The track to Island Lake passes through low lying areas of tussocks and self-sufficient. Basic toilets and water supply. No charge. Basic campsite – very limited facilities so you need to be fully no cooking facilities. Charges apply.


Lake Monowai, Borland and the Grebe Valley

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 Top50 series map covering this area is CE07, Lake Monowai, available for purchase at a DOC office or at most Department of Conservation stores.

Further Information

For further information contact the following Department of Conservation offices:

- Mustang Area Office
  - CUE on Don, 33 Don Street, Invercargill
  - Tel: (03) 211 2400  Email: Invercargill@doc.govt.nz
  - Website: www.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

- Southland Conservancy
  - CUE on Don, 33 Don Street, Invercargill
  - Tel: (03) 249 7924  Email: Fiordlandvc@doc.govt.nz
  - Website: www.doc.govt.nz

Further Information

Huts, Campsites and Fees

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

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Huts, Campsites and Fees

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>North Borland Hut</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clark Hut</td>
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<td>Historic Clark Hut</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Manapouri South Arm campsite</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Monowai campsite</td>
<td>Basic</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

Lake Monowai Peninsula Lookout (Photo – S Murray)
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 for food-gathering expeditions, hunting mutton and eel, 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. Initially 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.

Access
Turn off the Southern Scenic Route between Clifden and Manapouri onto Lake Monowai Road. After 5km 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.borlantlodge.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.

Boating
Motorised boat and kayaking opportunities are available on Lake Monowai. Take care, as there are submersed 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 Lodge 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.borlantlodge.co.nz

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 km of the Grebe River, which flows into Lake Monowai. 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.

**Mountain Biking**

- **Borland Lodge to Borland Saddle**  
30 km return  
A gentle up hill ride from Borland Lodge leads to the Borland Saddle (altitude 1000m). 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.

**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.**

- **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.

- **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.

- **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.

- **Rodger Inlet Bushline Route – 4 - 5 hr, 3.5 km**  
From the Rodger Inlet Hut, a steep climb to the open tussock tops is snow poles mark the route onto the open tussock tops. Snow poles mark the route onto the slopes of Eldrig Peak.

**Eldrig Peak Route**  
4 - 5 hr, 4km return  
Sign posted from Borland Road, follow the main pylons 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. Some poles mark the route onto the head of the valley but experienced trampers can cross from the North Borland Burn to the Gampock Burn and further to Manapouri.

**Times and distances are a guide only.**

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**Tracks and Services**

- **Signposted from Borland Road, follow the main pylons 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. Some poles mark the route onto the slopes of Eldrig Peak.**

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**Mountains and Important Features**

- **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 Bivvy, which provides shelter and has a pit toilet.

Approximately 15 minutes from the Rock Bivvy, 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 Gampock Burn and further to Manapouri.

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**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.

**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.

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**Eldrig Peak Route**  
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**Track Classifications**

- Walking tracks - gentle walk from a few minutes to a day, suitable for people with low to moderate fitness and abilities.
- Tramping tracks - challenging day or multi-day tramping. Backcountry skills and experience required.
- Trails - challenging day or multi-day tramping. Navigation, map reading skills and high level of backcountry experience required.
**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 hr, 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**
   - 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.

6. **Borland Road to Monowai Hut**
   - 5 hrs 10km
   - From the Borland Road, the track passes Borland Burny 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.

7. **Borland Road to Lake Monowai Car Park**
   - 3 hours
   - From the Borland Road, the track passes Borland Burny 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.

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

9. **Rodger Inlet Bushline Route**
   - 4 - 5 hr, 35 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.

**Tramping Tracks**

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  - 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.

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- 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.

**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.