

Safety

Plan carefully for your trip. Make sure your group has a capable and experienced leader who knows bushcraft and survival skills.

Take adequate food and clothing on your trip and allow for weather changes and possible delays.

Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return. Sign an intention form at the Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre and use the hut books.

Take care with river crossings, especially after rain. If in doubt, sit it out.

Know the symptoms of exposure. React quickly by finding shelter and providing warmth.

Keep to the tracks. If you become lost - stop, find shelter, stay calm and wait for searchers to find you. Don't leave the area unless you are absolutely sure where you are heading.

Hut Tickets

Everyone staying in Department of Conservation huts must pay hut fees.

With the exception of the Moturau and Back Valley huts, all huts on these tracks are standard grade, requiring one back country hut ticket per person per night. The Moturau hut on the Kepler Track requires a booking during the summer season, or two back country hut tickets per person per night in the winter. Back Valley hut is basic grade and free of charge.

Hut tickets and Annual Back Country Hut Passes are available from any DOC office.

Hunting and Fishing

A permit for hunting should be applied for in advance of your visit.

There is good trout fishing in Lake Manapouri and its tributary streams and Lake Rakatu. Anglers need a current fishing licence.



Adventure Kayak & Cruise

Row boat hire for crossing the Waiau River to the Manapouri tracks. Double and single sea kayaks for rental on Lake Manapouri. Guided kayak and cruise day and overnight tours to Doubtful Sound. All safety and paddling equipment supplied. **Adventure Kayak & Cruise, Waiau St., Manapouri.**
Ph (03) 249 6626, Fax (03) 249 6923
Web: www.fiordlandadventure.co.nz

Adventure Manapouri Manapouri & Circle Track Transport

Water Taxi - departs 11am & 3pm daily
from wharf at Pearl Harbour

Row Boat Hire - Available from the
Manapouri Store

also available Lake Cruises, Guided Walks
and Trout Fishing

Contact: Mike Ph. 249 8070 Fax 249 8470
www.adventuremanapouri.co.nz

For further information contact:

Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre
Department of Conservation
P.O. Box 29
Lake Front Drive, Te Anau.
Phone (03) 249 7924 Fax (03) 249 7613
Email: fiordlandvc@doc.govt.nz

Published by:

Department of Conservation
PO Box 743, Invercargill.
October 2004.
Crown Copyright.

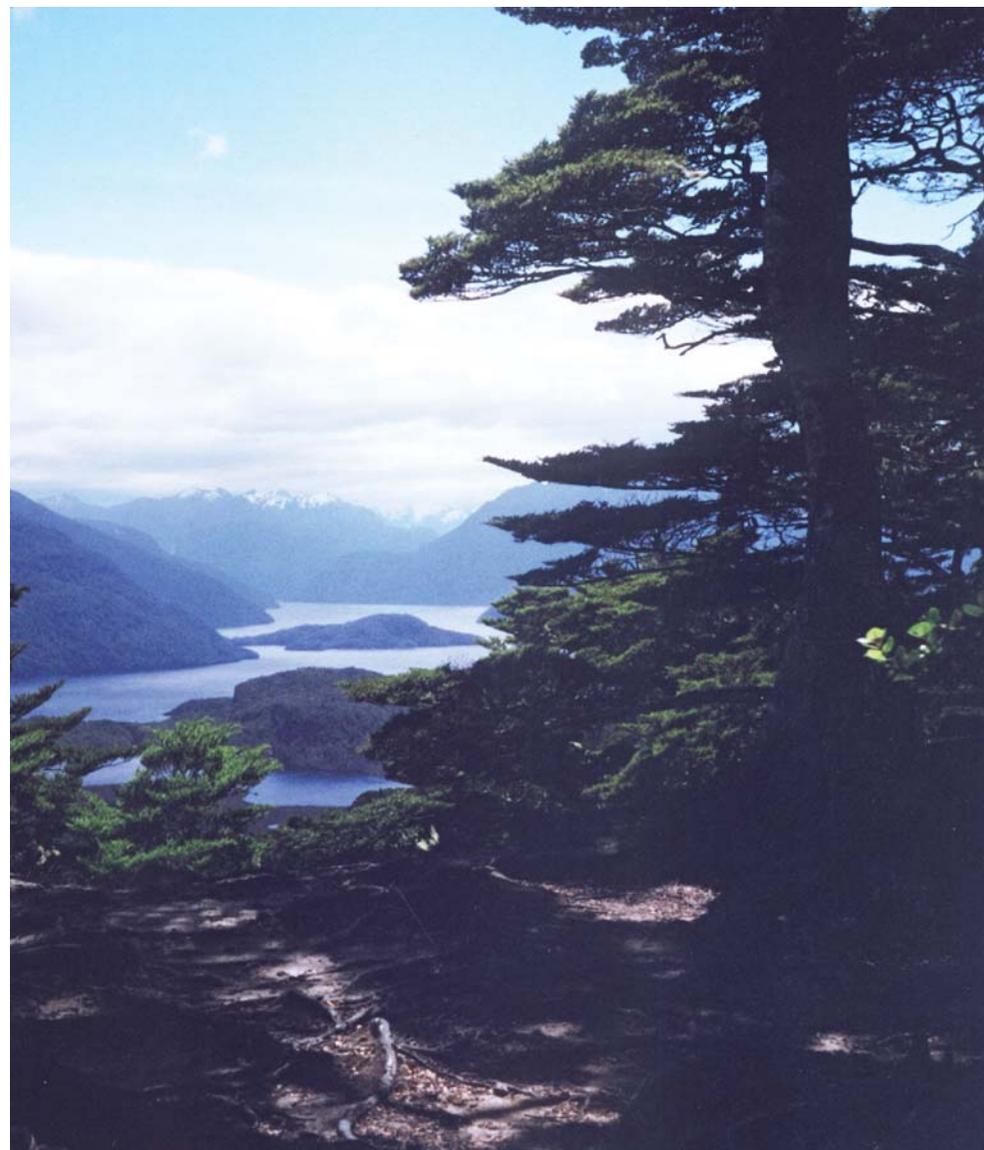


Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Manapouri Tracks

Fiordland National Park

Lake Manapouri



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

**Te Wāhipounamu -
South West New Zealand
World Heritage Area**



South West New Zealand is one of the great wilderness areas of the Southern Hemisphere.

Known to Māori as Te Wāhipounamu (the place of greenstone), the South West New Zealand World Heritage Area incorporates Aoraki/Mt. Cook, Westland /Tai Poutini, Fiordland and Mount Aspiring National Parks, covering 2.6 million hectares.

World Heritage is a global concept that identifies natural and cultural sites of world significance, places so special that protecting them is of concern for all people. Some of the best examples of animals and plants, once found on the ancient supercontinent Gondwana, live in the World Heritage Area.

Introduction

Manapouri is the fifth largest and second deepest lake in New Zealand. It is also one of the most beautiful. It was originally called Roto-Ua (the rainy lake) and Moturau (many islands) by early Maori inhabitants of the region. Manapouri can be translated as “lake of the sorrowing heart”, though the name is of recent origin and is also applied to one of the Mavora Lakes, which are outside of Fiordland National Park.

Several tracks start on the eastern shores of Lake Manapouri. These are suited to day trips and easy two or three day tramps. Tracks in the Garnock Burn catchment, to the south of the lake, can be walked as a loop and have several side trips. All are at low altitude.

There are also several more demanding routes suitable for experienced parties. Refer to *Moirs Guide South* for more information. Topographical maps C43 - Manapouri and C44 - Hunter Mountains cover the area.

The Lower Waiiau River does not have a bridge crossing. Access to the track on the opposite side is by hired dinghy across the river, or by boat across the lake.

Several other short walks exist with access from Lake Manapouri. These include Stockyard Cove, Shallow Bay and The Monument.

History

The eastern end of Lake Manapouri was a favoured food gathering area for Maori people. Kiwi, kakapo, weka, pigeons, teal, paradise shelduck, shags, gulls and eels were plentiful, while cabbage trees grew along the lake edge.

Evidence of Maori occupation has been found at most inlets, beaches and islands. At the head of Circle Cove and on one of the Holmwood Islands, eel trapping channels were dug, which are still obvious today.

Many of the place names of the area were given by James McKerrow, a surveyor who in 1862 spent eight days in a flat-bottomed boat exploring the lake.

The Garnock Burn area was explored by the Murrell family who settled in Manapouri in 1891.

The first red deer were liberated at the base of the Monument in 1901 and from there they have spread across Fiordland. Murrell's Guest House played host to early hunters, including many dignitaries.

The track system today dates back to the routes used by local people hunting the area. As early as 1930 log cabin type huts had been built at Hope Arm, the Snow White Clearings and Back Valley.

The natural beauty of Lake Manapouri was threatened in the 1960s by plans to significantly raise the lake level, to generate hydro-electric power at the West Arm station. However, after a campaign by environmentalists and a 265,000 person petition, the lake was granted statutory protection by the Government. The lake is now controlled within natural levels.

Natural History

During the last Ice Age about 20,000 years ago, glaciers originating in central Fiordland spread out to the east across the present sites of Lakes Te Anau and Manapouri, dumping great quantities of rock and gravel in long ridges. When the ice melted, lakes formed behind the ridges. Most of the islands of the lake were created as the glacier wore a long, smooth ramp on the upstream side and plucked rock away on the downstream side, to leave steep sided cliffs.

The Monument is a pinnacle of very hard rock which resisted weathering by the glaciers. On Mt. Titiroa (1710 m), to the south of Lake Manapouri, the whitish peak often looks like snow but it is weathered granite, which has been exposed to the elements for centuries.

The varied terrain around Manapouri creates habitat for a wide range of vegetation types. Pure stands of kahikatea grow on pockets of swampy ground. Other podocarps - rimu, miro and matai - are common, in conjunction with kamahi and beech in lowland areas.

Several areas of regenerating shrubland are dominated by mahoe, tree fuchsia, kaikomako, kowhai and wineberry. At higher altitudes mountain beech becomes the dominant tree.

The bird life of the Manapouri area is rich and varied. Bellbirds, tui, grey warblers, fantails, tomtits and wood pigeons are very common. Trampers may also see fernbirds, riflemen, brown creepers, parakeets, yellowheads and falcons.

Paradise shelduck, grey duck, scaup and the rare blue duck are found in the river and lake edge environments. Introduced mallard duck and Canada geese visit during the winter. Introduced red deer, wild pigs, possums, hares, stoats and small rodents are found throughout the area.

Back Valley hut



Garnock Burn Tracks

Pearl Harbour return via the Circle Track, 3 hr - 3 hr 30 min

The track follows the western river bank upstream, past the lake outlet, then along the lake shoreline through open bush to the forks (one hour). A signpost here indicates the right branch leading to Hope Arm and the left leading up the ridge on the Circle Track.

The left branch of the track rises steadily for about one and a quarter hours to reach the first lookout point. Another five minutes uphill is the main lookout. From here there are excellent views of Hope Arm, The Monument, Back Valley, Mt. Titiroa and Garnock Burn.

Backtrack for two minutes and take the track to the right. It descends steeply on an uneven surface with tree roots and mud in places and provides excellent views of Manapouri village and Te Anau.

Robins, tomtits, tui and bellbirds are abundant in the mixed beech and podocarp forest. The track back to the Waiau River and the starting point takes about fifteen minutes of flat walking.

Pearl Harbour to Hope Arm Hut, 2 - 3 hr

The track to Hope Arm starts from the right branch of the fork described above. After a short distance it reaches a moraine spur which descends for 15 minutes until the track branches again, the left branch leads to Back Valley (one hour) and the right branch to Hope Arm (one and a half hours).

The track to Hope Arm proceeds through a narrow neck of forest, bordered on each side by swamp land.

The track crosses a short section of swamp, across board walk, then proceeds through mixed podocarp and beech forest to the Garnock Burn. After crossing over a three wire bridge, continue on to Hope Arm beach. The hut is sited at the far end of the beach.

Hope Arm Hut - Snow White Track, 3 hr - 3 hr 30 min (one way)

This track can be walked as a side trip from Hope Arm, or can be an overnight trip if a tent is taken for camping in the clearings alongside the Garnock Burn.

Behind the Hope Arm hut the track climbs steadily alongside a small stream to a peat swamp. From here the track descends along the right side of the swamp for 30 minutes to the open tussock clearings of the upper Garnock Burn valley. The area provides good hunting and pleasant tramping. The head of the valley is reached by following the river through open beech forest and clearings. Mt. Titiroa can be reached from the Snow White clearings (refer *Moirs Guide South*).

Hope Arm Hut to Back Valley Hut, 1 hr - 1 hr 30 min

Behind the hut the track follows an easy grade to the Garnock Burn, spanned by a three wire bridge. It is five minutes from the burn to the hut.

Back Valley Hut to Lake Rakatu, 1 hr

The track leaves behind the Back Valley hut and generally follows Stinking Creek, meandering through tall manuka stands, open clearings, podocarp and beech forest to the lake.

The lake has abundant waterfowl and good fishing.

Back Valley Hut to Pearl Harbour, 2 hr - 2 hr 30 min

From the hut clearing, the track passes through low shrubland with small clearings. After ten minutes you will pass through a tall stand of ribbonwood forest and then beech and podocarp forest until reaching the Hope Arm - Pearl Harbour track. Follow this track back to Pearl Harbour. It is worth the extra effort to take the Circle Track which provides excellent views of the area. The Circle Track route will add an extra two and a half to three hours to the journey.

Other Tracks

The Monument, 1 hr 30 min - 2 hr (return)

Boat access is required to the start of the track, just north of the Hope Arm hut. From here it is a short, but challenging 290 metre climb to the Monument summit.

The track climbs steeply from the beach, through forest onto the leading ridge until reaching the bushline. Extreme caution is advised as there are exposed sections of the track with crumbling rock and narrow ledges.

An alternative unmarked, overland route is available from the Hope Arm hut. Please refer to *Moirs Guide South* for details.

Stockyard Cove, 45 min - 1 hr (return)

Travel by boat to Stockyard Cove at the entrance to Hope Arm, landing on the beach at the head of the cove.

Two tracks lead from this point; one heading west to West Beach, with rewarding views of Lake Manapouri. The other track follows through a prime example of ancient podocarp forest, climbing briefly until reaching the high bluff falls and then descending through mountain beech forest to the lake edge. It is advisable to return to Stockyard Cove following the same track as walking around the foreshore is not recommended.

Frasers Beach

This is a 45 minute (one way) pleasant stroll along the river bank and lake shore from Pearl Harbour. There are exit points in several places along Frasers Beach onto the main road. The track is signposted from the main road and Pearl Harbour.

Shallow Bay and Moturau Huts

For information about these huts and tracks please refer to the Te Anau Walks brochure, available at the Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre and other DOC visitor centres.

PLEASE NOTE: Tracks and routes are not as well maintained as the Great Walks Tracks. At times there may be tree falls and mud. Direction on the TRACK may be found by orange markers on trees. Trampers should carry cookers. There are fireplaces in the huts.



Protect plants and animals

Remove rubbish

Use toilets provided

Keep streams and lakes clean

Do not feed the kea

Keep to the track

Consider others

Respect our cultural heritage

Enjoy your visit

Toitu te whenua
(Leave the land undisturbed)

**Emergency Locator
Beacon Hire**
Mobil Te Anau
Tel. (03) 249 7247

Mountain Radio Hire
Te Anau - Tel (03) 249 8363
Invercargill - Tel (03) 216 3751