

Matatiaho Conservation Area

Matatiaho Conservation Area overlooks Lakes Wanaka and Hawea, with great views of the Southern Alps/Kā Tiritiri o te Moana. Recreation activity in the conservation area includes mountain biking, hunting, photography and walking, though there are no formed tracks.

Public foot or mountain-bike access, using an easement over private land, is from the carpark on State Highway 6, 30 minutes drive from Wanaka. From the carpark, the track gives access to 1385-metre Isthmus Peak and crosses the undulating skyline ridge to Matatiaho Conservation Area.

Access from Stewart Creek



From the carpark, follow the poled route on the true right of Stewart Creek, until it joins a 4WD track. From here a steep, rocky climb winds upwards to a skyline ridge. On many sections bikers will have to dismount. On reaching the ridge, a sign points to the Isthmus Peak track on the right, and on the left, the ridge track to the conservation area. The track along the tops traverses a number of unnamed peaks.

There is no public access beyond the conservation area. Please return to the carpark by the same route. The track is closed for fawning, 20 Nov – 20 Dec. Times and distances:

- Carpark to Isthmus Peak: 3-4 hrs, 8km
- Carpark to Conservation Area: 5-7 hrs 15km

Access from Craig Burn



A pleasant picnic spot is located on a walking track from the carpark to the lower Craig Burn. There is no formed track above this point on the conservation area, access is via scrubby, steep and rocky terrain.

Bottom Bay



Bottom Bay is a pleasant picnic and swimming spot on Lake Hawea foreshore, to enjoy the spectacular alpine scenery of Lake Hawea. It is reached from a carpark off State Highway 6. Track closed for lambing, 1 Oct – 15 Nov.

Track Classification



Walking track: well formed easy walks from a few minutes to a day



Tramping track: mostly unformed but has track directional markers, poles or cairns.

General

Access to Matatiaho Conservation Area was negotiated in 2008, and crosses Glen Dene, a working high country farm. Please respect this by staying on the marked track, leaving gates as you find them and using stiles where provided.

Safari hunting operates on this station; please give way to game animals, especially during the roar – March to May.

In summer, very hot and dry conditions are common. Water is limited, carry a sufficient supply and have adequate sun protection. Equally, alpine conditions can occur at any time of year. Be prepared and have warm, windproof clothing and appropriate footwear.

Camping is permitted in the Matatiaho Conservation Area, but open fires are not allowed.

It is recommended that you carry topographical maps NZTopo50 CA12 Minaret Bay and CA13 Lake Hawea.

Hunting

Firearms and dogs are not permitted on the Stewart Creek or top ridge tracks. Hunters may access the Matatiaho Conservation Area at Craig Burn, but must have a special hunting permit from the Wanaka DOC office. Under no circumstances can firearms be discharged before entering permitted hunting areas. Hunting dogs are allowed in the conservation area, via the Craig Burn access route, provided hunters have a DOC permit.

Further Information

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DOC HOTline
0800 362 468

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conservation emergencies
For fire and search and rescue call 111



New Zealand Government



Matatiaho Conservation Area



Tramping, hunting and mountain-biking in an alpine landscape

GLEN DENE - LAKE HAWEA



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

