

Lake Mavis – side trip

Time: 2 hours

For parties in the summer with time in hand at Goat Pass, the 500 m climb to Lake Mavis is worthwhile. Climb the steep tussock and scree on the spur running east from Goat Pass, then follow the cairned ridge route – perhaps the easiest access to a high-level lake in the park.

This area is subject to avalanche activity during the winter. During heavy snow conditions, we advise visitors not to travel this route unless sufficiently equipped, and experienced enough to assess the conditions and choose a safe path through avalanche terrain.

Goat Pass Hut – Mingha River – Greyneys Shelter

Time: 5 hours

From the hut the track passes through subalpine scrub whilst crossing over Goat Pass (1,070 m) before descending to the headwaters of the Mingha River. Once this is crossed, follow the marked track on the true right of the river to reach Mingha Bivvy (2 bunks).

For the next 3 km the track undulates through bush before it steepens for a short section to reach Dudley Knob. The track passes through bush for another 1 km, sidling high above the Mingha Gorge before emerging onto the expansive flats of the lower Mingha River.

Continue heading downstream for 3.5 km, aiming for the power poles and the Bealey River in the distance and crossing the Mingha River where necessary. Once the Bealey River is reached, cross it above its meeting with the Mingha River. The rivers are constantly changing course so you will need to find the best place to cross.

Once the Bealey River is crossed, take care crossing the railway tracks to reach SH73. Greyneys Shelter campsite is a further 500 m south.

Those running the Coast to Coast need to continue along the Bealey riverbed for a further 2–3 km to come out at Klondyke Corner.

Coast to Coast and blue duck/whio

The annual Coast to Coast event runs every second Friday and Saturday in February (www.coasttocoast.co.nz). It is not

uncommon in spring and summer to come across people training for the event, running from west to east. The now retired race founder, Robin Judkins, sponsors the Blue Duck Recovery programme to protect blue duck/whio in the Mingha and Deception valleys. Any blue duck sightings should be reported to DOC visitor centre staff in Arthur's Pass.

Huts

Upper Deception Hut: Basic, 6 bunks, mattresses

Goat Pass Hut: Standard, 20 bunks, no heating or cooking facilities, radio

Mingha Bivvy: Basic, 2 bunks, mattresses

Hut fees:

Serviced huts: Adult \$15.00 per night, youth (11–17 years) \$7.50 per night, child (up to 10 years) free

Standard huts: Adult \$5.00 per night, youth (11–17 years) \$2.50 per night, child (up to 10 years) free

Basic huts: 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 photo: marathon-photos.com.

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

Editing and design:
Publishing Team, DOC National Office

New Zealand Government

ROUTE GUIDE

Mingha – Deception (west to east)

Arthur's Pass National Park



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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

Summary

Time: 1-2 days (shuttle required)

Grade: Route

Experience: Suitable for well-equipped people with previous backcountry tramping experience. River crossing skills essential.

Best season: Summer, autumn and early winter

Required maps: NZTopo50: Otira BV20

Hazards: Flooded rivers, avalanches, steep drop-offs and bluffs

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*.

Take appropriate clothing and equipment. Mountain weather can change quickly – 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.

Crossing the alps via two river valleys

The Mingha Deception Route forms the 30.5 km run leg of New Zealand's most iconic multi-sport race – the annual Coast to Coast event. This section crosses the National Park, following the Deception Valley Route in the west, crosses the Southern Alps at Goat Pass (1,070 m) and then follows the Mingha Track down to Klondyke Corner.

For those not running the Coast the Coast, the route finishes about 3 km earlier at State Highway 73 (SH73) by Greyneys Shelter.

The route can be walked from either the east or west sides. If only going as far as Goat Pass Hut, it is easier to take the Mingha Track from the east. The whole route has traditionally been described from east to west, but as more people are now walking it from west to east (in training for the Coast to Coast, or as part of the Te Araroa Trail) both options are now covered in separate guides.

River crossing experience is essential

Both the Deception and Mingha rivers can be dangerous. Do not attempt this trip when these rivers are high or when bad weather is forecast. Travel up the Deception River requires up to 30 compulsory river crossings.

Rivers can flood at any time of year. If rivers and side streams are in flood, seek shelter and wait until water levels fall before crossing.

Getting there

The West Coast side of this trip starts at Morrisons footbridge, 5 km west of the Otira township on SH73. Car parking options are limited and we advise not leaving vehicles on the roadside longer than one day. There are better car parking options at the eastern end of the route.

There are also two bus shuttle services between Christchurch and Hokitika. Atomic Shuttle runs from Christchurch to Hokitika and back each day, and the West Coast Shuttle runs from Hokitika to Christchurch and back every day.

ROUTE FROM WEST TO EAST

Morrisons footbridge – Deception River – Goat Pass Hut

Time: 8-9 hours



The western part of this route involves a lot of riverbed travel; route times are highly changeable depending on the current state of the river crossings.

From SH73 Morrisons footbridge crosses the Otira River. Follow the marked route through river flats on the true right of the Deception River until the river narrows and turns into a gorge. From here cross to the true left and continue upstream. The route further up Deception valley crosses the river numerous times with travel primarily being in the river bed, although there are some tracked sections.

After travelling upstream for about 11 km, a prominent creek (Dorreen Creek) joins the Deception River on the true left. A marked track begins here on the true right of Dorreen Creek. A further kilometre on from Dorreen Creek the track re-emerges beside the river. Cross here and be sure to spot the orange marker on the other side indicating the location of the Upper Deception Hut.

From the Upper Deception Hut the route involves scrambling and boulder-hopping up the riverbed and through adjacent bush (sometimes on distinct sections of track that may be marked) for around 1 hour, before a final crossing of the Deception River (onto the true left). At this point you leave the Deception River to scramble up a steep side stream for about 500 m to reach Goat Pass Hut.

The hut has a radio linked to Arthur's Pass Visitor Centre. Calls can be made during office hours, 7 days a week, for weather forecasts and information. Goat Pass can be extremely cold and dramatically different from the lower sections of the route.