



What to know before you go

Thanks for your interest in the Banks Track Experience.

Banks Track offers a choice of our Three Day Classic Walk, Three Day Walk + Talk or the Two Day Hikers Option.

The Three Day Classic Walks include three nights accommodation, three days pack free walking with your packs carted from accommodation to accommodation each day, a free penguin tour (in season) and the option to book a kayak in the Pohatu Marine Reserve.

The Three Day Walk + Talk is the Three Day Classic Walk with three evening talks – one at each accommodation, by Jack Gibbs, Francis Helps and Dr Hugh Wilson.

The Two Day Hikers option includes two night's accommodation and two days of walking our forest, farms, coasts and cliffs. This option is for faster and fitter hikers.

Making your Booking

The website has our up-to-date availability. Pop online at www.bankstrack.co.nz go to the "Bookings" page, select the walk you want, the date, and the number of walkers. The calendar will indicate if there is availability on that date.

You can see availability without adding your details into the system and no details are stored until you confirm your booking.

Getting to Akaroa from Christchurch

It is a one and a half hour drive from Christchurch to Akaroa along the ChCh-Akaroa Highway.

There are two shuttle bus options: Akaroa Shuttle and French Connection. These services both depart Christchurch in the morning so please ensure you have checked their timetable prior to making your Banks Track or flight bookings.

If you require a ChCh/Airport pickup contact Philip Narbey directly plymarnarbey@hotmail.com. Philip has a tour van and can organise this for you.

All the bus/taxi services drop you off within 50m of the Banks Track pick up point at 80 Rue Lavaud, Akaroa.

Pick Up

Please arrive at 80 Rue Lavaud at 5.30 pm on your date of arrival (the date you booked for). After the orientation we will take you to the first night's accommodation.

At the orientation, the driver will give you a Banks Track Guide booklet. This is your ticket and contains each days maps, points of interest, emergency information and history for the area you are walking through. Please ensure you have it with on the Banks Track to prove you should be there if asked.

Vehicle Parking

Banks Track walkers can park their vehicles at Mt Vernon Lodge (33 Purple Peak Road) for the duration of their walk. Please park prior to pickup. Allow 30 minutes to park your car at Mt Vernon Lodge and return by foot 80 Rue Lavaud for pick up and orientation at 5.30pm.

What you will need to carry

You will need a sleeping bag, tramping boots and adequate clothing for all weather conditions, water bottle, cash (for shop), torch, towel, medication and personal items. Bring food – there are drinks and chocolate bars available at Flea Bay and a trampers shop with meal options as well as snacks at Stony Bay (see below).

Some walkers find walking poles a very useful addition to their pack as the terrain can be steep and slippery at times.

Pillows and pillow cases are provided. All kitchens are fully equipped including stoves, pots, pans, plates, coffee plungers, cutlery etc as well as cleaning materials and tea towels. You don't need to bring any kitchen items. There are also rubbish bins at all the accommodation.

Trampers Shop

You will need to bring food for all meals until you get to Stony Bay Village, although Flea Bay Cottage, has drinks and chocolate bars available.

On your last evening at Stony Bay there is a Trampers Shop. This shop is well stocked and open to walkers throughout their stay. It is restocked daily, and provides sufficient choice and quantity to cater for individuals or groups. Expect to pay prices roughly similar to a remote country dairy.

As well as a **good supply of cold drinks**, this shop includes:

Cereals, milk, bread, butter, bacon, eggs, coffee, tea, sugar, chocolate, biscuits, fresh vegetables, soup, tinned goods, cheese, crackers, fresh fruit, noodles, pasta, potatoes, sausages, steaks, mince, and ice cream. Even if you don't need anything, it is well worth a look.

Pack Cartage

Walkers booked on the Three-day Classic Walk will have their packs carried from accommodation to accommodation. This means you will require a day pack for your lunch, water, camera and wet weather gear.

Packs are left at a designated place at each accommodation where they are collected and carted to the next accommodation. Packs will be at the next accommodation or the Lock up in Akaroa by 2pm.

Please note: Packs must not exceed 15kg. Our Pack Cartage Team have the right to leave any packs that exceed 15kg. Also, packs must not have anything tied on the outside, i.e. all belongings must be secured inside the pack.

Extra Luggage Storage

Additional luggage can be stored during your walk for \$10 per bag (limit per bag 15kg). Please bring to the orientation/bus pick up.

Your Itinerary

There is an orientation at the 5.30pm pickup on the first night of your Banks Track experience. You will be given a booklet with maps, emergency contact details, places of interest, local history and some details of flora and fauna. It will have all the details of your itinerary in your guide book. This is also your ticket. Please ensure you have it with you in case you are asked to prove you are a paid Banks Track Walker.

Three-day Classic Walk

5.30 pm pick up in Akaroa for transport to Onuku Accommodation for the first night.
Next day - you walk from Onuku to Flea Bay 11 km and 5-7 hours.
Next day - you walk from Flea Bay to Stony Bay 8 km and 3-4 hours.
Last day - you walk from Stony Bay to Akaroa 12 km and 5-7 hours.
Most walkers arrive in Akaroa by mid afternoon.

There is a free penguin tour (during the season) for Three Day Classic Walkers at Flea Bay.

Three Day classic Walkers can book a kayak trip in the Pohatu Marine at Flea Bay before you walk to Stony Bay. Go to:

<https://obl.rtbslive.com/obl2/pohatupenguins/availability/gtb1s53re7>

Two-day Hikers Option

5.30 pm pick up in Akaroa for transport to Onuku Accommodation for the first night.
Next day - you walk from Onuku to Stony Bay 19 km and 6-9 hours.
Last day - you walk from Stony Bay to Akaroa 12 km and 4-6 hours.
Most walkers arrive in Akaroa by mid afternoon.

If you have any questions feel free to email us: bankstrack@xtra.co.nz

