

Scotties Camp to Pool Hut – 2 hours – Medium

This route can only be attempted in summer when the Waiau River is in low water. Don't attempt to ford the Waiau during nor-west weather patterns. Ride over Charlies Saddle on the vehicle track. Follow the track along and descend to the Waiau River. Ford the river at its widest point; just above the rapids is best.

Follow up the true right bank of the Waiau until you pick up a bulldozer track, which climbs over a bluff 200m below former McArthur cycle way bridge. Pool Hut is about 10m from the river from here.

NB: In spring, the breeding mares and new foals of the St James herd are often on the northern slopes of Saddle Spur. They will generally keep their distance, but sometimes they canter around you at a distance of 30m out of curiosity. As long as you don't go nearer, they won't hurt you.