

Lindis Pass Tracks



Your **safety** is your responsibility

Make sure you choose a track that suits your level of fitness and experience. Read the DOC publication 'Planning a trip in the backcountry' before you start: www.doc.govt.nz/planning-a-backcountry-trip

This pamphlet is a guide only and should not be used for navigation. **You should carry NZTopo50 maps CA13, CA14, CB13 and CB14.**

Be prepared

Very hot and dry conditions are common in summer. Carry plenty of water and wear adequate sun protection. Alpine conditions may be experienced at any time of the year, and the higher country is subject to snow and ice during winter months. Carry warm and waterproof clothing and wear sturdy boots.

Follow the Outdoor Safety Code

- Plan your trip
- Tell someone your plans
- Be aware of the weather
- Know your limits
- Take sufficient supplies

Visit www.adventuresmart.org.nz for more information.



Check, Clean, Dry

Stop the spread of didymo and other freshwater pests. Remember to Check, Clean, Dry all items before entering, and when moving between, waterways.

Pack in, pack out

To retain the area's natural beauty, take your rubbish with you.

Respect private property

You need to pass through working high-country stations to reach many of the recreational opportunities. Respect the landowner's livestock and property – stay on the marked track until you reach public conservation land, leave gates as you find them and use stiles where provided. Camping is permitted only on public conservation land.

Hunting

Hunting is allowed in both the Lindis and Lauder Basin Conservation Areas. You must get an open area hunting permit (apply at www.doc.govt.nz) before bringing firearms into conservation areas.

4WD and horse riding

4WD and horse access to the Lauder Basin Conservation Area is only available from 1 December to 30 April, by permit. Apply online at www.doc.govt.nz for the combination to the locked gates.

Further information

Tititea/Mount Aspiring National Park Visitor Centre

1 Ballantyne Rd
Wanaka, 9305
PO Box 93

PHONE: 03 443 7660

EMAIL: mtaspiringvc@doc.govt.nz

www.doc.govt.nz



No unauthorised drones within conservation areas

Drones can:

- interfere with helicopters for search and rescue, fire and operational needs
- cause noise – disturbing native birds and visitors.



No pets

Dogs and other domestic animals are not permitted on most of the Lindis Pass tracks. Dogs are only permitted in the Lauder Basin Conservation Area if you hold a current hunting permit for this block. Dogs must remain within vehicles until inside the conservation area.

Cover: View from Dromedary Hill. Photo: ©Stef Cotteret

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DOC HOTline
0800 362 468

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or conservation emergencies
For Fire and Search and Rescue Call 111



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Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Nau mai, haere mai Welcome to Lindis Pass

The Lindis Pass area is New Zealand's best-known tussock landscape. It is a stunning backdrop for motorists and cyclists travelling along State Highway 8 (SH8). Recreational opportunities include everything from short walks to challenging mountain biking and tramping.



History

Māori greenstone trail

In the late 19th century, Māori from the South Island's east coast travelled through the high country passes to the West Coast to collect pounamu/greenstone. This trail, Tahu-a-arapaoa, went from the Waitaki valley to the West Coast over Lindis Pass to Lake Hāwea.

The 'gold rush'

Despite early reports of gold in the area, little notice was taken until early 1861, when the Lindis River hosted a short-lived 'gold rush'. News of gold diggings spread, and by April 1861 an estimated 300 miners were present. But by July the Lindis was deserted; miners had packed up their shovels due to the area's isolation, extreme climate, expensive provisions and doubtful returns.

The last miner to work in the area was 'Wattie' Thompson, who lived in a self-built concrete hut near the old Lindis River bridge. After returning from WWII, Wattie toiled for gold in nearby Camp Creek. But in 1971 a sudden flood swept down the creek, depositing 'great quantities of stone and gravel' that buried the creek bed Wattie had cleared. Too dispirited to start again, he moved on.



Historic Lindis Pass Hotel. Photo: DOC

Geography and native wildlife

It is easy to take the sweeping tussock vista for granted but, many volunteer hours are spent removing invasive weeds that, if left unchecked, would see the tussock region changed. The Lindis Pass Scenic Reserve is relatively weed-free thanks to the Lindis Conservation Group, who work hard to remove briar/rosehip, scotch broom, Russell lupins and thistles.

This group has monitored skinks and keeps a record of flora and fauna species.

The alpine ridges, rock bluffs, scree faces and snow-tussock grasslands host the kārearea/New Zealand falcon, pihoihoi/New Zealand pipit and spotted skink; lower altitude shrublands and beech forests provide habitat for pīwakawaka/fantail, riroriro/grey warbler and tītipounamu/rifleman. Butterflies, grasshoppers, dragonflies and spiders enjoy the vegetation, along with various skinks and geckos. Two species of native fish, the kōaro (*Galaxias brevipinnis*) and the upland bully (*Gobiomorphus breviceps*) rely on the high-country streams.



Melina Ridge Track. Photo: DOC



Kārearea/New Zealand falcon. Photo: Stef Cotteret



McPhies Ridge Track. Photo: Stef Cotteret

Lindis Pass tracks

1 Pavilion Peak Track

Birchwood Road to Dalrachney
Road bridge: 9–11 hr, 32 km one way
Dalrachney Road bridge to Dromedary Hill:
6–7 hr, 20 km return



This long-distance track is popular with mountain bikers and trail runners. It is a steep climb up Pavilion Peak from Birchwood Road. An undulating ridge then provides great views before heading down to SH8 near Dalrachney Road bridge.

An alternative day trip for fit trampers is to start from the Dalrachney Road bridge and head up to the summit of Dromedary Hill (1,664 m). Return the same way.

2 Melina Ridge Track

Birchwood Road to SH8: 10–12 hr,
35 km one way



Another good long-distance track for mountain bikers and trail runners. From Birchwood Road, the track climbs to 1,500 m above sea level, then descends on the other side to Smiths Creek and out to SH8 by the Lindis Pass Scenic Reserve.

3 Mount Prospect Track

Melina Ridge Track to Timaru
River Track: 4 hr, 9 km one way



This track branches off the Melina Ridge Track and climbs to the top of Mount Prospect (1,770 m) before descending into the Timaru River valley. Bikers must return the same way, while trampers can go on along the Timaru River Track (see the *Hāwea Conservation Park* brochure for more information).

4 Pylon Track

SH8 to Goodger Road: 6–7 hr,
19 km one way



From the car park along SH8 near Lindis Pass summit, this track heads downhill following the valley floor. Once past the conservation area boundary, the track is a public easement through private farmland to the Goodger Road car park. Closed for lambing 15 October – 30 November.

5 Shirlmar Track

Pleasant Valley car park to Dunstan
Creek: 2 hr – 2 hr 30 min,
8 km one way



From Pleasant Valley, this track heads up the right branch of the Tim Burn to the northern end of the Chain Hills, 1,000 m above sea level, before dropping down into Dunstan Creek. Closed for lambing 10 October – 5 December.

6 Chain Hills Track

Shirlmar Track to Long Acre Track:
1 hr – 1 hr 30 min, 5 km one way
Long Acre Track to Dunstan Pass:
1 hr – 1 hr 30 min, 6 km one way



From its junction with Shirlmar Track, this track undulates south along the tops of the Chain Hills to connect with the Long Acre Track. The Chain Hills Track continues to Dunstan Pass, giving access to the Lauder Conservation Area. Closed for lambing 10 October – 5 December.

7 Long Acre Track

Pleasant Valley car park to Dunstan
Creek: 1 hr 30 min – 2 hr, 7 km, one way



This track branches off McPhies Ridge Track to head up the Chain Hills before dropping down the other side into Dunstan Creek. Closed for lambing 10 October – 5 December.

8 McPhies Ridge Track

Cluden Quarry to Pleasant
Valley car park: 7–8 hr, 25 km one way



This public easement through private farmland goes up and along McPhies Ridge, with good views of the Chain Hills. Closed for lambing 10 October – 5 December.

9 Lindis Peak Track

Old Faithful Road to Lindis Peak:
5–6 hr, 16 km return



This track to the 1,226 m summit of Lindis Peak has panoramic views of the surrounding area, from the impressive St Bathans Range in the east to the Southern Alps/Kā Tiritiri o te Moana and Mount Aspiring/Tititea in the west. Closed for lambing 10 October – 5 December.

10 Cluden Station Easement

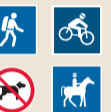
Cluden Quarry car park to Cluden Creek
car park: 2 hr, 8 km one way
Cluden Creek car park to Lauder Basin
Conservation Area: 2–3 hr, 7 km one way



This formed 4WD track gives access to the Lauder Basin Conservation Area via Cluden Station for walking, mountain biking and horse riding. Some sections of road are rough with steep drop-offs. **Note:** there is a locked gate at Cluden Creek car park. Motor vehicles and horse riders need to apply online for padlock codes to enter the Lauder Basin Conservation Area. 4WD access is only available 1 December – 30 April.

11 Cluden Creek Track

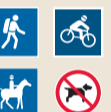
Cluden Creek car park to Lauder Basin
Conservation Area Road: 7–8 hr,
20 km one way



Walking, biking and horse access is permitted along the formed 4WD farm track. Some sections of the road are rough with steep drop-offs. Sections of track may be boggy after rain.

12 Dunstan Pass Track

Cluden Creek Track/Chain Hills Track
junction over Dunstan Pass to Dunstan
Creek: 1 hr 30 min, 4 km one way



From the junction of Cluden Creek, Dunstan Pass and Chain Hills tracks, the track climbs to Dunstan Pass before descending to Dunstan Creek.

13 Lauder Basin Conservation Area Road

Lauder Station boundary to Cluden
Station boundary: 6–7 hr, 18 km one way



A formed 4WD track gives access through the Lauder Conservation Area for vehicles, walkers, mountain bikers and horse riders. Some sections of road are rutted and can be boggy after rain.

14 Lauder Station Easement

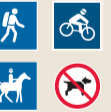
Lauder Basin car park to Lauder Basin
Conservation Area boundary: 2 hr,
6 km one way



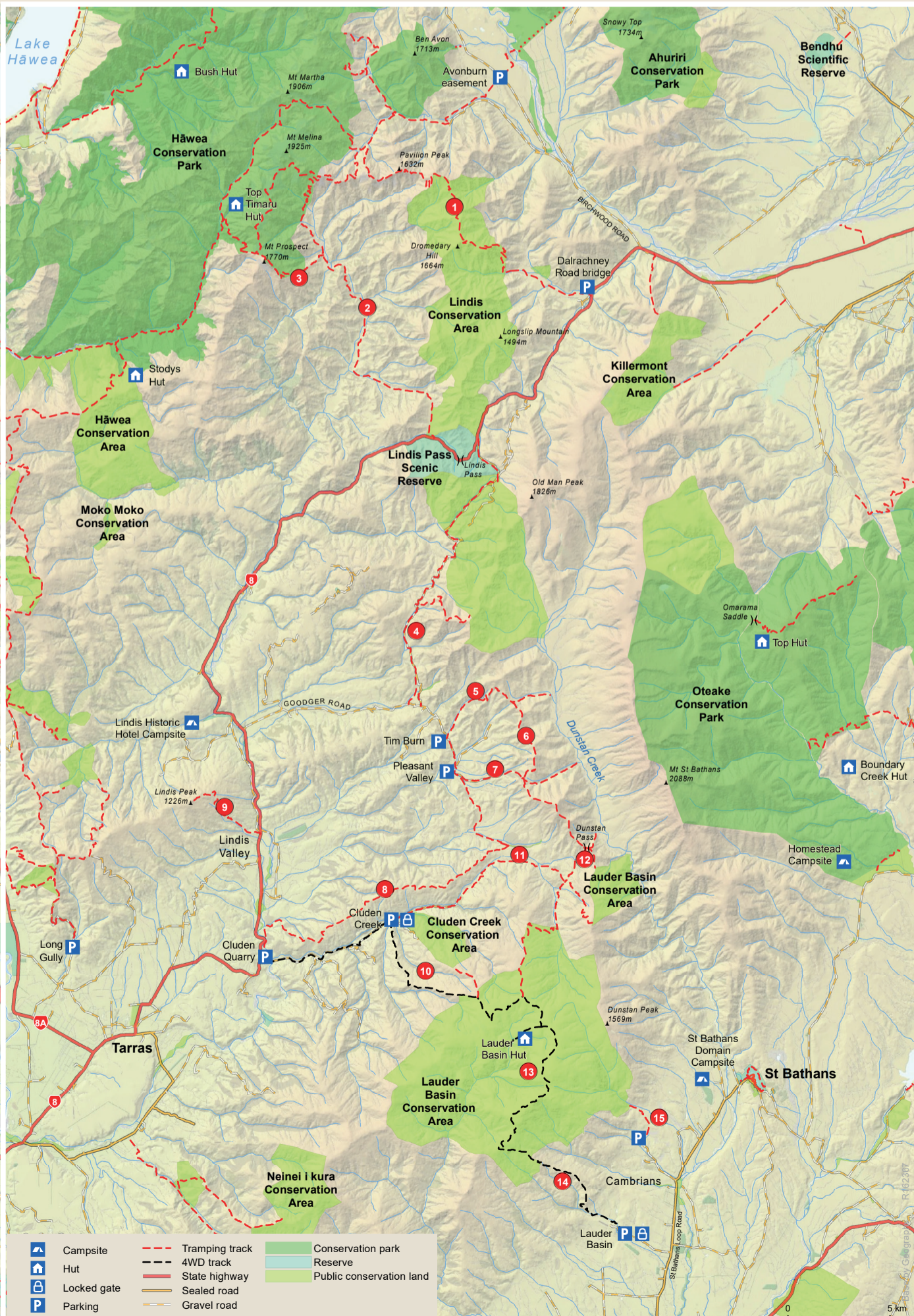
A formed 4WD track (an easement across Lauder Station) allows entry to the Lauder Basin Conservation Area for 4WD vehicles, walkers, mountain bikers and horse riders. Some sections of road are rough with steep drop-offs. **Note:** there is a locked gate at Lauder Basin car park. 4WD vehicles and horse riders need to apply online for padlock codes. 4WD access is only available 1 December – 30 April. Motorcycles and ATVs are not permitted. Closed for lambing from 20 September until Thursday before Labour Weekend.

15 Sailors Creek Track

Cambrian Rd to Lauder Basin
Conservation Area Boundary: 45 min,
2 km one way



Access to this block is from Cambrian Road, off St Bathans Loop Road, 10 km north of Becks. Vehicles can go as far as the car park at Sailors Creek. From here, only walkers, mountain bikers and horse riders are permitted.



Track grades

Walking Tramping track – challenging day or multi-day tramping/hiking, suitable for people with moderate to high level backcountry (remote areas) skills and experience. Navigation and survival skills required. Track is mostly unformed with steep, rough or muddy sections. Expect unbridged stream and river crossings. Tramping/hiking boots required.

Mountain Biking Intermediate – steep slopes and/or avoidable obstacles, possibly on narrow track and/or with poor traction. There may be exposure at track's outer edge.

Advanced – a mixture of long, steep climbs, narrow track, poor traction and difficult obstacles to avoid or jump over. Generally exposed at the track's outer edge. Most riders will find some sections easier to walk.

Expert – technically challenging. Giant climbs, narrow track and numerous hazards including dangerous drop-offs, sharp corners and difficult obstacles. Expect walking and possibly bike carrying.