

Huts, Campsites and Fees

For information about current hut and campsite prices, visit the DOC website – www.doc.govt.nz

FACILITY	BUNKS	FEES
Monowai Hut	12	Standard
Rodger Inlet Hut	6	Standard
Green Lake Hut	12	Standard
Borland Bivvy	2	Basic
North Borland Hut	2	Basic
Eel Creek Hut	2	Basic
Clark Hut	4	Basic
Historic Clark Hut	4	Basic
Lake Manapouri South Arm campsite		Basic
Lake Monowai campsite		Basic

Standard hut – wood fire provided, water supply, pit toilets, no cooking facilities. Charges apply.

Basic hut/bivvy – basic shelter with very limited facilities. Water supply and pit toilets. No Charge.

Basic campsite – very limited facilities so you need to be fully self-sufficient. Basic toilets and water supply. No charge.

The track to Island Lake passes through low lying areas of tussocks and beech forest (Photo – M Oster)

Safety Information

Your safety is your responsibility. 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.

Trampers are advised to consult the DOC publication *Planning a trip in the backcountry?* and the Mountain Safety Council's *Going Bush?* and *Outdoor Safety Code* before heading into this area.

The Topo50 series map covering this area is CE07, Lake Monowai, available for purchase at a DOC office or at most tramping retail stores.

DOC HOTline
0800 362 468

**Report any safety hazards
or conservation emergencies**
For Fire and Search and Rescue Call 111

Further Information

For further information contact the following Department of Conservation offices:

Murihiku Area Office

CUE on Don, 33 Don Street, Invercargill

Tel: (03) 211 2400 Email: Invercargill@doc.govt.nz

Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre

Lake Front Drive, Te Anau,

Tel: (03) 249 7924 Email: fiordlandvc@doc.govt.nz

Website: www.doc.govt.nz

Cover – Green Lake Hut (Photo – S Murray)

Published by Department of Conservation
Southland Conservancy, PO Box 743
Invercargill, New Zealand
January 2012

New Zealand Government

Lake Monowai, Borland and the Grebe Valley



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Lake Monowai, Borland and the Grebe Valley

Explore the dramatic beauty and history of Lake Monowai and the Borland area by boat, bike, 4WD or foot.

Beautiful Lake Monowai is known for its fishing opportunities, with both brown and rainbow trout prevalent in the lake.

The Borland Road provides access to trampers, hunters, mountain bikers and other recreational users of Fiordland National Park, passing through beech forest to the Borland Saddle and further on to the Grebe Valley and Lake Manapouri. Lookout points along the road provide stunning views of the area.

Natural Environment

Lake Monowai, the Borland Road and surrounding forests, are part of Fiordland National Park and Te Wāhipounamu – *South West New Zealand* – World Heritage area. This special part of Southland is known for its remote mountainous beauty and hydroelectric history. With more than 45 bird species in the wider Borland area you can expect to encounter some inquisitive creatures while out exploring. Please note that pets are not permitted in Fiordland National Park.

Cultural History and Historic Heritage

This area was very important to the indigenous Māori, who frequented it on food-gathering expeditions, hunting moa and kakapo and fishing for eels.

Lake Monowai is popular for fishing, kayaking and boating. It also powers one of the South Islands oldest hydroelectric stations which opened in 1925.

In 1963 a workers camp was erected and construction of a road and electricity line through the remote mountains to the West Arm Power Station began. Today the workers' camp has been extensively redeveloped into the Borland Lodge education and accommodation complex, and the Borland Road is still used to maintain the power line.

Lake Monowai from Lake Monowai Peninsula Lookout (Photo – S Murray)

Access

Turn off the Southern Scenic Route between Clifden and Manapouri onto Lake Monowai Road. After 10km the road splits, with the left road going to Lake Monowai and the right to Borland Lodge and Borland Road.

Borland Lodge

Borland Lodge is operated by the Borland Lodge Adventure and Education Trust. The lodge provides self-catering accommodation for individuals, families and groups. To book, contact the lodge manager, telephone 03 225 5464 or visit www.borlandlodge.co.nz

Activities

Angling

Fly or spin angling is permitted all year round on Lakes Monowai and Manapouri, however there is a 1 November – 31 May season for all their tributary rivers.

Anglers must have a current fishing licence which can be obtained from any approved sports or fishing retailer or a Fish and Game New Zealand office.

Astronomy

The clear night skies, which are well away from city lights, can enable some spectacular viewing for astronomers, especially during the winter period.



BETWEEN WATERWAYS

CHECK, CLEAN, DRY

Stop the spread of didymo and other freshwater pests. Remember to CHECK, CLEAN, DRY all items before entering, and when moving between, waterways.

Boating

Motorised boat and kayaking opportunities are available on Lake Monowai. Take care, as there are submerged tree stumps around the shoreline.

Driving the Borland Road

The mountainous, unsealed Borland Road a stunning 90 kilometre return trip from Borland Lodge to the South Arm of Lake Manapouri .

The Borland Road access gate just past Borland Lodge is locked when road conditions are unsafe. Please contact the Department of Conservation in Invercargill for current road conditions before using the road – telephone 03 211 2400. The Borland Road is recommended for four wheel drive vehicles only and is NOT suitable for campervans, caravans or trailers. Vehicles are not allowed off the road. There is no fuel station, cell phone coverage or access to emergency services along the road.

From the gate, the road climbs to the Borland Saddle where there is a parking area and spectacular mountain views. From the saddle the road winds down to the Grebe Valley lookout, after which it begins a very steep and narrow descent to the Grebe Valley floor and the south arm of Lake Manapouri.

Hunting

Red deer are found in low to moderate numbers throughout Fiordland National Park. A permit to hunt in the park can be obtained online at www.doc.govt.nz. Dogs are not allowed in the park and hunting is not permitted within 500 metres of the Borland Road.

Kayaking

A challenging white water run for experienced kayakers can be found in the final 3 – 4 kms of the Grebe River, which flows into Lake Manapouri. It is graded III + and can be accessed from the Grebe River Bridge on the Borland Road.

Photography

This area is a favourite for photographers, with its clear skies, spectacular landscapes and views in all seasons.



Short Walks

1 Borland Nature Walk

40 minutes return

Explore a small corner of Fiordland National Park adjacent to Borland Lodge on this loop track. A self guiding brochure, available at the start of the track, gives an insight into forest life.

2 Burnt Ridge Track

1.5 hrs, 3.8km

Starting from the Borland Lodge grounds, this is an easy walk through forest and scrub to the Lake Monowai car park.

3 Lake Monowai Peninsula Lookout

30 minutes return

From the road end at Lake Monowai, this pleasant walk makes its way through mature beech forest to a rest area overlooking the lower reaches of the lake.

4 South Borland Track to Borland Road Gate 3 hours

This track begins from the Borland Road, approximately six km from the access gate. It drops down from the road, past impressive limestone cliffs and through beech forest, before joining the Borland Nature Walk and the Borland Road access gate.

5 Mt. Burns Tarns

45 min return, 1 km

This track leads from the Borland Saddle car park, through the bush to the open tops of Mt Burns. The array of tarns and unique views are well worth the steep climb. Make sure you take suitable clothing as it can be very cold and wet.

TRACK CLASSIFICATIONS



Walking track - gentle walk from a few minutes to a day, suitable for people with low to moderate fitness and abilities.



Tramping track - challenging day or multi-day tramping. Backcountry skills and experience required.



Route - challenging day or multi-day tramping. Navigation, map reading skills and high level of backcountry experience required.

Tramping Tracks

All tracks in this region can be wet, with mud and snow. Some can be walked in reverse direction – boat transport may be required. Times and distances are a guide only.

6 Borland Road to Monowai Hut

Borland Road to Clark Hut – 5 hrs 10km

From the Borland Road, the track passes Borland Bivvy and low lying areas of tussock, past two small lakes and low beech covered saddles, to the junction with the track to Green Lake. Continuing past Island Lake, the track winds through tussock clearings and bush to Clark Hut. From here the historic Clark Hut can be reached with a 30 minute walk through the swampy clearing.

Clark Hut to Monowai Hut – 4 hrs, 6.5km.

The track enters the bush edge and crosses the Grebe River, climbing to a saddle, before descending gently to the Monowai Hut on the northern shore of Lake Monowai. Boat transport across the lake is required to return to the Lake Monowai car park.

7 Borland Road to Lake Monowai Car Park (via Green Lake Track)

Borland Road to Green Lake Hut – 3 hrs, 6.8km

From the Borland Road, the track passes Borland Bivvy and low lying areas of tussock and small lakes and low beech covered saddles. Turning off at the junction to Green Lake, the track climbs a steep bush clad hill, before descending to the shores of Green Lake. The Green Lake Hut is at the far end of the tussock covered shoreline.

Green Lake Hut to Lake Monowai Car Park – 6hr, 11km

The track follows the lake shore before climbing to a saddle near Mt Cuthbert, descending into the bush again to meet the track from Lake Monowai car park to Rodger Inlet.

8 Lake Monowai Car Park to Rodger Inlet Hut 6 hr, 10km

The track starts just before the Lake Monowai Road end, climbing above the lake and descending to Walker River. Further on, the track crosses an old river delta, before reaching the shores of Rodger Inlet. The Rodger Inlet Hut is 20 minutes further on.

9 Rodger Inlet Bushline Route – 4 - 5 hr, 3.5 km

From the Rodger Inlet Hut, a steep climb to the open tops is rewarded with great views of Lake Monowai and the mountains of southern Fiordland.

10 Borland Lodge to North Borland Hut

6 - 8 hr, 12km.

From Borland Nature Walk, cross the Borland Burn suspension bridge and follow the North Borland Track. The track follows the Borland Burn terrace for 45 minutes to a large limestone Rock Bivy, which provides shelter and has a pit toilet.

Approximately 15 minutes from the Rock Bivy, cross the Middle Branch of the Borland Burn River. Extreme caution should be taken as the water levels can rise rapidly with heavy rain.

The track climbs steeply above a gorge to a clearing where Mt. Titiroa may be seen to the north east. Here the track re-enters the bush and continues to a tussock and scrub clearing. The North Borland Hut is located approximately 30 minutes into the clearing.

There is no marked route out of the head of the valley but experienced trampers can cross from the North Borland Burn to the Garnock Burn and further to Manapouri.

11 Eldrig Peak Route

4 - 5 hr, 4km return

Sign posted from Borland Road, follow the main pylon access road to the end, where the track begins. A steep climb for approximately 2 km (1 ½ hours) follows a marked route to the open tussock tops. Snow poles mark the route onto the slopes of Eldrig Peak.



The Grebe Valley (Photo – M Oster)

Mountain Biking

Borland Lodge to Borland Saddle

30 km return

A gentle up hill ride from Borland Lodge leads to the Borland Saddle (altitude 990m). Take in the spectacular mountain and beech forest views, before enjoying the down hill ride back to the lodge. Take care as vehicles also use this road.

Borland Lodge to West Arm (Lake Manapouri)

via Percy Saddle – 140 km return

Follow the length of the Borland Road over the Borland Saddle and down through the Grebe Valley. Turn off over the Grebe River Bridge. The road changes to a marked route over the Percy Saddle, enabling adventurous cyclists to cross to the West Arm Power Station. It is necessary to carry your bike for about an hour over this difficult section.

If you do not wish to return by the same route, transport between the power station and Manapouri township can be pre-arranged on the West Arm – Manapouri service, operated by Real Journeys.



Borland Saddle on the Borland Road (Photo – S Murray)

