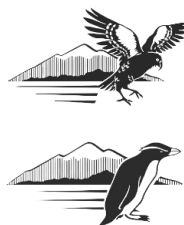


Wilderness Lodges of New Zealand

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

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Route Guide: Queenstown/Wanaka to Lake Moeraki

This is a trip of 248km, which takes 4 hours to drive comfortably. However like most roads in the wild south west of the South Island, there's a lot to see and do along the way. Accordingly, we recommend you try to allow a full day for making this journey. Note before setting out that between Wanaka and Lake Moeraki petrol is only available at Hawea, Makarora & Haast. There are no other tourist services available between these locations except for picnic areas, walking tracks and toilets provided by the Department of Conservation.

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



Either: Queenstown to Wanaka via State Highway 6 (112km – 1.5 hours)

The main road from Queenstown to Wanaka is winding for the first 40km as it weaves its way through the dramatic gorge of the Kawarau River but then generally flat and easy between Cromwell and Wanaka (53km). Cromwell is one of the major supply towns for the Otago Lakes District and centre of an important fruit growing area while Luggate is an interesting old mining town. Central Otago's world renowned vineyards are a feature of the landscape here, those close to the Queenstown end of the Kawarau Gorge enjoy especially picturesque settings.

Or: Queenstown to Wanaka via the Cardrona Valley. (71km – 1 hour)

The alternative route from Queenstown to Wanaka is shorter in distance as it climbs to an altitude of 1362m in order to cross the Crown Range. The road ascends steeply on the Queenstown side of the range before becoming narrow and winding descending into the Wanaka side. Its sweeping vistas and wild terrain make it an interesting alternative route for travelling between Queenstown and Wanaka in fine weather, although it is regularly closed in winter and should not be attempted in bad weather.

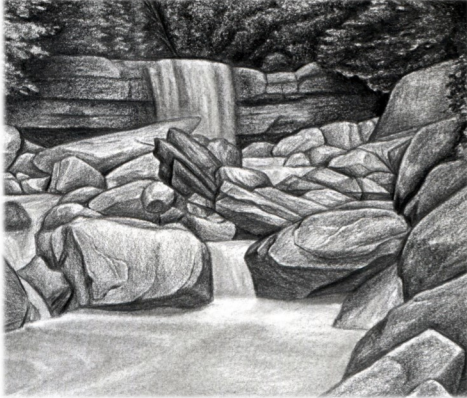


Wanaka to Makarora (65km – 50 minutes)

If you have been travelling along State Highway 6, turn right following signs for Haast, West Coast. If you drove over the Crown Range, turn right at the lake and drive through the town (3km) until you see signs for Haast, West Coast on your left. As you leave Wanaka you more or less say "goodbye" to the tawny-brown landscapes interrupted by the milky blue of Lakes Wanaka and Hawea, and come into more forested landscapes. At the junction of Highways 6 and 84, it is 12km along State Highway 6 through Albert Town and across the Clutha River to Hawea. You will drive past Lake Hawea before crossing The Neck to neighbouring Lake Wanaka. Then you will enter the Makarora valley.

Makarora to Pleasant Flat (34km – 30 minutes)

At Makarora there is a café, a petrol station and Department of Conservation Visitor Centre. The road climbs through the Haast Pass offering several picnic areas with walking tracks including Blue Pools Track located 8km before the pass. You will drive past Diana Falls which has caused some problems on the road and there may, infrequently, be some delays here. A couple of kilometres along the road is The Gates of Haast Bridge over the cascading Haast River with boulders the size of houses (great photography). At 563m Haast Pass is easily the lowest of the three road crossings of the Southern Alps. From the summit of the Haast Pass it is another 15km to Pleasant Flat. Thunder Creek Falls is another popular stopping place along the way, where it is a 3 minute walk to the falls.

**Pleasant Flat to Haast Junction** (48km – 45 minutes)

At Pleasant Flat there is a stunning view north to the glaciated summit of Mt Hooker (2652m). From here the road wends easily along the south bank of the Haast River dropping only 90m in altitude on the journey to Haast Junction. For much of the way it passes through lovely moss-draped rainforest with striking vistas of mountains and river and waterfalls bounding down the steep walls enclosing the valley. A 10-minute forest walk to the bank of the Haast River opposite the spectacular spillway of the Roaring Billy Falls (28km) provides an opportunity to stretch your legs. At Haast Junction State Highway 6 turns inland towards the Southern Alps with Haast township 3km from the junction

Haast Junction to Wilderness Lodge Lake Moeraki (32km – 30 minutes)

As you come through Haast Junction you will see a petrol station and the Department of Conservation's outstanding World Heritage Visitor Centre. You will then pass across the Haast River bridge, which is the longest one lane bridge in New Zealand.

(From Haast Junction there is a 48km (each way) detour on flat roads to Jackson's Bay, the southernmost settlement on the West Coast.)

Continuing north, the road follows an easy line through wind-shorn rimu forest to Ship Creek where there are two excellent short walks and where Hector dolphins are often seen. Then the road winds around coastal hills with stunning views of deserted beaches and glorious sunsets for those travelling at dusk. The coastal lookout at Knight's Point is 6km before the lodge. You will see a sign for Wilderness Lodge Lake Moeraki when you are 1km away. We look forward to your arrival!

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

