Responsible camping

You could get a $200 instant fine by:

- freedom camping overnight where there is a ‘no camping’ sign
- freedom camping overnight where there is a ‘self-contained’ sign and you are not using an approved NZ Standard self-contained vehicle
- depositing waste while freedom camping.

DOC Visitor Centre staff can advise where you can freedom camp safely and responsibly in New Zealand and where local camping restrictions apply. New Zealand's Freedom Camping Act 2011 means visitors who ignore good camping practices and/or camp in the wrong places can receive an instant fine of $200.

For more information on responsible camping, visit www.doc.govt.nz/freedomcamping.

Information correct at the time of printing. Current information is available on the DOC website at doc.govt.nz/campsites. Feedback about this brochure is welcomed, please email recreation@doc.govt.nz.

Cover: The Milky Way above White Horse Hill Campground, Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park (p 34).
Photo: Colm Keating

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This publication is produced using paper sourced from well-managed, renewable and legally logged forests.
Conservation Campsites are places to relax, enjoy and explore the great outdoors. The Department of Conservation (DOC) manages more than 200 campsites throughout New Zealand. Choose from lush forest settings, lakeshores and sandy beaches.

This brochure highlights campsites managed by DOC on conservation land. For more information on individual campsites, check out www.doc.govt.nz/campsites. Enjoy camping with DOC!

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What to expect

Fees will vary at some campsites. For prices at individual campsites, go to www.doc.govt.nz/campsites.

**Serviced campsites** $18* adult; $9 child
Serviced campsites have a wide range of facilities and services: flush toilets, tap water, kitchen/cooking bench, hot showers, rubbish collection and road access for all types of vehicles. Laundry facilities, BBQs, fireplaces, cookers and picnic tables may be provided.

**Scenic campsites** $13* adult; $6.50 child
These campsites are in high use locations and have a more limited range of facilities and services than Serviced campsites: toilets, water supply (tap, stream or lake) and vehicle or boat access. Wood BBQs and fireplaces, cold showers, picnic tables, a cooking shelter and rubbish bins may be provided.

**Standard campsites** $8* adult; $4 child
These campsites have toilets, water supply (tap, stream, or lake) and vehicle or boat access. Wood BBQs and fireplaces, cold showers, picnic tables, a cooking shelter and rubbish bins may be provided.

**Backcountry campsites** $6* adult; $3 child
Backcountry campsites have toilets and a water supply, which may be from a stream. Picnic tables, cooking shelters and fireplaces may be provided.

**Basic campsites** no charge
These have very limited facilities so campers need to be fully self-sufficient. Basic toilets and water may be from a tank, stream or lake.

* Extra charges apply for powered sites: $3 per adult; $1.50 per child.

**Booking and paying fees**
Bookings are required for all Serviced campsites and for some Scenic and Standard campsites in peak season (usually 1 October – 30 April). Most bookings can be made at www.booking.doc.govt.nz or at a DOC Visitor Centre.

Where bookings are not required, pay fees via the self-registration system at the campsite, or at a Visitor Centre. These campsites operate on a first come, first served basis.

Fees are generally charged per person per night, and reflect the level of facilities and services provided. DOC rangers patrol camping areas and will check that fees have been paid.
At the campsite

Campsites and dogs

Dogs are not permitted at Conservation Campsites unless the ‘dogs permitted’ or ‘dogs on a leash’ symbol is present.

With most campsites located in or near protected areas it is important to keep your dog under control. Even the most obedient dog has the potential to kill wildlife.

Dog owners who take their dogs into dog-prohibited campsites or controlled areas without a permit, or breach the conditions of their permit, are liable to prosecution. Controlling your dog also respects other people’s rights to use and enjoy the outdoors.

Find places that can take your dog at www.doc.govt.nz/camping.

Take your rubbish with you

DOC operates a Pack in, Pack out policy at most campsites – there are no rubbish or recycling facilities. Campers should plan to take their rubbish away with them. Some campsites may still have limited rubbish collection services. For more information, visit www.doc.govt.nz/campsites.

No unauthorised drones

An authorisation is required from DOC to use drones on public conservation land or near marine mammals for any reason – including private use. To apply, visit www.doc.govt.nz/drones.

Fire risk

Open fires are no longer permitted at most campsites unless in a DOC-designated fireplace or firepit.

Check the rules at your campsite.

Protect our wildlife

from disease ...

Some of these campsites are in areas where native species are vulnerable to disease. You can prevent disease from spreading by following some simple precautions, including cleaning gear before and after entering these areas. Look for notices at the campsites and local DOC Visitor Centres for details.

Didymo is an exotic alga that invades waterways. This microscopic pest can be spread by a single drop of water. Even if you can’t see it, you could be spreading it.

A large number of Conservation Campsites are near rivers and lakes, so always remember to Check, Clean, Dry all footwear, bicycles, vehicles, fishing equipment and other items before entering, and when moving between, waterways. For more information and cleaning guidelines, go to www.doc.govt.nz/stopthespread.
... and from invasive pests

Some special campsites are located on islands free of most of our invasive pest animals and plants. We rely on you to help keep them this way.

Inspect and clean your tent and other camping gear thoroughly before leaving home and between locations. Remove any mud (check the pegs and peg bag), sand, plant material, insects or animals such as mice or rats, Argentine ants and plague (rainbow) skinks – and don’t forget to check inside your tent. It’s also important to check your clothing and footwear for weed seeds and soil before and after each trip. If you’re taking a boat or kayak, check these too.

DOC staff may make biosecurity checks of your footwear and gear when you arrive on an island to ensure your gear is pest free. Report sightings of pests on pest-free islands immediately to the DOC HOTline 0800 362 468.
Paparoa National Park Visitor Centre
- 4294 Coast Road, Punakaiki
- (03) 731 1895
- paparoavc@doc.govt.nz

Arthur’s Pass National Park Visitor Centre
- SH73, Arthur’s Pass Village
- (03) 318 9211
- arthurspassvc@doc.govt.nz

Note: Campsites 1, 2, 8, 10 and 11 are Pack in, Pack out (no rubbish or recycling facilities). See page 3.

Westland Tai Poutini National Park Visitor Centre
- 69 Cron Street
- Franz Josef Glacier
- (03) 752 0360
- westlandnpvc@doc.govt.nz

Awarua/Haast Visitor Centre
- Haast Junction, Cnr SH6 and Jackson Bay Road, Haast
- (03) 750 0809
- haastvc@doc.govt.nz
1 Kohaihai

This is a sheltered campsite at the mouth of the Kōhaihai River, with beautiful nikau forest nearby.

**Directions:** North of Karamea at the end of Council Road and the start of the Heaphy Track.
**Access:** Last 3 km gravel road.

LATITUDE: -41.10952  LONGITUDE: 172.10254

2 Lyell

The site of the gold-rush town of Lyell, this is a large, grassed campsite with historical gold workings nearby.

**Directions:** On SH6 in the Upper Buller Gorge, 15 km northeast of Inangahua. **Access:** Sealed.

LATITUDE: -41.79697  LONGITUDE: 172.04899

3 Slab Hut Creek

Once a gold mining area, this is now a popular camping site in a park-like setting next to a gold-panning stream.

**Directions:** Off SH7 on Slab Hut Creek Road; 10 km south of Reefton. **Access:** Gravel road.
**Note:** Be prepared for heavy West Coast rainfall.

LATITUDE: -42.15613  LONGITUDE: 171.79205
4 Marble Hill

Explore this valley’s alpine beauty and native birds in amazing red beech forests; Maruia Hot Springs are nearby.

**Directions:** Beside SH7, 6.5 km east of Springs Junction. **Access:** Sealed.

LATITUDE: -42.3502  LONGITUDE: 172.22319

5 Goldsborough

Explore this sheltered campsite, the site of an old gold mining town, and try your luck fossicking in the creek.

**Directions:** Turn off SH6 at Awatuna, 17 km from Hokitika. Follow Stafford Loop Road to end. **Access:** Gravel road.

LATITUDE: -42.67586  LONGITUDE: 171.12339

6 Hans Bay

A large, grassy lake-front campsite beside beautiful Lake Kaniere.

**Directions:** 19 km southeast of Hokitika. From Kaniere, follow Lake Kaniere Road to end. Take Dorothy Falls Road at fork, follow to Hans Bay. **Access:** Sealed.

LATITUDE: -42.80872  LONGITUDE: 171.15481

7 Lake Mahinapua

Camp beside Lake Mahinapua, a popular overnight and day stop, in stunning forest surroundings.

**Directions:** 10 km south of Hokitika, turn off SH6 into Lake Mahinapua Access Road, opposite the hotel; 300 m to road end. **Access:** Gravel road.

LATITUDE: -42.79468  LONGITUDE: 170.90106

Photo: B Dobbie

WEST COAST
8 Lake Ianthe Matahi
Camp beside one of Westland’s forest-lined freshwater lakes, popular for boating, trout fishing and swimming.

**Directions:** Adjacent to SH6, 15 km north of Harihari. Short driveway off SH6.

LATITUDE: -43.0602  LONGITUDE: 170.6395

9 Otto’s/MacDonalds
Boat, fish for trout or swim in the lake at this easily accessible campsite.

**Directions:** SH6, 13 km north of Franz Josef/Waiau at the northern end of Lake Mapourika. Short driveway off SH6.

LATITUDE: -43.29861  LONGITUDE: 170.22522

10 Gillespies Beach
Camp near an old gold mining settlement and a seal colony. Short tracks lead to relics from the gold mining days.

**Directions:** From Fox Glacier township turn onto Cook Flat Road and follow the road to Gillespies Beach. **Access:** Narrow, winding road; not suitable for campervans or caravans.

LATITUDE: -43.40805  LONGITUDE: 169.82862

11 Lake Paringa
Enjoy boating, fishing and swimming in the lake and walk the Haast to Paringa Cattle Track.

**Directions:** Beside SH6, 40 km north of Haast. **Access:** Short gravel driveway off SH6.

LATITUDE: -43.74876  LONGITUDE: 169.41056
At the campsite

Camping care code

- Be a careful camper and practise ‘no trace’ camping.
- Choose your campsite carefully; set up your camp on firm, high or sandy ground. Camp only in designated areas.
- Be tidy and always leave campsites clean. Take your rubbish with you if bins are not provided.
- Use a cooker, fireplace or BBQ. Light fires only where allowed, collect dead wood and keep the fire small. Soak the fire with water before you go.
- Detergents, soap and toothpaste can harm aquatic and marine life. Use biodegradable products and wash in a container well away from water sources.
- Always use toilets provided.
- Campgrounds are social places but everyone needs some rest and relaxation. Please respect the rights of others for quiet enjoyment of the outdoors. Limit generator use (where permitted) between 9 pm and 8 am.
- Pay your fees to help keep campsites available in the future.
- Always thoroughly clean your equipment before and after trips to minimise the spread of weeds and diseases.
- Protect native plants and animals.

Beware of thieves

Remember to lock your vehicle and take your valuables with you.

Gravel roads and insurance

If you are driving a rental vehicle, remember to check whether you are insured when driving on unsealed roads.
Public conservation land
- National park
- Conservation park
- Other public conservation land

Marine protected areas
- Marine reserve
- Marine mammal sanctuary

Map Key
- Campsite
- DOC Visitor Centre
- Town/city
- Great Walk
- State/provincial highway

Abbreviations
SH = State Highway; VC = Visitor Centre; NP = National Park

GPS Coordinates
The GPS coordinates in this guide can be entered into your GPS unit or smartphone to find a campsite. For example, to find the Fantail Bay campsite, enter -36.52479, 175.32816. Remember to enter the negative symbol and separate the numbers by a comma.

Water
- Water from tap
- Water from stream. You may wish to boil or treat it before drinking
- No water, bring your own

Access
- Wheelchair accessible
- Wheelchair accessible with assistance
- Campervan accessible
- No campervans

Facilities
- BBQ (wood or gas)
- Cookers/electric stove
- Cooking shelter
- Cold shower
- Hot shower
- Dump station*
- Shop
- Café
- Petrol available
- Boat launching
- Pack in, Pack out – take your rubbish with you.

Animals
- Dogs allowed. Keep your dog under control at all times
- Dogs on a leash only
- No dogs
- No horses

Booking
- Able to be booked online at booking.doc.govt.nz

Campfires
- Open fires permitted
- Fires not permitted at any time

* For more information on dump stations in your area, visit the local DOC Visitor Centre or i-SITE, or go to www.rankers.co.nz/respect.
† Wheelchair accessible facilities may include toilets, water supply, showers, picnic tables, kitchens and pathways.