



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. \$10 discount when booking a bike rental, bike transfer and luggage transfer package. Prior booking is essential and reservations must be confirmed by 3pm the day before your intended cycle day. Ph: +64 3 4350578 or 0800 224475 (within NZ only) E: a2o@cyclejourneys.co.nz

www.cyclejourneys.co.nz/alps-2-ocean/packages

[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

[BeSpoke BikeTours](#) - Annie is happy to offer bike hire and Flexible shuttle service between Tekapo and Twizel. please feel to make contact with Annie on +64 21 151 3742. website - www.bespokebiketours.nz

Southbound; Richmond Trail - Tekapo - Twizel - by bike

I can provide a bike and luggage transfer from the bottom of the Roundhill Ski Road, or the exit point of the Richmond Trail at Boundary Stream, on Lilybank Road. Stay in Tekapo the night, or continue onto to Twizel the same day. Continuing onto Twizel makes the distance from the Richmond Trail end to Twizel, 70km.

Northbound; bike hire and luggage transfer: Twizel - Tekapo (northbound) as far as Richmond Trail, or Roundhill Ski Road (as above but in the opposite direction).

Transport to/from Trailheads; I provide shuttles anywhere between Twizel and Roundhill Road.

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