

Arthur's Pass Visitor Centre). The previous hut burnt down in 2005 and the replacement hut built in 2007, is on the flats above Discovery Stream, about 15 minutes upstream from the original location.

Hawdon Hut – Hawdon Shelter

Time: 3 hours

Follow the track on the true right of Hawdon River until just above the point where East Hawdon Stream joins the main Hawdon River. If rivers are low, cross the main river here, then cross East Hawdon Stream. Follow open grassy flats on the true left downstream to a line of cliffs. Re-cross the Hawdon and follow the river down along the bush edge where a last crossing of the river is needed to reach Hawdon Shelter at the road end. If the rivers are in flood you should stay put until they drop down to a safe level.

Note: Hawdon valley is home to the endangered orange-fronted parakeet/kakariki. DOC staff use 4-wheel motorbikes to access the valley and do work to protect these birds. Coloured markers and tape in the valley indicate access points for DOC staff. Do not follow these markers—only follow orange track markers.



- 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)



Orange-fronted parakeet/kakariki
Photo: D. Crouchley

Hut fees

Please purchase tickets before using the huts.

	Bunks	
Edwards Hut	14	Serviced
Hawdon Hut (new)	20	Serviced

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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Edwards – Hawdon via Tarn Col



Route guide 8

ARTHUR'S PASS NATIONAL PARK



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

General information

Time: 2 – 3 days (shuttle required)

Grade: Route and tramping track

Experience: Suitable for well-equipped and experienced back-country trampers only. Alpine experience and equipment essential.

Best season: Summer and autumn. Extreme avalanche danger in winter and spring.

NZTopo50: Otira BV20, Cass BV21 (NZMS260: Otira K33)

Hazards: Avalanche, flooded rivers and rock-fall.

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 interesting route takes you through spectacular rock-fall, past mountain tarns and over two alpine passes. Some of the route is unmarked or marked with occasional poles or rock cairns. The rivers are not bridged.

This route is suitable only for fit, experienced and well-equipped people.

Groups who are not used to this type of travel may take longer than the times indicated.

Times are likely to be slower travelling from Hawdon Hut, west to Tarn Col, than those travelling the direction this route guide recommends, as navigation is more difficult.

Getting there

The Edwards valley end of the track starts beside SH 73, 5 km south of Arthur's Pass village, just after the Mingha Bluffs.

The Hawdon valley track is accessed via Mount White Road, which turns off SH 73, 24 km east of Arthur's Pass.

SH 73 – Edwards Hut

Time: 4 – 5 hours

Five kilometres south of Arthur's Pass village, cross Bealey River just above its confluence with Mingha River. If the

river is high and not easy to cross here, you will have greater problems later on so save the trip for another day. The track begins at the bush edge downstream of the Edwards-Mingha confluence. Look for the orange markers and sign on the river flat which mark the start of a 20-minute track to bypass the Edwards gorge (negotiable if the river is low).

When the track emerges on to the riverbed, travel upstream on the true left, climbing the bank once or twice when necessary. Cross the East Branch (difficult when high) just above the point when it joins the main river. Pick up the well-defined, marked bush track 100 metres up the East Branch on the opposite bank. There are a few steep sections—one with a hand chain to help—and the odd glimpse of waterfalls in Edwards River.

The track leads to a large upland valley, emerging finally among red tussocks on the upper river flats (take care as it is easy to lose the way in the maze of tussocks). The track leads back into the forest for a short section before emerging on the river flats with a clear view to Edwards Hut (14 bunks). Total time from the road is 4–5 hours, the junction with the East Branch being a little under halfway.

The hut has a radio monitored by Arthur's Pass Visitor Centre during office hours. Some groups have had difficulty reaching the visitor centre on this radio so please read the instructions carefully. Edwards Hut has a log burner for heating but you will need your own cooker and utensils.

Edwards Hut – Hawdon Hut

Time: 6 – 9 hours

Edwards Hut – Taruahuna Pass

Time: 2 hours

From Edwards Hut continue upstream along the true left bank over tussock flats or in the riverbed to the summit of Taruahuna Pass. Travel is slow but on easy gradients and sometimes helped by well-trodden paths. The pass itself is a huge pile of mountain debris, the result of landslides from Falling Mountain triggered by a large earthquake in 1929.



This area is subject to avalanche activity during the winter. 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.

Taruahuna Pass – Walker Pass

Time: 2 – 4 hours

From the rocky debris of Taruahuna Pass the route turns abruptly right and goes extremely steeply up to Tarn Col.

Climb across the landslide debris on Taruahuna Pass towards the foot of the grassy saddle on the right (east). This is Tarn Col and the best route is to climb up beside the creek that drops down from the lowest point on the col. Be careful on the steep, slippery, snow grass. When Tarn Col is covered in snow the route is difficult and an ice-axe and crampons should be used. If the creekbed is icy, climb to the rocky point on the ridge to the right (i.e. the true left of the creek) and then to the col. Time for the climb—about 45 minutes. Poor visibility will complicate route finding and if you have been climbing for more than 45 minutes it is likely you have chosen the wrong place and are climbing Falling Mountain instead.

Groups travelling in the opposite direction can descend on the steep scree at the southern (Edwards) flank of the col.

Go around the tarn and drop immediately into the bed of the creek draining the tarn. Avoid the temptation to stay on the flat tussock-land on the true left as this ends in bluffs.

Travel down the creek until it joins the larger East Branch of the Otehahe (the first main stream coming down from the right) and then turn south. It is easy to go the wrong way from here so check your map and compass. Make sure you are going upstream and heading south. Be careful crossing this stream, and others, on your way to Hawdon Hut, as the tracks are extremely slippery.

Travel up the east branch of the Otehahe river bed for about 20 minutes. Climb through scrub to the low saddle on the left (true right). This is Walker Pass. A foot-worn track through the scrub begins at a large cairn in the riverbed, 100 metres below a low cliff where the river swings south-west towards Amber Col.

Walker Pass – Hawdon Hut

Time: 2 – 3 hours

Pick up the creek draining the tarn on the pass and follow down the creek through boulders and scrub. A helpful track zigzags the creek. Marker poles starting in the creek show where to leave the stream towards the bush track. The poles lead you up past a rocky knoll. From here the track descends through the bush past Twin Falls to the creek. Once at the river it is only five minutes to Hawdon Hut (20 bunks, wood stove for heating and radio link to