



22 October 2020

Canterbury trail notes

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Boyle to Arthur's Pass

Route

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

Māori 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.

Things to keep in mind;

- 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 to 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.
- 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 / 8 hours

Follow the Tūi 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 2 hours 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 mānuka 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 mānuka scrub and farmland to the beech forest's edge. Once inside the forest the track sidles above the Hope River to Hope Shelter, a basic hut (6 bunk) can be found which 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 Jacob's 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 / 6 hours

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 30 minutes to Hurunui Hut, a modern hut with sleeping platforms and elevated views over the valley below.

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

The track descends from the hut through mānuka forest to the open flats of the valley floor. About 2-thirds 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; “Amoebic meningitis is fatal and caused by water entering nasal passages. Do not immerse head”. As long as you ensure your head stays above the water, feel free to swim within the pool as it is 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 / 7 hours

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 30 minutes 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 1.5 hours 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 / 6-8 hours

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 halfway down the Taramakau (8km/3.5hr from Locke Stream Hut) and a 15-minute 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 Otehake 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 Otirā 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 the bush and involves a series of sharp climbs and descents along a steep face above the Otirā River - when the Otirā 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.

Mingha - Deception 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 / 8-9 hours

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 / 5 hours

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 Greyney (this is only a day shelter - no camping) on SH73. The track line rises to the road along the way. The closest alternatives are Klondyke Corner on the banks of the Waimakariri and Avalanche Creek in Arthur's Pass village, both \$8/person/night.

Conditions

Experience: Suitable for well-equipped people with previous backcountry tramping and river-crossing experience.

Best season: Summer, autumn and winter

Required maps:

- NZTopo50 Moana BU20
- Haupiri BU21
- Lake Sumner BU22
- Boyle BU23

Hazards: Flooded rivers, steep drop-offs

Safety: This route guide must be read in conjunction with [Tramping in Arthur's Pass National Park \(PDF, 762K\) \(opens in new window\)](#), and New Zealand's [Outdoor Safety Code \(external site\)](#).

Before setting out, check the latest track conditions and avalanche advisory with the

Before you go, tell someone about your plans and leave a date to raise the alarm if you haven't returned. To do this, use the [New Zealand Outdoors Intentions process \(external site\)](#) on the AdventureSmart website. It is endorsed by New Zealand's search and rescue agencies and provides three simple options to tell someone you trust the details about your trip.

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

General information

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

Getting there/away - To Christchurch and Greymouth

- [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
- [YMCA Arthur's Pass Outdoor Education Centre](#) - Dorm rooms and private rooms available (Oct - Feb) 83 West Coast Road, Arthur's Pass village P: 03 318 9249 E: apoec@ymcachch.org.nz
- [The Sanctuary](#) - Arthurs Pass - email Bill Trolove bill@oneoutdoors.com, Visit www.thesanctuary.co.nz for details. Offers Bounce Box at \$10 per box - please send to 11 Doncaster Street, Christchurch 8042
 - A great place to re-supply, and refresh the body and mind.
 - A place where the answer is always YES. A place of many surprises.
 - The Sanctuary is fully committed to the Te Araroa Trail community. You are our main market, and Linda and I do our best to cater to your needs.
 - As part of our commitment to the Trail, the route is maintained from Harper Pass to Morrisons Footbridge.
 - Notes:
 - I need your Bounce Boxes (You have 24/7 access).
 - Dormitory and tent sites available.
 - Hot showers / bath and laundry.
 - Village restaurant/ cafe / shop / twice daily bus service Christchurch - Greymouth.
 - World famous Avalanche Peak day walk.
 - Increasingly popular is the Goat Pass section SOBO as a day walk, without packs. (I bus walkers to Morrisons Footbridge early morning (guests free)).

Resupply + Bounce Box

- [Arthurs Pass Alpine Store and Tearooms](#) - P: 03 318 9235 - fuel also available
- [Bealey Hotel](#) - The Bealey Hotel, 12858 West Coast Road, Bealey - \$10 per box
- [YMCA](#) - can store store parcels - send these to YMCA Arthur's Pass, PO BOX 51007, Arthurs Pass 7654 (Clearly mark the parcel with "your name" Te Araroa Walker and an estimated arrival date. Please note parcels will be available for pick up 9am-5pm only and will not be available on public holidays. Cost is \$10

- [The Sanctuary](#) - Arthurs Pass - email Bill Trolove bill@oneoutdoors.com, Visit www.thesanctuary.co.nz for details. Offers Bounce Box at \$10 per box - please send to 11 Doncaster Street, Christchurch 8042
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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 Kāinga-Rā 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 Māwhera Quay - P: 03 769 9210

Arthur's Pass to Rākaia River

Route

Klondyke Track - 9km / 2-3 hours

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 / 7-8 hours

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 the 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 people) 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 / 5-6 hours

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. This 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 1/3 of the way down to the Pinnacles. It then enters Glenthorne Station (we ask that respect is given when on this station and please stick to the route - no short cuts. If you do, you will be trespassed by the landowners) 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, 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 signposted on the left-hand side of this road. Water is available from a tap in the campsite and there is a modern long-drop 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 Rākaia 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 Rākaia.

From Harper Village, travel 22km along Harper Road past Lake Selfe, Lake Evelyn and over the Ryton River Road Bridge to the Homestead Road junction.

- Note: 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 / 1¼ hours

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

- Note: Walkers are asked to keep strictly to the marked route and to respect the property rights of the adjoining landowners. 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 Road 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 farmland 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 lakeshore. 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 Road. 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 Road at the stile next to the farm gate. This is about 1.3km below the intersection with Algidus Road.

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

Arboretum Track - 900m / 20 minutes

The track starts on Coleridge Intake Road on the Rākaia River side of the Algidus Road intersection and on Trust Power owned land. This is on the right as Coleridge-Intake Road makes its first hairpin turn to the left. Look out for markers here and a track that has

been cut through the broom. This formed track quickly opens up and for a few metres follows the pipes down towards the power station before turning left to enter a 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 signposted specimen trees along the way. The track end is through the memorial gate marking the exit from the Arboretum to Hummocks Road.

The Arboretum comprises a site of approximately 2 hectares 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](#) is not operating at this time. Service information has been removed from these notes 25 Jan 2020

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

Across the second bridge is Rākaia Gorge Campground.

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

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

Trail End Transport

- Wayne at alps2ocean offers shuttles ,and assistance around both major rivers and from other locations. Pre-booking recommended at Arthurs pass before heading south. freephone 0800425772 or info@alps2ocean.co.nz (more info like times and pickup points are on my webpage)

Accommodation en route

- [The Bealey Hotel](#) - SH 73 12858 West Coast Rd, Arthur's Pass - P: 03 318 9277 - which is 12km east of Arthur's Pass and 150km 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. The team are also

willing to receive bounce boxes for \$10. They also offer a pick up service for \$10 you can email Matty on stay@thebealeyhotel.com check them out on [Website Here](#)

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

Note: There is no camping near Lake Coleridge Village. The only official campgrounds in the Lake Coleridge area are at Harper Village (free) and Rākaia 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.

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 street, Methven](#) - P: 03 3028999 – E snowdenn@xtra.co.nz or find us on Facebook – special Te Araroa rate \$25 in dorm rooms 10% discount off private rooms. www.snowdennlodge.co.nz. We can hold resupply boxes \$5.00 per box. Call or email us to arrange.

Resupply

- [Topnotch Four Square Supermarket](#) - 33/37 McMillian St, Methven - P: 03 302 8114
- [Supervalu Supermarket](#) - The Mall, Methven P: 03 302 8050

Rākaia River Hazard Zone

The Rākaia is a large braided river with an unsettled shingle bed. Even in low flows, it is not possible to safely cross the river on foot anywhere near Te Araroa's trailhead on the north bank. As a result, Te Araroa Trust has declared the Rākaia 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 Rākaia make natural beginning or endpoints 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. Don't risk a foot crossing. Instead, go around the road in a vehicle. Doing so will not compromise the integrity of a through-tramp.

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

On the north bank of the Rākaia, [Lake Coleridge Lodge](#) is on Hummocks Road, 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 Rākaia River can be booked for an additional charge. For more information visit their website - www.lakecoleridgelodge.co.nz/activities/te-araroa-national-walkway.

- Note: There is no camping near Lake Coleridge Village. The only official campgrounds in the Lake Coleridge area are at Harper Village (free) and Rākaia 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.

Conditions

Do not attempt to cross the Rākaia on foot.

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

- [Rākaia Gorge Society Camping Ground](#) - 6686 Arundel Rākaia 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 street, Methven – P: 03 3028999 – E snowdenn@xtra.co.nz or find us on Facebook. www.snowdennlodge.co.nz. Special Te Araroa rate \$25 in dorm rooms 10% discount off private rooms. Bookings are Essential. Please phone or email ahead from Rangitata River if N/B or Arthurs Pass if S/B. Please note if you don't have a booking you may have to wait an hour to check in! We can hold resupply boxes \$5.00 per box. Call or email us to arrange.

Trail Head Support

Wayne at alps2ocean offers shuttles and assistance around both major rivers and from other locations. Pre-booking recommended at Arthurs pass before heading south. Freephone 0800425772 or info@alps2ocean.co.nz (more info like times and pickup points are on my webpage)

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

Rākaia River to Rangitata River

Route

This Te Araroa section, from the Rākaia 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 / 4-5 hours

From the DOC sign notifying “Access to North Branch Ashburton Stream” the track follows markers through farmland up the true right side of Glenrock Stream - lookout 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 Kōwhai 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 safe to drink. 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 / 6-8 hours

- Note: 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 sidle through tussock to the next ridge. Marker poles become clear again along the way.

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

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 Road. Once on the road, it is a few 100m to the right around the lakeshore to Lake Heron Campground. Or turn left for 16.3km to Ashburton Gorge Road 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 Road (via Manuka Hut) - 14km / 3-4 hours

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

- Note: The next reliable water source on Te Araroa beyond Mānuka Hut is on the Clearwater Track (17.3km ahead).

Beyond the Mānuka 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 bush 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 unformed road that divides into Castle Ridge Station. Trampers should take care to follow the markers to avoid straying onto private property.

Its 5km from Mānuka Hut to the Lake Emily carpark and then another 3.2km on the Castle Ridge paper road to Hakatere Heron Road. 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 trailhead. This is on the right-hand side of the road just beyond Buicks Bridge.

Clearwater Track - 21km / 4-6 hours

- Note: There are no huts en route but camping is permitted at any point down this track.

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 landscapes.

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 downhill to the car park and trailhead.

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

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 Mānuka Hut

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.
- [Mānuka 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.

Rangitata River Hazard Zone

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 endpoints 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 compromise 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](#) offers 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 offers 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 won't be suitable for groups of walkers.

To arrange, speak to The Greenman at Peel Forest - P: 03 6963567
or www.thegreenmanpeelforest.co.nz

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.

Conditions

River crossings - Never cross flooded rivers. Do not attempt to cross the Rangitata without gaining plenty of advice and checking river flow levels.

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

- [Rāwhiti House & Backpackers \(BBH\)](#) - 27 Hewlings St, Geraldine - P: 03 693 8252 M: 027 693 8252 - W: www.rawhitibackpackers.com
- [Geraldine Top 10 Holiday Park](#) - 39 Hislop St, Geraldine - P: 03 693 8147 - E: info@geraldinetop10.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)

Two Thumb Track

Route

The Two Thumb Track is a fine high country trail that provides a challenging traverse through the Te Kāhui 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.

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 prehistoric 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 Road. 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 / 4 hours

- Note: 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 / 5 hours

From Crooked Spur Hut the track goes west around Crooked Spur and climbs steadily for 1.5hrs 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 / 2 hours

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 / 6 hours

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 1468m 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 \$10 per person 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 / 5 hours

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.

- Note: 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.

Potential hazards

- Vehicles on road or track Lilybank Road
- 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

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 trial, 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. we now also offer transport between Ashburton Lakes area and Mesopotamia trail-head. Contact in advance hedeans@peelforestfarmstay.com Contact Steve and Jenny Deans - P: 03 6963509 or 027 3050400/027 7467267
- [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: tailor-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

Bounce Box

- Annie from BeSpoke Cycles is keen to receive and hold your bounce boxes - BeSpoke Bike Tours |16 Murray Place Tekapo | +64 (0) 21 151 3742

Tekapo to Lake Ōhau

Route

From Pioneer Dr, continue west 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.
- There is no camping allowed along the Tekapo Canal route - so from Lake Tekapo Village, your aim should 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 do not 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 south 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 Road for 28km (crossing SH8 after 12km, please take care) to the intersection of Tekapo Canal Road and Hayman Road, adjacent to Lake Pūkaki.

Head south on Hayman Road, 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 Road leads onto SH8, toilets and drinking water are available at the (now closed) Lake Pūkaki Visitor Information Centre about 1km further along.

- Note: Water must be treated if picked up en route, carry plenty of drinking water if you cannot treat water.

It is 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 Pūkaki 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 Ōhau Track

This track traces the lower sections of the Mackenzie Basin power scheme to Lake Ōhau and then follows the lakeshore. The track also skirts Lake Ruataniwha.

Lake Ruataniwha is man-made 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 Road 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 spillway and then the bridge over the Ōhau B canal.

Once across the canal bridge (i.e. before the salmon farm and Ōhau 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 Ōhau 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 Ōhau River to the Weir at Lake Ōhau. From the Weir, the Trail connects again with the Alps 2 Ocean Cycleway, skirting around the side of Lake Ōhau for 9km before joining back onto Lake Ōhau Road

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 Ōhau around to Glen Mary Ski Club.

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

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 - please treat water before drinking

Cycle Options

- As a change of pace you may wish to check out the [Official Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail website](#) for a lists Official Partners to the Cycle Trail including transport, bike hire and accommodation options. You can also call us on 0800 266 5226 or drop us an email at info@alps2ocean.com. The Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail is free to use by both cyclists and walkers and the two trails (the Te Araroa and the Alps 2 ocean Cycle Trail) follow the same route in parts over this section. Since our paths cross, we would be happy to assist you on your Te Araroa journey or suggest some interesting side trips and sights along the way.
- [Alps 2 Ocean](#) offer cycle hire between Tekapo and Twizel/Lake Ōhau, 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 Ōhau. \$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
- Check out this link for all TA related info - www.cyclejourneys.co.nz/alps-2-ocean/packages/day-rides/#Te-Araroa
- [Lakeland Explorer](#) also offer cycle hire/luggage transfer between Tekapo and Twizel/Lake Ōhau. 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 Ōhau 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 Ōhau

Accommodation

- There is a DOC campsite on the north shoreline of Lake Middleton, adjacent to Lake Ōhau and immediately before the small Lake Ōhau settlement. Flush toilets and water supply available. No booking required however an \$8pp charge payable onsite.
- Lake Ōhau Lodge - 2295 Lake Ōhau, 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 Ōhau Rd.

Omārama

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

- Omārama Top 10 Holiday Park - Located at the junction of Chain Highway (Route 83) and Omārama Ave (Highway 8), Omārama - P:0800 662 726 - W: www.omaramatop10.co.nz/
- Omārama Hotel - Main Road, Omārama - P: 03 438 9713 - E: rmkelman@xtra.co.nz - older pub style accommodation

- Heritage Gateway Hotel - State Highway 8, Omārama - P: 0800 809 805 - E: heritagegateway@extra.co.nz - W: www.heritagegateway.co.nz/Heritage-Gateway-Hotel/Home.aspx

Resupply

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

East Ahuriri Track

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

Route

The track climbs 800m from Lake Ōhau over the Ōhau 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 4WD drive track next to Glen Mary Ski Club and climbs to join with the marked A20 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 Road 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 Road.

Potential hazards

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

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 Road to the trailhead.

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