

9-DAY HUNTING COURSE OUTLINE

Welcome to the OENZ hunting course, we are excited to have you along. Below is a course outline for the full duration of your course. We will aim to deliver the content in logical order that is as close to this course outline as feasible. Your instructor/s may change the order or location that content is delivered to best meet the outcomes of the course. New Zealand weather changes quickly and often, so we find it works better to have a bit of flexibility in our programme.

OENZ block courses

Our 9-day hunting course is one of our “block courses” this means that you may have some people joining or leaving your group on certain days throughout your course.

For example:

Fred is attending the 9-day hunting course so he will be on the course from start to finish.

John and Mary are only doing the 3-day navigation and river crossing course so, they will start on the same day as Fred and depart at the end of day 3.

David however completed the 3-day navigation course last year and is returning to complete the 7-day hunting course this year. He will Join the group at the end of day 3 and continue through to the end of the course.

Firearms

Please note that we do not use firearms on this course until day 6. If you are bringing a firearm with you, please let us know in advance so we can organise safe storage for the first part of the course.

Pick-ups & meeting the group on day 1

7:00-7:45 Hotel Pick-ups

If you are travelling from out of town and have requested a pick-up from your accommodation, we will confirm your exact pick-up time in email a few days before your course.

Pick-ups from meeting locations

We will have space for you in one of the OENZ vehicles. You can get dropped off or leave your vehicle at any of the meeting locations. If you would like to drive your own vehicle to the training location or through to the lodge, you're welcome to do so, but please meet at one of the locations below.

- **7:55am -Yaldhurst McDonalds.** Parking available on outside McDonalds carpark.
- **8:30am Darfield Bakery** (Darfield is approx. 30 mins from Christchurch on State Highway 73.) Parking is available in Darfield down any of the side streets close to the bakery
- **9:15-9:20am – Castle Hill Village** (meet at the public toilets/community centre)
Parking is available on the street outside the community centre.

Day 1 – Navigation and camp craft

9:30am - Arrive at Craigieburn Forest Park.

- Packing and selecting good outdoor clothing & equipment
- Gear check & packing tips
- Introduction to NZ topo 50 maps
 - Colours and symbols
 - Scale and distance
- 6 figure grid references
- Identifying map features (Valleys, Spurs, Gullies, Ridges, High points, Saddles)
- Orientating a map
 - using features
 - using a compass

12:30 – Lunch

- Estimating time and distance
- Route planning (off track)
- Navigation legs, this is where it all starts to come together.
 - Lead the group to a given destination, estimating the distance and time required to complete.
 - When you are not leading, your challenge is to follow along on your map and pick the destination once we arrive.
 - Using GPS or mapping app on smart phone

3:30pm - 4:30pm - Arrive at our overnight campsite.

- Camp craft (Pitching tents, camp location etc)
- Emergency/back country communications

6:30- 9:00pm – Dinner & free time

Day 2 – Navigation continued

7:30 -8:30 – Breakfast & Pack up camp

8:30 -9:30 am - introduction to the compass

- Parts of the compass
- Earths magnet field & magnetic declination
- How a compass works with a topographic map

9:30 - Depart camp

- Navigating in open ground/thin bush using compass techniques
 - Field: Field bearings
 - Map: Field Bearings
 - Field: Map bearings/triangulations (resections)

12:30pm – Lunch

- Navigation legs, another chance to consolidate your nav skills
- Emergency scenarios –what to do when things go wrong

3:30-4pm – Back at vehicles

4:30-5:30 - Arrive at our accommodation in Arthurs Pass Village

6:30 pm – Dinner

You can choose to bring food and cook a meal in the lodge or eat out at one of the local pubs in Arthurs Pass this evening

Evening – Free time

There are no planned teaching sessions this evening so it's a good chance to relax or chat casually with the course participants or with your instructor/s.

Day 3 – River Crossing & Hunting theory

7:30-8:30- Breakfast

9:00-9:30 am – Weather check & depart lodge

9:45 am – Arrive at Mt White Bridge, Arthurs Pass National Park

- Gear check

10:00 am - At Waimakariri River or Hawdon River

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

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

- Footwork
- Group river crossings
- 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)

3:00 pm - Back at vehicles

Wrap-up and say good-bye to anyone that is finishing the 3-day Navigation and Bushcraft course and/or anyone that has attended just the river crossing day.

3:30 pm - Driving Away

If you have finished your course, it's a two-hour drive back to Christchurch. If for anyone staying on it's just 15mins back to the lodge in Arthurs Pass Village.

4:30 - 6:30 - Hunting theory & planning for fly camping trip.

6:30 - 8:00 pm – Dinner

You can choose to bring food and cook a meal in the lodge or eat out at one of the local pubs in Arthurs Pass this evening.

Evening - Pack for 2-day fly camping trip this evening.

Days 4 & 5 - Overnight fly camp in Arthurs Pass

Today is an early start as we will be focusing on back country hunting skills. Most game animals are active in the early morning and late afternoon or evening. By starting early, we increase our chances of spotting something while we are out training. This part of the course is about advanced bush skills and locating wild animals in public conservation land.

6:00 – 7:00 am – Breakfast/Depart lodge & travel (location to be chosen by group on day 3).

7:00 – 12:30 Advanced navigation and bush hunting skills

- Introduction to advanced compass techniques
 - Cross & down slope bearings
- Navigating off track to specific contour features
- Bush hunting skills
 - Animal sign
 - scat identification
 - print identification
 - rooting (pigs)
 - Rubbing
 - Browsing
 - Bush Stalking techniques

12:30pm – Arrive at camp, Lunch

- Fly camp set-ups
 - Site selection
 - Using trees
 - Fly camping in open ground
 - Knots, tips and tricks

3:30 – 7:30 pm – Afternoon/evening hunt (bino hunting)

- Glassing (use of binoculars)
 - Where to start looking
 - How to search a large area
 - Spots to focus on
 - What to look for

7:30 -9:00 – Back at camp/dinner

DAY – 5 Fly camping trip continued

6:00 – 9:00 am Morning Bino hunt & Photo challenge

This morning's aim is to find and photograph an animal to practice our stalking skills and to see how close we can get before spooking.

- Stalking
 - Planning the stalk
 - Importance of wind direction
 - What animals see and don't see
 - Importance of camouflage clothing

9:30- 10:00 Pack up fly camp

10:00 – 12:30 Bush Hunt

Time to put some skills into practice and see if we can spot a deer in the bush.

- Bush hunt/ Bush stalking skills
 - Planning a bush hunt
 - Where to look
 - How to look, listen & smell animals
 - Tracking

12.30 – 1:30 pm Lunch

1:30 – 4:00 pm walking back to vehicle & game species information

- Species identification
 - What do they eat?
 - When do they feed?
 - Where do they sleep?
 - When do they mate?
- Trophy potential ID

5:00 – 5:30 pm Back at Lodge in Arthurs Pass

6:30 pm - Dinner

You can choose to bring food and cook a meal in the lodge or eat out at one of the local pubs in Arthurs Pass this evening.

Day 6 - Gun shop, taxidermist & travel to private estate

Today we head to the shooting range and private hunting estate near Fairlie. On the way we will stop at Shooter Supplies on the outskirts of Christchurch and again in Dunsandle to visit a taxidermist.

Note: If you brought your own firearm along to the course it will be stored at Shooter Supplies and ready to collect today. If you are renting a firearm this will be done directly from the range/private estate at the end of the day.

7:00 - 8:30 am Breakfast, pack up, clean lodge & depart

10:30-11:00am At shooters supplies

- Pick up stored firearms and any additional supplies
- Purchase any ammo or supplies needed for next 4 days

11:30- 12:30pm visit taxidermist's workshop

We will visit a taxidermist's workshop and learn a bit about the art of taxidermy and how to go about getting something mounted for display. This is also a good chance to get a good look at a range of game animals and skins.

- What to do/not do in the field if you would like an animal mounted
- What to do/not do if skinning in the field for a floor/wall rug
- Tips and tricks

1:00 – 1:30 pm Lunch & supermarket stop in Ashburton

3:30 pm Arrive at private estate & shooting range

3:30 – 4:00 pm Move into farmhouse

4:00 – 6:30 pm Firearms information session & range paperwork

- Firearms safety & range rules
- Types of firearms available and their uses (physical examples available)
- Rifle calibres explained
- Choosing the correct type of firearm and calibre for you and your target species
- How to set up a rifle & scope correctly.

DAY - 7 Marksmanship training & afternoon/evening hunt

7:30-8:30 Breakfast

8:30-12:30 At the Square Range (100-300mtr range)

- Cleaning and maintaining a firearm
- Dismantling and servicing a rifle & scope
- Sighting-in/zeroing a rifle

12:30-1:00 pm Lunch (at the range)

- Shooting from different positions
 - Prone (lying down)
 - Sitting
 - Kneeling
 - Standing

3:00-7:00 pm Afternoon/Evening hunt

A chance to locate and shoot deer, pigs and wallabies. Hunting opportunities exist within 15 minutes' walk of the accommodation.

7:30- Dinner (Back at the farmhouse)

Day 8 – Hunting & Marksmanship

6:30-7:30 - Breakfast

7:30-10:30am? Morning Hunt (timing may vary depending on daylight hrs)

A chance to locate and shoot deer, pigs and wallabies.

11-12:30pm- At the long range (targets set out to 2000 meters)

- Use of ballistic apps
- Dialling/ adjusting up scopes
- Allowing for windage
- Truing your rifle and load (used to work out actual ballistics data)

12:30-1:00 pm-Lunch

1:00-3:30 pm Ultimate hunter course

The ultimate hunter course is a 3.5 km loop track with 20 realistic, life size animal targets set out at distances from 50 meters to 450 meters. This course is designed to test you glassing skills as well as your marksmanship.

4:00-7:00 pm Afternoon/evening hunt (timing may vary depending on daylight hrs)

Another chance to locate and shoot deer, pigs & wallabies.

7:00-8:00 pm Back to farmhouse/Dinner

Day 9 – Butchery

7:30-8:30-Breakfast

8:30-12:30 Knife sharpening workshop

- Types of knives used for hunting/butchery
- Sharpening techniques in the field
- Full resharpening (regrinding the edge)

9:30-12:30 - Butchery session

- Field butchery (If not covered earlier in course)
- Management of meat in the bush/back country
- Skinning
- Trophy caping
- Breaking down an animal
- Boning out
- ID cuts of meat

12:30-1:30 – Lunch and pack-up farmhouse

1:30-2:00 – Course wrap-up

2:00pm - Depart private estate

2:00-5:00 pm- Travel back in Christchurch

Our expected arrival time at Christchurch airport will be 5:00 pm. If you are flying out this evening please book flights with a check-in time after 6:00 pm. Christchurch city centre is approximately 20 minutes from the airport.

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