

# Otehake River Hot Springs



91

**Location:** In the heart of the Otehake Wilderness Area, a five-hour walk from the Arthur's Pass Highway (about 12km).

**General description:** A large area of springs in a usually dry flood channel, opposite an island campsite.

**Track rating:** Easy/moderate. This is a relatively easy tramp except for the last section, which requires either a series of river crossings or traversing a rough section of flood track followed by a single river crossing.

**Restrictions:** After rain, the Otira and Otehake Rivers may be difficult to ford and the springs flooded out. If the Otira is too high to cross, you might want to

delay your hike. There is a flood route via the Otira footbridge – it takes two hours to walk this additional section of track following the true right of the Otira River. A tent must be carried as there are no huts near the springs.

**Map:** NZTopo50 BU20 Moana, BU21 Haupiri and BV21 Cass (springs marked on this map).

**GPS coordinates [WGS84]:** S 42.80180  
E 171.70676

**Elevation:** 370m

**Services:** There's excellent camping under the beech trees on both sides of the springs.



*Superb soaking at the Otehake Hot Springs [except for the sandflies during the day].*

## DIRECTIONS

The Taramakau Valley parking area is on the eastern side of SH73, about 3km past the Otira River footbridge when heading towards the West Coast (and about 6.4km past Otira). The Otira River must first be forded. The track then follows the edge of the forest before joining up with a four-wheel drive track. From the carpark it takes about 1½ hours to reach Pfeifer Creek. From here, the track enters beautiful mixed forest comprising giant red beech trees, gnarled kāmahi, tall mataī and rimu. Follow the creek upstream on its true right for about 40 minutes before crossing Lake Creek. Another 40