

WILDERNESS LODGE™

ARTHUR'S PASS

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Directors: Anne Saunders and Dr Gerry McSweeney

Sample programme (Changes Daily)

Our range of complimentary and longer optional guided activities are designed to introduce you to the natural history of the Southern Alps and Arthur's Pass region and also the rich cultural traditions of a high country sheep station. Walks depart from reception, where you can also book for longer trips and order your lunches. Please ask one of our friendly staff if you would like to know more about these trips.

PLEASE NOTE: To allow time to organise guides and transport could you please book for longer trips the night before.

Friday

7.30 – 8.30am Birds and Special Plants of the Mountain Beech Forest Explore the forests that surround the Wilderness Lodge with our naturalist guides on an easy walk with great views. Look for rifleman, New Zealand's smallest bird, bellbird, falcon, tomtit, and creeper. Search for orchids, beech seedlings, and rare mistletoe. Discover the beech forest invading the surrounding shrublands, and learn about Maori and European sheep farmers who pioneered this area. This is a great walk to become familiar with the Waimakariri Valley. All Lodge Guests welcome.

7.30 – 9.30am Breakfast – Mt Rolleston Restaurant

10am – 3.30pm Limestone Castles, Easy Canoeing, Rare Plants and Desert Landscapes – A guided high country discovery of the dry lands east of the Lodge.

Journey in our minibus to the driest landscapes of the high country shaped by glaciers and water into amazing limestone overhangs, outcrops, caves, and streams inhabited by some of New Zealand's rarest plants. We travel down valley and walk for 30 minutes up a gentle hill on Cora Lynn station for grand mountain views. We then explore in our safe, stable canoes lovely Lake Pearson to look for Crested Grebe, Scaup, Paradise Ducks, and other wetland birds. We visit the Craigieburn Forest Park for a forest restoration project and for lunch and continue east to Cave Stream and Castle hill where we explore an area of great significance to the early Maori and the site of the earliest European settlement of the upper Waimakariri. We will walk for 1 – 2 hours amongst amazing shaped limestone. **Walk Standard:** Easy Walking and 40 km driving each way. **Time:** 5½ hours. **\$98 per person (Minimum 4 persons).** **\$140 per person** (Minimum 2 persons). Children under 13 half price. Charge covers: Guide, conservation licence, all equipment, morning tea. **Please book at Reception.** You can also order lunch at Reception. Courtesy transport provided.

5.00 – 6.30pm High Country Sheep Station Discovery Tour Join our Cora Lynn Station Manager to help muster sheep with Border Collie sheepdogs. We will teach you how to blade shear a woolly sheep in our shearing shed and learn about different types of super-fine merino wool and feed our tame rams. A good chance to explore a large farm and learn about High Country life. All Lodge Guests welcome.

From 6.30pm **Social Hour** Join us in the Cora Lynn Lounge for a social drink from our well stocked bar. Try some of our exciting New Zealand wines, a cool beer or your favourite spirit mix while you meet the other guests and plan the next day's activities. If it is cool a roaring welcoming fire will ensure your comfort. We will outline tomorrow's programme, give you an update on the weather, and take you through tonight's menu.

7.30pm **Dinner** – Mt Rolleston Restaurant

9.30pm (if fine) **The Night Sky and Southern Cross Walk** An easy walk after dinner to see the beautiful southern night sky. All Lodge Guests welcome.

Saturday

6.30 – 8.30am **Lake Pearson Special Canoe Trip** This guided trip drives 18km east of the Lodge to a magnificent glacial lake nestled amongst wild Irishman, willows, and tussock. We show you the ancient glacial features as we drive to the lake. On arrival at an attractive beach we launch our safe stable minnow canoes and give you instruction with our guides. We explore Lake Pearson by canoe to look at lovely mountain reflections, black swan, NZ Scaup ducks, coots, and hopefully the rare NZ crested Grebe. This lake is now a wildlife refuge protected from powerboats and jet skis after 5 years conservation campaign led by Wilderness Lodge Arthur's Pass **Maximum 11 persons.** **\$39 per person** (Minimum 4 persons). **\$59 per person** (Minimum 2 persons). Children under 13 half price. Charge covers guide, training, all equipment, and refreshments. **Please book at Reception.** Courtesy transport provided.

7.30 – 9.30am **Breakfast** – Mt Rolleston Restaurant

10am – 4pm **Upper Otira Alpine Flowers and Glacier Exploration.** This is the finest summer walk in this region. We drive to the summit of Arthur's Pass then discover subalpine flowers, insect eating plants, and giant daisies as we walk to the Otira Cascades for morning tea. We climb above the cascades into an incredible garden of mountain flowers, giant buttercups, edelweiss, native carrots, and foxgloves. We reach our lunch destination at the face of the Otira Glacier, climb onto the glacier and then enjoy a picnic lunch before returning to the Lodge. **Walk Standard:** Moderate – Hard **Walk Distance:** 10 km. **Time:** 6 hours. **\$98 per person** (Minimum 4 persons). **\$140 per person** (Minimum 2 persons). Children under 13 half price. Charge covers: Guide, conservation licence, all equipment, morning tea. **Please book at Reception.** You can also order lunch at Reception. Courtesy transport provided.

5.00 – 6.30pm **McKay Moa Forest Discovery** A special trip across the Broad Stream footbridge to see rare riverbed plants, strange bluff daisies, and primeval "inside-out" shrubs that have evolved to resist browsing by giant Moa birds, now extinct. This is a high valley, home to many wild pigs. There are superb views of the Upper Waimakariri Valley, the Lodge, and the rivers, so take your camera. A moderate level of fitness required. We may take our border collie sheepdogs and show you a sheep muster. All Lodge Guests welcome.

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7.30pm Dinner – Mt Rolleston Restaurant

Sunday

7.30 – 8.30am Cora Lynn Farm View & Arboretum Guided Walk A challenging short, but steep, walk across fields and up a mountain to a wonderful viewpoint of this valley. We explore a collection of 28 species of trees including ancient Bristlecone Pines, Monkey Puzzles, Sitka Spruce, and Colorado White Fir planted as an experiment in 1948. Moderate fitness. All Lodge Guests welcome. Bring cameras and binoculars.

7.30 – 9.30am Breakfast – Mt Rolleston Restaurant

10am – 4pm Wonderful Waterfalls of Arthur's Pass A special trip for waterfall and photography enthusiasts. We visit or view seven different waterfalls and cascades in the heart of Arthur's Pass National Park. We picnic beside the cascades, discover "Bonsai" mountain beech forests and explore a fascinating mosaic of alpine shrub lands and flowers. We drive from the Lodge then take a short walk to a moss carpeted beech forest and our first waterfall. We see our second falls from the picture window of the Arthur's Pass Chapel. We walk down steeply to the Bealey Chasm and picnic beside a raging river. Later, on a historic walk across the summit of Arthur's Pass, we discover the world's smallest conifer and the tiny inhabitants of alpine wetlands including insect eating plants. Here we enjoy lunch amongst the giant red tussocks and the world's largest buttercup. We observe Twin Falls and the headwater cascades of the Bealey River then drive over to the western side of the Pass and view many inaccessible waterfalls from the Otira Viaduct. We stop to photograph 'Vertical Falls' a strange waterfall in the rata forest then continue to our best photographic waterfall, Wesley Chasm. On our return to Arthur's Pass township, we guide you on a steady climb up to this region's largest waterfalls, the 90 metre (300ft) high Devil's Punchbowl Falls. **Walk Standard:** Easy – Moderate **Walk Distance:** 4km in several short stretches **Time:** 6 hours **\$98 per person** (Minimum 4 persons) **\$140 per person** (Minimum 2 persons). Children under 13 half price. Charge covers: Guide, conservation licence, all equipment, morning tea. **Please book at Reception.** You can also order lunch at Reception.

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