

## Information centres

### Arthur's Pass Visitor Centre

106 Main Westcoast Road  
Arthur's Pass village  
arthurspassvc@doc.govt.nz  
+64 3 318 9211

Open every day except  
Christmas Day  
October to April:  
8:00 am – 5:00 pm daily  
May to September:  
8:30 am – 4:30 pm daily

### DOC North Canterbury

#### District Office

32 River Road  
Rangiora  
waimakariri@doc.govt.nz  
+ 64 3 3130820

Open office hours:  
8:30 am - 4:30 pm daily  
Closed weekends and  
public holidays

### DOC Ōtautahi /

#### Christchurch Visitor Centre

28 Worcester Boulevard  
Christchurch  
christchurchvc@doc.govt.nz  
+64 3 379 4082

Open every day except  
Christmas Day  
9:00 am – 4:45 pm daily.  
(Closed 12:00 – 12:30 pm  
during winter)

### Greymouth i-SITE

Cnr Herbert and Mackay St  
Greymouth  
info@westcoasttravel.co.nz  
+64 3 768 5101

Open every day except  
Christmas Day  
December to April  
9:00 am – 5:00 pm daily  
May to November  
9:00 am – 5:00 pm weekdays;  
10:00 am – 4:00 pm weekends  
and public holidays

### Hokitika i-SITE

36 Weld Street  
Hokitika  
enquiries@hokititainfo.co.nz  
+64 3 755 6166

Open every day except  
Christmas Day  
December to April  
8:30 am – 6:00 pm weekdays;  
10:00 am – 4:00 pm weekends  
and public holidays  
May to November  
8:30 am – 5:00 pm weekdays;  
10:00 am – 4:00 pm weekends  
and public holidays



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- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimise the effects of fire  
*Check before you light a fire – a ban may be in place*
- Respect wildlife and farm animals
- Be considerate of others

**DOC HOTline**  
**0800 362 468**

Report any safety hazards  
or conservation emergencies  
For Fire and Search and Rescue Call 111

## Further information

### Arthur's Pass National Park Visitor Centre

106 Main Westcoast Road  
Selwyn  
PO Box 51008  
Arthur's Pass 7654

**PHONE: +64 4 318 9211**

**EMAIL: arthurspassvc@doc.govt.nz**

**www.doc.govt.nz**

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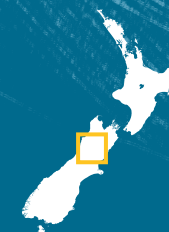
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**New Zealand Government**

# Discover Arthur's Pass

A guide to Arthur's Pass  
National Park and village



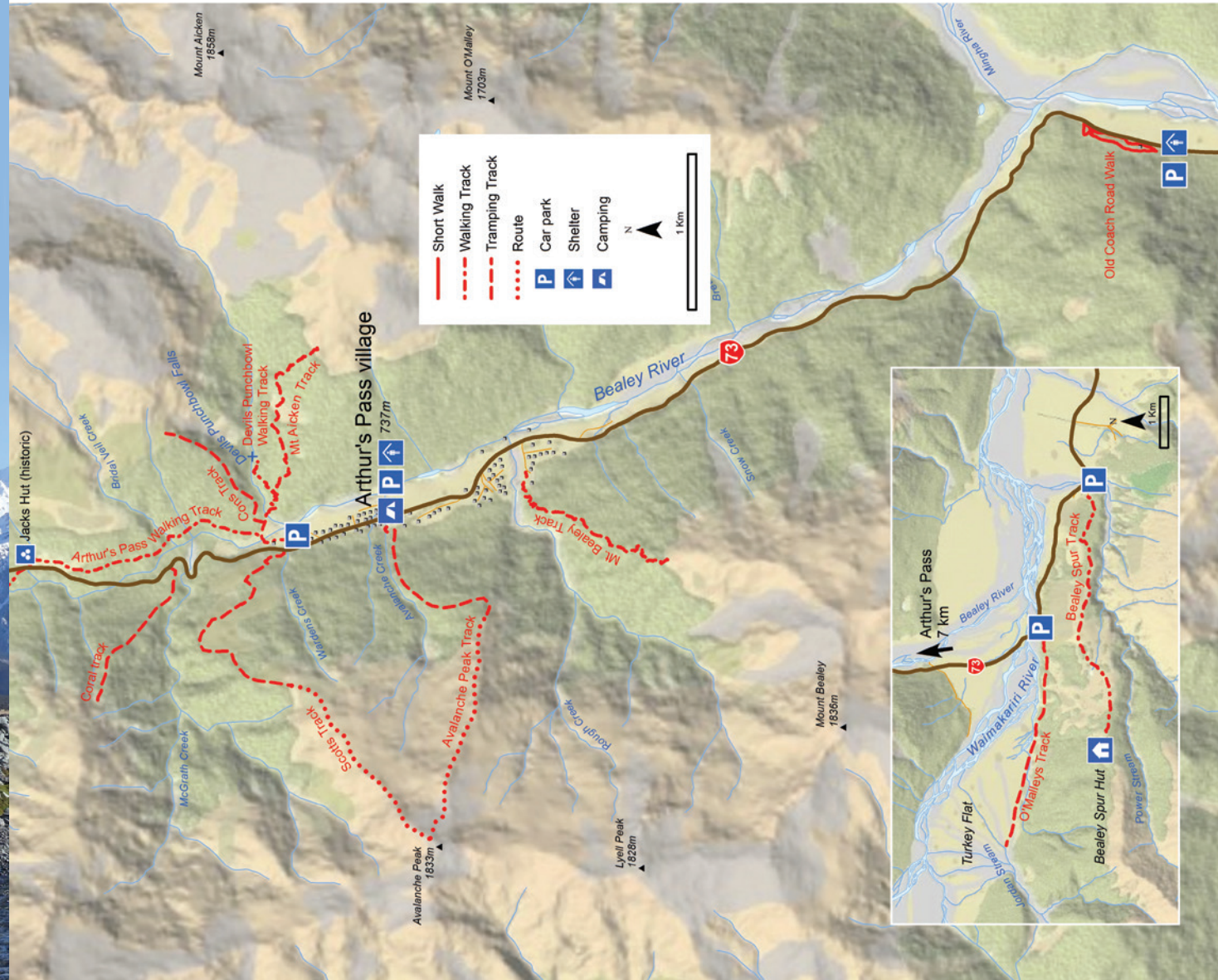
Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

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Waimakariri River, eastern gateway to the park.  
Photo: G Kates



## Welcome to Arthur's Pass

The grandeur of this vast and austere mountain and river landscape has instilled awe in those who gaze upon it, from the first Māori explorers to modern escapees from city life.

This once remote area, hidden in the heart of the Southern Alps/Kā Tiritiri o Te Moana, was the South Island's first national park, and is now easily reached from both Canterbury and the West Coast.

Not only is Arthur's Pass a key link between east and west, but it is also known for its immense natural beauty, and rare flora and fauna. The Park provides both a sanctuary for plant and bird life, and a place for both mental and physical recreation. Since becoming a National Park in 1929, Arthur's Pass has gained a world-wide reputation for alpine recreation, as well as for its stunning natural history.



## Arthur's Pass village

After beginning as a road-construction camp, the village then grew to provide services for travellers on that road. While not a coaching stop itself, Arthur's Pass provided fresh horses for weary travellers undertaking the two-three day trek from coast to coast. One of the original horse-drawn Cobb & Co coaches can be seen at the Arthur's Pass Visitor Centre.



Workers' huts. Photo: Alexander Turnbull Library, 1910, Malvern collection

Later the village became a workers' camp during construction of the Otira railway tunnel between 1907 and 1923. Many of these early cottages are now holiday homes and provide today's visitors with a warm fire, soft bed and mind-blowing views in the morning.

Travelling, whether passing through, or staying to explore our national park, is still the main drawcard for Arthur's Pass village. Stop awhile to refresh yourself. Be it a cup of tea or meal, a tour of the visitor centre, a short walk or even an overnight tramp—there's something for everyone at Arthur's Pass.

### Arthur's Pass is a journey

Arthur's Pass links the east and west coasts. But the journey is more than just getting from coast to coast over 'the Pass' by either road or rail.

It's also a journey in time from before humans to the first Māori inhabitants, to the next wave of immigrants, this time from Europe. It's about the impact these people had on this land, the demise and even extinction of some unique species, and the slow recovery of others—thanks to the caring locals.

## The historic east-west journey

Human history revolves around the journey between the coasts and over the Alps. The Dobson Memorial on the Arthur's Pass summit commemorates the European discovery of this route by Arthur Dudley Dobson in 1864. However the pass had long been used by Ngāi Tahu and they played a vital role in informing the European explorers of its existence.



Pounamu (greenstone)

Pāraerae (sandals) plaited from cabbage tree/tī kōuka leaves. Canterbury Museum collection

### First foot traffic

The usual routes of Ngāi Tahu through these mountains to the pounamu (greenstone) lands of Tai Poutini (Westland) were through the mountain passes at the head of the Hurunui and Rakaia rivers.

Arthur's Pass was used for fast east-west crossings, but seldom favoured for the return journey because of the steep and difficult conditions on the west side and the limited food resources between the pass and the coastal villages.

## Paving the road with gold

Following European settlement of Canterbury in the 1840s, the discovery of gold on the West Coast in 1864 made the construction of an east-west road an urgent priority. A road over the pass was formed and opened for coach traffic in 1866.



Coaches at the store. *Photo: E M Lovell-Smith collection, Canterbury Museum*

Few signs remain of the original coach road through Arthur's Pass. The Old Coach Road Walk (see page 30) follows a section of it, and some old rock-walling can still be seen there. Jacks Hut, a road worker's hut on the Arthur's Pass Walking Track is a reminder of the days when roadmen laboured hard with pick and shovel to keep the road open for horse-drawn and later motorised traffic.



Tunnellers. *Photo: Alexander Turnbull Library*

## The rail link through the alps

Midland Railway constructed railways from the east and west coasts from 1886. The railhead reached the Main Divide from the west at Otira in 1900 and from the east at Arthur's Pass in 1915. Worker camps were set up in each village to bore the 8.5-km tunnel through the mountains. The first shot was fired in 1908 and when the tunnels from Otira and Arthur's Pass met in 1918, they were out by just 30 mm. The tunnel opened for rail traffic in 1923.

From the Punchbowl car park a short walk takes you to a site directly above the tunnel where, if you time it right, you can feel the trains passing beneath you.



Arthur's Pass Railway Station.

*Photo: Press collection, Alexander Turnbull Library*

## Otira viaduct

The latest east-west development was the Otira Viaduct, opened in 1999. This impressive engineering feat soars above the steep gorge and tight zig-zags of the old road.

Call into the viaduct lookout at 'Deaths Corner' to see the old and new roads and learn of their history.

Kea—our mischievous mountain parrot—will no doubt be waiting at this lookout to check out you and your car. Cute and friendly as they are, don't feed them unless you really want to make them sick or even kill them—in which case you could well be prosecuted for intentionally harming protected wildlife.

## Brief chronology of Arthur's Pass village

### **Prior to 1864**

The Bealey-Otira valleys are used by Māori.

### **1864 March**

Arthur Dobson and his brother Edward go over the Bealey-Otira Pass from the Waimakariri side. The Pass was named after Arthur Dobson.

### **1865**

A tent camp is set up for surveyors and construction of the road to the West Coast goldfields.

### **1866**

First coach over Arthur's Pass from Christchurch to Hokitika by L G Cole and Co, who used the name Cobb and Co. The start of a passenger and mail service. Overland telegraph line constructed over Arthur's Pass.

### **1895**

Heavy snow prevents coaches crossing Arthur's Pass for three months

### **1901**

72,000 hectares around Arthur's Pass and Otira is reserved for national park purposes.

### **1908**

Construction of the Arthur's Pass to Otira rail tunnel starts. Tunnel workers' huts are built.

### **1912**

About 300 people live in Arthur's Pass village, mostly associated with constructing the railway tunnel.

### **1915**

Rail head reaches Arthur's Pass from Christchurch.

### **1923**

Otira tunnel completed. First trains run coast to coast. The Otira-Arthur's Pass horse-drawn coach service, the last in the country stops. Many of the tunnel workers' huts are dismantled; others are sold for holiday homes.

### **1924**

Day train excursions to Arthur's Pass make the area more popular and accessible.

### **1925**

Canterbury Mountaineering Club is formed and makes first climbs of peaks, creates maps and builds huts.

### **1926**

Arthur's Pass hostel opens, now the Outdoor Education Centre. It was run by Guy and Grace Butler.

### **1927**

Skiing is first tried at Arthur's Pass on the lawn at the hostel.

### **1928**

Oscar Coberger settles in Arthur's Pass. Skiing becomes popular.

### **1929**

Arthur's Pass is gazetted as a National Park. A severe earthquake rocks Arthur's Pass on March 9.

### **1937**

Power pylon towers built over the Pass.

### **1956**

Chapel opens. Arthur's Pass YHA Hostel opens, largely due to the efforts of Cora Wilding.

### **1959**

Visitor Information Centre opens as New Zealand's first national park museum.

The Arthur's Pass Historic Walk takes you to eleven photographic panels around the village's historic landmarks. The background information for each of these stopping points is covered in a separate publication.

### **2018**

Kea information kiosk built in response to a growing concern for the declining numbers of our unique endangered alpine parrots. Kea sighting database established through citizen science project with support from the Kea Conservation Trust.

### **2019**

Arthur's Pass Visitor Centre closed and moved to temporary premises while awaiting earthquake strengthening and refurbishment.

## Changeable weather – four seasons in one day

For visitors used to continental climates, the weather in the New Zealand mountains can be confusing. Even a beautiful summer's day can end with snow flurries and it pays to understand the weather patterns at Arthur's Pass.

The mighty Southern Alps clearly define the weather between the island's west and east coasts. In spring/summer prevailing north-west winds drag moisture-laden air off the Tasman Sea. As it rises over the mountains, heavy rain falls on the western side of the alps. Once over the mountains, the air forms the typical hot dry nor' west winds that the Canterbury Plains are renowned for over summer.

North-west winds bring the heaviest rainfalls and, if they occur in winter, can bring extreme snowfalls. Arthur's Pass usually receives three or four heavy snowfalls a year, with snow remaining above the bush line during the winter months. Snowfalls sometimes affect the road over winter and you may need snow chains to cross the alpine passes.

Arthur's Pass receives most of its four metres of rain per year during north-west rainfalls. Few places in the world have such a pronounced 'rain shadow' effect. Bealey Spur, just 15 km east of the mountain pass, receives less than half this amount of rain.

When the wind blows from the east, Christchurch is often enveloped in a dreary mantle of grey sky and drizzle, while Arthur's Pass and the West Coast bask in sunshine.

The weather will make a big difference to your visit to Arthur's Pass. Check weather forecasts and take these into account when planning your visit. Weather forecasts are available 24 hours a day by phoning the Department of Conservation's Arthur's Pass Visitor Centre phone (03) 318 9211, from local newspapers, or from [www.metservice.com](http://www.metservice.com). Staff at the visitor centre are happy to help you plan your visit to make the most of whatever the weather brings!

## Dynamic landscape

The Southern Alps are the result of active movement between the converging Indo-Australian and Pacific tectonic plates, constantly undergoing rapid uplift and erosion.

Although there has been at least 18 km of uplift in the last two million years, continuous erosion means that the mountains do not exceed 2,500 metres in the Arthur's Pass region. You can see erosion for yourself in the shattered rocks of the upper slopes and ridges, the long scree slopes, and the landslides. You can also see it in the vast amounts of gravel in the wide riverbeds destined, in time, to be washed out to the plains and seas on both the eastern and western sides of the South Island. These wide 'braided' riverbeds with many channels are found in only a few places in the world.

The predominant rock at Arthur's Pass is a grey sandstone known as greywacke. Visitors to the high rocky ridges will also see bands of argillite, a crumbly dark siltstone, referred to by climbers (without affection) as 'weetbix'.

The greatest sculpting agents on the landscape are long gone. These were the ice-age glaciers that filled the valleys almost to the top ridges. The site of Arthur's Pass village was once submerged under at least half a kilometre of ice.

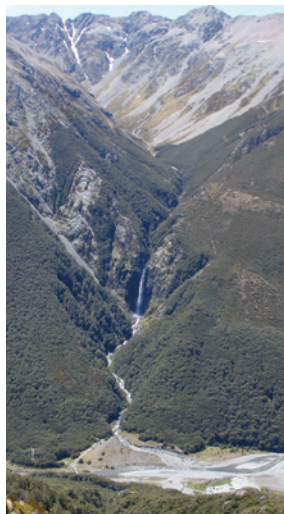


Photo: C Rance

The glaciers left steep-sided U-shaped valleys that can often be seen, despite subsequent erosion. You can also see the truncated ends of mountain ridges on any of the walks in the Arthur's Pass area. The Devils Punchbowl Falls drop down from a glacial 'hanging valley' (left). Hummocky moraines from a recent ice advance are visible on the Dobson Nature Walk.

Today the Arthur's Pass area still has a number of small glaciers on the higher peaks.

## Striking plant contrasts from east to west

A trip to Arthur's Pass is not complete without journeying to the pass itself, four km further west and 200 m higher. Here you will find marvellous views of the mountains from an alpine meadow. Another surprise is the noticeable difference in the forest between the east and west sides of the pass.

### What created these differences?

Glaciers carved out the landscape you see today, destroying the previous forest cover. After the ice melted, the forest slowly re-colonised. On the east side of the pass, today's forests are almost entirely dominated by the mountain beech/tawhairauriki (right). But on the West Coast, beech never re-colonised and instead podocarp conifers, rātā and kāmahī forests, which were more easily dispersed by wind and birds, comprise a much more diverse forest. Occasional patches of beech forest on the roadside confirm it is slowly making inroads from the east.



Photo: Les Molloy

### From the west . . .

You will notice how the West Coast forests are lush and dense in contrast with the open forests further east. These are temperate rain forests, with forest vines and epiphytes, and ground thick with ferns and mosses, all thriving in the high rainfall. Look out for the display of red-flowering southern rātā (right) in the Otira Gorge in late summer. The **Cockayne Nature Walk** is a good place to view this forest.



The summit of Arthur's Pass is the only place in New Zealand where a major highway passes through subalpine shrubland. In fact, the timberline here is at a surprisingly low altitude compared with forests in the northern hemisphere. Like the forests to the west, the very high rainfall makes for a lush alpine environment. Take a closer look from the **Dobson Nature Walk**—a self-guided booklet, introducing you to this zone, is available from the Arthur's Pass Visitor Centre.



In the true alpine zone, plants making a home here have adapted in special ways to cope with temperature extremes, strong winds, steep and unstable terrain, poor soils and months-long snow cover. This zone is most safely reached using the **Temple Basin** or **Otira Valley** tracks.

### . . . to the east

The drier eastern side provides the ideal environment for mountain beech which clothes the hills as you travel towards Christchurch. It forms a near monoculture as the rainfall declines. The influence of people on the landscape becomes more evident as forest is replaced by fire-induced shrub and grassland. Here, the hills and river flats are covered by native tussocks and exotic grasses dotted with thorny grey matagouri shrubs.

The wide gravel braided riverbeds, such as the Waimakariri, sustain rapidly-colonising small herbs, cushion plants, mosses and lichens, which are always vulnerable to the next large flood.



Photo: Les Molloy

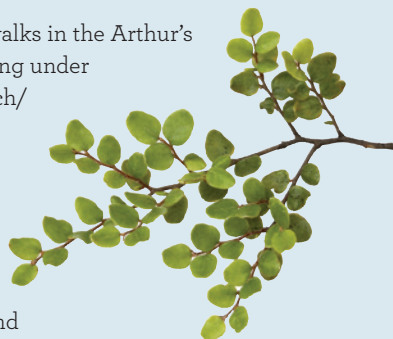


## A beginner's guide to native beech

On almost all of forested walks in the Arthur's Pass area you will be walking under a canopy of mountain beech/*tawhairauriki*. This is the predominant tree in the eastern valleys of Arthur's Pass (including around Arthur's Pass village). Two other New Zealand beech species are also found in this region: red beech/*tawhairaunui* and silver beech/*tawhai*.

In total New Zealand has five species of beech, each prefer different soil and climate conditions.

- **Hard Beech** (*Fuscospora truncata*) and black beech (*Fuscospora solandri*) are found in the lowland areas of the North Island and northern South Island.
- **Red beech** (*Fuscospora fusca*) prefers the foothills and inland river valley floors particularly where soils are fertile and well drained Silver beech (*Lophozonia menziesii*) prefers higher, wetter conditions.
- **Silver beech** is the most widespread tall tree in Fiordland.
- **Mountain beech** (*Fuscospora cliffortioides*) grows in the mountains and on less fertile soils than silver beech, often forming the tree line at high altitudes.



Mountain beech/*tawhairauriki*



Red beech/*tawhairaunui*



Silver beech/*tawhai*

Photos: E Passuello

## Birds at Arthur's Pass

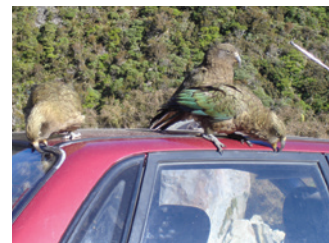
### Inquisitive kea

Kea are a parrot found only in the mountains of the South Island. They nest in holes and rock crevices in the beech forest, usually near the bush line—making their eggs and chicks vulnerable to introduced stoats and rats. However, they forage far and wide in the mountains and valleys, even to the West Coast in the winter months.

Kea are extraordinarily intelligent, inquisitive and resourceful—qualities that both delight and exasperate human visitors. Watch your food and belongings when kea are around!

### DO NOT FEED KEA.

This disrupts their natural feeding patterns, habituates kea to humans and encourages them to taste and eat other foreign things like rubber, plastic and lead which could kill them. Under the Wildlife Act 1953, any person convicted of intentionally killing protected wildlife can be fined up to \$100,000 or face up to 2 years imprisonment.



### Elusive kiwi

Arthur's Pass village is the only tourism centre in New Zealand within a great spotted kiwi/*roroa* habitat. You are highly unlikely to see one, but you may hear their calls at night as they often forage in the forest near the village.

Kiwi share many characteristics with mammals. They have whiskers and hair-like feathers and acute senses of smell, touch and hearing. Unique among birds, their nostrils are at the end of their beaks.



Photo: Rod Morris

## Birds commonly seen and heard around Arthur's Pass

- **Fantails/pīwakawaka** known for its friendly 'cheet cheet' call, fan-like tail, and energetic flying antics, will often dart around walkers, hawking insects disturbed by movement.
- **Tomtits/miromiro**, distinctively black with a white or yellowish breast, are often seen perched on low branches, waiting for insect prey.
- The melodious call of the **bellbird/korimako** often precedes a sighting of these dark green birds. They are primarily nectar feeders.
- You might not see them, but you are likely to hear the continuous high pitched warble of the **grey warbler/riroriro**.
- **Riflemen/tītīpounamu** are the smallest bird in New Zealand and can be seen probing the bark of trees or insects.
- **South Island robin/toutouwai** is found foraging on the ground in forest and scrub, recognised by its erect stance and relatively long legs they become quite confiding, often approaching to within a metre of a person sitting quietly.



Tomtit/miromiro. Photo: A Fleming



Rifleman/tītīpounamu. Photo: M F Soper



South Island robin/kakaruaui. Photo: S Mankelov

Common introduced birds like chaffinches, blackbirds, song thrushes, finches and redpolls will be seen in the forest and around the village.

## Rare native birds in the Arthur's Pass area

- The **blue duck/whio** (right) inhabits upper river valleys. They are seen in pairs, sometimes standing on river boulders. Their presence is often given away by the male's shrill whistle.
- **Parakeets/kākāriki** (centre) can sometimes be heard chattering high in the beech forest canopy. Of particular note is the critically endangered orange-fronted parakeet, which is found only here and in the Hurunui valley further north.
- The **yellowhead/mohua** is a delightful and noisy forest bird. It is now rare due to predation by stoats and rats, and in the Arthur's Pass area, is found only in a single valley.
- The rock **wren/pīwauwau** (right) is New Zealand's only truly alpine bird, spending all of its life above the timberline. Along with the rifleman, they are the only surviving members of the ancient family of New Zealand wrens. It can occasionally be seen above the bush line and in the Otira valley. A small bird, it is recognisable by its distinctive bobbing up and down motion when perching.



Photo: C S Robertson



Photo: S Rodd



Photo: J Van Hal

Pick up the brochure *Bird watching in Arthur's Pass National Park* for more details.

## Impact of introduced pests . . .

New Zealand was once a land with prolific birdlife and no mammals except for two species of bat. Consequently our native birds did not evolve to deal with mammalian predators; some became ground-nesting and even lost the ability to fly.

When humans arrived, they introduced many mammals, either accidentally or deliberately. Some introduced mammals have had a catastrophic effect on New Zealand's native animals, with many becoming extinct or very rare.

**The most devastating introduced mammal predators are rats, stoats, ferrets, possums and cats.** All of these are present in the Arthur's Pass area.

Maintaining the diversity of Arthur's Pass bird life relies on controlling these introduced pests. Arthur's Pass Wildlife Trust is a voluntary programme run by the tiny local community. This group undertakes intensive stoat and possum trapping and species monitoring, particularly the great spotted kiwi/roaroa, blue duck/ whio and kea.

### Arthur's Pass Wildlife Trust needs your help

The trust was established in 2010 as a community-driven initiative to encourage and promote the conservation and enhancement of the flora and fauna within Arthur's Pass National Park.

*Your generous donation will greatly assist our work.*

Send to the trust— PO Box 51010, Arthur's Pass 7654  
or deposit —Arthur's Pass Wildlife Trust, a/c 02-0800-0842003-000, BNZ Christchurch  
for more information email [secretary@apwt.org.nz](mailto:secretary@apwt.org.nz)

### . . . and weeds

Some introduced plants have moved beyond gardens and fields and are now serious weeds, aggressively invading natural habitats and excluding native plants.



*Clearing riverbed invaders—lupinus*

It is an expensive job keeping plant invaders at bay—particularly those that seed prolifically and whose seed disperses across great distances.

At Arthur's Pass, the most noticeable weeds are lupins and broom, which are spreading on to the open gravel riverbeds on the eastern side of Arthur's Pass. They may have pretty flowers, but they also exclude native plants and nesting birds from these areas and destroy the dynamics of braided rivers.

### Wildings on the march

As you journey from the east to Arthur's Pass you may note areas of dead pine trees and slopes where trees have been cleared. These wilding pines grew as a result of forest research in the 1960s, when the aim was to stabilise eroding soils in the headwater catchments.

These northern-hemisphere conifers established remarkably well, considering the challenging terrain and climate. One species in particular, contorta pine, flourished with light wind-borne seeds (thousands in a tree's lifetime) readily spread by the strong north-west winds.

Once a serious problem here, an extensive programme funded by the Ministry for Primary Industries and co-ordinated by WELRA, is well on the way to removing all the wilding trees.



*Before (2001)*



*and after wilding pine spread (2008)*

### WELRA (Waimakariri Ecological and Landscape Restoration Alliance)

was established in 2008, with representatives and volunteers from central and local government, land owners, community and environmental groups. Its focus is to control the spread of wilding pines, with funding from a range of agencies and assistance from volunteers.



## Activities

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## What to do at Arthur's Pass

There's a wide range of things to see and do at Arthur's Pass. Even if you're not into walking or the weather's just not up to it, there's plenty to see in the village and close by.

**Arthur's Pass Visitor Centre** is open every day except Christmas day. See the static and interactive displays about the natural, cultural and historic features of Arthur's Pass. For children there is a Kiwi Guardians adventure map to get kids into nature. Go online to find your Kiwi Guardian map or pick one up from the visitor centre, get out and explore, then enter your details and the password on line to receive your medal. There are over 100 Kiwi Guardian adventure maps in the New Zealand where you can collect similar medals.



Check out the historic sites along the Great Alpine Highway. Must-sees are the Chapel of the Snows, the viaduct lookout at Deaths Corner and the Otira Gorge rock-shelter lookout.

Or just enjoy the friendly hospitality of this remote alpine village and meet the interesting people who choose to live here.

### Get the best of every season

Whatever season you visit Arthur's Pass, there's something unique and special to see.

### Spring (September, October, and November)

- Warmer weather and lengthening days provide great opportunities for photos of snow-capped peaks with the melting snow and spring rains producing spectacular waterfalls. Some of the alpine flowers will be starting to bloom towards the end of spring.
- Rare wrybills/ngutu pare (the only bird in the world with a bent beak) begin nesting on the Waimakariri river bed.
- Arthur's Pass is still a fairly quiet time of year for tourist numbers if you're looking for a retreat. Depending on the year, spring skiing may be an option as well as ice climbing in September. Early November marks the start of the high-country fishing season.

## Summer (December, January, February)

- The most likely time of year for sunshine and dry weather!
- This is the best time for viewing alpine flowers: Dobson Nature Walk and the upper Otira valley showcase some of the best of these. Towards the end of summer, rātā will be starting to flower in the Otira Gorge.
- Main mountaineering season runs from December to February and the routes and tracks are well used. In February the annual Speights Coast to Coast multisport race takes place.
- There's also fantastic fishing in the high-country lakes and rivers.
- The visitor centre runs a summer programme around late December/early January with guided walks, films, talks and children's activities.

## Autumn (March, April, May)

- This is one of the nicest times to visit with settled weather, cooler days, and fewer crowds.
- Deer hunting becomes very popular around Easter with 'the Roar' and the high-country lakes and rivers remain open for fishing until late April.
- Stop in on the way from Canterbury to the Wild Foods weekend in Hokitika (March).

## Winter (June, July, August)

- Winter conditions are likely on all peaks—ice axe, crampons and alpine experience are required on many routes. But there are still good opportunities for beech-forest and lower-altitude walks.
- Mainline Steam ([www.mainlinesteam.co.nz](http://www.mainlinesteam.co.nz)) run steam-train trips from Christchurch for rail enthusiasts or those just wanting to get out of the city for the day.
- Ski at Temple Basin, or on any of the four skifields between Arthur's Pass and Springfield.
- The ice-climbing season starts in August.
- Lakes Pearson and Lyndon reopen for winter fishing and there is chamois hunting around the park
- This is best time of year for hearing the great spotted kiwi/roa calling at night around the township.

## Choosing the right walk/tramp

### How long do you want to walk for?

Short walks range from one to three hours return and can be comfortably walked in sensible shoes.

You will need at least three hours for a return trip to the bush line on any of the mountain walks and need good walking boots/shoes.

Day walks with decent boots will take you to the summit of some of the close mountains or along river valleys.

Overnight tramps/routes require additional skills and equipment and are covered separately.



### What is the weather like?

If it is raining, stormy or there is low cloud around the mountains, select a walk that stays below the bush line.

Above the bush line there will probably be no views and conditions will be unpleasant at best and dangerous at worst. Bad weather usually comes from the west or north-west, in which case consider a walk further east (e.g. Bealey Spur, Craigieburn or Kura Tāwhiti/Castle Hill) where conditions are often drier. In good weather remember to take a sun hat, sunglasses and sun-block.

The weather can change quickly at Arthur's Pass. For the latest weather conditions visit the visitor centre.



## Do you have the right skills and experience?

Arthur's Pass has a wide range of walks that can be done in a day. While some walks are relatively easy, traversing scenic valley floors, others involve steep climbs to the bush line and above.

All walks, except the Arthur's Pass Historic Walk, involve rough and uneven ground. Refer to the track grades on next page to choose a walk that suits your level of fitness and experience in New Zealand conditions.

## Do you have adequate equipment?

Do not proceed above the bush line on to the open tops unless you have sturdy footwear, a waterproof parka and spare warm clothing including warm headwear and gloves.

If you plan to visit the open tops you must have a compass and map and know how to use them. Conditions can change rapidly and you may need these for navigation if visibility deteriorates unexpectedly.

In winter conditions, any walks above the bush line may involve snow and ice travel and you will need appropriate climbing equipment and experience.

**Always let someone know where you have gone and when you expect to get back.**



## Track grades

Choose the type of track that matches your skills, fitness and the experience you want—be realistic.

**Safety is your responsibility.**



### Easy access short walk

- Easy walking for up to an hour.
- Track is well formed, with an even surface.
- Few or no steps or slopes.
- Suitable for people of all abilities and fitness.
- Stream and river crossings are bridged.
- Walking shoes required.



### Short walk

- Easy walking for up to an hour.
- Track is well formed, with an 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 signposted. Stream and river crossings are bridged.
- Walking shoes or 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.
- Track has markers, poles or rock cairns.
- Expect unbridged stream and river crossings.
- Tramping/hiking boots required.

## Short walks, walking tracks and short tramps

### In the village



#### Millennium Walk

*Walking time—10 minutes, (350 metres)*

Starting at the visitor centre, this short walk, suitable for prams, takes you over a little stone bridge where you can see Avalanche Creek Waterfall. From here you can continue up the path to a viewing platform closer to the waterfall, (this section is steep and unsuitable for prams). Return via Arthur's Pass Chapel as the window in the church frames the waterfall.



*Photo: S Webb*



#### Arthur's Pass Historic Walk

*Walking time—1 hour 30 minutes full round trip, or just do part of it*

This leisurely, easy walk takes you around Arthur's Pass village to various historic sites. At each site photographs show you how the village used to look in the early 1900s. Published in a separate brochure.



#### Devils Punchbowl Walking Track

*Walking time—60 minutes return (1 km)*

The top of this spectacular 131-metre fall can be seen from the main road, but a walk up to the base of the waterfall is well worth doing at any time of the year.

From Punchbowl car park (signposted off the highway), a footbridge crosses the Bealey River. The next bridge, over Devils Punchbowl Creek, has a good view of the waterfall. From here, a series of steps climb 150 vertical metres to a viewing platform at the base of this spectacular waterfall. Return the same way.

### West Coast side of the village



#### Arthur's Pass Walking Track

*Walking time—1 hour 20 minutes one way (3.4 km)*

This walk links a series of tracks providing the chance to walk from Arthur's Pass village to view the Dobson Memorial at Arthur's Pass summit. The walk presents the best of Arthur's Pass with diverse alpine vegetation, waterfalls, wetlands and rich history, interspersed with stunning views of the mountains. The track gradient is generally gentle, with some steep steps either side of Bridal Veil Creek.

Start at the Punchbowl, Bealey Valley (Jacks Hut) or Temple Basin car parks to walk all or part of the track and return the same way.

From Punchbowl car park it's a 20-minute walk to the Bridal Veil Falls lookout through subalpine mountain-beech forest and *Dracophyllum* to a small clearing with a picnic table, good views of the falls, surrounding peaks and Arthur's Pass village. Note the intense red leaves of the Dr Seuss-like *Dracophyllum* in spring/summer.

After crossing Bridal Veil Creek, the track travels through alpine shrublands and wetlands before reaching Jacks Hut—a restored roadman's cottage. At Jacks Hut cross SH 73 to Bealey Valley car park and follow the track through old-growth mountain beech—a good place for bird watching. The track joins onto the Dobson Nature Walk. At the track intersection, turn right to follow the track to the road which is crossed to reach the Temple Basin car park, or turn left



Bridal Falls. *Photo: R Smith*

to follow the Dobson Nature Walk for 10 minutes to the track end. At the end of the track you can see Dobson Memorial on the opposite side of the road. The obelisk memorial (right) commemorates Arthur Dudley Dobson, the surveyor who gave the modern name to Arthur's Pass. This is the highest point on the road before it drops to the West Coast.

The Lake Misery Track, linking Dobson Nature Walk with Otira Valley Track starts here, or you can return to Temple Basin car park or Arthur's Pass Walking Track. It is not safe to cross the highway from this point or to walk along the road.

### Bealey Valley Track

*Walking times*

*5 minutes to Bealey Chasm (300 metres), 25 minutes to track end (1.2 km),*

From the car park opposite Jacks Hut, the track follows a short section of the Arthur's Pass Walking Track before branching off to cross Bealey Chasm—a narrow channel where the river cascades over huge boulders.

For stunning views of Mt Rolleston/Kaimatau, continue on for a couple of minutes, climbing a hill to a snowgrass clearing. The track re-enters the beech forest and ends when you reach the Bealey River. This track is subject to avalanche hazard in winter past this point; please heed the warning signs.



Photo: C Melody



Photo: C Melody



### Dobson Nature Walk

*Walking time—30 minutes return (750 metres)*

The track starts at the Temple Basin car park. After approx. 200 m, cross the road and follow the track as it leads you in a semi-circle through a rich variety of subalpine and alpine plants, including herbs, tussocks, shrubs and flowers and the Mt Cook buttercup *Ranunculus lyallii* (right). The alpine flowers are in bloom from November to February.

There are a few interpretation points along the walk and seats along the way with good views of the surrounding mountains. An excellent self-guided booklet about the different native plants and their habitats is available from the Arthur's Pass Visitor Centre.

The track finishes opposite the Dobson Memorial on the other side of the road. Lake Misery Track leading to the Otira Valley Track starts here. You can either return the same way to the car park, or walk further.



### Lake Misery Track

*Walking time—20 minutes (1 km)*

This link track turns off the Dobson Nature Walk to take you through to the Otira Valley Track when Lake Misery is low (when the lake is high the board walk is under water!). Walk through tall red tussock to the Otira Valley Track, which you can either walk up to the footbridge, or down to the car park on SH 73.





## Temple Basin

*(to day-shelter and ski facilities)*

*Walking time—3 hours return (1.2 km, climbing 500 vertical metres)*

A nature photographer's dream. This track starts from above the bush line at the Temple Basin car park, five km north of Arthur's Pass village. It zig-zags steeply up the hill to an open tussock basin, ski-club buildings and the Lockwood day shelter. On a clear day you get magnificent views of Mt Rolleston/Kaimatau across the valley.



Temple Basin lodge.



## Otira Valley Track

*Walking time—  
1 hour to footbridge*

This relatively easy-graded track follows up a deep alpine valley on the northern side of Mt Rolleston/Kaimatau. The track starts at a car park just north of the Arthur's Pass summit. It climbs over an old glacial moraine, then follows the contour through subalpine scrub and tussock to the Otira River footbridge. On a good day this is an awesome walk to view the summer alpine flowers.



The track finishes at the footbridge. Travel past this point requires map-reading and route-finding skills and is for experienced alpine trampers and mountaineers only.

***This track is subject to avalanche hazard in winter; please heed the warning signs.***



## Cockayne Nature Walk

*Walking time—30 minutes return (800 metres)*

This rough loop track winds through the diverse podocarp broadleaf forest of the West Coast. The track starts from the car park at the end of the side road, just on the west side of the Kellys Creek State Highway 73 bridge, 17 km west of Arthur's Pass. It climbs up over a small hill and comes out near State Highway 73 with a short track leading back to the car park. The track is named after Dr Leonard Cockayne, a renowned botanist who provided the original inspiration to create Arthur's Pass National Park.



## East coast side of the village



### Old Coach Road Walk

*Walking time—30 minutes return (1.1 km)*

This pleasant forest walk starts and finishes near Greyneys Shelter, six km east of Arthur's Pass village. It follows a gently-graded section of the century-old coach road and leads back to the shelter on a more recent track.

The coach road was cut into the hillside to avoid the Bealey riverbed, which is prone to floods. You can still see sections of old rock-walling along one part of the track. It is suitable for all-terrain baby buggies.



Photo: S Webb



### O'Malleys Track

*Walking time—45 minutes to Turkey Flat (2 km)*

This is the first section of an overnight route up the Waimakariri River. The car-park entrance is on a sharp bend at the Christchurch end of the long one-way Bealey Bridge across the Waimakariri River, 10 km east from Arthur's Pass.

The track sidles through mountain-beech forest along slopes above the river. After 45 minutes you drop down to your destination, a large open area dotted with scrubby matagouri. This is known as Turkey Flat, a huge fan of alluvium disgorged from Jordan Stream, a side-stream of the Waimakariri River.



The track continues further up the Waimakariri valley for overnight tramps and routes.



### Bealey Spur Track

*Walking time—2 hours 30 mins to Bealey Spur Hut (6 km)*

This walk has stunning views in fine weather. It is often a good choice when north-westerly winds are bringing rain to Arthur's Pass—being further east, it is drier in these conditions. The track appeals to many walkers because it is more gradual than most of the alpine tracks around Arthur's Pass village. It is well marked and is suitable for reasonably fit people who are well equipped.

The track starts from the car park off State Highway 73, just past the Bealey Hotel, 14 km south of Arthur's Pass village. From the car park walk up the road (Cloudesley Road) to the track start at the top.

The track climbs gently up the spur, through mountain-beech forest. In summer look out for red-flowering mistletoe/pirirangi (right) near the start of the track. At one point the track comes close to a cliff with a dramatic view down to Bruce Stream—*take care with children*. Higher up, the track passes through tussock grasslands and subalpine scrub and passes near several tarns. There are expansive views of the Waimakariri River valley and surrounding mountains.

The track ends at an historic hut, used by musterers in the days when this area was used for summer grazing for sheep. Bealey Spur Hut is a basic (free) six-bunk hut.



Photo: T Thomsen

## Full-day tramps and routes

### Track grades

Choose the type of track that matches your skills, fitness and the experience you want—be realistic.

**Safety is your responsibility.**



#### 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.
- Track has markers, poles or rock cairns.
- Expect unbridged stream and river crossings.
- Tramping/hiking boots required



#### Route

- Challenging day or multi-day tramping/hiking.
- Track unformed and natural, rough, muddy or very steep.
- Suitable for people with above-average fitness. High-level backcountry skills and experience, including navigation and survival skills required.
- Complete self-sufficiency required.
- Track has markers, poles or rock cairns. Expect unbridged stream and river crossings.
- Sturdy tramping/hiking boots required.

Longer tramps/hikes take you into some of the finest scenery and best viewpoints from the village. If you are up to it, they give you a real appreciation of the wilderness nature of the South Island mountains.

The remote experience comes with certain risks; the tracks above the bush line or into valley heads are usually rough underfoot. In some places there is no track at all and you must follow route markers. Some routes are unmarked because of the ever-changing nature of the terrain due to slips and floods and you must be a skilled navigator and able to read the terrain to safely traverse these areas.

### On all tracks

- Tell someone where you are going. Log your intentions through the Adventuresmart website.



- Take warm clothing and raincoat, sunhat and sunscreen, something to eat and drink, and strong footwear. Do not wear jeans. Boots are recommended footwear. Remember that mountain weather can change quickly, so you need to be equipped for all weather conditions. *See also pages 21–22.*

### Walking above the bush line

- Take a map and route guide—available from the Arthur's Pass Visitor Centre. A compass is recommended in the event of poor visibility.
- Check the weather forecast before you go.
- Walking above the bush line (the upper edge of the forest) is recommended only in good weather conditions as you need good visibility to find your way. Above the bush line you are very exposed to the severity of the mountain weather.
- Avalanche Peak is the only mountain climb which is marked above the bush line; it has poles marking the route to the summit. On all other mountains, routes above the bush line are not marked and are recommended for experienced alpine trampers or mountaineers only.
- When snow covers the ground, routes will be less obvious and there may also be a danger of avalanches and ice—mountaineering equipment is recommended and you will need to have the skills to assess avalanche risk.



### **Carroll Hut**

*Walking time—3 hours to hut*

This track starts at Kellys Creek, three km north of Otira village. It is a steep climb through rātā/kāmahi forest and subalpine scrub. This leads on to tussock grasslands surrounding the hut on Kelly Range. On fine days there are good views from the saddle behind the hut, looking down the Taramakau River to the West Coast. Carroll Hut is standard 10 bunk hut (1 hut ticket/night).

### **Avalanche Peak**

*Tramping track to bush line, marked routes above bush line*

*Tramping times. To bushline—1 hour 30 min, to summit—3–4 hours*

Many people have enjoyed this mountain-top trip offering panoramic views of the Southern Alps/Kā Tiritiri o te Moana. However, some have met with tragedy because they did not realise the possible dangers of this route. This is an extremely steep and rocky journey to the top of an 1833-metre peak. The climb is 1,100 m vertical from the village (over just 2.5 km horizontal), and on a fine day, you will be rewarded with grand views of the surrounding peaks, particularly Mt Rolleston/Kaimatau and the Crow Glacier on its southern face. This is a very popular day tramp as it is the only peak in Arthur's Pass that is marked by a poled route to the summit. There are two tracks to the summit, Scotts Track and Avalanche Peak Track, both of which start from Arthur's Pass village.

If you wish to climb to the bush line only, Scotts Track is the best local track for views, particularly of Mt Rolleston / Kaimatau, the highest peak near Arthur's Pass village. You also get an excellent view of Punchbowl Falls 10 minutes up from the start of the track.

Each track takes 1 hour 30 minutes to the bush line. They then become poled routes up tussock ridges. Markers on Scotts Track are orange and the markers for Avalanche Peak Track, yellow. The routes meet a short distance below the summit, making a round trip possible, but only in fine weather and with good track conditions. **Take care beyond the junction on the final narrow ridge to the summit.**

If you are venturing above the bush line carry warm, waterproof clothing. You should not proceed further if the weather is bad or visibility is poor. Caution is needed in snow—this mountain is aptly named. In winter this track is subject to avalanche hazard and you must carry mountaineering equipment and know how to use it.

Be sure to take the map and route guide available from the Arthur's Pass Visitor Centre. The route guide contains important safety information.

### **Cons Track**

*Walking time—2 hours 30 min to bush line*

**Steep and difficult!** This track follows a steep crested ridge from the north side of Punchbowl Creek to the bush line.

### **Mt Aicken Track**

*Walking time—3 hours 30 min to bush line*

This track begins from the Punchbowl car park. The turnoff is signposted 15 minutes up the Devils Punchbowl Walking Track. The track passes an old pipeline that fed an electricity generator used during the rail tunnel construction, then climbs steeply to the bush line

## Overnight tramps and routes

### Hut grades

**Serviced hut**—bunks or sleeping platforms with mattresses. Heating, water supply, toilet and hand-washing facilities.

One serviced or three standard hut tickets per person per night.

**Standard hut**—bunks or sleeping platforms with mattresses, toilet and water supply. one standard hut ticket per person per night.

**Basic hut**—basic shelter with limited facilities and services. Free.

Before your trip—purchase a **Backcountry Hut Tickets** from a DOC visitor centre or selected -iSITE. For full terms and conditions of tickets visit [www.doc.govt.nz/HutTerms](http://www.doc.govt.nz/HutTerms).

There's an extensive network of 13 routes in Arthur's Pass National Park, ranging from 2–5 days up river valleys and over mountain passes. Often travelling above the bush line and requiring route-finding and river-crossing skills, these routes are for experienced trampers only.

However, the beginning sections of some of the routes up river valleys to the first huts and back are suitable for moderately fit and experienced trampers.

The following options provide a 3–6 hour walk to a hut for an overnight stay and back.

See the *Tramping in Arthur's Pass National Park* brochure to find out more and you must get the latest information from the visitor centre staff or the DOC website before setting out on any of these routes. As these tracks follow river valleys note that river and weather conditions can change daily.



Hawdon Hut



### Hawdon Hut

3 hours

The track to Hawdon Hut begins at the Hawdon Shelter, accessed from Mt White Road. The track follows the Hawdon River for about 9 km to the Hawdon Hut **with numerous river crossings—do not attempt if flows are high or rain is forecast**. Hawdon Hut is a 20-bunk serviced hut (1 serviced or 3 standard hut tickets per night).



### Carrington Hut (see Carrington Hut route guide)

5 hours

This track begins at the Bealey Bridge and follows the Waimakariri River for 14 km to its head-waters at the base of the Southern Alps. **There are some deep river crossings—do not attempt if flows are high or rain is forecast**. Carrington Hut is the largest serviced hut in the park with 36 bunks (1 serviced or 3 standard hut tickets per night).



### Hamilton Hut (see Hamilton Hut route guide)

6–7 hours

The track to Hamilton Hut is accessed from the car park off SH 73 by Cass and follows the Cass River. After crossing Cass Saddle (1326 m) the track follows Hamilton Creek to the hut at the confluence of the Harper River. **There are some river crossings along this 12-km track, do not attempt if flows are high or rain is forecast. This track is also subject to avalanche hazard in winter.** Hamilton Hut is a 20-bunk serviced hut (1 serviced or 3 standard hut tickets per night).



### Edwards Hut (see Edwards-Hawdon valleys route guide)

4–5 hours

A 7-km tramp up the Edwards River takes you to Edwards Hut, situated at the base of a U-shaped glacial valley. **Multiple river crossings are required—do not attempt if flows are high or rain is forecast.** Edwards Hut is a 14-bunk serviced hut (1 serviced or 3 standard hut tickets per night)



### Casey Stream campsite (see Casey and Binser saddles route guide) A new Casey Hut will be rebuilt in 2020

7–8 hours

The 12-km track begins at Andrews Shelter, traversing Andrews Stream and over Casey Saddle (777 m). **Minor stream crossings are involved—do not attempt if heavy rain is forecast.** Casey Hut is a 16-bunk serviced hut (3 hut tickets/night).



### Goat Pass Hut (see Mingha-Deception route guide, east to west)

5 hours

This hut is located at 1070 m on the Main Divide after an 8-km tramp along the Mingha River. **Multiple river crossings are required—do not attempt if flows are high or rain is forecast. This track is also subject to avalanche hazard in winter.** Goat Pass Hut is a 20-bunk standard hut (1 standard hut ticket per night)

*For full information on these and other routes, get the route guides available free on the DOC website, or for sale in the Arthur's Pass Visitor Centre. Before undertaking any route call into the visitor centre to get the latest track and weather updates.*

## Other activities

### Skiing/snowboarding

In true pioneering spirit, skiing at Arthur's Pass village dates back to 1927 and today there are now five ski fields all within an hour's drive from the village. These fields provide skiers and snowboarders with a variety of challenges and terrains.

Four of these ski fields are club operated, and the largest, Porters, is a commercial ski field providing a wide range of services, tows, lessons etc. While Temple Basin, Cheeseman, Broken River and Craigieburn ski fields are

The friendly club atmosphere welcomes visitors anytime. You can hire equipment at Cheeseman and Temple Basin, and all have food and drink for sale. Find out more from the visitors centre or visit [www.snow.co.nz](http://www.snow.co.nz) for more information.

### Mountaineering

The mountain ranges of the Arthur's Pass region have provided a climbing escape close to the main centres of Christchurch and Greymouth since 1891. Within the national park the terrain varies from low hills capable of being climbed by almost anybody of modest fitness and experience, to heavily glaciated peaks and steep face-routes all of which require a mountaineering skills developed through time and experience. Visit [www.arthurspass.com](http://www.arthurspass.com) for more information.

### Mountain biking

Mountain biking is not generally permitted in any of the national parks, but following a trial to determine the impact of mountain biking on the tracks and other user expectations, Arthur's Pass Poulter valley (right) has now been opened up for mountain biking.

Access is from Mt White Road and the first 13-km section of the track is Intermediate grade, across river terraces and fans to reach the park boundary. From the park boundary fence it is an Easy grade, 8km ride along an old 4WD track through bush to Casey camping site (hut rebuild 2020). Poulter Hut (standard 10 bunk hut, 1 standard hut ticket per night) is 6km further on and marks the end of the mountain biking access in the national park. For full details see *Poulter valley mountain biking*.



The nearby Craigieburn Forest Park is a mountain-biking mecca. For more information see the brochure *Mountain biking in Canterbury* available from the visitor centre or free on the DOC website.

## Hunting

Arthur's Pass National Park is open for recreational hunting of large game year-round. Pigs, red deer and chamois are present in low to moderate numbers and populations can be quite localised. Only centre-fire rifles are permitted and spotlighting is prohibited.

You will need a hunting permit—available on-line via the DOC website [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz), or through the Arthur's Pass Visitor Centre. Both the visitor centre and website have further details about access and areas excluded from hunting.

## Dogs

Dogs are **NOT** permitted (on a lead or otherwise) in any national park. Arthur's Pass village is not part of the park boundary so you may walk your dog on a lead along the village roads. Please clean up after your dog.

## Short walks and places to visit off the Great Alpine Highway (SH73)

### Kura Tāwhiti/Castle Hill Conservation Area

These large limestone formations, up to 30 m high, can be seen from the highway. However, their size is best appreciated up close by walking 10–15 minutes along the easy entry track. A network of unmarked but worn tracks can then be followed around the formations. This area is a world-renowned rock-

climbing site and you are likely to see climbers pitting their skill against the rocks. Take care if you climb any of the formations, particularly in wet weather.

This place has special significance to the first occupants, Waitaha, and through many generations to present day Ngāi Tahu, the tribe who share joint management of this area with the Department of Conservation. Find out more in the brochure *Kura Tāwhiti*, available from local Department of Conservation visitor centres.

### Cave Stream Scenic Reserve

For more information on this area and going through the cave, refer to the brochure *Cave Stream Scenic Reserve*. The limestone formations nearby were the setting for the filming of *Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*.

### Craigieburn Forest Park

There are several walks in the mountain-beech forest on the lower slopes of the Craigieburn Range. This area is often dry when north-westerly conditions are bringing rain to Arthur's Pass. The best walk is to the superb viewpoint on the summit of Helicopter Hill.

### Lake Pearson/Moana Rua

Lying in a glacially-eroded valley, 607 m above sea level, this hourglass-shaped high-country lake is extremely popular for fishing, kayaking, bird watching and camping. A very picturesque site to break your journey.

### Avoca Homestead

The historic Avoca Homestead was built in 1906 and has undergone extensive renovation to preserve its heritage value. Access is via Craigieburn Road (turn off SH73 near Cass). There



are six railway crossings along the 25-km stretch with no warnings of oncoming trains. There are also numerous gates across the road. Leave all gates as you find them. The road is 2WD to within a 30-minute walk to the homestead, and 4WD access is possible to within a kilometre. The homestead is reached after crossing Broken River. **Access might not be possible when the river is high.** You can stay at the restored homestead. It is a standard 6-bunk hut (one standard hut ticket per night).

## DOC Camping sites

### *Avalanche Creek Shelter campsite*

This standard camping site is located just after the main public toilet block heading north on SH73 in Arthur's Pass village.

**Facilities:** shelter with seats and tables, cold running water, toilets, and 10 tent sites.

**Fees:** \$8.00 adult/night, \$4.00 child/night (5-17 years), under 5 free

### *Klondyke Corner campsite*

This large open standard campsite is near the junction of the Bealey and Waimakariri rivers. Very popular in the summer and part of the annual Coast to Coast event in February.

**Facilities:** basic shelter, toilet, picnic table, water from stream, 30 tent sites

**Fees:** \$8.00 adult/night, \$4.00 child/night (5-17 years), under 5 free

**Location:** Klondyke Corner, 8 km from *Arthur's Pass village* (Christchurch side) on SH 73

### *Hawdon Shelter campsite*

Now a standard campsite in the lower reaches of the Hawdon valley on the grassy flats. There are walks from here along the Hawdon River.

**Facilities:** basic shelter, toilet, picnic table, water from stream, 20 tent sites

**Fees:** \$8.00 adult/night, \$4.00 child/night (5-17 years) under 5 years free

**Location:** Mt White Road, turn off SH 73. Camping site is 24 km south of Arthur's Pass village

### *Andrews Shelter campsite*

In the south-eastern corner of the national park, this standard campsite is a popular starting point for trampers heading to Poulter River .

**Facilities:** basic shelter, toilet, picnic table, water from stream, 20 tent sites

**Fees:** \$8.00 adult/night, \$4.00 child/night (5-17 years) under 5 years free

**Location:** Off SH 73, 5 km along Mount White Road

### *Lake Pearson (Moana Rua) campsite*

This standard campsite is on the shores of an idyllic high-country lake in the Waimakariri Basin. This is a good base for bird watching, fishing or photography.

**Facilities:** toilet, picnic table, water from stream, 20 tent sites

**Fees:** \$8.00 adult/night, \$4.00 child/night (5-17 years) under 5 years free

**Location:** SH 73, 35 km south of Arthur's Pass village

### *Mistletoe Flat – Craigieburn Shelter campsite*

This standard camping site is set in Craigieburn Forest Park's panoramic landscape of beech forest, tussock grasslands and rugged mountains.

**Facilities:** basic shelter, toilet, picnic table, water from stream, 20 tent sites

**Fees:** \$8.00 adult/night, \$4.00 child/night (5-17 years), under 5 free

**Location:** Turn off SH 73 at signpost, between Castle Hill Village and Lake Pearson/Moana Rua.

## Other advertised accommodation and services

### *Arthur's Pass Alpine Motel*

Arthur's Pass Alpine Motel is situated in the village. Our warm cosy cabins (some with fires) sleep 2-5 people. Restaurants and walking tracks are minutes from your door. Meet some cheeky kea and listen to the kiwi call at night.

**W.** [www.apam.co.nz](http://www.apam.co.nz), **E.** [alpinemotel@live.com](mailto:alpinemotel@live.com), **P.** 0800 900 401. See our advertisement page 48

### *Arthur's Pass Motel and Lodge / Avoca by Design Giftshop*

Offers clean, comfortable accommodation with a higher end feel. The tastefully designed lodge with king and single ensuite rooms share a large dining room and full kitchen. We also offer a spacious private apartment suite with mountain views and separate queen motel units with cooking facilities. Peruse our extensive on-site boutique gift shop Avoca by Design for unique and quality items.

**W.** [www.arthurspass-accommodation.com](http://www.arthurspass-accommodation.com), **E.** [accommodationarthurspass@gmail.com](mailto:accommodationarthurspass@gmail.com), **P.** 03 318 9099. See our advertisement page 48



### ***Arthur's Pass Village B&B Homestay***

Renée and Geoff welcome you to share their home in Arthur's Pass village. Delicious home-cooked food catering for all tastes. Very cosy with comfortable beds, big fluffy towels and cuddles from Maggie – the friendly dog.

**W.** [www.arthurspass.org.nz](http://www.arthurspass.org.nz),

**E.** [contact@arthurspass.org.nz](mailto:contact@arthurspass.org.nz), **P.** 03 318 9183 / 021 394 776.

*See our advertisement page 49*

### ***The Bealey Hotel***

Southern Hospitality in the Majestic Southern Alps! With family villas, studio units, and backpacker rooms, we have accommodation options for everyone. The hotel has full café, restaurant and bar facilities. Indoor and outdoor dining options to enjoy our barista coffees, fresh baking and hot and cold food with stunning views of the Waimakariri River and the Southern Alps. The complete getaway experience!

Open 7 days.

**W.** [thebealeyhotel.com](http://thebealeyhotel.com) **E.** [stay@thebealeyhotel.com](mailto:stay@thebealeyhotel.com).

**P.** 03 318 9277. *See our advertisement page 49*

### ***Forest Lodge***

Serene off-grid mountain lodge nestled in the Craigieburn Range. Unique backpacker accommodation with self-catering kitchen for \$35 a night. The whole lodge is also available for private hire \$900 a night. **W.** [www.forestlodge.info](http://www.forestlodge.info).

**E.** [stay@forestlodge.info](mailto:stay@forestlodge.info). **P.** 03 318 8601.

### ***Jackson's Retreat Alpine Holiday Park***

Accommodation for all travellers with powered camp and tent sites, cosy cabins, and a self-contained apartment sleeping up to 10. Free hot showers and modern facilities with free BBQ & pizza oven. Local walking tracks and glow worm dells. 4464 State Highway 73, Jacksons. **W.** [www.jacksonsretreat.co.nz](http://www.jacksonsretreat.co.nz).

**E.** [info@jacksonsretreat.co.nz](mailto:info@jacksonsretreat.co.nz). **P.** 03 738 0474

*See our advertisement page 50*

### ***KiwiRail – TranzAlpine***

Discover New Zealand's most stunning scenery on your way to Arthur's Pass aboard the TranzAlpine. Leaving daily from Christchurch to Greymouth, arriving at Arthur's Pass around 10.40 am. Returning from Greymouth to Christchurch leaves Arthur's Pass just before 4.00 pm. **W.** [www.tranzscenic.co.nz](http://www.tranzscenic.co.nz). **P.** 0800 TRAINS (872 467). *See our advertisement page 50*

### ***Porters Lodge***

Eat. Play. Stay. Porters Lodge has comfortable, bunk-style family accommodation set against a beautiful mountain backdrop. We have a fully licensed bar with the best craft beer selection in Castle Hill and serve freshly cooked hot meals and snacks in the restaurant. **W.** [www.porterslodge.co.nz](http://www.porterslodge.co.nz), **E.** [lodge@skiporters.co.nz](mailto:lodge@skiporters.co.nz), **P.** 03 3184011.

*See our advertisement page 51*

### ***Snowgrass Cabin***

Snowgrass is a warm, cosy fully self-contained unit, sleeping up to three people. Tariff is \$130 per night per double and \$145.00 for three people. Explore the outdoor activities in the surrounding national park and countryside or chill out and relax at the local café and bar. **P.** 03 318 9238 / 022 461 7734.

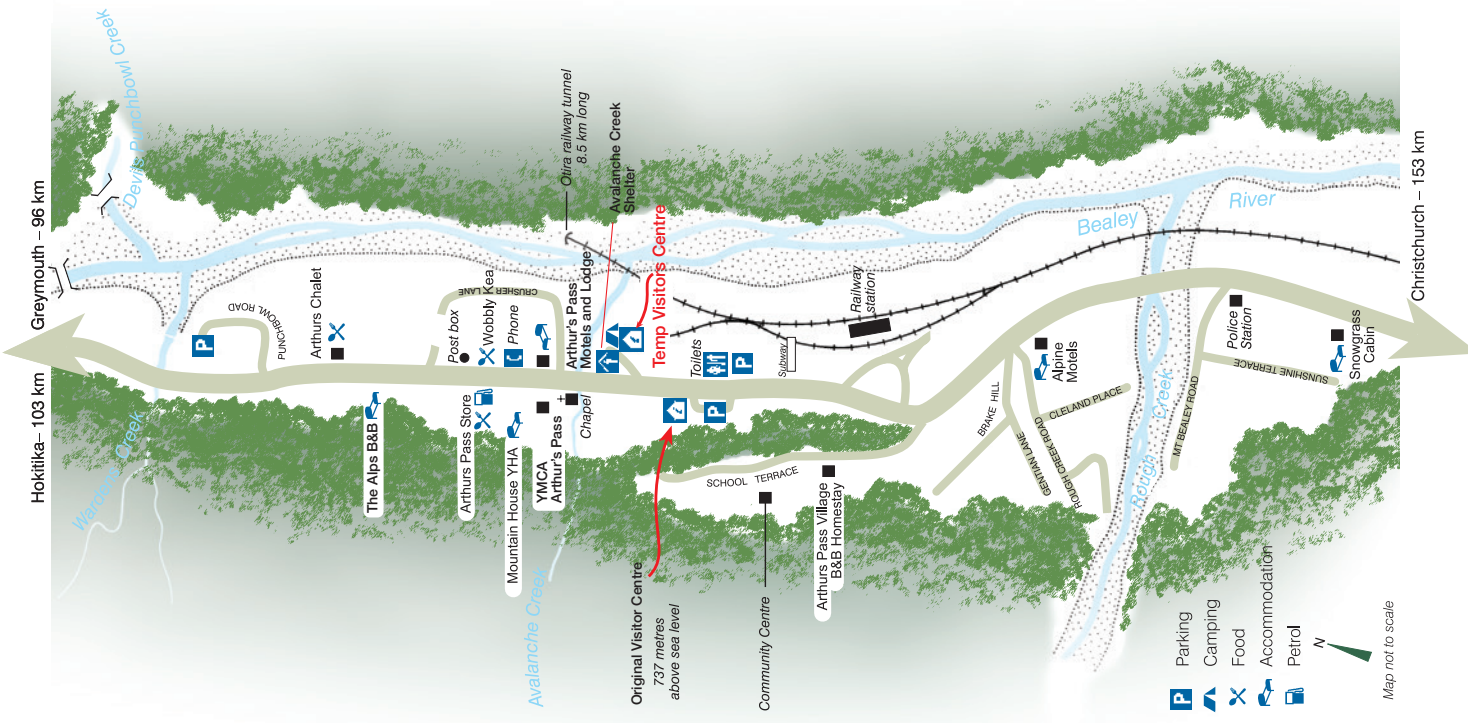
### ***YMCA Arthur's Pass, Outdoor Education Centre (APOEC)***

Group accommodation in the heart of Arthur's Pass National Park. Dormitory, twin, quad rooms. Fully equipped kitchen, dining room, showers, drying room and Wi-Fi for guests. Rates: available on application. Bookings and enquiries: **W.** [www.ymcachch.org.nz/apoec/](http://www.ymcachch.org.nz/apoec/), **E.** [apoec@ymcachch.org.nz](mailto:apoec@ymcachch.org.nz), **P.** 03 318 9249.

Grey mouth - 96 km

Hokitika - 103 km

Christchurch - 153 km



- Parking
- Camping
- Food
- Accommodation
- Petrol

Map not to scale

# Arthur's Pass Alpine Motel

Our gem in the Southern Alps



Offering fantastic self-contained motel accommodation, complete with your own bathroom, kitchen and free WIFI. Our warm cosy cabins (some with gas fires) sleep 1-5 people. Restaurant and café are just a short walk from our motel.

52 Main Rd, Arthur's Pass Village 7654  
p: 03 318 9233 e: [alpinemotel@live.com](mailto:alpinemotel@live.com)  
w: [www.apam.co.z](http://www.apam.co.z)



Warm cosy home  
Great food  
Comfy beds  
Espresso coffee  
Vegetarian & vegan options  
Meet Maggie the friendly dog

## Arthur's Pass Village B&B Homestay



Contact: Renee & Geoff  
[www.arthurspass.org.nz](http://www.arthurspass.org.nz)  
021 394 776

## Avoca by Design Gift Shop



Come stay with us for a lovely night's rest at Arthur's Pass Motel & Lodge, explore Arthur's Pass, and peruse our extensive gift collections in our on-site boutique gift shop Avoca by Design for unique and quality New Zealand and international items.

Arthur's Pass Motel & Lodge accommodation bookings  
[accommodationarthurspass@gmail.com](mailto:accommodationarthurspass@gmail.com)  
[www.arthurspass-accommodation.com](http://www.arthurspass-accommodation.com)  
+64 3 318 9099

Avoca by Design Gift Shop  
<https://www.facebook.com/ArthursPassVillage/>  
<https://avocabydesign.com>  
+64 3 318 9099

## BEALEY HOTEL

ACCOMMODATION • RESTAURANT • BAR

Est. 1865

Southern Hospitality in the Majestic Southern Alps

4 levels of accommodation options

Full restaurant and bar



P. 64 3 318 9277  
W. [thebealeyhotel.com](http://thebealeyhotel.com)  
E. [stay@thebealeyhotel.com](mailto:stay@thebealeyhotel.com)  
A. 12858 West Coast Road (SH73), Bealey 7580

Come for the views,  
Stay for the hospitality

# Jackson's Retreat Holiday Park

4464 SH73 • Accommodation for all travellers!

Powered sites  
• Camp/tent sites •  
Cosy cabins • Self contained  
apartment sleeps 10 • Covered  
sites • 5- star facilities • free  
hot showers • large modern  
kitchen • free BBQ & pizza  
oven • exclusive access to  
walking tracks and glow  
worm dells

[www.jacksonsretreat.co.nz](http://www.jacksonsretreat.co.nz)

03 738 0474

[info@jacksonsretreat.co.nz](mailto:info@jacksonsretreat.co.nz)

## New Zealand by train. Simply stunning.

Photo D Bond

Discover some of New Zealand's most stunning scenery and visit the South's highest settlement, Arthur's Pass, aboard the TranzAlpine.

BOOK NOW at [tranzscenic.co.nz](http://tranzscenic.co.nz)

or call 0800 TRAINS (872 467)

KiwiRail 

# PORTERS LODGE

EAT. PLAY. STAY.

## Open All Summer!



Located just off of Highway 73

30mins NW of Springfield, 15mins south of Castle Hill



☀ Lodge accommodation



☀ Dorm-style or private rooms



☀ RV electrical hookups

☀ Lodge facilities

☀ Restaurant & Bar

☀ Local knowledge

☀ Hub for activities



## Inquire & Book Today!

+64 3-318 4011

[porterslodge.co.nz](http://porterslodge.co.nz)



