

# Wilderness Lodges of New Zealand

wildernesslodge.co.nz



## Wilderness Lodge® Arthur's Pass

16km East of Arthur's Pass Village, Highway 73

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+64 3318 9246

## Wilderness Lodge® Lake Moeraki

90km South of Fox Glacier, Highway 6

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## Route Guide: Arthur's Pass to Lake Moeraki

This journey of 360km (about 200 miles) involves 5 to 6 hours of driving time with great scenery and interesting stops along the way. Key features include: the ascent to the alpine herb fields on the summit of Arthur's Pass, descending the dramatic cleft of the Otira Gorge; the West Coast town of Hokitika, glistening snowy mountains and wild glacial rivers; the famous Fox and Franz Josef glaciers and the ancient rainforests stretching from the mountains to the sea around Wilderness Lodge Lake Moeraki.

*Enjoy Your Journey, Drive Safely & Remember to Keep Left*



### Wilderness Lodge Arthur's Pass to Arthur's Pass Village (16km – 20 minutes)

At the bottom of our gravel driveway turn left onto State Highway 73. Use caution crossing the long one lane bridge over the Waimakariri River, but enjoy the views of this expansive valley and the Bealey River entering on your right. Arthur's Pass Village is the last petrol stop for the next 96km but is expensive. The National Park Visitor Centre has great displays about natural history and also about the National Park and the Train tunnel construction and Cobb & Co stagecoach days.

### Arthur's Pass Village to Hokitika (96km – 1¼ hours)

Once you leave the village the road winds its way to the summit of Arthur's Pass (920m) and down the dramatic Otira Viaduct and Otira Gorge. Have a brief stop at "Death's Corner" and check out the 440 m long Otira Viaduct. This feat of engineering was opened in November 1999. Travel down through the West Coast rainforest and past rough farmland, the scene of gold mining in the 1860-70 periods.

Kumara Township, 82km from the Wilderness Lodge was a gold mining centre and the Kumara main street on the left hand side is home to 'The Woodworker' photography studio (Carey and Lynne Dillon). Continue another 6kms and you will be at the Kumara Junction; take the first exit from this roundabout to begin your journey south along the Tasman Sea to Hokitika. (Greymouth, the largest town on the West Coast is 19km north from the Kumara Junction). This former goldfield's town has cafes, craft-shops, jade (pounamu) galleries, banks, a pharmacy and a bookshop specialising in West Coast books. There are 2 petrol stations on the main highway.



This Man Booker Prize  
winning book was set in  
Hokitika during the gold-rush

### **Hokitika to Franz Josef** (130km – 2 hours)

This section is generally flat, through forest and farm land with a short climb just after the village of Hari Hari. (85km. South) As you enter Hari Hari keep an eye out for 'The Willows', a small cottage on the right hand side of the road that specializes in hand spun knit wear, possum fur and woollen goods. An attractive detour is to the picturesque, coastal settlement of Okarito. The turn off is 14km south of the small settlement of Whataroa. It is 13km in to the settlement, but is a good opportunity for a visit to a rugged West Coast beach and a sleepy coastal village.

Franz Josef is a tourist centre; you can take a scenic helicopter flight, walk the glacier valley or just stop for a coffee or snack. At both Franz Josef and Fox Glacier, access roads into the glacier valleys take less than ten minutes to drive, followed by a walk of about 30 minutes to approach the glaciers. Take the time to enjoy the amazing scenery and lush vegetation. It is worth the drive up to the Franz Josef car park to look at the glacier from Sentinel Rock Viewpoint accessed directly on a 5 minute long path from the car park.



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### **Franz Josef to Fox Glacier** (14km – 30 mins)

A extraordinarily winding road climbs and descends through forest three times as it crosses the forested moraine hills between these two famous West Coast glacier villages. This road is following the line of the Alpine Fault, the collision point of the Indo-Australian and Pacific Continental Plates. Beyond Fox Glacier township is another short drive to the car park area for a closer look and walk close to the Fox Glacier terminal face.

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### **Fox Glacier to Wilderness Lodge Lake Moeraki** (84kms – 1¼ hrs)

A lovely, straight road through the forest, crossing three turbulent glacial rivers – The Fox, Cook and Karangarua. At the Karangarua River is the start of the famous historic track up the Copland Valley. It is 6 hours walk to Welcome Flat thermal pools and 2 days tough mountaineering over Copland Pass to Mt Cook Village. The easy drive south of Fox Glacier follows beneath avenues of tall forest and farm land and pops out to the seacoast at Bruce Bay (45 km). Although the sandflies are ferocious here, it is a great stop to see the power of the Tasman Sea and fossick for brilliant white quartz beach pebbles. There are very few people on this stretch of wilderness. 70 km south of Fox Glacier at the Paringa River is the 'Salmon Farm' where Quinntat/King salmon are raised in ponds.

### **Wilderness Lodge Lake Moeraki – the end of the journey.**

*Settle in, relax and let us help you explore a wilderness of lakes, rivers, rainforest and wild seacoast*

