



WILDERNESS LODGE
ARTHUR'S PASS

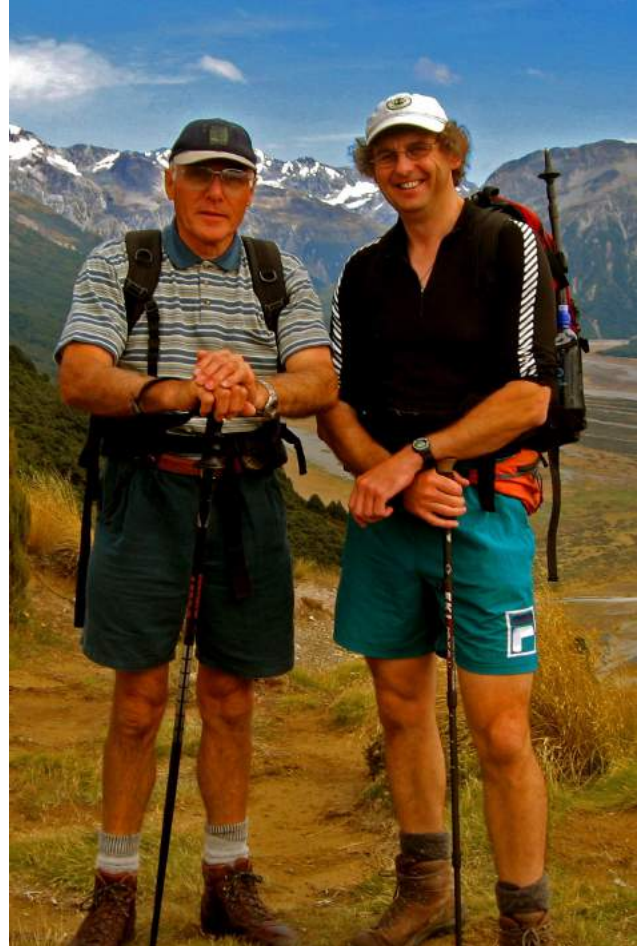
**Guided Nature
Adventures**

wildernesslodge.co.nz

Discover the Wild Heart of the Southern Alps

Wilderness Lodge Arthur's Pass is set on a working sheep farm and nature reserve, surrounded by Arthur's Pass National Park. This is the perfect place to experience wild New Zealand in comfort & style.

The Wilderness Lodge is about much more than being well looked after in a beautiful place. Hike alpine trails, kayak mountain lakes, join expert naturalist guides and experience life on a real working sheep farm. This is a destination for nature lovers, active travellers and anyone seeking to explore and discover the New Zealand wilderness.



Join the Natural New Zealand Experts

The Wilderness Lodges have been helping visitors experience wild New Zealand for nearly 30 years. Our guides are expert naturalists and real sheep farmers. We love sharing this land's special stories.

A daily programme of guided sheep farm and nature activities will help you experience the landscapes, wildlife and natural history of the Southern Alps. Join small groups, explore on your own, or hire a private guide for a day of exclusive nature adventure.



Guided Nature Adventures

This is your chance to explore and learn from people with an intimate local knowledge of the Southern Alps. Our daily guided nature trips are relaxed and fun.

Every day there are two complimentary activities. These change daily and are not too physically demanding. Normally about 1.5 hours duration, they will introduce you to landscapes and wildlife of the mountains and to life on real working sheep farm.

Half and full day guided activities are offered at an additional charge. These are a fantastic opportunity to explore further afield with a small group. Hike in the National Park, search for rare wildlife and kayak upon spectacular mountain lakes.



Explore a Working Sheep Farm

A New Zealand holiday isn't complete without visiting a sheep farm. The Wilderness Lodge property encompasses 1650 hectares (4000 acres) of scenic high country & is home to 3000 sheep.

Every second afternoon guests are invited to explore the farm on a complimentary guided trip. Watch sheep-dogs in action, hand-feed lambs, see sheep shearing and learn how the world's finest merino wool is grown.



The Wilderness Lodges are New Zealand's foremost nature lodges, family owned and operated, with a long history of sharing wild New Zealand with visitors.



Complimentary Guided Activities

Twice daily activities are included in the Wilderness Lodge tariff. These last around 1.5 hours, are not too physically demanding and provide a fun introduction to wildlife, natural history & life on a sheep farm. Some of the regularly offered trips are outlined here.



Sheep Farm Discovery Trip

Join a farmer guide to explore the Wilderness Lodge Farm. See border collie sheep-dogs in action as they muster (herd) the sheep, handfeed tame lambs, see sheep shearing and learn how New Zealand produces the world's finest merino wool. This is a great chance to ask questions and learn about farming life.

McKay Moa Forest Walk

Explore the Wilderness Lodge reserves full of bizarre 'inside-out plants', specially evolved to protect themselves from browsing by the now extinct giant Moa birds. Look for riverbed wildlife and take in the magnificent views up the Waimakariri River to the snow-capped peaks of the Shaler Range.

Stars of the Southern Night Sky

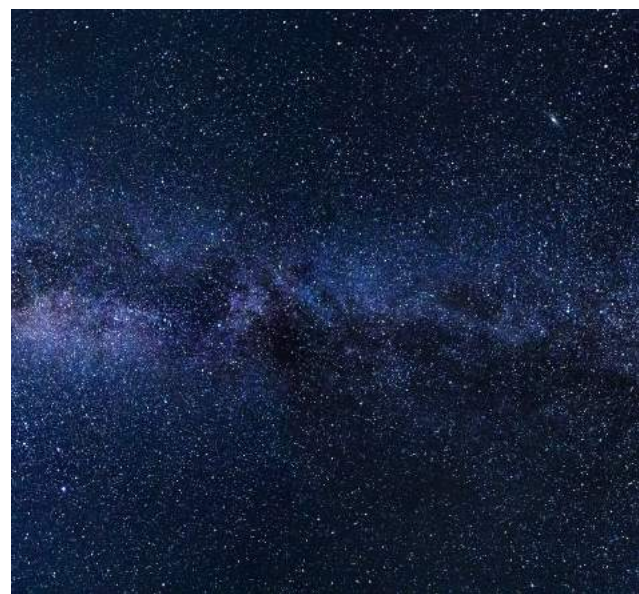
Join us after dinner to gaze into a brilliant dark sky, free from light and dust pollution. Learn to navigate using the Southern Cross, spot planets, nearby galaxies and satellites. Marvel at the Milky Way streaking across the sky and look for shooting stars.

Broad Stream Cascades Adventure

Hike alluvial terraces to a gorge carved from sedimentary greywacke. Walk a moss-lined forest trail beneath mountain beech trees, look for rifleman, NZ's smallest bird & drink from the cascades of a crystal clear alpine stream.

Braided Rivers, Wetlands & Wading Birds

Explore vast braided Waimakariri Riverbed, home to desert-like plant communities and a breeding ground for rare migratory birds like black-fronted tern, banded dotterel & wrybill plovers. Walk in the footsteps of the first explorers and understand the forces simultaneously building & eroding the Southern Alps.



Half & Full Day Activities

Join optional longer guided trips for an additional charge. These visit our favourite corners of Arthur's Pass National Park and the surrounding conservation lands.

On these fun and relaxed trips you will benefit from expert local knowledge. As well as their specialist natural history backgrounds, our guides know the best places for wildlife spotting, photography & getting 'off the beaten path'. Trips can be booked at reception the night before. Below is a selection of those on offer.

Easy Kayaking & Limestone Castles Drylands Adventure

Journey to the eastern rainshadow of the Southern Alps. Explore a stunningly scenic wildlife refuge lake by kayak. Discover a basin of special significance to Maori, filled with sculpted limestone and help us protect this place area by assisting in a conservation project to stop the spread of invasive pine trees.

Upper Otira Alpine Flowers & Glacier Exploration

A challenging hike into a dramatic high alpine valley. Discover insect eating plants and giant tree daisies as we traverse ancient glacial moraines. Enjoy morning tea beside a glacial stream and climb steeply into a hanging valley beneath the imposing Otira Face of Mt Rolleston. Picnic amongst a garden of the world's largest giant buttercup before crossing a snowfield and returning down valley. *(Summer only, good fitness required).*

Dawn Kayak Safari

Depart at dawn to see morning's first light illuminate the mountain tops. Kayak the calm waters of Lake Sarah, home to black swan, crested grebe and paradise shelduck and enjoy refreshments looking across the lake to the peaks of Arthur's Pass National Park, before return to the lodge for breakfast.

Arthur's Pass Alpine Discovery

Discover the astonishing diversity of Arthur's Pass National Park, a landscape of extremes and dramatic contrasts. Explore moss-laden beech forest, tumbling waterfalls, alpine gardens of buttercups, giant daisies and the world's smallest pine tree. Walk to the head of the Bealey Valley and picnic beneath the slopes of Mt Rolleston, the premier climbing peak in Arthur's Pass.



Wonderful Waterfalls of Arthur's Pass

A special easy trip for waterfall and photography enthusiasts. Discover cascades hidden beneath mountain beech forest and tumbling cataracts fed by snow melt. Travel across Arthur's Pass and search for kea, the world's only alpine parrot. Picnic amongst red tussocks alongside a peaceful alpine stream & let your guide share the stories of this historic route through the Southern Alps.



Sample Nature Adventure Programme

This is an example only, but gives an idea of the structure of the Wilderness Lodge's activities programme. Trips are planned around weather, conditions and guest interests, typically a day or two in advance, so we can't promise a particular trip on a given day. However, there is always something fun and exciting happening.

Our complimentary sheep farm trips run every second afternoon. Guests with us two nights will always be able to join this trip on either their first or second afternoon. We recommend arriving by 4.30pm so as not to miss out.

Contact us a day or two in advance of arriving if you wish to know the specific trips during your time at the lodge.

Arrival Day

- 5-6.30pm Hike the McKay Moa Forest to bizarre shrublands where 'inside-out plants' have evolved to protect themselves from giant leaf-eating Moa birds (now extinct).
- 7.30pm Join us for a relaxed welcome prior to dinner in the Mt Rolleston Restaurant

Second Day

- 7-8.00am Explore the beech forest to discover a secret world of mosses, lichens and fungi. Look for mistletoes, rare birds & see seedling beeches invading manuka shrubland
- 7-9.30am Breakfast in the Mt Rolleston Restaurant
- 10am Limestone Castles & Easy Kayaking in the drylands east of the Wilderness Lodge. Join a guide to explore a spectacular limestone landscape of mountain lakes, sculpted rock and tussock grassland. *Approx. 5.5. Hours, Extra Charge Applies.*
- 5-6.30pm Explore the Wilderness Lodge Farm with a farmer guide. Watch sheep-dogs in action, handfeed the lambs, learn about growing fine merino wool and see sheep shearing.
- 7.30pm Dinner in the Mt Rolleston Restaurant

- 10.00pm Let our guide bring the southern night sky alive. See planets, shooting stars, nearby galaxies, the Southern Cross & the spectacular Milky Way.

Third Day

- 6.30am Join a kayak safari to paddle a mountain lake as the sun rises over the Southern Alps. Spot wildlife and enjoy refreshments on a beach before returning to the lodge for breakfast. *Approx. 2.5 Hours, Extra Charge Applies*
- 7-9.30am Breakfast in the Mt Rolleston Restaurant.
- 10am *Either:* Upper Otira Challenging Adventure. Hike the finest summer walk in the National Park to a high valley with gardens of giant daisies and buttercups to reach a remnant glacier. *Approx. 6 Hours, Extra Charge Applies*
- Or:* Explore the Wonderful Waterfalls of Arthur's Pass on a relaxed easy trip involving several short walks to the most scenic corners of the National Park. *Approx 5 Hours, Extra Charge Applies*
- 5-6.30pm Hike the Broad Stream Gorge, carved from sedimentary greywacke rock. Search mossy beech forest for rifleman, NZ's smallest bird, and drink crystal clear alpine water straight from a tumbling cascade.
- 7.30pm Dinner in the Mt Rolleston Restaurant

Departure Day

- 7-8.30am Walk in the footsteps of the first explorers & discover a vast braided river. Spot rare braided river birds & watch first light on the snow-capped Southern Alps.
- 7-9.30am Breakfast in the Mt Rolleston Restaurant before departing to continue your travels.



Guided Activities FAQs

Below we have attempted to answer common queries you might have about the Wilderness Lodge Arthur's Pass guided activities. If you require any further information, please don't hesitate to [contact us](#). We are always happy to help.



How fit do I need to be?

Our trips vary, from very relaxed to moderately challenging. Where possible we try to offer both easy and harder options. Because we focus more on sharing the stories of the natural world rather than just physical challenge, our activities are accessible to just about everybody.

Are the activities suitable for families?

Yes! We really enjoy helping families have fun, be active and explore.

Do I need to book in advance?

Our trips are planned a couple of days in advance to best fit with weather and conditions. Half and full day trips can be booked the night before; we don't accept activity bookings in advance of arrival (with the exception of exclusive guiding options which must be pre-booked).

How much do the activities cost?

Two shorter activities are included (typically morning and late afternoon). The pricing for half and full day trips varies from \$120-\$250 per person, depending on duration, destination and number of participants.

Do I have to join the guided activities?

No. You can choose to just relax or explore on your own. Our property includes 30km of farm, forest and mountain trails and the neighbouring National Park has many hiking options. We can provide maps and advice.

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Can I book a private guide?

We offer the option of an exclusive guide (must be booked in advance & is subject to availability). A private guide will help you get the most from a day of discover & cater to your specific interests and needs.

I'm a keen birder can you help?

Our guides are good at catering for special interest travellers (birders, botanists, photographers etc). Let us know in advance & we help you plan. Booking a private guide may be the best option (see above).

I'm not staying, can I still visit the farm and join the activities?

Sorry, our nature and sheep farm adventures are only for guests staying at the Wilderness Lodge.

Are your activities safe?

We have a strong focus on safety and a long history of offering well-planned and well managed activities. Our guiding programme has been independently audited for safety and our guides are well trained.

What do I need to bring?

Bring sturdy walking shoes, sunscreen and plenty of layers. New Zealand's weather can be changeable, particularly in the mountains. You might like to bring along binoculars, a camera and rucksack.

Is it possible to stay only one night, but still see the farm?

Almost everyone stays at least two nights (2 nights required during peak season). To ensure variety, farm trips run every second afternoon. A one night stay means a 50% chance of a farm trip. While we can't guarantee a farm trip on a specific night, there are always tame sheep & lambs to feed.

