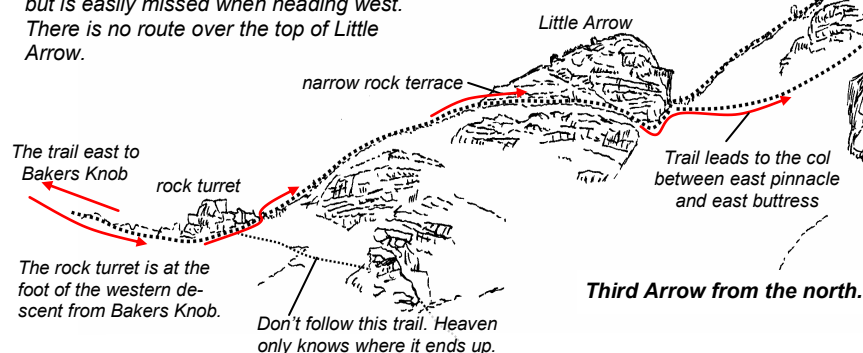
The trail west — The rock turret to third arrow cave

½ km—Some steep scrambling following a confusing trail. ¼ hour if you don't get lost. Much longer if you do.

Skirt the northern side of the small rock turret in the saddle, then return to the crest of the ridge and follows it up towards Little Arrow.

Do not follow the trail descending north-west from the rock turret.

Follow the trail up the crest of the ridge towards Little Arrow. Look for the trail along a narrow rock terrace on its northern flank. It is marked with a small cairn, but is easily missed when heading west. There is no route over the top of Little Arrow.



At the col between east buttress and east pinnacle you can cast off your pack while you make the short excursion to the summit of Third Arrow.

To continue west descend the broad, but steep gully between east pinnacle and east buttress. At the foot of the gully you have a choice of routes as described below:

The through route skirts the foot of the rocks and heads up through the cleft

Two trails lead from the western butt of Little Arrow to the col between east pinnacle and east buttress.

The high trail follows the ridge as far as a rocky rib, where it skirts north of the ridge to meet up with the low trail.

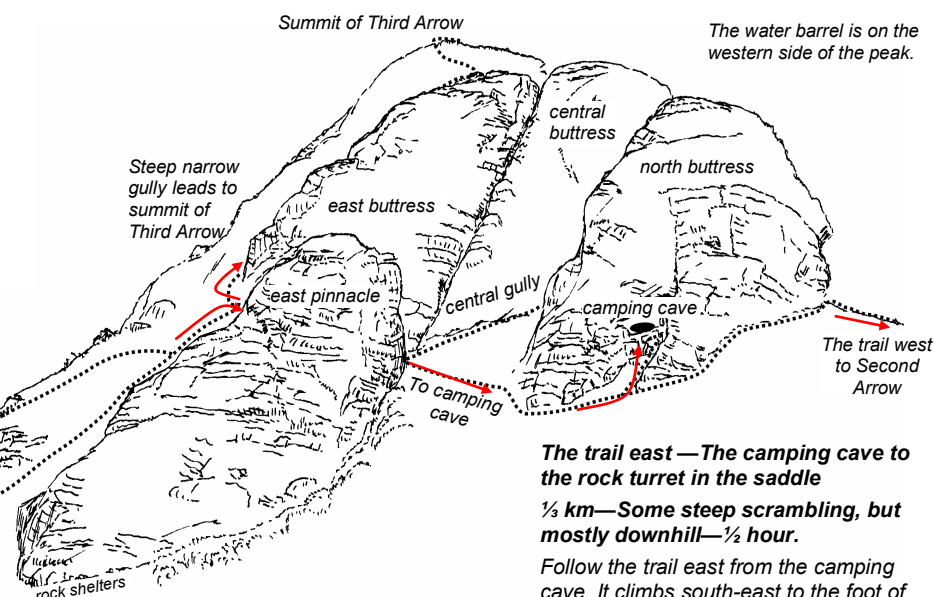
The low trail pushes down through the bush and then rises steeply to the col. This is the easiest route to follow.

opposite. This is central gully and leads directly to the western side of the peak.

To reach the camping cave follow the track down and around the foot of the north buttress.

The water barrel is located on the western side of the peak, and reached via central gully or by going around the north buttress (the easier route from the camping cave).

The traverse of Third Arrow



The trail east — The camping cave to the rock turret in the saddle

½ km—Some steep scrambling, but mostly downhill—½ hour.

Follow the trail east from the camping cave. It climbs south-east to the foot of the broad gully between east pinnacle and east buttress. The trail leads up the gully and an awkward rock scramble is required to reach the top.

You can leave your packs at the top of the gully while you make the short excursion to the summit of Third Arrow.

To continue east follow the trail down towards the western butt of Little Arrow.

At the western butt of Little Arrow the trail descends a few metres and then rises to follow a rock terrace around the north face of Little Arrow. Once back on the crest of the ridge, follow the trail down and around the northern side of the rock turret.

The trail continues east to the steep though fairly clear ascent of Bakers Knob.

The camping cave, located on the northern side of the north buttress, is the largest of the shallow caves found along the Stirling Ridge. It accommodates up to eight people, in varying degrees of comfort, and offers reasonable shelter from the elements, with just the occasional blast of wind coming from the north east.

To reach the cave from the west follow the trail down to the north and around the foot of the north buttress. At the foot of the buttress a trail leads steeply up to the cave, with a final rock scramble to gain entry.