



NEW ZEALAND  
environmental  
CARE CODE

- Protect plants and animals
- Remove rubbish
- Bury toilet waste
- Keep streams and lakes clean
- Help stop the spread of weeds and disease
- Keep to the track
- Consider others
- Respect our cultural heritage
- Enjoy your visit
- Toitu te whenua  
(Leave the land undisturbed)

# Lake Sumner and Lewis Pass



NORTH CANTERBURY



## Lake Sumner Forest Park

Lake Sumner Forest Park in North Canterbury is a trampers' paradise and a safe haven for endangered species. Remote high-country lakes, beech-clad mountains, wide river valleys and hot springs make up a picturesque landscape. Lake Sumner Forest Park lies 100 km northwest of Christchurch between Lewis Pass and Arthur's Pass National Park.

This brochure also includes some walks in the neighbouring Lewis Pass National Reserve and St James Walkway

## Lewis Pass National Reserve

The Lewis Pass National Reserve is an area of hill and mountain slopes along the Lewis River, stretching up to Lewis Pass. It is surrounded by Lake Sumner Forest Park with State Highway (S H) 7 running through its centre. Montane to subalpine beech forests dominate the reserve, with a mix of mountain beech/tawhairauriki, silver beech/tawhai and red beech/tawhairaunui.

## St James Walkway

The St James Walkway starts and finishes beside S H 7; the two ends are about 12 km apart along the highway. It traverses through parts of Lake Sumner Forest Park, St James Conservation Area and Lewis Pass National Reserve. The St James Walkway is described in detail in another brochure. The eastern side of St James Conservation Area is accessed from Hanmer and is also detailed in a separate publication.

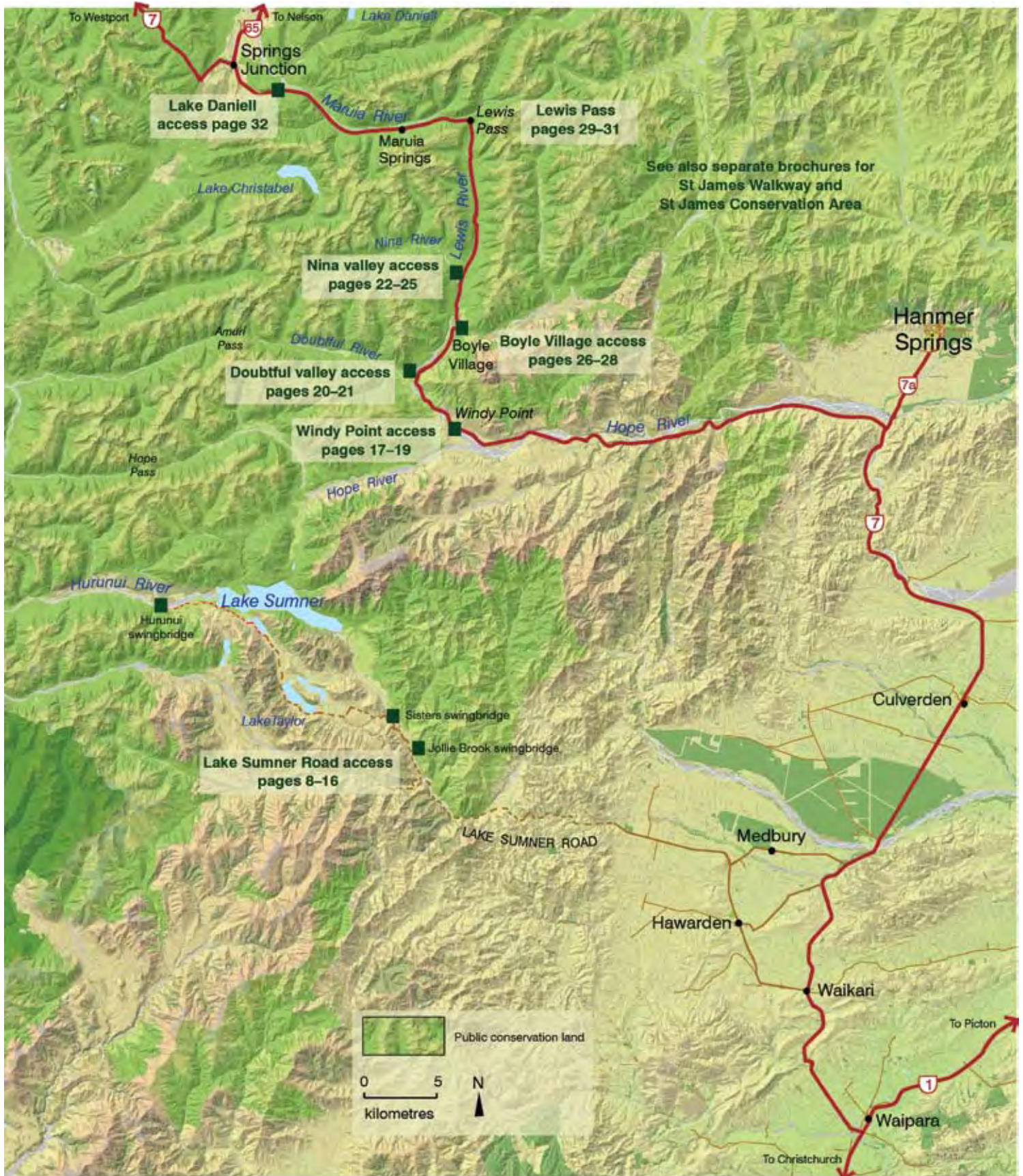


Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

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Map backgrounds by Geographx

New Zealand Government



## How to get there

You can reach Lake Sumner Forest Park via Lake Sumner Road, or from several entry points beside S H 7.

### Lake Sumner Road

From Christchurch, take S H 1 north then turn onto S H 7 at Waipara. At Waikari, turn left and follow the Hawarden–Waikari Road through Hawarden, to Lake Sumner Road.

If coming from Hanmer Springs, Lake Sumner Road is signposted off S H 7 just after the historic Hurunui Hotel.

Lake Sumner Road is suitable for 2WD vehicles as far as Lake Taylor. Lake Sumner Road passes through two privately operated stations on leasehold and freehold land. Keep to the road and do not disturb stock.

Beyond Lake Taylor, the road to Loch Katrine is suitable for 4WD vehicles only.

### Private roads

There are several other 4WD roads in the lakes area which are privately owned by the neighbouring stations: Lakes Station, Lake Taylor Station and Eskhead Station. These private roads are not to be used unless you have permission before your visit.

### State Highway 7

There are three access points to Lake Sumner Forest Park beside S H 7 between the Hope Bridge and Lewis Pass:

- Windy Point is about 160 km from Christchurch
- Doubtful valley is a further 4.5 km along S H 7
- Nina valley is 11 km further on, opposite the NZDA Palmer Lodge.

### Transport services

- East West Coach Services run daily between Christchurch and Westport – 0800 142 622.
- Atomic Shuttles run Christchurch to Nelson and Nelson to Christchurch daily. Phone 03 349 0697 (0508 108 359 free phone outside Christchurch) [www.atomictravel.co.nz](http://www.atomictravel.co.nz)

Further information and transport bookings can be made at the Hanmer Springs i-SITE Visitor Centre.

Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre runs a shuttle service to the Lewis Pass end of the St James Walkway and other local track ends, and also offers secure parking. Phone 03 315 7082 or email [info@boyle.org.nz](mailto:info@boyle.org.nz) to pre-book these services.

### Contact us

For the latest information, maps, brochures and hut tickets:

#### *DOC – Waimakariri Area Office*

32 River Road  
Rangiora  
(03) 313 0820  
8.00 am – 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday  
[waimakariri@doc.govt.nz](mailto:waimakariri@doc.govt.nz)

#### *DOC – Arthur's Pass Visitor Centre*

S H 73  
Arthur's Pass  
(03) 318 9211  
8.00 am – 5.00 pm (summer)  
8.30 am – 4.30 pm (winter)  
Open every day except for Christmas Day  
[arthurspassvc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:arthurspassvc@doc.govt.nz)

#### *DOC – Christchurch Visitor Centre*

i-SITE Visitor Information Centre  
Cathedral Square, Christchurch  
Open every day  
[christchurchvc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:christchurchvc@doc.govt.nz)

#### *Kaiapoi i-SITE Visitor Centre*

(03) 327 3134  
[info@kaiapoivisitorcentre.co.nz](mailto:info@kaiapoivisitorcentre.co.nz)

#### *Hanmer Springs i-SITE Visitor Information Centre*

40 Amuri Ave  
Hanmer Springs  
Free phone: 0800 442 663  
[info@visithurunui.co.nz](mailto:info@visithurunui.co.nz)

#### *Greymouth i-SITE Visitor Information Centre*

1 Mackay Street  
Greymouth  
[info@greйдistrict.co.nz](mailto:info@greйдistrict.co.nz)

#### *Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre*

Phone and fax: 03 3157082  
[info@boyle.org.z](mailto:info@boyle.org.z)

## Plan and prepare

### Safety is your responsibility

Have the correct and the most up-to-date information

Take a topographic map if going into more challenging country, i.e. something more than a tramping track.

### Weather

Always be prepared for sudden weather changes. Check the latest forecast, especially if any river crossings are required.



Mackenzie Stream before . . . and after heavy rain

Photos: C Mawson

### Snow and avalanches

When snow is on the ground, only experienced and well-equipped groups should attempt the tracks and routes.

Be avalanche alert. Most avalanches occur during winter storms or in spring to early summer – between May and December – when warmer temperatures or rain make

the snow unstable. Even if you cannot see snow from the track there may be enough snow out of sight on the upper slopes to form an avalanche that could reach the track. Go to [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz) (keyword search 'avalanche') for more information.

### Hot springs

Keep your head above water when using geothermal pools to prevent amoebic meningitis.

### Equip yourself well

Prepare for the worst. Take enough food and water and the right clothing.

### Let someone know before you go

Ensure someone else knows where you are going and when you plan to return.

If staying in huts, fill in the intentions book. This may save your life.

### Fire

*Dial 111 immediately for any fire emergency.*

Always take care when lighting fires and use the permanent fireplaces provided. When clearing ashes, extinguish any heat and remove them clear of any building.

During periods of extreme fire risk, fires and barbecues will be prohibited; in some areas tracks may even be closed.

### Wasps

Introduced wasp numbers are particularly high from January through to April each year, when wasps compete with native birds and bees in the honeydew-rich beech forests.

Carry antihistamine cream and tablets as a precaution.

Wasps are attracted to food – cover food and keep lids on sweet drinks.

Wear light-coloured clothing as wasps are more likely to attack dark-coloured objects if their nest is disturbed.



### Accommodation

All huts in this area operate on a 'first come' basis. It is recommended you at least carry a sleeping mat and/or a tent. Purchase hut tickets or annual hut passes before your

trip. Keep huts tidy and use only the firewood provided or dead wood. Ensure fires are out before leaving. Carry out all your rubbish.

### Final check

Check the DOC website, [www.doc.govt.nz/notices](http://www.doc.govt.nz/notices), or contact your closest DOC/i-SITE visitor centre for the latest track updates before leaving.

### Didymo

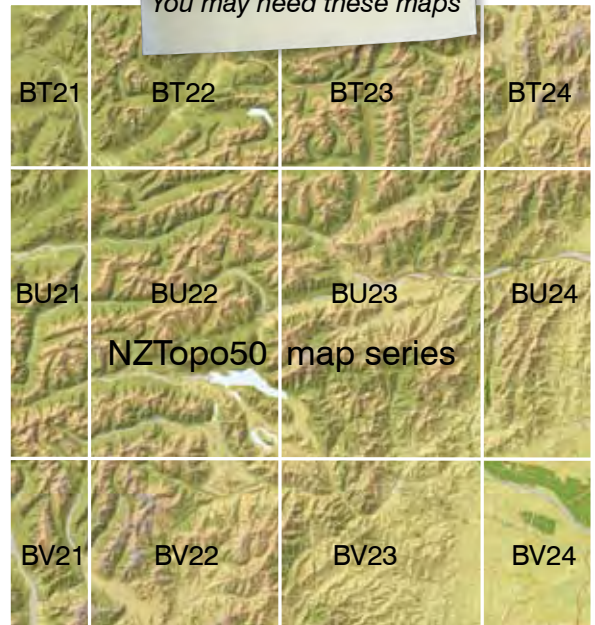
*Check, Clean, Dry*

Stop the spread of didymo and other freshwater pests. Didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*) is an exotic alga that invades waterways. To prevent the spread of freshwater pests such as didymo, always Check, Clean, Dry all footwear, bicycles, vehicles, fishing equipment and other items before entering, and when moving between, waterways.











For more information and specific cleaning guidelines go to [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/didymo](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/didymo) or [www.doc.govt.nz/stopthespread](http://www.doc.govt.nz/stopthespread).



*You may need these maps*



## Track grades

-   **Short walk** – easy walking for up to an hour  
Track is well formed, with even surface. There may be steps or slopes  
Suitable for people of most abilities and fitness  
Stream and river crossings are bridged  
Walking shoes required
-   **Walking track** – easy to moderate walking from a few minutes to a day  
Track is mostly well formed, some sections may be steep, rough or muddy  
Suitable for people with low to moderate fitness and abilities  
Clearly sign posted. Stream and river crossings are bridged  
Walking shoes or light tramping/hiking boots required
-   **Easy tramping track** – moderate day or multi-day tramping/hiking  
Track is generally well formed, may be steep, rough or muddy  
Suitable for people with moderate fitness and limited backcountry (remote areas) experience  
Track has signs, poles or markers. Major stream and river crossings are bridged  
Light tramping/hiking boots required
-   **Tramping track** – challenging day or multi-day tramping/hiking  
Track is mostly unformed with steep, rough or muddy sections  
Suitable for people with good fitness. Moderate to high-level backcountry skills and experience, including navigation and survival skills required
-   **Route** – challenging overnight tramping/hiking  
Track unformed and natural, may be rough and very steep  
Suitable for people with above-average fitness. High-level backcountry skills and experience, including navigation and survival skills required  
Be completely self-sufficient  
Track has markers, poles or rock cairns. Expect un-bridged stream and river crossings  
Sturdy tramping/hiking boots required

## Hut grades



-  **Serviced hut** – bunks or sleeping platforms with mattresses. Heating, water supply, toilet and hand-washing facilities. 3 hut tickets per adult per night
-  **Standard hut** – bunks or sleeping platforms with mattresses. Toilet and water supply. 1 hut ticket per adult per night
-  **Basic hut** – basic shelter with limited facilities and services. Free



Photo: S Webb

Purchase hut tickets or annual hut passes before your trip.  
Keep huts tidy and use only the firewood provided.  
Ensure fires are out before leaving.  
Carry out all your rubbish.  
Some huts are very popular in the summer so carry a tent in case the huts are full.


## Conservation campsites


-  **Standard** – have a limited range of facilities and services. Toilets (usually composting or pit variety), water supply (tap, stream or lake), vehicle access. Wood barbecues and fireplaces, showers (cold), picnic tables, a cooking shelter and rubbish bins may be provided. Fees apply
-  **Basic** – have very limited facilities so you need to be fully self-sufficient. There are basic toilets and water from a tank, stream or lake. May be road access. Free

## Other symbols used on the maps

 Car park

 Picnic area

 Shelter

 Hot spring

 Toilets

## Tracks and walks

The area offers an extensive network of well-formed and marked tracks traversing beautiful and varied mountain scenery. Huts are spaced at comfortable walking distances and most major waterways are bridged.

This brochure describes walks and tracks from each of the key access points in the direction they are most commonly walked. You can walk these tracks from either direction, and plan your own trip linking various tracks together.

### Lake Sumner road access

See map next page

## Jollie Brook circuit

This circuit starts and finishes just off Lake Sumner Road, with the option of starting from either of the two swingbridges over the Hurunui River (approximately 3 km apart on Lake Sumner Road). All river crossings between Gabriel and Jollie Brook huts are bridged. There are numerous river crossings from Jollie Brook Hut to the swingbridges.

### Sisters Stream Track

#### Jollie Brook swingbridge to Sisters swingbridge – 1 hour

On the river flats of the Hurunui River, a signpost marks the track up the true left of the Hurunui River to the Sisters car park. The Jollie Brook needs to be crossed – this may not be possible in high river flows.

#### Sisters swingbridge to Gabriel Hut – 3 hours

From the swingbridge crossing Hurunui River, the track is marked with poles up the true left of the valley. Traverse a series of large ancient river terraces close to the hillside until you reach Gabriel Hut. Lake Sumner is about 30 minutes further on from the hut. Gabriel Hut is a basic 4-bunk hut (no charge).

### Jollie Brook Track

#### Gabriel Hut to Jollie Brook Hut – 1 hour 30 min

From Gabriel Hut a signposted track leads up Gabriel Stream through beech forest to a low saddle. From the saddle the track follows a side stream to Jollie Brook, which is then crossed to reach Jollie Brook Hut (standard 7-bunk hut; 1 hut ticket per night).

#### Jollie Brook Hut to Jollie Brook swingbridge – 4 hours

The track downstream from Jollie Brook Hut is well marked but there are a few crossings back and forth across the river. When the valley opens out, traverse across grass and gravel flats until you reach the junction with Cold Stream. After crossing Cold Stream, gravel flats lead to a short gorge. The valley starts to close in, with sections of track appearing intermittently between frequent stream crossings. Eventually the track breaks out onto narrow grassy flats leading to the Hurunui River. Cross the river via the swingbridge just below the Jollie Brook/Hurunui confluence.

#### Cold Stream Hut – 1 hour

The junction with the route to Cold Stream Hut is approximately halfway between Jollie Brook Hut and the Jollie Brook swingbridge. Cross Cold Stream and follow it, crossing several times to reach the hut (standard 6-bunk hut; 1 hut ticket per night).

### Hope Kiwi – Jollie Brook Route

#### Gabriel Hut to Hope Kiwi Lodge – 5 hours

From Gabriel Hut follow the track to Lake Sumner (about 15 minutes), and along the north shore of Lake Sumner. The track follows the shoreline and passes through bush in places where access along the shore is not possible. Cross Evangeline Stream to reach Marion Stream. Follow the track past Lake Marion – a very picturesque spot – and up a hill to meet the Hope Kiwi Track. From here it is another 1 hour 30 minutes to Hope Kiwi Lodge, which is a serviced 20-bunk hut (3 hut tickets per night).

#### Hope Kiwi Track junction to Hurunui swingbridge – 3 hours

The track descends easily through the forest and emerges onto the Hurunui River flats; pick up the 4WD track back to the swingbridge here.

*For details from Hope Kiwi Lodge to Windy Point – refer to Hope Kiwi Track description.*



Photo: K Moore



Photo: K Moore



Photo: T Shields



## Hurunui swingbridge access



### Harper Pass Track

The Harper Pass Track runs from Aickens (S H 73) west of the Main Divide through to Windy Point on S H 7. The eastern section of track from Windy Point car park to Harper Pass is easy to follow, with bridges over all major rivers. The western section of the track from Harper Pass to Aickens involves three major river crossings.

The 5-day trip is usually walked from west to east as fine weather is essential for crossing the rivers on the western side.

This publication describes only the parts of the route within Lake Sumner Forest Park.

A separate brochure, *Arthur's Pass National Park, Route guide 11 – Harper Pass*, describes the complete trip in detail.



### Harper Pass Track (from Hurunui swingbridge to Harper Pass)

This section of the track is popular for day walks or overnight stays in any of the following three huts/bivvies.

#### *Hurunui swingbridge to Hurunui Hut – 30 minutes*

From the swingbridge it is an easy walk along a graded track through beech forest to Hurunui Hut (Standard 15-bunk hut; 1 hut ticket per night).



Red beech/tawhairaunui  
Photo: E Passuello

#### *Hurunui Hut to No. 3 Hut – 4 hours*

The track passes through sections of beech forest and crosses river flats, with some sections climbing up the side of the hill to get around the river. A hot spring is approximately 2 hours from Hurunui Hut. From the hot spring the track sidles through the forest and descends to matagouri flats where it is an easy walk to No. 3 Hut (Standard 16-bunk hut; 1 hut ticket per night).

#### *No. 3 Hut to Camerons Hut – 1 hour*

The track follows the river through red-beech forest to Camerons Stream, which is crossed via a three-wire bridge. The track continues through the forest to Camerons Hut (Basic 4-bunk hut; no charge).

#### *Camerons Hut to Harper Pass – 2 hours*

The track crosses grass sections and beech forest, climbing around gorges to avoid crossing the river. The summit of Harper Pass is approximately 45 minutes further on from the Harper Pass bivvy (basic 2-bunk hut; no charge).





## **Hope Kiwi Track (from Hurunui swingbridge to Windy Point)**

Hurunui swingbridge to Hope Kiwi Lodge (via Kiwi Saddle) – 4 hours 30 minutes

From the swingbridge, take the 4WD track to the forest edge. The track heads into the forest and climbs easily to Three Mile Stream. Cross the stream, then climb steadily to Kiwi Saddle through red-beech forest. Just before the saddle there is a two-minute side track to a lookout across the lake. From the saddle descend to the swampy grasslands of Kiwi valley. Pick up a 4WD track on the true right of Kiwi River across open grasslands to Hope Kiwi Lodge (serviced 20-bunk hut; 3 huts tickets per night).

**Hope Kiwi Lodge to Hope Halfway Hut – 3 hours**

Follow the poled route from Hope Kiwi Lodge along the forest edge to the Hope River swingbridge about 30

minutes from the hut. The track follows down broad grassy flats before returning to the forest. The track leaves the river and climbs the bank to Hope Halfway Hut (basic 6-bunk hut; no charge).

**Hope Halfway Hut to Windy Point car park (S H 7) – 4 hours**

The track keeps to the beech forest on terraces high above the riverbed. At the forest edge a vehicle track descends through mānuka and tussock to the swingbridge over the Boyle River gorge. Five minutes down a shingle road is the shelter and car park at Windy Point, beside S H 7.

## **Three Mile Stream Track**

Hurunui Swingbridge to Three Mile Stream Hut – 4 hours 30 minutes

From the swingbridge travel up McMillan Stream on gravel flats and forest terraces, criss-crossing the streambed as

needed. The track then leaves the stream to climb to a low saddle and then descends to the top flats of Three Mile Stream. Three Mile Stream Hut (standard 7-bunk hut; 1 hut ticket per night) is situated further down the flats.

### Three Mile Stream Hut to Hope Kiwi Lodge – 3 hours

The start of the track is well signposted down the flats. It climbs steadily to a low bush saddle and passes swampy clearings to reach Parakeet Stream. The track makes a gradual descent to Hope Kiwi Lodge (serviced 20-bunk hut; 3 huts tickets per night).



### Three Mile Stream Route

#### Three Mile Stream Hut to junction with Hope Kiwi Track – 3 hours 30 minutes

Follow the poled route downstream and then pick up the track through bush (marked with orange triangles) where it climbs above the gorge and then descends to join the Hope Kiwi Track.



### Mackenzie Stream Route

#### Hurunui Hut to Mackenzie Hut – 5 hours

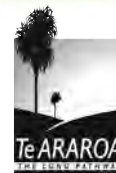
The Mackenzie Stream Route leaves Harper Pass Track about 1 hour from Hurunui Hut. The turn-off is signposted approximately opposite the junction with Mackenzie Stream and Hurunui River. You will need to make your own crossing over the Hurunui River so this may not be possible when the river is high. Cross the river flats to Mackenzie Stream and follow it up on the true right. This section is not marked until you enter the forest. Along the route there is a hot spring where a pool big enough for two has been constructed. Mackenzie Hut is a basic 6-bunk hut and does not require any hut tickets.



Natural hot pool Photo: C Mawson

## State Highway 7 – access from Windy Point

See map next page



Windy Point has a car park just off S H 7 (leave vehicles at your own risk) and a swingbridge over the Boyle River. The Harper Pass Track, which is usually walked from west to east, finishes here. This particular route is part of Te Araroa – a walking trail from Cape Reinga to Bluff ([www.teararoa.org.nz](http://www.teararoa.org.nz)). After crossing the swingbridge, the first 500 m of track crosses through a public-access easement over Poplars Station pastoral lease land before entering public conservation land. Keep to the track and do not disturb stock.



### Hope Kiwi Track

#### Windy Point car park to Hope Halfway Hut – 4 hours

After crossing the swingbridge over Boyle River, follow a vehicle track that climbs through mānuka and tussock. At the forest edge, pick up the track across terraces high above the riverbed. It eventually drops to the Hope Halfway Hut (basic 6-bunk hut; no charge).

#### Hope Halfway Hut to Hope Kiwi Lodge – 3 hours

From the hut the track goes through beech forest to reach the valley floor. Follow the poled track up the valley floor to Hope River swingbridge. From here the hut is only 30 minutes away, via a poled route across open terraces and through sections of forest. Hope Kiwi Lodge is a serviced 20-bunk hut; 3 hut tickets per night.



### Hope Valley Route

#### Hope Kiwi Lodge to St Jacobs Hut – 1 hour 30 minutes

From Hope Kiwi Lodge, follow the track back to the Hope swingbridge (approximately 45 minutes). From here a signposted track follows the Hope River upstream along an old 4WD track for approximately 45 minutes to reach the hut. St Jacobs Hut is a standard 6-bunk hut; 1 hut ticket per night.

#### St Jacobs Hut to Top Hope Hut – 2 hours

Continue up the valley along the 4WD track across open river flats until the track climbs into bush to avoid crossing the river. Stay on the true right to reach Top Hope Hut (basic 6-bunk hut; no charge).



There is a hot spring about 1 hour 30 minutes further upstream from Top Hope Hut. Walk up the Hope River for about an hour to the junction with Hot Spring Stream, then another 30 minutes up the stream to the hot spring itself.

#### **Top Hope Hut to Hope Pass – 3 hours 30 minutes**

Follow an old 4WD track from the hut up the Hope River to the junction with Hot Spring Stream. From here follow the poled route upstream, crossing river flats, sections of beech forest and swampy clearings to reach Hope Pass. After reaching the pass, it is a further 3 hours down the valley to Tutaekuri Hut. Those with route-finding skills could continue via the Waiheke valley to connect up with Amuri Pass for a 4–5 day round trip.

#### **Lake Man Route**

This track links the Hope and Doubtful valleys. The new section of Te Araroa by S H 7 now makes this a 2–3 day round trip. It can be walked in either direction, but is easier

to start from Doubtful valley. The tramp is recommended for experienced trampers; there are river crossings and the middle section over the Doubtful Range is rugged – the section from Pussy Stream to the ridge is very steep.

*The track is described in the next section from the Doubtful to Hope valley.*

**St Jacobs Hut to junction with Lake Man Track junction – 1 hour**

**Hope Valley route junction to Lake Man Biv – 4 hours**

**Lake Man Biv to Doubtful Valley Track – 2 hours 30 mins**

**Doubtful Valley Track – Doubtful Hut – 1 hour**

Lake Man Biv and Doubtful Hut are both basic 2-bunk huts (no hut tickets required).

## State Highway 7 – access from Doubtful valley

### See map next page

There is no bridge over the Boyle River from this access point, but Tui Track (part of Te Araroa) provides safe access to the swingbridge at Windy Point if the river cannot be crossed. (Approximate walking time – 2 hours).



### Doubtful Valley Track

#### S H 7 to Doubtful Hut – 2 hours

Take care with river crossing; cross the Boyle River then follow the poled track on the true right of the Doubtful River across open flats to the bush. Here, pick up the track to Doubtful Hut (basic 2-bunk hut; no hut tickets required).

#### Doubtful Hut to Doubtless Hut – 1 hour 30 mins

Continue up grassy river flats and sections of track until you reach the Doubtful–Doubtless confluence. Cross the Doubtful River and then the Doubtless River to reach the Doubtless Hut on the true left of the river (standard 6-bunk hut; 1 hut ticket per night).

#### Doubtless Hut to Amuri Pass – 2 hours

From the hut, cross the Doubtless River and follow the track for about 10 minutes to a junction. Follow the track up the Doubtful River, crossing after about 20 minutes to the true right. The track follows the river to cut across Phantom Flat. At the top end of the flat, the track climbs steeply to the bushline. An old pack track crosses Amuri Pass. Those with route-finding skills can continue on via the Waiheke and Tutaekuri rivers to connect up with Hope Pass for a 4–5 day round trip.



### Lake Man Route

The tramp is recommended for experienced trampers only as there are river crossings and the middle section across the Doubtful Range is a rugged alpine-pass crossing.

#### Doubtful Hut to Lake Man Route junction (Kedron River) – 1 hour

The Lake Man Route junction is off Doubtful Valley Track – between the Doubtful and Doubtless huts (as described above).

#### Kedron River to Lake Man Biv – 2 hours 30 mins

This marked route follows the true left of the Kedron River for a short distance before climbing steadily through beech forest. After about an hour the track levels out and sidles above the Kedron River for about 30 minutes. Lake Man Biv (basic 2-bunk biv; no charge) is reached after a steady short climb through small alpine clearings.

#### Lake Man Biv to Hope Valley Track junction – 4 hours

The marked route climbs a short distance above the biv for about 20 minutes, through beech forest to the bush edge. Follow the poled route for about an hour. The route goes over a low tussock ridge to the western slopes of the middle tributary of Pussy Stream. Follow the marker poles to the last pole situated at subalpine level on a steep narrow ridge. From here, look down the ridge for a large orange marker at the bush edge. The route descends the ridge steeply to the bush edge. Follow the ridge down for about an hour to the middle tributary of Pussy Stream.

*Note: Near the bottom of the ridge the route turns sharply left and down a narrow track. Don't overshoot this turn as from this point the ridge takes a near vertical drop to the stream.*

Follow Pussy Stream down to the bush edge at St Jacobs Flat in the Hope valley, and then across tussock flats on the true left of Pussy Stream to the Hope River. This section is unmarked with numerous stream crossings. Cross the river to the Hope Valley Route. From here it is about 30 minutes to the Top Hope Hut, or an hour to St Jacobs Hut.



### Devilskin Saddle Route



#### Doubtful valley to Nina valley

The route linking the Nina and Doubtful valleys via Devilskin Saddle can be walked in either direction, but it is recommended to walk it from the Nina valley to avoid a very strenuous climb up Devilskin Stream. This trip is suitable for experienced trampers and includes an alpine saddle crossing.

*The track is described from the Nina to Doubtful valley in the next section.*



Mountain beech/tawhairauriki

Photo: E Passuello



## State Highway 7 – access from Nina valley

The last access point into Lake Sumner Forest Park from S H 7 is close to Palmer Lodge (private lodge owned by NZDA). There is a car-parking area here (leave vehicles at your own risk) and a swingbridge over the Lewis River gives access to the Nina Valley.

## Nina Valley Track

S H 7 to Nina swingbridge – 1 hour

Cross the Lewis River via the swingbridge and follow the true right bank for a short section before climbing briefly onto a terrace. The track then heads northwest away from the river and sidles through beech forest above the Nina River. The river is reached after about an hour of walking.

The track continues up the true left of the river to where the Nina swingbridge crosses it.

### **Nina swingbridge to Nina Hut – 2 hours**

After crossing the bridge, the track heads up the true right of the river, gradually climbing to reach Nina Hut (standard 10-bunk hut; 1 hut ticket per night).

### **Nina Hut to Nina Biv – 2 hours**

From Nina Hut follow the track down to Nina River and cross at a suitable place. (*Note: This river may not be crossable in high flow.*) Follow the track up the true left of the river to Nina Biv. This is a basic 2-bunk hut; no hut tickets required.



### **Lucretia Hut Route**

#### **S H 7 to Nina swingbridge – 1 hour**

See above for description to Nina swingbridge but do not cross the swingbridge.

#### **Nina swingbridge to Lucretia Hut – 3 hours**

Continue up true left of the Nina River until you reach Lucretia Stream. Climb over a small gorge before descending to cross the stream, and continue up the true right to reach the hut situated on a tussock flat (basic 2-bunk hut; no hut tickets required).



### **Devilskin Saddle Route**



This route links the Nina and Doubtful valleys via Devilskin Saddle. It can be walked in either direction, but it is recommended you walk it from the Nina valley. This trip is suitable for experienced trampers and combines mountain-beech forest, river flats and an alpine saddle crossing.

#### **Nina Hut to Devils Den Biv – 2 hours**

From Nina Hut the track sidles through beech forest high above the Nina River. This section is a little harder to follow, but is reasonably well marked. Gradually gain altitude to reach Blind Stream after about an hour. The track then climbs above the true right of the stream and very steeply up a spur. Use tree roots for hand and foot holds to avoid a hidden waterfall. The track then levels out and reaches the old hut site at the tree line. This area is suitable for camping in summer but is avalanche-prone in winter and spring.

From here the route continues up the true right of the stream through waist-high red tussock. This section has a risk of avalanches in winter and spring.

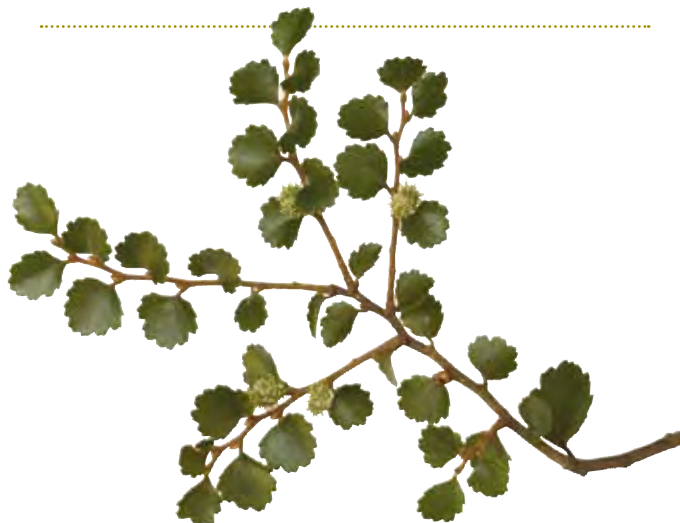
Follow marker poles as the route sidles away from the stream and climbs for about 30 minutes to reach Devilskin Saddle where there are good views down both valleys. The new Devils Den Biv (basic 2-bunk hut; no hut tickets required) is a further 100 m along the saddle.

*Note: This area is not suitable for camping. Trampers will need to return to the old hut site if they need to camp.*

#### **Devils Den Biv to Doubtful Hut – 4 hours**

From the hut, follow marker poles down to Devilskin Stream where a track is picked up at the bushline. This track sidles along high on the true left above the stream, through silver-beech forest, with the occasional clearing giving splendid views across the valley. It eventually descends quite steeply through silver- and red-beech forest to the confluence of Devilskin Stream and Doubtful River.

Doubtful River must be crossed here. This crossing could be dangerous during or after heavy rain. If river levels are high, wait until they subside before crossing. Doubtful Hut (basic 2-bunk hut) is situated just downstream on a lovely river terrace. From Doubtful Hut it is a two-hour walk to cross the Boyle River and then reach S H 7.



Silver beech/tawhai Photo: E Passuello



## Doubtful River to Hope Valley Track – 1 hour 30 minutes

Follow the 4WD track still on the true right of the Boyle River until you come to a deer fence. Follow the fence around until a marker indicates to head up the hill into mānuka and beech forest. This marked track joins Hope Valley Track, approximately 30 minutes from the Windy Point car park.



## Access from Boyle Village



### Tui Track

This track links the end of the St James Walkway at Boyle Village with the start of Harper Pass Track, as part of Te Araroa. The route is marked with poles or triangles.



### St James car park (Boyle Village) to Doubtful River – 1 hour 30 minutes

From the St James car park follow the track markers to S H 7 and then follow inside the fence line to cross the road at the old Boyle Base Hut. From here the track follows river terraces and clumps of matagouri to the Boyle River, which is crossed at this point. The river here averages 0.3–0.4 m depth over summer so may not be crossable in high flow.

The track then follows the true right of the Boyle River through beech forest, matagouri and open river flats to reach Doubtful River. Cross the river just above its junction with Hope River. *Note: This river can be dangerous in high flow.*



### St James Walkway

The walkway is a well-formed, 66-km track through grassland and forested subalpine regions of the St James Conservation Area. With five excellent huts, this trip can be done in 3–5 days, between two entry points off S H 7 – Lewis Pass and Boyle Village.

*See separate brochure for a detailed description of the complete walkway. Covered below are two one-day or overnight options from Boyle Village.*



### Boyle Flat Hut

Boyle Village to Boyle Flat Hut – 4 hours 30 minutes

The first hut on the St James Walkway is a good overnight trip for families and beginner trampers. From the car park follow the poled track to the forest edge and through the forest, crossing to the true right bank of the Boyle via a suspension bridge, then re-crossing back to the true left via a second bridge. Follow the marked track through the gorge until you reach a third foot bridge, which leaves the main route to get to Boyle Flats Hut on the true right. This is a serviced 14-bunk hut; 3 hut tickets per night.

### Magdalen Hut

Boyle Village to Magdalen swingbridge – 3 hours

Magdalen swingbridge to Magdalen Hut – 30 minutes

This is also a good destination for families and beginner trampers. Follow the first section of the St James Walkway up the Boyle River until you cross the second swingbridge. After crossing the bridge, a signposted side-track on the right turns off the walkway to reach Magdalen Hut after about 30 minutes.

*Note: The open land beyond the hut is part of Glenhope Station and is not open to public access without prior permission.*

## Access from Lewis Pass

The summit of Lewis Pass is 65 km from Hanmer Springs or 20 km east of Springs Junction on S H 7. Here there is a picnic area with toilets and a shelter. A number of short walks explore the immediate area and the western end of St James Walkway starts from this point.

*This area is managed by DOC Greymouth, Mawheranui Area Office.*



Photo: G Roberts



### Tarn Walk

Distance: 50 metres  
Time: 1 minute (one way)

A lookout point across the tarn provides a great photographic opportunity.



Tarn Walk Photo: S Webb

### Alpine Nature Walk

Distance: 830 metres  
Time: 20 minutes (loop)

A short loop track through open tussocks, alpine wetlands and lichen-hung beech forest, this walk gives a view to Gloriana Peak on the Spenser Mountains.

### Rolleston Track

Distance: 3 km  
Time: 1 hour (one way)

A well-graded easy forest walk follows an old pack track, formed in the 1860s. It follows close to the present road and goes between the Lewis Pass picnic area and the Deer Valley picnic area.


### Cannibal Gorge Hut

Lewis Pass – Cannibal Gorge 1 hour 20 minutes (return)  
Lewis Pass – Cannibal Gorge Hut 3 hours

The first hut at the Lewis Pass end of the St James Walkway is an easy distance for beginner trampers. The gorge is also a good destination for a short walk – 30 minutes down, 50 minutes up. Enter the bush and then descend a steep zig-zag into Cannibal Gorge on Maruia River. A swingbridge crosses the gorge to the true right bank. From here it is about 6 km to the hut.



### Lewis Tops Route

 Distance 2 km  
Time: 2 hours (one way)

This route starts across S H 7 from the Alpine Nature Walk car park – be cautious crossing the road. This route involves a 2-hour uphill climb with the reward of good views from an alpine environment and, in winter, opportunities for cross-country skiing.



Lewis Pass tarn Photo: S Mankelov



## Waterfall Nature Walk

Time: 20 minutes return

This is a short bush walk to a 40-metre waterfall. The track starts west of Lewis Pass beside S H 7.



## Lake Daniell (Lewis Pass National Reserve)

Time: 3 hours

The track is well signposted on S H 7 at Marble Hill picnic area (4 km east of Springs Junction). This benched, easy graded track provides for a pleasant tramp to Lake Daniell. Cross the bridge over the Maruia River at the Sluice Box and follow the track upstream alongside the Alfred River to Lake Daniell, passing through red-beech forest. There are good opportunities for bird watching, especially kākāriki and South Island robin/kakaruai.

The Manson Nicholls Memorial Hut on the shores of the lake is a serviced hut with 24 bunks (3 hut tickets per night). It is very popular with family groups over the summer holidays and school groups at other times.



Lake Daniell Track Photo: S Webb

## What else you can do

### Camping & picnicking

For up-to-date campsite charges refer to the Conservation Campsites brochure (South Island) or [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

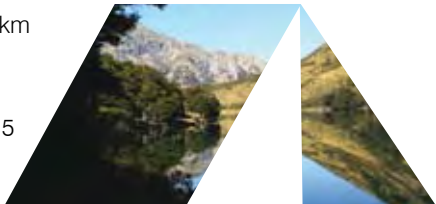
#### Lake Taylor

Lake Sumner Road, 74 km northwest of Amberley

Campsite – Standard

Number of tent sites – 15

Camp beside the lake and explore the lake in your kayak or boat.



Rough gravel road, usually suitable for 2WD vehicles in good conditions.

Dogs are permitted but must be on a leash at all times.

**Facilities:** Toilet, picnic table, water from lake

**Getting there:** From S H 7, turn off at Waikari and follow the road to Hawarden. The road then joins Lake Sumner Road, which leads to Lake Taylor and then to Loch Katrine.

#### Loch Katrine

Lake Sumner Road, 81 km northwest of Amberley

Loch Katrine Recreation Reserve

Campsite – Standard

Number of tent sites – 30



Camp beside the beautiful lake on a grassy area. Walk, four-wheel drive, mountain bike, boat, fish, or take a swim in a refreshing lake.

4WD access from Lake Taylor only (8 km)

Dogs permitted but must be on a leash at all times.

**Facilities:** Toilet, running water

**Getting there:** From Lake Taylor, continue along the Lake Sumner Road (4WD only) for another 8 km to reach Loch Katrine.

#### Deer Valley (Lewis Pass National Reserve)

Deer Valley campsite – Basic (free)

Number of tent sites – 10

This grassy strip surrounded by beech forest next to the Lewis River is about 2.5 km south of Lewis Pass.

**Facilities:** Toilet, water from stream

**Getting there:** Off S H 7, between Boyle Village and Maruia Springs.

#### Lewis Pass Picnic Area

This picnic area is at the summit of Lewis Pass where there are a number of short walks and the western end of St James Walkway starts from this point.

**Facilities:** Toilet, day shelter

**Getting there:** Beside S H 7, at the summit of Lewis Pass, 65 km from Hanmer Springs.

#### Marble Hill Camping and Picnic Area (Lewis Pass National Reserve)

Standard campsite with 12 tent sites and the starting point for the tramp to Lake Daniell.

**Facilities:** Toilets, barbecue, picnic shelter

**Getting there:** Beside S H 7, 6.5 km east of Springs Junction.



## Hunting

Red deer, chamois and pigs are present throughout the park in low to moderate numbers. Deer concentrate in the heavily forested areas, while chamois are found in subalpine and alpine areas. Pigs generally stay in the valleys and river flats and prefer regenerating forest.

*Dogs are not permitted in Lake Sumner Forest Park as kiwi live here.*

### Recreational hunter's paradise

Hunting with a permit is allowed in all Lake Sumner Forest Park and other adjoining public conservation lands. Part of Lake Sumner Forest Park is designated 'Recreational Hunting Area' (RHA). RHAs are set aside exclusively for recreational hunting. No commercial wild-animal recovery is allowed within the RHA. Aerial commercial recovery is also excluded from part of Lewis Pass National Reserve, and some small pockets of Lake Sumner Forest Park.

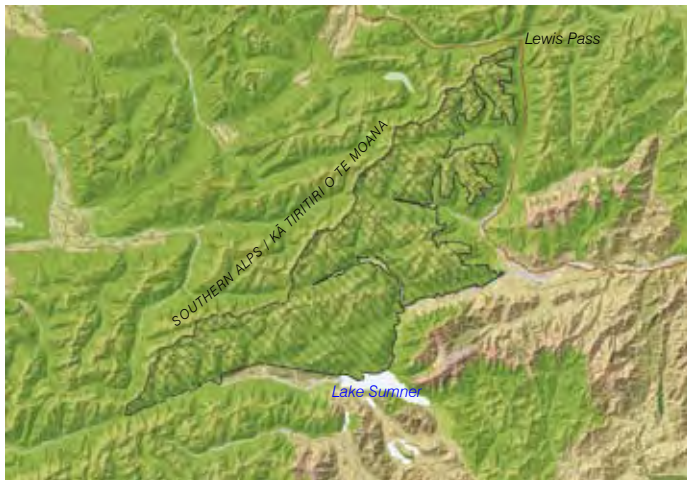
Refer to the DOC website for detailed maps and further information on RHAs:

[www.doc.govt.nz/canterbury-hunting](http://www.doc.govt.nz/canterbury-hunting)

*Note: Absolutely no hunting is permitted on private lands bordering the forest park without landowners' permission.*

You must have a hunting permit. These are available from the Department of Conservation (DOC) office in Christchurch for the eastern side of Lewis Pass and DOC Greymouth for the western areas.

A separate permit is required for game-bird hunting.



Public conservation land

Recreational Hunting Area

## Fishing

Brown trout are the most common fish in the rivers and lakes, although quinnat salmon are also caught. Lake Sumner offers good fishing, both from a boat and from the shore. Lake Taylor is good for spin-fishing, with the southern end being sheltered in a nor'wester or you can fly fish the edges on a windless day.

The seasons for fishing on Lakes Taylor and Sumner, Loch Katrine and the Hurunui, and the Hope and Nina rivers vary. The seasons and regulations are detailed in the latest Fish and Game Sports Fishing Regulations, provided when you purchase a fishing licence from fishing or outdoor sports shops, Fish and Game council offices and information or visitor centres. Further information is available from [www.fishandgame.org.nz](http://www.fishandgame.org.nz).



## Boating

The Hurunui River is suitable for kayaking and rafting. Maori Gully provides a challenge. Sail and boat on Lake Sumner and Loch Katrine.

Boats can be launched at Loch Katrine and taken through to Lake Sumner via the canal that connects the two lakes. *Note: Access to Loch Katrine is 4WD only.*



Photo: D. Giejsztowt

## Dogs

Dogs are allowed in Lake Taylor camping area and Loch Katrine Recreation Reserve only (at the south-east end of Loch Katrine). They must be on a lead and any faeces removed.

In all other areas of the park, dogs are not allowed as the park is an important habitat for great spotted kiwi/ roroa.

## Hot springs

Natural bush baths – there's no better way to recover from a hard day's tramp! Temperatures and conditions of pools will vary depending on recent flooding of streams and rivers and how long since the last visitor was there to clear it out!

**Sylvia Flats** in the Lewis River are the most accessible hot springs (and the most visited). A five-minute walk from S H 7 takes you down to the riverbed where there are three or four rock-lined pools; they may need re-digging after floods.

**Top Hope** – The 50° C spring in the upper Hope catchment is reached after a 30-minute to one-hour walk upstream from Top Hope Hut – pick up Hot Spring Stream from where it drains into Hope River. There is a large pool for up to five and a smaller two-person pool – its temperature is moderated by small stream running alongside.

**Hurunui River North Branch** – a concreted-dam helps create a pool big enough for four–five people on the hillside above the river 1 hour 30 minutes from Hurunui Hut. It's not signposted, but sits just above the main track.

**Mackenzie Stream** – about one-hour walk before you reach Mackenzie Hut. There is a two-person pool in the stream. It might need cleaning out before you settle down to soak.



Photo: G Hunter

## Native plants you might see

With the Main Divide as a western boundary, Lake Sumner Forest Park and Lewis Pass National Reserve are mostly mountainous. Forests of beech/tawhai cloak the hillsides, while snow-tussock grasslands dominate above the bush line. The forest is a mosaic of red, silver and mountain beech, with mountain beech dominating at the harsher areas at the bush line and in the east of the park.

Shrublands of mountain ribbonwood/houhi, broadleaf/kāpuka, kānuka and mānuka form where original forest has been removed. Alpine flowers put on a good show at Harper Pass, including the attractive and showy Mount Cook buttercups/kōpukupuku (once known incorrectly as lilies). Extensive tussock grasslands cover the river flats; two snow grasses found in the upper Hope are close to their northern limits – *Chionochloa oreophila* and *C. crassiuscula*.

Lake Sumner is one of the best examples of a naturally-forested lake margin remaining in Canterbury. Not only does the lake retain large tracts of original forest around its margins, the lake hydrology remains completely natural and undisturbed.

Of particular note are stands of southern rātā (right) on the northern side of Lake Sumner. Southern rātā is an uncommon plant in Canterbury and these stands are some of the best examples of rātā east of the Main Divide.



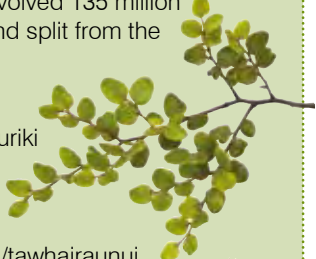
## ... and wildlife

Lake Sumner Forest Park has the richest forest-bird diversity in Canterbury. This includes great-spotted kiwi/ roroa, yellowhead/mohua (threatened), kākā, kea, and Canterbury's own orange-fronted parakeet/kākāriki. Bats/pekapeka are known to exist in Hope valley. The lakes and rivers provide habitats for the Australasian crested grebe/kāmana, paradise shelduck/pūtakitaki, grey duck/pāpera and introduced Canadian goose.

## Southern beech

New Zealand native beech trees belong to an ancient genus *Nothofagus*, which evolved 135 million years ago when New Zealand split from the supercontinent, Gondwana.

Mountain beech/tawhairauriki  
*Nothofagus solandri* var.  
*cliffortioides*



Red beech/tawhairaunui  
*Nothofagus fusca*



Silver beech/tawhai  
*Nothofagus menziesii*

Photos of leaves: E Passuello



Local waterways are home to ten species of native fish. Lake Marion and Morris Tarn are small lakes surrounded by forest, unusual for Canterbury. They are havens for native fish as they are free from exotic fish or weed. Lake Marion is protected as a Faunistic Reserve, one of only two in the South Island. Introducing any fish, animal or plant into the lake is prohibited.



Look out for lizards/ mokomoko like the common skink and Southern Alps gecko (left). Keep an eye out too for tussock moths, copper and southern blue butterflies, tussock ringlet butterflies, and, on dusk on calm warm evenings, lots of night-flying moths. During summer, on calm mornings, look out for hoverflies and native bees on the white flowers of native shrubs.

Photo: M Lettink

Photo: J Van Hal

## Some have special protection

Orange-fronted parakeets/ kākāriki (right) are classified as



'nationally critical', at high risk of extinction, with only 100–200 birds in the wild. The three known remaining populations are all within a 30-km radius in beech forests of upland valleys within Arthur's Pass National Park and Lake Sumner Forest Park. Mohua/ yellowheads are also present.

In the upper catchment of the South Branch of the Hurunui River a programme is set up to respond immediately to predator plagues in the beech forest, aimed at preventing the extinction of certain species, including orange-fronted parakeets and mohua. At this site rats and stoats are intensively controlled with traps, toxins in bait stations, bait bags and, when necessary, aerial 1080.

## Great-spotted kiwi/rooroa

Great-spotted kiwi (below) are the largest of the six kiwi species and are found in the wild only in Lake Sumner Forest Park and Arthur's Pass, Kahurangi and Paparoa national parks in the central South Island.

Photo: R Morris

The North Branch of the Hurunui River is one of two long-term monitoring sites for rooroa (the other site is the Saxon Hut area in Kahurangi National Park). There is a good population of kiwi in this area and you can often hear them calling at night.



Hurunui Kiwi Watch is a group of volunteer students and teachers from Hurunui College who have set up a comprehensive stoat-trapping programme in the Nina valley. The long-term aim is to aid in the recovery of rooroa in this valley as well.

## Kiwi-tracking dogs and handlers

Photo: W Reid



## Beneath the ground

These mountains of greywacke are the result of a still-active fault system, which over millions of years has caused sinking, folding and rising of the land. The Hope fault is a major geological feature. It crosses the Hope River over low saddles at Three-Mile and McMillan streams, continues up the Hurunui River and over Harper Pass.

Several hot springs bubble up through the earth as a result of the fault. Hot springs can be found in the Hurunui River and Hope River within Lake Sumner Forest Park.

Glaciers and ice also helped shaped this land, carving wide valley floors. As the glaciers retreated, the melting ice created numerous waterfalls, tarns and a large complex of lakes. Glacial moraines dammed the river to form Lake Sumner.



Hurunui hot spring

Photo: C Mawson

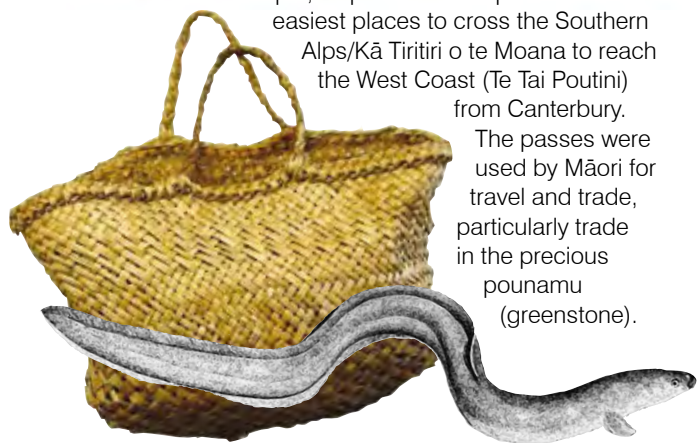


## In the past

### Crossing the alps

Harper, Hope and Amuri passes were the easiest places to cross the Southern Alps/Kā Tiritiri o te Moana to reach the West Coast (Te Tai Poutini) from Canterbury.

The passes were used by Māori for travel and trade, particularly trade in the precious pounamu (greenstone).



The lakes were extensively used by Māori for mahinga kai or food gathering, particularly for waterfowl and eels/tuna. They were visited annually for seasonal food gathering and still remain culturally important today.

George Mason led the first European party to reach the pass at the head of the Hurunui. The first European to make the transalpine crossing was Leonard Harper – hence the name Harper Pass.

### Hoka Kura/Lake Sumner

The name Hoka Kura refers to one of the descendants of Rākaihautū.

Rākaihautū came on his canoe Uruao and brought with him the Waitaha people. He landed in the Nelson area and walked the interior of the South Island using his magical kō (digging tool) to dig out the principal lakes of Te Wai Pounamu/South Island.

One of his undertakings was Hoka Kura/Lake Sumner. It soon became an important mahinga kai (food source) for whānau

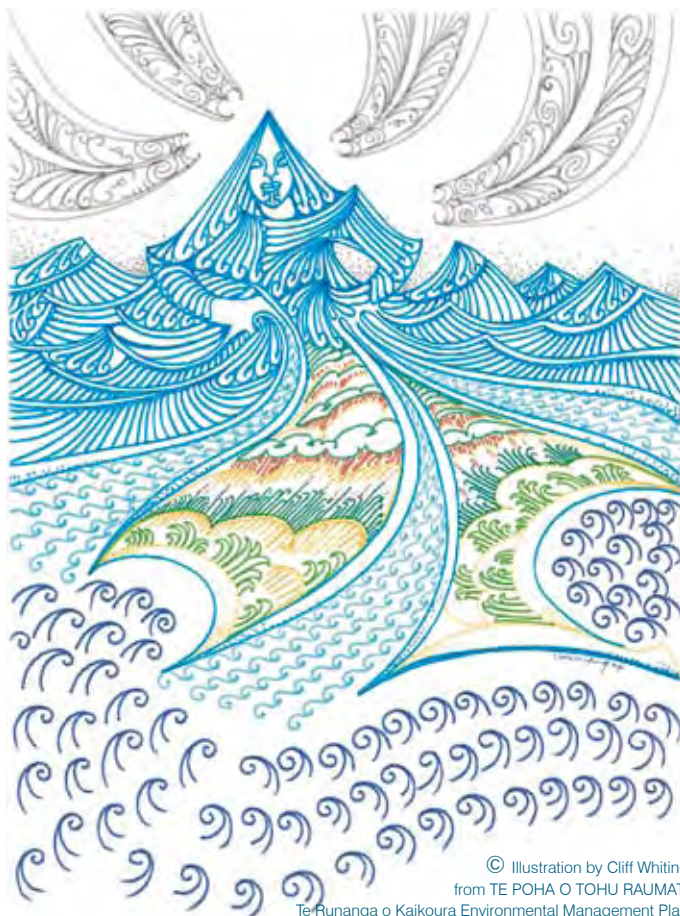


(family) and hapū (subtribes) that make up the South Island's main tribe Ngāi Tahu.

Hoka Kura is on the traditional trails used by whānau and hapū and is regarded as a taonga (treasure). The relationship with the lake and today's Māori people is strong as it is a place their ancestors depended on for survival.

The mauri (essence) of Hoka Kura represents the essence that binds the physical and spiritual elements of all things together generating and upholding life. All elements of the natural environment possess a life force and all forms of life are related. Mauri is a critical element of the spiritual relationship of Ngāi Tahu people with the lake. All of these values remain important to Ngati Kuri and all of Ngāi Tahu today.

*Okarahia ki te Hurunui Waiiau-uha te Wairua Wahine*



© Illustration by Cliff Whiting  
from TE POHA O TOHU RAUMATI  
Te Runanga o Kaikoura Environmental Management Plan  
Te Mahere Whakahaere Taiāo o Te Runanga o Kaikoura 2009



## Gold fever

In 1864, gold fever struck Westland, then part of the Canterbury Province. Within one week, 1000 men headed over Harper Pass to the West Coast diggings. The track up the Hurunui, formed in 1862 and improved in 1865, became almost impassable that year, as so many prospectors and drovers used it. The Provincial Government advised diggers against using the track and a search for a new route became imperative. Small stores and liquor shanties sprang up along the route. At the Hurunui confluence, weary travellers could hire a horse for a shilling (10 cents) to ferry them across the river.

Local run holders also quickly moved to take advantage of the new market for meat that the gold diggings provided, driving cattle over the pass to the sale yards at Arahura near Hokitika. A stock route was formed up the Hope and Kiwi rivers to join the Harper Pass route at Kiwi saddle.

Gold export from the Hokitika diggings reached its lowest point in 1867. By 1879 new gold strikes were being made north of the Grey River and westward traffic then shifted from Harper Pass to more northern passes or the Arthur's Pass coach road from Christchurch, which had been completed in 1866.

### Historic No. 3 Hut

In 1939 the Government built five huts along the old 1860s gold-mining track across Harper Pass between Canterbury and the West Coast. Its vision was a trip to rival the Milford Track, attracting tourists, trampers and hunters. Only two of the original five huts remain – No. 3 on the North Branch Hurunui River (below), and Locke Stream Hut (No.4) in the Taramakau.



## Remarkable journeys

The route across the Main Divide between the Hurunui and Taramakau rivers has produced some remarkable stories. Here are three true stories:

### Te Ara Pounamu



Paraerae/sandals  
Courtesy Canterbury Museum

Centuries ago, Māori crossed the mountainous lands of Te Waipounamu (South Island) in search of precious greenstone, pounamu. The ara pounamu from Kaiapoi Pā in the east to the kāika at Taramakau on the West Coast was about 350 km long. Family groups took up to 20 days, often stopping to gather food and rest for two or three days along the way. Experienced

travellers took only four days. Journeys were generally made during summer's settled weather when the snows had melted from the Notii Taramakau (Harper Pass) and rivers were low.

### Canoes across the main divide

On a squally Christmas day in 1889, two brothers from Hokitika headed off on a mission to become the first (and to date, only) to canoe across the South Island.



George Park made his and his brother Jim's wooden-planked canoes named Sunbeam and Oneone. They spent two days paddling and towing their canoes up the Taramakau, then another two days hauling their canoes to reach the summit of Harper Pass. They then used long ropes to lower their canoes down the worst of Hurunui's rapids. Jim left the journey at the Hurunui Hotel but George

continued downriver, to reach the Hurunui lagoon nine and a half days after they first set off – a journey of 365 km.

### **Droving cattle to the Taramakau**

Mary Elizabeth Small successfully drove a herd of cattle from Christchurch to the lucrative markets of the West Coast goldfields in the 1860s. This intrepid woman, using the alias Phipps, followed the gold-diggers' route on a journey of several weeks through Waipara to the Hurunui, over Harper Pass and down the Taramakau, losing only a few of her thirty-five cattle on the way. She sold them at a premium and returned home triumphant, with more than £800 (pounds). Her journey inspired the children's classic book *The Runaway Settlers*.



Photo: T Shields



Near Mt Longfellow summit

Photo: S Sheen



Photo: J Kilgour

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[recreation@doc.govt.nz](mailto:recreation@doc.govt.nz)