Tramping Footwear Guide

This guide has been created to give you an understanding of the different types of tramping footwear on the market, their intended use, and which types are suitable for our courses.

Light hikers/approach shoes

***These boots ARE NOT SUITABLE for our advanced bushcraft course ***

These boots are designed to be used on well-formed tracks and low angle off track. They lack the lateral support in the sole and ankle. If you show up to the advanced bush course with this style of boot you will not be comfortable in off track terrain above and below the bushline.

Note. If you are a Te Araroa walker preparing for the TA and you intend on walking in this type of shoe then please talk to us as we may have some spare tramping boots available for use, but otherwise they will not be suitable for the advanced course.

Good option for our 2 & 3-day bush courses.

Not crampon compatible



From left: La Sportiva Boulder X, Salomon Ultra 4 GTZ, Salewa Mountain Trainer Lite.

Mid cut tramping boots (leather & synthetic)

These boots are best suited for on and off-track tramping on moderate angled terrain and above the bush line in summer. **Best option for our 3-, 5- & 7-day OENZ bushcraft courses.**

Crampon compatible with the use of strap-on crampons



From left: Asolo TPS 535, Scarpa Kailash Trek GTX, Salewa Crow GTX.

34 shank tramping boots

¾ shank tramping boots are designed for rough off-track tramping above and below the bush line, most are only suitable for 3 season use, however with a pair of good socks you may find them warm enough in the snow in winter. They are not comfortable walking on well-formed tracks for long distances as they have a very rigid sole. If not Gore-Tex, then the leather must be treated with waterproofing. Suitable option for our 7-day OENZ bushcraft course and best option for our 9-day hunting course.

Crampon compatible with the strap-on style crampons and some may have a heel bail for semiautomatic crampons



From left: Scarpa SL Active, Salewa Repace GTX, Lowa Tibet.