

Glacier Region

Copland Track
Welcome Flat & Douglas Rock
Nōti Ohinetamatea



WEST COAST TAI POUTINI



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Accommodation

Architect Creek Hut, located 50m off the main track approximately 15 minutes before Architect Creek, is a two bunk hut with a small pot belly stove.

Welcome Flat Hut is a large hut with living area downstairs and sleeping area upstairs. The hut sleeps 31 people on a 'first in first served' basis. Beds cannot be reserved. During peak times the hut may be full and it is recommended that a tent is carried. Camping is permitted in an area between 50 and 400m away from the hut. Facilities can be used after paying a camping fee.

Douglas Rock Hut has sleeping platforms with mattresses for 8 people. Both huts have stoves for heating, mattresses and radios for emergency use. Neither have cooking stoves or cooking utensils. Coal is provided at Welcome Flat Hut although it may run out at the end of the winter before being resupplied.

Hut fees: Hut tickets can be purchased at any Department of Conservation Visitor Centre. Hut Wardens are in residence at Welcome Flat Hut over the peak season (November to April).

Payment of hut fees are essential to maintain the hut facilities, so please remember to pay.

Safety

All trampers need to be well equipped and carry a sleeping bag, cooking utensils, portable stove and fuel, sufficient food, basic first aid kit, a waterproof raincoat and warm clothing including gloves and hat. Be prepared for sudden changes in the weather at any time of the year. Sturdy comfortable tramping boots are the best footwear. Be prepared and equipped to spend an extra night if the weather conditions are bad.

Contact the Haast Visitor Centre, Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park Visitor Centre or the South Westland *Weheka* Area Office at Fox Glacier for the latest track conditions and to purchase your hut ticket prior to starting the trip.

Maps for the area include Aoraki/Mt Cook & Westland *Tai Poutini* Parkmap and for detail the 1:50,000 Topomap H36 Aoraki/Mt Cook.

Any comments on the track and huts should be passed on to the DOC office located at Fox Glacier. 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

Further information

Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park Visitor Centre

Department of Conservation
PO Box 14
Franz Josef *Waiau*
Ph 03 752 0796
Fax 03 752 0797
e: westlandpvc@doc.govt.nz

South Westland *Weheka* Area Office

Department of Conservation
PO Box 9
Fox Glacier
Ph 03 751 0807
Fax 03 751 0858

Haast *Awarua* Field Centre

Haast Visitor Centre
PO Box 50
Haast
Ph 03 750 0809
Fax 03 750 0832
e: haastvc@doc.govt.nz

www.doc.govt.nz

Bus Timetable

Intercity

From Franz to Fox

Departs Franz Josef <i>Waiau</i>	8.00 am
Departs Fox Glacier	8.45 am
Arrives Copland Track	9.10 am

To Franz and Fox

Departs Copland Track	2.55 pm
Departs Fox Glacier	3.25 pm
Arrives Franz Josef <i>Waiau</i>	4.10 pm

Please note these times are approximate, ensure you are there early

Te Wāhipounamu -
South West New Zealand
World Heritage Area



- 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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Introduction

This tramp in the Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park and the Te Wāhipounamu *South West New Zealand* World Heritage Area is a popular overnight return trip for visitors to the region. The tramp gives a glimpse of Westland's spectacular forest, river and mountain scenery, while natural hot pools at Welcome Flat are an added attraction. Track times are average times and do not include interest or viewing stops. Dogs and domestic animals are not permitted in National Parks.

Access

The start of the Copland Track known by Māori as Nōti Ohinetamatea, is 26 km south of the Fox Glacier township, just north of the Karangarua River bridge. Turn inland at the "Copland Valley" sign and drive approximately 150m down a gravel road to the Copland Valley car park. Intercity buses pass the road-end of the track each morning and afternoon seven days a week and will drop off and pickup pre-booked passengers. Bookings can be made at Alpine Guides in the Fox Glacier township. There are no camping facilities at the road end.

Walking the track

Carpark to Welcome Flat Hut



17 km (average time 7 hours)

The track starts with a crossing of Rough Creek. If this creek is running high or is discoloured it is unlikely the tramp can be undertaken safely all the way to Welcome Flat Hut. Although there is a flood bridge located 45 minutes upstream from the car park, if Rough Creek cannot be crossed safely then all the other creeks on the track will also be high and it is unlikely you will be able to cross Shiels Creek, the last creek before reaching Welcome Flat.

After crossing Rough Creek, the track continues at the orange marker and follows a well formed path through the forest. The track is marked across open areas and river crossings by orange triangle markers on trees. From the confluence of the Kārangarua River to Architect Creek, the track alternates from rocky riverbed to forest with occasional grassy clearings. There is a bridge over Architect Creek and beyond this the track climbs towards Palaver Creek and Shiels Creek. Beyond Shiels Creek the track continues through fuchsia/ribbonwood forest then emerges into a clearing at Welcome Flat.

In wet conditions

Most of the large creeks up to Welcome Flat have a flood bridge, although some do not. Some of these unbridged creeks can become impassable with heavy or continual rain. There is a landslide area approximately 30 minutes beyond Architect Creek. Due to unstable slopes care is required during and just after heavy rain. If Rough Creek is in flood, then the other creeks will be running high. Using all flood bridges will add an hour or more to your walking time.

The hot pools

One of the features at Welcome Flat are natural hot pools located near the hut to bathe in. These pools are a fragile environment so please do not use soaps or shampoo in them or dig more pools. Remember to keep your head above the water to avoid the risk of amoebic meningitis.

Welcome Flat to Douglas Rock



7 km (average time 3 hours)

This part the track is more difficult as all creeks are unbridged and may be unpassable during or after heavy rain. If tramping beyond Welcome Flat Hut it is recommended that you carry a map. The suspension bridge at Welcome Flat Hut leads across the Copland River onto a series of extensive grassy river flats, with fine views across into the Ruera Valley, and to the Navigator Range beyond. Occasionally the track wanders into low forest but returns to the grass before crossing at Scott Creek. This creek can be very hazardous in wet weather. Beyond Scott Creek the track enters the forest and begins to climb gradually to cross the upper gorge. There are a number of open slips to cross before reaching the bridge at Tekano Creek and Douglas Rock Hut. If continuing over the Copland Pass you will need mountaineering experience, an ice axe, crampons and helmet. (Rockfall hazard is high on some parts of this route).

