



WILDERNESS LODGE

ARTHUR'S PASS

Wilderness Discovery Weeks Programme 2020 - 2021



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Wilderness Discovery Weeks: November – December 2020

Day	Breakfast	Morning activity	Lunch	Afternoon activity	Pre-Dinner	Dinner	Post Dinner
Wed		<p><u>Travel day:</u></p> <p>Either arrival from Christchurch by Tranz Alpine Train 11.00am (<i>Shuttle with Lodge, 16km to Lodge</i>)</p> <p>Or arrival from Christchurch by Atomic Shuttle (<i>10:30am</i>)</p> <p>Or arrival by private car</p>	<p>12.30pm</p> <p>Sandwiches available in the Lodge restaurant</p>	<p><u>Rainbow Valley Nature Walk</u> (<i>trip B</i>)</p>	<p>6.30 - 7.15pm</p> <p><u>Welcome to Wilderness Lodge:</u></p> <p>High country and human settlement history</p>	<p>7.30pm</p>	<p>9.30pm</p> <p><u>Southern Cross and Night Sky</u> (<i>trip A</i>)</p>
Thurs	8.00am	<p>9.00am</p> <p><u>Dryland Moa Forest</u> (<i>trip 1</i>):</p> <p>Broad stream Canterbury braided river and McKay moa forest and special shrubland discovery</p>	<p>12.30pm</p> <p>Sandwich lunch in the Mt Rolleston Restaurant</p>	<p>1.30pm</p> <p><u>Relaxation Afternoon:</u></p> <p>Easy Kayaking on Lake Pearson/Moana Rua (<i>trip 2</i>)</p>	<p>5.00 - 6.30pm</p> <p><u>High Country Sheep Station Discovery #1</u> (<i>trip C</i>):</p> <p>Mustering, Merino sheep and sheep shearing (<i>first trip</i>)</p>	<p>7.30pm</p>	<p>8.30pm</p> <p><u>The Wonders of Wool</u> (<i>trip D</i>):</p> <p>A special look at the different types of wool and what they can be used for</p>
Fri	8.00am	<p>9.00am</p> <p><u>West Coast Rainforest Discovery</u> (<i>trip 4</i>):</p> <p>We drive over Arthur's Pass and down into the Taramakau River catchment. At Kelly Creek we walk amongst montane and lowland Podocarp-Hardwood forest. We continue to Lake Poerua to kayak amongst a floating kahikatea forest</p>	<p>12.30pm</p> <p>Picnic lunch on an island in Lake Poerua</p>	<p>1.30pm</p> <p>West Coast Rainforest Discovery continued (<i>trip 4</i>)</p>	<p>5.00 - 6.15pm</p> <p><u>Mountain Beech Forest, Mistletoe and Birds Discovery Walk</u> (<i>trip E</i>)</p>	<p>7.00pm</p> <p>Wine Tasting before Dinner</p>	<p>9.30pm</p> <p><u>Free evening</u></p>
Sat	8.00am	<p>8.30am (<i>early departure</i>)</p> <p><u>Arthur's Pass Alpine Discovery</u> (<i>trip 3</i>):</p> <p>A special guided trip into the headwaters of the Waimakariri and Otira Rivers to look at the subalpine shrubs, waterfalls and alpine flowers and wetlands</p>	<p>Picnic lunch in the mountains</p>	<p>Return to the Lodge at 3.00pm</p> <p><u>Relaxation Afternoon</u></p>	<p>5.00 - 6.30pm:</p> <p><u>Greywacke</u> (<i>trip F</i>):</p> <p>Broad Stream Gorge geology and riverine plants</p>	<p>7.30pm</p>	<p>8.30pm</p> <p><u>Alpine Plants Identification Session</u> (<i>trip H</i>)</p>

Sun	8.00am	9.00am <u>Birdwatching in the Beech Forest (trip E):</u> Hawdon and Andrews Valley Birdwatching and red beech and tussock country discovery	12.30pm Sandwich Lunch at the Wilderness Lodge-Mt Rolleston restaurant	1.30pm <u>Lake Kayak (trip 2):</u> Easy kayaking on Lake Pearson/Moana Rua	5.00 - 6.30pm <u>High Country Sheep Station Discovery #2 (trip C):</u> Mustering, Merino sheep and sheep shearing (<i>second trip</i>)	7.30pm	9:30pm <u>Southern Cross and Night Sky (trip A)</u>
Mon	8.00am	8.30am <u>Limestone Castles & Scree Plants (trip 6):</u> Drylands, shingle screes, high mountains and limestone castles FULL DAY TRIP	Picnic high in the Southern Alps on the Craigieburn Range	Drylands, shingle screes, high mountains and limestone castles (<i>trip 6 continued</i>)	5.00 - 6.30pm <u>Free Time</u>	7.30pm Special final night BBQ	BBQ continues
Tues	8.00am	7.00 - 8.00am Beech Forest Birds at Dawn (<i>trip G</i>) – Farewell to Arthur’s Pass <u>Travel day:</u> Either departure for Christchurch by Tranz Alpine Train 4.30pm (<i>Shuttle from Lodge 16km to Arthur’s Pass Station</i>) Or departure for Christchurch by East-West Shuttle (<i>10.15am</i>) Or departure by private car					



Wilderness Lodge Arthur's Pass

Wilderness Week trip descriptions

Full and half day trips:

1. **Dryland Moa Forest and Braided Stream Discovery:** East of the Lodge in our large nature reserve we meet some of NZ's strangest plants and animals adapted to extremes of temperature. We see (and measure) the results of 20 years of stock exclusion/pest control.
2. **Easy Kayaking- Lake Pearson/Moana Rua (x2):** Safe stable kayak training fist to see superb scenery & birds. We cross to a remote beach to picnic beneath the matagouri and tussocks.
3. **Arthur's Pass Alpine Discovery:** Travel from the Lodge (1100mm rainfall per year) to the Arthur's Pass summit (5,000mm rainfall per year), home of kea parrots. See the dramatic change in vegetation in only 20km. Walk in gardens of alpine shrubs, flowers and snowgrass, picnic beside cascades and look for the first alpine flowers of the 2020/2021 summer.
4. **West Coast Rainforest and Lake Poerua kayaking:** Descend Otira Gorge & enjoy the Cockayne Rainforest Walk. Continue west & kayak amongst kahikatea floating forest on Lake Poerua. Enjoy a rainforest picnic on an island. Great wetlands, forest birds and photography.
5. **Beech Forest, Tussock and Braided River Birdwatching and Exploring in the Hawdon and Andrews:** Travel east from the Lodge to Riversdale Flats and Arthur's Pass National Park. Look for parakeets, robins and riverbed birds. Nature under threat from farm development.
6. **Limestone Castles, Red Tussock and Alpine Scree plants:** Travel south to the desert-like landscape of the Castle Hill Basin to explore limestone castles and caves then travel high into the Craigieburn Range to see extraordinary scree plants adapted to extreme temperatures.

Shorter trips/activities:

- A. **Southern Cross and Night Sky:** An after-dinner trip to see superb clear skies (*drive/walk*).
- B. **Rainbow Valley Nature Walk:** A self-guided nature walk around the Wilderness Lodge (*walk*).
- C. **High Country Sheep Station Discovery:** Mustering sheep, cuddling new lambs, Eye Dog Border Collies and NZ Huntaway dogs. Then retire to the Cora Lynn Station Shearing Shed to meet farm manager Neil Wood and see old-fashioned blade shearing in action (*walk*).
- D. **The Wonders of Wool:** Look at the different types of wool from coarse carpet wool to fashion industry merino. See what happens to wool once it comes off the sheep's back.
- E. **Mountain Beech, Mistletoe and Birds:** Discover Red and Yellow Mistletoe and Beech Birds (*walk*).
- F. **Greywacke-Broad Stream Gorge Discovery:** Geological discovery of ancient bedrock, stream processes and the colonisation of the braided river by unique plants and birds (*walk*).
- G. **Birds at Dawn:** A dawn discovery of the beech forest birds greeting each new day (*walk*).
- H. **Alpine Plants Identification Session:** With plant samples from our trip today we will discover what we have found with plant identification books and guide knowledge (*workshop*)