



# Poulter valley mountain biking

Arthur's Pass National Park



## Further information

For information, maps, weather forecasts and track condition updates:

Arthur's Pass National Park Visitor Centre

SH73, 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

www.doc.govt.nz

www.adventuresmart.org.nz

Cover and above: Poulter valley. *Photos: Pete Brady*

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Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



## Summary

**Shared-use track:** Mountain biking, tramping and possibly 4WD vehicles on the Poulter riverbed as far as Arthur's Pass National Park boundary



**Distance:** 25 km (one way) from Mt White Road to Trust/Poulter Hut

**Grade:** Intermediate: Grade 3, mountain biking from Mt White Road to park boundary



Easy: Grade 2, beyond the park boundary

**Time:** 3 hours 20 min

**Experience:** Suitable for fit, well-equipped people with low to moderate experience in the backcountry

**Best season:** Summer, autumn, winter

**Required maps:** NZTopo50: Cass BV21

**Hazards:** Flooded rivers and side streams, wasps

**Note:** True left and true right refer to the side of the valley or river when looking downstream. This track stays on the true right of the Poulter River and does not need to be crossed. However there are a few smaller side streams that need to be crossed.

**Safety:** This route guide must be read in conjunction with *Tramping in Arthur's Pass National Park*, a free brochure with important safety information, and New Zealand's *Outdoor Safety Code*. Before setting out, check the latest track conditions and avalanche advisory with the Arthur's Pass Visitor Centre.

Your safety is your responsibility. Before you go, know the *Outdoor Safety Code* – 5 simple rules to help you stay safe:

- **Plan your trip properly** – Ensure that you have a capable leader.
- **Tell someone** – Leave your trip details with a trusted contact and at [www.adventuresmart.org.nz](http://www.adventuresmart.org.nz).
- **Check the weather** – Including [www.avalanche.net.nz](http://www.avalanche.net.nz) and the latest information on hazards and facilities before you start.
- **Know your limits** – Physical fitness and good equipment will make all the difference.
- **Take sufficient supplies** – Carry a sleeping bag, cooking utensils, sufficient food, raincoat, overtrousers, gloves, hat, and several layers of warm clothes. Before going on your trip take and read a free copy of the brochure *Tramping in Arthur's Pass National Park*, it is full of helpful information and safety advice.

## MOUNTAIN BIKING IN ARTHUR'S

### PASS NATIONAL PARK

The track through the Poulter valley is one of only a few approved tracks in a national park where mountain biking is permitted.

The trip offers bikers great scenery, some challenges, and a hut or a campsite at Casey Stream for an overnight stay. You can only ride as far as the Trust/Poulter Hut on the specified track, which is also a tramping track. Please do not go further, or go off the track as this could jeopardise future mountain biking opportunities in national parks.

As this track is also used by trampers, you will need to follow the code of conduct for shared-use tracks:

- Respect that other users have different, and valid, reasons for being there.
- Anticipate other users around corners or in blind spots.
- Expect the unexpected; cycle at a speed you can stop from safely, if a hazard arises.
- Do not startle other users – greet them when approaching.
- Cyclists give way to walkers.
- Common sense and courtesy prevail at all times.

### Getting there

Take State Highway 73 (SH73) from Christchurch towards the West Coast. About 25 km before Arthur's Pass village, turn onto Mt White Road, signposted on SH73. After crossing a bridge over the Waimakariri River, follow the gravel road for 20 km across tussock flats. The Poulter valley mountain biking track starts at a 4WD track where the Mt White Road crosses the Poulter River. There is a car park here. Allow 2 hours if cycling this section from SH73.

### Mt White Road to Arthur's Pass National Park boundary

This section passes through Mt White Station, so please respect stock and farm activities. Follow the 4WD track for 13 km along the true right of the Poulter River, across river terraces and fans to reach the park boundary fence.

The ride is a grunt in places. The original 4WD track was washed out a few years ago and the new narrower track can only accommodate quad bikes. Access to the National Park boundary for larger 4WD vehicles is now only possible along the riverbed at low flow.

### National Park boundary to Trust/ Poulter huts

Motor vehicles are not permitted beyond the park boundary fence. From here it is easier riding along an old 4WD track over river flats and through bush to the campsite at Casey Stream. **Note: Casey Hut burnt down in 2015 and has not been replaced!**

Beyond the campsite, cross Casey Stream and you'll see an orange marker. Follow the track through the forest where it joins back onto another 4WD track. Continue on this track until you reach the Trust/Poulter Hut – the end point for mountain bike access. Return the same way.

### Mountain bike grades

#### Easy: Grade 2

Mostly flat with some gentle climbs on smooth track with easily avoidable obstacles such as rocks and potholes.



#### Intermediate: Grade 3

Steep slopes and/or avoidable obstacles possibly on narrow track and/or with poor traction. There may be exposure at the track's outside edge.



### Huts

**Trust/Poulter Hut:** Standard, 6 bunks, mattresses

#### Hut fees

Standard huts: Adult \$5.00/night, youth (11–17 years) \$2.50 per night, child (up to 10 years) free  
*Purchase hut tickets or passes before you leave from any DOC office or selected i-SITES.*