



Queen Charlotte Track

(Map 076, 077, 078)

Northern Start	Ship Cove
Southern End	Anakiwa
Distance	66km
Time	3-5 days
Tramping Standard	Easy tramping track

Route

Te Araroa's start point in the South Island is Ship Cove - note no camping allowed at Ship Cove. This is where the Queen Charlotte Track's northern terminus is and Te Araroa follows this track for 3-5 days and to its end near the Outward Bound School at Anakiwa.

Captain James Cook, the first European to set foot on New Zealand soil, named Queen Charlotte Sound and Ship Cove, where in January 1770, he and his crew on the Endeavour, spent weeks careening their vessel and taking on water and provisions. Cook used the cove again on the two subsequent voyages of 1773 and 1777, as captain of the Resolution. He stayed here almost 6 months in total. A memorial to him now stands at the cove.

Access to Ship Cove for most is by boat and a number of companies operate regular shuttle runs between Picton and various points along the track, including both trailheads. Some operators will transport packs forward each morning to the days-end destination so trampers can walk unencumbered.

Fees are payable to the [Queen Charlotte Track Land Cooperative](#) to use track sections that cross private land. A pass lasting up to 4 days costs \$18.00. School children are free. [Passes are for sale at numerous outlets, including the Picton I-site and Furneaux Lodge.](#)

The entire track is to an easy tramping standard. It contains long forested sections with a mix of coastal and ridgeline walking and affords good views of both Queen Charlotte and Kenepuru Sounds.

There has been a lot of tourism oriented development along the Queen Charlotte Track and trampers can tailor their tramping to suit. The accommodation available ranges from up market lodges to campsites, 6 of these managed by DOC and one, at Mistletoe Bay, by a private trust. If you want to spend the money, there's restaurant food available en route.

The [DOC brochure](#) available through the link on this page contains more information about walking the track, including details about transport, food and accommodation options, flora, fauna, and a historical account. Alternatively, if you're in Picton then visit the [Picton and Queen Charlotte Track Information and Booking Centre](#), on the foreshore in the centre of town.

A four day tramp on the Queen Charlotte Track might follow this timetable but there's plenty of scope for variation:

- Ship Cove to the head of Endeavour Inlet - 13km / 5hr
- Head of Endeavour Inlet to Bay of Many Coves Campsite - 19km / 6hr
- Bay of Many Coves Campsite to Torea Saddle - 15km / 6hr
- Torea Saddle to Anakiwa - 20km / 8hr

The walking time estimates are DOC's. Some will find them generous but they're consistent so if a trumper is able to walk one section in 4/5th of DOC's walking time estimate then they're likely to be able to do the same in other sections.

Ship Cove

View the historic site and interpretation panels. The walking begins with a 240m climb to a saddle and lookout before

descending to Resolution Bay.

Resolution Bay

There is a side trail here to DOC's Schoolhouse Bay Campsite. The Resolution Bay Cabins are further along (03 579 9411). The well-graded trail undulates as it leads from Resolution Bay around into Endeavour Inlet passing numerous accommodation businesses along the way.

Beyond the Camp Bay junction the track climbs towards Kenepuru Saddle.

DOC's Bay of Many Coves Campsite

The track climbs from this campsite to a high point then undulates gently and stays mainly on the ridge.

DOC's Black Rock Campsite

Beyond this campsite the track remains mainly on the ridge before it descends to Torea Saddle

Kenepuru Saddle

The track from the Saddle has some steeper and ridgeline sections. Trampers need their QCTLC pass from here to cross private property track sections.

Torea Saddle. Right for 1km down Torea Road to Portage Bay, from here the track climbs away from the saddle. Further on it descends towards Te Mahia Saddle.

Te Mahia Saddle. Left down to Mistletoe Bay Eco Village where there is accommodation, as listed in extra information. The track continues through the junction as sign-posted.

DOC's Davies Bay Campsite

It is easy walking from the campsite through to the trailhead at Anakiwa.

Anakiwa

The Queen Charlotte Track ends here.

Other Information

Picton

General information

[Picton Visitor Information Centre](#) - Auckland St, Picton - P: 03 520 3113 - E: pvic@destinationmarlborough.com
[Picton DOC Office](#) - Port Marlborough Building, 14 Auckland St, Picton - P: 03 520 3002 - E: picton@doc.govt.nz

Getting to/from the start

Te Araroa's northern terminus in the South Island is at Ship Cove, which is accessible only by boat. Picton is the gateway to Ship Cove and is a full service town with a population of around 3000.

Getting there/away - Picton

Ferry to/from Wellington, multiple departures daily, Interislander, Bluebridge

[Sounds Air](#) - P: 0800 505 005 - Regular flights to and from Wellington and to most other destinations from nearby Blenheim airport, see [Air New Zealand](#)

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

[Atomic Shuttles](#) - P: 03 349 0697 - E: info@atomictravel.co.nz

[Rental Cars](#) - multiple options available

[Private Driver Hire](#) - P: 03 3910500 (Paul) - can transport to/from all locations Picton-Anakiwa-Pelorus Bridge-Nelson-St Arnaud, priced on enquiry.

Transport to trailheads

[Cougar Line Water Taxis](#) - The Waterfront London Quay and Wellington St, Picton (by the town wharves) - P: 03 573 7925

[Beachcomber Cruises](#) - The Waterfront Cnr London Quay and Wellington St, Picton P: 03 573 6175 or Freephone 0800 62 45 26 - E: office@mailboat.co.nz

Other accommodation

Full range of hostel, motel and other accommodation providers including

[YHA Picton](#) - 34 Auckland Street, Picton P: 03 573 6598 E: picton@yha.co.nz

[Gateway Motel Picton](#) - 32 High St, Picton - P: 0800 104 104 or 03 573 6398 - E: info@picton-accommodation.co.nz

[Broadway Motel](#) - 113 High St, Picton - P: 0800 101 919 - E: stay@broadwaymotel.co.nz

[Atlantis Backpackers](#) - 42 London Quay, Picton - P: 03 5737390 - E: utopia@atlantishostel.co.nz (ask for the Te Araroa discount!)

Accommodation en route

[Furieux Lodge](#) - Endeavour Inlet Queen Charlotte P: 03 579 8259 - E: info@furieux.co.nz - This historic lodge has hostel and more exclusive accommodation, a restaurant, bar, and a booking office.

[Punga Cove Resort](#) - Endeavour Inlet, Queen Charlotte Sound, Marlborough Sounds - P: 03 579 8561 - E:

enquiries@pungacove.co.nz

- Includes: hostel and more exclusive accommodation options, a restaurant, cafe and bar.

[Miners Camp](#) - Miners Wharf, Endeavour Inlet, Marlborough Sounds - P: 03 579 8186 - A privately run campsite at the head of Endeavour Inlet

[Camp Bay Junction](#) - P: 03 579 8561 - Right on a side trail leads to [DOC's Camp Bay Campsite](#) and to [Punga Cove Resort](#), which has DOC's Bay of Many Coves campsite [DOC's Bay of Many Coves Campsite](#) - The track climbs from this campsite to a high point then undulates gently and stays mainly on the ridge.

[DOC's Black Rock Campsite](#) - Beyond this campsite the track remains mainly on the ridge before it descends to Torea Saddle

[DOC's Cowshed Bay Campsite](#)

[DOC's Davies Bay Campsite](#)

[Portage Resort Hotel](#) - 2923 Kenepuru Rd, Marlborough Sounds - P: 0800 762 442 or 03 573 4309 - E:

reservations@portage.co.nz - Includes: hostel and more exclusive accommodation, a restaurant, cafe, and bar.

[Mistletoe Bay Eco Village](#) - Onahau Bat Queen Charlotte Sound - P: 03 573 4080 or M: 021 131 8283 - E:

stay@mistletoebay.co.nz - Includes: camping, hostel, more exclusive accommodation, and a small store.

Resupply

Fresh Choice Supermarket - Mariners Mall, 100 High St, Picton - P: 03 573 6463

[Picton 4 Four Square](#) - 49 High St, Picton - P: 03 573 6443

Anakiwa

Accommodation

[Anakiwa Lodge](#) - 9 Lady Cobham Grove, Anakiwa P: 03 574 2115 E: info@anakiwa.co.nz

[Anakiwa 401](#) - 401 Anakiwa Rd, Marlborough Sounds - P: 03 574 1388 - E: anakiwa401@gmail.com

[Smiths Farm Holiday Park](#) - 1419 Queen Charlotte Drive, Linkwater - P: 03 5742806 or 0800 727578 -

E: cbfaulls@xtra.co.nz (Pickup from Anakiwa available by request)

"Your Home By The Sea" - Tirimoana Terrace, Anakiwa - P: 03 5742238 - E: yourhomebythesea@gmail.com - [Room 1](#) Queen Bed - [Room 2](#) Double bed bunk (2+1) - [Both Rooms](#)

Transport

[Cougar Line Water Taxis](#) - The Waterfront London Quay and Wellington St, Picton (by the town wharves) - P: 03 573 7925 - W:

[Beachcomber Cruises](#) - The Waterfront Cnr London Quay and Wellington St, Picton P: 03 573 6175 or Freephone 0800 62 45 26 -

E: office@mailboat.co.nz

[Private Driver Hire](#) - P: 03 3910500 (Paul) - can transport to/from all locations Picton-Anakiwa-Pelorus Bridge-Nelson-St Arnaud, priced on enquiry.

Refreshments

[The Green Caravan Café @ Anakiwa 401](#) has heat'n'eat meals, snacks, hot & cold drinks and ice-creams.

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track be aware of mountain bikers

Amenities (Start)

- Full range of amenities in Picton. Beachcomber Cruises (03 573 6175) offers TA walkers a discount for the trip to Ship Cove.

Amenities (On Route)

- Full range of amenities . See link to Doc's brochure



Anakiwa to Pelorus Bridge

(Map 078, 079, 080)

Northern Start	Northern end of Anakiwa Rd, Anakiwa
Southern End	Junction of SH6 and Maungatapu Rd, Pelorus Bridge
Distance	38km
Time	1-2 days
Tramping Standard	Mixed grade

Route

This Te Araroa section is being established by a local group whose project, the Link Pathway, is to complete a walk/cycleway from Picton to Havelock with a side trail to Anakiwa. Work is being carried out in stages and is ongoing so this section currently involves a mix of easy tramping track, foot path and road shoulder. Te Araroa signage will come in due course but for now walkers can use these track notes. There are Link Pathway signs at the beginning and end of completed sections.

The track starts in Anakiwa at the southern end of the Queen Charlotte Track. From Anakiwa make use of the Link Pathway which will eventually link Picton, Anakiwa and Havelock. The Link Pathway heads out to the junction with Queen Charlotte Drive then turns right and continues to Linkwater School some 1.25km distant.

From the school continue on Queen Charlotte Drive past the Linkwater Service Station. At the end of the Linkwater straight follow the road around the Mahakipawa Arm to the next Link Pathway section – a 1km stretch of bush track leading off from the right hand side of the road.

Beyond this bush track walkers have another 1km stretch along Queen Charlotte Drive then the Link Pathway will take you all the way around the point and into Havelock - a triumph of community vision and energy.

Follow the Link Pathway to SH6 then go right onto the footpath beside SH6 and into the Havelock CBD

From the shopping area on Main St (SH6), walk west on the footpath and then road shoulder. 2.5km from the northern edge of Havelock, turn right/W into Boultons Rd. Cross the bridge and continue 1km on Te Hoiere Rd, crossing another bridge and reaching Kaiuma Bay Rd. Turn left into Kaiuma Bay Rd and walk some 9.5km to Daltons Bridge.

When you reach Daltons Bridge, the stile onto Daltons Track will be immediately in front of you at the intersection of Kaiuma Bay and Daltons Rd - cross the stile and enter Daltons Track.

**** Under no circumstances should you continue ahead (S) on Daltons Rd - this becomes farm track and is used extensively by stock and farm vehicles and is not to be entered.**

Daltons Track opened in March 2011 following a collaborative process involving the Trust, private landowners, DOC, Marlborough District Council, and the New Zealand Walking Access Commission. The track is to tramping track standard. It has a natural grassed surface, stiles over fence lines, and several unbridged creek crossings, which are straight forward in normal flows. The track is accessed by a stile immediately to the west of Daltons Bridge - and immediately adjacent to the intersection of Kaiuma Bay and Daltons Rds.

**** Daltons Rd becomes farm track and is used by stock and farm vehicles - please do not walk down Daltons Rd from the bridge.**

Daltons Track follows the true left bank of the Pelorus River up and along the grazed pasture margin to the Pelorus Bridge Scenic Reserve. It then emerges through forest at Pelorus Bridge a short distance from the Campground/Shop/Cafe where there is parking and public toilets.

The track passes through 2 working farms and includes lengthy sections where access has been provided courtesy of private landowners. The route follows the fenceline adjacent to the Pelorus River and **at no time** does it follow the farm laneway so please do not use that under any circumstances.

The Trust gratefully acknowledges the generosity of these landowners and, to ensure ongoing goodwill, asks to respect the following conditions of access:

- **Track use is restricted to trampers during daylight hours only**
- **Stiles are to be used where provided;**
- **Farm operations and stock have right of way**
- **No dogs, camping, fires, cycles or firearms.**

The route crosses a stile to leave the farm and enters the Pelorus Bridge Scenic Reserve to join the loop track. You can take either direction and both will take to around to the swingbridge - cross this and you'll be at Pelorus Bridge on SH6. Turn left/east to cross to the Pelorus Bridge shop and/or campground, and the green pools may tempt you for a dip on a hot day. Otherwise Maungatapu Rd lies in front of you and Te Araroa continues south on that to the Pelorus River Track trailhead. **Note it is 14km along Maungatapu Rd to the next trailhead (and 8.5km further to Captain Creek Hut)** - there are no budget accommodation options along Maungatapu Rd - the Pelorus Bridge campground should be used unless you intend using Maungatapu Rd B&B accommodation.

Other Information

Please note: Out of respect for the landowners and to help ensure Te Araroa can continue to use this critical link please comply with all conditions outlined.

Getting there/away

[InterCity](#) - P: 03 365 1113 - Daily buses to Blenheim, Picton and Nelson.

[Private Driver Hire](#) - P: 03 3910500 (Paul) - can transport to/from all locations Picton-Anakiwa-Pelorus Bridge-Nelson-St Arnaud, priced on enquiry.

Accommodation

[YHA Nelson](#) - 59 Rutherford Street, Nelson P: 03 545 9988 E: nelson@yha.co.nz

[Anakiwa Lodge](#) - 9 Lady Cobham Grove, Anakiwa P: 03 574 2115 E: info@anakiwa.co.nz

[Smiths Farm Holiday Park](#) - 1419 Queen Charlotte Drive, Linkwater - P: 03 5742806 or 0800 727578 - E: cbfaulls@xtra.co.nz (Pickup from Anakiwa available by request)

Havelock

Getting there/away

[InterCity](#) - P: 03 365 1113 - Daily buses to Blenheim, Picton and Nelson.

[Private Driver Hire](#) - P: 03 3910500 (Paul) - can transport to/from all locations Picton-Anakiwa-Pelorus Bridge-Nelson-St Arnaud, priced on enquiry.

Multiple hostel and motel options in Havelock:

[Rutherford Backpackers](#) - 46 Main Rd - 03 5742104 - E: info@rutherfordbackpackers.com

[Blue Moon Backpackers \(BBH\)](#) - 48 Main Rd - 03 574 2212 - E: bookings@bluemoonhavelock.co.nz

[Havelock Garden Motel](#) - 71 Main Rd, Havelock - P: 0800 082 222 or 03 574 2387 - E: havelockhideaway@xtra.co.nz

[Havelock Motel](#) - 50 Main Rd, Havelock - P: 0800 111 171? or 03 574 2961 - E: motelbookings@slingshot.co.nz

[Havelock Holiday Park](#) - 24 Inglis St, Havelock - P: 03 574 2339 - E: info@havelockholidaypark.kiwi - Camping, cabins, kitchen, bathroom, laundry - happy to accept bounce boxes though please call ahead to arrange and clearly mark your name and ETA.

Resupply

[Four Square Supermarket](#) - 79 State Highway, Havelock - P: 03 574 2166

[Inlet Bakery and Café](#) - 65 Main Rd, Havelock - P: 03 574 2860

Pelorus Bridge

Getting there/away

[InterCity](#) - P: 03 365 1113 to Blenheim, Picton and Nelson.

[Private Driver Hire](#) - P: 03 3910500 (Paul) - can transport to/from all locations Picton-Anakiwa-Pelorus Bridge-Nelson-St Arnaud, priced on enquiry.

Accommodation

[DOC Pelorus Bridge Campground](#) - 5949 State Highway 6, Main Rd, RD2 - P: 03 571 6019 - E: pelorus@doc.govt.nz -

Serviced campground, full meals available at cafe but not suitable as a resupply station.

Bounce boxes can be sent here - address to <your name>, Te Araroa walker due <expected date>, DOC Pelorus Bridge

campground, 5949 State Highway 6, Main Rd, RD2, Havelock. This service is free for those who stay at the camp, or \$10pp if not staying.

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track
- Poisons & traps in Pelorus Scenic Reserve
- Farming operations
- Open drains
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Few water sources

Requirements

- Keep to the track particularly on Daltons Track
- Respect private land
- Open daylight hours only Daltons Track
- Leave gates as you find them
- No litter
- No dogs
- No horses
- No firearms
- No bikes
- No camping on farm
- No fires on farm
- No fires in forest
- Wear hi-viz clothing/pack cover and don't use headphones

Amenities (Start)

- Car park
- Picnic area
- Toilets
- Phone

Amenities (On Route)

- Full range of amenities in Havelock
- Carpark
- Toilets
- Shop at petrol station on the Linkwater straight
- Accommodation Havelock



Pelorus River Track

(Map 080, 081, 082, 083)

Northern Start	Junction of Maungatapu Rd and SH6, Pelorus Bridge
Southern End	Hackett Hut Junction
Distance	46km
Time	3-4 days
Tramping Standard	Tramping track

Route

From Pelorus Bridge, there is a 14km road walk along Maungatapu Rd and then Mt Richmond Rd to the Pelorus River Track trailhead. Initially the road is sealed and passes through farm land. Later it is unsealed and has exotic and indigenous forest sections. Note there are no budget accommodation options along this road - the Pelorus Bridge campground should be used unless you intend using Maungatapu Rd B&B accommodation.

Pelorus River Track

Starting from the end of Maungatapu Rd, the Pelorus River Track is a long established DOC tramping track with a good hut system. The track joins directly with Te Araroa's next section, the Richmond Range Alpine Track, at Hackett Junction. Both these tracks are within the 165946ha Mt Richmond Forest Park and for logistical reasons many trampers will prefer to walk them consecutively as a single 9 (or more) day tramp. This is a major undertaking for which fit trampers should come well prepared. The larger rivers are bridged but the tramp involves many stream crossings that may be impassable after rain. Mt Richmond Forest Park contains a mixed variety of beech and podocarp forest, including the finest rimu along Te Araroa.

Road End to Captain Creek Hut - 8.5km / 4hr

The track follows the Pelorus River for about an 1 hour to the Emerald Pool picnic area. From here the track climbs upwards. It leaves the river, sidles, and then returns to the river. The 6 bunk Captain Creek Hut is still about 30 minutes further upstream from here.

Captain Creek Hut to Middy Hut - 5km / 2hr

This undulating section crosses Captain Creek by swingbridge after leaving the hut near its confluence with the Pelorus River. Beyond Captain Creek swingbridges take trampers across the Pelorus River, and later Fishtail Stream. Beyond Fishtail Stream the track leaves the Pelorus River then returns to it for the final stretch to Middy Hut (6 bunks).

Middy Hut to Rocks Hut - 5km / 3hr

From Middy Creek Hut (6 bunks) cross a swingbridge and then climb for 20 minutes to a junction where the Pelorus Track branches to the left. The Rocks Track (to the right) climbs steadily from the junction for about 600m up a broad ridge. It then enters an area with many hummocks and rock outcrops, turning northwards and meeting the Bryant Range near the 16-bunk Rocks Hut.

Rocks Hut to Browning Hut - 11km / 4½hr

From Rocks Hut, this track wanders through a landscape of rock outcrop and hillocks. It then climbs over several high points before beginning its descent towards Totara Saddle. It emerges onto an open patch of tussock land associated with the mineral belt, which it crosses for 15 minutes or so before re-entering the forest and descending - steeply in places - to Totara Saddle. From the saddle the track descends steeply to Browning Hut (8 bunks).

Browning Hut to Hackett Junction - 3.4km / 1hr

(Plus another 5.7 km or 2 hours out to the Hackett Picnic Area for those finishing this section there).

This is a straightforward section with all intersections well signposted. There is a high/low water track option at one point but this is a bit meaningless as you'll get wet boots in subsequent stream crossings whichever route you take.

At Hackett Junction trampers have the option of continuing on the next Te Araroa section to Hackett Hut and beyond or finishing their tramp at the Hackett Picnic Area. Private transport arrangements are best made in advance if you wish to end your tramp here. Failing which it is a 12km road walk down Aniseed Valley Rd to Hope where a bus can be caught into Nelson.

Other Information

Pelorus

[Private Driver Hire](#) - P: 03 3910500 (Paul) - can transport to/from all locations Picton-Anakiwa-Pelorus Bridge-Nelson-St Arnaud, priced on enquiry.

Accommodation

Pre-trail accommodation (with hot showers and food)

[Pelorus River Views](#) - 317 Maungatapu Rd, Pelorus Bridge - P: 0223002467 or 0274 956780 -

E: stay@pelorusriverviews.co.nz - full B&B accommodation available or basic cabin @ \$50/night

[Cottage 4 Rent](#) (2 bedroom) - at end of Maungatapu Rd (2km from Pelorus Bridge) - E: Clare sc.mead@farmside.co.nz

Hope

From Hope it is 29km to Nelson via Richmond. Nelson is a full service town.

[The Pear Orchard Lodge](#) - (BBH) self catering lodge - max. 20 people - 569 Hill Street South, Hope - P: 03 544 5361 -

E: stay@thepearorchard.co.nz - Rooms range from dorm to private rooms with ensuite - pickups from Hackett picnic area with prior arrangement

[Aniseed Valley Cottages](#) - Aniseed Valley Rd (near Hackett picnic area) - P: 03 5443144 - pickup available from Hackett Picnic Area and (for a fee) guests can be transported to Richmond/Nelson for resupply.

Getting there/away

For buses from Hope to Nelson

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

[Atomic Shuttles](#) - P: 03 349 0697 - E: info@atomictravel.co.nz

[Private Driver Hire](#) - P: 03 3910500 (Paul) - can transport to/from all locations Picton-Anakiwa-Pelorus Bridge-Nelson-St Arnaud, priced on enquiry.

Resupply

[Hope Store and Takeaways](#) - 205 Main Rd, Hope - P: 03 544 9803 - Takeaway meals and light resupply available.

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track on Maungatapu Rd
- River crossings - Never cross flooded rivers

Requirements

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

Amenities (Start)

- Car park
- Picnic area
- Toilets
- Shop
- Standard Campsite
- Accommodation

Amenities (On Route)

- No amenities
- Accommodation Huts as in Trail Notes



Richmond Alpine Track

(Map 083, 084, 085, 086, 087)

Northern Start	Hacket Hut Junction
Southern End	Start of Black Valley Walk (on SH3), St Arnaud
Distance	94km
Time	5-7 days
Tramping Standard	Tramping track

Route

The Richmond Alpine Track is rugged and, though well marked, is unformed in places. The summits are consistently above 1500m and the track has many steep, exposed sections and stream crossings. It's only suitable for fit, experienced, and well-equipped trampers but the landscapes are superb, amongst the very finest along Te Araroa.

The track is within the Mt Richmond Forest Park. Below the tree line, the forest contains a mixed variety of beech and podocarp forest. The summits and higher ridges often have rocky approaches. Towards its end the track traverses the flanks of the Red Hills. These hills, formed from mineral rich ultramafic rock, are barren and the vegetation that can survive upon them is sparse and stunted.

Anyone attempting the Pelorus River Track and Richmond Alpine Track together as a single section should prepare for at least a nine day tramp, the first 3 of which would be on the Pelorus River Track.

Note - that the DOC brochure available through the link on this page relates only to the northern portion of this Te Araroa section.

Hacket Junction to Hacket Hut – 1.3km, 15min (and a further 5.7km if starting from the Hacket Picnic Area).

For trampers continuing on from the Pelorus River Track, Hacket Hut is a 15min walk from the sign-posted junction at Hacket Creek.

For those starting afresh, access to Hacket Junction is 5.7km from the Hacket Picnic Area, about 12km from Hope up Aniseed Valley Rd. From the picnic area cross the Roding River foot bridge and continue on the formed track towards Browning Hut. There is a Te Araroa marked sign after 5.7km. This is at Hacket Junction. Take the 1.3km track from here towards Hacket Hut as indicated. Alternatively, trampers can remove 20min from this section by taking the first sign-posted track to Hacket Hut off the track up from the Hacket Picnic Area.

Hacket Hut to Starveall Hut - 6km / 4hr

The track continues up Hacket Creek with numerous crossings. The track then departs the river and embarks on a 900m climb, initially towards Pyramid Rock, and then on towards Starveall Hut (6 bunks). The hut is located just above the tree line.

Starveall Hut to Slaty Hut - 5km / 2.5hr

Water can be scarce between Starveall and Mid Wairoa Huts so carry at least enough to last through to the next hut and resupply point.

The track follows poles up towards Mt Starveall and summiting is an attractive possibility on fine days. The main track, however, descends into the forest and follows the ridgeline towards Slaty Peak. A sidle across the peak's northern face brings you to Slaty Hut (6 bunks).

Slaty Hut to Old Man Hut - 10km / 5hr

This section is predominantly above the tree line and is marked with poles. Old Man Hut (5 bunks) is located in a clearing and is accessed via a marked side trail.

Old Man Hut to Rintoul Hut - 4.5km / 5hr

This section is rocky and exposed. It involves some scrambling and is the most difficult portion of the Richmond Alpine Track. Particular care needs to be taken here and trampers should be prepared to wait out adverse weather. From the head of the Old Man Hut access track the main track climbs through bush and then above the bushline to the summit of Little Rintoul (1643m). It then descends very steeply on a loose surface for 250m following poles to a saddle before climbing steeply again to the summit of Mt Rintoul (1731m), the highest point on the Richmond Alpine Track. Beyond Mt Rintoul's summit the poled route traverses the ridgeline before dropping steeply down scree slopes to the bushline. From here a marked track leads to Rintoul Hut (6 bunks).

Rintoul Hut to Tarn Hut - 8km / 4.5hr

The track follows a bush clad ridge to Purple Top, the only significant open section on route. Follow poles up and over rocks here to return to the bush. There is a sign-posted junction beyond Bishop's Cap. The left-hand track leads to Tarn Hut (5 bunks).

Tarn Hut to Mid Wairoa Hut - 6.5km / 4hr

The track continues along the ridge to a sign-posted junction before Bushy Top. Take the right hand track from here down towards the Left Branch Wairoa River and Mid Wairoa Hut. The final descent to the river is steep. The hut is reached across the river via a swing bridge.

Mid Wairoa Hut to Top Wairoa Hut - 7km / 4.5hr

The track from Mid Wairoa Hut follows the river. It involves a lot of sidling, at times on steep terrain, and eight river crossings. Some trampers will find this section challenging. It should not be attempted during periods of heavy rain as the river can rise quickly.

Top Wairoa Hut to Hunters Hut - 10.5km / 5hr

Beyond the hut Te Araroa enters Red Hills country and a landscape transformed. The track follows markers and climbs away from the hut to a saddle at 1374m.

Beyond the saddle the track veers northward and sidles, first on a high and exposed ridge and then westward below Mt Ellis towards another ridge. The marker poles on this section are distant but are still visible in clear weather from one to the next. Once over the ridge's shoulder the track descends and passes through a lightly forested section.

Below the forest the track veers southwest and down towards Motueka River Left Branch. Cross the river where marked and continue down the true right bank.

Ford the river again where marked and, from the true left side, the track climbs up towards Hunters Hut (8 bunks).

Hunters Hut opened in 1997 and is a memorial to DOC staff members Russell Griebel and Bob Waldie, both of whom died on duty when Bush Edge Hut was destroyed in a flash flood. Remnants of the old hut are still visible as you cross the river and then make the 15min climb up to the new hut site.

Hunters Hut to Porters Creek Hut - 9km / 4hr

The track undulates south and crosses a number of open boulder fields and streams on its way to Porters Creek Hut (6 bunks). There is a water tank and woodshed at the hut.

Porters Creek Hut to Red Hills Hut - 10.5km / 5hr

The track curves around to the Motueka River Right Branch and, once there, sidles above the true right bank to a crossing near the Maitland Creek confluence. The Motueka river can rise, and fall, very quickly after heavy rain. Take care in crossing and be prepared to sit it out if required. The track then climbs and sidles above Maitland Creek's true right bank towards Red Hills Hut (6 bunks), which opened late in 2009 and replaced an older hut.

Red Hills Hut to SH63 – 7.5km / 3-3.5hr

*** Note there is no water supply on this route between Red Hills Hut and SH63/St Arnaud**

After Red Hills Hut, Te Araroa completes the Richmond experience on the Maitland Ridge Track - this was constructed as a MTB track by local volunteers and we are very grateful to share it with them. Take care on this route as it is used by mountain-bikers who may be moving at speed in some areas.

From Red Hills Hut an old 4WD track climbs steadily uphill to a rocky knoll at 1050m. Down the ridge to a broad saddle before (at times steep) climbing to a high point of 1200m, through lovely beech forest. Then a long downhill with some zigzags that keep the gradient smooth with open patches that offer occasional views bordering on spectacular. The saddle is at 1040m then another climb follows to the 1300m high point of the track where you have a great vantage point over the surrounding area. Finally, a steep descent (more zigzags) to the Tophouse Rd.

From Tophouse Rd it is 750m to SH63 then an 8km (2hr) walk on the road shoulder to St Arnaud.

There are toilets and rubbish bins available just as you arrive in St Arnaud - across the road from the school, next to the Community Hall.

Other Information

St Arnaud

General Information

[DOC Visitor Centre](#) - View Rd, St Arnaud - Open from 8am - P: 03 521 1806 - E: nelsonlakesvc@doc.govt.nz

Getting there/away

(From 16 January 2017) the [InterCity](#) bus will stop at St Arnaud, outside the Alpine Store - Northbound (to Blenheim/Picton) departs 2.41pm, Southbound (to Murchison/Hamner Springs/Christchurch) departs 9.30am - St Arnaud is an "on request" stop so needs to be pre-booked - www.intercity.co.nz

[Nelson Lakes Shuttles](#) - P: 03 547 6896 or 0275 476896 - Including connections with Naked Bus and Intercity Coachlines to Nelson
[InterCity](#) - P: 03 365 1113

[Atomic Shuttles](#) - P: 03 349 0697 - E: info@atomictravel.co.nz Coachlines to Nelson and Picton most days.

[Private Driver Hire](#) - P: 03 3910500 (Paul) - can transport to/from all locations Picton-Anakiwa-Pelorus Bridge-Nelson-St Arnaud, priced on enquiry.

Accommodation

[Alpine Lodge St. Arnaud](#) - Lake Rotoiti, Nelson Lakes National Park - E: info@alpinelodge.co.nz - P: 03 5211869 - W: Includes: dorm and double private rooms plus hotel room accommodation also available. There is internet, laundry facilities, spa pool for hire, a restaurant/bar/café (with the famous Sunday BBQ \$31pp). The Alpine Lodge can store store food parcels - \$10 per parcel if not staying at the lodge or \$5 for those who stay at the lodge - send those to Alpine Lodge, 75 Main Rd, St Arnaud, RD2 Nelson 7072. (Clearly mark the parcel with "<your name>, Te Araroa Walker").

[Nelson Lakes Motels and Travers-Sabine Lodge](#) - St Arnaud - E: info@nelsonlakes.co.nz - P: 03 5211887

Self-contained motel and backpacker accommodation available.

Please book via website www.nelsonlakes.co.nz or phone on 03 5211887.

Walkers staying with us are welcomed to send their resupply boxes to us, this will be free of charge. If you have no intentions of staying with us please do not send them - send to Nelson Lakes Motels/Travers Sabine Lodge, Main Road, PO Box 15, St Arnaud 7053. (Clearly mark the parcel with "<your name> - Te Araroa Walker, <phone number>, <estimated date of arrival>").

[Nelson Lakes Homestay](#) - 5 Kehu Lane, SH63, St Arnaud - E: shona@nelsonlakeshomestay.co.nz - P: 03 5211191 or 021 2989407

Tent, caravan and B&B accommodation available \$25-160 - incl light breakfast for all, full breakfast for B&B.

Towels, BBQ and vege garden available. Situated on SH63 on the way into St Arnaud (SOBO), 4km from the village.

Potential Hazards

- Vehicles on road or track on SH63 into St Arnaud - take care and walk as far off road as possible
- River crossings - Never cross flooded rivers
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Weather extremes - be aware of weather forecast and wait out bad weather if necessary
- Few water sources in parts

Requirements

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

- No firearms
- No bikes
- No taking plants

Amenities (Start)

- Car park at Hacket picnic area
- Toilets at Hacket picnic area
- Accommodation The Pear Orchard Lodge - (BBH) self catering lodge - max. 20 people - 569 Hill Street South, Hope - P: 03 544 5361 - E: stay@thepearorchard.co.nz - Rooms range from dorm to private rooms with ensuite - pickups from Hackett picnic area with prior arrangement

Amenities (On Route)

- No amenities
- Accommodation Huts



Waiau Pass Track

(Map 087, 088, 089, 090, 091, 092)

Northern Start	Start of Black Valley Walk (on SH3), St Arnaud
Southern End	Junction of Magdalen Valley Rd and SH7, Boyle Village
Distance	115.5km
Time	5-8 days
Tramping Standard	Tramping track

Route

St Arnaud is a pleasant tourist village on the shore of Lake Rotoiti and the gateway to the Nelson Lakes National Park. This popular park is serviced by a network of spacious but heavily used huts.

This long tramp connects Travers/Sabine Circuit with the St James Walkway. It provides an extraordinary summer tramping experience at the northern end of the Southern Alps. In winter and spring some sections are snowbound and avalanche prone.

At 1870m, Waiau Pass is Te Araroa's second-highest point. It's the most likely portion of the route to be blocked by snow and has some avalanche risk on its southern face. Before embarking, trampers should contact DOC at the Nelson Lakes Visitors Centre in St Arnaud (03 5211806) to enquire about the route's current condition.

The track ends at a car park and bus shelter on SH7 next to the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre.

St Arnaud to Lakehead Hut - 9km / 2-3hr

The track starts opposite St Arnaud's alpine store. This is on the Black Valley Walk, which heads through beech forest to DOC's Kerr Bay Campground on the shore of Lake Rotoiti.

Te Araroa then joins with the Travers/Sabine Circuit at the eastern end of Kerr Bay. From here the track follows the shoreline through the Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project area to Lakehead Hut, which is about 15min beyond the jetty near the lakehead. The recovery project was established in 1997 and is one of 6 maintained by DOC. Its goal is to restore native biodiversity to the beech forest. This is pursued through a trapping and poisoning programme designed to rid a 5000ha block of introduced pests including cats, possums, stoats, wasps, rats and mice. Kaka and reintroduced great spotted kiwi are 2 native species that have benefitted from the project.

Lakehead Hut to John Tait Hut - 12km / 5hrs

The well graded track continues from Lakehead Hut up the river flats through open and forested sections to John Tait Hut. Mt Travers comes into view around Hopeless Creek.

John Tait (1901-1982), a former president of the Nelson Tramping Club, led a volunteer effort to raise funds and to construct the original hut, which opened in 1951. This was 5yr before Nelson Lakes National Park was gazetted to become New Zealand's 8th national park. The original hut survived only 27yr before being decommissioned. A new hut was built on the current site, which is in a clearing with views of Mt Travers and Mt Cupola.

John Tait Hut to Upper Travers Hut - 6km / 3hr

Beyond John Tait Hut the track continues up the Travers Valley and has some steeper sections. The track passes marked

turn-offs to Cupola Hut and Travers Falls, which is a short and worthwhile side trip. Upper Travers Hut is situated on the edge of a large flat immediately below Mt Travers.

Upper Travers Hut to West Sabine Hut - 8km / 6-8hr

The track continues as a defined ground trail that follows snow poles up to Travers Saddle (1787m). This is a steady 450m climb.

From the Saddle the snow poles continue down the western face to the tree line. The track then takes walkers down to the East Branch Sabine River in the valley floor below. This is a long and in places steep descent and crosses a substantial avalanche risk zone. The alternative marked track should be taken during times of avalanche risk.

From the East Branch Sabine River the track climbs, sidles and then descends to the West Branch Sabine River. West Sabine Hut is a short distance upstream.

West Sabine Hut to Blue Lake Hut - 7km / 3hr

Te Araroa leaves the Travers/Sabine Circuit from West Sabine Hut and continues up towards Blue Lake and Waiau Pass. Trampers wishing to return to St Arnard can continue on the circuit.

From the hut follow the Blue Lake Track up the West Branch Sabine River to its source. The route is predominately forested and climbs steeply in places, in particularly during the short final climb to the hut and lake. Several short avalanche risk zones are crossed.

Blue Lake Hut is a popular side trip to the Travers/Sabine Circuit but trumper numbers do start to thin by this point.

Blue Lake Hut to Upper Waiau Forks - 7km / 6-8hr

The next section, over Waiau Pass, is the most demanding on this track. It is a fair weather route, suitable for experienced individuals or parties with experienced leadership. Good fitness and reasonable agility is a prerequisite for all. These criteria aside, Waiau Pass is a Te Araroa highlight. Allow a full day for the journey.

The track leaves Blue Lake Hut through forest and climbs onto Lake Constance's moraine dam. The lake itself is attractive and set within a dramatic alpine landscape. From the dam a rough and rocky track, marked by snow poles, leads up above bluffs on the west side of the lake and then descends very steeply in places to the lakehead. The track continues across the open upper valley floor and then climbs a steep scree slope in direct fashion to a high terrace. From here it is a 500m sidle and climb up to Waiau Pass.

The route from the pass continues through rocky and exposed country. Care should be taken where turning off the main ridge to follow the poled track route. It then drops steeply in places through bluffs to a terrace and then continues west before descending to the West Branch Waiau River in the valley floor. This area is an avalanche hazard zone when conditions are right.

From the Valley floor the track follows the river through thick sub-alpine scrub to the Upper Waiau Forks. There is an attractive informal campsite here within a stand of beech trees.

Upper Waiau Forks to Waiau Hut - 8km / 4hr

The track follows the Waiau River down and stays mostly on the true right. The valley opens up as you near Waiau Hut (6 bunks), new in 2017 thanks to a generous donor.

Waiau Hut to Anne Hut - 22km / 7-8hr

Travel down the valley is easy, through grassy flats, and on the Waiau River's true right. Two bush-clad terminal moraines add interest and provide good camping opportunities.

In time the Ada homestead comes into view. The homestead area remains in private hands. Trampers should avoid this area and continue to the Ada River. This is a straightforward crossing in low to normal flows. Beyond the river trampers link to the St James Walkway and continue down in a south west direction towards Anne Hut – a new 20 bunk hut.

Anne Hut to Boyle Flat Hut – 15km / 6hr

The track continues up the Anne River through a series of grassy clearings towards Anne Saddle and then descends into the Boyle River Valley.

The small 3 bunk Rokeby Hut is lower down the valley. Built in 1965 it is in fairly original condition. Beyond Rokeby Hut the track continues downstream on the true left to a swingbridge. Boyle Flat Hut is a short distance beyond down the true right side of the river.

Boyle Flat Hut to Boyle Village – 14.5km / 4hr

Re-cross the swingbridge and continue southwest on the walkway. The track sidles through a gorge and descends to a junction. Cross the river on a swingbridge here and continue on the track within the forest margin. In time the track crosses the

river on another swingbridge and continues down towards Boyle Village. The track emerges at a carpark next to the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre.

Other Information

St Arnaud

[Private Driver Hire](#) - P: 03 3910500 (Paul) - can transport to/from all locations Picton-Anakiwa-Pelorus Bridge-Nelson-St Arnaud, priced on enquiry.

Accommodation

[The Alpine Lodge](#) - Alpine Lodge St, Arnaud, Lake Rotoiti - P: 03 5211869) has accommodation a dorm, private room, and hotel rooms available. There is internet, laundry facilities, spa pool for hire, a restaurant/bar/café (with the famous Sunday BBQ \$31pp) and they are happy to store food parcels (\$5 if staying at the Lodge or \$10 if not) - send those to Alpine Lodge, 75 Main Rd, St Arnaud, RD2, Nelson 7072. (Clearly mark the parcel with "<your name>, Te Araroa Walker".

Accommodation at end of route

[Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre](#) - P: 03 315 7082 - E: info@boyle.org.nz

Includes: accommodation, showers, clothes wash, parcel storage, re-supplies, DOC hut tickets. Backpacker accommodation is often available at Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre. Hikers/trampers should enquire well in advance as to availability. The Boyle will also accept food packages to be stored for your arrival. You must contact the Centre before posting anything and they will give instructions for postage. Label with your name and expected arrival date. Allow plenty of time for the parcel to be delivered as we are rural delivery. Packages should be well sealed against mice. The Boyle is able to re-supply you for your trip with food, gas, batteries etc. Contact the Boyle for a list of items & food for sale and prices. You can also wash your clothes by arrangement.

Charges apply for the above - all payments must be in cash as there are no eftpos or credit card facilities. There is also no cell phone reception.

Transport

(From 16 January 2017) the [InterCity](#) bus will stop at St Arnaud, outside the Alpine Store - Northbound (to Blenheim/Picton) departs 2.41pm, Southbound (to Murchison/Hamner Springs/Christchurch) departs 9.30am - St Arnaud is an "on request" stop so needs to be pre-booked - www.intercity.co.nz

[East West Shuttles](#) - P: 03 789 6251- W: www.eastwestcoaches.co.nz Shuttles run between Westport and Christchurch daily except Saturday - Boyle to Christchurch about 10am, Boyle to Westport about 4pm

[Nelson Lake Shuttles](#) - P: 03 547 6896 or 0275 476896 - Can run a shuttle from Boyle Village to St Arnaud.

Hanmer Springs

General Information

[Hanmer Springs i-Site Visitor Centre](#) - 40 Amuri Ave - P: 0800 442 663 - W: www.i-site.org

Accommodation

[YHA Hanmer Springs](#) - 14 Amuri Avenue, Hanmer Springs P: 03 315 7472 E: hanmersprings@yha.co.nz

[Hanmer Backpackers](#) - 41 Conical Hill Rd, Hanmer Springs - P: 03 315 7196 - E: info@hanmerbackpackers.co.nz -

(Note: *Hanmer Backpackers is closed from 20th of July - 1st of September for a winter break*)

[Jack in the Green \(BBH\)](#) - 3 Devon St, Hamner Springs - P: 03 315 5111 - E: stay@jackinthegreen.co.nz

Other accommodation providers at most levels.

Resupply

[Hanmer Springs Four Square Supermarket](#) - Conical Hill Rd, Hamner Springs - P: 03 315 7190

[Hanmer Springs Foodway](#) - 45 Amuri Ave, Hamner Springs - P: 03 315 777

Reefton

General Information

[Reefton i-Site Visitor Centre](#) - 67-69 Broadway, Reefton - P: 03 732 8391 - E: reefton@i-site.org - W: www.i-site.org

Accommodation www.reeftonaccommodation.co.nz

[Reefton Old Bread Shop Backpacker](#) - 157 Buller Rd, Reefton - P: 03 732 8420 - E: breadshopbackpackers@gmail.com

[The Old Nurses Home Accommodation](#) - 104 Shiel St, Reefton - P: 03 732 8881 - E: reeftonretreat@hotmail.com

Numerous other options available.

Resupply

[SuperValue Supermarket](#) - 65 Broadway, Reefton - P: 03 732 8313

[4 Four Square Supermarket](#) - 47 Broadway, Reefton - P: 03 732 8888

Potential Hazards

- River crossings - Never cross flooded rivers Take care with Wairoa, Motueka, Waiiau and Ada Rivers, these rivers are unbridged
- Weather extremes - snow or heavy rain can occur at any time of the year
- Avalanche zone - Travers Saddle, track to Blue Lake, Waiiau Pass

Requirements

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

Amenities (Start)

- Full range of amenities (limited) in St Arnaud
- Car park
- Picnic area
- Toilets
- Shop
- Phone
- Accommodation

Amenities (On Route)

- No amenities
- Accommodation Huts