

# River Navigators

## 1 Day Course

Rivers are one of the biggest hazards in New Zealand's backcountry, and knowing when *not* to cross is often the most important skill of all.

Spend a day in the Peel Forest environment learning how to read rivers, recognise hazards, and make safer decisions around moving water. This practical course focuses on judgement, awareness, and real-world scenarios so you can travel more confidently in the outdoors.

Whether you're preparing for Te Araroa, planning summer tramps, or simply wanting stronger river awareness, this course will help you build skills that last well beyond the day.

## Who this course is for

This course is ideal for:

- Recreational trampers and hikers
- Hunters and outdoor explorers
- People preparing for multi-day trips or Te Araroa
- Adventure racers and rogainers
- Anyone wanting to improve river safety awareness

Suitable for adults and older teens (16+).

## What you'll learn

### River Safety Skills

- Recognising river hazards and reading conditions
- Decision points — when to cross, when to wait, and when to turn back
- Risk assessment and safer travel strategies
- Practical crossing methods and group awareness

### Backcountry Decision Skills

- Giving intentions and emergency communication methods
- Understanding weather forecasts and how conditions affect rivers
- Planning safer routes in river environments

## What to expect

This is a practical, outdoor-based day spent near real river environments. You'll learn through guided discussion, observation, and hands-on activities designed to build confidence and decision-making skills.

Our focus goes beyond technique, helping you develop the judgement to assess situations and make safer choices in dynamic environments.

## Course details

**Location:**

Peel Forest Outdoors Centre, approximately 20 minutes from Geraldine.

**Time:**

9:00am – 4:00pm

**Food:**

Please bring your own lunch, snacks and water for the day.

**Accommodation (optional):**

If you'd like to stay overnight before or after your course, off-grid cabin accommodation is available at Peel Forest Outdoors. These insulated bunk-style huts offer a simple DOC-hut style experience with solar shower and composting toilets. Contact us to enquire about availability.

## Gear list

**Compulsory Gear:**

- Day pack (~30L) with pack liner
- Suitable active clothing for the weather (no cotton)
- Waterproof raincoat and over-trousers
- Thermal top and bottom
- Fleece layer
- Tramping boots (worn in)
- Water bottle (minimum 2L)
- Compass
- Hat, beanie, sunscreen and sunglasses
- Sunglasses

**Gear hire available**

Let us know if you need to borrow:

- Pack
- Raincoat
- Fleece layers
- Compass

**Optional**

- Tramping poles
- Puffer jacket

## Why learn with Peel Forest Outdoors?

Our instructors bring real-world outdoor experience and a strong focus on safety, learning, and connection to place. Small group sizes allow for personalised coaching and meaningful time in the environment, helping you build skills you can rely on long after the course ends.