

OENZ COURSE OUTLINE

6 day advanced navigation, river crossing & survival course

Day 1

3:00-3:30pm - Pick-up from Christchurch accommodation.

If OENZ is transporting you to and from the course you will be collected from your accommodation between 3:00 – 3:30pm.

5:00-5.30pm – Arrive in Arthurs Pass/Meet group/Check gear

This is a good chance to grab a coffee, meet your group and ask any last minute questions. Your guide will also need to do a gear check so we know we have the essential gear needed for the course (listed in red on the packing list).

Dinner at the lodge or in the pub. Please check in with the Wobbly Kea (pub) if you have any dietary requirements.

Day 2

River Crossing (Mt White Bridge)

9:30 am - Meet your group and Instructor/s

Meet at Mt White Bridge, Arthurs Pass at 9am [See on GOOGLE MAPS](#)

9:45am - Arrive at River.

- Gear check
- Decision making & heuristics
- Introduction to different parts of the Rivers
- Identifying river features (braids, eddies, strainers etc...)
- Tips and tricks to check river flow and depth.
- Identifying a safe river crossing location.

11:00 – River crossing practice (time to get wet!)

- Footwork
- Group river crossings
 - Backing out if it's too strong
- Solo river crossings
 - Backing out/turning if it's too strong
- Pack float river crossing (when it's too deep to touch the bottom)
- What to do if you get taken off your feet (ferry gliding/self-rescue swimming)

3:00pm - Back at vehicles

- End of course paperwork
- Wrap-up & Goodbyes

3:30 – Driving Away

It's approximately 1.5 Hrs from Mt White Bridge to Christchurch Airport/15 mins to Arthurs Pass Village

Day 3

Please note: Access to steep and challenging terrain takes more time to get to and navigate through.

8:30am – Weather interpretation, forecasting and understanding & trip planning.

10:30am - Arrive at organised location

- Introduction to advanced map reading
- Identifying specific terrain/contour features
- Navigating off track to specific contour features

12:30 – Lunch

- Introduce compass techniques – cross slope/down slope bearings
- Steep terrain travel
- navigating above the bush line
- walking through loose/steep/rocky/slippery terrain

4pm – Back at vehicles, time to head back to our accommodation in Arthurs Pass

Day 4

Specific skills focus on: Emergency shelters, fire lighting, hand lines & scree travel/steep terrain techniques.

8:30am – Continued weather interpretation, forecasting and understanding & trip planning.

10:30am - Arrive at organised location

This morning we will learn the skills to build a shelter for a survival situation using nothing but natural resources. Learn how to keep yourself insulated and protected from the elements in South Island Beech Forest as well as how to survive multiple days out by yourself.

Hand lines come in useful if you hit some slippery steep terrain that has a terrible run out. We will look at effective hand lines and how to anchor them to trees in order to descend terrain safely.

12:30 – Lunch

Fire lighting is a skill often overlooked. This afternoon we will look at how to build a fire in adverse weather conditions that will not only stay alight but keep you warm and toasty for hours. You will acquire the skills to build a fire in rainy, wet conditions, how to locate dry timber and materials to keep your fire going.

Steep/ Scree travel can be challenging so we find a local scree slope to head up and practice a range of techniques to apply in steep and scree terrain.

Day 5

8:30am – Group will provide the instructor with a weather forecast & final trip plan

Pack up & clean house

9:30am - Arrive at organised location

Participants will lead the instructor along their route plan, demonstrating skills along the way such as varied navigation techniques and walking techniques, stream/river crossings, hand lines and weather observations.

12:30 – Lunch

Continue shared navigation to the camp location with an approximate arrival time of 2pm
Group to build emergency shelters to sleep out in and a fire (if conditions allow) for overnight

5-6pm onwards – Dinner & social time

Day 6

Breakfast – 7:00am – pack up of camp

9:00am Departure

Participants will lead the instructor along their route plan, demonstrating skills along the way such as varied navigation techniques and walking techniques, stream/river crossings, hand lines and weather observations.

12:30 – Lunch

Continue shared navigation along the route to complete consolidating navigation techniques and route travel off track back to vehicle.

3:00-3:30pm – Back at vehicles, time to head home

**Please note that this is just a guide to how the course normally runs and your instructor may run the course in a different order to best fit in with local conditions and the abilities or the group.*