



Boyle to Arthur's Pass

(Map 092, 093, 094, 095, 096, 097, 098)

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Northern Start | Junction of Magdalen Valley Rd and SH7, Boyle Village |
| Southern End | Greyneys Shelter, SH73 |
| Distance | 113km |
| Time | 6-8 days |
| Tramping Standard | Tramping track |

Route

This tramp follows an historic crossing of the Southern Alps at Harper Pass (962m).

Maori used the route to access pounamu (greenstone) on the West Coast and European settlers used it for access and supply purposes during the gold rush of in the 1860s. Harper Pass is named after Leonard Harper who at 20 years of age became the first European to cross the pass and reach the West Coast in 1857.

The route fell into disuse from 1867 following the development of an alternative route through Arthur's Pass, which provided more direct access to the Coast.

In the 1930s the track was reopened and 4 substantial huts were constructed by the Physical Welfare Division of the Department of Internal Affairs in an attempted to recreate the Milford Track's model for tourism success. While the Harper Pass Track has never reached the Milford Track's status it still affords a quality tramping experience of relative ease.

On the West Coast side of Harper Pass the route requires numerous crossings of the Taramakau and Otehake Rivers. Trampers with river-crossings skills and experience will find these rivers passable in normal to low flows but impassable when river levels are high. Extra food should be carried to enable trampers backtrack or to wait until river levels subside.

In a number of areas, this route requires a lot of self-navigation as it is not fully marked. Generally this is straight-forward though you'll want to be carrying GPS, maps and compass to assist you.

Note: The traditional Harper Pass Track starts at Windy Point and ends at Aickens.

St James Car Park (Boyle Village) to Hope-Kiwi Lodge - 26.5km / 8hr

Follow the Tui Track sign and markers to the highway and then on the landward side of the fence on the left to a driveway leading to the old Boyle Base Hut. Cross the road here and follow the markers down to a terrace, and then along to the Boyle River.

If safe to cross, ford the Boyle River where markers indicate and continue down the true right bank on river flats to the confluence with the Doubtful River.

If the river can't be crossed safely then back-track and continue down on the road shoulder for about 2hr to the sign-post marking the entrance road to the Lake Sumner Forest Park at Windy Point. You will pass the Engineers Camp along the way. There is a car park and shelter at Windy Point, a short distance down the entrance road. This marks the alternative, and traditional, start point to the Harper Pass Track.

After fording the Doubtful River where marked the track continues down the true right of the Boyle River and joins a farm track that leads onwards to a deer fence. Follow this fence around until markers show the track heading uphill through manuka and

beech forest towards the main Hope Valley track. Te Araroa joins the Harper Pass Track proper here. Turn right and the track climbs through manuka scrub and farm land to the beech forest's edge. Once inside the forest the track sidles above the Hope River to Hope Shelter, a basic 6 bunk hut that is old but still in reasonable condition.

Beyond Hope Shelter the track continues through the forest and then breaks out across grassy flats. The track then crosses the Hope River on a swingbridge. Across the bridge there is a junction with the track to St Jacobs Hut. From here Te Araroa heads south on the track to Hope-Kiwi Lodge, situated in a large clearing near the forest edge.

Hope-Kiwi Lodge to Hurunui Hut 5 - 19km / 6hr

Below Hope-Kiwi Lodge the track crosses open cattle flats then climbs through bush towards Kiwi Saddle (677m). A lookout nearby affords good views of Lake Sumner. Beyond the saddle the track descends towards the lake shore and to a swingbridge over Three Mile Stream. Cross the bridge, continue to the lake head and beyond up the Hurunui River's true left side. Keep to the marked track until it deviates across the valley to another swingbridge, this time over the Hurunui River. Once on the other side of the river the track climbs and sidles for about 30min to Hurunui Hut, a modern hut with sleeping platforms and elevated views over the valley below.

Hurunui Hut to Hurunui No.3 Hut - 10km / 4-5hr

The track descends from the hut through manuka forest to the open flats of the valley floor. About 2/3 of the way, a sign indicates access to a hot pool (look for the steam rising from the stream just before that). Another sign at the pool warns that "Amoebic meningitis is fatal and caused by water entering nasal passages. Do not immerse head". This stark warning need not deter trampers from an indulgent soak to neck level, a Te Araroa highlight.

Beyond the hot spring the track continues through flats and forest on the Hurunui's true right all the way to Hurunui No.3 Hut. While one of the original 4 huts on the route, the No.3 Hut remains a comfortable 16 bunk hut. It has an unusual looking DOC research building nearby.

Hurunui No.3 Hut to Locke Stream Hut - 15km / 7hr

Soon after leaving the No. 3 Hut the track crosses Cameron Stream. An emergency 3 wire bridge can be used here to avoid getting wet feet. Continue across the flat towards Cameron Hut (4 bunks). This hut offers basic emergency accommodation for anyone in need.

Beyond Cameron Flat the track leaves cattle country and ascends towards Harper Pass Bivvy, a cramped 2 bunk box with one tiny window and a helpful sign on the door that reads 'fire exit'.

From the Biv the track crosses the Hurunui headwaters and climbs more steeply for ½hr to Harper Pass. Kiwi are present in the area in reasonable numbers and can be heard at night. Watch out for their 3-pronged foot prints as they are sometimes visible where the ground is soft.

On the West Coast side of the Pass the track drops steeply and crosses the Upper Taramakau River to the true right side. It continues down to a swingbridge, which takes trampers to the true left side. From here it is about 1½hr downstream to Locke Stream Hut.

Locke Stream Hut is another Physical Welfare Division classic. It was built in 1940 with hand-hewn timber by 65 year old packman, Sam Burrows. The hut was restored in 1993 through a bequest from Tom Beeston's estate.

Locke Stream Hut to Morrison footbridge via Aitkens - 23km / 6-8hr

Beyond the hut, travel is down the Taramakau River through bush and open river terraces - though some pieces of track are affected by river damage. Travel is often in the riverbed and can require numerous river crossings that become impassable after heavy rain.

Kiwi Hut (6 bunks) is located approximately half way down the Taramakau (8km/3.5hr from Locke Stream Hut) and a 15min walk from the Kiwi Hut junction.

Look out for DOC markers that point the way on the true right side. After approx 2.5km cross the Taramakau (to the true left) then cross the Oteha River separately. The route is then mainly on the true left all the way down to the sign-posted turn off onto the Flood Track to the Morrison Footbridge - though due to river movement at times travel may be through the riverbed and require crossings.

Trampers wishing to exit to the Aitkens carpark on SH73 should continue down the Taramakau and then carefully ford the Otira River.

Meanwhile Te Araroa continues left on the Flood Track for 2hr and joins with the Mingha-Deception Track at the Morrison Footbridge. The Flood Track is poorly formed, through bush and involves a series of sharp climbs and descents along a steep face above the Otira River - when the Otira River is low, walkers may prefer to walk along the riverbed, though carefully judge the water level before attempting this. Cross the footbridge to access SH73. There is a carpark across the road.

From Aickens, turn left for 22km to Arthur's Pass, a small alpine village, or turn right for 73km to Greymouth on the West Coast. (* see Arthur's Pass shuttle details under "The Sanctuary" accommodation listing)

Deception-Mingha Track

This route forms the mountain run component of the celebrated Coast-to-Coast race. Top athletes complete it in around 3

hours. On the Deception side the track is rough and not regularly marked. However, in good conditions it is a reasonable route which most trampers take 2 days to complete. The route involves many river crossings so is vulnerable to bad weather. Don't attempt it in heavy rain or when heavy rain is forecast. Come prepared to wait out flood conditions. The area is home to rare and protected blue duck/whio. DOC asks for sightings to be reported to staff at the Visitor Centre in Arthur's Pass.

SH73 – Goat Pass Hut - 18.5km / 8-9hr

Cross the Otira River on the Morrison footbridge and follow the Deception River up the true right side across river flats. Cross to the true left and follow rock cairns through the lower gorge, re-crossing the river where necessary. Continue up to Good Luck Creek. Upper Deception Hut, which is easy to miss, is located a short distance beyond on the true right side. Beyond the hut trampers can pick their way upwards, mostly in the riverbed though there are some small tracked portions under bush cover. There is a final steep climb over rough terrain to get up to the Goat Pass Hut (20 bunks), located a short distance below the pass itself. This hut has a radio link to DOC's visitor's centre at Arthur's Pass, which trampers can use to obtain weather forecasts and other information.

Goat Pass Hut to SH73 Bealey River - 9.5km / 5hr

From the hut the track improves significantly but still has many river crossings. The track crosses Goat Pass on boardwalk sections then descends towards the bushline into the Mingha Valley. The track departs the river course towards Dudley's Knob to avoid a difficult gorge and continues down to the Lower Mingha flats. Look for a safe crossing of the Bealey River near its confluence with the Mingha River and continue down towards Greynay Shelter Campsite on SH73. The track line rises to the road along the way.

Other Information

Accommodation en route

[Hope Kiwi Lodge](#) - 20 bunks

[Hurunui Hut](#) - 15 bunks - a modern hut with sleeping platforms and elevated views over the valley below

[Hurunui No. 3 Hut](#) - 16 bunks - While one of the original 4 huts on the route, the No. 3 Hut remains a comfortable 16 bunk hut.

[Locke Stream Hut](#) - 18 bunks

[Kiwi Hut](#) - 6 bunks

[DOC's Goat Pass Hut](#) - 20 bunks - This hut has a radio link to DOC's Visitor's Centre at Arthur's Pass, which trampers can use to obtain weather forecasts and other information

[DOC Greynay's Shelter Campsite](#) - SH73 - this roadside camping area has an open shelter, toilet and water supply.

Arthur's Pass is about 5km to the right from where you first meet the road

General information

[DOC's Arthurs Pass National Park Visitor Centre](#) - SH73, Arthur's Pass - P: 03 318 9211 - E: arthurspassvc@doc.govt.nz

The DOC Visitor Centre can store parcels for a charge of \$10 per parcel - these **must be couriered** to DOC Arthur's Pass Visitor Centre, West Coast Rd SH73, Canterbury 7654. (Clearly mark the parcel with "<your name>, Te Araroa Walker" and an estimated arrival date). Note the summer opening hours of 8am-5pm daily, parcels cannot be collected outside those hours.

Getting there/away - To Christchurch and Greymouth

[Atomic Shuttles](#) - P: 03 349 0697

[West Coast Shuttles](#) - P: 03 768 0028 or 027 492 7488

Accommodation

[Mountain House, YHA Arthur's Pass](#) - 84 West Coast Road, Arthur's Pass village P: 03 318 9258 E:

arthurspass@yha.co.nz

Arthurs Pass Motel and Lodge - 03 318 9099

[Arthurs Pass Alpine Motel](#) - Main Rd (SH 73), Arthurs Pass Village, W Coast Rd, Arthur's Pass - P: 0800 900 401 or 03 318 9233

[The Sanctuary Arthurs Pass](#) - Main Rd (SH73), Arthurs Pass - P: 0274 662755 - E: bill@thesanctuary.co.nz - Free tent site, free laundry, shower, bounce box facility and kitchen available. Bill also runs a shuttle service to/from Aitken's Corner - pickup 10am at Aitken's, leave Arthur's Pass 9am to return - please book this in advance - \$20pp each way.

Resupply

[Arthurs Pass Alpine Store and Tearooms](#) - P: 03 318 9235 - fuel also available

[DOC's Arthurs Pass National Park Visitor Centre](#) - SH73, Arthur's Pass - P: 03 318 9211 - E: arthurspassvc@doc.govt.nz

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Greymouth

General information

[Greymouth I-SITE Visitor Centre](#) - 1 Mackay St, Greymouth - P: 03 768 5101 - E: info@westcoasttravel.co.nz

Getting there/away

[Atomic Shuttles](#) - P: 03 349 0697

[West Coast Shuttles](#) - P: 03 768 0028 or 027 492 7488

Accommodation

[YHA Greymouth Kainga-Ra Backpackers](#) - 15 Alexander St, Greymouth - P: 03 768 4951

[Global Village Travellers Lodge BBH](#) - 42-54 Cowper St, Greymouth - P: 03 768 7272

Many other accommodation options are available in Greymouth.

Resupply

[New World Supermarket](#) - 128 High St - P: 03 768 4441

[Countdown Supermarket](#) - 174 Mawhera Quay - P: 03 769 9210

Potential Hazards

- River crossings - Never cross flooded rivers
- Small stream crossings
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold

Requirements

- Keep to the track
- No litter
- No dogs
- No horses
- No firearms
- No bikes

Amenities (Start)

- No amenities
- Car park
- Accommodation YHA Hamner Springs - see above

Amenities (On Route)

- No amenities
- Carpark Aitkens
- Accommodation Huts



Arthur's Pass to Rakaia River

(Map 098, 099, 100, 101)

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Northern Start | Greyneys Shelter, SH73 |
| Southern End | Lake Coleridge Power Station, Hummocks Rd, Lake Coleridge Village |
| Distance | 72km |
| Time | 3-4 days |
| Tramping Standard | Tramping track |

Route

Klondyke Track - 9km / 2-3hr

The Klondyke Track is a Te Araroa specific link. It reduces the road connection between the Deception-Mingha and Harper River Tracks.

The track starts on SH73 at Greyneys Shelter Campsite and heads south, initially on the road shoulder but soon diverts to the Bealey River margin. This is from the left hand side of the road. The track then heads towards Klondyke Corner Campsite, a basic campsite with a pavilion, carpark and toilets.

The track beyond Klondyke Corner remains on the true right bank of the Bealey River. There are occasional marker poles which lead to the Waimakariri River confluence. Cross the river, as water levels allow, and climb up to SH73 before the Bealey Spur settlement. If the Waimakariri is up, trampers are able to cross on the road bridge, about 1km to the west.

The Bealey Hotel, which is 12km east of Arthur's Pass and 150km west of Christchurch is a good point where trampers can organize transport with most operators passing on their way to Arthur's Pass or Christchurch.

From Bealey Spur, continue east on SH73 and follow the road's shoulder to Cora Lynn Rd. Turn right here and walk past the Arthur's Pass Wilderness Lodge and through the gate marked 'Cass-Lagoon Track'. The track ends at the car park a short distance further along. [Bealey Hut \(6-bunks\)](#) is a five minute walk beyond the car park, up the track and on the right hand side.

Harper River Track

The initial section, to Hamilton Hut, is on DOC's Cass Saddle-Lagoon Saddle Track and through Craigieburn Forest Park. The final portion of the track is adjacent to Glenthorne Station and finishes at Harper Rd. Here trampers are able to walk a route based on a paper road, which runs along the Harper River fringe.

Cora Lynn Carpark to Hamilton Hut - 15.5km / 7-8hr

The track climbs a short distance from the carpark to Bealey Hut, a basic 6 bunk hut off on a short side trail to the right. Beyond the hut the track continues to climb through beech and exotic forest. It then traverses the broad north face of Mt Bruce, initially through forest but then through open tussock country. This is up towards Lagoon Saddle.

From the Saddle, follow board-walked sections down to the bushline. Lagoon Saddle A-Frame Shelter (2 ppl) is a short distance lower down. The track then descends to the Harper River. The next section down to West Harper Hut has numerous river crossings but these are straightforward in normal conditions.

West Harper Hut, with its dirt floor and canvas bunks, provides historical interest and welcome shelter in poor weather. Beyond the hut the route is an all weather one. The Harper River is crossed on a swing bridge. There is also a swingbridge across Hamilton Creek near Hamilton Hut.

Hamilton Hut to Harper Rd - 18km / 5-6hr

Return to the sign at the true left side of Hamilton Creek. From here Te Araroa heads down to the Harper River confluence, beyond which the track follows the Harper River downstream. For much of the way an old 4WD track can be used but this leads to numerous river crossings. If the river is high it is possible to remain on the true left all the way down to the Pinnacles without too much additional effort or time, EXCEPT for a spot where a ravine has formed that means a river crossing cannot be avoided. The river can pool adjacent to this point, so if the water is high, waiting it out or retreating to Hamilton Hut could be the wisest course of action.

The track remains within Craigieburn Forest Park until about a 3rd of the way down to the Pinnacles. It then enters Glenthorne Station on a route based on a paper road. This is along the fringe of the Harper River on the true left side. The Pinnacles become visible lower down across the river on the true right side.

Below the Pinnacles the track continues down the Harper River, which trampers need to ford to make further progress. The best place to do this is above the Avoca River confluence. The Avoca is in turn is crossed separately. Continue down the farm track to Harper Road and cross Harper River on the road bridge.

Harper Road reaches a junction near Harper Village where the Harper River Track ends. If you need somewhere to stay then there is a free overnight campsite on TrustPower owned land about 300m distant. This is down the road marked with the "2km to Lake Coleridge" sign. The campsite is sign-posted on the left hand side of this road. Water is available from a tap in the campsite and there is a modern longdrop toilet.

Note - it is 48km from Hamilton Hut to Lake Coleridge - only the fastest walkers should attempt to do this in a day. There are NO places to camp between Harper Village and Lake Coleridge so the recommended approach is to camp at the Harper Village campsite then go from there to Lake Coleridge in a day - plan to reach Lake Coleridge before 5pm to maximise your chances of hitching a lift out to Rakaia Gorge/Methven. There is NO budget accommodation, or camping spots, in/around Lake Coleridge Village so you'll need to walk to Lake Coleridge Village and hitch out that day if you don't plan to use the local accommodation.

For something different - [Alps 2 Ocean](#) offer the experience of an inflatable kayak from Harper Village to the trailhead at Glenrock on the south side of the Rakaia.

*From Harper Village, travel **22km** along Harper Rd past Lake Selfe, Lake Evelyn and over the Ryton River Road Bridge to the Homestead Rd junction. **Take extreme care, this road has a 100km/h speed limit and drivers are often not expecting walkers. Wear hi-viz clothing/pack cover and don't use headphones. Stick to the extreme edge of the road. Turn right here and Te Araroa's next section, the Lake Hill Track, starts at the stile about 900m down on the right hand side of the road.***

Lake Hill Track - 3.5km / 1¼hr

The Lake Hill Track provides access to a section of the Lake Coleridge foreshore and joins Homestead Rd with Coleridge Intake Rd. In the process it follows a narrow strip of public land which adjoins private property.

Walkers are asked to keep strictly to the marked route and to respect the property rights of the adjoining land owners. This includes giving way to stock and farm operations, and adhering to the 'no dogs, camping or fires' conditions of access.

The track starts on Homestead Rd at a stile, which is 900m from the junction with Harper and Lyndon Roads. Travel is in the direction of Lake Coleridge and is initially easy and through farm land where stock are likely to be grazing. After about 700m the marked route passes through a tussock section as it crosses a wetland fringe. Conditions may be damp underfoot here.

Beyond the wetland, the route joins the edge of a farm track then veers to the left on a foot track as it approaches the lake shore. There is a short climb and descent to avoid a bluff and then about half a kilometre of level lakeside walking before the foot track crosses another farm track.

From the far side of the farm track the marked route ascends away from the lake. After a short climb the gradient eases and the track continues to follow poles towards Coleridge-Intake Rd. On its way to the road the track joins and then departs from a farm track. Trampers need to be vigilant to follow the markers to ensure they stay on the legal route.

The track ends on Coleridge-Intake Rd at the stile next to the farm gate. This is about 1.3km below the intersection with Algidus Rd.

Walk south up Coleridge-Intake Rd (away from the lake) from the Lake Hill Track trailhead towards the Algidus Rd intersection. Continue through the intersection on Coleridge-Intake Rd. Beyond the cattle stop the road and surrounding land is owned by Trust Power. Continue on the road as it enters pine forest and veers to the right. This is a 3km walk.

Arboretum Track - 900m / 20min

The track starts on Coleridge Intake Rd on the Rakaia River side of the Algidus Rd intersection and on Trust Power owned land. This is on the right as Coleridge-Intake Rd makes its first hair pin turn to the left. Look out for markers here and a track that has been cut through broom. This formed track quickly opens up and for a few metres follows the penstock pipes down towards the power station before turning left to enter pine forest.

Lower down the track leaves the forest, turns right, and descends directly through open country. It enters the Arboretum at a gate on the left and follows a well formed path passing a number of sign posted specimen trees along the way. The track end is through the memorial gate marking the exit from the Arboretum to Hummocks Rd.

The Arboretum comprises a site of approximately 2ha and was established from 1933 by Harry Hart, who served as superintendent of the Lake Coleridge Power Station for 30 years until 1954. It now contains one of New Zealand's best mature conifer collections including examples of at least two thirds of the world's pine species.

Click [HERE](#) for an information poster about the Lake Coleridge area.

[Lake Coleridge Lodge](#) can be found a short distance down Hummocks Rd on the left. With a spa and sauna the Lodge offers some luxury for walkers with good quality dinner, bed, and breakfast packages or alternatively a guest kitchen. Free wifi internet, supply package storage and laundry are offered to Te Araroa guests. Transport between the Lodge, Methven and the Clent Hills Track on the south side of the Rakaia River can be booked for an additional charge. For more information visit their website - www.lakecoleridelodge.co.nz/activities/te-araraoa-national-walkway.

To get around the Rakaia River, turn left on Coleridge Rd, then right on ZigZag Rd to Rakaia Gorge (24km from Lake Coleridge).

Across the second bridge is Rakaia Gorge Campground.

Otherwise continue on Coleridge Rd and turn right at SH72, then turn left at SH77 for the town of Methven (40.5km from Lake Coleridge).

Other Information

Accommodation en route

[The Bealey Hotel](#) - SH 73 12858 West Coast Rd, Arthur's Pass - P: 03 318 9277 - which is 12 km east of Arthur's Pass and 150 km west of Christchurch, offers backpacker and motel type accommodation, a restaurant and bar. Trampers can organize transport from here with most operators passing on their way to Arthur's Pass or Christchurch.

[Arthurs Pass Eco Lodge](#) - Host Helen Nugteren - P: 027 675 1511 - E: helen@arthurspassecolodge.co.nz - Located on the end of Bealey Spur - run by Helen Nugteren who is also a keen trumper and often joins walkers out on Te Araroa. The Lodge offers bed and breakfast, delicious dinners and packed lunches on request. Bookings essential

[DOC Bealey Hut](#) - 6 bunks - is a five minute walk beyond the car park at Cora Lynn Rd, up the track and on the right hand side
[DOC Hamilton Hut](#) - (20 bunks) - a modern 20 bunk hut complete with wood stove and radio link through to the Arthur's Pass Visitors Centre.

[Harper River Campsite](#) - P: Tel: 03 318 5700 - E: helen.stanger@trustpower.co.nz - campsite close to the shore of Lake Coleridge is available near the tiny settlement of Harper Village at the inland head of the lake. To find it, drive through Harper Village and over the bridge across the Harper Canal, then turn left down towards the lake. You'll find the campsite down this road on the left. The sheltered campsite includes tap water (untreated well water) and an environmental toilet, but with no other services in Harper Village users need to be self-sufficient.

Accommodation at Lake Coleridge - click [HERE](#) for an information poster about the Lake Coleridge area

[Lake Coleridge Lodge](#) can be found a short distance down Hummocks Rd on the left. With a spa and sauna the Lodge offers some luxury for walkers with good quality dinner, bed, and breakfast packages or alternatively a guest kitchen. Free wifi internet, supply package storage and laundry are offered to Te Araroa guests. Transport between the Lodge, Methven and the Clent Hills Track on the south side of the Rakaia River can be booked for an additional charge. For more information visit their website - www.lakecoleridelodge.co.nz/activities/te-araraoa-national-walkway.

The only other accommodation in the village is a B&B - http://www.lakecoleridgenz.info/listing.php?id=70&l=lake_coleridge_village_homestay - bookings essential.

Note: *There is no camping near Lake Coleridge Village. The only official campgrounds in the Lake Coleridge area are at Harper Village (free) and Rakaia Gorge (small charge). There are no areas where Freedom Camping is legally permitted between these two campgrounds and with increasing numbers of walkers enjoying Te Araroa, landowners are becoming more likely to move people on who are camping illegally. If you are solely camping you need to plan your journey to use the official campgrounds.*

[Rakaia Gorge Society Camping Ground](#) - 6686 Arundel Rakaia Gorge Rd - P: 03 302 9353 - The campground has tent sites, a sheltered cooking area, showers, toilets and water.

Methven

General information

[Methven I-SITE Visitors Centre](#) - 160 Main St, Methven - P: 03 302 8955 - E: methven@i-site.org

Getting there/away

[Methven Travel](#) - 93 Main St, Methven - P: 0800 684 888 for shuttles to/from Christchurch

Accommodation

[Mt Hutt Bunkhouse and Cottage BBH](#) - 8 Lambard St, Methven - P: 03 302 9122 or 0273 464 968

[Alpenhorn Chalet](#), 44 Allen St, Methven - P: 03 3028779 - E: info@alpenhorn.co.nz

[Methven Lodge and B&B](#), 182 Main St, Methven - P: 03 3029047 - E: info@methvenlodge.co.nz

[Snow Denn Lodge](#), 6 Bank St, Methven - P: 03 3028999 - E: info@snowdenn.co.nz - special Te Araroa rate \$20 dorm rooms and 10% off private rooms

Resupply

[Topnotch Four Square Supermarket](#) - 33/37 McMillian St, Methven - P: 03 302 8114

[Supervalue Supermarket](#) - The Mall, Methven P: 03 302 8050

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track take care along SH73 and Harper Rd
- Farming operations adjacent to Harper River
- River crossings - Never cross flooded rivers
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Weather extremes

Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Respect private land please do not attempt to enter the Glenthorne Station farming areas
- No litter
- No dogs
- No horses
- No firearms
- No bikes
- Wear hi-viz clothing/pack cover and don't use headphones

Amenities (Start)

- Full range of amenities (limited) at Arthur's Pass
- Car park
- Toilets
- Shop at Arthur's Pass
- Accommodation at Bealey Hut a short distance up the track

Amenities (On Route)

- No amenities
- Basic camp site at Harper Village
- Accommodation Huts



Rakaia River Hazard Zone

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Tramping Standard | Road margin |
|-------------------|-------------|

Route

The Rakaia is a large braided river with an unsettled shingle bed. Even in low flows **it is not possible to safely ford this river** on foot anywhere near Te Araroa's trailhead on the north bank. As a result, Te Araroa Trust has declared the Rakaia a hazard zone which does not form part of the trail. Instead it marks a natural break in the continuum, just like Cook Strait.

The trailheads on either side of the Rakaia make natural beginning or end points for Te Araroa section trampers and it is really only through-trampers that have to deal with the issue of getting from one trail head to the other. Don't risk a foot crossing. Instead go around the road in a vehicle. Doing so will not compromising the integrity of a through-tramp.

Click [HERE](#) for an information poster about the Lake Coleridge area.

On the north bank of the Rakaia, [Lake Coleridge Lodge](#) is on Hummocks Rd, which is within Lake Coleridge Village. With a spa and sauna the Lodge offers some luxury for walkers with good quality dinner, bed, and breakfast packages or alternatively a guest kitchen. Free wifi internet, supply package storage and laundry are offered to Te Araroa guests. Transport between the Lodge, Methven and the Clent Hills Track on the south side of the Rakaia River can be booked for an additional charge. For more information visit their website -www.lakecoleridelodge.co.nz/activities/te-araroa-national-walkway.

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Other Information

Methven / Coleridge Village - Click [HERE](#) for an information poster about the Lake Coleridge area.

General information

[Methven I-SITE Visitors Centre](#) - 160 Main St, Methven - P: 03 302 8955 - E: methven@i-site.org

[Lake Coleridge Visitor Information](#)

Getting there/away

[Methven Travel](#) - 93 Main St, Methven - P: 0800 684 888 for shuttles to/from Christchurch

Accommodation

[Lake Coleridge Lodge](#) - 114 Hummocks Road, CMB 18, Lake Coleridge Village - P: 03 318 5002 - E: mail@lakecoleridge.co.nz

[Rakaia Gorge Society Camping Ground](#) - 6686 Arundel Rakaia Gorge Rd - P: 03 302 9353 - The campground has tent sites, a sheltered cooking area, showers, toilets and water.

[Mt Hutt Bunkhouse and Cottage BBH](#) - 8 Lambard St, Methven - P: 03 302 9122 or 0273 464 968

[Alpenhorn Chalet](#), 44 Allen St, Methven - P: 03 3028779 - E: info@alpenhorn.co.nz

[Methven Lodge and B&B](#), 182 Main St, Methven - P: 03 3029047 - E: info@methvenlodge.co.nz

[Snow Denn Lodge](#), 6 Bank St, Methven - P: 03 3028999 - E: info@snowdenn.co.nz - special Te Araroa rate \$20 dorm rooms and 10% off private rooms

Resupply

[Topnotch Four Square Supermarket](#) - 33/37 McMillian St, Methven - P: 03 302 8114

[Supervalu Supermarket](#) - The Mall, Methven - P: 03 302 8050

[Hammer Hardware](#) (for camping supplies) - 85 Main Street, Methven, P: 03 302 9664 - E: methven@hammerhardware.co.nz

Potential Hazards

- Do not attempt to cross the Rakaia on foot



Rakaia River to Rangitata River

(Map 102, 103, 104, 105, 106)

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Northern Start | Glenrock Stream, Double Hill Run Rd |
| Southern End | Potts River Bridge carpark, Hakatere Potts Rd |
| Distance | 70km |
| Time | 4 days |
| Tramping Standard | Tramping track |

Route

This Te Araroa section, from the Rakaia River to the Hakatere Heron Road, starts on a public access easement over Glenariffe Station, 34km from SH77. It then crosses the 60000ha Hakatere Conservation Park before finishing in the Heron Basin on a paper road that runs through Castle Ridge Station.

It's an area rich in high country history dating back to 1857 when Clent Hills Station was first farmed as a 20000ha run under licence from the Crown. Over the years the station has survived many incarnations the most recent being the Nature Heritage Fund purchase of 10000ha, which reduced the station to a rump of 2000ha within the Heron Basin. The Clent Hills pastoral lease was in the Buick family from 1923 to 1982. The first 3 years of this tenure was spent eradicating rabbits before stock could be reintroduced to the property.

Glenrock Stream to Comyns Hut - 15.7km / 4-5hr

From the DOC sign notifying "Access to North Branch Ashburton Stream" the track follows markers through farm land up the true right side of Glenrock Stream - look out for electric fences. At the 1.7km mark the track crosses the stream and then merges with a farm track that begins to climb towards the Conservation Park boundary. Along the way the track passes a stand of Kowhai trees. No camping is permissible until inside the Conservation Park boundary.

From the Conservation Park boundary the route zig-zags up an old farm track to Turtons Saddle (1120m). Beyond the saddle travel remains on the farm track and is initially east and upwards but soon turns south sidling then descending towards the Turtons Stream's true left bank. The A-Frame Hut toilet becomes visible in the lower portions of the descent.

After 8.7km the track reaches Turtons Stream, which is the first water source en route that is both reliable and potable. The track remains on the true left and crosses Ensor Stream 1.5km before A-Frame Hut, a tidy 3-bunk hut near the Comyns Stream's confluence with Turtons Stream. It takes about an hour from the saddle to reach this hut.

Beyond A-Frame Hut the track continues down the true left of Turtons Stream for about 2km. This is to the first of 4 river crossings in close succession. The track then climbs and descends into Mutton Gully. Once out of this gully, Turtons Stream is forded a final time. It's then an easy 700m walk to Comyns Hut (8 bunks).

The current Comyns Hut was built in 1957 to replace the original and derelict hut, which was built in the 1890s and still stands nearby. The 'new' hut is basic but was improved following restoration work in 2008. The hut door and walls act as an informal and historic register and make interesting reading.

Comyns Hut to Double Hut junction - 16km / 6-8hr

This part of the track is rough and unformed. Trampers are required to pick their own route between markers which, in poor weather, may not be visible from one to the next. The physical and navigational challenges rise accordingly.

A marker behind the hut shows the route heading west up the North Branch Ashburton River towards Round Hill Creek. Travel quickly becomes confined to the stream bed and involves frequent river crossings. These are straightforward in normal flows.

Round Hill Creek joins North Branch Ashburton as the latter heads north towards Petticoat Lane. From this confluence Te

Araroa continues up Round Hill Creek, past Logan Stream, and then departs to begin the ascent towards Clent Hills Saddle (1480m). On a clear day the saddle affords great views of the Longman Range, Ricki Spur and the wider Lake Heron Basin.

Care needs to be taken to ascertain the correct route beyond the saddle. Do not descend. Instead continue to the right along the saddle and link to the upper-most track crossing a large scree slope. On the far side of the scree the route continues to slide through tussock to the next ridge. Marker poles become evident again along the way.

From the ridge the poles lead down and to the right, diagonally away from the Swin. Eventually, after crossing 3 further scree slopes, the track reaches a dilapidated fence along another ridge line.

Follow the fence line down the ridge to a rock cairn and arrow, which indicate the way down and to the right towards the next pole and ultimately to an unnamed stream, which is a tributary to the Swin River. Once across this stream the final climb begins towards the Mellish Saddle.

The route down from the saddle becomes easier and remains above the true left bank of Mellish Stream. It emerges into the wider Heron Basin and passes a sign-posted junction with a side trail out to the road end at Lake Heron. Continue on the main track for about 1km to another junction near the Swin River, which is crossed on foot but seldom an issue. From here Double Hut (6 bunks) is 1km away on another side trail. Double Hut has 6 bunks and is in reasonable condition.

The side trail to the right provides an exit to the Lake Heron Car Park and then to Hakatere Heron Rd. Once on the road it is a few 100m to the right around the lake shore to Lake Heron Campground. Or turn left for 16.3km to Ashburton Gorge Rd and then left another 39.6km to Mt Somers Village where there is a tavern for meals, a general store and camping accommodation.

Double Hut junction to Hakatere Heron Rd (via Manuka Hut) - 14km / 3-4hr

The track continues south for 6.4km across grassy and gravel flats passing the Seagull and Manuka Lakes along the way. This is to a junction from where Manuka Hut (6 bunks) is hidden 300m upstream and to the left.

Note: *The next reliable water source on Te Araroa beyond Manuka Hut is on the Clearwater Track and 17.3km distant.*

Beyond the Manuka Hut junction Te Araroa continues south for a little over 2km and then turns west to climb to the ridge on Emily Hill's south flank. The poled track line then sidles down through matagouri and spear grass to the flats. From here it's easier going across to a carpark at Lake Emily. At this point the track leaves the Hakatere Conservation Park and joins with a marked paper road that bisects Castle Ridge Station. Trampers should take care to follow the markers to avoid straying onto private property.

Its 5km from Manuka Hut to the Lake Emily carpark and then another 3.2km on the Castle Ridge paper road to Hakatere Heron Rd. This is where the Clent Hills Track ends. There is a farm gate across the paper road about 600m before the finish point. This gate should be left as it is found (open or closed).

For trampers continuing south, turn left onto Hakatere Heron Road and walk 4.4km to the Clearwater Track trail head. This is on the right hand side of the road just beyond Buicks Bridge.

Clearwater Track - 21km / 4-6hr

This high county track passes through the Hakatere Conservation Park on land formally comprised in the 9119ha Hakatere Station. This pastoral leasehold property was purchased by the Nature Heritage Fund in October 2007 and returned to the conservation estate. Free public access is now afforded, as is protection to significant wetlands and expansive tussocked landscapes.

There are no huts en route but trampers can camp as it suits.

From the south side of Buicks Bridge, which crosses the South Branch Ashburton River, marker poles lead westward across easy open country. This is towards the gap between Mt Guy and Dogs Hill. At the 5km mark the track crosses a fence line and later it joins an old farm track, where it stays for another 5km. At this point the marked track turns left and heads towards a saddle at the western end of Mt Guy. It passes a tarn along the way.

From the Saddle there are sweeping views over Lake Clearwater towards the Harper Range, of Mt Potts, and to, then beyond, the Rangitata River. Follow the fence line down to the creek at the base of the hill. The track then heads south-west towards the head of Lake Clearwater and joins with another old farm track, which continues towards the Potts River but stops at a gate. Te Araroa heads northward here to avoid crossing private property then bends around towards the lip on the Potts River's true left bank. Once on the lip the track stays high and follows the fence line. It then drops steeply into a gully, which opens to the Potts River bed. If the Potts River is running clear then the best travel is usually downstream direct to the carpark at the road bridge.

If the Potts is discoloured this exit will be impassable. The proper course then is up the other side of the gully. Trampers are then able to remain on the Potts side of the fence line through to the road. From here it's a short walk down hill to the car park and trailhead.

Its 18.5km to the left on Hakatere Potts Rd to Ashburton Gorge Rd, then on to Mt Somers Village and Methven. Its 3km to the right on Hakatere Potts Rd to Mt Potts Lodge.

Other Information

Accommodation en route

[Glenrock Lodge](#) - Double Run Rd (adjacent to Trail) - P: 03 3185855 - E: hello@glenrocklodge.co.nz - special \$50 rate for Te Araroa walkers (self-catering)

[Comyns Hut](#) - 8 bunks

Double Junction Hut - 6 bunks

[Lake Heron Campground](#) - GPS co-ords -43.49462, 171.15600 - Toilets and water only. (Only Open between 1 October and

30 April)

[Mt Somers Village](#) - tavern for meals, a general store and camping accommodation.

[Manuka Hut](#) - 6 bunks

[Mt Potts Lodge](#) - 2131 Hakatere Potts Rd, Ashburton Lakes - P: 03 303 9060 - E: info@mtpotts.co.nz - Offers a range of accommodation.

[Alps 2 Ocean](#) offer a number of forms of assistance in this area. Check out their website for details and to book - their services must be pre-arranged.

Potential Hazards

- Farming operations
- River crossings - Never cross flooded rivers
- Small stream crossings
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Weather extremes
- Few water sources be sure to fill at Manuka Hut

Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Respect private land
- No dogs

Amenities (Start)

- Full range of amenities in Methven
- Car park
- Toilets in Methven
- Shop in Methven

Amenities (On Route)

- No amenities
- Accommodation huts



Rangitata River Hazard Zone

| Tramping Standard | Road margin |
|-------------------|-------------|
|-------------------|-------------|

Route

The Rangitata is a large braided river with an unsettled shingle bed. It poses a significant danger to trampers on foot and, as a result, Te Araroa Trust has declared it a hazard zone which does not form part of the trail. Instead it marks a natural break in the continuum like Cook Strait does.

The Potts River and Bush Stream trailheads on either side of the Rangitata, make ideal beginning or end points for Te Araroa section trampers and it is really only through-trampers that have to deal with the issue of getting from one trailhead to the other. Trampers are urged not to risk a foot crossing. It's best to find an alternative way around and doing this will not compromising the integrity of a through-tramp.

While trampers are cautioned not to attempt to cross the Rangitata on foot, fit adults experienced with river crossing techniques have been known to cross safely in low-flow summer conditions. The best crossing point is above the confluence with the Potts River. Conditions suitable for a foot crossing are most likely to occur in the late summer months. Be aware though, even in high summer this river can flood and become impassable at any time.

[Alps 2 Ocean](#) offer a number of transport options in this area. Check out their [website](#) for information and to book, or phone 0800 425772.

Geraldine is the gateway town to the Two Thumbs Track and offers a range of services. Geraldine Community Vehicle Trust offer a service to Peel Forest Store on weekday mornings. Cost \$14.00. P: 03 6931007 - E: geraldine.mini.bus@gmail.com

There is an infrequent mail run from Peel Forest Store that passes the trailhead, and can take walkers for a small koha, but should not be relied upon to run every day. This wont be suitable for groups of walkers. To arrange, speak to the [Peel Forest Store](#) - P: 03 6963567. Alps 2 Ocean is a more reliable service and recommended.

The Bush Stream trailhead is 2.5km beyond Mesopotamia Station, 52km from Peel Forest, 60km from the Rangitata River bridge (near Arundel) and 75km from Geraldine.

Other Information

Geraldine

General Information

[Geraldine Visitor Centre](#) - Kiwi Country Complex, cnr Waihi Tce & Jollie St, Geraldine - P: 03 693 1101 -

E: geraldineinfocentre@kiwicountry.co.nz

For general information about the town and surrounds, including accommodation, eateries and local businesses.

www.geraldine.nz 027 555 6524 (Janene)

[DOC Raukapuka Area Office](#) - 13-15 North Terrace, Raukapuka - P: 03 693 1010 - E: raukapukaao@doc.govt.nz

Getting there/away

[InterCity](#) - P: 03 365 1113

[Atomic Shuttles](#) - P: 03 349 0697 - Daily buses to Queenstown and Christchurch

Accommodation

[Rawhiti House & Backpackers \(BBH\)](#) - 27 Hewlings St, Geraldine - P: 03 693 8252 M: 027 693 8252 - W: www.rawhitibackpackers.com

[Geraldine Kiwi Holiday Park](#) - 39 Hislop St, Geraldine - P: 03 693 8147 - E: info@geraldineholidaypark.co.nz - Several other accommodation options are also available

Accommodation en route

[DOC Peel Forest Camp](#) - Peel Forest Rd, Peel Forest Park, RD 22 - P: 03 696 3567 (No email bookings, only phone or walk in booking service at Peel Forest Cafe) - Cabins & Camping. Note: The Peel Forest Cafe is located 4km down the round [Mesopotamia Station](#). RD 20, Peel Forest - P: 03 696 3738 - E: enquiries@mesopotamia.co.nz - W: www.mesopotamia.co.nz - provides good basic accommodation.

Resupply

[Fresh Choice Supermarket](#) - 7 Peel St, Geraldine - P: 03 693 8529

Refreshments

[Peel Forest Cafe](#) - 1202 Peel Forest Rd, Peel Forest - P: 03 696 3567 (Also houses the DOC Peel Forest Camp bookings office)

Potential Hazards

- River crossings - Never cross flooded rivers Do not attempt to cross the Rangitata without taking a lot of advice and checking river flow levels



Two Thumb Track

(Map 106, 107, 108, 109, 110)

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Northern Start | Bush Stream carpark, Rangitata Gorge Rd |
| Southern End | Junction of Pioneer Dr and SH8, Lake Tekapo Village |
| Distance | 72.5km |
| Time | 3 days |
| Tramping Standard | Tramping track |

Route

The Two Thumb Track is a fine high country trail that provides a challenging traverse through the Te Kahui Kaupeka Conservation Park. This is from the south side of the Rangitata River through to Boundary Stream at Lake Tekapo. The park opened in April 2009 and resulted from the successful tenure review of the Mesopotamia and Richmond Station pastoral leases.

Mesopotamia Station was once owned by the English polymath, Samuel Butler. The surrounding mountains, wide braided river and hanging valleys give this remote part of the South Island its lost world character, and inspired Butler's fantastical satire, Erewhon. It's an open and expansive environment that has a big country feel to it.

New Zealand's Colonial Secretary Dr Andrew Sinclair was drowned in the Rangitata River after surveying the wide braids of the river system with Julius von Haast in 1861. He was seeking a way through the river to get back to Butler's homestead. His grave is now marked as an historic site.

In pre-human times lower areas were most likely forested. However, burning reduced forest cover to remnants and resulted in the snow tussock cover that predominates today.

The start of the track is sign-posted, at the Bush Stream carpark beyond Mesopotamia Station, and is mostly unformed but marked with poles from there. Access is via Rangitata Gorge Rd. The huts en route are classic musterers' huts and add an important historic dimension to this tramp.

Bush Stream car park to Crooked Spur Hut - 9km / 4hr

** Please see the "Additional Information" for transport details - there is very little traffic past Peel Forest and your most reliable method will be a pre-arranged ride with Alps2Ocean.

Follow markers from the carpark up towards Bush Stream. Once at the stream, travel is up or adjacent to the river bed, crossings as required. These crossings are straightforward in normal flows but can be tricky after rain or during spring when the stream is fed by snow melt. Take extreme care at these times, and crossings are recommended as early as possible in the mornings during the snow melt. The Sawtooth Bluff can be particularly tricky.

The track later leaves the stream bed on the left to avoid a gorged section. In the process it climbs and then descends back towards Bush Stream.

Ford Bush Stream a final time near a concrete slab, the last remains of an old swing bridge. From the true left side a formed track climbs towards Crooked Spur Hut (5 bunks). This track was still used for mustering purposes up until 2009 and the climb to the hut takes about 1hr.

Crooked Spur Hut is tired but provides adequate accommodation. It's in a good location with views down Bush Stream to the Rangitata River.

Crooked Spur Hut to Stone Hut - 9.5km / 5hr

From Crooked Spur Hut the track goes west around Crooked Spur and climbs steadily for 1½hr to a saddle at 1500m. From the saddle the track descends to cross Pack Horse and Sweeps Streams before returning to Bush Stream. Travel is then up the true left bank to an old stock bridge. Cross it to reach Stone Hut. Stone Hut (8 bunks) is in reasonable condition.

Stone Hut to Royal Hut - 6km / 2hr

Beyond the hut Te Araroa follows Bush Stream to Royal Hut (8 bunks). Prince Charles and Princess Anne reputedly visited as children, hence the hut's name.

Royal Hut to Camp Stream Hut - 14km / 6hr

The first part of the day involves a climb over the Two Thumb Range via Stag Saddle (1925m), the highest point on Te Araroa. From the hut cross Bush Stream and follow the poles upwards. The climb to the saddle is fairly steep in places but quite safe in reasonable weather. The contours ease towards the saddle, where cell phone coverage is available. From the saddle it is possible to scramble up to the ridge on the right hand side and then to descend the ridge line past the turn off to Rex Simpson Hut (private) and .1468 to a 4WD track. While unmarked this route is generally sound underfoot and affords excellent views across Lake Tekapo to Mt Cook. This should only be attempted by people confident in navigating and should not be attempted in poor weather. Turn left onto the 4WD track, which fords Camp Stream on its way to Camp Stream Hut (6-bunks). Note this hut is owned and managed by the Mackenzie Alpine Trust who ask for a \$10pp donation to overnight here - please carry some cash and use the honesty tin inside the hut.

The alternative marked (and poor weather) route down from Stag Saddle is lightly poled and runs down into the tussock covered Camp Stream Valley. Lower down this valley the 2 routes converge at the 4WD track, turn left here to access Camp Stream Hut, which is on the true left side of the stream. Camp Stream Hut is compact but in reasonable condition.

Camp Stream Hut to Boundary Stream carpark - 18km / 5hr

The track leaves Camp Stream Hut for the Ski Field Road. Trampers leave the hut and follow the track down the true left of Camp Stream, before crossing just above the confluence with Coal River then continuing on the true left before the steep climb to the road. There is a car park well down the road for those wanting to exit here.

Meanwhile Te Araroa continues on conservation land parallel with Lake Tekapo and along the base of the Two Thumb Range. The track crosses Washdyke Stream on its way to Boundary Stream where it descends above the true right bank to a car park at Lilybank Road.

Please note that once you cross Boundary Stream, you are surrounded by private land and camping is **NOT** welcomed - continue all the way to Lake Tekapo Village, or if you wish to camp make sure you do so before crossing Boundary Stream.

Follow the road shoulder 13km south towards SH8.

Note - wear a hi-viz vest and/or pack cover on this walk and don't wear earphones, as the road is narrow and can be very dusty (poor visibility) in summer.

The road walk ends at the Lake Tekapo Regional Park, which affords lakeside walking for the final 3km section into Lake Tekapo Village.

Other Information

Transport to and from the trailheads is available.

To/from Geraldine - to either end of the trail, contact Wayne from [Alps 2 Ocean](#) for assistance, ph 0800 425772.

Geraldine Community Vehicle Trust offer a service to Peel Forest Store on weekday mornings. Cost \$14.00.

P: 03 6931007 - E: geraldine.mini.bus@gmail.com

To/from Tekapo, at the Tekapo end of the trail, contact [The Cook Connection](#) on P: 0800 266 526 or

E: travel@cookconnect.co.nz

To/from Tekapo and Geraldine/Twizel on request, [Tekapo Taxis](#) (Billy Morgan) P: 021 1536547 or E: info@tekapotaxis.nz

[Lilybank Rd](#) to or from Tekapo \$45 first person, then \$5 per additional passenger.

Roundhill Ski Area to or from Tekapo \$50 first person, then \$5 per additional passenger.

Tekapo to or from Twizel \$75 first person, then \$10 per additional passenger.

Geraldine to or from Tekapo \$120 first person, then \$15 per additional passenger.

Accommodation en route

[Peel Forest Farmstay](#) - 10km from SH72 on the road to Mesopotamia Station. Private rooms and bunk rooms available, self-catering. Contact Steve and Jenny Deans - P: 03 6963509 - E: sjdeans@ruralinzone.net

[Crooked Spur Hut](#) - 5 bunks - This Hut is tired but provides adequate accommodation. It's in a good location with views down Bush

Stream to the Rangitata River

[Stone Hut](#) - 8 bunks - This hut is in a reasonable condition

[Royal Hut](#) - 8 bunks - W:

[Camp Stream Hut](#) - 6 bunks - Compact Hut but in a reasonable condition - note this hut is owned and managed by the Mackenzie Alpine Trust who ask for a \$10pp donation to overnight here - please carry some cash and use the honesty tin inside the hut.

Lake Tekapo Village

General Information

Lake Tekapo Information Centre - State Highway 8, Lake Tekapo - P: 03 680 6686 - W:

[Tekapo Springs Sales & Information Centre](#) - State Highway 8, Lake Tekapo - P: 03 680 6579 - E: sales@tekaposprings.co.nz

[Heartlands Fairlie Resource and Information Centre](#) - 67 Main Street, Fairlie - P: 03 685 8496 - E: fairlie@xtra.co.nz

[Aoraki Mount Cook National Park DOC Visitor Centre](#) - State Highway 80, Aoraki Mount Cook Village P: 03 435 1186 -

E: mtcookvc@doc.govt.nz

[Kiwi Treasures & Information Centre](#) - State Highway 8, Lake Tekapo - P: 03 680 6686 - E: kiwitreasures@clear.net.nz

[Twizel Information Centre](#) Market Place, Twizel - P: 03 435 3124 - E: twizelinfo@gmail.com

Tekapo Tourism - W: <http://www.tekapotourism.co.nz/>

Getting there/away

[InterCity](#) - P: 03 365 1113

[Atomic Shuttles](#) - P: 03 349 0697 - daily buses to Queenstown and Christchurch

Transport to trailheads

[The Cook Connection](#) - P: 0800 266 526 or 021 583 211

Accommodation

(** CLOSED 2017-2018) [YHA Lake Tekapo](#) - 3 Simpson Lane, Lake Tekapo P: 03 680 6857 E: laketekapo@yha.co.nz

[Tailormade Backpackers BBH](#) - 9-11 Aorangi Crescent, Lake Tekapo - P: 03 680 6700 - E: taylor-made-backpackers@xtra.co.nz

[Lake Tekapo Motels and Holiday Park](#) - 2 Lakeside Drive, Lake Tekapo - P: 03 6806 825 or Freephone 0800 853 853 -

E: info@laketekapo-accommodation.co.nz

[Lake Front Backpackers Lodge](#) - 2 Lakeside Dr, Lake Tekapo - P: 0800 840 740

Fairlie Holiday Park (30min drive from Tekapo) - 14 Allandale Rd, Fairlie - P: 03 6856190 - E: fairlieholidaypark@gmail.com - Kitchen, TV room, library.

Many other accommodation options are also available.

Resupply

[Tekapo Services Ltd \(4 Square supermarket\)](#) - Main Street - Tekapo Twizel Rd, Lake Tekapo - P: 03 680 6809

[Doughboys Bakery](#) - 65 Main Rd, Tekapo - P: 03 680 6655 - Snacks and bakery goods

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track Lilybank Rd
- River crossings - Never cross flooded rivers
- Small stream crossings
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold only take ridge route down from Stag Saddle in favourable conditions
- Weather extremes

Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Respect private land
- No dogs
- No horses
- No firearms
- No bikes

Amenities (Start)

- No amenities
- Car park
- Toilets
- Accommodation nearby at Mesopotamia Station

Amenities (On Route)

- No amenities
- Accommodation huts



Tekapo to Lake Ohau

(Map 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116)

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Northern Start | Junction of Pioneer Dr and SH8, Lake Tekapo Village |
| Southern End | Glen Mary Ski Club, Lake Ohau Rd |
| Distance | 87km |
| Time | 2-3 days |
| Tramping Standard | Mixed grade |

Route

The Tekapo-Lake Ohau route is easy but long.

From Pioneer Dr, continue W on SH8. You'll find shops and food/drink/accommodation along here.

Tekapo to Twizel (via Tekapo Canal)

****Note the Tekapo Canal route may on occasion close at short notice due to high winds and/or Genesis Energy requirements. Please check the Trail Status page prior to your departure.**

Please note there is no camping allowed along the Tekapo Canal route - so from Lake Tekapo Village, your aim should/must be to at least make the Pines Camping Area, which is 47km from Lake Tekapo Village. It is a long stretch, but is essentially flat - if you don't think you can make this in a day, please consider hiring a bicycle, possibly to go from Lake Tekapo Village to Twizel (59km total).

From SH8, turn S onto Andrew Don Dr and follow that 2.5km to the Tekapo A Power Station, crossing the outlet flow. From there continue on the Tekapo Canal Rd some 28km (crossing SH8 after 12km, do take care!) to the intersection of Tekapo Canal Rd and Hayman Rd, adjacent to Lake Pukaki.

Head south on Hayman Rd, following the A2O Cycle Trail route as it weaves on and off the strip adjacent to the lake. Further south, some 6.5km after Hayman Rd leads onto SH8, you can camp at the Pines Camping Area just before the outlet from Lake Pukaki, which has pit toilets (men's and women's) but only lake water. nicer toilets and drinking water are available at the (now closed) Lake Pukaki Visitor Information Centre about a kilometre further along. Unless you plan to treat water en route, carry plenty of drinking water.

From the Pines campsite, it's a further 11.5km to Twizel - continue along the A2O Cycle Trail, crossing SH8 near the former information centre site, then the track heads south into the Department of Conservation's Pukaki Flats Reserve for a further 9km then exits to the highway at Bendrose Reserve. Turn left onto the highway for one last kilometre into Twizel. You'll see finger signs indicating the safest crosspoint just outside the town.

Lake Ohau Track

This track traces the lower sections of the Mackenzie Basin power scheme to Lake Ohau and then follows the lakeshore. On the approach, the track also skirts Lake Ruataniwha.

Lake Ruataniwha is manmade and its dam was built between 1978 and 1981. In addition to storing water for power generation, the lake provides recreational opportunity. It's a world class rowing venue. It's also where Peter Knight broke a world speed record for Grand Prix hydroplanes in 1996. In doing so he reached a speed of 286.5km/hr.

The track starts on SH8 outside Twizel opposite Ruataniwha Rd where Te Araroa's next section to the north is sign-posted.

From here follow the gravelled walk/cycleway south for 2km past Meridian Energy's Twizel office, then continue on down the side of the road to cross the spill way and then the bridge over the Ohau B canal.

Once across the canal bridge (i.e. before the salmon farm and Ohau Riverside Drive) join a formed track that runs along the terrace above Lake Ruataniwha for about 3km. From the end of this track the trail joins Ohau Riverside Drive and descends around a cove with a large patch of rushes at its head.

Beyond the cove travel is predominantly on the road to the lake head and beyond along the Ohau River to the Weir at Lake Ohau. From the Weir, the Trail connects again with the Alps 2 Ocean Cycleway, skirting around the side of Lake Ohau for 9km before joining back onto Lake Ohau Rd

Turn right onto the road and follow the road shoulder to Lake Middleton (DOC campground here), then follow the eastern shore to the lakehead. Return to road shoulder here and walk past the Alpine Village to a small stand of beech. From this point there is a good track between the road and Lake Ohau around to Glen Mary Ski Club.

Lake Ohau Lodge is another 3km further north along Lake Ohau Rd and Omarama, a small tourist village, is 37km to the south, back down Lake Ohau Rd then right into SH8/Twizel-Omarama Rd.

Other Information

Cycle Options

[Alps 2 Ocean](#) offer cycle hire between Tekapo and Twizel/Lake Ohau, as an alternative to the long walk.

P: 0800 425772 - E: info@alps2ocean.co.nz

[Cycle Journeys](#) offer a great [deal](#) for Te Araroa walkers wishing to cycle between Tekapo and either Twizel or Lake Ohau.

P: 0800 224475 (within NZ only) or +64 3 3772060 - E: a2o@cyclejourneys.co.nz

[Lakeland Explorer](#) also offer cycle hire/luggage transfer between Tekapo and Twizel/Lake Ohau. A tip to secure the cheapest rates is to time your journey so as to leave Tekapo (SOBO) on a Saturday and arrive at Twizel on Saturday or Lake Ohau on Sunday or Monday - this ties in with their regular runs to those locations.

P: 027 7788993 - E: explorer@lakelandmackenzie.co.nz

Twizel

General information

[Twizel Information Centre](#) Market Place, Twizel - P: 03 435 3124 - E: twizelinfo@gmail.com

Getting there/away

Daily buses to Queenstown and Christchurch

[InterCity](#) - P: 03 365 1113

[Atomic Shuttles](#) - P: 03 349 0697

[Cycle Journeys](#) - For those preferring to cycle this route, cycle hire is available from Cycle Journeys who can shuttle luggage and collect bikes as needed - Twizel Depot - P: 03 4350578 M: 027 4350578 - Christchurch Office - P: 03 3772060 - (Note the Twizel depot is closed May-September, arrangements can still be made via Chch office)

Accommodation

[High Country Lodge and backpackers](#) - 23 Mackenzie Drive, Twizel - P: 03 435 0671 - E: info@highcountrylodge.co.nz

[Twizel Holiday Park](#) - 122 Mackenzie Drive, Twizel - P: 03 435 0507 - cabins, backpackers and campsites

[Mountain Chalets](#) - Wairepo Rd, Twizel (Close to trail head) - P: 03 435 0785 - E: info@mountainchalets.co.nz

Other accommodation options are also available.

Resupply

[4 Square Supermarket](#) - 27 Market Place, Twizel - P: 03 435 0875

[Twizel Shopping Mall](#) - 3-18 Market Place, Twizel (Various stores)

Lake Ohau

Accommodation

There is a DOC campsite on the north shoreline of Lake Middleton, adjacent to Lake Ohau and immediately before the small Lake Ohau settlement. Flush toilets and water supply available. No booking required however an \$8pp charge payable onsite.

Lake Ohau Lodge - 2295 Lake Ohau, Twizel. Rd - P: 03 438 9885 - E: reservations@ohau.co.nz - W: www.ohau.co.nz/ohau - Hotel style accommodation (varying from cabins to hotel style rooms), restaurant and bar. There is some cell-phone coverage from high points along Lake Ohau Rd.

Omarama

Getting there/away

Daily buses from Christchurch and Queenstown

[InterCity](#) - P: 03 365 1113 - W: www.intercity.co.nz

Atomic Shuttles - P: 03 349 0697 - W: www.atomictravel.co.nz

Accommodation

Omarama Top 10 Holiday Park - Located at the junction of Chain Highway (Route 83) and Omarama Ave (Highway 8),

Omarama - P: 0800 662 726 - W: www.omaramatop10.co.nz/

Omarama Hotel - Main Road, Omarama - P: 03 438 9713 - E: rmkelman@xtra.co.nz - older pub style accommodation

Heritage Gateway Hotel - State Highway 8, Omarama - P: 0800 809 805 - E: heritagegateway@xtra.co.nz -

W: www.heritagegateway.co.nz/Heritage-Gateway-Hotel/Home.aspx

Resupply

Omarama 4 Square Supermarket - 10 Chain Hills Highway, Omarama - P: 03 438 9895 - W: www.foursquare.co.nz

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track be aware of cars on road and cyclists on shared tracks
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Few water sources

Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Respect private land
- Leave gates as you find them

Amenities (Start)

- Full range of amenities in Lake Tekapo Village
- Car park
- Picnic area
- Toilets
- Shop
- Accommodation YHA Lake Tekapo

Amenities (On Route)

- Full range of amenities in Twizel
- Carpark
- Picnic area
- Toilets
- Shop
- Basic camp site Pines Camping Area
- Accommodation - a range of options in Twizel



East Ahuriri Track

(Map 116, 117)

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Northern Start | Glen Mary Ski Club, Lake Ohau Rd |
| Southern End | Birchwood Rd carpark, Ahuriri Valley |
| Distance | 26.5km |
| Time | 1-2 days |
| Tramping Standard | Tramping track |

Route

The track climbs 800 m from Lake Ohau over the Ohau Range to the Ahuriri River. This is through the Ruataniwha and Ahuriri Conservation Parks. The track has no obvious ground trail for long stretches and the markers are often distant. That said, the East Ahuriri Track is a gem and provides a good transitional tramp for moderately experienced trampers looking to go the next step, off the heavily used and well-groomed tracks where they've learned their craft and onto Te Araroa's more remote and demanding sections.

The track starts on the 4 wheel drive track next to Glen Mary Ski Club and climbs to join with the marked A2O cycleway, which traverses across to Sawyers Creek and beyond to Freehold Creek.

Once at Freehold Creek follow DOC markers up through the beech forest. It's a well marked and clearly formed track to this point – a good day walk for anyone wanting a return trip from the Ski Club.

Beyond the treeline the track initially follows the poles and light ground trail towards Dumb-bell Lake. This is on the true right of Freehold Creek. The East Ahuriri Track peels off this track in a southwest direction and from here there are regular poles (though they are not always visible from one to the next) along the east side of the swamp. The poles continue on this line until the beginning of the descent into the East Ahuriri. Descend with care to the East Ahuriri River.

From here travel is downstream by the most practical route. There are a few river crossings but these are straightforward in normal flows.

The track climbs and sidles above the true right bank when it needs to avoid two gorged sections. Along the way a two-bed hut becomes visible in the distance on the true left side of the river. The going becomes easier as the river opens up lower down. The track reaches the first line of pine trees as it emerges into the wider Ahuriri Valley. There are more pine trees further along as you continue straight ahead towards the Ahuriri River which, in normal flows, is the largest unbridged river on Te Araroa in the South Island.

Follow the fence down to the Ahuriri's Bank and look across for the track markers on the other side. They continue about 50m downstream from the 4WD track that cuts down far bank. Once you've identified this spot it's time to look for a safe place to cross the river.

Note

If the Ahuriri cannot be forded safely continue downstream for about 5km to the Ireland Road Bridge. This provides the bailout option. It is then about the same distance back up Birchwood Rd to the trailhead.

From the far side of the river the track follows marker poles straight up the steep bank. The track then turns left and follows the top of the river bank to the next fence line, which marks a right hand turn and the final walk out to the carpark on Birchwood Rd.

Other Information

To exit to Omarama, go left 11.2km to SH8, then left again for a further 17.4km.

Potential Hazards

- River crossings - Never cross flooded rivers
- Small stream crossings
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold

Requirements

- Keep to the track
- Respect private land
- No dogs
- No horses
- No firearms

Amenities (Start)

- Car park
- Accommodation nearby at Lake Ohau Lodge

Amenities (On Route)

- No amenities