

Your safety is your responsibility

Make well-informed decisions for yourself and those in your party. Choose a trip that suits your skills, fitness level, knowledge, and experience in New Zealand conditions.

Plan to survive

- Do not travel alone – it's safer in a group.
- Leave your intentions – let someone know before you go
- Check the latest weather and track conditions – things change quickly
- Equip yourself well – prepare for the worst with enough food and the right clothing

Avalanches are a seasonal risk on many tracks

Some high-level tracks and routes in Arthur's Pass National Park may be exposed to avalanche risk in winter and spring. Some passes have year-round snow and ice.

Know how to stay safe from avalanches. Refer to the *Avalanche Safety** brochure (Mountain Safety Council) or better still, attend one of the Council's Avalanche Awareness programmes.

Let someone know before you go

It is important to tell someone where you are going before you start your tramping trip. Leave details of your trip with a responsible person, or fill in an Intentions Card at the Arthur's Pass DOC Visitor Centre.

The card is a back-up safety measure. It will help trace you if injured, stranded or delayed. For longer tramps or if you are travelling by your self it is advisable to carry a personal locator beacon [PLB].

Important:

- Don't forget to sign out or contact DOC (phone (03) 318 9211) after you complete your tramp. If you don't sign out, DOC and the police may initiate a search for you. Searches are time-consuming and costly for the authorities.

Backcountry huts

Hut tickets may be purchased at Arthur's Pass Visitor Centre

Serviced - 2 tickets per person/night

Standard - 1 ticket per person/night

Basic - Free



Arthur's Pass tramping

There is a huge variety of tramps in Arthur's Pass National Park that will let you experience the unique diversity the park has to offer.

This brochure will assist you in choosing a tramp that is within your level of experience and ability. It is also designed to help you plan for the trip ahead.

Remember, a successful and enjoyable trip requires good preparation and the appropriate level of experience and fitness. In all seasons of the year you should ensure that you are well-equipped with food and clothing and are prepared for delays and unexpected happenings.

DOC HOTline
0800 362 468
Report any safety hazards or conservation emergencies
For fire and search and rescue call 111

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Tramping in Arthur's Pass National Park



ARTHUR'S PASS NATIONAL PARK



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Be aware of these factors when tramping in Arthur's Pass National Park

Weather in Arthur's Pass National Park changes quickly

Sharp falls in temperature, heavy rain and strong wind can occur at any time of year. Always be prepared to change your plans. In bad weather you risk exposure if above the bushline, and drowning if crossing flooded rivers.

Remember

Obtain a weather forecast from the Arthur's Pass DOC Visitor Centre (phone (03) 318 9211) before setting out.

Be prepared for the worst.

Carry warm clothing and waterproofs.

Do not go above the bushline in bad weather.

Rivers can rise very quickly during rain.

Find out more about tramping in New Zealand from –

Mountain Safety Council publish a number of useful safety brochures that you should read before you go. These are titled *Going Bush*, *Survival*, *Hypothermia* and *Avalanche Safety*. Available at DOC visitor centres or by visiting www.mountainsafety.org.nz

Additional safety brochures to read:

Planning a Trip In the Backcountry?
Department of Conservation

Play it safe in New Zealand
Lonely Planet and Tourism New Zealand



You need to know where and how to cross rivers safely

Unlike Great Walks and other easy tramps in New Zealand many tracks and routes in Arthur's Pass do not have bridges. The chart overleaf tells you which tracks have unbridged river crossings. Rivers and major side streams can flood and become dangerous during and after rain. A number of trampers have drowned in the park.

Rivers and side streams also tend to be higher during spring, when snow is melting.

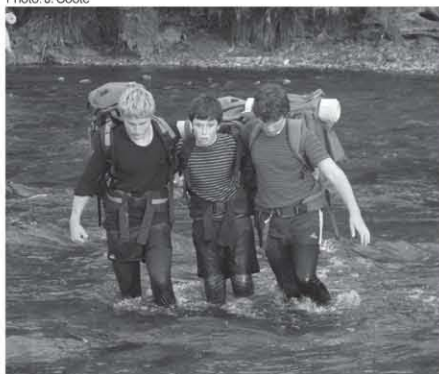
Remember

Read your route guide and map carefully to see if and where major crossings are. Choose all crossing places carefully. Do not take risks. Wait until a flooded river goes down before attempting to cross.

Find out more about how to cross rivers before setting out by –

attending a river-crossing course run by the Mountain Safety Council or reading *When we Respect them Rivers are Fun* Water Safety New Zealand

Photo: J. Coote



You will need route-finding skills

Many of the tramps in Arthur's Pass National Park require route finding. These tracks and routes are **not always continuously marked**, particularly in wide river beds and above the bushline. Some routes above the bushline are not marked at all.

Tracks and routes



Tramping tracks are mostly unformed but have track direction markers, poles or cairns

Look out for

Orange track markers

Poles

Cairns

Worn trails



Routes are unformed suitable for experienced trampers only.

Remember

Always take a topographic map and compass. Do not depend solely on GPS. It will not work in the thick bush or confined places.

If visibility is poor, do not go above the bushline unless you have good navigation skills.

If you are lost or injured

Stay where you are. Find or construct a shelter if possible. Leave signs of your presence and conserve energy.

