



St James Conservation Area Huts and Paddocks

Many of these huts are historic and therefore there are no hut fees payable. However, please refer to the Department of Conservation website to check (click on "Huts" for images and information).
<http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/canterbury/places/st-james-conservation-area/>

St James Homestead

The current St James Homestead is a collection of historic buildings (stables, woolshed and cookshop which are gradually being restored.

There is a public shelter (concrete block 2 room hut) which has no bunks or furniture, so you need to take your own camping gear.

There are numerous small holding paddocks for horses as well as the cattle yards at which the triennial St James Horse Sale are held.

Fowlers Hut

Fowlers Hut is an historic rabbiters hut situated beside the Tophouse Road approximately half way between the St James Homestead and Lake Tennyson. You start from here to ride over Fowlers Pass. There is a large holding paddock with running water. There are no bunks, but there is a fireplace, a table and forms and a modern toilet outside. If you want a fire, take your own firewood. (It is very cold at night between April and December).

There is ample off road vehicle and float parking.

Stanleyvale Hut

This historic rammed earth hut was once part of the Stanleyvale Run. It is a 3 hour ride over Fowlers Pass from Fowlers Hut in the Clarence. It has 7 bunks, a fireplace, tables and forms and a long drop toilet. There are 3 separate holding paddocks and water runs from a spring beside the hut.

The hut is maintained by Hanmer Springs Horse Riders and this is "horse central" for the club. This is a great location to base yourself for a riding holiday in St James Conservation Area.

Scotties Camp Hut

Scotties Camp historic musterers hut is an easy 3.5 hour ride up the Edwards Valley from the St James Homestead, situated just at the foot of the road up to Charlies Saddle. There is a holding paddock with a small seasonal spring at the rear, but the Edwards River flows beside the hut for access to water otherwise. It has 4 bunks, a table, an outside fireplace (but very little wood), a solar light and a modern toilet outside. It is maintained by the Christchurch 4WD Club. Take a cooker. As there is vehicle access to this hut, it is often full on long weekends, but there is ample room to put up a tent.

Lake Guyon Hut

This old NZ Forest Service hut is beside the idyllic Lake Guyon. There is no holding paddock here because DOC prefer that horses base themselves 30 mins away at Stanleyvale Hut. However, you can tether horses or electric fence them on the grassy flats around the hut if you wish (preferably away from the vicinity of the hut). Sandflies are a little more prolific near to the lake though. It has 6 bunks, a wood burner and a long drop toilet.

Poole Hut

Poole Hut is a basic historic hut on the true right of the Waiau river near to the confluence with the Stanley River. It does not have a holding paddock but there are kanuka trees to tie to. There are 4 bunks and a bench but no fire. A spring is the water supply 20m northwest of the hut.

Jervois Hut

Jervois Hut is a basic hut 2 hours up the Jones stream from the confluence with the Waiau river, 500m downstream from the McArthur cycleway bridge. There is no toilet but a shovel is provided, an open fire and 3 canvas bunks. There is a holding paddock.

Christopher Hut

Christopher Hut is 1 hour up the Ada river from the Ada homestead. It is part of the St James Walkway. There is a holding paddock, wood burner, running water, 20 bunks and firewood. It is a serviced hut.

Anne Hut

Anne Hut is situated 3 hours up the Henry River from the Waiau confluence near the Anne River. It is a large modern serviced hut and is part of the St James Walkway. Although there is no holding paddock at the Anne Hut, there is a good paddock 15 mins away at the old (burnt down) Anne Hut site beside the Anne River. We normally tent camp there to stay with the horses.

Caroline Bivvy

2.5 hours up the Waiau from the bottom of Maling Pass, this bivvy is on the Te Araroa track and is usually full. There is no paddock, but 30 mins downstream there is a good camping spot with ample tying up places.

Rokeby Hut

Rokeby Hut is an historic hut between the Anne Saddle and Boyle Flat Hut. There is no toilet, 4 canvas bunks and no holding paddock. There are plenty of trees to tie up to.

Boyle Flat Hut

Boyle Flat Hut is just over half way between Anne Saddle and Magdalen Hut at the bottom of the Boyle Gorge. It is a serviced hut and has a holding paddock on the river terrace below the hut. (NB the paddock is by the river in a steep-sided valley and so is much cooler than the hut site. It pays to take a rug in autumn and spring for your horse.)

Magdalen Hut

Magdalen Hut is a 6 bunk hut with a wood burner, a long drop toilet and a large holding paddock near the bottom of the Boyle Gorge.

Steining Hut

Steining Hut is a DOC hut on Glenhope Station land. There are 6 bunks, a wood burner and long drop but no holding paddock. You need permission from Glenhope station to cross their land. We ride past Steining as part of a 6 day loop trek. Contact Todd & Sandra Alfield (03 315 7697) or glenhopestation@gmail.com, or Glen Hope Station on Facebook.

Mary Holloway
Hanmer Springs Horse Riders Inc
February 2020



St James Conservation Area Getting There

Via Jacks Pass and the Clarence River

Map NZTopo 50-BT4 Ada Flat:

<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap?v=2&ll=-42.308117,172.708797&z=10>

It takes 30 mins to drive slowly with a horse float up the unsealed Clarence Valley Road which turns off Jacks Pass Road in Hanmer Springs Village to get to the St James Homestead on Tophouse Road (sometimes called the Hydro Road).

The current St James Homestead is a collection of historic buildings (stables, woolshed and cookshop which are gradually being restored. There is a locked DOC staff hut which can be used by arrangement (18 beds). Contact DOC Area Office in Rangiora for this.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/footer-links/contact-us/office-by-name/?mode=details&office=2794>

There is a public shelter (concrete block 2 room hut) which has no bunks or furniture, so you need to take your own camping gear.

There are numerous small holding paddocks for horses as well as the cattle yards at which the triennial St James Horse Sale are held.

If you want to take a vehicle up the Edwards Valley to the Cow Stream Hot Pools or Scotties Camp, or take a vehicle over Maling Pass to the Waiau river, you will need to go onto the Department of Conservation website to get the current gate padlock combination.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/canterbury/places/st-james-conservation-area/motor-vehicle-access/>

It takes 2.5 to 3 hours to ride up to the Homestead from Hanmer Springs Village via the Jacks Pass Pack Track. (see route notes below)

Enter from the St James Homestead (which is actually the site of the homestead burnt down in 1947) for Peters Valley access to the Edwards Valley.

Edwards Valley vehicle access road (through locked gate) is 5 mins drive or 15 mins ride further up the Clarence Valley from the Homestead.

Fowlers Pass track leaves from behind Fowlers Hut just over half way to Lake Tennyson, 20 mins drive or 2.5 hrs ride from the Homestead.

Maling Pass vehicle track (through locked gate) starts 50 mins drive or 4.5 hours ride further up the Clarence Valley from the Homestead.

Via the Boyle River at Boyle Village on the Lewis Pass Highway.

Park at the Boyle Village. Boyle Outdoor Education centre offers safe parking for a small fee, and has back-packer style accommodation. There is also a basic DOC campsite there. There are plenty of places to erect an electric fence to overnight your horse should you wish to stay there.

Follow the St James Walkway for a start until the horse route detours off (see route information <http://www.doc.govt.nz/stjameswalkway>)

Riding to the St James Conservation Area from Hanmer Springs Village using the Jacks Pass Pack Track. 2-2.5 hours walking

The Jacks Pass Pack Track (approximately 1 hour) is our private horse “highway” to the High Country. The club reopened the old pack track that existed here before the road up Jacks Pass was built. It enables us to ride up to the top of Jacks Pass and avoid the vehicles heading up to Molesworth, St James Homestead, the ski-field, Lake Tennyson and the Rainbow Road.

The track leads off the end of Jacks Pass Road from the cattlestop opposite the Alpine Adventure Holiday Park. Follow the shingle forestry road straight ahead, past the Chatterton River walk track on the left before climbing the hill on the pylon maintenance track. 100m after crossing a small creek, the Pack Track leaves the Pylon Track sharply to the right, climbing up to the top of Jacks Pass. We usually ride up but walk the horses down the steepest section.

Begin by riding the Jacks Pass Pack Track, described above (approximately 1 hr). Follow the road north, heading in several loops down towards the Clarence River and a well-sign-posted road intersection. (approximately 30mins)

At the road intersection, turn left and continue along the road to reach the St James Homestead. (30mins to 1 hour).

Mary Holloway
Hanmer Springs Horse Riders Inc
February 2020