



LAKE COLERIDGE  
HIGH COUNTRY

# Walks around Lake Coleridge

**SELWYN**  
FROM THE LAND

## DOC walks/tramps

- 1 Rakaia Gorge 1 - 4 hours return, moderate
- 4 Dry Acheron 2 - 10 hours return, moderate/hard
- 5 Lake Hill Track 2 hours return, easy
- 6 Peak Hill 3 - 4 hours return, hard
- 7 Lake Ida 2 hours return, easy
- 8 Lake Catherine 4 hours return, moderate
- 9 Lake Lilian 6 hours return, moderate
- 10 Hamilton Hut 6 hours one way, hard, many river crossings

## From Lake Coleridge Village

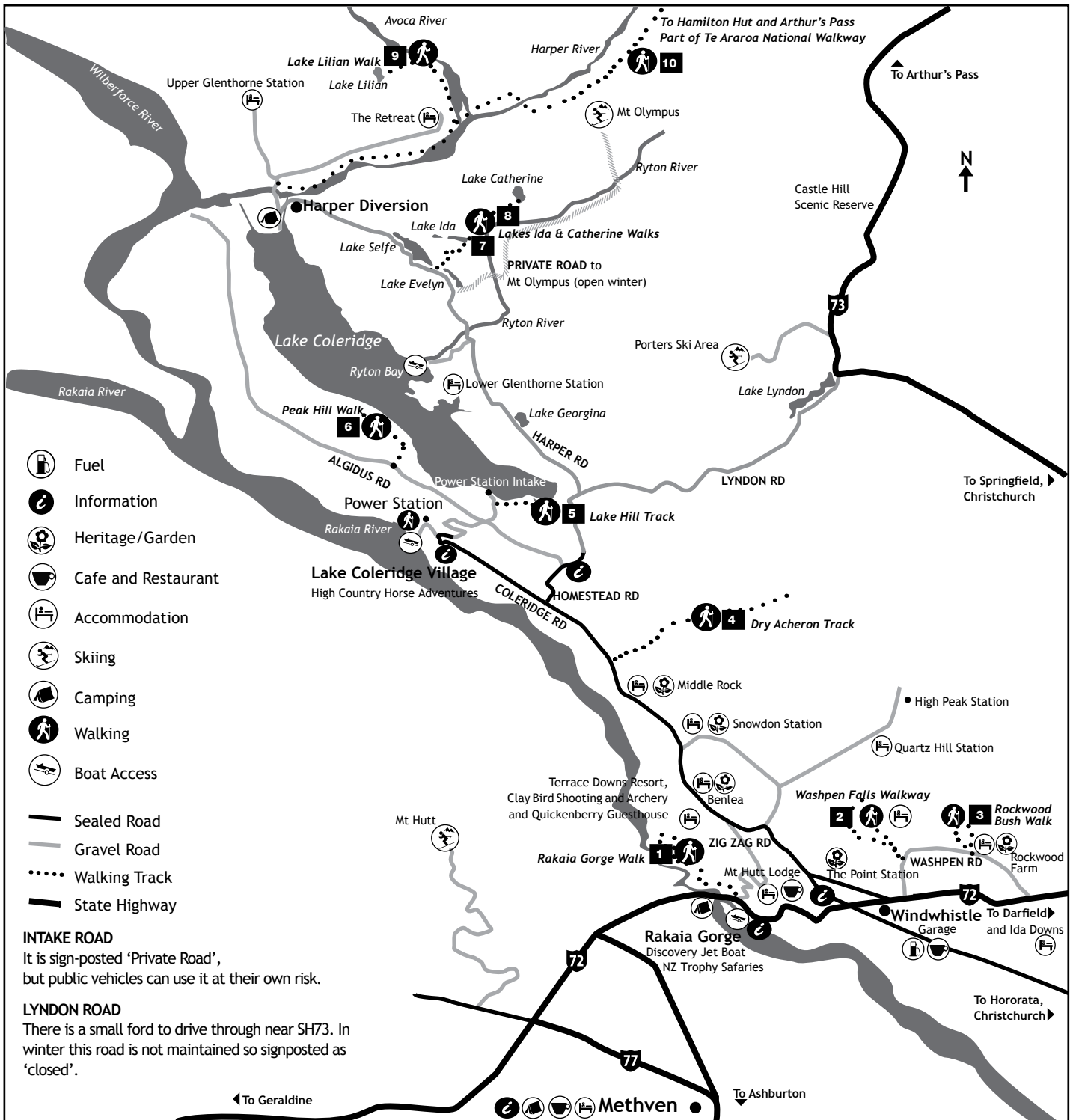
- Tailrace Track 30 mins, easy
- Around the Village 1 hour, easy
- Arboretum Tree Trail up to 1 hour, easy
- Forest Loop Track 45 mins, moderate
- To Lake Coleridge 2.5 hours return, moderate

More information about all the village walks and local history is available on noticeboards in the village.

## On private farms

- 2 Washpen Falls 2 hour loop track, moderate
- 3 Rockwood Bush 1 hour loop track, easy

For information on all walks  
[www.lakecoleridge.co.nz](http://www.lakecoleridge.co.nz)



# Short walks from Lake Coleridge Village

More information about all the village walks and local history is on noticeboards in the village and outside the power station. Tracks are marked with coloured arrows.

## Tailrace Track Loop track, 30 mins, easy

River views, power station and village history. Start at the post office and walk down Kowhai Drive to the cemetery and the Rakaia River lookout. Follow the Tailrace Track back to the power station and village.

## Around the Village Loop track, 1 hour, easy

Start at the post office and follow the pink markers past Lake Coleridge Lodge, down Harper Place, through a bush gully, down the road then up to the village hall and playground. Nearby the track continues through the Arboretum Extension to the cemetery and along the Tailrace Track ending at the power station.

# Walks on private farms - no dogs permitted

## 2 Washpen Falls Walkway Loop track, allow 2 hours, moderate

Turn into Washpen Road (north of Windwhistle on SH72) and follow signs to this walk. The track goes through a canyon formed by an ancient volcano and native bush full of birdsong. Waterfalls, caves, panoramic views of the Canterbury Plains and picnic spots. A track guide is available at the entrance. \$10/adult; \$5/student or child.

## Hart Arboretum Tree Trail Loop track, up to 1 hour, easy

The arboretum is well known for the wide variety of conifers from all over the world. Pick up a Tree Trail brochure at the entrance to learn about some of the trees.

## Forest Loop Track Loop track, 45 mins, moderate

Views down onto the power station, Rakaia River and the village. Start at the Hart Arboretum and follow the yellow markers. Track has steep up and down hill sections.

## Walk to Lake Coleridge 10km/2.5 hours return, moderate

Views of the power station, Rakaia River, the village and the lake. This is part of Te Araroa National Walkway. Start at the Hart Arboretum and follow the orange markers. Near the lake you can choose to follow Lake Hill Track (see notes below) or continue down Intake Road to the lake edge and Power Station Intake.

## 3 Rockwood Bush Loop track, 1 hour, easy

About 2km along Washpen Road (north of Windwhistle on SH72) this walk is on Rockwood Farm. Through old lowland forest you see native ferns, tree ferns, black beech, matai and white pine with wonderful birdlife. Access must be pre-arranged with the land owner (Tel: 03 318 6809, [www.lakecoleridge.co.nz](http://www.lakecoleridge.co.nz)). \$10/person.

**These are wilderness walks . Track conditions can change with weather conditions**

# DOC walks/tramps - no dogs permitted

## 1 Rakaia Gorge 1 - 4 hours return, moderate

This walk starts at the bottom of Zig Zag Road by the Rakaia Gorge bridges on SH72 and is a 10.4km return walk. Park in the riverside car park on the north side of the bridges. The walk goes through bush and farmland taking 30 minutes to the first lookout. Continue for stunning views of the river from the cliff top path. Side tracks go to old coal mine entrances and the stony Rakaia riverbed. An option is to take the Discovery Jetboat in one direction (booking essential).

## 4 Dry Acheron 2 - 10 hours return, moderate/hard

This track begins about 10km before Lake Coleridge Village with a car park and DOC sign on Coleridge Road. Follow orange markers across farmland with some stream crossings. After 1 hour a 10 minute side track takes you to Clay Valley Covenant. After another hour a 30 minute side track takes you to Conical Knoll Covenant. The main route continues another 2 hours to climb Big Ben (back country tramping experience required). Return on the same track to the car park.

## 5 Lake Hill Track 2 hours return, easy

This track starts 500m before you reach the Power Station Intake. The track takes you down to the lake and then around the lake edge (beware of boggy sections), exiting on Homestead Road. If you turn around when you first reach the lakeside, the return trip takes about 1 hour. Great views of the lake. Part of Te Araroa National Walkway.

## 6 Peak Hill 3 - 4 hours return, hard

This is the walk for spectacular views! The start is marked with a DOC sign on Algidus Road, about 10 minutes' drive from Lake Coleridge Village. You cross a paddock then have a steep uphill climb to a ridge before a more gradual ascent to the summit (1240m) where you get 360° views of Lake Coleridge, the Southern Alps and the Rakaia and Wilberforce river systems. Good shoes and reasonable fitness are a must. This walk is exposed to high winds so best done on a fine and calm day.

# Glenthorne Station DOC walks - no dogs

## 7 Ryton Track to Lake Ida 2 hours return, easy

This track starts between Lakes Evelyn and Selfe on Harper Road. Follow the orange track markers through low-growing alpine plants around the base of Little Mt Ida to a hidden alpine lake. The track goes through a stand of pine trees just before you reach the lake. Note where you exit the trees to find the track home again. The track can be icy and the lake can freeze in colder months. The walk is about 6km return.

## 8 Ryton Track to Lake Catherine (Monck) 4 hours return, moderate

**This track is closed beyond Lake Ida during Oct-Nov for lambing/calving**  
Follow the track to Lake Ida then use the small rock dam crossing Lake Ida to continue onto Lake Catherine. The track is marked with orange track markers but only moderately formed in places and crosses some swampy areas and river tributaries.

## 9 Harper River Valley Track Lake Lilian 6 hours return, moderate

This walk starts near the Harper Diversion and follows Te Araroa National Walkway along the Harper River. Near the junction of the Harper and Avoca rivers follow the orange markers along a fence line parallel with the Avoca River before turning inland to secluded Lake Lilian.

## 10 Harper River Valley Track Hamilton Hut 6 hours one way, hard

For experienced trampers only. This section starts near the Harper Diversion. Look for the orange Te Araroa markers which take you up a track alongside the Harper River, which you cross a large number of times. You can continue from Hamilton Hut to Arthur's Pass via the Cass Lagoon circuit. Part of the Te Araroa National Walkway.

## More Walks

DOC is continuing to develop walks in this area. For up to date information on all walks:

[www.lakecoleridge.co.nz](http://www.lakecoleridge.co.nz)

[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

[www.teararoa.org.nz](http://www.teararoa.org.nz)

## Travel Smart

There is limited or no mobile phone coverage in this area and no shops. The nearest service towns are Methven and Darfield, and a cafe at Mt Hutt Lodge. 24hr Fuel at Windwhistle Garage, with coffee and food on weekdays. Respect private property, keep to marked tracks and camp only in designated locations. Do not disturb stock and leave gates as you find them. Fires and firearms are prohibited. Dogs must be on leads and are not

permitted on walking tracks except those around the Village. 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 are going and when you expect to return. Accommodation in the area needs to be pre-booked. [www.lakecoleridge.co.nz](http://www.lakecoleridge.co.nz)