



8 June 2026

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai /
Conservation House
18 Manners Street
Wellington, 6011
doc.govt.nz
Ref: OIAD-6470

Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 13 May 2026, in which you asked:

Can you please supply me with the number of available spaces on the milford track for the last 5 years, and the number of non- NZ residents who managed to secure a space each year?

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982.

The table below contains the data you have requested for the 2018/19 Milford Track season (October to April) onwards. We have chosen to provide data for additional years as it allows for viewing trends in the context of pre-COVID visitation.

COVID-related border closures resulted in lower international visitor numbers in the 2021/22 season (which falls within the 5-year period you requested), as well as the prior 2020/21 season.

The 2019/20 season was also impacted by storm damage to the track, resulting in reduced available spaces and visitors.

Avalanche damage to the track in 2025 resulted in a significant delay to the start of the season and a corresponding reduction in available spaces for the 2025/26 season.

We have also included data for the upcoming 2026/27 season, which opened for booking on the day you submitted your request. Forward booking numbers are subject to change through cancellations and potential future closures (for example, due to weather events).

It is important to note that the total available spaces may not capture all closures or capacity reductions, and the actual number of available spaces will generally be lower than listed by a small margin.

Season	International visitors	International visitors (% of total)	Total visitors	Available spaces
2018/19	3470	49%	7039	7400
2019/20	2005	50%	3971	5000
2020/21	458	8%	5816	6000
2021/22	155	2%	6909	7320
2022/23	1952	27%	7285	7400
2023/24	2394	33%	7147	7400
2024/25	3523	49%	7177	7240
2025/26	2656	45%	5902	6000
2026/27	2532	36%	6962	7160

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Department's website.

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Nāku noa, nā



Catherine Wilson
 Director Heritage and Visitors
 Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai