



Twizel to Tekapo

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

Southern Start	Intersection of Ruataniwha Road and State Highway 8
Northern End	Junction of Pioneer Drive and State Highway 8, Lake Tekapo Village
Distance	68km
Time	2 days
Track Standard	Easy tramping track

Hazards

Be aware of cars on road and/or cyclists on shared tracks

Track exposed to sun, wind or cold

Few water sources

Route

Twizel to Tekapo – 68km

Beginning from the intersection of State Highway 8 and Ruataniwha Road continue northeast for about 1km. Turn right onto the Pukaki Flats Track just after a small roadside rest area. This track takes you across a large flat area via the A20 Cycle track. Continue on the cycle track to where it meets the highway again opposite Lake Pukaki. At the lake cross the highway, turn right and continue the few hundred meters to the Pines Camping Area (longdrop toilet and untreated water tap).

From the Pines Campground, it is 42km to Lake Tekapo Village and you'll need to make this in a day as there is no camping allowed along Tekapo Canal. While long, it is largely flat the entire way so a steady pace will get you there.

Beyond the camping area Te Araroa continues to follow the lakeshore. The route is initially on a formed path beside the highway (7km) then on and off Hayman Rd. 5km along Hayman Rd, take a right onto Tekapo Canal Rd, walking uphill to the end of the canal. Keep to the south/true left side of the canal. There are toilets 3km along, then a further 1km along where vehicle access is blocked. This is the last toilet for 21km.

Walk alongside the canal – taking extreme care crossing SH8 (approx. 14km from the head of the canal) and continue along the canal. When nearing the Tekapo Power Station, you'll see a small bridge on your left – the route doesn't cross the bridge however there's a toilet across it if needed. Otherwise continue as you are toward the power station, crossing the footbridge across the canal inlet. Here you walk onto the end of Andrew Don Drive. Follow that uphill and connect onto Aorangi Crescent which leads down into Lake Tekapo Village – shops, restaurants and accommodation all within reach from where you come out onto SH8.

Water availability: While walking beside Lake Pukaki there are some side streams and the lake itself as well as a water tap at the Pines Camping Area. At the southern end of Lake Pukaki there are toilets, an information centre and shop. Clean drinking water is available from the shop. Don't attempt to collect water from the Tekapo Canal – stay up on the trail for your safety.



Two Thumb Track

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

Southern Start	Junction of Pioneer Drive and State Highway 8, Lake Tekapo Village
Northern End	Bush Stream Carpark, Rangitata Gorge Road
Distance	75.5km
Time	3 days
Track Standard	Tramping track

Hazards

Vehicles on Lilybank Rd

Never cross flooded rivers

Track exposed to sun, wind or cold – only take ridge route down from Stag Saddle in favourable conditions

Weather extremes

Route

Tekapo to Camp Stream Hut – 34km / 11hr

Cross the footbridge from Tekapo township to the Church of the Good Shepherd. Continue along the lake shore for a few hundred metres, then turn left into Lilybank Drive.

NB: There are various trails either side of Lilybank Drive that provide alternative routes. You may choose to take one of these and there are information panels that describe the options, however, the most direct route is via the road and ultimately, all trails lead back to the road.

13km along Lilybank Drive, and about 100m past a one-way bridge, there is a sign on the right indicating the start of the Richmond Trail. Follow this track for 5km parallel to the true right of Boundary Stream before turning north and heading along the base of the Richmond Range. A 7km walk over easy terrain will bring you to the Roundhill Skifield road. On the other side of the road the trail begins to veer east before descending to Coal River. Follow the river for about 2km and cross above the confluence with Camp Stream. Then follow Camp Stream for around 1.5km to where it branches. Camp Stream Hut is located a short distance uphill on the northern side of this junction. Note that Camp Stream Hut is owned by a private trust and made available to Te Araroa walkers for \$10pp (per night) – please do the right thing and leave your \$10 in the honesty tin in the hut.

NB: Wallabies are present in this area.

Camp Stream Hut – 6 bunks, fireplace

Water availability: Some small side streams on Lilybank Drive as well as the lake. No sources between leaving the road and reaching Coal River.



Camp Stream Hut to Royal Hut – 16km / 4hr

Continue north up the Camp Stream valley via a 4wd track to a ford crossing the river. Beyond this point there are two options; a sign indicates the turnoff for a sparsely marked route that follows the valley up to Stag Saddle. An alternative option, and the recommended one if the weather is clear, is to continue along the 4wd track and find a suitable looking spot to ascend to the ridge that runs parallel to Camp Stream. The route is initially unformed but once the well-defined main ridge is reached the way is clearer. A short traverse across rocky ground will take you to Stag Saddle, which at 1925m is the highest point on Te Araroa.

(Note – the ridge option is not recommended in foul weather)

From the saddle the track drops steeply down to Bush Stream. Cross the stream to reach the hut.

Royal Hut – 8 bunks, fireplace

Water availability: After Camp Stream there are no sources until after Stag Saddle. Beyond the saddle there are numerous sources.

Royal Hut to Stone Hut – 6km / 2.5hr

A track follows Bush Stream to Stone hut. Multiple river crossings required but they should be straightforward in normal conditions.

Stone Hut – 8 bunks, fireplace

Water availability: Numerous sources.

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

A short way from the hut the track crosses Bush Stream via an old stock bridge. From this point the trail leaves Bush Stream and heads up into a valley running parallel with and to the west of Bush Stream. Continue up this valley crossing first Sweeps Stream and then Packhorse Creek with a minor climb in between. Continue up the valley to where the track veers to the right. Ascend a steep, scree-covered slope to an unnamed saddle. From the saddle a much more clearly defined track covers the last couple of kilometres to Crooked Spur hut.

Crooked Spur Hut – 8 bunks, fireplace

Water availability: Sweeps and Packhorse Streams are the only sources.



Crooked Spur Hut to Bush Stream Carpark – 10km / 4hr

Descend the Crooked Spur to once again meet Bush Stream and the first of many river crossings for the day. Once across, the track leaves the river again and after a steep climb descends back to the river. From here the track follows the river the majority of the way to the carpark. There are numerous crossings and few markers.

As you approach the road bridge the track exits the riverbed on the right side. A marked trail leads from this point to the carpark.

Bush Stream Carpark – Toilets, no camping allowed

Water availability: Numerous sources.



Rangitata River to Rakaia River

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

Southern Start	Potts River Bridge Carpark
Northern End	Glenrock Stream, Double Hill Run Road
Distance	70km
Time	2.5-3 days
Track Standard	Tramping track

Hazards

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

Route

Potts River Bridge Carpark to Double Hut – 37km / 9-11hrs

Begin by heading up the true left of Potts River a short distance to a small gully. The track climbs the gully and crosses a small stream before running parallel to Potts River for about 1km and then heading in a easterly direction toward Lake Clearwater. At the lake the trail veers northeast and crosses a small stream before climbing a short way to a saddle at the western end of Mount Guy. From this point an old farm track leads to a fence 5km distant and then across a large open area for another 5km to bring you to a carpark beside Hakatere Heron Road. Turn left along Hakatere Heron Road and continue for 4.5km to a sign posted farm track off to the right. This farm track leads to Lake Emily (3.5km) then a walking track heads over the base of Emily Hill. From this point it is an easy walk over flat terrain to either Manuka Hut (2km) or Double Hut (7.5km), with a straightforward crossing of the Swin River South Branch required for the latter. Both huts are accessed via a sidetrack leading of the main track.

Double Hut – 6 bunks, fireplace

Water availability: Water is scarce on this section. This is a very dry area and although some small streams may be present they will likely be dry most of the year. The main sources are Potts River, Lake Clearwater and South Branch Ashburton River at bridge just beyond Hakatere Heron Road carpark.



Double Hut to Comyns Hut – 16.5km / 6-8hrs

From Double Hut junction head north, cross Swin River North Branch and then begin the climb up Mellish Stream to Mellish Saddle. The terrain becomes more challenging from this point as the track crosses scree and tussock covered slopes on its way up to Clent Hills Saddle (1480m). Descend from the saddle to Round Hill Creek. The track follows beside and through this river and therefore should be attempted only when conditions allow safe passage. Round Hill Creek leads into North Branch Ashburton River. The river section totals around 7km and ends with a short track leading the last hundred metres from the river up to Comyns Hut.

Comyns Hut – 8 bunks, fireplace

Water availability: Numerous sources.

Comyns Hut to Glenrock Stream/Double Hill Run Road – 16km / 4-5hr

From this point the track passes through what was, until recently, farmland. You may see a few remaining (now wild) sheep.

From the hut the track follows Turtons Stream, crossing it multiple times. After 7km you will reach A-Frame Hut (3 bunks). The track continues on a farm track and soon begins to climb towards Turtons Saddle (1120m). From the saddle it is a steep descent to the Hakatere Conservation Park boundary. Beyond this point access is by way of a public easement through Glenariffe Station. A well-marked track leads down to the trailhead at Double Hill Run Road.

Water availability: No reliable sources past A-Frame Hut.



Rakaia River to Arthurs Pass

(Map 101, 100, 99, 98)

Southern Start	Lake Coleridge Power Station, Hummocks Road, Lake Coleridge Village
Northern End	Greyneys Shelter, State Highway 73
Distance	72km
Time	2.5-3 days
Track Standard	Tramping track

Hazards

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

Route

Lake Coleridge Village to Harper Village Campsite - 29km

From the village continue up Hummocks Rd then turn left into Coleridge Intake Rd. Continue 50m to the start of the Arboretum Track. The Arboretum Track takes walkers uphill adjacent to the power station pipelines and through this unique collection of conifers to meet up again with Coleridge Intake Road. Continue on this road for about 3km to the start of the Lake Hill Track, which heads off to the left of Coleridge Intake Road through pasture and down to the shores of Lake Coleridge. At the lake, head east and continue to Homestead Road. Turn left here and continue past Lake Coleridge Station to Harper Road. Turn left again and continue on Harper Road for 21km to Harper Village. Just past the village cross the bridge over the Harper River Diversion/Canal, turn left and continue about 300m to the Harper Village Campsite.

Harper Village Campsite – Camping free for one night only, basic toilet.

NB: Please note the lack of facilities on this section. There are no shops or budget accommodation in either Lake Coleridge Village or Harper Village, except for the Harper Village Campsite. Walkers must plan ahead, and be able to get from Lake Coleridge to Harper Village Campsite in a day. While it is long, it is largely flat and a steady pace will achieve this.

Water availability: Some small streams and a number of lakes along the way. All water should be treated.



Harper Village Campsite to Hamilton Hut – 18.5km / 5-6hr

From the campsite head back to the bridge over the Harper River Diversion but stay on the true right of the Harper River. A few hundred meters further on you will cross another bridge. Beyond this bridge a short distance you will come to a locked gate. Continue past this gate on a farm track that maintains a path parallel to the Harper River. Further along a sign directs walkers to the right along a fenceline. Beyond the fenced area the track stays in the riverbed. Beyond this point walkers should determine the best route as they proceed. A rough 4wd track is present but crosses the river many times. For much of the way it is possible to remain on the true left of the Harper River. It is on this side that a more defined track becomes obvious for the last few kilometres to a junction at a swingbridge. Hamilton Hut is a 20-minute walk on a sidetrack from this junction.

Hamilton Hut – 20 bunks, fireplace

Water availability: Numerous sources.

Hamilton Hut to Greyneys Shelter – 24.5km / 9-10hr

Return to the track junction and cross the Harper River via the swingbridge. From here the track continues upstream on the true right of the Harper River for 4km to West Harper Hut (5 bunks).

From West Harper Hut the track bypasses a small gorge before returning to the river. Continue to a crossing at the confluence of Long Creek and Harper River. Follow markers 500m up the Harper River to a track on the true left that climbs up to Lagoon Saddle Hut (2 bunks).

Beyond Lagoon Saddle Hut the track climbs up through beech forest and tussock above the tarns on Lagoon Saddle (669m) before reaching a stunning viewpoint on the northern face of Mount Bruce. Descend through tussock and then mixed beech and pine forest to Bealey Hut (6 bunks).

From Bealey Hut continue through the forest for 5 minutes to Cora Lynn Carpark. A farm road leads down to the highway from here. Walk the road verge 3.5km to the Bealey Hotel. Make your way down to the Waimakariri River from the hotel then cross above the confluence to the true right of the Bealey River. Continue across the riverbed to Klondyke Corner. From this point a track leads through beech forest and then beside the river to a crossing of the railway tracks. A gravel road leads from this point to once again meet up with the highway near Greyneys Shelter.

Greyneys Shelter – Campsites, toilet, cooking shelter

Water availability: Numerous sources.



Arthurs Pass to Boyle Village

(Map 98, 97, 96, 95, 94, 93, 92)

Southern Start	Greyneys Shelter, State Highway 73
Northern End	St. James Carpark, Boyle Village
Distance	117.5km
Time	6-8 days
Track Standard	Tramping track

Hazards

Never cross flooded rivers
Track exposed to sun, wind or cold

Route

Greyneys Shelter to Goat Pass Hut – 10km / 5hr

From Greyneys campsite, cross to the opposite side of the highway and follow beside the Bealey River. Cross the Bealey River above the confluence with the Mingha River and continue up the Mingha riverbed, crossing as necessary. The river narrows to a gorge and the track enters the forest just past a side creek on the true right. From here the track climbs high above the Mingha River to Dudley Knob before descending back down toward the river and the Mingha Bivouac (2 bunks).

Beyond the bivouac a marked trail continues to a crossing of the Mingha and then begins to ascend through tussock to Goat Pass (1050m). Goat Pass Hut is located just below the pass on the northern side.

Goat Pass Hut – 20 bunks

Water availability: Numerous sources.

Goat Pass Hut to Morrison Footbridge – 14km / 8-9 hr

Beyond Goat Pass Hut the track follows the Deception River. The name of this river comes from the deceptive amount of water it carries in flood. Walkers should not attempt this section in poor weather. The most challenging section is between Goat Pass Hut and the Upper Deception Hut (6 bunks) with numerous large boulders that will require some scrambling. The track is largely unmarked but mostly stays in the riverbed.

As the river descends the terrain flattens and becomes more open. The Morrison footbridge is located on the Deception's true right and north of the confluence with the Otira River.

If necessary, walkers can cross to SH73 via the footbridge.

Water availability: Numerous sources.



Morrison Footbridge to Locke Stream Hut – 23km / 6-8hr

From the footbridge the track follows beside the true right of the Otira River to its confluence with the Taramakau River. This track is a challenging route as it is poorly formed. If the weather allows, walkers may prefer to travel via the Otira riverbed.

Upon reaching the Taramakau River walkers should head east along the true left via a farm track. Continue 2km to the turnoff to Lake Kaurapataka. Beyond this point travel is on the riverbed and crossings may be required. After around 4km cross the Otehake River then over to the true right of the Taramakau. Another 2.5km of easier travel will bring you to the Kiwi Hut junction. Kiwi Hut (8 bunks) is located 15 minutes walk from the junction.

From the Kiwi Hut junction, continue up the true right of the Taramakau River. Travel is often in the riverbed and requires many crossings. The final crossing is at Locke Stream, where a short forest track leads to the hut.

Locke Stream Hut – 18 bunks, fireplace

Water availability: Numerous sources.

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

The track initially alternates through forest and riverbank terrain for about 4km to a swingbridge over the Taramakau. From here the track climbs to Harper Pass (962m). On the other side descend to the headwaters of the Hurunui River. One crossing is required shortly before reaching the Harper Pass Bivouac (2 bunks).

Beyond the bivouac travel becomes easier as the track continues on the true right of the Hurunui River through stunning beech forest to Camerons Hut (4 bunks) situated in an open grass area.

From Camerons Hut the easy travel continues through to Hurunui No. 3 Hut, with a three-wire bridge over Cameron Stream situated around the halfway point.

Hurunui No. 3 Hut – 16 bunks, fireplace

Water availability: Numerous sources.

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

This section is again mostly flat as it continues down the Hurunui valley. About 5km from the hut a track leads off to the right to a small hot spring (3-5 people max.). The turnoff is well signposted and the hot springs are well worth a visit. From the springs it is about 1.5 hrs to Hurunui hut.

Hurunui Hut – 15 bunks, fireplace

Water availability: Numerous sources.



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

The track enters forest next to the hut and descends to a swingbridge crossing of the Hurunui River. A lovely walk across flat and open pasture takes you to the other side of the valley where the track enters the forest again before emerging near the shore of Lake Sumner. After another small grass area the track re-enters the forest and follows the lake shore to a second swingbridge over Three Mile Creek. From here the track begins to climb up towards Kiwi Saddle (677m) and a nearby lookout. Beyond the saddle the track descends through forest then crosses undulating grasslands to Hope-Kiwi Lodge.

Hope-Kiwi Lodge – 20 bunks, fireplace

Water availability: Numerous sources.

Hope-Kiwi Lodge to Boyle Village – 26.5km / 8hr

Beyond the hut a track over mixed terrain heads north 1.5km to a swingbridge over the Hope River. From here continue on the true right through mixed beech forest and open river terraces 4km to Hope Halfway Hut (6 bunks). Beyond this point the track begins a slow climb onto river terraces high above the river. After about 6km the track enters mixed farmland. After another 1.5km there is a sidetrack for those wishing to exit at Windy Point for resupply at Hanmer. A swingbridge crosses the Boyle River to a gravel road leading to the Windy Point Carpark.

For those continuing to Boyle Village stay on the Boyle River's true right and follow the marked track to the confluence of the Doubtful and Boyle Rivers. Cross the Doubtful River and continue on the Boyle River true right to a marked crossing. A track leads from the river to the highway. Turn left here and follow the road verge for about 1km to Magdalen Road on the right. Boyle Village and the St. James Carpark is about 100m up the road.

Water availability: Numerous sources.