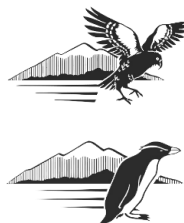


# Wilderness Lodges of New Zealand

wildernesslodge.co.nz



## Wilderness Lodge® Arthur's Pass

16km East of Arthur's Pass Village, Highway 73  
arthurspass@wildernesslodge.co.nz  
+64 3318 9246

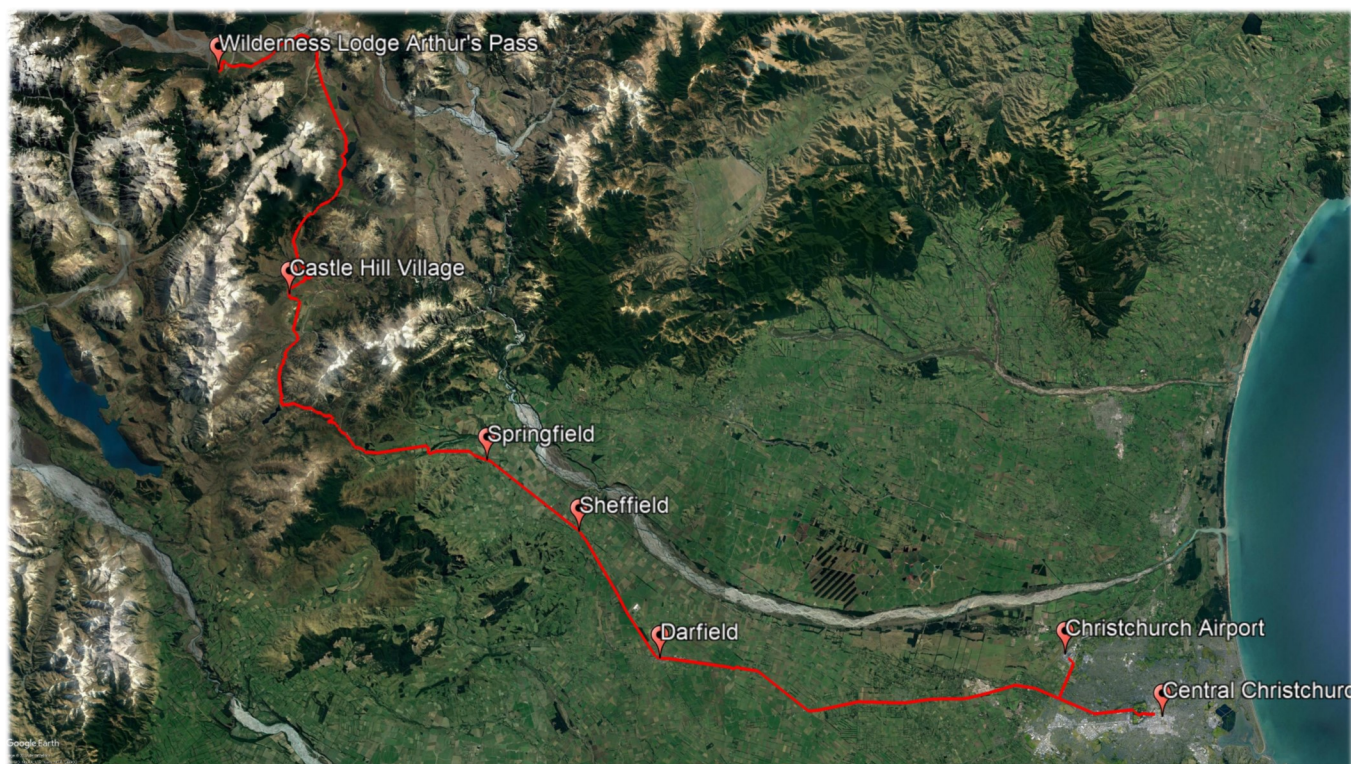
## Wilderness Lodge® Lake Moeraki

90km South of Fox Glacier, Highway 6  
lakemoeraki@wildernesslodge.co.nz  
+64 3750 0881

## Route Guide: Christchurch to Wilderness Lodge Arthur's Pass

This is a journey of just under two hours' drive time. From Christchurch you cross the flat farmlands of the Canterbury Plains to the foothills of the Southern Alps. Climbing steeply into the dry eastern mountains, you pass striking limestone formations and lakes carved by ice during past glaciations. The final leg follows the Waimakariri River to the Wilderness Lodge, surrounded by the peaks of Arthur's Pass National Park.

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



### Christchurch to Springfield (Central City: 70km - 1 hr / Airport: 63km - 50 mins)

The route follows State Highway 73 all the way from the outskirts of Christchurch to the Wilderness Lodge. From the airport, head south on Russley Road (Highway 1) and turn right onto Yaldhurst Road (Highway 73). From the central city the simplest routes to Highway 73 follow either Memorial Avenue or Riccarton Road.

The first part of the journey is across the Canterbury Plains, flat productive land created by gravels washed out from the Southern Alps by large braided rivers. This land has traditionally been used for mixed cropping, though much has now been converted to dairying with the introduction of large scale irrigation. About 30 minutes from Christchurch, Darfield is the largest country town on route. You might like to walk the main street, refuel or have something to eat.

Ten minutes further is the village of Sheffield, tiny but home to a famous bakery. If you have not yet tried a traditional New Zealand meat pie, this is your chance! Another ten minutes brings you to Springfield. There are more options for food here and it is the last place to get fuel.



The Sheffield Pie Shop has a reputation for producing some of New Zealand's tastiest meat pies.



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### Springfield to Castle Hill Village. (33km - 25 minutes)

Leave behind the flat lands of the Canterbury Plains and enter the Southern Alps. Climb steeply up Porters Pass (937 meters/3075 feet) before dropping into the dry limestone basin of Castle Hill.

At the beginning of a long straight look for a carpark to the left signposted as *Kura Tawhiti Conservation Area*. This public reserve is home to a remarkable collection of natural limestone castles and is well worth exploring. Four kilometres further is Castle Hill Village, a quiet collection of mostly holiday homes (no services available).

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### Castle Hill Village to Wilderness Lodge Arthur's Pass

(37km – 30 minutes)

Limestone outcrops dot what was once a shallow seabed. You may see evidence here of a major conservation project working to protect the landscape from invasive lodge-pole pines. Drop steeply down 'Craigieburn Cutting' and continue past glacier-carved Lakes Pearson and Grasmere.

This tawny brown landscape is celebrated in the works of some of New Zealand's leading painters like Rita Angus and Bill Sutton. Notice the subtle changes as you travel west. The distinct rainshadow effect declines as you approach the Main Divide. Forest becomes more prominent, replacing some of the drier tussock grassland.

As you sidle high above the braided gravels and clear channels of the Waimakariri River, look up the valley to the pastures of the Wilderness Lodge farm and the peaks of Arthur's Pass National Park beyond. Carefully cross the one-lane bridge over *Broad Stream* and after another 500 metres turn left at the sign for the Wilderness Lodge. Follow the driveway and signage up to lodge carpark. Park and then walk the short path beneath an ancient beech tree to reception. One of our team will be there to greet you.



The limestone castles of Kura Tawhiti



Lake Pearson/Moana Rua was carved out by ice-age glaciers and is today an important wildlife refuge.

*Settle in, relax and let us help you to explore the Southern Alps and experience life on a working sheep farm.*

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