



Gladstone to Wānaka



Walking



Cycling

Difficulty

Easy

Length

30.2 km

Journey Time

1 day

Region

[Otago](#)

Sub-Region

[Queenstown-Lakes District](#)

Part of Collections

[Te Araroa - New Zealand's Trail](#) , [Te Araroa highlights](#) , [Te Araroa - South Island](#)

Track maintained by

[Te Araroa Trail Trust](#)

Te Araroa section: This part of Te Araroa comprises Gladstone Track and Hāwea River Track. Gladstone Track is an easy walk or bike ride that follows the shoreline of Lake Hāwea. Hāwea River Track continues gently on from the lake along the Hāwea River to Wānaka.

Gladstone Track — 6.8km / 1.5-2 hours

The Upper Clutha Tracks Trust opened this lakeside track in 2011 and, in doing so, finished Te Araroa through the Upper Clutha region. The track links reserves at Gladstone and Lake Hāwea Village and is mainly on the terrace above the lakeshore.

From the Gladstone Reserve, the track starts on compacted gravel and heads west around the lakeshore. The track soon crosses Johns Creek (usually dry) and then rises towards Denniston Road. It runs alongside the road briefly and then continues straight ahead onto the terrace above the lake.

After half an hour, the track veers inland and descends gently to cross a creek bed. It then returns to the terrace along the lake fringe. A second creek bed is crossed with a similarly benign descent and climb about 1.5km further along.

The track continues along the terrace and crosses a cattle stop at the town boundary. The track enters the Lake Hāwea Reserve here, where it remains for the final half-hour or so. The formed track ends on Capell Road about 100m from the Domain Rd intersection, which is adjacent to the Hāwea River control gates.

Hāwea River Track — 12km / 2.5-3.5 hours

The Hāwea River Track was another Upper Clutha Tracks Trust project.

- Note: This track is suitable for both walking and biking. Bikes and prams can cross the swingbridge but need to be carried down the steps at the southern end.

The initial 800m from Lake Hāwea to a carpark is a road margin, but from there, it is an easy and pleasant walk along the Hāwea River through to the Albert Town Recreation Reserve, a short distance from Albert Town.

For Te Araroa purposes, the track starts at the control gates near the Lake Hāwea foreshore. Walk up Domain Road. The carpark is 800m distant on the right. The off-road track starts here, through the pedestrian gate. Follow the track down across a small bridge, and then turn left onto the main track.

The track crosses Camp Hill Road in its mid-section and continues downstream to the Albert Town Conservation Area, then to the Hāwea River Swingbridge.

The Albert Town Reserve campground is located immediately over the Hāwea River Bridge (\$7.00 per night – toilet, water and parking only).

The track beyond the bridge to Albert Town is unmarked. The way, however, is straightforward and initially on vehicle tracks to SH6 Lake Hāwea-Albert Town Road. Turn left onto the road shoulder. The footpath on the right-hand side crosses the Clutha River Bridge. Te Araroa's Hāwea River Track ends here. (The Albert Town shops are straight ahead and a short distance away.)

Outlet Track — 12km / 3-4 hours

This track comprises 3 popular local tracks: the Outlet; Beacon Point, and Bremner Bay Tracks. It takes walkers from Albert Town through to the Wānaka CBD lake frontage.

From the Albert Town (true right) side of the Clutha River Bridge, Te Araroa heads upstream on the riverside trail. There is a toilet and interpretation panels a little over a kilometre further along. Continue riverside towards Lake Wānaka's outlet.

The track ends at the Visitors' Centre on the lakeshore.

Once at the outlet, the trail continues around the Lake Wānaka shore. The pathway broadens into a vehicle track, but, for the most part, it is still foot traffic and cyclists only.

Beyond Beacon Point, the trail reverts to a walking track and continues around the lake to Bremner Bay. There is a water fountain at the south end of this bay, a short distance from where the track enters the Eely Point Recreational Reserve, and toilets within the reserve itself. On the far side of the reserve, the track continues lakeside into Roys Bay, past the boat ramp, and towards the Wānaka CBD.

Conditions

Potential hazards

- Vehicles on road or track in some places
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Take care on shared cycle/walkways


How to get here

Northern start: Gladstone Reserve, Lake Hāwea





Southern end: Ardmore Street carpark, Wānaka

Transport

Lake Hāwea Village

- [Alpine ConneXions](#)  - 460 Aubrey Rd, Wānaka - P: 03 443 9120 - E: info@alpineconnexions.co.nz - Wānaka Pickup/Drop off point outside Sports Wānaka 17/23 Dunmore St, Wānaka

Wānaka


- Regular shuttle services link Wānaka with Queenstown, Christchurch and Dunedin.
- [InterCity](#)  - P: 03 365 1113
- [Atomic Shuttles](#)  - P: 03 349 0697
- Southern Link - P: 0508 458 835 - Queenstown and Christchurch only.
- [Alpine ConneXions](#)  - 460 Aubrey Rd, Wānaka - P: 03 443 9120 - E: info@alpineconnexions.co.nz - Wānaka Pickup/Drop off point is outside Sports Wānaka 17/23 Dunmore St, Wānaka
- [Catch A Bus](#)  - P: 03 479 9960 - Dunedin only

Accommodation





Lake Hāwea Village

- [Hāwea Hotel](#) , 1 Capell Ave, P: +64 3 443 1224, W: www.haweahotel.nz 
E: reservations@haweahotel.nz
Hotel and budget accommodation are available.
Our Lakeside Restaurant and Gardenside Bar are open from 8am – Close daily.
We can offer packed breakfasts and lunches for our guests if they want to set off early.
- [Lake Hāwea Holiday Park](#)  – 1208 Makarora-Lake Hāwea Road, Albert Town – E: stay@haweaholidaypark.co.nz - P: 03 443 1767 - Cabins and camping

Albert Town

- [Zula Lodge](#)  (Formerly known as Albert Town Lodge) – 8 Wexford St, Albert Town – P: 03 443 9487 – E: stay@zulalodge.co.nz – Backpacker accommodation

Wānaka

- [YHA Wānaka](#) , 94 Brownston St, Wānaka – P: 03 443 1880 – E: wanaka@yha.co.nz
- [Mountain View Backpackers BBH](#)  – 7 Russell St, Wānaka – P: 0800 112 201 or 03 443 9010 - E: stay@mtview.co.nz
- [Wānaka Lakeview Holiday Park](#)  – 212 Brownston St, Wānaka – P: 03 443 7883 – E: info@wanakalakeview.co.nz – cabins, campsites and backpacker accommodation.
- [the Bothy Wānaka](#)  - 21 Russell Street, Wānaka - P 03 4436723 or 027 249 9774
9774 Wānaka Backpackers Bothy (the Bothy) is a centrally located, friendly and homely backpackers that is focused on providing the highest level of support and customer service to adventurers and travellers. Well done for getting to the 2615km mark. All Te Araroa hikers who have taken the pledge receive complimentary early Check-in and, where availability allows, a free upgrade to our on-site Bothy that has cosy and quiet pod beds with privacy curtains, power and lighting. We have free high-speed unlimited fibre internet, free Cadbury's Hot chocolate, tea, coffee and free popcorn if a movie night is on the cards. Call David on 027 2499 774 or email contact@bothy.co.nz

Food And Supply

Lake Hāwea Village

- [Lake Hāwea Store](#) - 33 Capell Ave, Lake Hāwea - P: 03 443 1696 - General store, post office, café and Bar / Restaurant

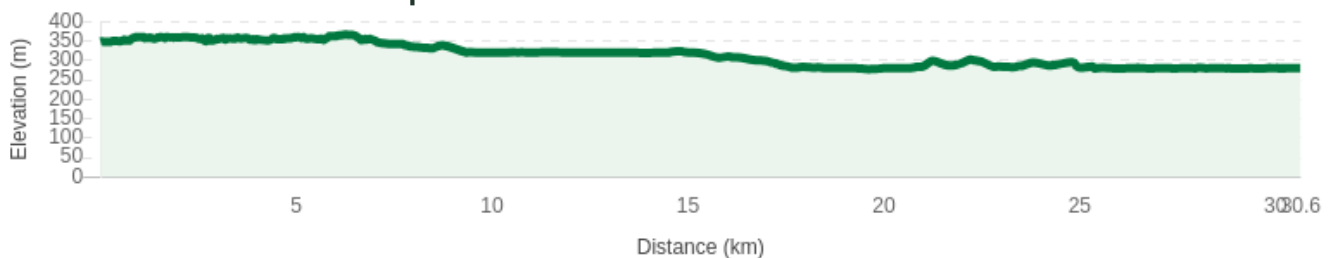
Albert Town

- [Albert Town Store](#) - 20 Alison Ave, Albert Town - P: 03 443 2411 - Dairy and tavern

Wānaka

- [New World Supermarket](#) - 20 Dunmore St, Wānaka - P: 03 443 7966
- [4 Four Square Supermarket](#) - 70 Ardmore St, Wānaka - P: 03 443 7173
- [Wānaka Night 'n Day](#) - 80 Ardmore St, Wānaka - P: 03 443 1598

Track Elevation and Map



More information

[Te Araroa Otago trail notes, including information about accommodation, transport and resupplying](#) [↗](#)

- [Map 134](#) [↗](#)
- [Map 135](#) [↗](#)
- [Map 136](#) [↗](#)

Wānaka

- [Lake Wānaka i-SITE Visitors Centre](#) [↗](#) - 103 Ardmore St, Wānaka - P: 03 443 1233
- [DOC Tititea / Mt Aspiring National Park Visitor Centre](#) [↗](#) - Ardmore St, Wānaka- P: 03 443 7660 - E: mtaspiringvc@doc.govt.nz

Before starting Te Araroa either as a through-walker of the whole country or a section walker, [please register on Te Araroa website](#) [↗](#). Please also [visit the website](#) [↗](#) or [download the app](#) [↗](#) for detailed maps, trail alerts and other relevant information.

We encourage you to continue gaining the skills and knowledge required for a safe trip. The NZ Mountain Safety Council has lots of free resources and information you can use. These can be accessed via www.mountainsafety.org.nz [↗](#).

We recommend trying these online learning tools:

- [Trip Planning](#) [↗](#)
- [Tramping/field Skills](#) [↗](#)
- [Basic Navigation](#) [↗](#)
- [River Safety](#) [↗](#)

Additionally, check out the range of helpful videos available from the NZ Mountain Safety Council [YouTube channel](#) [↗](#).

