

Walks for families



CANTERBURY



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Cover photo: Lake Pukaki Terminal
Moraine Conservation Area
This page: Ōtukaikino, Christchurch

Published by
Department of Conservation
Canterbury Conservancy
Private Bag 4715
Christchurch, New Zealand
© Copyright 2007 New Zealand Department of Conservation
ISBN 978-0-478-14165-8
ISBN 978-0-478-14171-9 (PDF)

CONTENTS

Hanmer Forest Park

Woodland Walk	6
---------------	---

Foothill forests

Mt Grey/Maukatere	7
Mt Thomas	8
Glentui	8

Christchurch region

Ōtukaikino	8
Godley Head	9
Ōtamahua/Quail Island	9
Christchurch–Little River Railtrail	9
Harts Creek bird hide	10

Banks Peninsula

Kaituna Valley Scenic Reserve	11
Okuti Valley Scenic Reserve	11
Hay Scenic Reserve	11
Akaroa Head Scenic Reserve	12

Waimakariri Basin

Kura Tāwhiti Conservation Area	12
Cave Stream Scenic Reserve	13
Craigieburn Forest Park	13

Locality map

14

Arthur's Pass National Park

Village Historic Walk	16
Millennium Walk	16
Dobson Nature Walk	16
Devils Punchbowl Falls Track	16
Old Coach Road	17

Mid/South Canterbury

Talbot Forest	17
Peel Forest	17
Kelceys Bush	18
Pioneer Park	18

Twizel area

Ben Ohau Wetland	18
Kettlehole Track	18
Marker Bay	19
Temple Valley	19
Quailburn Bush and historic site	20
Ahuriri Valley—Shamrock Hut	20

Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park

Governors Bush Walk	21
Kea Point Walk	21
Hooker Valley Walk	22

Overnight back-country adventures

Lake Daniells	23
Sign of the Packhorse Hut	23
Bealey Spur Hut	24
Bealey Hut	25
Avoca Homestead	25
Woolshed Creek Hut	26
Baikie Hut	26
Shamrock Hut	27
Monument Hut	27



Taking your children into the outdoors is a great way to spend time with your family, have fun and discover new things. The Department of Conservation looks after many different and special places in Canterbury, including two national parks—Aoraki/Mt Cook and Arthur’s Pass. There are also many conservation parks and reserves that are great to explore with children, such as the foothills behind Oxford and Rangiora, only an hour’s drive from Christchurch.

Walk one of many short tracks suitable for mountain buggies, take a longer day walk, or plan an overnight stay in a back-country hut—this brochure offers some suggestions for families planning an adventure in the back country.

Be safe

Often children like to run ahead but be aware, bush and forest can be risky. It’s impossible to fence off every steep drop, water hazard and river, so keep them close and in sight. Common sense is the key. Adults must be responsible for the young people with them and supervise them closely in places that are unfamiliar. Make sure they know what to do if they get lost; older children could perhaps carry a whistle in their backpacks. A brochure titled *Time in the Wild with Children* offers some more practical advice on taking children outdoors.



- 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)

Grades



Easy access short walk—suitable for people of all abilities, wheelchairs and children’s buggies



Path/short walk—well formed, easy walking



Walking track—well formed, longer walks



Easy tramping track—formed track for comfortable overnight tramping/hiking trips

Hanmer Forest Park

1 Woodland Walk



45 minutes round trip, 2.8 km

This loop walk starts and ends at the DOC picnic area on Jollies Pass Road. Jollies Pass Road is on the right as you drive through Hanmer, just before the Heritage Hotel. The well-formed track is suitable for strollers/young children and passes through woodland forest, meadowland and stands of exotic trees including Douglas fir, poplar and redwood. There are many nice grassy areas to picnic on and run around. The ponds are great places to feed the ducks but take care of children around these. Dogs are permitted but must be kept on a lead. Please clean up after your dog.

This is just one of several family-friendly opportunities for walking and mountain biking in Hanmer provided by DOC, Hanmer Forest Guardians, Hurunui District Council and Rayonier Forests. For more information, see the *Hanmer Forest Recreation* brochure available from the Hanmer i-SITE and most DOC offices.

Foothill forests

The Canterbury foothill forests stretch from Oxford to Amberley with many walks, tracks and picnic areas only an hour's drive north-west of Christchurch. Dogs are permitted on all foothill forest tracks but must be kept on a lead. Please clean up after your dog.

Note: Be wary of wasps in the beech forests between January and March.



Mt Grey/Maukatere

2 Grey River Nature Trail



1 hour return, 1.7 km

Take Douglas Road, heading inland from Amberley. This road branches off the main road to Broomfield and becomes Cramptons Bush Road after the Brodies Road intersection. Stay on this road past Lake Janet to reach Grey River picnic area. Be aware that heavy vehicles and logging trucks also use these roads.

The loop walk starts and ends at the picnic area. This is an easy, benched walk, but young children should be supervised on the track as there are steep drop-offs in places. The walk passes through a forest of tawhai/beechnodocarpus. Of particular interest are oyster shells embedded in a bank, which indicate where the coastline used to be 10–20 million years ago, and a cave created by water erosion.

Mt Thomas

The turn-off to Mt Thomas is signposted from Birch Hill Road that runs between Oxford and Loburn. The area has picnic spots, streams and open grassy spaces. There is a self-registration campsite with toilets and running water. A network of forestry roads is easy to push strollers and buggies along. Signs will indicate when a track or road is closed during logging operations. Please respect this for your own safety.



3 Kereru Track—Mt Thomas picnic area

1 hour return, 2.2 km



This is a short loop walk via the Wooded Gully/Kereru/Red Pine tracks. It is a well-formed and signposted track suitable for family groups, which starts and finishes in the Mt Thomas picnic area.

4 Glentui Waterfall Track

30 minutes return, 350 metres one way



Drive out of Oxford through Ashley Gorge and take the left-hand turn-off to the Glentui picnic area. This is a large sheltered area suitable for camping, with picnic tables and toilets. Glentui Waterfall Track starts at the western end of the picnic area. This short, easy and well-graded walk leads to a lookout with a view of a waterfall on the Glentui River.

Christchurch region

5 Ōtukaikino (Belfast)



30 minutes—round trip, 1.2 km

Ōtukaikino is a 13-ha freshwater wetland reserve within Christchurch that is being wonderfully restored as a living memorial. The entrance is off Main North Road, between Chaney's Corner and the Belfast end of the Northern Motorway. The flat boardwalk track is suitable for strollers and wheelchairs. As the boardwalk goes around a wetland area, young children must be supervised. Ducks and pūkeko can be seen. Picnicking is allowed only in the paddock next to the car park.



6 Godley Head (Port Hills)

1 hour return, 1.1 km



From Sumner or Lyttelton, take the Summit Road out to the headland to explore the relics of a WWII coastal defence battery. Older children will enjoy the Tunnel Walk (1 hour return) but note the track down to the tunnel is very steep and slippery when wet. Littlies may prefer to just explore around the old gun emplacements and underground magazines (take a torch). Children must be supervised as the steps down to the magazines are steep.



7 Ōtamahua/Quail Island (Lyttelton Harbour)



10 minutes walk to the beach

A ferry service operates daily to Ōtamahua/Quail Island from Lyttelton between October and April.

Although the track from the wharf is a little steep, it's worth the climb down to the beach, which is a safe place for swimming as it shelves out gently. Try fossicking around the rocks. It is a great spot for a half- or full-day excursion and a picnic lunch. Longer walks around the island are good for older children, with plenty of things to discover.

8 Christchurch—Little River Railtrail



Motukarara to Birdlings Flat
13.3 km

Birdlings Flat to Little River
9 km

This biking/walking rail trail is a community project, which eventually plans to extend for 44 km between Christchurch and Little River. Two sections have been completed to date; from Motukarara to Little River



(20 km); and from Prebbleton to Lincoln (7 km). The trail is near-level (suitable for prams) following the route of the former railway line. Access points with car parks are at Park Road at Motukarara; Kaituna Quarry from SH 75; Birdlings Flat, Catons Bay and Little River, allowing for short sections to be explored.

9 Harts Creek bird hide



40 minutes return, 1.5 km

Harts Creek Wildlife Management Reserve lies on the western margins of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere, within 40 minutes drive of Christchurch. The reserve provides an excellent habitat for wildlife including the threatened bittern/matuku (below right), and is also a wildlife refuge.

Black shag/kōau
Photo: G. H. Sherley

Bittern/matuku
Photo: M. F. Soper



The bird hide and boardwalk were built by the Ellesmere Lions Club.

To get there, go to Leeston, via Lincoln, and turn left at Lake Road. Follow this road to the end (10 km) then turn left onto Harts Road for 1.5 km, then sharp left onto a shingle road to reach the car park.

Note: The boardwalk can sometimes be submerged during high lake levels. Please keep to the track as it crosses private land.



Banks Peninsula



10 Kaituna Valley Scenic Reserve



20 minutes return, 600 metres

The Kaituna Valley road turn-off is about 40 km from Christchurch along the Akaroa Highway. The walk starts at the picnic area.

The track is flat and suitable for buggies; it's great in fine weather but could be boggy after a wet spell. Features include native bush and a tinkling stream, great for a picnic on a hot day.

11 Okuti Valley Scenic Reserve



20 minutes return, 380 metres

The turn-off to Okuti Valley is off the Akaroa Highway (SH 75) just before Little River.

The walk starts at the picnic area; the track zigzags gently up and back through the reserve. The reserve features stone picnic tables, a gentle stream nearby and heaps of birds and bush; great on a warm day.

12 Hay Scenic Reserve



20 minutes return, 750 metres

To get there follow Akaroa Highway to Hilltop, then along Summit Road to the Pigeon Bay turn-off. The reserve is adjacent to the road, 5 km from the turn-off.

Head clockwise around this scenic loop track through one of the best remaining stands of lowland podocarp forest on the peninsula. Large mataī, kahikatea, tōtara, and miro mix with exotics in this small reserve. The easy grade of this walk makes it suitable for small children and family groups.

13 Akaroa Head Scenic Reserve



40 minutes return, 1.1 km

From Akaroa, take the Akaroa Lighthouse Road—11 km of steep, narrow rough road, suitable for four wheel-drive vehicles.

From the car park wander down the road, entering the reserve through a gate; take the road down past the foundations of the lighthouse keeper's house and other buildings, to the site of the old lighthouse (now relocated at Akaroa). From here, follow the old supply road, constructed 1878–79, which ends at an iron ladder descending to a rock shelf in Little Haylocks Bay. The walk is suitable for buggies and offers views of towering cliffs. Fur seals/kekeno are seen in the bay, with local colonies of white-fronted terns/tara, black-backed gulls/karoro and white-flipped penguins/kororā.

Waimakariri Basin

14 Kura Tāwhiti Conservation Area



10 minutes along access track (one way), 700 metres

Located beside SH 73, about 80 minutes from Christchurch, the short walk into the reserve is across private paddocks. Kura Tāwhiti is an ideal place for exploring and picnicking, with many informal trails running around and between the spectacular limestone rock formations. Allow plenty of time to explore.



Photos: A. McKenzie

15 Cave Stream Scenic Reserve



30 minutes return for each track, 500 metres each way

The reserve is well signposted off SH 73 between the Broken River road bridge and Craigieburn Forest Park entrance.

Two short, but steep tracks lead from the reserve car park to the cave entrances. You will need to help or carry little ones in a child carrier pack. The easier track to the upstream entrance goes through a karst (limestone) landscape of sculptured rock formations.

The other track leads to the edge of a terrace and then drops steeply down to the junction of Cave Stream and Broken River. The limestone formations nearby were the settings for the filming of *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

The 600-metre cave walk itself is not suitable for little children, but is a great adventure for older families that are well prepared, with torches, warm gear and plenty of dry clothes to change into. A separate brochure describes the cave adventure.

Note: Do not attempt to enter the cave if the stream is high, with the water discoloured or foaming.

Craigieburn Forest Park

About 110 km from Christchurch on SH 73 towards Arthur's Pass, is a signposted side-road to the Craigieburn picnic area on the Broken River ski field road. This picnic area provides nice spots to have lunch, explore and paddle in Cave Stream. From here you can walk along the road to the Environmental Education Centre and lookout (suitable for buggies and strollers).

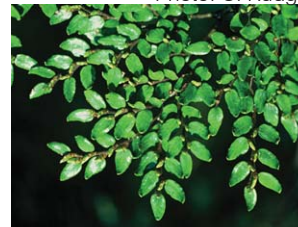
16 Craigieburn Nature Trail

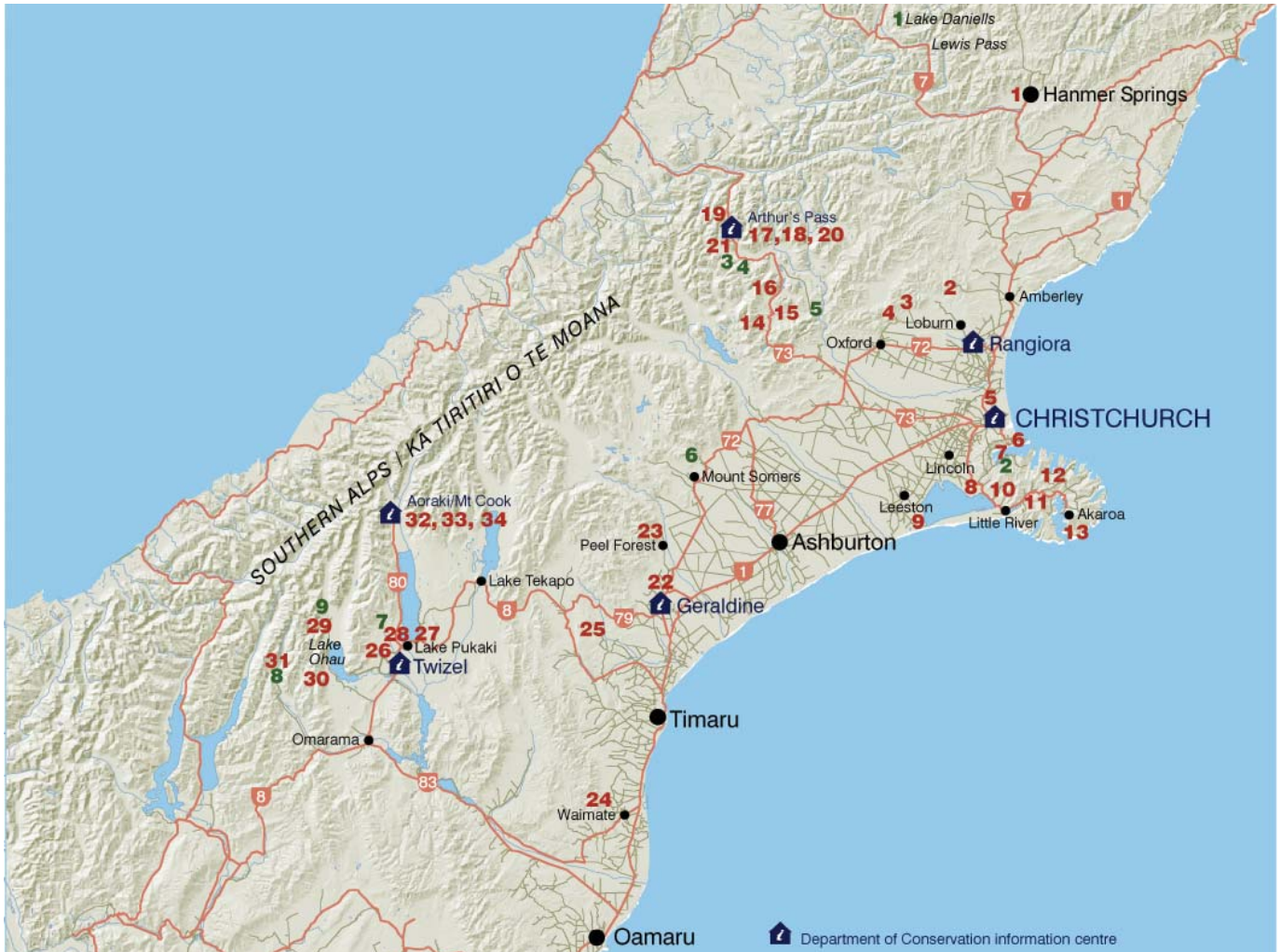


20 minutes return, 400 metres

This pleasant walk through mountain beech forest begins at the Environmental Education Centre on the Broken River ski field road. You can have a close look at different stages of beech tree life and what grows on the trees—lichens, mosses and a small insect which secretes honey dew (a small droplet of sweet liquid that birds feed on). From late December to February the red flowers of native mistletoe/pirangiri blaze in the trees.

Mountain beech/tawhairauriki
Photo: C. Rudge





- 1 Woodland Walk
- 2 Grey River Nature Trail
- 3 Mt Thomas picnic area/
Kereru Track
- 4 Glentui Waterfall Track
- 5 Ōtukaikino
- 6 Godley Head
- 7 Ōtamahua/Quail Island
- 8 Christchurch–Little River Railtrail
- 9 Harts Creek bird hide
- 10 Kaituna Valley Scenic Reserve
- 11 Okuti Valley Scenic Reserve
- 12 Hay Scenic Reserve

- 13 Akaroa Head Scenic Reserve
- 14 Kura Tāwhiti Conservation Area
- 15 Cave Stream Scenic Reserve
- 16 Craigieburn Nature Trail
- 17 Arthur's Pass Village
Historic Walk
- 18 Millennium Walk
- 19 Dobson Nature Walk
- 20 Devils Punchbowl Falls Track
- 21 Old Coach Road
- 22 Talbot Forest
- 23 Big Tree Walk

- 24 Kelceys Bush–
Sanders Falls Track
- 25 Pioneer Park–
Homebush Walk
- 26 Ben Ohau Wetland
- 27 Kettlehole Track
- 28 Marker Bay
- 29 Temple Valley View Track
- 30 Quailburn Bush
- 31 Shamrock Hut
- 32 Governors Bush Walk
- 33 Kea Point Walk
- 34 Hooker Valley Walk

Overnight back-country adventures

- 1 Lake Daniells
- 2 Sign of the Packhorse Hut
- 3 Bealey Spur Hut
- 4 Bealey Hut
- 5 Avoca Homestead
- 6 Miners Track–Woolshed
Creek Hut
- 7 Baikie Hut
- 8 Shamrock Hut
- 9 Ram Hill–Monument Hut

Common native forest birds seen here include rifleman/tititipounamu, bellbird/korimako, tomtit/miromiro and grey warbler/riroriro.

Arthur's Pass National Park

17 Arthur's Pass Village Historic Walk

Total walk takes 1 h 30 min but you can choose to do less.

Start at the visitor centre where you can purchase a pamphlet outlining the walk, which goes through and beyond the village. Some sections are footpath, suitable for prams; other sections are tracks. Walk to ten plaques scattered around and throughout the village.

18 Millennium Walk

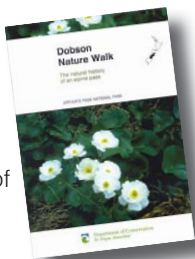
10 minutes, 40 metres one way

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 along the path to bring you to a viewing platform closer to the waterfall, but this section is steep and may be difficult for prams.

19 Dobson Nature Walk

30 minutes return, 300 metres one way

This starts opposite the Dobson Memorial at Arthur's Pass summit, 5 km from the village of Arthur's Pass. Very small children may need to be carried in a child carrier pack part-way. There is designated parking on the other side of the road at the Temple Basin ski field car park. Take care with small children crossing the road, as this is the main highway between the east and west coasts.



This is a loop track with each end about 100 metres apart, on SH 73. It is recommended you walk back to the car park through the track, rather than along the busy highway. The walk passes through subalpine vegetation; the alpine flowers are in bloom from November to February. Keep a look out for kea. Good weather is needed as there is no shelter on this track.

20 Devils Punchbowl Falls Track

1 hour return, 840 metres

The top of this spectacular fall (131 m) can be seen from the main road, but a walk to the base of the waterfall is well

worth doing in any weather, at any time of the year.

A signpost at the north end of the village points to the car park where the walk starts. The track goes up the side of the Bealey River and over two footbridges before zig-zagging up steps through mountain beech forest to the waterfall's base. Return the same way.



Devils Punchbowl Falls

21 Old Coach Road

30 minutes return, 1.1 km

This walk starts at Greyneys Shelter, 6 km east of Arthur's Pass village on SH 73. This easy family walk is suitable for all-terrain buggies, and loops through the beech forest following the old coach road. At the northern end of the track there is a rope handrail—shut your eyes and use your other senses as you move through the forest.

Mid/South Canterbury

22 Talbot Forest

From Geraldine's main street, it is a five-minute stroll to the scenic reserve. The reserve offers four easy, shady walks through a rare remnant of lowland podocarp and hardwood native forest. Picnic facilities and toilets are available.

23 Peel Forest—Big Tree Walk

20 minutes, 870 metres

Peel Forest is located in the foothills of the Southern Alps; turn off SH 72, about 12 km north of Geraldine. Once at the forest, a wide variety of short and long tracks extend into the park but for littlies choose the beginning of the Big Tree Walk, which is suitable for prams and wheelchairs.



Big Tree Walk information panel

This short walk starts from the Te Wanahu picnic shelter (toilets here) and leads into Mills Bush and features several trees known as rakau rangatira or chiefly trees.

24 Kelceys Bush—Sanders Falls Track



30 minutes return, 390 metres

This conservation area 8 km north-west of Waimate township contains podocarp/hardwood forest and is a great place to explore. The walk is not suitable for prams. There are picnic and toilet facilities.

25 Pioneer Park—Homebush Walk



1 hour return, 800 metres

Pioneer Park is on Homebush Road, 32 km west of Geraldine via Gudex / Middle Valley Road.

The loop track starts from Pioneer Park campground and climbs gently onto a ridge with large trees including a huge tōtara. The track then returns via Burkes Hut Memorial.

Twizel area

26 Ben Ohau Wetland

Ruataniwha Conservation Park



10 minutes one way, 1 km

This track starts at the car park area off Pukaki Canal Road on the western outskirts of Twizel. Follow a 4WD track (marked easement) until you reach a small gate in the fence, which gives you access to the wetland. You can easily take a mountain buggy as far as the gate. This deep, natural *Carex* wetland is a good spot for bird-watching.

27 Kettlehole Track

Lake Pukaki Terminal Moraine Conservation Area



1 h 30 min loop, 4 km

This walk starts 11 km north of Twizel township, after the Pukaki River spillway. It is signposted off the eastern side of SH 8 and there is a designated car park area. Older children (4–5 years plus) will enjoy this walk and won't be able to resist running down into the



kettlehole. Younger children will need to be carried in a backpack.

The walk itself is flat and passes old glacial boulders and eventually circles a kettlehole, which is a large depression in the ground (formed thousands of years ago by glacial ice melt). **Note: No shade or toilet facilities.**

28 Marker Bay



20 minutes one way, 1 km

This track starts at the edge of Lake Pukaki approximately 10 km north of Twizel township.

Children, three years of age and above, will be able to walk this distance, while younger children can be pushed along in a buggy. This is a lovely walk on a hot summer day as it meanders through exotic trees and finishes at a stony bay. There is plenty of shade and it is a great opportunity for splashing around in the lake. However, there are no toilet facilities.



Temple Valley

Temple Valley is accessed from the western side of Lake Ohau via Lake Ohau Road. A short road (2 km) leads off Lake Ohau Road to the Temple Valley basic camping area. Beech forest borders the area and there is ample space for cars, caravans and tents. There is an open shelter and a long-drop toilet at this site.

Young children can be pushed to Temple Stream in a buggy, a five-minute walk from the picnic area. If families wish to carry on further up either the North Temple or South Temple tracks, then a backpack will be needed.

29 Temple Valley View Track



1 hour return

A short circuit track of one hour duration starts from the amenity area. This trip climbs up through mountain beech forest and is suitable for children of five years and above.

Insect repellent is a must as sandflies are plentiful.

30 Quailburn Bush and historic site



This area can be accessed from Quailburn Road, 3 km north of Omarama township.

A track heads through the beech forest to Quailburn Saddle. Younger children may be able to reach the area just above the beech forest edge where there is a DOC sign (1.5 km). Very young children will need to be carried in a backpack. Older children will be able to carry on up from the beech forest edge to Quailburn Saddle.



Quailburn information panels

The Quailburn bush area is a fantastic spot for a family picnic. Quailburn Stream runs next to the historic site and there is plenty of shade under the surrounding beech forest. The historic site at the road end incorporates a woolshed, homestead, old sheep dip and hut ruins, dating from 1866. Toilet facilities are provided. Insect repellent is recommended for the beech forest areas.

31 Ahuriri Valley—Shamrock Hut



1 hour one way, 5.5 km

Ahuriri Valley is signposted off SH 8, approximately 20 km south of Omarama township. A long road travels up the valley and it is 21 km to the park boundary. From here, a 4WD is recommended to access the car park at the road end, a further 12 km on.

There are a couple of pleasant side stops on the way to the road end—one

Ahuriri Base Hut



being the Ben Avon wetland area and the other the Ahuriri Base Hut, which is a lovely six-bunk hut set in beech forest.

From the car park area, where there are toilets, it is an easy walk following an old 4WD track to Shamrock Hut. There are two shallow river crossings on the way. There is plenty of shade under the surrounding beech forest at the hut site.

It is possible to push an all-terrain buggy for the younger children. Another alternative is for the young children (5 yrs +) to ride bikes to the hut.

Insect repellent is recommended.



Ahuriri wetlands

Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park

32 Aoraki/Mt Cook Village—Governors Bush Walk



45 minutes loop walk, 1.5 km

Start and finish at the public shelter at Aoraki/Mt Cook village.

Children will enjoy this walk as it is a good place for them to run around in a natural landscape. The track goes through beech forest where fantail/piwakawaka and kea are common. Babies and smaller toddlers may need to be carried in a backpack. There are toilets, hot water, showers and a picnic area at the public shelter.

33 Kea Point Walk



1 hour return, 2.8 km

In good weather an all-terrain buggy can be pushed along this walk, which starts at the Hooker Valley campground and car park. There is an open walk to view Mueller Glacier, with stunning views of Aoraki/Mt Cook and the Main Divide on

Kea



good days. As this is an exposed walk, don't walk it on windy or wet days.

34 Hooker Valley Walk

30–40 minutes return from first viewpoint, 900 metres

3 hour return trip to Hooker Lake



Start at the Hooker Valley campground and car park. There is wheelchair or buggy access to the first viewpoint across Mueller Lake (15 minutes). Beyond this, littlies will need to be carried in a backpack.

Walk up this glacial valley for classic views of Aoraki/Mt Cook, Mueller Glacier, Hooker Glacier and the Main Divide. The campground/car park has toilets and a public shelter. This walk can be exposed and is not suitable for windy or wet days. On hot days, sunscreen and water are a must.

Overnight back-country adventures

There are several huts within Canterbury's network that can be reached within two or three hours of tramping, mountain-biking or four-wheel driving. These are all great places to stay in the back country for keen families. Huts range from large, serviced huts to two-bunk basic bivvies.

Most of these trips do include some uphill sections, which smaller children may find difficult. Note that walking times are one way only and will differ depending on the ability of your party. Allow for plenty of rest and snack stops and be prepared to turn back if it is too challenging. Make sure you are well prepared and check the weather forecast before you leave.

1 Lake Daniells Lewis Pass Scenic Reserve



3 hours

The track is well signposted from Lewis Pass Highway at Marble Hill picnic area—4 km east of Springs Junction. This benched, easy-graded track provides for a pleasant walk to Lake Daniells for all ages. Cross the bridge over the Maruia River at the Sluice Box and follow the track upstream alongside Alfred River to Lake Daniells, passing through red-beech forest. Signs of old gold workings can be seen along the track. The hut is at the southern end of the lake where, in season, rainbow and brown trout can be caught. The Mason Nicholls Memorial Hut is a serviced hut with 22 bunks. It is very popular with family groups over the summer holidays and school groups at other times.

Please note: This section of Lewis Pass National Reserve is managed by the West Coast, but as it is near to Christchurch, it is included in this booklet. For further information about this walk and hut, please contact the Greymouth-Mawheranui Area Office 03 768 0427.

2 Sign of the Packhorse Hut Port Hills



2 hours

Built in 1917 of local stone, the Sign of the Packhorse (8 bunks) sits on a saddle between the sea and the summit of Mt Bradley, on the Port Hills surrounding Lyttelton Harbour.



Start from a short side road off Kaituna Valley Road. The track is well sign-posted and passes the farm, following vehicle tracks up a bush-filled valley before climbing onto a big spur. It then follows the spur for some distance before reaching a farm track past Parkinsons Bush Reserve. This leads to the saddle and the historic stone hut, well situated for the views.

The hut can also be accessed by tracks from Gebbies Pass and Mt Herbert.

Note: Closed for lambing August–October.

3 Bealey Spur Hut

Arthur's Pass National Park



2–3 hours one way

The track starts from the end of Cloudesley Road, off the main highway near Bealey Hotel, 14 km south of Arthur's Pass village.

The well-marked track climbs gently up the spur, through mountain beech forest. In summer look out for red flowering mistletoe near the start of the track. At one point there is a sharp drop off the side of the track down to Bruce Stream—take care with children here.



Mistletoe/pirirangi

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 six-bunk hut, once used by musterers in the days when this area was farmed for sheep.

This is a basic hut with sacking bunks but new mattresses were recently fitted. You will need to take your own cooking equipment and the water supply is limited to a small rain-water tank.

Please note: This track not suitable for families during winter.

4 SH 73—Bealey Hut

Craigieburn Forest Park



5 minutes to Bealey Hut

From SH 73, turn onto Cora Lynn Road at the signpost 'Arthur's Pass Wilderness Lodge'. Do not go to the private lodge, but enter through the gate sign-posted 'Access to Craigieburn'.

From the car park, it is only 5 minutes to Bealey Hut, a basic six-bunk hut offering a good introduction to staying overnight without having to walk far!

From here you can follow the tramping track to Lagoon Saddle, past some tarns, for views over Arthur's Pass National Park. This is recommended as a day walk (2–3 hours each way). Although there is a two-bunk basic hut and a shelter at Lagoon Saddle, neither are considered suitable for young families.

5 Avoca Homestead

Korowai/Torlesse Tussocklands Park



4WD road

Located at the end of Craigieburn Road, off SH 73, approx 20 km east of Arthur's Pass, Avoca Homestead is a great option for families wanting to 4WD or mountain bike into a hut. Recently restored, this historic hut boasts six beds, a new



kitchen and toilet. Avoca Homestead is reached after 25 km of gravel and 4WD road, and then by crossing Broken River—you will need to help younger family members across (normal flow about knee-high on adults).

6 Miners Track to Woolshed Creek Hut

Mt Somers Conservation Area



3 hours

This trip offers a challenge to young walkers, with the reward of a modern hut to stay in and lots of fun places to explore.

From Mount Somers township on SH 72, follow Ashburton Gorge Road for 10 km before turning right onto Jig Road, then 3.5 km to Woolshed Creek picnic area—a large, grassy, sheltered picnic and camping area, with toilets and information panels.

This track follows, in part, the line the miners took to the old Blackburn Mine. The track climbs steeply along the hand-built jig that used to transport coal from the Blackburn Mine to the railway wagons waiting below. Beyond this the track rises up to the high point (trig R, 934 m) with superb views of the surrounding country, before descending to the 26-bunk Woolshed Creek Hut.

Baikie Hut sleeps four people and has a small log burner for heating/cooking. There is also plenty of space around the hut for tent camping. Toilet facilities are on site. There is no charge for overnight use of this hut.



7 Baikie Hut

Ruataniwha Conservation Park,
Mackenzie Basin



9 km one way, 4WD track

The car park is off the Aoraki/Mt Cook highway (2.5 km from the SH 8 turn-off). 4WD vehicle owners can drive to Baikie Hut if they gain permission from Pukaki Downs Station to drive the public access easements crossing the station. Permission will be granted unless there is potential for track damage at the time, but a fee/bond will be payable.

To reach the hut it is a gradual climb over 200 vertical metres alongside the Twizel River. Older children will be able to mountain bike up to Baikie Hut while younger children can be ferried by vehicle to the hut and mountain bike out to the car park.



8 Shamrock Hut

Ahuriri Conservation Park



Two hours, 4WD track

The Ahuriri Valley is signposted off SH 8, approximately 20 km south of Omarama township. A long road travels up the valley and it is 21 km to the park boundary. From here a 4WD vehicle is recommended to access the car park at the road end, a further 12 km on.

A great mountain biking venture for children (7 yrs +) is to ride to the hut along an old 4WD track. The trip has two crossings of Canyon Creek, which children can negotiate pushing their bikes. Shamrock Hut, a two-bunk facility, is a popular destination. If bikers wish to stay overnight it's advisable to carry a tent in case the hut is already occupied.

9 Ram Hill—Monument Hut

Hopkins Valley,
Ruataniwha Conservation Park



2 hours

The main access route into the Hopkins area is via Lake Ohau Road where there is a car park area at Ram Hill. From Ram Hill, a track, suitable for 4WD vehicles, mountain bikes or walkers, goes all the way into Monument Hut.



Ben Ohau Wetland

Contact us

Waimakariri Area Office
15 Albert Street, Rangiora 7400
waimakariri@doc.govt.nz
03 313 0820

Arthur's Pass National Park Visitor Centre (open 7 days)
Main Road, Arthur's Pass
arthurspassvc@doc.govt.nz
03 318 9211

Raukapuka Area Office
North Terrace, Geraldine
03 693 1010

Twizel *Te Manahuna* Area Office
Wairepo Road, Twizel
03 435 0802

Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park Visitor Centre (open 7 days)
1 Larch Grove, Aoraki/Mt Cook
mtcookvc@doc.govt.nz
03 435 1186

Canterbury Conservancy
Private Bag 4715
Christchurch
canterburyco@doc.govt.nz
03 379 9758