

Three Passes Route, Arthur's Pass National Park

The trip begins with an immediate ford of the Waimakariri River. It takes about four to five hours to reach Carrington Hut, where some parties choose to spend the first night. It's a big hut with great views of Carrington Peak.

From the hut, the route branches up the White River to the historic Clough Cableway. It can be better to ford the White River, which can be done with care in low to average flows, than spend time on the cableway. Head up the Taipoiti River to Harman Pass. It's slow and steep going through the gorge and will be difficult in high flows. Keep an eye out for the poled route, on the true left below the waterfalls in the upper gorge, to climb to the basin above.

After Harman Pass, the route heads south-west to Whitehorn Pass. Don't confuse it with the lower route down Mary Creek to the Taipo River. Take care on the snowfield leading to Whitehorn Pass as it can be icy and crevassed.

Take care descending into the rough Cronin Stream. The lower part runs through a gorge which is bypassed by a marked track through the scrub on a river terrace on the true right. Keep a careful lookout for the trail markers.

Park Morpeth Hut offers basic comfort and shelter. The hut can easily be cut-off by rising rivers.

From the hut, head up the Wilberforce River to Browning Pass on the zig-zag track. Higher up, the route is steep, rocky, and loose – though still with a discernible trail..

From the pass, the poled route continues to the north into the upper Arahura.

Harman Hut is sited in the upper Arahura, just above the bushline, and commands extensive views up and down the valley. Just north of the hut stands the spectacular Harman River swingbridge and the continuation of the historic pack track to Milltown Road.

Continue down the Arahura and onto Styx Saddle where there is a good track.

On the Styx River, Grassy Flat Hut is a large and modern. It's a good stopping point for the last night (or the first).

The Styx River has a well-marked track along the true right. Below where the Mt Brown track joins the main valley track, the river has eroded the bank, and it is necessary to keep to the riverbed. In high flows, this section will be impassable, in which case, the Arahura River track to Milltown Road or the track via Mt Brown Hut provide alternative exit points.

Wild file

Access From the west: Klondyke Corner, south of Arthur's Pass. From the east: Dorothy Falls Road, south of Lake Kaniere

Grade Difficult

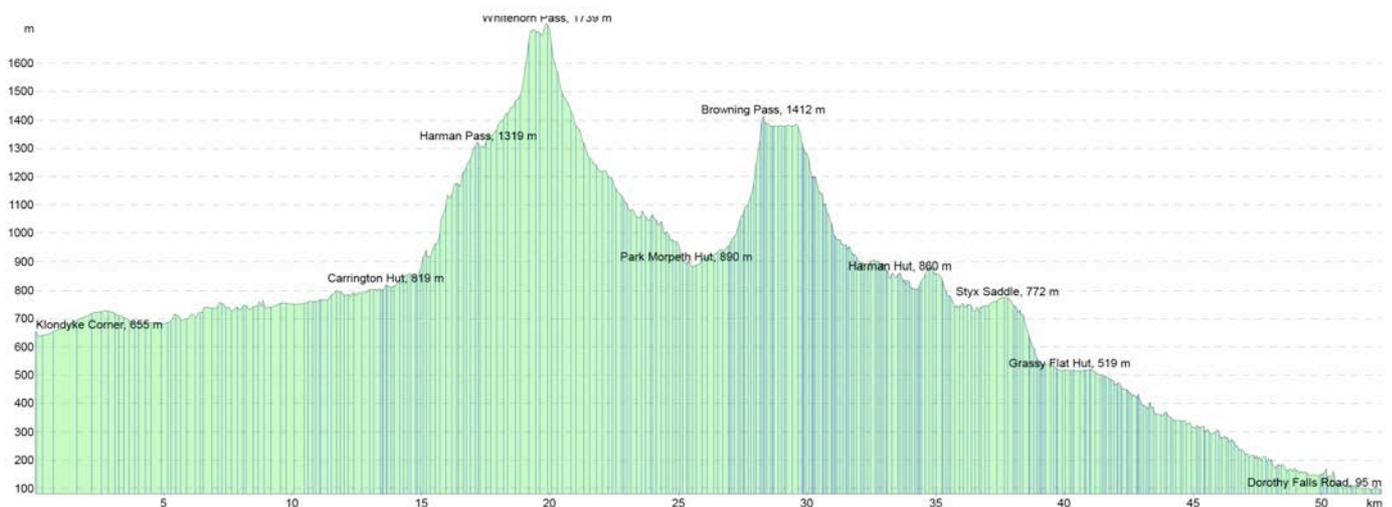
Time 4-5 days. Klondyke Corner to Carrington Hut, 4-5hr; To Park Morpeth Hut, 8-9hr; To Harman Hut, 6-7hr; To Dorothy Falls Road, 7-8hr

Accommodation Carrington Hut (\$15, 36 bunks); Park Morpeth Hut (\$5, six bunks); Harman Hut (\$5, six bunks); Grassy Flats Hut (\$5, 10 bunks). A tent is essential.

Distance 52.3km

Total ascent 2795m

Map BV19, BV20



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Important Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to map this route correctly, *Wilderness* does not accept responsibility for any errors. The GPX file associated with this route has been drawn using Memory-Map software. Use discretion when following the route, especially when no track is marked on the map. The GPX file in these cases is a 'best guess' of the route. Users should not rely on this. Instead, use a combination of GPS, visual observations, maps and compass – and your own route-finding experience – to find the best possible route. Memory Map shows purple tracks and hut icons as verified routes and huts. Red or blue routes are those drawn by Wilderness.

Three Passes Route, Arthur's Pass National Park. Map 1



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Three Passes Route, Arthur's Pass National Park. Map2



Three Passes Route, Arthur's Pass National Park. Map3



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