

## Recreation opportunities at a glance

The table below identifies tracks suitable for tramping, four wheel driving, mountain biking, horse riding, fishing and hunting (by permit only) with in the Mavora Lakes Park.

Location	Dogs	Tramping	4WD	Horse Riding	Mountain Biking	Hunting	Fishing	Kayaking	Boating
South Mavora Lake	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
North Mavora Lake	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Careys Hut to Boundary Hut	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Careys Hut to Forks Hut	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Boundary Hut to Taipo Hut	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Taipo Hut to Greenstone Hut	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Greenstone Hut to road end	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
South Mavora to Kiwi Burn Hut	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗



## Further information

### For further information contact:

Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre  
 Department of Conservation  
 PO Box 29, Te Anau.  
 Ph (03) 249-7924. Open seven days.  
 Email: [fiordlandvc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:fiordlandvc@doc.govt.nz) [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

Cover – Swingbridge over the Kiwi Burn. Photo: S Anderson  
 Left – North Lake Mavora. Photo: L Huggins

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# Mavora Lakes Park

## Mavora - Greenstone Walkway and Mavora Camping Area



SOUTHLAND



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

## Introduction

Mavora Lakes Park is situated to the east of Fiordland.



This impressive landscape consists of beautiful lakes, open tussock, grasslands and indigenous beech forest, which is recognised as part of the Te Wāhipounamu – South West New Zealand World Heritage Area.

The park is an idyllic area for camping and bursting with recreational opportunities; fishing, water sports, horse riding, mountain biking, tramping or just lazy lake strolls with your dog – a very popular destination in the summer.

## Mavora camping area

A variety of basic, self-registering camping areas are provided at South Mavora Lake and near the south end of North Mavora Lake. During the busy summer months DOC Rangers are present at these sites. Dogs are welcome and there is a paddock for horses.

There are no rubbish bins so you must take your rubbish with you when you leave.

You are able to use portable stoves and **fires are permitted but only in the designated barbecue stands and campfires provided.** We recommend you take your own firewood to save the scarce resources on site, otherwise use dead wood only. **Chainsaws are not permitted.**

## Camping Registration Fees

Fees of \$5 per adult and \$2.50 for children 5 – 16 years old are payable in the receptacles provided. Children under 5 years are free of charge.

Tents and caravans must be removed from the park if unoccupied for longer than five days. Caravans may be stored in the area set aside during December/January.

## CAMPING FACILITIES



Barbecues and campfires are provided



Water taps – water is sourced from nearby streams



Containment toilets – cleaned and checked daily in summer season.



Picnic tables – located around the park

Please remember to display your self registration number tag so the rangers know how long you are staying if you are out when they call.

## Access

From State Highway 94 between Mossburn and Te Anau turn off at either Centre Hill or Burwood Station and follow unsealed roads for 39 km. There is no regular public transport to the Mavora Lakes. Transport connections are available from the end of the Greenstone Track to Glenorchy, or from the Divide on the Milford Road.

## Mountain biking, motor biking and four wheel driving

The track from the camping area to Boundary Hut is suitable for mountain biking, motor biking and 4WD vehicles. The route into Forks Hut is very rough and not recommended for vehicle access, however it is suitable for mountain biking. Please keep to the tracks and formed roads to help reduce environmental damage and show consideration to others at campsites with vehicle noise. Remember: all of the rules of the road apply within the park. All vehicles must be registered and warranted, helmets worn and drivers licensed.

The police will be undertaking random inspections and not hesitate to prosecute offenders.

## Boating

The use of small motorised craft is only permitted on North Mavora Lake – motorised craft are not allowed on South Mavora Lake. Hovercraft and jet skis are not permitted on either lake. The Mararoa River, between the lakes and below South Mavora Lake, provides good canoeing. Sailing, windsurfing, canoeing and rafting can be undertaken on both lakes.

Remember – Navigation Safety Bylaws enforced by Environment Southland state the speed limit as 5 knots within 50 metres of another vessel or person in the water, and 200 metres from the shore or any vessel showing a divers flag. Please abide by these laws that exist for your safety and the safety of others.

**Before launching your boat please check for invasive weeds and didymo. Refer to the didymo section for details.**

## Fishing

Fishing in the lakes is permitted all year round but the season for the Mararoa River is 1 October – 30 April. All anglers must have a current season's fishing licence. Brown and rainbow trout are found in the Maroroa River and both lakes – artificial baits only are permitted. The total bag limit is two fish per.

Didymo is present in the waterways within park. Please “check, clean, dry” any equipment that may have been in contact with didymo affected waters. During the summer the DOC Ranger has instructions and supplies for your use – see information detailed below.

## Didymo

Didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*) is an unwanted invasive freshwater alga. It has infected many rivers and lakes around the South Island of New Zealand. Didymo cells are invisible until large colonies form (thick growths of whitish brown mats). To ensure that didymo is not spread, all equipment and clothing, including wet socks and footwear, must be disinfected and dried **before moving between waterways.**

Check the noticeboards located at the campsite kiosks at both lakes for the latest information on how to **“Check, Clean and Dry”** your gear, or ask the Ranger who will be very happy to assist (summer months only).

For more information visit [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/didymo](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/didymo) or call 0800 80 99 66.

## Horses

Horse riding is allowed within the park. A holding paddock is located at the bottom end of North Lake Mavora and also at Forks Hut. **Horses are not to be tethered in the camping area.**

Trekking routes are not specified but all sensitive habitat areas, especially stream margins and wetlands, should be avoided. The Mararoa River should only be crossed between the lakes or at the 4WD vehicle access point to the Windon Burn.

Horse owners are responsible for providing sufficient processed feed for their animals. Please ensure that feed is free of undesirable plant material, such as oats, to help reduce the spread of weeds.

## Dogs and other pets

Dogs are allowed in the park but must be under control at all times. **All dogs must be tethered on a leash in the camping areas and at hut sites.** Please clean up after your dog in amenity areas. Cats and other domestic animals are not permitted in Mavora Lakes Park.

## Huts and hut tickets

All the huts (except Forks and West Burn Huts) in Mavora Lakes Park are standard huts, requiring one hut ticket per night or an Annual Backcountry Hut Pass. Tickets can be purchased at any DOC office or approved outlet.

**Portable stoves must be carried as there are no cooking facilities in any of the huts.**

Forks and West Burn Hut are basic huts and are free of charge. Note that West Burn Hut is a 1920s musterer's hut, accessible by boat. Foot access is difficult as there is no maintained walking track. There are no toilet facilities at West Burn Hut so please bury your waste away from the hut and water sources.

Hut users are asked to leave the facilities clean and tidy and remove all rubbish. Smoking is not allowed in any of the huts.

Hut	Bunks	Heating	Water	Toilet	Fees
Kiwi Burn	12	✓	Tank, from roof	✓	\$5
West Burn	6	✓	Lake	✗	Free
Careys	6	✓	Tank, from roof*	✓	\$5
Boundary	4	✗	Tank, from roof*	✓	\$5
Forks	4	✓	Stream	✓	Free
Taipo	4	✗	Tank, from roof*	✓	\$5
Greenstone	20	✓	Tank, from roof	✓	\$15

\*Summer only. Due to freezing conditions the water supply is turned off in Careys, Boundary and Taipo Huts from May until October.

## Mavora – Greenstone Walkway



This is 50 km, four day tramping trip, linking the Mavora Lakes camping area with the Greenstone Track. It also forms part of the Te Araroa Walkway. The walkway beyond Boundary Hut passes through Elfin Bay Station (privately owned).

The track is marked by metal poles and sections of it are exposed to mountain weather all year round, so trampers need to be well equipped. Topographical maps NZMS 260 Sheet E41 and E42 are recommended.

### North Mavora Lake to Careys Hut - 10 km, 2 hr

#### RULES OF THE WALKWAY

- Fires are prohibited on the Mavora - Greenstone Walkway, except in Greenstone and Careys Huts.
- Pack out what you pack in. There are **no** facilities for rubbish.
- No vehicles, including mountain and trail bikes, are to be taken past Boundary Hut onto Elfin Bay Station.
- **Dogs and firearms are prohibited beyond Boundary Hut.**

From the Mavora camping area follow the four wheel drive track around the lake edge to the head of North Mavora Lake and Careys Hut (1½ - 2 hrs).

### Careys Hut to Boundary Hut - 6 km, 2 hr

From Careys Hut the walkway climbs above the hut, then branches in two. The left branch is a very rough 4WD track, crossing the confluence of the Mararoa River and the Windon Burn. This branch of the track then continues for three hours to the Forks Hut (4 bunks). The right branch continues on the walkway to Boundary Hut.

### Boundary Hut to Taipo Hut - 12 km, 3 - 4 hr

From the hut cross the swingbridge and follow marker poles on the true right of the Mararoa River. The track sidles up along the toe of the hill and the true right of the valley and continues onto Taipo Hut. Access to the hut situated on the north side of the river is by swingbridge.

### Taipo Hut to Greenstone Hut - 10 km, 4 - 5 hr

The track follows the toe of the

## Kiwi Burn Hut options



The Kiwi Burn Hut is a standard hut, requiring one hut ticket per night or an Annual Backcountry Hut Pass. Tickets can be purchased at any DOC office or approved outlet. For routes beyond the Kiwi Burn Hut refer to topographical maps NZMS 260 Sheets D42 and D43.

### South Lake Mavora to Kiwi Burn Hut – 4 hr

From the South Mavora Lake outlet, cross the swingbridge and follow the track along the true right of the Mararoa River. After 2½ hours the track meets another track originating from the Mavora Road. Continue for 1½ hours to the Kiwi Burn Hut or return to South Mavora Lake the way you came.

### Mavora Road to Kiwi Burn Hut – 3 hr return

From the access point signposted on the Mavora Road (one and a half kilometres south of Hikuraki Station), cross the swingbridge over the Mararoa River. Follow the track for 1½ hours to the Kiwi Burn Hut. This is a good walk for families.

### The Kiwi Burn Loop

The Kiwi Burn Loop starts and finishes at the access point signposted on the Mavora Road. This track is not as well marked as the other Kiwi Burn options and is easier to follow walking anticlockwise. Some stream crossings do not have bridges.



**TRACK CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS**



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



**Tramping track** – backcountry skills and experience required

**DOC HOTline**  
**0800 362 468**

Report any safety hazards or conservation emergencies  
For fire and search and rescue call 111

**Taipo Hut to Greenstone Hut - 10 km, 4 - 5 hr**

The track follows the toe of the hill on the western side of the Pondburn Valley. Watch carefully opposite the middle of the top pond, as the track veers up a terrace into a forest, and continues to the saddle of the Passburn Valley (728m). The track drops steeply (marked by poles) to the stream (crossing on boulders), climbing and sidling around to the Greenstone Hut. The hut is sited in a bush clearing above the confluence of the Greenstone River and Sly Burn, under the rocky pinnacles of Tooth Peak.

**Greenstone Hut to Greenstone Road End - 11 km, 3 - 5 hr**

The Greenstone River is crossed by a swingbridge and the Greenstone Track continues downstream to the road end and car park. Alternatively, follow up the Greenstone Valley to Lake McKellar, Howden Hut and The Divide. Allow an extra day for this section of the Greenstone Track. Refer to the Greenstone and Caples Tracks brochure for hut and track information.

**South Mavora Lake Walking Track**



A 2½ hour walking track starts over the swingbridge near the camping area at North Mavora Lake. It follows the Mararoa River downstream and around the shores of the South Mavora Lake to the swingbridge at its outlet. An unmarked route used by anglers also follows the shores of North Mavora Lake for about an hour.



**NEW ZEALAND 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)

Camping at the Mavora Lakes. Photo: K Brown

