



Bluff to Invercargill

(Map 141, 140)

Southern Start	Stirling Point, Bluff
Northern End	Stead Street Wharf, Invercargill
Distance	34km
Time	1 day
Track Standard	Easy tramping

Hazards

Take extreme care walking on SH1 roadside - wear hi-viz vest and/or pack cover

Take care crossing the railway line at Kekeno PI Track exposed to sun, wind or cold

Weather extremes

Few water sources

Route

The southern starting point of Te Araroa is at Stirling Point, Bluff. Take a photo at the iconic signpost and then head north from the car park along the Foveaux Walkway to Ocean Beach (7.2km). Here, as in the rest of the Te Araroa route, keep an eye out for the bright orange route markers, as the track is not always obvious.

Continue down to where the walkway meets State Highway 1 at the large metal 'Bluff' sign. Turn left here and follow the road shoulder to Kekeno Place (16km). Turn left again here and continue to the shared walking/cycling path that begins immediately (to the right) after crossing the railway lines. This path follows the boundary of the New River Estuary to the historic wharf at Stead Street. It is a short (20 minute) walk from here into central Invercargill.

(**Further sections of the Invercargill-Bluff walking and cycleway will be completed during the season. Keep an eye on the Trail Status page of the Te Araroa website for news of new openings)

Water availability: No reliable sources.



Oreti Beach Track

(Map 140, 139, 138)

Southern Start	Stead Street Wharf, Invercargill
Northern End	Palmerston Street, Riverton
Distance	31km
Time	1 day
Track Standard	Tramping track

Hazards

Tides, waves & rivers - safer at low tide
Never cross flooded rivers
Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
Weather extremes
Few water sources

Route

From the Stead Street Wharf turn left and cross the bridge over the New River. Continue along the main road (1.5km) to Otatara, then continue along Dunns Road (7km) until you reach Oreti Beach. At the beach turn right and follow the beach (22km) all the way toward Riverton. After approximately 10km you will come to the Waimatuku Stream. Ideally hikers should plan their hike to enable crossing this waterway at low tide. Upon approaching Riverton you will see two sets of large orange navigation markers; at the first set turn right and head inland along Princess Street to Palmerston Street, the main street of Riverton.

Water availability: Scarce but may be obtained at the shop in Otatara and at Waimatuku Stream.



Tihaka Beach Track

(Map 138, 137)

Southern Start	Palmerston Street, Riverton
Northern End	Colac Bay Road, Colac Bay
Distance	12.5km
Time	4hr
Track Standard	Tramping track

Note – Closed September and October for lambing

Hazards

Take care when walking along roads
Farming operations
Tides, waves & rivers - safer at low tide
Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
Weather extremes
Few water sources

Route

From Palmerston Street cross the bridge and turn left into Bay Road. Continue along Bay Road and then turn right into Richard Street. Follow Richard Street to its terminus at More's Reserve. From here the Tihaka Beach Track begins and is clearly signposted. It is only a short walk through forest down to the beach where the track heads to the right. The track follows close to the beach - sometimes on it and sometimes up above it to cross the headlands, but it is well marked and easy to find. Check out the amazing rock formations along the first half of the track. As you approach the settlement of Colac Bay you will see a unsealed road leading into the main coastal road of Colac Bay. Turn right into Colac Bay Road as you reach the settlement.

Water availability: Some very small creeks exiting to the beach through farmland.



Colac Bay to Merrivale

(Map 137, 136, 135)

Southern Start	Colac Bay Road, Colac Bay
Northern End	Junction of Merrivale Road and Otautau-Tuatapere Road
Distance	56.5km
Time	2 days
Track Standard	Tramping track

Hazards

- Take extreme care on road from Colac Bay
- Poisons & traps
- Few water sources between Martins Hut and Merrivale Rd
- Farming operations
- Vehicles on Merrivale Rd
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Weather extremes

Route

Colac Bay to Martins Hut – 29km / 10hr

At the junction of Colac Bay Road and State Highway 99 turn left and follow the highway for 4km to Round Hill Road. Turn right here and continue for 850m to the carpark at the start of the Long Hilly Track. Te Araroa follows the Long Hilly Track to a marked junction where it deviates to the right. From this junction the track follows Ports Water Race for the next 20km. The water race was designed to bring water to the gold workings solely via gravity. Because of this the track follows a gentle contour and the going is easy.

The Ports Water Race track ends at Cascade Road, an unpaved forestry road. Turn left here and continue for a short distance to a fork in the road. Take the right fork and continue a short distance to the sign posted track to Martins Hut. The track steepens considerably as it makes its way through the beginnings of the Longwood Forest, however, after around 30 minutes you will reach the first hut on Te Araroa – the historic Martins Hut.

Martins Hut – 4 bunks, fireplace

Water availability: While there are numerous water sources, most are heavily discoloured by tannins and therefore may not taste pleasant. A small water tank is available at Martins Hut.



Martins Hut to Merrivale Road End – 27.5km / 8-9hr

From Martins Hut a clear track traverses the Longwood Range. About 10km from the hut the track exits the forest at a disused quarry site. Head to the left here and follow the unsealed road up to a large communications tower at Bald Hill. On the way up to the communications tower you will come to a large metal gate. If the gate is locked a small track to the left will allow you to get around.

From the communications tower a marked route leads through the tussock for a short distance before re-entering the forest. The walking track ends at an unsealed road which heads downhill and into Merrivale Road. From the terminus of the walking track it is 7.5km to the junction of Merrivale Rd and Otautau-Tuatapere Rd.

Water availability: Very limited water sources on much of this section, however, between the disused quarry site and the communications tower at Bald Hill there are a number of small streams coming down the slope to the right of the road.



Merrivale to Birchwood

(Map 135, 134)

Southern Start	Junction of Merrivale Road and Otautau-Tuatapere Road
Northern End	Struan Flat Road
Distance	27.5km
Time	1 day
Track Standard	Tramping track

Note – Closed 9 September to 9 November for lambing

Hazards

Take care on roads
Farming operations
Forestry operations
Few water sources

Route

From the Merrivale Road end turn right along Otautau-Tuatapere Road. Continue along the road for 2.5km to a sign indicating the start of the Island Bush Track. The sign is attached to a fence on the left side of the road and is easily missed so keep an eye out.

Access – Island Bush Track

A number of conditions apply to enable walking access to co-exist with farm and forestry operations.

The conditions are set out below and it's important to comply, both out of respect for the land owners and to help ensure Te Araroa walkers are able to continue to use this critical link:

- Access is only for tramping parties of 8 or fewer members and during daylight hours
- Stick to the marked track and use stiles where provided
- Give way to stock and farm/forestry operations
- No camping, fires, vehicles (including bicycles), horses, dogs, or firearms
- Carry all rubbish out
- No commercial activity, including guiding or organized events.

If you encounter staff moving stock en route then step well aside and wait quietly until all animals have passed by. Please take direction from farm staff as necessary.

Cross the fence via the stile. From here look out a few hundred meters slightly to the right and you will see a long pine windbreak. You need to aim for the middle of this windbreak but if there are crops planted in the fields you will need to take a circuitous route around the perimeter (We suggest going right).



Once at the windbreak find the gate at the mid-point. Go through the gate and head right to another gate at the end of the paddock. Once through this gate head to the left, through yet another two gates and follow a farm track directly uphill. After around 30 minutes arrows indicate a turn to the right. Here the trail heads up through a stand of pine trees and on to Loop Road. Stay on Loop Road, which leads into Hewitts Road, then continue through the forestry gate and down to the intersection of Hewitts Road and Upper Scotts Gap Road.

Turn left here and continue along Upper Scotts Gap Road and into Scotts Gap-Feldwick Road where you will come to a sign indicating the entry to the Woodlaw Track.

Access - Woodlaw Track

A number of conditions apply to enable walking access to co-exist with farm and forestry operations. These are set out below and compliance is important, both out of respect for the land owners and to help ensure Te Ararua walkers are able to continue to use this critical link:

- Access is only for tramping parties of 8 or fewer members and during daylight hours
- Give way to stock and farm/forestry operations
- No camping, fires, vehicles (including bicycles), horses, dogs, or firearms
- Carry all rubbish out
- No commercial activity, including guiding or organized events.

In order to comply with the daylight hours condition trampers should start out early in the morning and make steady progress towards their final destination.

If you encounter farm staff moving stock en route please step well aside and wait quietly until all animals have passed by. Take direction from farm staff as necessary.

Initially a long straight track takes you across farmland. From this point an unsealed road takes you up through the Woodlaw Forest. After 5.5km the track exits onto a forestry road called Twinlaw Road. Keep following Twinlaw Road. At the Feldwick Road/Twinlaw Road junction make sure to stay on Twinlaw Road to the right. Then continue on Twinlaw Road to Trig Road off to the left. Take this road up to a stile on the Birchwood Station boundary.

Once on farmland keep a close eye out for markers as the track veers to the right and heads northwest down a ridge. Once on flatter ground the track follows a fenceline across to an unsealed road. Cross the road to a large plantation of eucalyptus trees and follow the track on the western side through to Birchwood-Wairio Road. Turn left and continue for 2km to the Ohai-Clifden Highway. Turn right here and continue a few hundred meters to Struan Flat Road. The next Te Ararua section begins at Orauea Stream.

Water availability: No reliable water sources until reaching Orauea Stream.



Takitimu Track

(Map 134, 133, 132)

Southern Start	Struan Flat Road, Birchwood
Northern End	Junction of Princhester Road and State Highway 94
Distance	62km
Time	3 to 4 days
Track Standard	Tramping track

Note – Mt Linton Station closed 25 September to 5 November (inclusive) for lambing

Hazards

- Be aware of farm vehicles and/or stock on Mt Linton Station
- Few water sources on Mt Linton Station
- Farming operations
- Never cross flooded rivers
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold

Route

Struan Flat Rd to Telford Campsite – 25km / 8-9hr

Access - Mt Linton Station

Access is on an interim and trial basis and upon these conditions, which have been set to enable walking access to co-exist with farming operations:

- *Access is only for tramping parties of 8 or fewer members and during daylight hours*
- *Stick to the marked track and use stiles where provided*
- *Give way to stock and farm operations*
- *No camping, fires, vehicles (including bicycles), horses, dogs or firearms*
- *Carry all rubbish out*
- *There is no vehicle access into Mt Linton Station, beyond the main station office*
- *No commercial activity, including guiding or organized events.*

In order to comply with the daylight hours condition trampers should start no later than 10am while daylight saving is in operation (earlier when it is not) and make steady progress towards their destination.

The route is across a working farm so trampers may encounter vehicles and the movement of stock in large numbers. In these situations farm operations have right of way. Trampers need to step aside and wait quietly until all live stock have passed. Please take direction from farm staff as necessary. There is no drinking water available en route until crossing the Wairaki River so trampers should carry sufficient water to last the day.

This section begins by following an indistinct track parallel to the Orauea Stream for a short distance to a footbridge. After crossing the bridge the trail continues along the stream for a while before turning north along a small waterway and eventually to a lake/dam, and around the side of that. From here the well-marked trail follows windbreaks, fencelines and farm/stock tracks for some distance before re-joining one of the main Station thoroughfares as the route nears the Wairaki River. Stay aware of approaching stock or farm traffic and



if encountered move to the very edge of the laneway and allow to pass. If there's a large stock movement happening, farm staff may ask you to hop a fence to stay clear – please do so on request.

The farm track runs parallel to the Wairaki for a mile or so then the markers will steer you down to the optimum river crossing point. In normal flows this will barely cover the ankles however please assess it carefully before proceeding. On the other side, follow the markers across the fan and up onto the track that runs above the river. The route is well marked along the farm track and will take you to the northern end of the Station.

The trail drops down to cross Telford Burn and then continues on the true left bank another 1km to the Telford Campsite.

Telford Campsite – lots of space for camping and a long drop toilet

Water availability: Orauea Stream at the beginning runs through farmland and as such should be treated. The next reliable source is when crossing the Wairaki River 17km distant.

Telford Campsite to Lower Wairaki Hut – 8km / 4hr

To the right of the stream leading into the campsite is a fenceline running uphill. Follow the fence uphill on the opposite side to the campground. A sustained climb leads up to and along a ridge. The track becomes rocky as it climbs to the tops. Travel along this section may be difficult in some weather conditions as the track is indistinct at times and markers can be hard to spot.

Once across the tops the track drops down through the forest, at times skirting the edge of the tussock, for another 4km to Lower Wairaki Hut.

Lower Wairaki Hut – 4 bunks, fireplace

Water availability: The only water sources to be relied on are at Telford Campsite and shortly before reaching the hut.

Lower Wairaki Hut to Aparima Hut – 13.1km / 6hr

Cross Wairaki River just after leaving the hut. The trail then follows the far bank for 2km before beginning an undulating 8km section through the forest. The track emerges onto marshland on a terrace above the Aparima River's true right bank. From this point the trail is less clear and markers may be difficult to spot. After about 2km the track crosses the Aparima River via a swing bridge and continues a few hundred meters more to Aparima Hut(s).

Aparima Hut – Actually two huts. 6 bunks and a fireplace (in each)

Water availability: Numerous sources.



Aparima Hut to Lower Princhester Hut – 17km / 5-6hr

Heading in a north-westerly direction follow the markers for about 2km to a point above a heavily eroded section of the Aparima River's true left bank. Just beyond here there is a junction. To the left is the track to Aparima Forks Hut. Te Araroa turns right here and continues along the edge of the open tussock. After 9km of mostly tussock but also some forest sections the track changes dramatically for the remaining 5km and becomes quite steep and roughly formed but is clearly marked.

Lower Princhester Hut – 6 bunks, fireplace

Water availability: Numerous small streams en route. Some of the smaller streams may be hard to spot amongst the tussock so watch and listen for their presence.

Lower Princhester Hut to State Highway 94 – 6km / 1.5hr

The road from the hut is a gravelled public road but also a farm access way. Please give way to stock and farm operations and leave any gates as you find them.

Water availability: Some sources but access difficult due to electric fences.

** The "true left" is the side on your left when looking downstream.*

** "Burn" is a term used in the Scottish influenced southern areas of New Zealand to indicate waterways of widely varying size.*



Mararoa River Track

(Map 132, 131, 130)

Southern Start	Junction of Princhester Road and State Highway 94
Northern End	Mavora Lakes Camping Area, Mavora Lakes Road
Distance	46.5km
Time	2 days
Track Standard	Tramping track

Hazards

Farming operations

Take extreme care on SH94 and Mavora Lakes Rd

Never cross flooded rivers

Track exposed to sun, wind or cold

Route

Junction of Princhester Road and State Highway 94 to Kiwi Burn Hut – 29km / 10hr

From Princhester Road turn right into State Highway 94 and continue for 2.5km to where Mavora Lakes Road exits the highway to the left. Continue along the unsealed and at times very dusty road for 11km. A sign indicates where Te Araroa leaves the road and descends to a crossing point of Wash Creek. Occasional markers indicate the route a further 16km along the true left bank of the Mararoa River. Upon reaching the Kiwi Burn confluence cross the Mararoa River and Kiwi Burn and continue about 1km through beech forest and tussock to the hut.

Kiwi Burn Hut – 12 bunks, fireplace

Travel along this section can be difficult due to an indistinct track, long grass, and long distances between markers. Some walkers choose to stay on the road and reconnect with the track at the Mavora Campsite, via swing bridges (one just beyond Hikuraki Station and one at the outlet of South Mavora Lake), or sooner via one of the few anglers' access points allowing access through private land to the river bank.

Water availability: Numerous sources.

Kiwi Burn Hut to Mavora Lakes Camping Area – 17.5km / 5hr

From Kiwi Burn Hut head back down toward the confluence and turn left at the track junction. From here the track is through beech forest and is relatively flat, and easy to follow. From the junction at Kiwi Burn Confluence it is 10km to the outlet of South Mavora Lake. The track continues around the lake by way of the western shore and after 5km crosses via swing bridge to reach the eastern shore of North Mavora Lake and the beginning of the camping area.

Mavora Lakes Camping Area – DOC campsite with basic toilets only

Water availability: Numerous sources.