

Lake Monowai / Borland Road

Fiordland National Park

Construction of the Borland Road began in 1963 to enable erection and servicing of a transmission line between West Arm Power Station on Lake Manapouri and Tiwai Point aluminium smelter near Invercargill. Today the road also provides access for trampers, hunters, mountain bikers, anglers, kayakers and those wishing to take a backcountry scenic drive. Pets are prohibited in Fiordland National Park.

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.

Safety Watch
0800 999 005
Report any safety hazards

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Picnic and Camping Facilities

Small picnic and camping areas with toilets are located at Lake Monowai and South Arm, Lake Manapouri.

Borland Lodge

Run by the Borland Lodge Trust, Borland Lodge caters mainly for school groups. However, accommodation for casual groups can be arranged by contacting the lodge warden - phone (03) 225 5464.

Routes

Numerous routes traverse the various valleys and ridge tops in the area. Moirs Guidebook (New Zealand Alpine Club) has detailed route information.

Huts and Hut Tickets

Monowai and Green Lake huts provide basic accommodation for which a hut ticket is needed. There is no charge for the other huts in the area or the shelters along the Borland Road. Please leave the huts clean and tidy.

Fishing and Hunting

Lake Monowai, Lake Manapouri and their tributary rivers provide good trout fishing. Anglers need a current fishing licence and should note 1st November opening date for tributary rivers of Monowai and Manapouri.

Red deer are present throughout the area. Hunting permits are issued from Department of Conservation offices in Invercargill and Te Anau. Hunting is not permitted within 200 metres of the Borland Road.

Walking Tracks

The Peninsula Lookout, 30 min return

A pleasant walk from the Lake Monowai picnic area through attractive, mature beech forest to a seat overlooking the lower reaches of the lake.

Borland Nature Walk, 40 min return

A self-guiding brochure available at the start of the track gives an insight into forest life and asks the question "What is the forest for?"

Access

Turn off the Southern Scenic Route between Clifden and Manapouri, just north of the Blackmount School.

The gate just after Borland Lodge marks the beginning of the Borland Road. The road is maintained for construction purposes only and access is permitted as road conditions allow. The Borland Road may be closed at any time and closures can last for periods of up to six weeks. Contact the Borland Lodge Manager for access and road conditions.

Road Conditions

The return distance from Borland Lodge to South Arm (Lake Manapouri) is 90 km. The Borland Road is unsealed, narrow and steep in places, and subject to slips, washouts, snow, ice, high winds and fallen trees. There are no fuel, communication (including cell phone coverage) or emergency services along its length, therefore only those properly equipped should attempt to negotiate the road. It is not suitable for campervans, caravans or trailers. Vehicles are not allowed off the main road. Because of the nature of the area, the road may be closed without notice and people using the road do so at their own risk.

Boating and Kayaking

A boat launching ramp is sited at the road end at Lake Monowai. Care must be taken to avoid submerged stumps around the shore line. Conditions can change very rapidly with the onset of bad weather. Boat users are advised to take the greatest care and to always wear a life jacket. Please carry out all rubbish. There are a number of kayaking opportunities on the lower Grebe River, up to grade 3.

Mountain Biking

The Borland Road provides an excellent opportunity for mountain biking within Fiordland National Park. Mountain bikes are only allowed on the road. A route has been blazed over the Percy Saddle enabling adventurous cyclists to cross to the West Arm power station. It is necessary to carry bikes for about an hour over this difficult section. Bikes can be transported on Fiordland Travel's West Arm - Manapouri service.



- 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)

Tramping Tracks

The Green Lake/Lake Monowai track is a five day circuit. It can be shortened with vehicle access along the Borland Road or boat access to Monowai Hut.

The Rodger Inlet Route - 6 hr

The track starts just before the Lake Monowai road end and climbs above the lake before descending to Walkers Creek. The track then crosses an old river delta, which tends to be very boggy during wet periods, before reaching the shores of Rodger Inlet. Rodger Inlet Huts (6 bunks) are 20 minutes further on.

Rodger Inlet Huts - Bushline Route, 4 - 5 hr return (unmarked route)

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

Lake Monowai Carpark to Green Lake, 6 hr

One hour along the Rodger Inlet Track a signpost indicates the Green Lake Track junction. The track climbs steadily to a saddle near Mount Cuthbert and then sidles down to the lake, following the lakeshore to the Green Lake Hut (4 bunks).

Green Lake to Borland Road, 2 hr 30 min

The track climbs steadily then descends through beech forest to a clearing near Island Lake where the Clarke Hut - Borland Road Track junction is found. Tussock clearings and beech covered saddles are traversed to the Borland Road. The track is marked by poles through tall tussock clearings.

Green Lake to Clarke Bivvy, 4 hr

From the Clarke Hut - Borland Road Track junction the track passes Island Lake and descends through tussock clearings and bush to the Grebe River. Historic Clarke Hut can be seen across the other side of the clearing. To get there, cross the Grebe River and head across the clearing. Otherwise follow the track south in the bush along the edge of the clearing to the Clarke Bivouac (4 bunks).

Clarke Bivvy to Monowai Hut, 4 hr

The track traverses the bush edge and crosses the Grebe River. It then enters the forest to gain a saddle before descending gently to Lake Monowai.

Borland Lodge to North Borland Hut, 6 - 8 hr

Starting adjacent to Borland Lodge on the Borland Nature Walk the track follows the Borland Burn to a point where the South Branch is crossed. This point may also be gained by the South Borland Track which descends steadily from the Borland Road (about 6km up from the lodge). The track then follows above the Borland Burn terrace for 45 minutes to a large limestone bivvy rock. Shortly after the middle branch is crossed the route climbs steeply through totara and celery pine, above a gorge to a clearing where Mt. Titiroa can be seen to the north east.

Note: There is no walkwire crossing over the Middle Branch of the Borland Burn. This could cause delays at times of high rainfall.

The track re-enters the bush and continues to a long tussock clearing. The two bunk North Borland Hut is located on the true right of the clearing. There is no marked route out of the head of the valley but experienced parties can cross from the North Borland Burn into the Garnock Burn and out to Manapouri.

Mt Eldrig Route to Bushline, 4 - 5 hr return

Sign posted off Borland road, follow the main pylon access road, the track starts at the end of this road. A steep climb for approximately 2 km (1 1/2 hours) following a well marked route to the open tussock tops. Snow poles mark the route onto the slopes of Mt Eldrig.

Mt. Burns Tarns, 45 min return

A short track leads from the Borland Saddle car park (the summit of the Borland Road) through the bush to the open tops of Mt. Burns. Numerous tarns and superb views make the area particularly attractive.

For further information contact the following Department of Conservation offices:

Lake Front Drive, Te Anau, Phone (03) 249 7924,
Email: fiordlandvc@doc.govt.nz
Don Street, Invercargill, Phone (03) 214 4589

