

## Introduction

Hokitika is the gateway to an enormous range of recreational opportunities. This publication covers some areas and walks managed by the Department of Conservation from Kumara to Ross, including the popular lakes, Kaniere and Mahināpua, which provide particularly beautiful sites for camping, picnicking, swimming, boating and walking.

With a long history of settlement and development, farming and extractive industries, the remaining natural ecosystems of the central West Coast are confined to a small number of remnant lowland reserves, however large areas of bush still exist in the back country.

Thick vegetation in these areas still offers good habitat to many bird species such as tui, korimako (bellbird) and kereru (wood pigeon), and a few species not so common such as weka and kakariki (native parakeet).

There are many short walks for people who are passing through with only a few hours or a day to spare. A variety of longer tramps are available for the more hardened explorers. Walk times are average times and do not include resting or viewing times.

Dogs and domestic animals are not permitted in scenic reserves which include Lake Kaniere, Lake Mahināpua and the Hokitika Gorge. Dogs on leads may be taken on the tracks at Goldsborough, Mananui Bush and Ross.

Mountain biking is permitted on walkways at Lake Kaniere and Mahināpua. Cyclists are asked to take care and respect other track users.

## Look after yourself

Although the walks described in this brochure are recommended to visitors, the nature of the West Coast means weather and track conditions can change dramatically within a short time. Visitors are advised to call at the Department of Conservation offices or Visitor Information Centres to check on current track conditions. Be prepared for rain at any time of the year. For longer walks, pack a small first aid kit and take some food and drink. Insect repellent is recommended to ward off sandflies.

Leave your intentions with a reliable contact.

## Other things to see and do

Many recreational opportunities are available on the West Coast. The places mentioned in this publication offer camping, swimming, boating, gold fossicking, picnicking and historic interest, as well as short walks.

For visitors who want more than the short walks can offer, there are many great back country huts and tracks suitable for the more experienced trampers and hunters. More detailed information on some of these areas and other tramping tracks is available from the Department of Conservation office in Hokitika.

## Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai

The scenic reserves, and other protected lands in the Central West Coast Region are administered by the Department of Conservation as part of the Department's West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservancy.

The local management and conservation work in this area is done by the Hokitika Area Office. Brochures, maps, hunting permits, hut tickets and general information are available from the Department's Hokitika office.

## Safety

If you have any problems with the walks or facilities described in this brochure please pass it on to the Department of Conservation in Hokitika. If it is a safety issue you may also contact:

**DOC HOTline**  
**0800 362 468**  
Report any safety hazards or  
conservation emergencies  
For fire and search and rescue call 111

## Look after the environment

All native plants, wildlife, natural features and historic sites are strictly protected. Please take your rubbish away and do not light any fires except where facilities are provided at designated camping sites. See the Environmental Care Code printed in this brochure.

## Kumara

### Londonderry Rock Walk



Time: 20 minutes return

Distance: 540m return

A short walking track passes through tailings and old gold workings to view Londonderry Rock - a huge boulder too large for the miners to move or break. Access: Turn off SH73, 1 km east of Kumara onto a metalled road running alongside a water race.

## Goldsborough

Gold fossicking, camping, picnicking, walks, historic interest.

### Access

Turn off SH6, 10 km north of Hokitika onto Stafford Loop Road. Keep an eye out for the camping and picnic area about 6 km along the road. Can also be reached from the turnoff at Dillmanstown on SH73.

### Goldsborough (Shamrock) Track



Time: 4 hours, one way

Distance: 8 km

This track can be walked from either end, but is easier going downhill from the old Callaghans township, finishing at Goldsborough. This walk will suit those with a medium to good level of fitness. From Callaghans, the track follows several steep ridgelines and water races, dropping down to the Shamrock Creek valley where the grade becomes easier for the final 1.5 km. The track passes many historic features, including mining tunnels, dams, sluice faces, tailings, and water-races.

Access: Callaghans Road turnoff is 5.5 km towards Dillmanstown from the Goldsborough camping area. Transport for the return trip should be arranged before departing.

## More information

### www.doc.govt.nz

Department of Conservation  
West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservancy  
Sewell Street, Private Bag 701, Hokitika  
Ph 03 756 9100  
Fax 03 756 9195  
email westcoast@doc.govt.nz

Westland Visitor Information Centre  
The Carnegie Building  
Cnr Hamilton & Tancred Street,  
P O Box 171  
Hokitika  
Ph 03 755 6166  
Fax 03 755 5011

## Track standards



**Short walk** - easy walking for up to an hour



**Walking track** - gentle walking from a few minutes to a day



**Tramping track** - backcountry skills and experience needed



**Mountain Biking** - tracks in this area are suitable for beginner to advanced



ENVIRONMENTAL CARE CODE

Protect plants and animals

Remove rubbish

Bury toilet waste

Keep streams and lakes clean

Take care with fires

Camp carefully

Keep to the track

Consider others

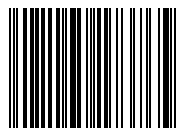
Respect our cultural heritage

Enjoy your visit

Toitu te whenua

(Leave the land undisturbed)

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## Goff's Track



Time: 45 minutes, one way

Distance: 1.5 km

Starting at the Goldsborough camping area, Goff's Track turns off the Goldsborough Track about 15 minutes walk from the start, and it joins the Scandinavian Hill Road after a 30 minute climb. Goff's Track can be linked with German Gully Track to form a 90 minute loop walk.

## German Gully Pack Track



Time: 30 minutes, one way

Distance: 900 m

Starting at the Goldsborough camping area the track climbs out of the valley and emerges on the Scandinavian Hill Road. The walk passes several old gold workings and is often included as part of a loop walk of 90 minutes which includes Goff's Track and part of the Goldsborough Track, returning to the camping area.

## Tunnel Terrace Walk



Time: 20 minutes, loop

Distance: 700 m

This walk starts on the road between Stafford and Goldsborough. Entry and exit points are via miners tail race tunnels and meanders through old gold workings.

## Hokitika Gorge

### Access

25 km east of Hokitika at the end of the Kowhitirangi-Whitcombe Road. The roads are well signposted.

### Hokitika Gorge Walk



Time: 20 minutes return

Distance: 500m return

The walking track leaves the carpark, descending through podocarp/hardwood forest then drops down to a swingbridge. From here there are excellent views of the blue-green waters of the Hokitika River as it makes its way through the rock sided Hokitika Gorge. Turn left at the other end of the swingbridge (straight ahead leads to private farmland). The track continues for another 100m through the bush then opens out to a rocky area beside the river. Here, a rough track meanders between large boulders on the edge of the gorge, so young children should be closely supervised. Good views further up the gorge are obtained from this point.

# Hokitika

Walks in the Hokitika area,  
from Kumara to Ross



WEST COAST *TAI POUTINI*



Hokitika Gorge (Stewart Nimmo)



Department of Conservation  
Te Papa Atawhai

## Lake Kaniere

Picnicking, walks, swimming, boating, camping, mountain biking.

### Access

19 km east of Hokitika either on the Lake Kaniere Road or via Kokatahi Road.

### Kaniere Water Race Walkway



Time: 3.5 - 4 hours, one way  
Distance: 10 km

This walking track, suitable for people of average fitness, goes from The Landing at the northern end of Lake Kaniere to Kennedy Creek Road, just off the Hokitika - Lake Kaniere Road. The walkway follows the twists and turns of the historic water race as it passes along the edge of the scenic reserve. Shorter sections can be walked, the most popular option being the easier stretch between The Landing and Ward Road which is also easy mountain biking. The remaining section is intermediate/advanced mountain biking.

### Canoe Cove Walk



Time: 15 minutes, one way  
Distance: 650m

Canoe Cove is a small inlet on the north eastern shores of Lake Kaniere. From a carpark opposite Milltown Road this path leads through dense stands of rimu forest to a sheltered beach suitable for picnics and swimming.

### Mount Tuhua Track



Time: 7 hours, return  
Distance: 7.6 km return

Starting from Hans Bay this is a steep tramp to the peak of Mount Tuhua (1125m). Boots are essential, and the trip is suitable for fit people only. Take adequate warm and protective clothing, food and drink and do not attempt the track in bad weather. From the peak there is a grand panorama of the Southern Alps, Lake Kaniere, the coastal plains and Hokitika. You will need Topomap J33 Kaniere.

### Dorothy Falls & Dorothy Creek Walk



Time: Falls, 1 minute; walk 10 minutes return  
Distance: walk 500m return

Adjacent to the road on the eastern side of Lake Kaniere a short path leads to the base of Dorothy Falls - a lovely spot for a cold dip! From the carpark another short five minute path takes you to the lake edge.

### Lake Kaniere Walkway



Time: 4 hours, one way  
Distance: 10 km

The walkway is a four hour tramp along the western shores of the lake through lush lakeside forest, passing many picturesque bays and numerous forest streams. The track is accessed from a carpark at the southern end of the lake, or from the Sunny Bight picnic area at the northern end, and can be walked in either direction. It is suitable for people of average fitness, and strong walking shoes are required. Intermediate/advanced mountain biking.

### Kahikatea Forest Walk



Time: 10 minutes, loop walk  
Distance: 600m

An easy loop path at Sunny Bight picnic area through a fine stand of Kahikatea trees. Along the way you will notice small panels that identify tree and shrub species.

## Mananui

### Mananui Tramline

### Mahinapua Walkway



Time: 2 hours one way  
Distance: 6 km

The walkway features a number of historical relics as it follows an old logging tramway. It crosses a diverse range of landscapes including boardwalked wetland, regenerating forest and mature native forest. This track is suitable for people of low to average fitness and comfortable, strong footwear is recommended. Easy mountain biking.

Access: The walkway goes from a signposted carpark 8 km south of Hokitika on SH6, through to an eastern carpark on the Woodstock-Rimu Road and can be walked from either end.

### Picnic Point



Time: 1 hour return  
Distance: 2.5 km return

Close to the eastern end of the Mananui Tramline there is a 30 minute detour that takes you to Picnic Point, a small pebbly beach on the edge of Lake Mahinapua. The return trip to Picnic Point is a popular short bush walk, passing through spectacular mature forest of the Mahinapua Scenic Reserve and an interesting section of the tramline.

Access: The return walk to Picnic Point is from a carpark on the Woodstock-Rimu Road.

### Mananui Bush Walk

Walk, picnicking, beach access.



Time: 30 minutes return  
Distance: 1.2 km return

Leading to the sea, this track passes through a remnant of coastal forest, rare for this stretch of coastline. The vegetation sequence changes from mature mixed podocarp forest to an area of dense, tortured totara just before reaching the wild open beach.

Access: Signposted 9 km south of Hokitika on SH6 and approximately 1 km north of the Lake Mahinapua Hotel.

## Lake Mahinapua

Picnicking, walks, swimming, boating, camping.

### Access

10 km south of Hokitika on SH6, turn onto the Lake Mahinapua access road.

### Jum Michel Walk



Time: 15 minutes, one way  
Distance: 1 km

This easy flat path can be accessed from the camping and recreation area, passing through lush native bush, emerging at the start of the access road, opposite the Mahinapua Hotel. Along the way you will notice small panels that identify tree and shrub species.

### Bellbird Walk



Time: 10 minutes, loop walk  
Distance: 450m

This path starts at the southern end of the camping area and circles an old gold dredge pond. It passes through lush native bush, abundant with wildlife.

### Swimmers Beach Walk



Time: 15 minutes, one way  
Distance: 900m

Leading to a secluded beach, this track starts north of the main lake carpark, camping and picnic area, taking you through native bush down to the lake shore.



Lake Mahinapua (DOC photo)

## Ross Historic Goldfields

Gold fossicking, picnicking, walks, historic interest.

### Access

Ross township is 30 km south of Hokitika on SH6. All the walks listed below are accessed from the Ross Goldfields Information & Heritage Centre at the end of Aylmer Street, where you can check for up to date track conditions.

### Ross Water Race Walkway



Time: 1 hour loop walk  
Distance: 1.6 km

Starting from the information centre carpark, the track initially follows Mt Greenland Road for about 15 minutes, before reaching the signposted forest track on the right side of the road. The track climbs to an old water race, which it follows through regenerating native forest, passing numerous old gold workings including tunnels, several dam sites and a replica miner's hut. After passing through the original Ross Cemetery, the walkway exits at the top of St James Street, with a short walk back to the carpark. This is a walk that people of a medium to low level of fitness would enjoy.

### Ross Historic Cemetery



Time: 20 minutes return  
Distance: 600m return

This short walk (part of the Ross Water Race Walkway) starts from the top end of St James Street zig-zagging steeply uphill for a few minutes before entering the Cemetery. Here, you will find many interesting headstones, indicating the harshness of life in the early mining days.

### Mount Greenland



Time: 7 hours return  
Distance: 18 km return

This walk follows a rough unmaintained road to the top of Mount Greenland. The road, which mainly follows an old miner's pack track, passes through tall rimu forest and climbs steadily. Several changes in vegetation type can be seen as altitude is gained. The top of Mount Greenland (905 metres) has a cover of sub-alpine vegetation and tussock. This walk is best undertaken on a fine clear day to make the most of the amazing 360 degree views. You should carry warm clothing, a raincoat, and a windproof jacket, and take plenty of food and water for the journey. Strong shoes or tramping boots are recommended. This walk will suit those with a medium to good level of fitness.

NB: The road continues steeply downhill to the site of the old mining village at the back of Mt Greenland. This will add several hours to the journey and is therefore not recommended as a day walk.

