Visitor data from some of the Department of Conservation’s (DOC) top visitor sites shows another busy season despite an overall slowing in international visitor growth. International visitor arrivals to New Zealand have increased 43% in the last 5 years. In the year ending January 2019 compared with January 2018, overseas visitor arrivals were up 150,000 (4%) to a total of 3.8 million. The estimated growth rate for international visitors to national parks is higher at 9% per annum.

Currently, across New Zealand, around 3.9 million New Zealanders visit public conservation areas (from national parks to marine reserves) at least once a year, alongside around 1.8 million international visitors.

Information about the data: This report outlines visitor trends (numbers include both domestic and international visitors) at popular DOC sites up to 28 February 2019. Visit estimates are based on activity counts with assumptions made to estimate annual visits to that particular site. Visitation to specific regions fluctuates depending on multiple factors including weather.

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**SITES OF INTEREST**

- **Ruakuri Walk (Waitomo area)**
  - Visit estimates: 50,500+
  - % change since 2015/16: 9%
  - % change since 2017/18: 21%

- **Cape Foulwind Walkway**
  - Visit estimates: 74,000+
  - % change since 2015/16: 33%
  - % change since 2017/18: 3%

- **Te Wharawhara Track**
  - Visit estimates: 44%
  - % change since 2015/16: 86%
  - % change since 2017/18: 67%

- **Milford Sound/ Piopiotahi (via cruise)**
  - Visit estimates: 840,000+
  - % change since 2015/16: 34%
  - % change since 2017/18: 3%

- **Franz Josef Glacier/ Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere**
  - Visit estimates: 759,000+
  - % change since 2015/16: 38%
  - % change since 2017/18: 3%

- **Milford Sound/ Piopiotahi (via cruise)**
  - Visit estimates: 152,000+
  - % change since 2015/16: 9%
  - % change since 2017/18: 44%

- **Tāne Mahuta Walk (Waipoua Forest)**
  - Visit estimates: 152,000+
  - % change since 2015/16: 9%
  - % change since 2017/18: 44%

- **Mangawhai Cliffs Walkway**
  - Visit estimates: 15,500+
  - % change since 2015/16: 230%

- **Ruakuri Walk (Waitomo area)**
  - Visit estimates: 50,500+
  - % change since 2015/16: 9%
  - % change since 2017/18: 3%

- **Tongaroa Alpine Crossing**
  - Visit estimates: 142,500+
  - % change since 2015/16: 54%
  - % change since 2017/18: 1%

- **Hooker Valley Track**
  - Visit estimates: 121,000+
  - % change since 2015/16: 46%
  - % change since 2017/18: 20%

- **Blue Pools Track**
  - Visit estimates: 102,000+
  - % change since 2015/16: 2,875%

- **Rangitoto Summit Track**
  - Visit estimates: 37,000+
  - % change since 2015/16: 37%
  - % change since 2017/18: 9%

- **Te Whara Track**
  - Visit estimates: 5,000+
  - % change since 2015/16: n/a
  - % change since 2017/18: 76%

- **Cathedral Cove Walk**
  - Visit estimates: 282,000+
  - % change since 2015/16: n/a
  - % change since 2017/18: 7%

- **Tunnel Beach Track**
  - Visit estimates: 88,000+
  - % change since 2015/16: 178%
  - % change since 2017/18: 2%

- **Rangitoto Summit Track**
  - Visit estimates: 37,000+
  - % change since 2015/16: 37%
  - % change since 2017/18: 9%

- **Aoraki/Mount Cook (via road)**
  - Visit estimates: 1.04m+
  - % change since 2015/16: n/a
  - % change since 2017/18: 11%

- **Franz Josef Glacier/ Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere**
  - Visit estimates: 759,000+
  - % change since 2015/16: 3%
  - % change since 2017/18: 33%

- **Roys Peak Track**
  - Visit estimates: 102,000+
  - % change since 2015/16: 2,875%

- **Milford Sound/ Piopiotahi (cruise)**
  - Visit estimates: 840,000+
  - % change since 2015/16: 34%
  - % change since 2017/18: 3%

- **Tunnel Beach Track**
  - Visit estimates: 88,000+
  - % change since 2015/16: 178%
  - % change since 2017/18: 2%

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2. Currently, across New Zealand, around 3.9 million New Zealanders visit public conservation areas (from national parks to marine reserves) at least once a year, alongside around 1.8 million international visitors.

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5. Source: International Travel and Migration, Stats NZ

6. Source: Milford Sound Tourism Ltd (cruise passenger data)