

## YOUR HUT FEES HELP KEEP THE HUTS MAINTAINED

Standard huts – 1 hut ticket per adult/night. There are no charges for children up to the age of 11 years in standard huts.

Basic huts are free.

To find out about huts, fees and how to book, go to [www.doc.govt.nz/huts](http://www.doc.govt.nz/huts).



## CAMPING

Camping is possible anywhere within Ruataniwha Conservation Park – look at the map carefully so you know where park boundaries are. You cannot camp on any of the public access easements which lead to public conservation land.



## BE A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER

- Always keep your dog under control.
- Remove any dog faeces from tracks or track verges.
- Dogs are not allowed inside huts. Tie your dog up somewhere suitable outside.
- Dog owners can apply for a free permit to take their dogs onto public conservation land – visit your local DOC office.
- Check whether pest control poison has been laid in the area. Go to [www.doc.govt.nz/pesticide-summaries](http://www.doc.govt.nz/pesticide-summaries).
- Help prevent the spread of sheep measles on farmland by keeping your dog regularly dosed with an effective tapeworm drug.



## TREAD CAREFULLY WITH YOUR HORSE

- Make sure all your riding gear and horse's hooves are free of any seeds or soil which could potentially spread weeds.
- Have your horse eat weed-free feed 48 hours before entering public conservation land.
- Do not take your horse into fragile areas such as wetlands.
- Keep horse manure away from hut and campsite areas.

## TAKE CARE VISITING RUATANIWHA CONSERVATION PARK

*Remember – your safety is your responsibility*

**Be prepared:** Weather in this conservation park can change rapidly. Check the weather forecast before you leave home.

**Tell someone your intentions:** Leave your trip intentions with a friend or family member. Information on the Outdoor Intentions system can be found at [www.adventuresmart.co.nz](http://www.adventuresmart.co.nz).

**Fire:** Fire restrictions apply to all public conservation land. Consult with local information centres or DOC offices for the current fire status.

**Avalanche:** Backcountry travellers should be able to recognise hazardous avalanche terrain and run out zones. We recommend carrying 457 khz transceivers, probes and shovels. Avalanches can flow down to valley floors anytime from May to November during and after severe snow storm cycles.

**Communications:** Cellphone coverage cannot be relied upon in this park. Satellite phones or mountain radios are a better option. Parties should carry a personal locator beacon for increased safety.

**Navigation:** Carry the appropriate topographic map for your backcountry trip: NZTopo50 BY14, BY15; BZ14, BZ15.

### Take care with river crossings

- Always treat the river with respect
- Never cross a dirty or flooded river
- When four-wheel driving have an adult walk the river first
- River currents are often stronger than they appear
- River levels can rise rapidly due to rain in the catchment headwaters
- River levels may rise due to afternoon snow melt (spring)
- Braids of the river can shift and there may be soft sinking sand/silt
- If in doubt, retreat.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information about recreation and conservation visit: [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz).

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**DOC HOTline**  
**0800 362 468**  
Report any safety hazards or conservation emergencies  
For Fire and Search and Rescue Call 111

# Ruataniwha Conservation Park

SOUTH CANTERBURY



Department of Conservation  
Te Papa Atawhai

Ruataniwha Conservation Park covers rugged mountain country, tussocklands, beech/tawhai forest and sparkling clear rivers. Duncan, Dobson, Hopkins, Huxley, Maitland and Temple are the major valleys in the park. The eastern edge of the park is bordered by the tussock-clad Ben Ohau Range.

### Tangata whenua – the first people of the land

The name Ruataniwha has been associated with this area for over 400 years, after two Māori brothers who travelled here. 'Rua' translates as two, while 'taniwha' means powerful or strong person.

### Activities

Many people visit the park including trampers, mountain bikers, climbers, photographers, anglers, horse riders and hunters. You can hunt for tahr or chamois and the occasional red deer. All hunters must have a hunting permit obtained from a DOC office or online at [www.doc.govt.nz/hunting](http://www.doc.govt.nz/hunting).

### Native animals

The sweeping tussock slopes of Ben Ohau Range host a myriad of wildlife including moths, butterflies, lizards, grasshoppers, spiders and beetles.

Bush birds likely to be spotted in the forests include tomtit/miromiro, fantail/pīwakawaka, bellbird/korimako, rifleman/tititipounamu and morepork/ruru kōkōu. Further up the Hopkins valley you may encounter New Zealand falcon/kārearea, kea and rock wren/pīwauwau.

### Native plants

The beech forests near Lake Ohau are a mixture of mountain and silver beech. The region is regarded nationally as a good place to see mistletoe/pikirangi. This parasitic plant puts on a spectacular flowering display in November/December.

*Track times are a guide for people on foot.*

## BEN OHAU RANGE

When westerly conditions make it unpleasant along the main divide, the Ben Ohau Range provides an ideal destination.

*Access is off Aoraki/Mount Cook Highway (SH80).*

### Freds Stream, Bush Stream, Twin Stream, Whale Stream

There is public access on foot into all of these valleys. There are no formed tracks.

### Boundary Stream



A narrow strip of public conservation land meets Aoraki/Mount Cook highway (SH80) at Boundary Stream.

### Big Rock Stream



A public access easement is signposted at Big Rock Stream.

*Shared-use tracks: Follow the mountain bikers code: respect others, respect the rules, respect the track.*

## Duncan valley

*These tracks start from a signposted car park beside Aoraki/Mount Cook highway (SH80).*

Most of the public access into this part of the park is along easements crossing private high country stations. Ensure that you:

- Stay on the public access easement
- Leave gates as you find them
- Do not disturb stock
- Keep your dog away unless you have the private runholder's permission
- Take all rubbish away with you.

Merino sheep are often stocked on these high country stations and they spook easily. If on bike or horse, ride slowly past these animals. In some cases alternative routes will be suggested during lambing time, but these will be clearly signposted (October–December).

### Baikie Hut 3 hr, 9 km



The track into Baikie Hut runs parallel to Twizel River. Permission to drive along this 4WD track is required from Pukaki Downs Station. Phone: 03 435 0131

*From the pull-over area on Glen Lyon Road beside Pukaki Canal.*

### Dusky Trail 7–8 hr, 23 km



Dusky Trail climbs alongside Fraser Stream and then travels along the valley floor below Ben Ohau Range. It then descends from Gladstone valley out to the highway. This trip involves crossing both the Fraser Stream and Twizel River.

*From a large car park alongside Glen Lyon Road (100 m further up the road)*

### Ben Ohau Wetland 15 min, 1 km



This short walk leads to a deep carex wetland.

### The Pyramid Saddle viewpoint 1 hr 30 min, 5 km



This track continues past Ben Ohau Wetland and goes through exotic forest. It is then a short, steep climb to the saddle for panoramic views.

### Flanagan Pass Trail 8 hr, 20 km



Descend from Pyramid saddle to the Darts Bush flats and carry on up to Flanagan Pass. The trip over Flanagan Pass was regularly used in the late 1800s as a stock route. Remaining telegraph poles once provided communication for Glen Lyon Station.

## WESTERN SIDE OF BEN OHAU RANGE

*Access is along the eastern shore of Lake Ohau via Glen Lyon Road. Drive carefully as this is a narrow gravel road. You will drive past a rock retaining wall built by workers during the 1930s depression.*

### Greta Track 6–7 hr, 16 km



Remnant beech, mānuka, tōtara and an old musterer's hut from the 1890s makes for an interesting start to this track. It is a 5-km climb up the western flank of Ben Ohau (walkers will need to deviate from the track to climb to the true summit at 1522 m). The descent passes by fellfields (blocky scree) and short rock bluffs back down to Lake Ohau.

*Travel further on Glen Lyon Road for the Dorcy Track. Stock may be grazing beside the road so be prepared to stop if required.*

### Dorcy Track 2 hr, 4 km



A 4WD track takes you up to the airstrip where you can park your vehicle. Please note that this vehicle track is open all year round but may be treacherous in winter. From where you park your vehicle it is a 1 hr walk up to Flanagan Pass.

## Dobson valley

*Dobson valley is at the end of Glen Lyon Road. Drive slowly past Glen Lyon homestead buildings to reduce gravel dust. Initial travel past the homestead requires access permission – phone 03 438 9644 or 03 438 9642. You can 4WD drive to Grough and Kennedy Huts but you need to be skilled in backcountry/river travel.*

















### Walking times

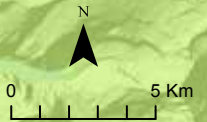
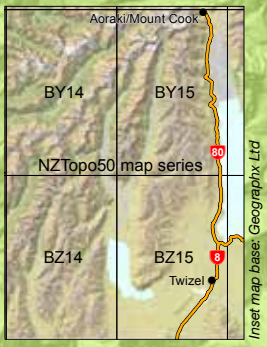
<b>Glen Lyon Station – Grough Hut</b>	6 hr, 26 km
<b>Grough Hut – Kennedy Hut</b>	2 hr 30 min, 7 km
<b>Kennedy Hut – Reardon Hut</b>	3 hr 30 min, 10 km



- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable ground
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimise the effects of fire
- Respect wildlife and farm animals
- Be considerate of others



-  Ruataniwha Conservation Park
-  Other public conservation land
-  Car park
-  Camping area
-  Toilets
-  Basic hut/biv—basic shelter with limited facilities and services. Free.
-  Standard hut—bunks or sleeping platforms with mattresses. Toilet and water supply. 1 hut ticket per adult per night.
-  4WD track
-  Short walk—well-formed easy walk
-  Walking track—well-formed easy walk
-  Tramping track—mostly unformed but has track directional markers, poles or cairns
-  Route—unformed, suitable only for people with high-level backcountry skills and experience
-  Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail
-  Te Araroa
-  View point
-  Wetland



Access to Freehold, Temple, Maitland and Hopkins valleys is from the western side of Lake Ohau. Take care on Lake Ohau Road as it is narrow and winding in places. The road changes to gravel after Lake Ohau Lodge. Permission to drive up Ohau Snow Fields road is required from Lake Ohau Lodge. Phone: 03 438 9885.

## Freehold Creek



Mountain-beech forest clings to the gullies alongside Freehold, Parsons and Sawyers creeks in this area. The Alps to Ocean (A2O) cycle trail traverses these valleys.

**Glen Mary Ski Club Huts access to Freehold Creek track** 45 min, 2 km



This track provides a direct route to Sawyers Creek and then on to Freehold Creek. It then takes over an hour to climb up to Freehold Creek bushline. Park in the signposted area near Lake Ohau Road (not by the huts).

**Parsons Creek to viewpoint**



10 min, 300 m

Look for the DOC sign just before Parsons Creek one-lane bridge on Lake Ohau Road, then take a short steep walk to a vantage point in the beech forest.

**Parsons Creek to Freehold Creek bushline** 2 hr, 6 km



From Parsons Creek the track meanders along ancient glacial moraine terraces with a bridge crossing at Sawyers Creek. Once across the Freehold Creek bridge you are walking on an old beech logging trail. Note the distinctive curved nature of the track which is where bullocks (young bulls) dragged large beech and tōtara logs from the forest.

**Freehold Creek bushline to Dumb-bell Lake** 4 hr, 4 km



A diverse range of native plants hug the Freehold Creek bush edge. Continue on a marked route within Freehold Creek basin which is then unmarked to Dumb-bell Lake.

## Maitland valley



Initial travel in Maitland valley is across private land so access permission is required from Lake Ohau Station. Phone: 03 438 9663.

**Lake Ohau to Maitland Hut**



4-5 hr, 10 km

This track negotiates a steep climb early on to get to the top of a scree slope. When you have descended to Maitland Stream the track is well marked to Maitland Hut.

**Maitland Hut to Snowy Gorge Hut**

4 hr, 9 km



Once you leave the beech forest, dodge the spaniards/taramea as you climb steadily to the pass at 1352 m. Continue down to Snowy Gorge Hut in Ahuriri Conservation Park.

## Temple valley



Temple valley camping area has basic facilities including a shelter and toilet.

**Temple valley circuit track**

1 hr, 2 km



This short track circles through mountain-beech forest.

**Temple Campsite to North Temple cirque**

2 hr 30 min, 5 km



After crossing North Temple Stream, the track travels along the beech forest margin and ends at an impressive cirque basin.

**Temple Campsite to South Temple Hut** 3 hr, 7.5 km



You need to cross South Temple Stream to reach the hut, which may be dangerous or difficult after heavy rainfall.

## Hopkins valley



4WD required to continue beyond Ram Hill (main gate you meet across Lake Ohau Road). Park at Ruataniwha Conservation Park boundary, or continue to Monument Hut. You need to be skilled at backcountry vehicle travel to drive as far as Elcho Hut. Dogs remain in your vehicle until you reach the conservation park boundary downstream of Monument Hut.

**Braided river birds nest here** - If you drive in the Hopkins riverbed please keep to any established tracks.

**Walking times**

**Ram Hill to Monument Hut** 2 hr, 9 km



**Monument Hut to Red Hut** 2 hr, 6 km



**Red Hut to Dasler Biv** 3 hr, 6 km



**Red Hut to Dodger Hut** 5 hr, 14 km



**Monument Hut to Elcho Hut (NZ Alpine Club)** 4 hr, 9 km



**Elcho Hut to North Elcho Stream bushline** 2 hr, 4 km



**Elcho Hut (NZAC) to Cullers Hut** 30 min, 1.5 km



**Cullers Hut to Dodger Hut** 2 hr, 5.5 km



**Dodger Hut to Erceg Hut** 3 hr, 7 km



**Erceg Hut to Richardson Rock Bivouac** 1 hr, 3 km



## Huxley valley



Huxley valley branches off Hopkins valley and is an open, grassy riverbed as far as Huxley Forks Hut. Take care, as in periods of heavy rainfall the creeks near Huxley Forks Hut can be dangerous to cross. From Huxley Forks Hut you can travel up North Huxley or South Huxley valleys.

**Walking times**

**Monument Hut to Huxley Forks Hut** 3 hr, 9 km



**Huxley Forks Hut to Brodrick Hut** 3 - 3 hr 30 min, 4.5 km



**Brodrick Hut to Brodrick Pass** 3 hr, 2.5 km



**Huxley Forks Hut to South Huxley Bivouac** 3 hr, 5 km



### 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.



BETWEEN WATERWAYS