



Experience a different 9 to 5

with a summer job at the

Department of Conservation

Photo: Petrus Hedman

Ranger (Visitor Centre)

Location	Haast, South Westland District
Dates of Employment	October 2026 to April 2027
Salary	Salary range based on skills and experience \$61,189 - \$67,446

Mō te tūranga | About the role

As a Visitor Centre Ranger based in Haast within the South Westland District, this role supports the delivery of visitor services and conservation engagement. The position focuses on providing high-quality customer service to visitors, delivering information on recreation and conservation, and supporting booking systems and visitor centre operations. You will work in a busy visitor centre environment, helping connect people with New Zealand's conservation estate.

Key Tasks

- Provide conservation, recreation, and safety information to domestic and international visitors
- Operate and monitor radio communications with DOC field teams
- Manage bookings for huts, campgrounds, and Great Walks
- Issue permits and licences
- Deliver retail sales of conservation-related products
- Support visitor engagement and promote conservation outcomes

Ngā pūkenga me ngā wheako | Skills and experience

- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work effectively within a team
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to engage with a wide range of visitors from diverse backgrounds
- Appreciation of Māori cultural perspectives
- Interest in conservation, recreation, and environmental management
- Reliable, professional, and customer-focused approach
- Ability to manage multiple tasks in a busy visitor centre environment
- Practical and organisational skills to support daily operations
- Full New Zealand driver's licence

Mō te tīma | About the team/Location

The South Westland Operations team consists of approximately 36 staff working across heritage and visitor, biodiversity, and community programmes. The Visitor Centre team operates from Franz Josef and Haast, providing information and support to visitors across the district.

The South Westland District spans a large and diverse area from Haast Pass to the Waitaha River, including significant parts of the Te Wāhipounamu World Heritage Area. Iconic locations include Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers, Lake Matheson, Ship Creek, and the Copland Track.

Haast is a small, remote township surrounded by rainforest, rivers, beaches, and wetlands, and is a gateway to both Mount Aspiring National Park and Westland Tai Poutini National Park. With a population of approximately 100 people, this number rises in the busier summer months. A vehicle is highly recommended; essentially no public transport is available. It is a 2-hour drive from Haast to Wānaka. The town is serviced by the Intercity bus which goes north to Greymouth and south to Queenstown daily. It provides both a passenger and limited freight service. There are several weekday courier services. Haast has all the services necessary such as medical centre, small grocery store, community hall facilities, church services. For day-to-day living, and for airport access it is four hours to Hokitika, or two and a half hours to Queenstown.

Additional Information

Accommodation: There is Departmental accommodation available in a furnished, shared occupancy two- or three-bedroom property. Rental is set at market rates as determined by Valuation NZ. Private rental accommodation options may be available in the area. The successful applicant will need to provide their own bed linen etc.

Hours of Work: Visitor Centre staff are required to work an 8-hour day (40-hour week) on a roster system (5 days on, 2 days off). As the Visitor Centre is open 364 days per year, all staff are expected to be able to work weekends and public holidays.

The working hours for the role will usually be between 8.00am and 5.00pm. Full training will be provided. Applicants must be able to complete the full period of employment from 19 October 2026 to 20 April 2027.

Number of positions: 1

Me he pātai anō, whakapā mai | For further enquiries

Please contact Seasonal Jobs seasonaljobs@doc.govt.nz