

Safety



The weather and track conditions can change rapidly in this area, with strong winds, hail, snow and heavy rain possible at any time of the year. Well-formed tracks can turn to deep mud and unbridged river crossings can become dangerous. If the water level of the river is too high to cross, wait or consider an alternative route.



Be aware of the tides before heading into the coastal area. If the tide is too high to cross, use the alternative high-tide route.



It is recommended that you carry a distress beacon and/or a two-way satellite communication device.

Always remember to leave the details of your trip with a responsible person and to check in when you return.

A logbook for people using boats on Wairaurahiri River is located at Teal Bay Hut. This ensures that boat operators are aware of other boats on the river. Please fill out the intentions log before and after using the river.

Care for Aotearoa



Protect nature

Keep your distance and don't feed wildlife. Follow any rules restricting dogs, fires, drones or vehicles.



Be prepared

Stay safe in the outdoors by following the Land Safety Code.

- ▶ Choose the right trip for you.
- ▶ Understand the weather.
- ▶ Pack warm clothes and extra food.
- ▶ Share your plans and take ways to get help.
- ▶ Take care of yourself and each other.



Keep NZ clean

Use toilets where provided. Take all rubbish with you.



Show respect

Respect others, respect culture.

Further information:

Te Rua-o-te-moko / Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre

1 Lakefront Drive

Te Anau 9600

PHONE: 03 249 7924

EMAIL: fiordlandvc@doc.govt.nz

doc.govt.nz

Tuatapere Information Centre

31 Orawia Road

Tuatapere 9620

PHONE: 03 226 6739 or 0800 486 774

Front cover: Lake Hauroko Lookout Track. Photo: Sue Brownie

This information was accurate at the time of printing. For the latest information on DOC's policies and facilities, visit doc.govt.nz.

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**Te Kāwanatanga
o Aotearoa**
New Zealand Government



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FIORDLAND

Tramping in southern Fiordland

| Fiordland National Park



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Nau mai, haere mai – welcome to southern Fiordland

Explore the dramatic beauty and history of the remote Waitutu Forest and southern Fiordland areas, where both recreational walkers and highly experienced trampers will find tracks that are both inspiring and challenging.

Natural environment

Southern Fiordland showcases dramatic coastal and mountain views and has one of the largest tracts of lowland podocarp forest in Aotearoa New Zealand, with tussocks, shrubs and fragile alpine herbs being found above the treeline. This area is home to endangered pekapeka/long-tailed bats, as well as 25 species of native birds, including the kākā, mohua/yellowhead and kākārīki/parakeets. Pakake/New Zealand sea lions, seals, whales, penguins and dolphins are often seen along the coastline.

History

This area was visited by early Māori who were in search of food from the sea, rivers and forests. There were kaika (hunting camps) on the banks of Waiau River, which were crossed using mōkihi (rafts). The original tracks led along the terraces and beaches, providing access to Sand Hill Point, Wairaurahiri River and beyond. These were probably very close to the South Coast Track of today.

In 1896, the coastal track was formed by government workers to provide access to gold mining settlements at Rakituma/Preservation Inlet. During the 1920s, Port Craig was the site of the largest and most modern sawmill in Aotearoa New Zealand. Milling ceased in the early 1930s, but many relics remain, including Port Craig School, which is now a Department of Conservation (DOC) hut.

Four large wooden viaducts were built during the 1920s and enabled locomotives to haul logs over ravines to the Port Craig mill. Some of these viaducts have been restored thanks to the Port Craig Viaducts Charitable Trust, and these can be seen along the South Coast Track.

Lake Hauroko is tapu (sacred) to Ngāi Tahu as it is an urupā (burial ground) of their tūpuna (ancestors).

Activities

Tramping

Most of the tracks in this area are best suited to experienced trampers as they require higher levels of fitness, self-reliance and bush-crafting skills. The first day of the South Coast Track, towards Port Craig School Hut, is a good option for those new to tramping.

Hunting

Red deer and wild pigs are found in this area. For more information on hunting in this area and to get a permit, visit doc.govt.nz/hunting.

Fishing and boating

The primary game fish in this area are brown and rainbow trout. A licence is required to fish here, which can be obtained at fishandgame.org.nz. A Clean Gear Certificate is also needed, which can be obtained from Te Rua-o-te-moko/Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre.

Motorised boats and kayaks are allowed on Lake Hauroko and Wairaurahiri River as long as they are thoroughly cleaned and dried for 48 hours to prevent introducing didymo to these waterways.



Access

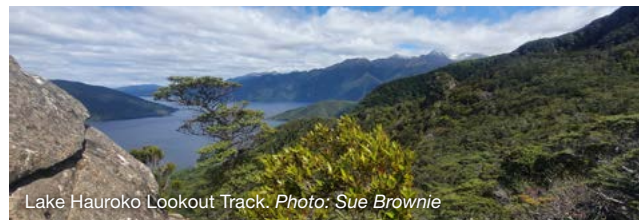
Lake Hauroko

From Clifden, travel approximately 36 km along Lillburn Valley Road to Lake Hauroko. Be aware that 20 km of this road is unsealed.

South Coast Track

From Tuatapere, drive approximately 28 km along Papatotara Road, following the signs to Bluecliffs Beach and Rarakau car park. Be aware that 7 km of this road is unsealed.

Approved commercial operators can provide access to this region by helicopter, float plane or jet boat. For more information about transport or guiding providers, contact a DOC office or the Tuatapere Information Centre.



Lake Hauroko Lookout Track. Photo: Sue Brownie

Accommodation

Huts managed by DOC

All DOC huts require one Backcountry Hut Ticket per person per night, which can be purchased in advance from a DOC office. Alternatively, a Backcountry Hut Pass (valid for 12 months) may also be used. For current Backcountry Hut Ticket and Hut Pass prices, visit doc.govt.nz/hut-bookings.

Each hut has heating, mattresses and a pit toilet. There are no cooking facilities in any of the huts, so carry a portable stove with you. Users are expected to leave the huts clean and tidy.

Hut	Beds	Hut type
Port Craig School Hut	20	Serviced hut
Wairaurahiri Hut	13	Standard hut
Waitutu Hut	12	Standard hut
Teal Bay Hut	12	Standard hut
Lake Poteriteri Hut	6	Standard hut
Slaughterburn Hut	6	Basic hut
Westies Hut	5	Basic hut

Private accommodation on South Coast Track

Percy Burn Hut and Waitutu Lodge are privately owned accommodation options on the South Coast Track. Both facilities need to be booked in advance – visit humpridgetrack.co.nz (Percy Burn Hut) and waitutu.co.nz (Waitutu Lodge).

Private accommodation on Hump Ridge Track

Ōkaka Lodge and Port Craig Lodge are located on the Hump Ridge Great Walk but are still managed by a private Trust. For more information and to book online, visit humpridgetrack.co.nz.

Camping

Camping is permitted within designated areas and along the coastline. Camping is not permitted above the bushline or within 500 m of the Hump Ridge Track.

Thicket Burn Campsite is located at the entrance to Fiordland National Park, on the way to Lake Hauroko. There is no charge to stay here but the campsite has very limited facilities, so you need to be fully self-sufficient.

South Coast Track

The South Coast Track takes 4 days to walk from Rarakau car park to Big River.

1 Rarakau car park to Port Craig School Hut 5–7 hr, 20 km



From Rarakau car park, the track follows an old road over several suspension bridges and past beachside baches. After passing the Ōkaka Lodge turn-off, the track skirts around several beaches and headlands before arriving at the magnificent Blowholes Beach. Keep your eye out as ahoaho/Hector's dolphins are often seen all along this coastline. From here, the track climbs over another headland to Breakneck Creek, after which it re-enters the forest before arriving at the historic Port Craig School Hut and Port Craig Lodge.



Be aware of the tides before heading into the coastal area. If the tide is too high to cross, use the alternative high-tide route.



Blowholes Beach. Photo: Sue Brownie

2 Port Craig School Hut to Edwin Burn

Edwin Burn to Wairaurahiri Hut 6 hr, 16 km



This track follows an old logging tramline for 15 km through regenerating native forest. The Sand Hill and Percy Burn Viaducts are reached after a 2 hr walk from Port Craig, with the Port Craig Viaducts Charitable Trust hut sited at Percy Burn. The track continues and crosses both the Edwin Burn and Francis Burn Viaducts. At the end of the tramline, the track enters mature bush and descends through three river terraces to a clearing on the banks of Wairaurahiri River where Wairaurahiri Hut can be found. The privately owned Waitutu Lodge is located on the opposite side of the river, approximately 600 m off the track towards the coast.



Percy Burn Viaduct.
Photo: Sue Brownie

3 Wairaurahiri Hut to Waitutu Hut

6 hr, 13 km

This track winds through Māori-owned land, bush-clad coastal terraces and several streams until it meets Waitutu River, where a suspension bridge gives access to Waitutu Hut.

4 Waitutu Hut to Big River 5+ hr, 12 km



The route from Waitutu Hut is recommended for experienced trampers only. Westies Hut is in a sea cave at Prices Harbour, signposted from the track about 2 km east of Big River.



Waitutu Forest. Photo: James Mortimer

Lake Hauroko

Lake Hauroko is Aotearoa New Zealand's deepest lake (462 m). In te reo Māori, 'Hauroko' means 'the sighing of the wind', as the wind can create huge waves on the lake in a matter of minutes, funnelled by the steep surrounding hills.



Lake Hauroko. Photo: Sue Brownie

5 Lake Hauroko Track 40 min, 1.1 km (loop)

From the car park at Lake Hauroko, an easy loop walk skirts a swampy area close to the lake. As you travel along the track, you will notice how the trees change from mainly mataī, tōtara and rimu in the wetter areas to mountain beech in the drier areas.

6 Lake Hauroko Lookout Track 3 hr, 2.9 km (return)

The track near the jetty follows along the lake edge before climbing steeply to the lookout. On a clear day, there are stunning views of Foveaux Strait to the south, the Takitimu Mountains to the east, the Princess and Kaherekoau Mountains to the northwest, and Lake Hauroko. This track is steep and rough, but well worth the effort.

7 Big Tōtara Walk 30 min, 600 m (return)

This pleasant short walk winds through forest to some of Southland's largest tōtara trees. This small pocket of forest has never been logged, allowing visitors to see these giants of the forest, some of which are over 1,000 years old.

The track is located on Lillburn Monowai Road in Dean Forest. Travel along this road for approximately 18 km to where the track begins.

Lake Hauroko to South Coast Track



This track is wet underfoot and recommended for experienced trampers only.

8 Lake Hauroko to Teal Bay Hut

9 hr, 18 km



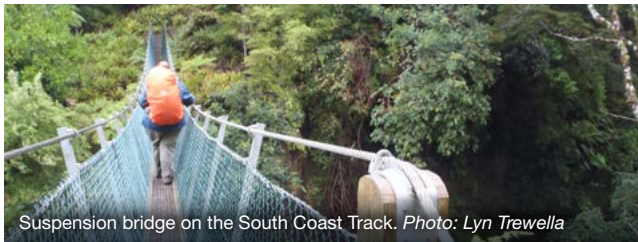
This track follows the eastern shore of Lake Hauroko to the south before entering a bush-clad headland. From Second Bay, climb to a 7 km-long ridge before descending steeply to the spur and Teal Bay Hut. Be aware that there is no water available between the lake shoreline at Second Bay and Teal Bay Hut.

9 Teal Bay to South Coast Track

10 hr, 16 km



This difficult track leaves Teal Bay Hut and follows the shore of Lake Hauroko to a junction with the route to Lake Poteriteri. From here, the track climbs steadily through mature beach forest before opening out onto subalpine tops marked with orange poles. This section can be very wet underfoot, overgrown and difficult to follow. A large orange marker shows the entrance back into the forest, where the track descends towards the coast and joins with an old logging road. This road passes through privately owned Māori land, with public access available courtesy of the owners. After approximately 5 km, the track reaches the South Coast Track at Track Burn.



Suspension bridge on the South Coast Track. Photo: Lyn Trewella

10 Teal Bay to Lake Poteriteri Hut

10 hr, 14.5 km



This challenging route continues along the shore of the lake to a three-wire swing bridge across Wairaurahiri River. It then continues downstream on the true right of the river before reaching the Rata Burn three-wire swing bridge. The next 11 km of this route to Lake Poteriteri Hut is unbridged and care should be taken as the streams can rise rapidly after rain. From here, trampers may choose to travel unmarked terrain to Slaughterburn and Waitutu Huts.

11 Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track



The Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track is the latest addition to the Great Walks network. This 3-day, 60 km loop walk takes trampers along the south coast of Fiordland, up to the subalpine zone of the Hump Ridge and over historic viaducts surrounded by native forest. The track was built by the community, and both the track and lodges are operated/managed by the Tuatapere Hump Track Charitable Trust.

The Trust offers walkers a variety of ways to enjoy the track. The two private lodges must be booked in advance and are located in superb locations, each offering a unique stopping point along the walk. These lodges are fully equipped and upgrade options are available for independent trampers.

For more information on the Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track and to book, visit humpridgetrack.co.nz.



Track grades

- Easy short walk:** Well-formed track; easy walking for up to an hour.
- Intermediate tramping track:** Generally well-formed track for day or multi-day tramping/hiking trips.
- Advanced tramping track:** Mostly unformed track with steep, rough or muddy sections; has directional markers, poles or rock cairns.
- Expert route:** Unformed route suitable only for people with high-level backcountry skills and experience.

This map is not to be used for navigation. The NZTopo50 series maps covering the area are CF06 Lake Poteriteri, CF07 Mary Island, CG06 Long Point and CG07 Sand Hill Point. These are available for purchase at DOC offices and most tramping equipment suppliers.