

true right bank of the Crow River. Follow the riverbed downstream for 20 minutes to the hut. Look for a crossing as far above the hut as possible, if the river is high.

The 10-bunk hut stands in a clearing on the bush edge. The Crow face of Rolleston at the head of the valley is a popular winter climbing route.

The name Crow was inspired by the sighting of a kōkako (orange-wattled crow) during an 1865 exploration of the area. Last seen in the park in the 1930s, the South Island kōkako is probably extinct.

### Crow Hut – Klondyke Corner

**Time: 4 hours**

From Crow Hut, travel down the river on the true right bank. The route alternates between easy river-bank travel and sections of marked track in the bush, where the river runs close to the bank. Approximately 15 minutes downstream from the hut is an active rock-fall area. Cross it quickly, with appropriate caution.

Cross Crow River where it opens out before joining the Waimakariri River. Then cut the corner on a marked track through a flat tongue of beech forest to the grassy Waimakariri flats.

If Crow River is not easily crossed, travel further downstream to where it joins Waimakariri River. There is no track this way but crossing may be possible where the river widens.

From Crow River travel changes between large grassy flats and shingle riverbed. Because the Waimakariri River flows against steep bluffs, you must at some stage cross the river then re-cross to reach the Waimakariri valley road end. A gravel road takes you the final short distance to Klondyke Corner. The second lower river crossing may present more difficulty under some conditions. In these circumstances it is possible to traverse the huge scrub-covered fan (Turkey Flat) opposite the Crow confluence to join the marked track that climbs above the river and descends to the road bridge at Bealey on SH 73.



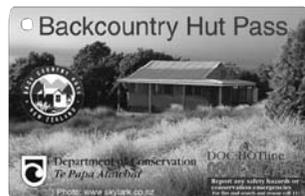
If the Waimakariri River is high or in flood you must find a safe place to wait for river levels to drop.

### Hut fees

Please purchase tickets before using the huts.

	Bunks	Standard
Crow Hut	10	

Serviced – 3 tickets per person/night  
Standard – 1 ticket per person/night  
Basic – Free



### Further information

For information, hut tickets, intentions cards, maps, weather forecasts and track condition updates:

Arthur's Pass National Park  
Visitor Centre

Main Road, Arthur's Pass

Phone 03 318 9211

8.00 am – 5.00 pm (summer),  
8.30 am – 4.30 pm (winter)

arthurspassvc@doc.govt.nz

Suggestions for corrections or improvements should be emailed to: recreation@doc.govt.nz

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

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NEW ZEALAND  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
CARE CODE

- Protect plants and animals
- Remove rubbish
- Bury toilet waste
- Keep streams and lakes clean
- Take care with fires
- Camp carefully
- Keep to the track
- Consider others
- Respect our cultural heritage
- Enjoy your visit
- Toitu te whenua (Leave the land undisturbed)



# Avalanche Peak – Crow River



## Route guide 5

ARTHUR'S PASS NATIONAL PARK



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

## General information

**Time:** 2 days (shuttle required)

**Grade:** Unmarked route



**Experience:** Suitable for well-equipped people with previous back-country tramping experience.

**Best season:** Mid summer to late autumn

**NZTopo50: Otira BV20 (NZMS260: Otira K33, Wilberforce K34)**

**Hazards:** Flooded rivers, rock fall and avalanche.

**Safety:** Safety is your responsibility. This route guide must be read in conjunction with *Tramping in Arthur's Pass National Park*, a free brochure with important safety information.

**Note:** true left and true right refer to the side of the valley or river when facing and looking downstream.

## Introduction

This route makes a good weekend trip, all against a backdrop of some of the best features of Arthur's Pass National Park—glaciers, mountain peaks and ice-fed rivers.

Crow Hut is situated at the bush edge in an alpine meadow.



This route is steep, exposed to the weather, and precipitous in some places. The route is not continuously marked, and at times you need to be able to find your own way. It should not be attempted in poor visibility or high winds. In winter and spring, the route over Avalanche Peak is avalanche prone. During heavy snow conditions, we advise visitors not to travel this route unless sufficiently equipped and experienced to assess the conditions and choose a safe path through avalanche terrain.

## Getting there

The trip starts from Arthur's Pass village on SH 73, 150 km from Christchurch.

### Arthur's Pass Village – Crow Hut

**Time:** 6 – 7 hours

There are two tracks which head to Avalanche Peak. Avalanche Peak Track is steeper and more direct.

Scotts Track climbs more gradually, has better views, and is easier on the knees. Both tracks are marked to the summit.

### Avalanche Peak Track – summit

**Time:** 3 – 4 hours



This track travels along a narrow ridge and is precipitous in some places. Beware of steep drop-offs and rock fall.

From the Visitor Centre follow the bush edge northwards to pick up the start of the track behind the first house and before the bridge over Avalanche Creek.

The track is rocky and steep in parts, and goes up through mountain beech/tawhairauriki on the south side of Avalanche Creek.

As you climb, the track moves away from the creek and emerges from the bush line (1200 metres) to give good views down the Bealey valley to Cora Lynn Station, the Black Range and Mt Bealey. You are halfway to Avalanche Peak summit.

Follow the ridge which runs between the Rough Creek and Avalanche Creek catchments. From the bush line, a worn trail leads through tussock and subalpine vegetation. Beware of steep drop-offs as you travel along this narrow ridge. Yellow markers on stakes mark the route all the way to the summit. Mt Rolleston/Kaimatau, with the Crow Glacier on its southern side, rises majestically to the north above the ridge.

The prominent ridge suddenly flattens out at 1680 metres. From this point, climb steeply to the ridgeline above you, following the worn track and snow poles. On the exposed ridgeline, Avalanche Peak track joins Scotts Track. Orange and yellow stakes mark the last ten minutes to the summit.

### Scotts Track – summit

**Time:** 3 – 4 hours

Scotts Track climbs more gradually to Avalanche Peak. If you are doing this route in reverse it is the better track to come down.

The track entrance is signposted from SH 73, 200 metres past the northern end of the village, directly opposite Devils Punchbowl Falls. The marked track climbs through the bush, crossing a few streams. Orange stakes mark the track above the bush line and a foot-worn track goes through the tussock. Take care where the ridge has steep drops into McGrath Creek. Ten minutes before the summit the track joins Avalanche Peak Track.

### Avalanche Peak Ridge – scree slope

**Time:** 1 hour

The ridge line from Avalanche Peak is narrow and rocky so the unmarked route often sidles below the ridge.

The route to the main ridge behind Avalanche Peak starts in the opposite direction from what you would expect. From the summit, drop down the south side of Avalanche Peak onto the top of a shingle scree. (As you walk up from the village, south is on your left; the large peak, Mt Rolleston, is to the north.) From the shingle scree, head north-west under the main peak to a saddle between Avalanche Peak and the main Rolleston ridge. From the saddle, sidle on the eastern (village) side of the ridge, down to the main ridge towards Mt Rolleston. Continue along this ridge about half an hour until you reach a marked point indicating the descent point into the Crow Valley.

If you are doing this trip in reverse do not be tempted to drop into the upper basins of McGrath Creek to avoid climbing over Avalanche Peak. The basins end in bluffs and are not a 'short cut'.

### Scree slope – Crow Hut

**Time:** 1 hour 30 minutes

The route leaves the ridge and a scree slope takes you all the way to the Crow River. It is vital to find the right descent into the Crow River.



Do not attempt to descend to Crow River before the marked point, because earlier screes finish in bluffs. There are four features to use to check that you are at the right place.

1. This point is marked by stakes and a rock cairn.
2. You can see the full length of the scree, from the ridge to the Crow valley.
3. The full drop of Devils Punchbowl Falls is visible on opposite slopes.
4. Just after the correct place to descend, the ridge you are on rises more steeply towards Mt. Rolleston.

This scree provides a good, bluff-free descent, but is avalanche prone in heavy snow. Take care not to dislodge loose rock onto people below you.



Beware of rock fall.

Towards the bottom, this long scree narrows before fanning out. From here you can see Crow Hut on the