

JORDAN RIVER VALLEY TEST HIKE

Sunday, **June 10** at 8:15AM

Deadman's Hill Trailhead



“I am excited about our first New Zealand Test Hike scheduled for the Jordan River Valley Pathway. This was the site of our inaugural Test Hike for our first rim to rim Grand Canyon trip. This Test Hike is mandatory for any *Kiwi* who plans to hike the Tongariro Alpine Crossing trail. It is also a wonderful destination hike for those who are going shorter distances in New Zealand or for those not going at all. It is important that everyone interested carefully review the information listed below. Because of the cost of staging this hike, including personnel, two day setup, shuttles, insurance, hospitality room, and supplies the Cairn Stone tours policy of one free guest visit is not valid for this hike. It will be well worth the cost.”

Coach Ron Gunn

HOST HOTEL: For those interested, I have secured a special \$104 rate at the wonderful Shanty Creek Resort. It is 18 miles from the trailhead and located in a beautiful setting. No breakfast is included but they are going to open their dining room at 6:00 AM to accommodate our group. This will still be better than the \$130 rate we pay at the Holiday Inn Express in Cadillac. Please use the special [Cairn Stone URL](#) to reserve your room (or type: <http://reserve.shantycreek.com/?g=532211>). I'm sure that many of our trekkers will spend a second night in order to bask in the afterglow and savor their triumph in the Jordan River Valley. This lodging is not mandatory and participants can make their own arrangements and either follow our caravan to the start trailhead or meet us there.

Note: *first come first serve* on hotel rooms.

COSTS:
NEW ZEALAND *KIWIS*: *FREE* (Includes *Test Hike shirt)
2018 TRAINING PARTNERS: *FREE* (\$21 for optional *Test Hike shirt)
GUEST HIKERS: \$25 plus \$21 for optional *Test Hike shirt

(*Test Hike shirt is a dynamite long sleeve tech shirt with cool New Zealand Test Hike design)

TEST HIKE: It is mandatory that everyone considering our elite hike in New Zealand - the Alpine Crossing- complete the 19.1 mile hike successfully to advance to the final Test Hike in January. Other optional hike distances are listed below. Your cooperation with the high standards set for the program is appreciated.

TRANSPORTATION: There is no formal organized trip to this Test Hike. The trailhead start is located about 235 miles north of Dowagiac. It is about three hour 40 minute drive or about 45 minutes further north than Cadillac. People wishing to share rides should contact Thom.

DECLARATIONS: I would greatly appreciate if everyone who is planning to attend the Test Hike declare what hike you plan to do. I also will need T-shirt sizes for everyone wishing a T-shirt by **May 30**. You can either contact me or there will be a declaration form at our next six hikes. Fees for the Test Hike and T-shirts should be paid by **June 1** and forwarded to Katrina Andrews. [email Ron or use form on Jordan Test Hike page]

TEST HIKE DISTANCES:

19.1 miles	Deadman's Hill
16.4 miles	Fish Hatchery Road.
12.7 miles	Landslide Overlook
9.5 miles	Pinney Bridge
4.2 miles	Jordan River Bridge

~ OVER ~

TIME TABLE:

Saturday, June 9, 2018

5:00 PM to 6:00 PM Reception at Shanty Creek Resort. I have reserved a reception room and all participants, regardless of where you are staying, are welcome to stop by for refreshments, social enhancement and hike updates.

Sunday, June 10, 2018

6:00 AM Dining room open for breakfast
7:15 AM Caravan assembles at Shanty Creek
7:30 AM Caravan leaves for Deadman's Hill trailhead
7:55 AM Daypack check at Deadman's Hill trailhead
8:15 AM 19.1 mile hike starts
8:25 AM Shuttle leaves Deadman's Hill for 16.4 drop off
8:50 AM Shuttle leaves Deadman's Hill for 12.7 drop off
9:15 AM Shuttle leaves for 9.5 drop off
9:45 AM Shuttle leaves for 4.2 drop off
NOTE All hikers finish at the top of Deadman's Hill.

CHECK POINTS: There will be three checkpoints for the 19.1 mile hikers. There will also be aid stations at these checkpoints for everyone.

Checkpoint 1:	Landslide Overlook	12.7 to go	YELLOW daypack tag
Checkpoint 2:	Pinney Bridge	9.5 to go	GREEN daypack tag
Checkpoint 3:	Jordan River Bridge	4.2 to go	BLUE daypack tag

NOTE ON START: Please be prompt. Final course directions and comments will be given after the daypack check. Do not jump the course and start early. We are going to do this hike as a team. Please fill daypack bladders and bottles with water prior to your arrival at Deadman's Hill trailhead. There is no water source and we don't want to deplete our aid station water. All hikers will login at the start and log out at the finish. The long hikers will be awarded color-coded daypack tags and all hikers physical condition will be monitored at each checkpoint. All long hikers should be off the course by 4:30 PM. This hike will be an excellent barometer of your fitness level for a challenging backcountry hike.

DIRECTIONS:

Deadman's Hill Trailhead from M-131 in Alba (9.0 miles) [MAP](#)

Shanty Creek Resort from M-131 in Mancelona (6.6 miles) [MAP](#)

Shanty Creek Resort, 5780 Shanty Creek Road, Bellaire, MI

Maps for return to Shanty Creek Resort from Deadman's Hill will be available at the reception and at the start.

TECHNICAL HINT: The blue underlined hyperlinks may be stopped by your browser's Pop Up Blocker. Try holding CTRL key down while clicking the link.

