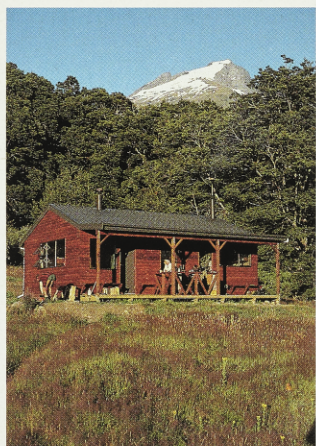


Going bush?

Back Country Huts give a good deal of comfort.

There are literally hundreds of huts in the New Zealand back country, on mountain ridges, by sparkling streams and just around the next corner.

The Department of Conservation and some outdoor recreation clubs maintain those huts for the comfort of people enjoying our great outdoors. For that a small charge is made depending on the facilities provided. The money raised goes towards maintaining the huts. Those costs are high. The huts may not rival the Ritz (the views are better) but their isolated sites make them expensive to maintain.



There are three categories of hut: \$4, \$8, or \$12 a night. Children 11 and over are charged half price. Buy your tickets in advance; they're sold at Department of Conservation offices, visitor centres and shops displaying this sign:

Alternatively, you can now buy an annual hut pass.



These cost \$60 (\$30 for children) and last for a year. Passes can be used in more than 500 \$4 and \$8-a-night huts and can be bought at DOC outlets or by mail order from the department.

Use a pass or buy tickets and remember to put your ticket butt in the box in each hut. You're not just buying shelter and comfort, you're also making an indirect contribution to real conservation work. Spending your money on hut maintenance allows us to spend more protecting wild and scenic places or caring for threatened species.

