

yourself there is a lever and instructions on its use in the cableway cage. It is really only possible to use the lever if you have strong arms! Remember to place your pack ashore before disembarking.

From the cableway, continue across the bouldery riverbed and gorse-covered flats toward Dillon Hut. Orange poles mark the easiest way.

Alternatively, a little further on from Dillon Hut is the old Dillons homestead (10 bunks). This is an older alternative with considerable character.

Seven Mile Creek to SH73

Time: 2–3 hours one way

It's an easy walk out down Taipo River following the old 4WD track. Currently where the river runs hard against the bank there is a marked track in the bush that bypasses this section. Before the Taipo runs into a gorge the track veers away from the river and climbs over a small saddle. The track ends on SH73 about 10 kilometres west of Jacksons Tavern.

Alternative route: Seven Mile Creek to SH 73 via Kellys Creek

Time: 6 hours one way

This is a fine-weather-only alternative. From the hut, walk to Seven Mile Creek. This is the last place for water until the tarns on Kelly Range. Follow the creek bed upstream until the banks draw close together. Orange markers and a sign show the start of the track on the true left. The track passes old mining water races and climbs through forest of twisted rātā for about 600 vertical metres.

Once at the bushline you are halfway to the hut and there is still a 300-metre vertical climb to the top of Kelly Range. The superb views above the bushline make the long climb worthwhile. The route across Kelly Range is marked with pole markers, which are easy to find on a clear day, but almost impossible to find in low visibility or snow cover.

Carroll Hut (10 bunks) is situated in a tussock basin east of the saddle. It does not have any form of heating.

From Carroll Hut the track runs directly across the tussock in front of the hut to the lip of the basin. A benched section of track descends by sidling down across steep scrub to the bushline. Once in the bush it drops more steeply and emerges at Kellys Creek, 5 minutes from the main road. Time from Carroll Hut to the road is 1 hour 30 minutes.

Note: Parties walking into the Taipo from Kelly Range may have difficulty finding the track in poor visibility. From Carroll Hut the poles go past the tarns on Kelly Saddle and run along the north-western side of Kelly Range above Seven Mile Creek. When you

get to the large tarns on Kelly Range, the poled route turns and drops down the spur to the track to Seven Mile Creek. The broken and fault-scarped spur is very confusing to follow down the bush track to Seven Mile Creek. Make sure you find the poles to take you down the correct (lower and most northern) ridge.

Huts

Carrington Hut: Serviced, 36 bunks, mattresses

Julia Hut (new): Standard, 6 bunks, mattresses

Julia Hut (old): Basic, 4 bunks, mattresses

Mid Taipo Hut: Standard, 6 bunks, mattresses

Dillon Hut: Standard, 10 bunks, mattresses

Dillons Homestead Hut: Basic, 10 bunks, mattresses

Carroll Hut: Standard, 10 bunks, mattresses

Hut fees: Serviced huts: Adult \$15 per night, youth (11–17 years) \$7.50 per night, child (up to 10 years) free

Standard huts: Adult \$5 per night, youth (11–17 years) \$2.50 per night, child (up to 10 years) free.

Basic Free

Purchase hut tickets or passes before you leave from any DOC office or selected i-SITES.

Further information

For information, maps, weather forecasts and track condition updates:

Arthur's Pass National Park Visitor Centre

SH73, Arthur's Pass. Phone 03 318 9211

8.00 am – 5.00 pm (summer), 8.30 am – 4.30 pm (winter)

arthurspassvc@doc.govt.nz

www.doc.govt.nz

www.adventuresmart.org.nz

Cover: Harman Pass Photo: Mike Ambrose

Published by:
Department of Conservation
Rangiora Office
PO Box 349, Rangiora 7440
New Zealand
May 2015

Editing and design:
Publishing Team, DOC National Office

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

New Zealand Government

ROUTE GUIDE

Harman Pass (Carrington Hut to Kelly Creek)

Arthur's Pass National Park



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Summary

Time: 3–4 days (shuttle required)

Grade: Route

Note: Mountaineering equipment and experience are required in winter and spring

Experience: Suitable for well-equipped and experienced backcountry trampers only

Best season: Summer and autumn, extreme avalanche danger in winter and early spring

Required maps: NZTopo50: Otira BV20, Moana BU20

Hazards: Flooded rivers, rockfall and avalanche

Note: True left and true right refer to the side of the valley or river when facing and looking downstream.

Safety: This route guide must be read in conjunction with *Tramping in Arthur's Pass National Park*, a free brochure with important safety information, and New Zealand's *Outdoor Safety Code*. Before setting out, check the latest track conditions and avalanche advisory with the Arthur's Pass Visitor Centre.



Your safety is your responsibility. Before you go, know the **Outdoor Safety Code** – 5 simple rules to help you stay safe:

- 1. Plan your trip properly** – Ensure that you have a capable leader.
- 2. Tell someone** – Leave your trip details with a trusted contact and at www.adventuresmart.org.nz.
- 3. Check the weather** – Including www.avalanche.net.nz and the latest information on hazards and facilities before you start.
- 4. Know your limits** – Physical fitness and good equipment will make all the difference.
- 5. Take sufficient supplies** – Carry a sleeping bag, cooking utensils, sufficient food, raincoat, overtrousers, gloves, hat, and several layers of warm clothes.

Good knowledge and preparation will make or break this trip

This route takes you from open east coast river flats, over a rugged, untracked alpine pass into the rainforest of the Taipo River. Finish by climbing up and over Kelly Range or by continuing down the Taipo River to the road.



The terrain is demanding and you will be crossing many swift, alpine streams. Suitable for fit, well-equipped people experienced in off-track travel. Snow covers the route during winter and spring. This route

passes through several known avalanche paths. During heavy snow conditions, we advise visitors not to travel this route unless sufficiently equipped and experienced to assess the conditions and choose a safe path through avalanche terrain.

Getting there

The trip starts at State Highway 73 on the true right of the Waimakariri, just south of the Waimakariri road bridge (about 10 km east of Arthur's Pass village).

TRAMPING THE HARMAN PASS ROUTE

SH73 to Carrington Hut

Time: 4–5 hours one way

Refer to the Carrington Hut route guide.

Carrington Hut to Harman Pass

Time: 3 hours one way

From Carrington Hut follow the track upstream to the riverbed of White River. As you walk upstream, look for a place to cross White River to get to Taipoiti River on the opposite bank. If there is a need to use the Clough Cableway because of high river levels, we advise against continuing the route as you will experience further difficult river crossings later on.



If there is snow up the Taipoiti, the route will be difficult. During winter and spring, avalanches can funnel into the gorge over the cliffs.

Climb and scramble up through the steep gorge, crossing from side to side when necessary. At the top of the gorge, waterfalls tumble over impassable cliffs. Pass these waterfalls. The poled route to Harman Pass starts near here, beside a small stream.

Once out of the Taipoiti gorge you can see the main Taipoiti branches into two streams, each running down a deep gully. A well-worn cairned and poled trail crosses the true left branch relatively soon then climbs upwards, well above the true right gully. As the second stream becomes smaller and more open, cross it; and after a short walk you will be at the top of Harman Pass. (If you are walking down from Harman Pass, enter the Taipoiti well to its true left to avoid the bluffs and waterfalls).

Harman Pass to Julia Hut

Time: 4 hours one way

From the large cairn on Harman Pass veer down and slightly right and survey your route ahead carefully. Be aware that there is an intersection of routes here. Ensure that you are following the correct route towards Mary Creek; do not follow the route towards Ariels Tarns and Whitehorn Pass. Head for the marker pole down the slope and on the right.

The route is marked with poles through the bluffs down to Mary

Creek. Cross the creek and climb to the terrace by scrambling up an obvious worn trail in the low bluffs. Route-marker poles show the way across the terrace to the open riverbed of Mary Creek. The descent to Mary Creek is relatively steep with low vegetation.

Boulder-hop downstream following the marker poles crossing the creek as needed until you reach a large orange marker on the true left. The track to Julia Hut starts here and is well marked with orange markers.

Follow the track to the swing bridge that crosses Mary Creek a few hundred metres above its confluence with Julia Creek. Cross this bridge and follow the track for 300 metres to Julia Hut.

The newer Julia Hut has 6 bunks and an efficient stove. The older Julia Hut (4 bunks) is a few minutes further down the track.

Hot spring

A spring near here seeps through the gravel riverbank. By digging a pool in the gravel you can create a hot bath for two people. A bit of excavating, and damming a channel of cold water to the hot pool, gets the temperature just right.

To reach the hot spring, follow the short section of track, opposite the front door of the new hut, down to the river.

Boulder-hop down the true right until just before you reach a gorge. At this point the characteristic sulphur smell marks the spot. *Do not immerse your head in the spring as there is a risk of contracting amoebic meningitis.*



Julia Hut to Seven Mile Creek (Dillon Hut)

Time: 4–5 hours one way

Follow the track down the true right of Taipo River and over the 3-wire bridge across Tumbledown Creek. It takes 2 hours to reach the swing bridge across the Taipo. Mid Taipo Hut (6 bunks) is about 20 minutes downstream from the bridge across scrubby flats.

From the hut continue over open flats for a short distance before entering the forest and crossing Hura Creek. After heavy rain Hura Creek quickly becomes impassable.

Once across Hura Creek follow the river flats for 5 to 10 minutes until a section of track climbs and bypasses a gorge. Continue over easy flats or in the riverbed on the true left of the main Taipo River until the river narrows. Dunns Creek and other side creeks are forded along the way – in heavy rain these side creeks rise quickly and may become impassable.

An extremely steep track takes you up and over a bluff to Scottys Cableway. Crossing a cableway is quicker and easier if a companion winds the carriage from either bank.

Most people will have the strength to do this. If you are by