

# WALKS IN THE LAKE COLERIDGE AREA

## SO CLOSE BUT A WORLD AWAY

Easy walks around Lake Coleridge Village and longer day & multi-day hikes.

September 2012

### SHORT WALKS

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#### 1. Lake Coleridge Village Historical Walk (30 mins - 2 hours return) – easy

Walk the many village paths and learn about the area's history. Lake Coleridge Village was built around New Zealand's first state-owned hydroelectric power station, which was constructed between 1911 and 1914. A guided walking brochure is available on [www.lakecoleridge.nz.info](http://www.lakecoleridge.nz.info)

#### 2. Hart Arboretum Walk (30 mins - 2 hours return) – easy to moderate

Located at the start of Intake Road in Lake Coleridge Village, the Arboretum was named after its creator Harry Hart, who was the Lake Coleridge Power Station Superintendent from 1923 to 1953. The Arboretum was Mr Hart's experimental plot and contains around two thirds of the world's pine species. It has grown into a forest environment compared with the park-like character of the village and is bounded by plantation forest owned by TrustPower. Many paths wind their way up the hill through the trees with views of the power station and Rakaia River. Follow the orange arrows of the Te Araroa walkway (refer to walk #9) or pick your own route. All paths eventually exit on Intake Road, which zigzags through the trees, and you can follow this back down to the village.

### LONGER WALKS

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#### 3. Lake Ida (2 hours return) & Lake Catherine/Monck (4 hours return) – moderate

The entrance to this track is about 30 minutes' drive from Lake Coleridge Village on Harper Road. Between Lakes Evelyn and Selfe you'll find a small car park. Orange posts mark this track, which is still being developed by the Department of Conservation. Follow the markers along the fence line and then look up the hill to find the next marker. The track takes you through low-growing alpine plants to a lake shaded by towering Mt Ida, causing it to often freeze over in winter. The track can also be icy in parts during winter. When you reach the lake take note of where you exit the path so you can find the track again to return home. You can explore the lake shore and look for trout. Near the now disused lakeside chalet, the orange posts continue onto Lake Catherine/Monck (another 45 mins to 1 hour). The track to Lake Catherine/Monck is less well formed and crosses some swampy areas and river tributaries.

#### 4. Peak Hill (3 - 4 hours return) – hard

If you're after spectacular views of the whole area this is the walk for you! The entrance is about 10 minutes' drive from Lake Coleridge Village. The walk involves a steep uphill climb to the summit where you get 360° views of Lake Coleridge, the Southern Alps and the Rakaia and Wilberforce river systems. The return walk involves descending steep sections so good shoes and reasonable fitness are a must. Learn more on [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz).

#### 5. Dry Acheron Track (2 - 10 hours return) – moderate to hard

This track begins about 10km before you reach Lake Coleridge Village. You follow orange markers across high country farmland criss-crossing the Dry Acheron stream, with side tracks taking you to two developing bush covenants. The second half of the main track, which begins about 2 hours in at the junction with the track to Conical Knoll Covenant, climbs Big Ben and is only recommended for people with a high level of high-country skills and experience. Learn more on [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz).

#### 6. Rakaia Gorge Walkway (1 - 4 hours return) – moderate

This walk starts at the Rakaia Gorge car park. You walk through bush and farmland following the rim of the gorge. It's about 30 minutes to the first lookout. Continue for stunning views of the gorge from the cliff top path where you'll find information boards on geological features and the area's coalmining history. Side tracks take you to old coalmine entrances and the stony Rakaia River bed. A loop towards the end takes you on an alternative track home until it joins the main track again. Learn more on [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz).

#### 7. Washpen Falls (1 - 3 hours return) – moderate

Signposted from Washpen Road near Windwhistle, this walk is on private land. It takes you through a canyon formed by an ancient volcano, thick in native bush and full of birdsong. You'll see waterfalls, caves and panoramic views of the Canterbury plains. A comprehensive track guide is available at the entrance to take with you. The round trip takes about 1 - 3 hours depending on how long you spend admiring the views. There are plenty of good places for a picnic. Admission charges apply via an honesty box to assist with track maintenance. Learn more on [www.lakecoleridge.nz.info](http://www.lakecoleridge.nz.info)

## 8. Rockwood Bush Walk (1 hour return) – moderate

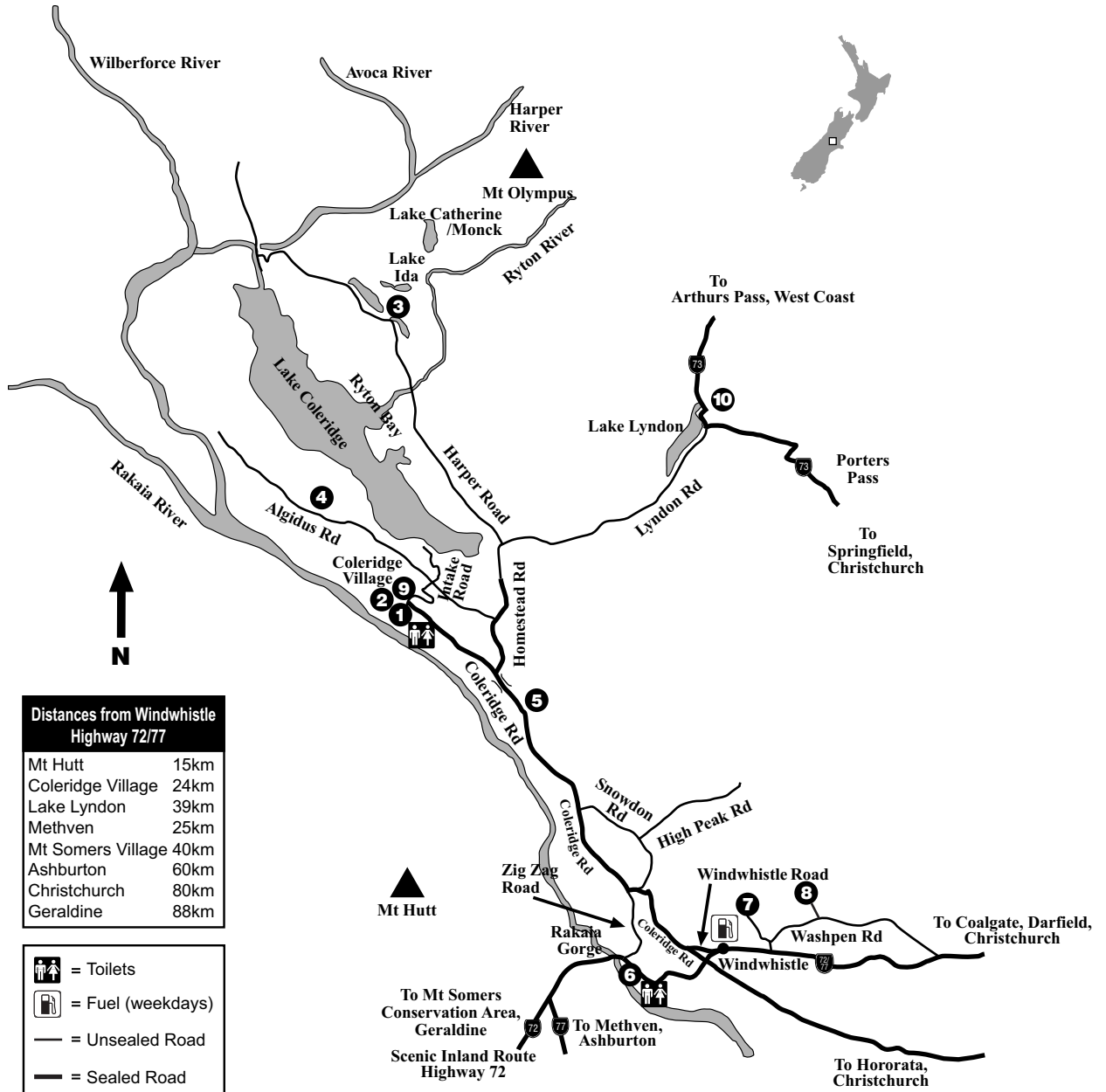
Ten minutes' drive from Windwhistle on Rockwood Farm, this walk is on private land. It takes you through old lowland forest. You'll see native ferns, tree ferns, black beech, matai and white pine with wonderful birdlife and Rockwood Stream alongside. Admission charges apply to assist with track maintenance and access is by advance arrangement with the land owner. Learn more on [www.lakecoleridgez.info](http://www.lakecoleridgez.info)

## 9. Te Araroa (The Long Pathway): New Zealand's national walkway (4 hours to 4+ days) – moderate to hard

Te Araroa national walkway comes through Lake Coleridge Village. You can use the track notes on [www.teararoa.org.nz](http://www.teararoa.org.nz) and follow the orange arrows (on off-road sections only) to walk the route north around Lake Coleridge. Allow at least 4 hours for a return walk to the lake's edge starting at the Hart Arboretum gate (refer to walk #2). If you're keen it takes 4-5 days to hike to Arthur's Pass Village! Find out more on [www.teararoa.org.nz](http://www.teararoa.org.nz).

## 10. Tracks in the Arthur's Pass area – various

From the Lake Coleridge basin, tracks in the Porter's Pass and Arthur's Pass areas are easy day trips via the scenic Lyndon Road, which travels through the Korowai/Torlesse Tussocklands Park connecting with SH73. The Lyndon Road is well-maintained outside winter months. Learn more about walks in these areas on [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz).



**Please respect private property** - Do not disturb stock and leave gates as you find them. Fires, dogs and firearms are prohibited.

**Prepare for walking in the High Country** - Be prepared for changeable weather, including the odd snow flurry on higher ground even during summer. Take suitable footwear, a warm layer, rain jacket, plenty of water, a hat and sunscreen. Always tell someone where you're going and when you expect to return.

**Other Activities, Accommodation & Services** - Other activities in the area include jet boating, farm and garden tours, fishing, 4WD trips, golf, a day spa, clay bird shooting, archery and horse trekking. Advance booking is often required. A wide range of accommodation is available. The road is sealed to Lake Coleridge Village with surrounding gravel roads generally kept in good condition. Please note there are no shops or fuel in Lake Coleridge Village. Fuel can be purchased in Windwhistle on weekdays (9am-5pm). Cellphone coverage is available, but there are many areas with no reception because of the mountainous terrain. **For more information please check roadside maps in the area or [www.lakecoleridgez.info](http://www.lakecoleridgez.info).**